

Report from the Regional meetings at the AEC Annual Congress 2020

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Switzerland, Germany and Austria

(approx. 15 participants)

Items

1. Feedback on the current Congress 2020
2. Advocacy & lobbying
3. Collaboration and concerted action among art disciplines
4. AEC language policy
5. Composition of the regional groups
6. Student representatives at the AEC Congress and in the AEC activities
7. Suggestions for topics that AEC should take up in the future

1. Feedback on the current Congress 2020

The overall feedback is very positive, both with regard to the content and the technical solutions. The musical contributions and the technical quality of the LoLa transmissions are praised.

The tutorials on how to deal with the zoom access were highly appreciated. It should be noted that both the recordings of the sessions and the pre-recorded material allows it to bring the AEC Congress and its work in general into the institutions

2. Advocacy & lobbying

With reference to a corresponding note in the report of the regional meeting 2019, the wish is expressed to make it even clearer in the AEC annual report how the AEC does advocacy at European level. The aim should be better coordination between advocacy at European, national and federal level. The AEC Office will take care of this. AEC CEO Stefan offers to come to the national rectors' conferences in order to coordinate appropriate measures better than in the past. This offer is gratefully accepted.

Even if the sovereignty to shaping political strategies in the areas of culture, education and research lies at the national and federal level, and not at the European level, a closer consultation is worthwhile to strive for. There are still good opportunities to raise funding for education (Erasmus), culture (Creative Europe) and research (Horizon).

Swiss institutions are still suffering from the fact that they are involved in European funding programmes in a different quality than the other countries.

3. Collaboration and concerted action among art disciplines

A close alliance between the art disciplines is wished for when it comes to advocate on a European level. Stefan points out that the collaboration between the associations, which, analogous to AEC, represent higher education institutions in other art disciplines (including ELIA, CILECT / GEECT, EAAE, cumulus), is currently working much better than in the past.

4. AEC language policy

After the discontinuation of simultaneous translation at the AEC congresses, it was suggested that linguistic diversity should be ensured in other ways. The AEC is still in the testing phase. AEC documents might be translated with the support of the office if requested. The solution offered in the Learning & Teaching session of offering lectures in the speaker's mother tongue while providing the English text on slides was noted with great interest.

5. Composition of the regional groups

Unfortunately, it is not possible to activate the zoom poll. The survey is therefore carried out manually, with the following result:

3.1 To restructure the composition of the regional groups has been discussed since long, but so far without causing any changes. Please let us know your opinion through using zoom poll

1 = 0% 2 = 7% 3 = 0% 4 = 27% 5 = 66 %

3.2 How important are the Regional Meetings in discussing the following topics?

3.2a Exchange of information and positions among each other

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 0% **4 = 47%** **5 = 53 %**

3.2b Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 0% **4 = 67%** 5 = 33 %

3.2c Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions

1 = 0% 2 = 0% **3 = 63%** 4 = 40% 5 = 27 %

3.2d Discuss AEC Congress topics in depth

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 33% **4 = 54%** 5 = 13 %

3.2e Getting to know each other better

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 0% 4 = 0% **5 = 100 %**

6. Student representatives at the AEC Congress and in the AEC work

Unfortunately, the participation of student representatives from German-speaking countries in the AEC Student WG activities is still very weak. It is requested to point out the work of the AEC student working group at the home institutions and to advertise accordingly

7. Suggestions for topics that AEC should take up in the future

- How to design the new short-term programs under Erasmus
- Exchange platform for Erasmus partnerships
- Cross-country comparison in dealing with legal issues, such as data protection, examination and audit law, etc.
- Reference to data from empirical and other research in the context of lobbying

The Netherlands and Belgium

Harrie van den Elsen (chair)

Kathleen Coessens (minutes)

Mention of Kathleen Coessens situation

Mention (by) Inge Simoens, cyber attack on the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp (AP)

1. The very first online annual conference.

The members share their impressions of it:

- The meetings, information and sessions were very good. Although not meeting each other face to face, **the spirit of the conference has not been lost**.
- However, it is hugely regrettable that we are not able to see or speak to people. The **social aspect is missed** badly.
- One new aspect is considered very interesting: the **possibility to watch a video in advance**; this option could be retained in future conferences. It enables people to prepare and creates involvement and interest in the various topics.
- Several observations are shared about the topics:
 - o In the past, the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC: *Association Européenne des Conservatoires*) had a strong focus on Bologna; what is missing now is **internationalisation and collaboration**. Although relevant themes like diversity and digitisation receive good coverage, international institutional collaboration does not receive any emphasis. Music did not even feature at all in the summary for 'European Universities'. **More 'joint progress' ought to be created and developed**.
 - o The comparisons possible and the sharing of experiences could be facilitated more too: how do other conservatoires organise their programmes and international partnerships? One of the objects of the congress is to find answers to questions to be shared on the subject of organisation, curricula and international partnerships.
 - o Attention repeatedly turns to COVID-19, with very similar comments being made about things that all institutions experience but **no real news**. At times like this, it would be interesting to hear an **external** voice; for example, communication about do's and don'ts.

