

THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE REGIONAL MEETINGS REPORTS

ANTWERP 2021

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Topic 1:

Feedback on the Congress programme/content so far, feedback on the hybrid format of this year's congress.

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

Positive feedback:

- The session is estimated inspiring
- High relevance of networking (but just in presence)

Comments on the hybrid format.

- Limited extent of the interaction for the online participants. Technically, it was well organised, but the online communication from the stage (hosts and speakers) was difficult.

France, Luxembourg

Positive feedback:

- Theme, quality and contents.
- Appreciation for the connection to the current situation of the institutions, their roles in the political and cultural strategies.
- The enormous amount of work made by the SMS WG's and their outputs have been shared in many different ways, they were present in all the discussions.
- The quality and the diversity of the speakers bring many elements and reflections that participants take back to our institutions.
- The students interventions were praised, really relevant and powerful in their contents as well in their form.
- The discussions were more concrete than the ones of last meetings, more than just confrontations

Suggestions of improvement:

- The dialogue could be better managed by the moderator
- There could be more space to discussion instead of presentation, so they could be more short (flash-presentations suggested)

Comments related to hybrid format

- good opportunity for distance-participating but stating that being in presence remains a plus.
- The registration system for participants from the same institution needs to be clarified:suggestion for a simpler system

Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt

Positive feedback

- content and quality of congress.
- group is overall very positive about the importance and urgency of the topics addressed in congress. “Building Bridges” and the concept “The Musician as Maker in Society” are perceived as excellent. Diverse concrete items: The pre-congress workshop by MusiQue was excellent.
- The results of all the Working Groups (SMS) are impressive.
- The Student Voice in congress is excellent and essential, the new platform EPASA is important.

Suggestions for improvement

- Every WG should present a concrete publication: a paper, an app, a seminar, a film, a book, a manifesto, etc. This should be mandatory! –
- The film “The Musician as Maker in Society” was excellent but needs some editing (the elephant part).
- The new call for student members must be better communicated. There is a lot of interest in participating on the student level in this group. –
- The Whova app is excellent but should explore the hybrid online possibilities more.
- The need is felt to have some extra subjects in the programme, for example it is felt that the problems and solutions of “going hybrid” should be discussed more on the AEC level. Lessons learned from Covid, toolboxes, etc.
- The suggestion is also to have a “wildcard” in the programme in order to deal with themes which are essential to the membership as well. Perhaps the students could take care of such a part? Perhaps the congress could be made longer?

Comments on the hybrid format: positive feedback

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia

Positive feedback

- Satisfaction for the wide choice of topics, their relevance.
- effective manner in dealing with a lot of issues

Comments on the hybrid format

- The online version should be kept available also in the future

Italy

Positive feedback

- Appreciation for the quality and offer of the congress.
- particularly appreciated the interdisciplinarity and the research topic
- crucial role of students

Suggestions for improvement

- It would be important to allow anyone to attend all the performances, so maybe it is implicitly suggested to organize less sessions, or to make possible in terms of time and place to attend all the sessions.

Netherlands, Belgium

Positive feedback

- Appreciation for the content, especially in terms of openness in new possibilities and approaches
- Good opportunity of networking

Suggestions for improvement

- Pop and jazz platform remains a bit too classical
- Not enough interaction
- Not clarity about the online and in presence sessions

Comments on the hybrid format

- Appreciated but interest in intending it as source of new publics, for example creating a follow up online for every presentation

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Positive feedback

- Topics

Suggestions for improvement

- more awareness of the digital audience
- We have not spent enough time thinking about post SMS as working groups wrap up. Working groups could sum up what might be next. There is a strong bond between working group members that could be a continuing resource.
- Could AEC start a conversation with orchestras - how do they recruit players? Is it only by audition and then expecting them to act in a different way only after they have the job? - If auditioning musicians they know what they are measured on - and that it might include engagements in society as well as how they play, they would prepare in a broader manner . Nordic orchestras could be a first place we look to open the discussion.

