

Faculty of Music Delegation at the IN.TUNE Summit in Vienna

From 11 to 13 May 2026, the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw) hosted the IN.TUNE Summit 2026, an international gathering of the European university alliance IN.TUNE, bringing together representatives of all eight partner institutions, members of the Governing Board, Student Council, work packages, working groups, and associated partners of the alliance.

Held nearly two and a half years after the establishment of the alliance, the summit served as an important platform for reviewing achievements to date, exchanging experiences, and planning the next phases of cooperation in the field of higher music and arts education in Europe. Alongside partner institutions, the summit also included associated partners: Superar, Musethica, Mad Head Games, CEBEF, AEC, Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, FisMe, Institut del Teatre, and the Union of Composers of Romania.

The summit programme began on 11 May with parallel meetings of the Governing Board, work package committees, and working groups, during which ongoing processes, future plans, and the alliance's next steps were discussed. A particular value of these meetings lay in the direct exchange among participants who had previously collaborated mainly in an online environment.

One of the summit's central events was the Opening Plenary, held at the Imperial Riding School and attended by nearly 250 participants. The plenary sessions were conceived as a space for collectively reflecting on the future of the alliance, with emphasis on forms of collaboration grounded in mutual respect, openness, and shared values. The artistic programme, performed by mdw's Department of Early Music, further highlighted the significance of art as a shared language connecting diverse academic and cultural communities.

During the second day of the summit, the intensive working programme continued through numerous meetings, thematic sessions, and activities of the alliance's working bodies. Discussions focused on mobility, e-learning, research, new approaches to teaching and learning, sustainability, inclusion, and other issues shaping cooperation within the IN.TUNE alliance.

A special place within the programme was held by the National Dissemination Event, organised at mdw and intended for local stakeholders as well as the broader academic and artistic community. The event presented IN.TUNE as a space for European cooperation founded on openness, democratic values, and shared cultural aspirations.

Throughout the summit, particular attention was devoted to the student perspective. Members of the Student Council actively participated in discussions and contributed to shaping future strategies for the alliance's work, reaffirming the importance of student voices in decision-making processes and the development of joint initiatives.

The evening programme was dedicated to bringing participants together through the IN.TUNE Dinner and a rich artistic programme featuring the ContraStrings Quartet and Sophia Aitzetmüller, the Tanzhausgeiger ensemble, the mdw Salsa Ensemble, as well as guests from Ukraine – the vocal ensemble Lybid and DUO Accord Classic from the National Music Academy of Ukraine. Their participation represented a strong expression of European solidarity and support, reaffirming the belief that cultural and academic cooperation must remain alive even in times of crisis and war.

Beyond the exchange of experiences and interpersonal connections, the summit also served as a space for intensive strategic work. Numerous meetings resulted in decisions that will guide the alliance's next phase of development and further concretise plans initiated during its first two years.

One of the significant moments of the summit was the Governing Board meeting, during which a statement of support for the students, academic staff, artists, and leadership of the University of Arts in Belgrade was adopted. On this occasion, the importance of academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and artistic creation was once again emphasised as a fundamental value of the European academic and cultural community.

The summit concluded on 13 May with the Closing Plenary session, dedicated to collectively reviewing achievements, sharing impressions, and planning future activities. In an atmosphere of open dialogue, participants reflected not only on the results achieved, but also on the strengthened sense of community and cooperation fostered throughout the summit.

The participation of the Faculty of Music delegation in this international gathering represents a continuation of the Faculty's active engagement within the IN.TUNE alliance and confirms its commitment to the development of a European space for higher music and arts education founded on cooperation, dialogue, and shared values.