2. Report on the AEC 2019 regional meeting:

The new situation is considered, i.e. **COVID-19 and the online meeting**, with regard to **attendance**:

- There were 8-9 participants from Antwerp: researchers and representatives of middle management, but no students. A reasonably big team from The Hague attended but – again – there were no students. There were very few extra people who would now have been able to follow the conference because it was online. The same conclusions apply elsewhere too.
- Despite the potential that a lower participation threshold entails due to the online nature of the event this year (no travel or relocation necessary), there was no real dissemination to or participation by other middle management representatives, teachers or students. The programme ought to include a clear statement designed to attract students and teachers and gain their interest in AEC debates. There was less enthusiasm from other institutions too; the digital event is – understandably – less attractive to our normal participants than the live event is. In some institutions, communication with colleagues may have been lacking in certain areas and have failed to consider potential new target groups. The sudden advent of COVID-19 has not always caused participating institutions to realise that more could have been done to promote this conference and on the basis of approaches different to the one usually chosen. This has become a difficult matter given the current major shift to online communication: colleagues were not involved enough and no one meets by chance at work or during live events.

3. Poll

A poll is held on **the need for and content of the regional meetings**.

- Should the composition of the regional group be changed? This question yields a 'neutral' answer (around 3 on a scale of 1 to 5);
- Content on relationships with each other, the international environment and other conservatoires and also the need to exchange information: the answer is quite positive (generally, 3 or 4 on a scale of 1 to 5).

This is followed by a short discussion:

- Would different configurations be more worthwhile? Composition isn't really the problem, **time** is: it is difficult to achieve any depth in just 45 minutes. One example mentioned is probing how the experiences of Dutch colleagues could inspire colleagues from Flanders. The question is whether this is even possible at a conference? A conference is the proper place to facilitate this and to promote informal aspects. Other **networking** is better pursued outside the context of a conference. Could these meetings be used to launch a shared agenda, with implementation and further engagement outside meetings? Is everyone seeking the same or similar **partnerships**? Just one single template is impossible. There is little official contact between the Netherlands and Belgium. Although possible at the conference, this contact is too brief and without proper in-depth engagement.

- The Lola project is touched on as an example. An in-depth discussion could be used for participants to discuss the Lola project together. The system is apparently incredibly good; to utilise it on a multi-institutional basis would create added value. It is important to share knowledge about the price, but also about the educational settings which can be organised with this equipment. Some conservatoires have a substantial investment programme in place to enable them to work towards the above. Digitisation will require a long-term commitment.

Another example in which partnerships are discussed and information exchange takes place: the reviews with MusiQue, which could also be seen as an initiative to bring countries together.

Conference sessions could be extended to **bring together different groups of countries and regions, depending on the topics at hand**. This would enrich sessions, making it possible to discuss topics from a broader or different perspective. The example given is research.

By combining countries differently sometimes, it would of course be possible to benefit from different insights and relationships.

The Dutch have set up a consultative body in which participants can discuss topics with each other, and although the Flemish have an Arts working group, there is no structural dialogue with colleagues from the Netherlands or Wallonia, other than in these regional meetings.

The decision is that participants would support an initiative in which more time or attention is given to regional meetings.

Italy

Regional meeting report – Italy (7 November 2020)

Report written by Francesco Spina, AEC intern

Lucia Di Cecca (AEC Council)

Sara Primiterra (AEC Office)

Anna Grossi (Conservatorio de L'Aquila)

Anne Colette Ricciardi (Conservatorio di Cremona)

Carla Conti (Conservatorio di Roma)

Carla Di Lena (Conservatorio de L'Aquila)

Claudio Di Massimantonio (Conservatorio de L'Aquila)

Cristina Frosini (Conservatorio di Milano)

Damiano Lazzaron (Conservatorio di Castelfranco Veneto)

Donatella Pieri (Conservatorio di Bologna)

Franca Bertoli (Conservatorio di Udine)

Francesco Spina (Conservatorio di Bologna)

Kumuschi Imanalieva (Conservatorio di Mantova)

Marta Raviglia (Conservatorio di Ferrara)

Nicola Ventrella (Conservatorio di Bari)

Riccardo Mascia (Conservatorio di Parma)

Roberto Antonello (Conservatorio di Vicenza)

Roberto Giuliani (Conservatorio di Roma)

Terrell Stone (Conservatorio di Vicenza)

Agenda

1. Feedback on the Congress
2. Survey on the configuration of the regional groups
3. Any other business

1. Feedback on the Congress

The general feedback is very positive, the Congress was well organized, accessible and very useful. The theme of tools for higher musical education in times of pandemic was particularly appreciated. It is also proposed to organize within the Congress a place (physical / online, for example a community / chat on Whova) dedicated to specific teachings (for example, choral lessons).

Unfortunately, the online mode has lost some of the interaction and dialogue that usually characterize the AEC Congress and it has been difficult to focus for many hours in front of the computer, given the dense schedule. From this point of view, however, the Congress had an improved management compared to the IRC meeting.

The importance of a clear articulation and pronunciation of the language is again stressed for speakers, especially native English speakers.

In conclusion, the following survey is carried out and discussed.

1. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Exchanging information and positions among each other" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



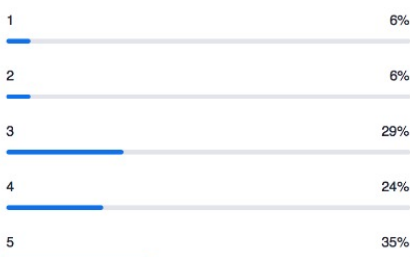
2. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



3. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



4. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Discussing AEC Congress topics in depth" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



5. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Getting to know each other better" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



2. Survey on the configuration of the regional groups

A survey on the configuration of the regional group is carried out and discussed. The group of Italian representatives is in favor of maintaining the current configuration also for linguistic reasons. In addition, the regional meeting is an important meeting opportunity for the "Italian representation" of the Conservatories that are members of the AEC. Everyone agrees that a longer meeting would favor a more in-depth discussion on the proposed topics.