Poland, Belarus Russia, Ukraine , Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia

Positive feedback

- The program of the Congress is evaluated high. Formula online is not the same as person-to-person, but in this time is a good solution and probably will stay forever.
- The topic was interesting, but for some schools it is reality and for some - idea for the future.

Comments on the hybrid format

- The main discussion concerned not only hybrid format of Congress, but difficult situation in HME institutions caused by COVID-19 and hybrid form of teaching. Everyone agreed that hybrid form is better than nothing and we have to accept two parallels ways of life – real and digital. However, it should be emphasized some positive aspects of digital forms of teaching – it helps more people to be active, it helps spreading information much faster, reduce costs of some joint programs.

Spain and Portugal

Positive feedback

- Dynamic, convenient and important topic addressed (in particular artistic research and power relations)
- Added value on linking the topics addressed at the Congress and the work done within the different AEC-SMS Working Groups.
- outcomes available as downloads.

Suggestions of improvement

- Including a wrap up at the end of every parallel session
- It should be possible for everybody to attend all performances.

Comments on the hybrid format

- It worked well, but is it worthy to put effort in organizing it?
- Suggestion to record the online sessions and speakers, and then could be shared on Whova for participants to have access after the Congress ends

United Kingdom and Ireland

Comments on the hybrid format

- Time could be maximised
- The atmosphere could be more conversational.

Topic 2

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

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

What has already been done

- Inclusion in the congress of program of cooperation in the arts as well as increased visibility of AEC lobbying and contact with other representatives of the associations such as ELIA, Culture Action Europe etc

Aspects to improve

- The proposal to create synopses on the different legal situations in the higher education context regarding the member states has not yet been tackled. However, clarifications on statistical and empirical research on lobbying have been initiated.

France, Luxemburg

No answer

Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt

In 2020 no regional report had been produced so they could not discuss this.

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia

Group was not familiar with last year's regional meeting due to changes in its structure.

Italy

What has already been done

- Presentations and speeches are clearer than in the past, power points are projected with subtitles, more materials are available both before and after the event.
- Moreover the AEC took up our suggestions of topics to be covered, especially with respect to the themes of Research and European projects design.
- The miracle of the current year is having been able to have such an important number of participants in presence

- The communication in the AEC events has improved and also the reception of the topics suggested in the past year(s).

Netherlands, Belgium

Aspects to improve

- About presence: The dream is that every institution brings in a student!
- About interaction and exchange: There could still be more space and time for institutional collaboration, exchange of practices, and for a follow-up idea

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

- Their meeting last year was a sharing of how member institutions and countries were coping with lock down and hybrid learning environments.

Poland, Belarus Russia, Ukraine , Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia

- Last year they tried to encourage representants of polish Academies to disseminate information about AEC actions and to actively participate in our projects. This year, despite less participants our Academies are more active – Łódź was preparing to organize PJP Platform meeting

Spain and Portugal

What has already been done

- In last year's report, there was a general wish to deepen more into the conference topics, and link them to what the different AEC Working Groups are currently working on. So far, this has been successfully achieved in this year's Congress edition.
- Furthermore, the group congratulates the AEC office team as per following up on the hybrid format suggestion from last year (e.g. online participants being able to join the Regional meeting in presence).
- On another note, participants update each other about ACESEA – Asociación Española de Centros Superiores de Enseñanzas Artísticas and the assembly organised by SEM-EE (Sociedad para la Educación Musical del Estado Español) and hosted by Centro Superior Música Creativa in Madrid on the following day. Miren Iñarga points out how the AEC has always served as great support for ACESEA initiatives, and that important changes are expected to come on the short term.

Topic 3

• Restructuring the composition of the regional groups

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

Description of the discussion

- The German-speaking group was clearly in favour of no change in 2020, the picture in the other groups is partly identical, but few groups believe that there is a need for change, which is now being slowly addressed.

