



## **A joint Norway-Romania cooperation program brings the Broadway genre closer to the Romanian students**

Oslo, March 25, 2015. The Norwegian College of Musical Theatre, and the "Dunarea de Jos" University in Galati, through the Master program in Musical Theatre have organized, during March 9-20, a joint educational program including workshops on a Broadway musical in Galati and study visits in Oslo. The project was created to build on the bilateral Norway-Romania relations with an aim to professionalize and promote the musical genre in Romania. The project was supported by a EEA and Norway grant.

Prof. Corneliu Dumitriu, project coordinator, said: "We are trying to grow a generation of actors who can launch a new Broadway genre repertoire in Romania".

During the project, the students of the Master program in Galati – the only professional musical master program in Romania, lead in partnership with the Central Drama Academy in Beijing – worked with team of teachers from the Norwegian College of Musical Theatre on several scenes from the Oklahoma musical. During 9-14 March, the students took intensive acting, singing, choir and acting through singing, culminating with a 50 minute Oklahoma show.

"It was fun because they are very young, full of energy and eager to learn. And they gave me loads of energy. They handled everything pretty good. They worked hard from morning till late at night", said Vladimir Bouchler, the chief of the Acting Department from the Norwegian College of Musical Theatre.

"It was so easy to work with them, because the students were hard working. But they are at different levels. Some needed more training in acting, others more in music", said Hildegunn Pettersen, music teacher at the Norwegian College of Musical Theatre.

"We experienced different styles of acting, different styles of being on stage, different styles of setting a show. It was such a great experience for us. Technically, we made a whole semester in one week", said Elena Belciu, master student in Galati.

The following week, a team of teachers from the Master program in Galati came to Oslo for study visits at the Norwegian College of Musical Theatre. The teachers assisted to several discussions with the chiefs of the main departments in the school – music, drama and dance and also to teaching lessons in all subjects in order to assimilate different ways of training the upcoming musical professionals generation in Romania.

International coordinator at Musikkteaterhøyskolen (The Norwegian College of Musical Theater) Linda Stol Strigsve said: " It is obvious that for Musikkteaterhøyskolen, (The Norwegian College of Musical Theater) to expand the teachers and the students knowledge is of great importance. But also to contribute to the development of the genre, in emerging countries and in that way give the genre opportunities to develop. This also gives us the chance to look at our work methods in new ways."

Through the EEA Grants and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway contribute to reducing social and economic disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with the beneficiary countries in Europe. The three countries cooperate closely with the EU through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA).

For the period 2009-14, the EEA Grants and Norway Grants amount to €1.79 billion. Norway contributes around 97% of the total funding. Grants are available for NGOs, research and academic institutions, and the public and private sectors in the 12 newest EU member states, Greece, Portugal and Spain. There is broad cooperation with donor state entities, and activities may be implemented until 2016.

Key areas of support are environmental protection and climate change, research and scholarships, civil society, health and children, gender equality, justice and cultural heritage.

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