1. How important is it to you to keep the current configuration of your Regional Group? (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)?



3. Any other business

The ongoing collaboration between ANVUR (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del sistema Universitario e della Ricerca, National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research System) and MusiQuE (Music Quality Enhancement), which are jointly reviewing the accreditation and evaluation guidelines for Italian institutions, is reported.

The use of blended teaching for the mobility of students and teachers is proposed as a topic of discussion for the next meetings (in particular for the meeting of the IRCs). The discussion is extended to the usefulness of blended teaching, and the group proposes a greater dissemination of projects such as Intermusic and LoLa to deepen the knowledge on the topic. It is proposed to organize a week of staff training to comment on the results achieved through these projects.

Spain and Portugal

Saturday 7 November 2020 Attendees:

- Iñaki Sandoval - AEC Council member
- Alfonso Guerra - AEC Office member
- José Luis Fernández - Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo
- Esteban Valverde - Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo
- Álvaro Carballo, Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo (student)
- Núria Sempere - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Rolf Baecker - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Melissa Mercadal - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Ignasi Gómez - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Montserrat Urpí - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Joaquim Abos - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Víctor Estapé, Centro Superior Fundació Conservatori Liceu, Barcelona
- Esther Viñuela - Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid
- Álvaro Guibert, Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid
- Miren Iñarga - Musikene, Centro Superior de Música del País Vasco, Donostia-San Sebastián
- Maria Martínez, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Tsun-Ju Lin, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Simone Pilon, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Magdalini Giannikou, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Francesc Gaya - Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo", Valencia

The meeting starts at 9:45. AEC Council member Iñaki welcomes the attendees as they join the session online. A first round of presentations takes places before opening the discussion.

It is proposed to have **hybrid sessions for future regional meetings**, offering the possibility for people that can't usually attend the physical Congress to join. In this way, each institution could be represented by more members, whose ideas and experiences would be very much appreciated. Sometimes, it is hard to involve people from our institutions if these meetings are organized only in presence. With a hybrid session, we could even create smaller groups discussing different topics.

Attendees agree that a hybrid format could allow more people to attend, and so more voices and opinions within the institutions could be heard and therefore enrich the conversation.

1) Feedback on the Congress programme/content so far:

Attendees agree that the programme and content delivered in the frame of this year's Congress is **very convenient**, and match with the current matters they are dealing with at their home institutions. On the other hand, some participants express they would like to have a broader access to more examples of **best practices**, as well as a more **pedagogical approach to the digital fields**.

Also, there is a general feeling that the Spanish best practices are not represented enough in the frame of the AEC Congress, and that this should be taken into account. In this regard, AEC Council member Iñaki highlights the importance of **being active and sending out proposals** if we want to strengthen our presence and play a key role in the future of the AEC. The AEC office launches several calls for proposals throughout the year, which should be taken as an opportunity to participate and be more proactive in the Congress.

Finally, it is suggested that it should be imperative for all speakers to **provide a powerpoint** in order to help participants to understand and follow the presentations (example Anna Bull session).

2) Report of last year's regional meeting => what AEC has done about what was expressed (see the Reader for the Report)

AEC Council member Iñaki reminds the group that last year's feedback was quite negative regarding the organization of the event and the content of the sessions, which was a common feedback from other regional meetings from different countries.

In this regard, attendees point out the effort the AEC is making trying to come up with the right formula for the Congress, in terms of content, organization and timing. In this year's edition, there was a **high improvement on quality and content**, even though the parallel sessions were too short and there was no time to deep in the conversations. In this line, it is suggested that the Congress could deal with less topics, or make the sessions longer. On the other hand, the fact of having **material available beforehand** (which requires a work to do by participants) is applauded.

Attendees highlight the importance of the **Congress taking place**, making visible a normality inside everything that is currently happening. Moreover, this was carried out with great enthusiasm and professionalism from the technological aspect. In concrete, the **LoLa performance** was one of the most impressive presentations.

ZOOM POLLS

AEC Office member Alfonso explains the objectives of creating such polls. The AEC office has prepared two polls for all regional meetings: the first one is about keeping the regional meeting with the same structure. To restructure the composition of the regional groups has been discussed since long, but so far without causing any changes. There are some regional groups that would like to be integrated together with countries from different geographical areas; the second one is about discussion topics we deal with within the regional meetings:

How important is it to you to keep the current configuration of your Regional Group? (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)? **Most voted answer is 4.**

How important are the Regional Meetings in discussing the following topics? (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)?

Exchange of information and positions among each other. **Most voted answer is 5.**

Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries. **Most voted answer is 3.** Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions. **Most voted answer is 4.** Discuss AEC Congress topics in depth. **Most voted answer is 4.**

Getting to know each other better. **Most voted answer is 5.**

After the poll, some attendees ask what is the purpose of doing these polls. Is the AEC trying to change the configuration of the regional groups? In this regard, AEC Council member Iñaki informs the group about this year's implementation of an Open Regional Meeting. In the case of Spain and Portugal, the poll is aimed to see if this is really worth it.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Some attendees agree there is a risk of leaving up to each congress participant to attend the regional meeting they want, since some regional meetings could remain empty. The fact of visiting other regional meetings is very tenting, since there might be other discussions that would be of our interest. In this line, it is suggested to work on a redistribution of regional meetings not for countries but for **interests in common and similarities on study programmes**. However, there is a natural inclination of gathering all Spanish institutions.

