

RESEARCH STRATEGY OF THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THEATRE

Introduction

The mission of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (hereinafter 'EAMT' or 'the Academy') is to sustain, develop and introduce Estonian culture through high-level music and theatre studies as well as creative activities and research. Members of the Academy contribute to research of Estonian culture while actively participating in the international music and theatre field. As an evaluated research and development institution, EAMT's strategic goal is to create new knowledge for society and culture, both through academic and artistic research. In the field of artistic research, EAMT has been a pioneer in Estonia, opening a doctoral studies programme in this field in 2000.

This strategy sets out the Academy's research principles and objectives, and outlines the activities and metrics for achieving these until 2025. As such, the research strategy supports and specifies the [EAMT Development Plan](#) 2021–2025, especially strategic objective 3, and is directly related to the "Viable Estonian society, language and cultural space" focus area of the Estonian research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021–2035.

In recent years, there have been many positive developments in research work and its organisation at the Academy: the junior research fellow positions have been created for doctoral students, a young researcher grant and other motivational measures for researchers have been established; the working environment for researchers has improved, the visibility and influence of EAMT research activities has increased both within the Academy and in society at large. Undoubtedly, there is still considerable room for improvement. The priority for the next few years, in addition to supporting traditional fields of research, is to find new opportunities for the better application of EAMT research potential in expanding research cooperation and increasing the societal impact of the Academy.

General principles

- The Academy values the creation of new knowledge and the development of new creative methods and techniques in all its disciplines. Academic basic research, artistic research and practical creative activity support each other and contribute to fulfilling the purpose of the Academy as an integrated research, educational and cultural institution.
- As a university, EAMT works towards close integration of teaching and research and research-based teaching. This can be achieved through the active participation of teaching staff in research and artistic research, the involvement of students in research, and the rapid transfer of new knowledge to various teaching contexts.

- The Academy's competence as a research institution is based on well-established research groups and fields, and ensuring their continuity is crucial for EAMT as a university responsible for the development of music and theatre arts. At the same time, the Academy sees great potential in interdisciplinary cooperation, the development of connections with other universities and research institutions, and knowledge exchange with the public, private and third sectors in Estonia.
- Doctoral studies are a breeding ground for researchers and artistic researchers and a platform for creative and critical thinking, which has a major impact on the development of the Academy, its international visibility and the renewal of Estonian music and theatre culture.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1

Research and artistic research are valued and recognised at the Academy in all disciplines, and these are visible in the Academy's internal and external communications alongside creative activity. The Academy has a smoothly running research support system in place.

Activities

- 1.1. Support and encourage the participation of academic staff in research projects, publishing and presenting at conferences, including the junior researchers.
- 1.2. Organise trainings to introduce and implement the principles of open science.
- 1.3. Improve the availability of information about research practices, including on the intranet.
- 1.4. Regularly update the necessary research infrastructure and software.
- 1.5. Highlight the work of researchers in the Academy's internal and external communications.

Metrics indicating the achievement of the objective: an increase in the numbers of research publications and presentations at leading conferences in the field and in project-based research funding.

Objective 2

Taking into account the full potential of the Academy's research community and creative researchers, prospective interdisciplinary focus topics are selected, represented by strong research groups that develop international cooperation and involve academic staff at different career levels.

Activities

- 2.1. Analyse the Academy's current and planned research topics to find opportunities for cooperation between disciplines and fields.

2.2. Formulate one to two promising focus topics and find motivated leaders who will start forming research groups and looking for partners.

2.3. Involve current and new master's and doctoral students in the focus topics.

Metrics indicating the achievement of the objective: at least one interdisciplinary research group has been formed and started to apply for project funding.

Objective 3

EAMT actively participates in national and international research cooperation and knowledge exchange; EAMT makes a noticeable contribution to Estonian research and the development of Estonian society.

