

The UAZ in the University Network of Arts, RUA (Red Universitaria de Artes): presence and development perspectives

La UAZ en la Red Universitaria de Artes, RUA: presencia y perspectivas de desarrollo

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Abstract

The University Network of Arts was created in Havana, (2014) to promote cooperation among university arts instructors and to improve artistic quality and its academic specificity (University Network of Arts [RUA], 2014). Since its inception, the network has been formed by university students and arts professionals who have represented dozens of institutions in America, Africa and Europe. The UAZ, based on the Academic Collaboration Framework Agreement (Convenio Marco de Colaboración Académica) signed with the Higher Institute of Arts of the Republic of Cuba (Instituto Superior de Artes de la República de Cuba) (2011), became a founding member, through various Academic Groups. The UAZ-CA 219 "Music and interdisciplinarity", formed by the authors of this article, has actively taken part in meetings of the RUA, contributing proposals for its expansion and consolidation. Despite this, the results are rarely communicated. In this sense, this work has as its main objective to spread the importance of the University Network of Arts, RUA and disclose some ideas about its possible development perspectives, increasing the participation of the UAZ, from its institutional Academic Groups focused on art, culture and sustainable development, and its capacity for social and inter-institutional bonding.

Resumen

La Red Universitaria de Artes se creó en La Habana (2014) para promover la cooperación entre los formadores universitarios de las artes y para el mejoramiento de la calidad artística y su especificidad académica (Red Universitaria de Artes [RUA], 2014). Desde sus inicios, se integró por universitarios y profesionales del arte que han representado a decenas de instituciones de América, África y Europa. La UAZ, teniendo como base el Convenio Marco de Colaboración Académica firmado con el Instituto Superior de Arte de la República de Cuba (2011), se integró como miembro fundador, a través de varios Cuerpos Académicos. El UAZ-CA 219 "Música e interdisciplina", que integran las autoras, ha participado activamente en las reuniones de la RUA aportando propuestas para su ampliación y consolidación. Pese a ello, poco se divulgan los resultados. En este sentido, este trabajo tiene como objetivo principal difundir la importancia de la Red Universitaria de Artes, RUA y exponer algunas ideas sobre sus posibles perspectivas de desarrollo, incrementando la participación de la UAZ, desde los Cuerpos Académicos institucionales enfocados en el arte, la cultura y el desarrollo sostenible, y su capacidad de vinculación social e interinstitucional.

Art, University, Networks

Arte, Universidad, Redes

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Introduction

This article presents the experiences and contributions made by the Consolidated Academic Body UAZ-CA 219 "Music and interdiscipline" of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas "Francisco García Salinas" (Mexico), as a member of the University Network of Arts. It is worth noting the importance of remaining a member of this network, which provides advantages for research, artistic development, and teaching quality.

This academic group arose during the first five years of the present century through the initiative and will of teachers and researchers in the area of the arts and humanities with the social purpose of "...attracting young people and children from the State of Zacatecas to classical music, a public that could become a future quarry in the study of the degree in Music at the UAZ" (Sánchez, Carvajal, Vdovina, and Navarro; 2014, p.12). To this end, its members have carried out a collegiate activity of exploration, compilation of information, ordering of works by composers from different periods and nations, as well as others of a scientific, teaching and extensionist nature, which contribute to personal and collective academic-research development, and which favours the delivery of validated results through publications to the University Network of Arts (RUA).

The network was created within the framework of the IX Higher Education Congress "University 2014", taking advantage of the possibility of bringing together teachers and researchers whose specialisation was in or related to art (figure 1). From its genesis, RUA's challenge was "... to build development paradigms that recognise and value the specificity of artistic creation, its articulation in university professional training in the arts and its fundamental role in the production of knowledge" (RUA, 2014, p.1). Its legal domicile is at the University of the Arts (ISA), the university that has presided over it since its beginnings.



Figure 1 Foundation of the University Network for the Arts (RUA)

Source: Authors' personal archive

The creation of this network aimed to "promote and strengthen cooperation between university arts education institutions in any region of the world, for the improvement of artistic quality and their academic specificity (education, research and extension), as well as their participation in the sustainable development of the respective institutions and societies" (RUA, 2014a, p.1) and involved the participation of rectors, vice-rectors, teachers and researchers from more than thirty countries. Among its founding members were representatives of the following institutions:

- Alanus University for arts and social sciences (Germany).
- Universidad Nacional de Río Negro, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Universidad Nacional Tierra de Fuego, Instituto Nacional Universitario del Arte (Argentina).
- University of Sao Paulo (Brazil).
- Universidad del Atlántico, Universidad de Caldas, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Institución Universitaria Antonio José Camacho, Instituto Departamental de Bellas Artes, Cali, (Colombia).
- Instituto Superior de Diseño, Universidad de las Artes (Cuba).
- Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas; Centro Nacional de Investigación, Documentación e Información de la Danza José Limón (CENIDID); Universidad Autónoma de México, Universidad de Veracruz, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero (Mexico).