Other attendees think that the regional meetings should remain regional, making perfect sense to gather Spain and Portugal under the same umbrella, and suggest to receive guests from other regions as **observers**. In this way, we could send observers from our institutions to other meetings.

Also, as a regional group, it is suggested to commonly work on other questions like the **admission test**, which is a matter that involves all institutions. How flexible are the admission tests at the different institutions in Spain? This is a question that could be addressed by all institutions with similar methods.

Furthermore, some attendees address the question of adding **higher music education to the university** in Spain. It is suggested to use these meetings to talk about it, since there are big opportunities of European funding to think about, like the joint modules. AEC Council member Iñaki reminds the group that this has been the main topic of this regional meeting for the two last years, and that ACESEA is currently working on it. The AEC has always been a big support on this matter, and this proposal counts with European support.

Finally, AEC Office member Alfonso explains on behalf of the AEC office how the situation has been in terms of preparations prior to the Congress, which was planned to last for 3 days in Antwerp, then hybrid from Vienna and then fully online. The parallel sessions weren't planned to last this short, but the AEC wanted to still give the chance to present to all the people who were already notified they could contribute to the Congress. Instead of reducing contents, the AEC chose to reduce on timing, and still give the chance to people to contribute as planned. In this regard, not all attendees think of this issue as something negative. On the contrary, they appreciate the Congress has taken place within a shorter time frame, so they could still take care of the difficult situation at their home institutions. Lighter is not synonymous with poor content, and from the technical point of view everything has been carried out very easily and intuitive.

The meeting finished at 10:47.

France and Luxembourg

Claire Michon, Linda Messas

Present:

Conservatoire national supérieur de Musique et de danse de Lyon: Isabelle Replumaz, Roser Graell-Calull, Karine Hahn

Conservatoire national supérieur de Musique et de danse de Paris: Luca Dupont-Spirio

pôle Aliénor Poitiers-Tours : Claire Michon, Gilles Tressos (teacher), Baptiste Grandgirard (former student, Students' WG member)

Haute école des arts du Rhin (HEAR) Strasbourg: Sylvia Mesa

Cefedem Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes : Sandrine Desmurs

Cefedem Normandie: Julie Guillemot

École supérieure de musique (ESM) Bourgogne-Franche-Comté: Viviana Amodeo

AEC: Linda Messas

Feedback on the Congress programme/content

Very positive feedback from all the participants.

Online format

- General congratulation for the smooth and fluent organization of the technical aspects
- The online format allows more students/teachers to participate, although the information about this possibility wasn't very clear to all (at least in French).
- The "voice of the AEC" goes more directly to the teachers and students. Usually, the reports are always made by the same people participating to AEC events, the impact is very different
- This format should be kept for the pre-congress sessions
- Looking forward to hybrid format in the future

Contents

- Good balance between the discussions on practical matters and in-depth subjects (speakers)
- Several speakers on the same subject, it gives more insight and things to think about
- Recordings available > give access to people who couldn't attend

This very good quality is also the result of a very strong link between the SMS project WG's and the contents of the congress. It is now the 3rd year of the project; the contents benefit from it.

Pre-congress sessions/workshops

- Dense, but there is time to discuss
- Documents available before allow to go deeper in the discussion (namely "Diversity" workshop)
-

Report of last year's regional meeting > what AEC has done about what was expressed?

Services to members

Congress in Lyon > 2022 : it will take place 30 years after the 1st congress après in Lyon. The CNSMDL and Anescas will work together to prepare it. This has to be clarified at all levels (anescas, CNSMDL, AEC).

REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS AT THE CONGRESS

Linda presents the situation and the questions : some « regional groups » are in fact « national » (Italy, Germany), other groups are more mixed up. Should there be changes in the composition of the groups? In the format of the meetings?

- 1) To restructure the composition of the regional groups has been discussed since long, but so far without causing any changes.

How important is it to you to keep the current configuration of your Regional Group?

The Conservatoire du Luxembourg has not been present at this meeting (and at the congress?) for years.

Members of anescas are almost all members to the AEC. So they meet regularly in France, even if not all the staff (IRC's) are involved in those meetings. But the AEC congress allow more and more to involve staff members of the institutions aside the directors. This is an extra moment to meet nationally.

Some French institutions are members of the AEC and not anescas. This meeting is the only place to meet them. Maybe they could be invited to anescas meetings about international matters? To be discuss internally in France.

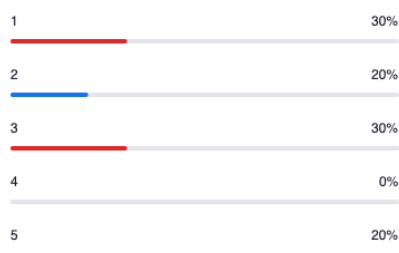
How important are the Regional Meetings in discussing the following topics?

- Exchange of information and positions among each other
- Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries
- Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions
- Discuss AEC Congress topics in depth
- Getting to know each other better

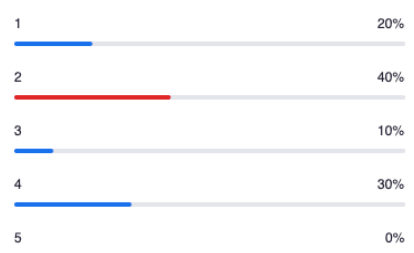
1. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Exchanging information and positions among each other" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



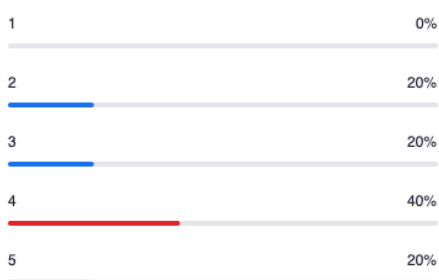
2. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



3. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



4. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Discussing AEC Congress topics in depth" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



5. How important are the Regional Meetings for "Getting to know each other better" (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)



OPEN DISCUSSION

On the outcomes of the poll and future Regional Group strategies

The regional meeting is an important time of debate just before the GA for better understanding of the stakes and issues addressed during the congress.