France, Luxemburg

Description of the discussion

- The idea of a French-speaking group, briefly discussed at the 2020 Congress, has been explored during the regional meeting and a second meeting has been organised with the French speaking colleagues from Belgium and Switzerland

Aspects to work on/group's point of view

- Having discussions on major topics in your own language allows a better quality of reflection, spontaneity, etc.
- Several colleagues don't feel comfortable at their regional group meetings, because of language (German, Dutch), but also culturally. E.g. the French speaking Belgian conservatoires are historically and culturally very much linked to the French system and would have more to share with them than with the Dutch or Flemish ones.
- The French conservatoires have now the ANESCAS to work on „national“ topics. Therefore, the regional group meeting is relevant to talk on the agenda proposed by the AEC, to share ideas and practices beyond the 'franco-français' territory.
- Colleagues from Montréal, Québec, Lebanon might also be interested to participate in this group, closer to linguistic and cultural roots.
- Open list of themes that might include particularities common to our regions e.g. recognition of pedagogical diplomas, mobility, job market, partnerships, exchanges, research, topics proposed by the AEC.
- Several possibilities have been discussed for a French-speaking 'moment': to restructure the regional groups, to create two different moment (regional/French-speaking?) or one or even several parallel sessions in each official language, with report in English(?), or at least a pre-congress meeting.

Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt

Description of the discussion

- This specific group feels comfortable in the actual structure and feels no need for change in this respect.

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia

Description of the discussion

- no huge discussion on the topic

Aspects to work on/group's point of view

- Suggestion that at least one participant from each active member institution is encouraged by AEC to participate

Italy

- They want to keep the regional meeting structure as it is

Netherlands, Belgium

Aspects to work on/group's point of view

- Exchanges with other regions could be enriching. On the other hand this is the only space to speak in our own language.
- This regional meeting happened in English because some students couldn't speak Dutch. However, some members regretted that they couldn't express themselves in their own language, as this is the only moment to do this (this was told only at the end of the meeting).
- This is a question that was also raised other years by the French members of Belgium, who are only four institutions and are not present at this meeting. An extra meeting with the French speaking members is organized next day by Claire Michon.

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

They want to keep the structure like this.

Poland, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia

Description of the discussion

- They assess that it is difficult to discuss restructuring of the group when the most of countries is absent. In general, they are happy with the group's composition but exchange of information with others could be useful.

Spain and Portugal

Aspects to work on/group's point of view

- They want to keep the composition of the Regional group Spain and Portugal as it is. There are common objectives, and this meeting could serve to strengthen relationships between institutional representatives beyond ACESEA.
- On the other hand, participants would like to know what is happening at other Regional groups, and which kind of topics are addressed.
- it is not about being in a group together with Spanish representatives, but that the fact of being represented in the AEC Community also implies to be in contact with different countries in Europe besides the neighbours, in order to show what we do and exchange information.
- Suggestion to change randomly the composition of the Regional groups every year, and to implement National groups instead of Regional groups as such.

United Kingdom and Ireland

No answer

Topic 4

- **Revising the AEC National Overviews of Higher Music Education systems, Pre-College and Music Teacher Education systems. Are there any topics you consider to be mapped?**

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

- It is certainly necessary to revise them because they are outdated
- A discussion (enquiry) about structure and headings/categories will take place, and then the concrete content will be asked.

France, Luxembourg

Suggestion of topics to be mapped

- Some points might be added: Information on research, Diversity, Diploma Recognition.
- In France, there will be some changes in the performance Bachelor in 2022. Need to wait for these changes before the text can be updated. Some remarks on those documents have been collected after the congress: the documents are comprehensive, but they might be too long: Would it be possible to have shorter presentations on the Website + more detailed documents to be downloaded?
- Information could also be added regarding the calls for projects launched by the Ministry of culture.

Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt

- The group advises not to take up such a project (lot of work and also data protection issue). If the AEC would take up this again it should be an AEC-coordinated project with appropriate funding.

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia

- The group agrees with proposed topics on AEC National Overviews and is willing to send questionnaires to institutions.

Italy: No answer about it

Netherlands, Belgium

- Making more persons aware of this HME mapping. Interesting for the students could be the insights in compulsory research elements in Ba and Ma to have the possibility to compare between different countries.
- Disseminate more to make people aware of this mapping, because it's interesting to have all communication over different countries on one single website, but for the moment almost nobody knows about it.
- Listing all these elements can also be dangerous, creating phenomenon of exclusion.
- Members mention a similar mapping of the third cycle framework: the 'creator-doctors' framework.

