

# Violin makers tune skills through exchange

2018  
EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
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Enabling students and staff to gain learning and work experience abroad has added a string to the bow of a small Spanish institution dedicated to the construction and restoration of violins

The 'Violin Net Making' project consisted of student exchanges, job-shadowing opportunities and the possibility for experts to come and teach at the coordinating institution BELE, in the Spanish Basque region. An important collaboration was with the Italian Scuola Internazionale di Liuteria Antonio Stradivari of Cremona, known for its tradition and talent.

The project coordinator Luis Artola Iburguren explained:

‘In Spain there has not been the same tradition of violin making, at least not at the same level as in countries like Germany and Italy.’

He added: ‘We are in the business of training artisanal craftspeople skills that date back centuries, but we are also keen to keep up with the latest techniques and technologies.’

The success of the project can be seen in the fact that several participating students managed to find work following their Erasmus+ experience. This includes being hired abroad, as well as setting up themselves as independent artisanal craftspeople.

‘This is the project’s greatest achievement,’ confirmed the project coordinator. ‘It is clear that we are now known outside our region, which is great for both staff and the students. Artisanal instrument makers are now aware of us.’

Luis Artola Iburguren believes that exposure to outside knowledge has strengthened the institution. ‘Being connected to this group of experts has improved us and made us more eager to learn,’ he said.

This initiative has led to another related Erasmus+ project, and Artola and his staff are enthusiastic about continuing student and teacher exchanges into the future.



Photo: © BELE Basque Violin Making School. J.C.Arriaga M.K.P.

## Erasmus+

Field: Vocational Education and Training

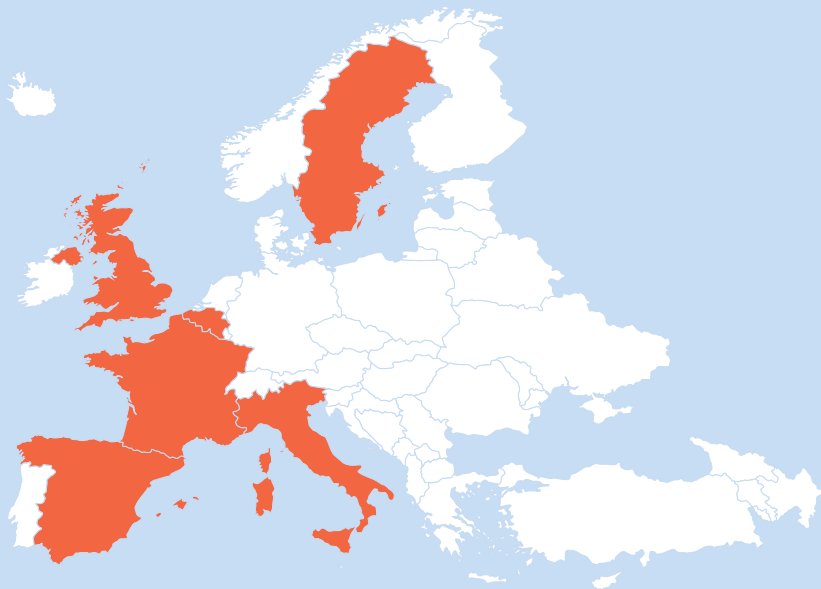
Action: Learner and Staff Mobility

### Key facts and figures

	<b>Participants:</b> 12		<b>Countries:</b> 6
	<b>EU grant:</b> € 28,807		<b>Project duration:</b> 2016-2018

### Project title

VIOLIN NET MAKING



### Lead organisation

**Name:** Conservatorio Profesional de Música Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga

**Location:** Bilbao, Spain

**Website:** <http://www.bele.es>

### Partners

Thomas Meuwissen Violbouwer-Luthier, **Belgium**; Frédéric Becker, **France**;  
Borja Bernabeu Liutaio, **Italy**; Consorzio Liutai Antonio Stradivari Cremona, **Italy**;  
La Galleria Armonica di Giorgio Grisales, **Italy**; Westerlunds Violinverkstad AB, **Sweden**;  
Andrea Ortona, **United Kingdom**; George Stoppani, **United Kingdom**

### More information

**Project website:**  
<http://www.bele.es>

**The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/>