- Instituto Superior de Investigación y Cultura (Mozambique).
- University of Alabama (United States).
- Universidad Nacional Experimental de las Artes (Venezuela).
- Universidad Espíritu Santo, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador, Universidad de las Artes (Ecuador).
- University of Seville (Spain).

In the course of time, new institutions have been incorporated or others have been disassociated for a variety of reasons, among them, changes in university management or transformations in their structures. Nevertheless, and despite the weaknesses that have appeared in the network's activities, the exchange of experiences, good practices and management for publications, participation in events, among other activities that strengthen cooperative work and the quality of university teaching, continues. In this sense, the main objective of this work is to disseminate the importance of the University Arts Network, RUA, and to present some ideas about its possible perspectives of development, increasing the participation of the UAZ, from the institutional Academic Groups focused on art, culture and sustainable development, and its capacity for social and inter-institutional linkage.

Development

The University Arts Network

The technological development achieved by society in the last decade has favoured the growth of university networks that provide greater exchange between teachers and researchers in higher education worldwide. Although the recent COVID-19 pandemic led to the deterioration of face-to-face co-operative work, the possibility of using computer and communication technologies made it possible to maintain relations of co-ordination and co-operation through hybrid and distance modalities, which allowed the continuity of collaborative work in many of these networks.

When one hears of university associations and networks, it is needless to say that there are a number of related organisations at the base of which are higher education institutions; these may be regional, national or international. Their aims, although stated in different ways, have in common the improvement of quality in university processes with the aim of generalising experiences, disseminating ideas, analyses or reflections of their members, from different areas of training processes and knowledge management.

There are innumerable universities or a part of their structure related through regional, inter-regional, sub-regional and intercontinental networks; there are even "umbrella" networks in which several of these are grouped together on the basis of their research and work themes. Such is the case of the Association and University Networks UDUAL, which brings together organisations and groups oriented towards linking higher education with social and public life. Its member organisations function as cooperation and study bodies, and their structures differ according to the context in which they operate (UDUAL, 2022) or the Coimbra Group, an association of historical European universities of a multidisciplinary nature, with members committed to establishing lasting academic and cultural links to promote internationalisation, academic collaboration and excellence in teaching and research (Vice-Rectorate for Internationalisation, 2022).

With similar aims, but in the area of the arts, the University Network for the Arts, RUA, was founded. To date, it brings together more than thirty universities or groups belonging to them, whose maxim is cooperation for the improvement of academic, research and extension quality. Its legal basis is endorsed in its statutes, approved by the founding members present at the meeting held in the Assembly Hall of the University of the Arts in February 2014 (Figure 2), and its structure includes the Assembly (composed of the competent authorities of each institution), the Board of Directors (which brings together up to nine members) and the coordinating institution (which is elected by the Assembly every two years) (RUA, 2014a).



Figure 2 First RUA meeting. Discussion of the legal documentation of the network.

Source: Authors' personal archive

RUA's areas of development include quality assessment and undergraduate accreditation in the arts; academic, artistic and cultural exchange; knowledge management and institutional, academic, artistic and economic-administrative management, as well as academic, research and artistic development; technological development of academic programmes, internationalisation, communication and development, and fundraising.

Its statutes regulate the RUA's operating regime, i.e., when the assembly meets and when the board of directors meets; however, in practice, its activities go beyond its limits, as the statutes themselves promote coordination relations that give rise to the organisation and development of scientific and academic events, the joint production of products such as books, the exchange of teachers, research stays, and so on. For example, related to the area of development of quality assessment, in 2020, taking advantage of the framework of the 12th Congress of Higher Education, and within this, the IV Symposium "Arts Education in Higher Education", an exchange took place with members of the Council for the Accreditation of Higher Education in the Arts (CAESA) of Mexico.