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

- It could be more widely advertised where it is and how to find it. Should be relevant to see mapping in case of revising admission criteria and for discussions about pedagogy.
- Format and transmission of mapping results could be smoother.
- Could we map what happened to young people in covid - 2020 may well have created a "lost" generation of graduates finding it difficult to make a their start.
- Can we lobby more widely for support for artistic study - too many countries prioritising skills. STEM only subjects.

Poland, Belarus Russia, Ukraine , Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia

- The group did not formulate specific topics. But they would find interesting to have an update on system educations in European countries – especially for students.

Spain and Portugal

- It would be good to map where to study jazz before entering HME levels. There is a general concern about all HMEIs with jazz departments not being nourished enough by jazz itineraries and other musics taught in previous levels. At the same time, no vacancies for these disciplines. The same case occurred with flamenco.

United Kingdom and Ireland

- The UK and Ireland conservatoires would welcome mapping into diversity, equity, access and inclusion.

Topic 5

- **Do you have any 'Joker' topics?**

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

- **Continuing Education (Lifelong Learning)** This category should also be included in the national overviews, as there are very different structures and framework conditions in Europe, e.g. with regard to financing and support services as well as the understanding/relevance of Lifelong Learning (LLL). The connections between Master's modules and continuing education are discussed with regard to permeability. Continuing education is also seen as a "window of fresh air", to strengthen the practical part and as an extension of the institution's competence.
- **Sustainability.** The integration into the curricula at HMEI is discussed (e.g. Zurich HdK with sustainability as a cross sectional dossier across all disciplines). The group would like to see the AEC as a platform for good ideas, but it is also noted that the ideas are often too small-scale and that the philosophical/ethical level makes it more interesting, art as "storytelling about climate change". How to think about sustainability and art together? Specifically, they asked whether it was really more sustainable to work with I-pads instead of paper. Finally, they asked about the sustainability of education with a high number and frequency of reforms.

Aspects to improve:

- **Accumulation of professorships** (belonging to several universities/organisations) There are different views if this is an AEC issue. The problem of still being able to guarantee the practical relevance of full-time positions was discussed, and there was an exchange about the very different national framework conditions (especially labour law).
- The use of music by HMEIs in image films and documentary videos, a discussion which was prompted by the film "Artists as 'Makers in Society'" presented by SMS WG 1 shown at the congress. There is a discussion about the quality and function of the music used and, following on from this, about the integration of AI (artificial intelligence) in music university structures

France, Luxemburg

- Language / Translation. **There is a need for translations of the outcomes of the SMS project.** Otherwise, it is difficult to share them with the teachers, students and staff amongst the French institutions. It is really important to share those outcomes (e.g. diversity and inclusion). The translation has to be corrected by a WG member, as the formulation has to be very subtle.

Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt: NO

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia

- **Virtual Erasmus exchanges** were explained in detail, as a useful and innovative platform for cooperation. Slovenian experience was accepted with great interest. Members are willing to initiate similar cooperation in the future.

Italy

- Importance on focusing more and more on the performance aspect, even in the third level, in order to underline the specifics of Conservatories compared to Universities.
- Joint degrees
- AEC website: the section offering information on the structure of European music systems needs to be revised and completed. A precise definition of qualifications is suggested for the benefit of recognition procedures, information on the third level, and on the preschool level (0-6 years).

