

Pre-Congress

EOALAB - make, collaborate, share!

Perspectives on shared education using results of European Opera Academy's EOALAB

Date: 4 November 2021, 9:30-13:00 hrs

What opportunities can sharing among partners provide to academies? How can we build strong collaborations and partnerships across academies and across countries? How can we learn from each other and from our students to renew our curricula? How can we engage more with the working field to prepare our students?

EOALAB (European Opera Academy LAB) is an Erasmus+ partnership between seven European Conservatories and the AEC to trigger innovation in opera education. Based on the belief that sharing education is the future, they collaborate intensely across borders to create learning laboratories, exchange best practices, and develop intellectual outputs. The results and findings will be made available to other higher education institutions in music.

This session consists of two parts: information about the EOALAB - its philosophy, its structure, its strengths, and weaknesses -, and some interactive workshops on the three different outputs of the project.

Knowledge exchange about the achievements of the projects (9:30-10:30)

- 1) The philosophy behind the project EOALAB. An introduction by Susanne van Els (15 min)
- 2) The presentation of its results, by Inge Simoens, Christofer Fredriksson, Bruno Pereira & Mantautas Krukauskas, and Roberta Faroldi (30 min)
- 3) The outside eye: reflections on the process and results, by Luke O'Shaughnessy, director of OperaVision, and external evaluator of the project (15 min)

In this first part the focus is on the results of the project: The EOALAB members will explain what they have done and what they came up with, as achievements of working together, with students and teachers, and what the impact these have on own institutions, curricula, and opera training.

- The first result that will be presented is a manual on shared education, targeted at HMEI managers and curriculum makers. What are key insights in the manual? How can institutions work with it? How can it be implemented this into curricula?
- The second output is focusing on the way experimental training programs lead to new approaches in opera training, which lead to policy recommendations. The presenters will provide an overview as to: what are the policy recommendations? What was learned from the experimental training programs?
- Last but not least, the project also dealt with ways to approach learning and teaching languages in opera. How can the lessons learned be implemented? How could a new curriculum/lesson on language teaching look like?

Short break (10:30-10:45)

Three parallel break-out sessions/working groups (10:45-12:45)

Join the Lab! Take the opportunity to interact closely with partners to learn first-hand from the project and gain insights and inspiration for your academy! You can choose between three sessions; each is interactive and is aimed at inspiration and sharing.

The project created three main outputs on a range of topics relevant to shared education and innovative opera training, which will be made available to HMEIs. A manual on shared education which is targeted at curriculum and policy makers at HMEIs. Findings from conceptual work and immediate experiences of the experimental training sessions on new opera making, which lead to policy recommendation for HMEIs. finally, new approaches to language learning and teaching in opera. In these working groups partners present results and findings in a short overview, and how they can be implemented and used by HMEIs to enhance opera training of and for the future.

Workshop 1) On shared education

Inge Simoens (Antwerp), Christofer Fredriksson (Stockholm)

- Target audience: department coordinators, deans, heads of programs
- List 3 thematic subjects your institution excels in or has expertise about -> look for educational tools (shared education) to be able to share your best practice/expertise with other HEI's
- List 3 thematic subjects/educational offer your institution would like to have (more) expertise on or you would like be able to offer your students -> look for educational tools (shared education) to be able to provide other or more best practice/expertise from other HEI's to your students

Workshop 2) On construction of a module for blended teacher/student exchange

Bruno Pereira (Porto), Mantautas Krukauskas (Vilnius)

- Target audience: department coordinators, deans, heads of vocal/opera programs
- Discuss the experience gained in EOALAB - mainly through the intensive study programs - and in similar projects of the participants of this pre-conference workshop.
- Share good practices and will understand the advantages of collaborative and innovative projects focused on promoting the experiential doing as trigger of the reflexive learning process.
- Discuss the role of the HEIS in shaping the profile of the 21st century singer/student and the needed dialogue with the professional world.

Workshop 3) On innovation of education through experiments with professional collaboration

Roberta Faroldi, Riccardo Mascia, Maurizio Leoni and a student representative, Victoria Vasquez Jurado (Parma)

- Target audience: Student representatives, department coordinators, heads of programs, deans
- Focus on: Teacher exchange for a better shared education: how does it work now and how could it be. From a case of linguistic skills in singing to further ideas in music education
- Focus on: Special projects based on active sharing between students and teachers (going on stage / play /sing /learn together): strengths and weaknesses
- Focus on: Learning by sharing -what students and teachers fear, what they are comfortable/uncomfortable with in the process.

After the three working groups we come back together and share our findings (12:45-13:00).