CAESA brings together higher education institutions that host arts degree programmes for the quality and continuous improvement of professional arts education. This organism is recognised by the Consejo para la Acreditación de la Educación Superior, A.C. (COPAES) and has the function of contributing to the quality assurance of higher education programmes, through the evaluation and accreditation of educational programmes in the different artistic disciplines, both at Bachelor's and Technical University level (CAESA, 2022).

At the IV Symposium mentioned above, the debate focused on the experiences of the evaluation body during the procedure for the evaluation and accreditation of arts degrees, where the need to identify the particular parameters of the arts for the evaluation process was highlighted, indicating the alignment of the activity with the areas of development of the network.

The transformations in the functioning of this network led the last meeting of the Board of Directors to propose the modification of its objective, adding "...a decolonising, emancipatory, intercultural approach that promotes the cultural identity of the peoples" (RUA, 2022), which makes explicit the respect for the tradition and culture of each member.

Among the university representations belonging to the RUA is the Consolidated Academic Group "Music and interdiscipline" UAZ-CA 219. This CAG was initially structured (2009) as Consolidated Academic Group UAZ-CA 129 "Research, Teaching and Musical Performance with emphasis on string instruments" (from which it was later separated due to the convenience of development for both CA's to form internal networks), and was recognised by the then Programme for the Improvement of Teaching Staff (PROMEP). AC 129 put its efforts "...in maintaining and reinforcing its consolidation, while tending towards the expansion, strengthening and achievement of greater results of the International Research Network "Art, Music and Culture", which is becoming increasingly extensive, solid and productive" (Sánchez, Carvajal, Vdovina and Navarro, 2014, p.12).

Some Academic Group members of this network, which emerged before the RUA was formed, also joined it when it was created, however, the CA 219 "Music and interdiscipline" has been a permanent link of the RUA with other members of the "Art, Music and Culture" Network, which has expanded the possibility of exchange with various universities such as, for example, the University of Oviedo and the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, among others.

The dynamics of teaching and the Mexican education system, as well as the development of the members of the CAG, have led to transformations that have led to the continuity of this group, now with more clearly defined objectives and lines of research. Its members have an extensive artistic and academic production, including articles and books published under strict arbitration systems and editorial processes, the production of compact discs, as well as the signing of inter-institutional agreements.

Among the lines of research of the CA 219 are, as usual: The Integrality and transversality of music in research and professional practice; in which interdisciplinarity is highlighted in musical research in such a way that it transcends any other discipline and area of knowledge. In the body of knowledge that constitutes its study, musical performance and interpretation, as well as the exhibition of results, are the final objectives of both its research and its teaching and praxis.

In the individual development of the researchers are:

- Thought, music and culture. Musical art from the point of view of aesthetics, sociology, history and education. Musical art education and its methodological principles, composers and performers, mainly in Russia and Latin America. A leader in artistic and academic research and production; this line promotes the organisation of conferences, forums, festivals, academic exchanges, concerts and social links.
- Musical performance, chamber music, teaching, repertoire, teaching methodology and history of string instruments, oriented towards teaching activities, concerts, curricular programmes and student preparation.

- Medieval universal and Spanish history. Philosophy, literature and history: multidisciplinary studies. Music and multidisciplinary: History, Thought and Culture. In this line, the theoretical foundation, mainly of a philosophical and historical nature, of the activities and research carried out by the AC stands out.

66.6% of the members of the academic body are members of the National System of Researchers (SNI) evaluated at level I and 100% have renewed their PRODEP profile (Programme for the Professional Development of Teachers), which endorses the collegiate work of its members and the results obtained in the composition of the AC.

As already mentioned, this CA 219 "Music and interdiscipline" has been a member of the RUA since its foundation (figure 3); throughout this time it has developed different initiatives and activities whose tangible results have increased the cultural and scientific heritage of the network.

It has also contributed to its improvement by identifying weaknesses in the functioning of the network and proposing alternative solutions, such as the need to create and update its own web page¹, the definition of the members of the membership in order to ensure the permanence of the institution's representation regardless of the renewal of university positions, an aspect contemplated in the minutes of the last meeting (April 2022), or the carrying out of exchanges in a multilateral manner, since up to now they have been carried out mainly through the coordinating institution.

In the latter case, the potential of the network's website can be used to disseminate events, promote activities, generalise experiences or encourage exchanges with or without the intervention of the coordinating institution.

¹ At present, its website contains archives with legal documentation on the network, promotions of cultural, scientific and educational events, projects and exchanges, and information on member institutions, although there are still aspects that need to be updated and the dissemination of activities and the website itself needs to be increased. Its e-mail address is <https://reduniversitariadeartes.wordpress.com/>.



