

Rationale, strategy and actions to promote global cooperation in higher music education

1. The foundations of a global vocation: the AEC Statutes

Although the AEC is a mainly European-based organisation, the outreach of its relations and the desired impact of its work is actually global. Similarly, we recognise that the impact of musics from across the globe have real resonance in the contemporary European arena, both in consequence of the movement of peoples and through personal and institutional relationships.

The foundations for AEC's strategy for global cooperation has long-standing roots and can be found already in the AEC Statutes, where the different kinds of membership are defined.

In particular, art.3.2 of the Statutes states that *“the status of active member may be acquired, based on an appropriate candidature file, by any conservatoire, academy or university of music, Musikhochschule or other equivalent institution within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and countries identified for reinforced cooperation in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (countries of the ENP), where courses are prepared, managed and provided which offer programmes of orientation and professional quality, designed to train students for a professional activity in the musical field.*

Article 3.3 of the AEC Statutes specifies the requirements for associate members: *“the status of associate member includes several categories and concerns, based on an appropriate candidature file, and concerns the following institutions:*

- *Institutions **outside** EHEA and ENP countries in compliance with article above, which offer the same level of training as that indicated in this same article 3.2.*
- *Music teaching institutions located in EHEA and ENP countries, but which do not offer higher education programmes at level 4 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).*
- *Organisations in and outside the EHEA and ENP countries, other than those indicated in articles 3.2 and 3.3 which are active in, or linked to, other fields of training relating to music professions.”*

The intrinsic global nature of the AEC membership is therefore a pre-requisite for a vision, mission and an action plan including global cooperation.



2. The global orientation in AEC Strategic Plan

The global orientation of the AEC is also addressed by one of the most important programmatic document of the association, the Strategic Plan.

According to the AEC Strategic Plan 2016-2023 (revised in 2021) the AEC mission is based on the following three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Fostering the value of music and music education in society
- Pillar 2: Enhancing quality in Higher Music Education
- Pillar 3: Promoting participation, inclusiveness and diversity

In particular, within the first pillar, AEC commits to represent, promote and advance the interests of the Higher Music Education sector not only at national and European but also at global level for the greater societal good.

Within the second pillar, the global element is present as AEC commits to support the education of graduates with high professional standards tuned on the need of a globalised society, where geographical and national borders are less and less of an obstacle to career development; furthermore, internationalisation is mentioned as a tool to enhance quality in higher music education by promoting and encouraging exchange among its members not only at European level but also beyond. In this regard, the AEC also commits to support the work of International Relations Coordinators in its member institutions, who are encouraged to extend the outreach of their international activities beyond the European borders by strategically approaching cooperation at global level as well as by encouraging student and staff exchanges through the ERASMUS+ KA 171 scheme. This “global” thinking would in turn also influence the “internationalisation at home” strategy of institutions, which can re-create within their walls a real globalised community.

The global nature of the third pillar, which is about participation, inclusiveness and diversity is self-explanatory: in order to expand our collective vision to embrace a wider set of music creators, traditions, genres, cultures and languages in Higher Music Education Institutions, taking a global perspective is essential.

Finally, AEC commits to ensure its operational excellence by strengthening partnerships and interactions with stakeholders, also at global level. In this sense, long-standing and new established partnership are considered as strategic to promote global cooperation.



3 Objectives and actions for 2022-2025

Within the Creative Europe co-funded project ARTEMIS - Empowering Artists as Makers in Society 2022-2025, the global perspective is given a prominent role. The following project objectives, which are related to the overarching goal of Creative Europe of scaling up Europe's cultural and creative sector at global level, have been identified for AEC by 2025:

- Reinforcing cooperation within the sector in and outside Europe, from local to global, as bilateral partnerships and in wider consortia;
- Reaffirming the role of international mobility and cooperation in the dialogue with the culture and creative industry to facilitate the access of emerging artists to work placements worldwide;
- Strengthening collaboration with non-European partners and networks;
- Promoting international networking beyond Europe to take the institutions that are still “isolated” to an international level;
- Proactively promoting and raising to the next level the involvement of AEC associate members (36 institutions and organisations from the US, Australia, Southern Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia) and non-European key partner organisations.
- Continuing and further intensifying the existing and lively exchange on almost all topics dealt with in the project with representatives of the sector in developed countries (in Australia, North America, East Asia) that can provide valuable input to improve the European music sector and the European HMEIs while supporting them with appropriately dealing with diversity and inclusion issues.

Actions

Cooperation with global partners takes place as concrete actions within the project on almost all themes and as part of almost all work packages (WPs).