Netherlands, Belgium

- Representatives from **other higher education fields** (not only on music education) could be invited / present, for exchange and links to non-artistic creative projects, to best practices which we could share with them. However, there are other conferences that deal with that (ex ELIA)

Aspects to improve:

- Topics as **interdisciplinarity beyond music, moving to a phase of integration**, are still not really tackled. They remain at the periphery of the conference: interference with other art domains, how to mix our music studies with plastic arts, theatre, circus, We need to open the dialogue again with ELIA.
- Another element that is missing are **discussions or communication of propositions and subsidies for projects**: e.g. Framework of Creative Europe, Horizon. At the Conference, we hear nothing about this. However, sharing this kind of information would be great.
- **More interaction than only within AEC working groups**: there is also a dilemma between the presence of too many institutions and oneself, blocking interactivity. It would be interesting to have within the content (the musician as maker in society) there could be more interaction: the work and deepening of these topics happens on a certain place, namely the Workgroups and the other members of AEC have the feeling these are rather closed hubs and bring certain results. Other members would like to have the possibility to be part of

this much more. **More sharing of the advances, questions, processes and participation in discussions would be valued, also over the year.** Now, the results of a WG are communicated as 'done work'. Also, MusiQuE could invest more in communicating and exchanging the information of potential opportunities.

- Regional settings: would it be an idea to have an appointment to talk about what happens in the region (like for the Netherlands on the 25/11/2021 in Tilburg) Netwerk Muziek; but then together with the Belgium colleagues (Werkgroep Kunsten - VLHORA / CHESA)
- CONGRESS: what if we would not have powerpoints? Is there a conference where the audience has no laptops or gsm? These last questions are not shared by everybody, it is a question of personal commitment and maturity.

Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

- **Link to sustainability.** Can we have climate activists challenge our work? UN sustainable development codes could be transplanted into workable institutional goals - musician as maker could work around these goals. How can arts influence this change - make behaviour changes understandable Bring people together (link also to social responsibility)
- **Focus on sustainability, institutions and artists.** Get more concrete about sustainable issues-how can it be in curricula. Norway - wants to be certified as 'environmental lighthouse" ;change practices and integrate ethical considerations into curriculum, from #me too to decolonisation.
- **What will we choose to stop doing as needs of performers/graduates change** Ethics of resilience - we assume our students happy to have portfolio career but the pandemic has shown the risks to their living. What about those students who missed out from 2020 - the ethics of putting portfolio as a virtue. Present these as choices
- **What does lifelong learning look like post Covid** - graduation is not endpoint. Are these courses funded? ANMA wants to get closer to students-with various networks - pop/jazz Good exemplar for Norplus network NEXT! - how to develop and envision the sector in 10 years time-digitalisation, artist as citizen, re-envision internationalism in a sustainable way. Only artistic citizenship got funding.
- **New Time Music - about digitalisation and using online to help education.** Hybrid education network - monthly online appointments and facebook page Project on gender balances - focussed on jazz and pop Multiple musics and avoid hierarchy

Poland, Belarus Russia, Ukraine , Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia

- how to connect future music with ecology
- how to adapt to changing regulations
- how to survive in pandemic era

- At the end some participants were presenting the situation in their academies: Georgia – the main problem is lack of access to programs for communication and lectures online. Rearrangement of orchestral repertoire, rehearsal in sections. All accompaniments recorded and shared with students. Lessons at professor's homes. Wrocław – technical problems with streaming concerts. Łódź – education strategy – 50% in building, 50% online. Every two weeks exchange of classes

Spain and Portugal: Not in particular

Uk and Ireland

- **Green/sustainability.** AEC should go green and be more open about it. Why give a paper pack when the information is on Whoova? Sustainability and the music profession – should this in itself be a full conference? Congress needs to revolve around something with more urgency like climate and sustainability, with sub topics and people required to do preparation in advance who attend with specific initiatives where you can kick something off. 1 year or even a 2-year theme for more depth on this or another topic
- **Broadening AEC reach.** AEC could launch a **women's network UK and Ireland** keen to engage more members of staff with AEC work.
- PDFs not as good as videos – quality of these discussed between 'quick and dirty' and more considered.
- How to be connected to industry and the political sphere meaningfully and this includes **AEC inviting in more outside voices to inspire.**
- Areas of common interest: Strategies to advocate to Government regarded as key skill – '**advocacy toolkit**'
- **Philanthropy and the conservatoires** – case studies Learning and teaching will be a topic that changes over time, could stay on the agenda annually. The MusiQuE session was successful. It has trends analysis that AEC could draw on and debate – could also prompt training