Figure 3 Representative of CA 219 signing the RUA constitution act

Source: Authors' personal archive

It would also be useful to consider the possibility of directly integrating not only institutional representatives, but also teachers, researchers, students and artists belonging to the art universities themselves who are interested in participating in the network. This would allow a greater flow of events, exchanges of information, and, in short, would contribute to the academic strengthening of the universities that are members of the network, and to the development of projects and programmes that contribute to the training of artists and have a social impact.

*Development of the University Arts Network.
Possible contributions of the academic groups*

The incorporation of non-managerial staff into the RUA favours the use of the potential of the academic bodies for research, teaching and extension, given the expertise and experience that its members have in these areas, which undoubtedly has an impact on the development of the network, as it would offer the possibility of multiplying artistic, academic and scientific exchanges, the organisation of festivals, the creation of new support groups or networks, the signing of agreements between higher level institutions, the giving of master or specialised conferences, the participation of its members in different events given the ease of dissemination, all of which, in turn, would have repercussions on the results of the evaluations, both of the teachers and researchers, as well as of the body itself.

These collectives "the authors refer to the academic bodies (CA's)" would integrate professors committed to their institutions, qualified for professional practice, efficient and competent in their disciplines, with adequate accreditation and research sufficiency, which would allow for the generation and innovative application of knowledge, with defined and stable profiles in terms of their lines of research and with ample social skills and demonstrated willingness to work as a team, establishing internal and external cooperation networks starting from their HEIs (Sánchez and Juan, 2017).

The members of the consolidated CA's, Drs. María José Sánchez Usón, María Vdovina and Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal, -both in 129 and currently in 219-, since their incorporation to the RUA, have been able to offer artistic, academic and scientific results related to the research lines of the CA and the RUA's areas of development, which, in turn, has had a positive balance in our evaluation as a consolidated body. This demonstrates the importance of the existence of a network that favours exchange and communication between lecturers from member universities. These results are tangible mainly in the publication of books, artistic-academic production and the organisation of events; activities commonly shared by more than one member of the RUA.

If one were to describe the variety of activities that teaching and research artists, or the artistic personalities linked to the university network that can contribute to it, either individually or in their composition as Academic Groups, these would exceed the limits of the work.

One of the variables of the development potential of the network and its members, as has been expressed, is the publication of books or book chapters in which the members of the RUA participate jointly, so that the logo or centre of the organisation can be distinguished; for example, our CAG 219 has had the possibility of publishing some results, many of them with institutional support from the Prodep, among which we can mention:

- 2015. Proposals for a contextualisation of music. ISBN 978-607-96709-7-9. Book coordinated by Dr. María José Sánchez Usón and Dr. María Vdovina, whose thematic axis deals with the art of learning and teaching music. In this way, the wealth of knowledge, the diversity of criteria and the spiritual richness of the collective of authors, including members of the network from Cuba and Mexico, meant that their articles described theory, experience or good practices on the university pedagogical process, particularly related to the formation of the personality, modes of action and the development of disciplines, which favours the systematisation of knowledge.
 - 2015. Proposals for a contextualisation of the arts. ISBN 978-607-96709-6-2. Book coordinated by Dr. Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal and Dr. Laura Gemma Flores García; where there is a double participation of members of the CA of the Network "Art, music and culture" and some members of the RUA. The research deals with multidisciplinary and the exchange between the arts and socio-cultural constructs.
 - 2016. Music and identities: an interdisciplinary reading. ISBN 978-607-402-894-2. Book coordinated by doctors María José Sánchez Usón, Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal and Gonzalo de Jesús Castillo Ponce, which presents the debate on the need of human beings to define and affirm themselves, and on the influence of music in the shaping of identities - individual or collective-. Music is disseminated in theories, thoughts, fictions, methods, instruments, roots, traditions, composers, and creations, among others, to describe identity. It contains articles written by members of the RUA and various universities in Mexico.
 - 2016. Alia Musica. ISBN 978-607-8028-92-4. Book coordinated by Dr. María José Sánchez Usón and Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal. It contains articles by authors from Cuba, Spain and Mexico who are members of the networks. In a network of diverse articles, the authors promote the epistemic debate on music, the recognition of cultural roots, the confirmation of the scope of music in personal development or the diversity of forms and relationships between the different artistic disciplines.
 - 2018. Metamusica. ISBN 978-607-8368-95-2 (UAZ), 978-607-8692-29-4 (Plaza y Valdés). This book, coordinated by Dr. María José Sánchez Usón and Dr. Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal, contains articles written by members of the RUA of the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Mexico. Its thematic axis visualises the need to shorten distances between philosophy, philosophies and music, for which the relationship between disciplines that favour a complete and meaningful image of the human being is presented.
 - 2019. IniciARTE. An approach to scientific research. Ediciones IMD, Spain. ISBN 978-1-79476-144-5. Book by the authors Dr. Dargen Tania Tania Juan Carvajal, ISA, Cuba, and Mara Lioba Juan-Carvajal, UAZ, Mexico. It is an invitation to enter the paths of science in an entertaining and simple way, but with the rigour it demands. It presents contradictory positions and examples that favour decision-making during the first steps of the research process.
- Publications include articles in Open Access indexed journals that favour the visibility, generalisation and systematisation of topics related to the arts, teaching, the quality of training processes, general and specific scientific methods of research in, on and for the arts, and the arbitration of journals. The exchanges produced in the network have enabled CA 219 to increase and diversify its publications, as well as the joint participation of other members of the Cuban and Mexican networks. Among its titles are, for example:
- Women in three different operatic versions of Bluebeard (December 2017). Journal of Social Research, 3 (10). ISSN 2414-4835.
 - Scientific methods in art: their benefits for music teaching (January-March 2017). Journal of Philosophy and Everyday Life, 3(6). ISSN 2414-8857.
 - The arts and scientific research (September-December 2018). Article by members of CA 219, published in the journal Educación (155). ISSN 0138-8029.
 - International Forums/Festival of Academic Research in the Arts: cultural mediation initiative of a collaborative network" (December-2018). ECORFAN Journal Republic of Peru, 4(7). ISSN: 2414-4819.