The French structure is very specific; we have a common “grille de lecture”.

Consider the possibility to establish a French-speaking group to discuss some topics?

- Circulation of students/teachers in a common space
- Traditions have evolved differently, outside of Europe
- Balance between common culture and internationalisation
- Would remove (temporarily) the language issue and so give the opportunity to discuss more in-depth the themes of the congress.

Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, Slovakia, Israel, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary and Croatia

present:

Bucharest	PAUL-BADESCU Cezar cezar.paul.badescu@unmb.ro
Cluj-Napoca	NEDELCUT Nelida nedelcut.nelida@gmail.com
Ljubljana	BAVDEK Dušan dusan.bavdek@ag.uni-lj.si
Belgrade	PERKOVIĆ Ivana ivanaperkovic@fmu.bg.ac.rs POPOVIĆ Rastko rastko.pop@sezampro.rs STANISIC Milena mstanisi@yahoo.com
Bratislava	HASKOVA Katarina haskova@vsmu.sk
Jerusalem	MELTZER GOLAN Sarah sarah@jamd.ac.il
Graz	SCHULZ Georg georg.schulz@kug.ac.at
AEC	LALIC Barbara info@aec-music.eu

Not present, but normally members (for the follow up):

Budapest	FREYTAG Orsolya freyttag.orsolya@zeneakademia.hu FEKETE Gyula fekete.gyula@zeneakademia.hu
Zagreb	KRPAN Anđelko andelko.krpan@gmail.com
Sarajevo	ZLATAREVIC ACKAR Maja ackar_maja@yahoo.com
Cluj-Napoca	BALAN-BUDOIU Oana oana.balan@amgd.ro

The feedback on the congress is very positive, on choosing of the content, the musical performances and the technical implementation.

Concerning the last year's regional meeting the main topic has been the application for a strategic partnership (EUphony orchestra education). A physical meeting in Cluj-Napoca on 27th November 2019 and an online-meeting on 15th June 2020 has taken place. In the discussion it is decided to try again an application handing over in March 2022. Katarina Haskova will take the lead in inviting the group in spring 2021 to a preparatory meeting discussion the distinguished features of the new application. The application made by Zagreb should be used as a foundation, the minutes of the November meeting written by Oana from Cluj-Napoca is a valuable source as well.

Ivana, the new responsible council member for the group, suggest facilitating an informal online discussion among the regional group about distance education in music. She will send out an invitation in spring 2021.

Regarding the structure of the regional group the zoom poll is recorded by Barbara. It is discussed how to handle Slovakia, that is through "Visegrad" in close connection to Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. At the same time the group as it is (i.e. without Poland, but with all the Balkan states) is working very well and important for Slovakia. If bigger groups are wanted, Poland could be added to the existing group.

Zoom Poll (7 respondents)

1 To restructure the composition of the regional groups has been discussed since long, but so far without causing any changes. Please let us know your opinion through using zoom poll

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 33% 4 = 33% 5 = 33%

2 How important are the Regional Meetings in discussing the following topics?

2a Exchange of information and positions among each other

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 14,3% 4 = 0% **5 = 85,7%**

2b Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries

1 = 0% 2 = 14,3% 3 = 0% 4 = 14,3% **5 = 71,4%**

2c Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 0% 4 = 42,9% **5 = 57,1 %**

2d Discuss AEC Congress topics in depth

1 = 0% 2 = 0% **3 = 42,86%** 4 = 14,29% **5 = 42,86 %**

2e Getting to know each other better

1 = 0% 2 = 0% 3 = 0% 4 = 0% **5 = 100 %**

Georg Schulz m.p.

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia and Ukraine

Council Member: Zdzisław Łapiński

At the annual AEC Congress in Wien only Poland was represented. In Regional Meeting representative of polish Academies from, Gdańsk, Kraków, Łódź, Poznań, Wrocław and took part. In addition, there was young Spanish pianist, previously studying in Kraków and now in Lübeck – Guillermo Rodriguez (representing Spanish, Polish and German students' community).

The program of the Congress was evaluated very high. The main discussion concerned difficult situation in HME institutions caused by COVID-19 – all participants emphasized that the AEC platform (website) was the only one to deliver necessary tools for Music Academies. However, the knowledge among HME society in Poland about AEC activity is still very poor.

Paulina Gut presented some information about ongoing and upcoming projects and I tried to encourage representants of polish Academies to disseminate information about AEC actions and to actively participate in our projects.

I presented proposal to organize Regional Meeting twice a year (second time online in April – after Council meeting) and reaction of participants was very positive.

Because only half of polish representants registered to the Congress participated in Regional Meeting I decided to circulate the Regional Meeting Questionnaire once again in January 2021 by email, in order to collect more input.

There have been eleven respondents. The results of voting are attached to this Report.