WP2 in particular addresses international networking and cooperation beyond Europe and foresees the delivery of a large series of annual events emphasising global collaboration, as well as the development of tools facilitating artists' mobility (EASY - the European Online System for Mobility in Higher Music Education, which can also be used for exchanges outside Europe, including work placements).

Taking advantage of the easier opportunities for exchange given by online meetings, but still preferring in-person encounters, the AEC is now more than ever committed to strengthening cooperation with institutions, partners, and networks outside Europe in the context of an increasingly globalised world by undertaking the following actions:

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1. Co-opting two AEC Council Members and ARTEMIS working group members representing Associate Members from countries outside Europe;
2. Planning contributions on Global Cooperation by representatives of international partner organisations at the AEC Annual Meetings of International Relations Coordinators and at the AEC Annual Congresses;
3. Allocating travel and accommodation budget to maintain relations and (mutually) attending annual conferences of international partner organisations;
4. Dedicating one of its AEC Annual Meetings of International Relations Coordinators to the cooperation with HMEIs outside Europe;
5. Informing and training AEC members - both in and outside Europe - towards the development of new global partnerships afforded by new opportunities in the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme and beyond;
6. Organizing joint online or in-presence events with international networks;
7. Giving to all staff members and students in the AEC member institutions access to AEC events as opportunities of exchange and international networking also beyond Europe.

4 AEC's partner organisations beyond Europe

Four well-established and renown non-European based organisations dealing with Higher Music Education have been identified as strategic partners of the AEC to carry out cooperation at global level:

- [NASM, the National Association of Schools of Music, United States](#)
- [CMS, the College Music Society, United States](#)
- [IMC, the International Music Council](#)
- [SEADOM, Southeast Asian Directors of Music](#)

In the framework of the ARTEMIS project the four above mentioned organisations will welcome an AEC representative at some of their annual events and designate a representative to attend and contribute to AEC International Relation Coordinators (IRC) meeting and to the AEC Annual Congress each year, in the form of a session around global cooperation.

The following plan 2022-2024 lists the contributions of the international partner organisations to the AEC events within the ARTEMIS project:



2022

- Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2022, 22-24 September, Monopoli - Global cooperation beyond Europe: session by IMC
- AEC Annual Congress 2022, 9-12 November at CNSMD Lyon - Global perspective: Session by SEADOM and CMS

2023

- Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2023, 21-23 September, Leuven - Workshop on Global Cooperation beyond Europe, focus on Asia - workshop by SEADOM
- Annual Congress 2023 9-11 November, at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague - Global perspective: session about organizing exchanges outside Europe and session about internationalization and quality culture (involving NASM and SEADOM representatives)

2024

- Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2024 - Global Cooperation beyond Europe, focus on US - workshop by NASM and CMS
- AEC Annual Congress 2024 - Global perspective: Workshop by SEADOM

The work and perspectives of AEC partner organisations is presented below, as well as their past and future relation with the AEC, the planned activities and the representatives involved.

IMC

The International Music Council (IMC) is the world's leading membership-based professional organisation dedicated to the promotion of the value of music in the lives of all peoples. IMC's mission is to develop sustainable music sectors worldwide, to create awareness about the value of music, to make music matter throughout the fabric of society, and to uphold basic music rights in all countries. IMC was founded in 1949 at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO as a non-governmental advisory body to the agency on musical matters. It is based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and functions today independently as an international NGO official partner of UNESCO. In the course of its existence, IMC has developed into a highly influential network advocating for appropriate policies and practices aimed at strengthening the work of its members and partners worldwide. IMC's network is present in 150 countries on all continents, with national music councils and international, regional and national music organisations as well as specialised organisations in the field of arts and culture. IMC members of honour are chosen among the world's outstanding professionals, educators, performers and composers. Through its members, IMC has direct access to more than 1000 organisations and 600 million persons eager to develop and share knowledge and experience on diverse aspects of musical life. IMC is represented by a Regional Music Council in Africa, the three Americas and Europe.

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Their mission is to contribute and develop regional programmes and to support activities that are specifically tailored to the needs of IMC members and partners in the region.

The AEC and the IMC have been maintaining relations over the years mainly through the election of an AEC representative on the IMC Board (Jacques Moreau since 2018) and through the collaboration between the AEC and the European Music Council EMC (member of IMC) in putting together the European Agenda for Music and by mutually attending and giving presentations' at each other's conferences and events (i.e. the presentation on the 5 Music Rights by IMC former President Emily Achieng' Akuno at the AEC Annual Congress 2018 in Graz and the presentation about the role of music in society by the IMC President Alfons Karabuda at the AEC Annual Congress 2019 in Turin).