- Alternatives for harnessing the research process in music education (September 2019). *Journal of Philosophy and Everyday Life*, 5(16). ISSN: 2414-8857.
 - Brahms, romanticism and the potential development of the viola (December, 2020). *Journal of Philosophy and Everyday Life*, 6(19). ISSN 2414-8857.
 - Evaluating the quality of educational programmes in an arts university. Some contradictions (2020). *Didasc@lia: Didactics and Education*, XI (2). ISSN 2224-2643.
 - Motivation in music as the axis of professional training (December 2020). *University Management Journal*, 4(11). ISSN: 2523-2495.
 - La música de salón en el Zacatecas decimonónico (December 2020). *Revista Teoría Educativa*, 4(12). ISSN 2523-2509.
 - The impact of research results on art education (December 2021). *Journal Practical Didactics*, 5(14). ISSN: 2523-2444.
 - From the art-science universe. Unity and divergences in the university environment (January-March 2022) ISSN. *Mendive*, 20(1) ISSN 1815-7696.
- An important area for the development of the network is artistic production, which is enhanced by the exchange between teachers, researchers and artists, to which students who learn from their teachers and receive feedback from other points of view are added that are generalised on the basis of reciprocal interaction between the members of the RUA. The favourable enrichment of the cultural heritage of the members of the CAG 219 is distinguished in the hybrid production of art, academia and science, an example of which can be seen in:

- *Diálogos musicales latinoamericanos*, a CD of music with some works composed by Cuban composers, teachers and artists from the Universidad de las Artes (ISA) and performers from the UAZ, Mexico, sponsored by the CA 219. In this CD were premiered works by Cuban composers Juan Piñera, "El Bolero de Ravel según Juan Piñera" (for string sextet and piano), and by Guido López Gavilán, "Diálogo entre violas con final feliz" (for two solo violas and string orchestra). This is a sample of the joint work between the members of the RUA with teachers and students of the Academic Unit of Arts of the UAZ, which contributed to the increase of the cultural heritage of the latter, and also to their professional training. This CD received the International Prize awarded by the Cuban Institute of Music, the XX CUBADISCO International Fair and the Cuban Academy of the Recording Arts, in 2016.
- *Contemporary music for viola (2017)*. These are two compact discs that motivated the participation of members of the network and teaching composers from the University of the Arts, and performers from the UAZ. This work includes works that have been world premieres such as "Preludio y tumbao para dos violas, homenaje a Bela Bartok", by the composer, musicologist and ISA pedagogue José Loyola, premiered at the XXV Havana Festival of Contemporary Music (2012) by the violists María Vdovina and Mara Lioba Juan Carvajal; "La danza implacable" trio for violas by the composer, conductor and pedagogue Jorge López Marín (ISA), premiered in Zacatecas in 2007, the idea for the recording of the disc was born as a result of the academic artistic exchange of the RUA members.