Report on the AEC Regional Meeting Questionnaire

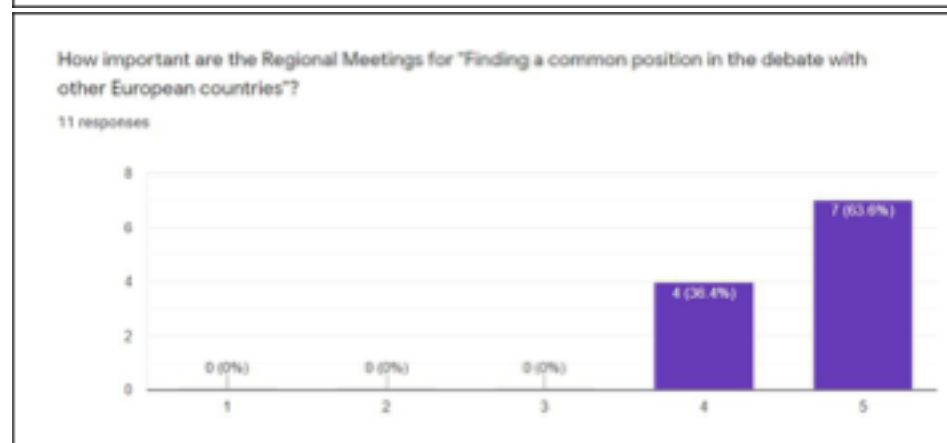
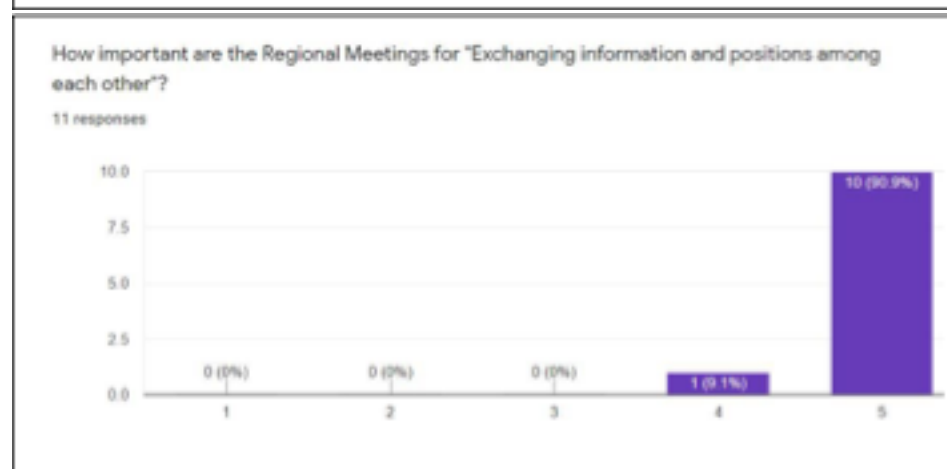
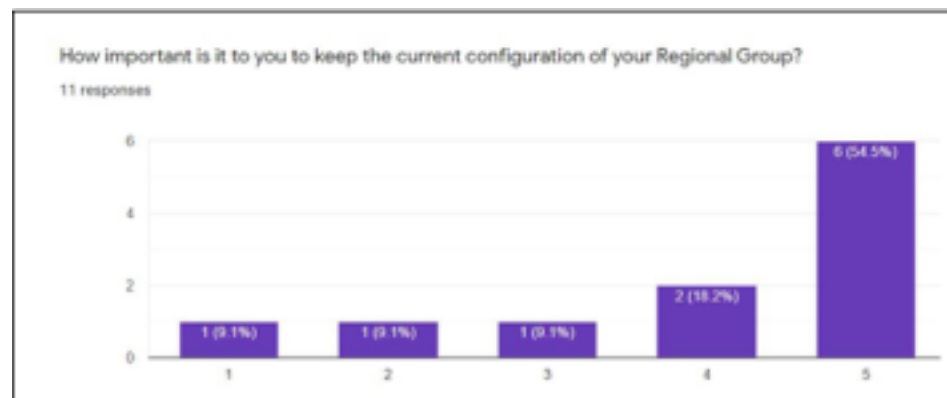
This questionnaire has been circulated during the Regional Meeting at the AEC Annual Congress on November 7, 2020. Due to the low attendance it was decided to circulate this questionnaire once again in January 2021 by email, in order to collect more input. It contains six questions in which the answers are formulated in a five points scale and an open question for comments.

There have been eleven respondents.

1. Questions

We can find diversity in the answer since every point of the Likert scale has been chosen. However, the tendency is showing that more than 70% of the respondents find the current configuration important or very important.