With the ARTEMIS project, the AEC has brought this cooperation to a higher level, with a more proactive involvement of IMC and its representatives into AEC activities and the strong commitment of including speakers from outside Europe appointed by IMC into AEC seminars, workshops and events, the first one being contribution of Silja Fischer (IMC Secretary General) Sheila Woodward (IMC Executive Vice-President) in the session about fairness in global cooperation delivered at the AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators in Monopoli (Italy) in September 2022.

CMS

The College Music Society was founded in 1958 as the merger of two organisations, The College Music Association and the Society for Music in Liberal Arts Colleges. It is a United States-based consortium of colleges, conservatoires, universities, and independent musicians and scholars interested in all disciplines of music. In the US, the Society provides leadership and serves as an agent of change by addressing concerns facing music in higher education. It promotes music teaching and learning, musical creativity and expression, research and dialogue, and diversity and interdisciplinary interaction.

The partnership between AEC and CMS has been established only recently and has been confirmed by the participation of the AEC vice-president Deborah Kelleher to the 2022 CMS conference and the commitment to the participation of a representative of the AEC to the 2023 CMS International Conference in Lithuania. The CMS representative Abra Bush from Indiana University is the main contact person for the relations between CMS and AEC and will make her first official appearance in this capacity at the AEC Annual Congress 2022 in Lyon as a panellist in the session about Global Cooperation together with Michael Shinn from Berklee School of Music in Boston. The AEC is committed to co-hosting the next CMS International Conference which takes place every third year in Europe.

NASM

Founded in 1924, the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) is an organisation of music schools, conservatoires, colleges, and universities with approximately 637 accredited institutional members in the United States of America. It establishes national

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standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for music and music-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational, and other music-related endeavours. NASM is a long-standing partner of the AEC: their cooperation is sealed by their traditional mutual participation and contributions in their respective annual gatherings.

During the last years, members of the AEC Executive Committee regularly attended the NASM Annual Conventions, as NASM presidents and/or other NASM representatives did regularly attend AEC Annual Congresses. In November 2022, Michael Wilder, the newly elected NASM President, will attend this year's AEC Annual Congress in Lyon, and Jeffrey Sharkey, AEC Council Member, will attend the NASM Annual Meeting 2022 as AEC representative.

SEADOM

The association of institutions in Southeast Asia involved in professional music education (SEADOM), is a cultural and educational network, which was established in 2008. It represents the interests of institutions that are concerned with higher music education. Today, SEADOM has more than 80 members in all 10 countries in Southeast Asia and throughout the world. SEADOM works for the advancement of Southeast Asia Music Education with a particular focus on professional training for musician as they engage with music, the arts and culture in contemporary society and for future generations. It does this through providing support, information, network opportunities and expert advice to the specialist institutions offering advanced music education, through engaging in advocacy and partnership-building at the regional and international levels. Whilst music is the primary focus of SEADOM, dance and drama are often taught alongside music in the specialist institutions represented by the Association and, under those circumstances, its mission actively embraces these disciplines.

Given his former capacity as President of the Southeast Asian Directors of Music Association (2008 - 2021) and with experience of leadership of two long-standing Associate Member institutions (as the Dean of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore (2008-2021), now Director of Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University Australia), Bernard Lanskey is the co-opted member of the AEC Council representing all associate members outside Europe and in particular those located in the Asia-Pacific. Over the last years, he has been in charge of fostering the involvement of non-European Higher Music Education Institutions in the AEC Annual Congress by proactively promoting in-person and online attendance and organising a session on global cooperation under the headline “Beyond Europe”, which featured in the last 2 years the participation of Anothai Nitibhon, SEADOM Vice President. This regular session is streamed online and thus is attended by participants all over the world. With the ARTEMIS project, the cooperation between AEC and SEADOM has been reinforced, becoming more structured and regular.

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In addition to the networks mentioned above, an already existing liaison with the [GLOMUS Network](#) will be reinforced. The GLOMUS network is a value driven non-profit community where students' artistic and human development is at the centre. Core values for the GLOMUS network are intercultural dialogue and artistic interaction with a focus on contributing to a positive social development, both locally and globally. GLOMUS has several concrete activities such as exchanges, bilateral cooperation projects and capacity building projects. The primary activity of the network is a major event or "GLOMUS Camp", which takes place every two years and brings students, teachers, managers and artists from all member countries together to engage in an abundance of intercultural expressions, performances, and debate workshops, which are also open to the public. So far, GLOMUS Camps have taken place in Mozambique, Ghana, Tanzania, Malaysia, Brazil and Georgia. GLOMUS has 25 partner institutions from all continents that represent some of the academically strongest and most visionary arts schools in the world, including AEC members in Europe and Higher Music Education institutions in Middle East, Far East, South America, US and Africa.