Another remarkable point is, without a doubt, the organisation, participation and realisation of events of a scientific, academic and cultural nature. In this sense, the implementation of the International Forums/Festivals of academic research in the arts, of which this year will be its 10th edition, deserves a section, since they have always had the presence of teachers from the University of the Arts, as well as other invited artists from Europe, collaborators from other networks, and representatives of the CA and the Academic Unit of Art of the UAZ.

Its realisation has contributed to the professional development of the students, who have participated in courses, conferences, concerts, didactic talks, workshops, competitions of musical interpretation and research essays in the areas of arts and humanities, among others.

The realisation of these forums/festivals favoured the participation of pedagogues and/or personalities of Cuban music, among them the composers José E. Loyola Fernández and Juan M. Piñera Infante, the Doctor in Philosophical Sciences Norma Gálvez Periut, the violinist Alfredo Muñoz and the pianist María Victoria del Collado, the musicologist Grizel Hernández Bager, and the composers and orchestra conductors Jorge López Marín and Guido López Gavilán linked to the ISA, University of the Arts, who collaborated in the aforementioned activities and promoted the premiere of works and the presentation of a Cuban repertoire in Mexico.

As part of the aforementioned lines of research, it is worth mentioning the active participation in concert events held in different university spaces, museums, theatres or cultural institutions where the performance of works for string instruments is emphasised, and the concert-lectures, such as the one given by Dr. María Vdovina "The suites of J. S. Bach and their performance on the viola". In addition to the academic connotation, this type of event has an important social and cultural impulse that projects all the activities beyond the academic spaces.

In November 2020, the VIII International Forum/Festival of Academic Research in the Arts was held in Zacatecas in mixed virtual mode (in real time and asynchronous). In this event, in which the State University of Gzhel" (GGU), Russia, had an important participation, various activities were developed such as: concerts, workshops with postgraduate students, book presentations, conferences with themes of art and humanities and exhibitions of various study options in foreign universities, with the integration of teachers, researchers and artists from various countries, such as Cuba, Russia and Spain, as well as Mexico. During the three days of the virtual event, there was a daily participation of around 100 people connected between teachers, students and the general public.

The presence of Gzhel State University included the screening of videos, the exchange of academic artistic experiences, and the artistic exhibition of a representative part of their work, particularly marked in ceramics. This collaboration was made possible thanks to the integration of Gzhel State University into the RUA University Network for the Arts, which took place in February 2020.

Finally, Dr. María José Sánchez Usón was invited to give a keynote lecture entitled "The social function of the arts: origin and destiny" during the 5th Symposium on Arts Education in Higher Education, held as part of the 13th Higher Education Congress "University 2022", an invitation that enabled an imaginative journey through history to the origins of art and its impact on the socio-cultural development of humanity.

Another aspect in which participation in the University Network of Arts contributes to the improvement of the quality of the training processes and the individual and collective development of the CA, is the possibility of carrying out research stays and interdisciplinary exchanges that go parallel to the scientific-educational progression and favours the updating of teachers, researchers, artists and students.

The RUA meetings, so far, have had the particularity of coinciding with the celebration of the Higher Education congresses held in Havana, Cuba (University 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022), which has enabled the participation of network members and the increase of multilateral relations between university institutions, thus promoting exchanges, dissemination of calls for new events, invitations for stays or lectures, among others, knowledge that multiply and revert to the quality of the training process of the professional.

Conclusions

The University Network for the Arts, an organisation created in 2014, which brings together members from more than thirty university institutions with artistic training programmes in different countries, has contributed to the exchange of knowledge, the generalisation of experiences, and the increase in the academic, scientific and artistic production of its members through communication, dissemination and the promotion of participation in the different activities that it generates.

RUA's lines of development contribute to the improvement of the quality of training, research and extension processes, to the development of knowledge management and institutional, academic and cultural management, as well as to internationalisation, communication and the development and training of the staff of the institutions and of the various academic and research bodies that make up the network.

The Consolidated Academic Group "Music and Interdiscipline" CA-219, made up of teachers and researchers whose experience is endorsed by their scientific, artistic and academic production, has benefited from the exchange promoted by the network between its member institutions, which has made possible the organisation and contribution to academic, scientific and artistic events; the publication of articles and books with the participation of members of the network and the giving of specialised conferences or lectures in different scenarios, which has strengthened the development of this collective.

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