Activities

3.1. EAMT continues to actively cooperate with Estonian universities, R&D institutions and cultural and memory institutions in the collection and interpretation of Estonian cultural heritage and the development of discourses in the humanities and social sciences.

3.2. EAMT seeks opportunities to participate in international research projects and to obtain international research funding.

3.3. EAMT builds capacity in the field of knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange by organising relevant trainings and developing related services.

3.4. EAMT supports research publications in Estonian and initiatives that popularise research in Estonian society, including continuing the development of the EAMT Research School.

Metrics indicating the achievement of the objective: the Academy has effective cooperation agreements with the Estonian History Museum, the Estonian Literary Museum and other research and memory institutions; EAMT participates in the new Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies; EAMT participates in the organisation of the annual Estonian Humanities Conference; publications of EAMT Press are accessible and attract attention in society; the development of the concept of the EAMT Research School has been finalised and a school for senior secondary school students has been launched.

Objective 4

Artistic research is widely acknowledged and recognised among the Academy's members as an activity that enriches creativity, the creator and society.

Activities

4.1. Continue the activities aimed at the development of artistic research in the EAMT Development Plan 2021–2025.

4.2. Organise open seminars introducing artistic research methods and projects for both students and academic staff.

4.3. Inform academic staff and doctoral students about the available funding opportunities for artistic research; motivate and support participation in project calls.

Metrics indicating the achievement of the objective: open seminars have been launched; the numbers of EAMT's artistic research project funding applications and funded projects have increased.

Objective 5

The doctoral programme at EAMT offers diverse development opportunities for young researchers and is valued among both Estonian and international researchers and creators. Doctoral studies contribute to the exchange of knowledge and the development of the Estonian research language and professional terminology.

Activities

- 5.1. Complete the activities aimed at the development of doctoral studies in the EAMT Development Plan 2021–2025.
- 5.2. Involve doctoral students in the Academy's research projects and groups to a greater extent.
- 5.3. Open doctoral study places in cooperation with other R&D institutions and public and private sector organisations.
- 5.4. Encourage the Academy's doctoral graduates to take up post-doctoral studies abroad.

Metrics indicating the achievement of the objective: the number of doctoral degree defences is stable or increasing; a greater number of doctoral students are involved in the Academy's research projects; the number of post-doctoral grant applicants is increasing.

MAIN RESEARCH FIELDS AND TOPICS

Music history studies

- Studies of Estonian music history and new academic approaches
- 20th-century music through the theoretical prism of postcolonialism and social colonialism
- Cultural memory theories and biographical literature
- The history and theoretical issues of musical theatre

Music theory and aesthetics

- Study of musical form using traditional and artistic research methods
- Arvo Pärt's tintinnabuli technique as an aesthetic system

Ethnomusicology

- Theoretical problems of traditional vocal polyphony
- Singing traditions of the Eastern Finno-Ugric people

Music and society

- The influence of subcultural (pop) music on youth ideologies and mental health
- Marginalised musical identities

Applied research in music

- Opportunities for vocalists to improve text intelligibility
- Researching Estonian “language music” and applying the results
- Development and application of a methodology of idiomatic interpretation of church music
- The development and musicality of young children

Composition and interpretation of music from an artistic research perspective

- Current issues in contemporary music performance
- Studies of contemporary music material and means of expression from the composer’s point of view
- Studies of the relationship between electronic and acoustic music
- Studies of historical performance practices

Studies and didactics of music education

- Tradition and innovation in the future of music education
- Cultures of institutions of higher music education
- The structure and tasks of the Estonian music education system
- Current issues in instrumental and vocal didactics at various levels of education

Theatre studies

- Studies of sociocritical theatre in transitional and contemporary Estonia
- Studies of the psychophysical expression of acting, body and sound functions in contemporary theatre

Cultural management

- Key competencies, knowledge and skills in the field of professional cultural management
- Managing societal impact of the arts
- Career advancement and entrepreneurial approach in arts management