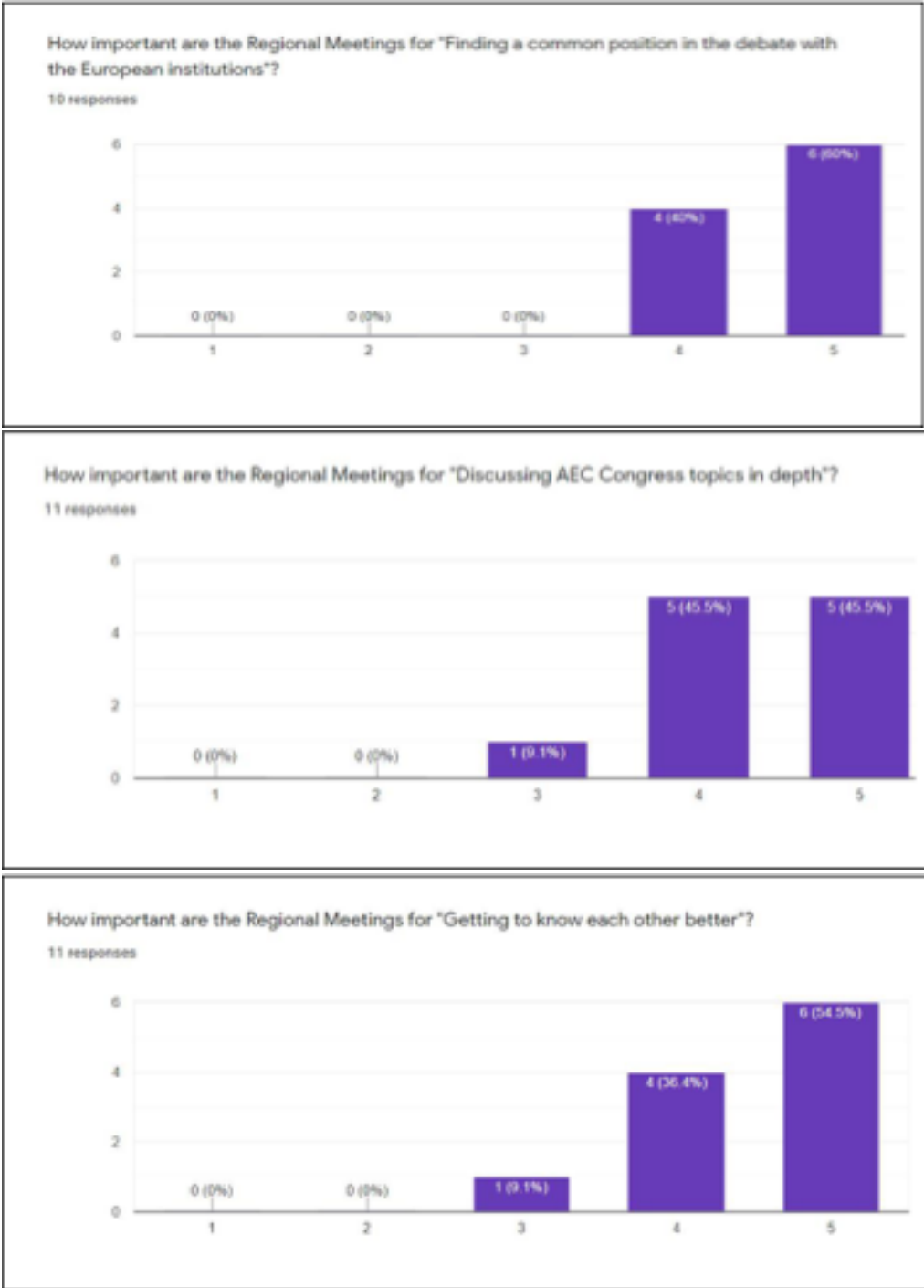
All the respondents find the regional meetings important or very important, having a clear propensity for the last one.



In this chart we can find the same load of importance than in the previous one but this time the answers are more distributed within the two options.

The answer of this question is almost the same as the previous one. In this case we lack an answer.

We can observe a clear tendency to find the meetings important for discussing AEC Congress topics in depth.



The respondents find the regional meetings important for getting to know each other better.

2. Comments

As discussed in the meeting, the geographical composition of our group could be adjusted, there are some countries from Central Europe that are not participating in our regional meeting, whereas others that are members (from Central Asia) seem to have less in common with our cultural context. On the other hand we can

look at such composition of our Regional Group as an enriching experience. Nonetheless, I believe that the Regional Meetings contribute to all the objectives specified above.

3. Conclusion

We can conclude that the respondents have a clear tendency of valuing regional meetings important or very important for the different asked aspects.

UK and Ireland

Report, Deborah Kelleher

In attendance were 16 representatives from TU Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Leeds College of Music and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Feedback on the congress was positive. Some presentations, such as 'Diversifying classical music education: the role of conservatoires' was praised for quality and (it was suggested), could be a future congress theme in itself.

Coffee breaks were considered an unexpected strong point, in finding connections.

Student participation was stronger than ever this year, in the group's view, noting student-led topics such as the unconscious bias pre-congress and congress presentations as strong. This was noted as reflecting conservatoires' own strategies in embedding the student voice across strategy and operations.

Diversity was raised, in that some of the material in the Congress (such as videos) displayed a limited range of ethnicities and this was regarded as important, to have due regard for diversity in all media.

In relation to Brexit, UK institutions have been organising continued relationships with their EU colleagues despite the uncertainty of the transition and remain committed members of the European network of musicians and their institutions.

Spain and Portugal

Saturday 7 November 2020

Attendees:

- Iñaki Sandoval - AEC Council member
- Alfonso Guerra - AEC Office member
- José Luis Fernández - Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo
- Esteban Valverde - Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo
- Álvaro Carballo, Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo, Vigo (student)
- Núria Sempere - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Rolf Baecker - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Melissa Mercadal - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Ignasi Gómez - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Montserrat Urpí - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Joaquim Abos - Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Víctor Estapé, Centro Superior Fundació Conservatori Liceu, Barcelona
- Esther Viñuela - Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid
- Álvaro Guibert, Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid
- Miren Iñarga - Musikene, Centro Superior de Música del País Vasco, Donostia-San Sebastián
- Maria Martínez, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Tsun-Ju Lin, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Simone Pilon, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Magdalini Giannikou, Berklee College of Music, Valencia
- Francesc Gaya - Conservatori Superior de Música "Joaquín Rodrigo", Valencia

The meeting starts at 9:45. AEC Council member Iñaki welcomes the attendees as they join the session online. A first round of presentations takes places before opening the discussion.

It is proposed to have **hybrid sessions for future regional meetings**, offering the possibility for people that can't usually attend the physical Congress to join. In this way, each institution could be represented by more members, whose ideas and experiences would be very much appreciated. Sometimes, it is hard to involve people from our institutions if these meetings are organized only in presence. With a hybrid session, we could even create smaller groups discussing different topics.

Attendees agree that a hybrid format could allow more people to attend, and so more voices and opinions within the institutions could be heard and therefore enrich the conversation.

1) Feedback on the Congress programme/content so far:

Attendees agree that the programme and content delivered in the frame of this year's Congress is **very convenient**, and match with the current matters they are dealing with at their home institutions. On the other hand, some participants express they would like to have a broader access to more examples of **best practices**, as well as a more **pedagogical approach to the digital fields**.

Also, there is a general feeling that the Spanish best practices are not represented enough in the frame of the AEC Congress, and that this should be taken into account. In this regard, AEC Council member Iñaki highlights the importance of **being active and sending out proposals** if we want to strengthen our presence and play a key role in the future of the AEC. The AEC office launches several calls for proposals throughout the year, which should be taken as an opportunity to participate and be more proactive in the Congress.

Finally, it is suggested that it should be imperative for all speakers to **provide a powerpoint** in order to help participants to understand and follow the presentations (example Anna Bull session).

2) Report of last year's regional meeting => what AEC has done about what was expressed (see the Reader for the Report)

AEC Council member Iñaki reminds the group that last year's feedback was quite negative regarding the organization of the event and the content of the sessions, which was a common feedback from other regional meetings from different countries.

In this regard, attendees point out the effort the AEC is making trying to come up with the right formula for the Congress, in terms of content, organization and timing. In this year's edition, there was a **high improvement on quality and content**, even though the parallel sessions were too short and there was no time to deep in the conversations. In this line, it is suggested that the Congress could deal with less topics, or make the sessions longer. On the other hand, the fact of having **material available beforehand** (which requires a work to do by participants) is applauded.

Attendees highlight the importance of the **Congress taking place**, making visible a normality inside everything that is currently happening. Moreover, this was carried out with great enthusiasm and professionalism from the technological aspect. In concrete, the **LoLa performance** was one of the most impressive presentations.

ZOOM POLLS

AEC Office member Alfonso explains the objectives of creating such polls. The AEC office has prepared two polls for all regional meetings: the first one is about keeping the regional meeting with the same structure. To restructure the composition of the regional groups has been discussed since long, but so far without causing any changes. There are some regional groups that would like to be integrated together with countries from different geographical areas; the second one is about discussion topics we deal with within the regional meetings:

How important is it to you to keep the current configuration of your Regional Group? (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)? **Most voted answer is 4.**

How important are the Regional Meetings in discussing the following topics? (on a scale from 1 = unimportant to 5 = very important)?

Exchange of information and positions among each other. **Most voted answer is 5.**

Finding a common position in the debate with other European countries. **Most voted answer is 3.** Finding a common position in the debate with the European institutions. **Most voted answer is 4.** Discuss AEC Congress topics in depth. **Most voted answer is 4.**

Getting to know each other better. **Most voted answer is 5.**

After the poll, some attendees ask what is the purpose of doing these polls. Is the AEC trying to change the configuration of the regional groups? In this regard, AEC Council member Iñaki informs the group about this year's implementation of an Open Regional Meeting. In the case of Spain and Portugal, the poll is aimed to see if this is really worth it.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Some attendees agree there is a risk of leaving up to each congress participant to attend the regional meeting they want, since some regional meetings could remain empty. The fact of visiting other regional meetings is very tenting, since there might be other discussions that would be of our interest. In this line, it is suggested to work on a redistribution of regional meetings not for countries but for **interests in common and similarities on study programmes**. However, there is a natural inclination of gathering all Spanish institutions.

Other attendees think that the regional meetings should remain regional, making perfect sense to gather Spain and Portugal under the same umbrella, and suggest to receive guests from other regions as **observers**. In this way, we could send observers from our institutions to other meetings.

Also, as a regional group, it is suggested to commonly work on other questions like the **admission test**, which is a matter that involves all institutions. How flexible are the admission tests at the different institutions in Spain? This is a question that could be addressed by all institutions with similar methods.

Furthermore, some attendees address the question of adding **higher music education to the university** in Spain. It is suggested to use these meetings to talk about it, since there are big opportunities of European funding to think about, like the joint modules. AEC Council member Iñaki reminds the group that this has been the main topic of this regional meeting for the two last years, and that ACESEA is currently working on it. The AEC has always been a big support on this matter, and this proposal counts with European support.

Finally, AEC Office member Alfonso explains on behalf of the AEC office how the situation has been in terms of preparations prior to the Congress, which was planned to last for 3 days in Antwerp, then hybrid from Vienna and then fully online. The parallel sessions weren't planned to last this short, but the AEC wanted to still give the chance to present to all the people who were already notified they could contribute to the Congress. Instead of reducing contents, the AEC chose to reduce on timing, and still give the chance to people to contribute as planned. In this regard, not all attendees think of this issue as something negative. On the contrary, they appreciate the Congress has taken place within a shorter time frame, so they could still take care of the difficult situation at their home institutions. Lighter is not synonymous with poor content, and from the technical point of view everything has been carried out very easily and intuitive.

The meeting finished at 10:47.