

Minutes of the 2022 General Assembly meeting



Lyon and online, 12 November 2022

1. Minutes of the 2021 General Assembly

- ✓ The General Assembly approves the Minutes of the 2021 General Assembly.

2. President's Report: Annual Report 2021 and activities to November 2022

- As a detailed report of the year 2021 can be read in the AEC Annual Report (available on the [AEC website](#)), the Vice-President focuses on AEC's activities and achievements in 2021-22.
- 2022 has been a productive year for AEC where all its activities were progressively organised in person from early spring 2022. The AEC Council met in Krakow in March, online in September and in Lyon in November. The AEC Office staff members continued to work mainly from home for most of the year, and the events were organised in a hybrid format.

AEC Council

- The AEC Council and ExCom continued its work, including through discussions groups to brainstorm on current and future activities
- The Council had the pleasure to continue working with a representative of AEC associate members - co-opted on AEC Council -, and two student representatives, so far invited as guests to contribute to the various Council meetings and soon, in the framework of the new AEC statutes, as co-opted members of Council
- The council appointed Abra Bush, Dean of the Jacob School of Music, Indiana University, as a co-opted member representing the associate members
- Throughout the year, in cooperation with the Office, we worked on implementing the current strategic plan as well as planning the coming years.

In 2022, the AEC Council consisted of the following representatives:

President:	Eirik Birkeland	Norway
Vice-Presidents:	Deborah Kelleher	Ireland
	Elisabeth Gutjahr	Austria
Secretary General:	Harrie Van Den Elsen	The Netherlands
Council members:	Kathleen Coessens	Belgium
	Lucia Di Cecca	Italy
	Claire Michon	France
	Jeffrey Sharkey	United Kingdom
	Zdzisław Łapiński	Poland
	Ivana Perković	Serbia

	Rico Gubler	Germany / Switzerland
Co-opted:	Bernard Lanskey	Australia
	Miranda Harmer	United Kingdom
	Eline Accoe	Belgium

Personnel changes within the AEC Office

The AEC office team has continued its high level of activity and commitment:

- Stefan Gies, Linda Messas, Alfonso Guerra and Barbara Lalić continued their work.
- At the end of September, the Communication Coordinator Chiara Conciatori left the AEC and was replaced by Alessandra Callegari.
- Events and Project manager Sara Primiterra was on maternity leave until the end of October. Events Coordinator Beatriz Laborda stepped in to organise the events.
- Several student interns have joined the staff during 2022.

AEC Activities according to Pillars of the Strategic Plan:

Pillar 1: Fostering the value of music and music education in society

- AEC started to implement its new flagship project ARTEMIS - Empowering Artists as Makers in society, with the establishment of all the working groups and their first meetings.
- AEC also worked on identifying topics and target groups for joint advocacy actions with partner organisations at European level and launched a survey to gather an overview of AEC members' actions and further needs in terms of advocacy.

Pillar 2: Enhancing quality in Higher Music Education

- All developments and improvements within the member institutions are constantly discussed during all international events.
- AEC organised 4 hybrid events and a series of webinars on early music, where staff and students from member institutions discussed, brainstormed, and exchanged.
- Organisation of international events:
 - Pop and Jazz Platform, Łódź, Poland (10-13 February 2022)
 - EPARM Conference, London, United Kingdom (7-9 April 2022)
 - IRC Meeting, Monopoli, Italy (22-24 September 2022)
 - AEC Early Music Platform - Quodlibet, online
 - AEC Annual Congress and GA, Lyon, France (10-12 November 2022)
- Cooperation with MusiQuE (Contributing to the revision of the MusiQuE standards)

Pillar 3: Promoting participation, inclusiveness and diversity

- AEC has made substantial progress in its exploration of diversity & inclusiveness, thanks to various projects (SMS, PRIhME, ARTEMIS)
- AEC continued to promote participation and diversity in its own activities, including by encouraging feedback from the various regions.
- AEC worked on increasing student voice & participation and provided support to the establishment of EPASA - the European Performing Arts Students' Association

Ensuring operational excellence

The revised strategic plan also includes goals related to AEC operations which are related to governance and internal communication, financial sustainability, communication to the members and strengthening cooperation with our partner organisations.

To that end, AEC Council started preparing the new strategic plan; AEC Chief Executive and AEC President continued regular exchanges, regular staff reviews and HR Committee meetings were organised, and the team worked on strengthening partnership and interaction with stakeholders.

AEC partner organisations

- ELIA, Cumulus, Cilect
- SAR - Society of Artistic Research
- European Music Council (EMC) and IMC
- Culture Action Europe
- ENCATC
- IMZ - International Music and Media Centre
- European Music School Union (EMU)
- European University Foundation (EUF)
- European Association for Music in Schools (EAS)
- Centre of Excellence of Music Performance Education (CEMPE)
- European Jazz Network (EJN)
- European University Association (EUA)
- Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe (Pearle*)
- REMA - European Early Music Network
- Opera Europa
- NASM, SEADOM

Projects in which AEC is involved:

- ARTEMIS - Empowering Artists as Makers in Society, 2022-2025
- PRIhME (Stakeholder Assembly on Power Relations in Higher Music Education), Erasmus+ 2020-2023
- News in Map, Erasmus+, 2019-2022
- DEMUSIS, Erasmus+, 2019-2022
- FAST45, Erasmus+
- ECMA PRO, Creative Europe, 2020-2024
- HarMA+, Erasmus+, 2020-2023
- RAPPLab, Erasmus+, 2020-2023
- LOTUS, Erasmus+, 2020-2023
- MUSENSE, Erasmus+, 2022-2025
- GloCoDa, Erasmus+
- TUNE, Erasmus+
- IncluMusic, Erasmus+
- FAMES
- Lost Music
- Opera out of Opera 2
- METRIC, 2019-...

3. Elections to the Executive Committee

- ✓ The General Assembly elects Alvaro Guibert and Ghassan Yamine as returning officers for 2022 and 2023.

Three vacant seats are available for the Executive Committee: President Erik Birkeland, Vice-President Deborah Kelleher and Secretary General Harrie van den Elsen finished their second term and are not eligible to reapply for the same post.

Seats and candidates:

- For the post of President: Deborah Kelleher (Ireland), the current Vice-President at the end of her second term
- For the post of Secretary General: Ivana Perković (Serbia), current Council member
- For the post of Vice-President: Jeffrey Sharkey (UK), current Council member

✓ The voting ballot was sent out. For results see point 7.

4. Action Plan 2023

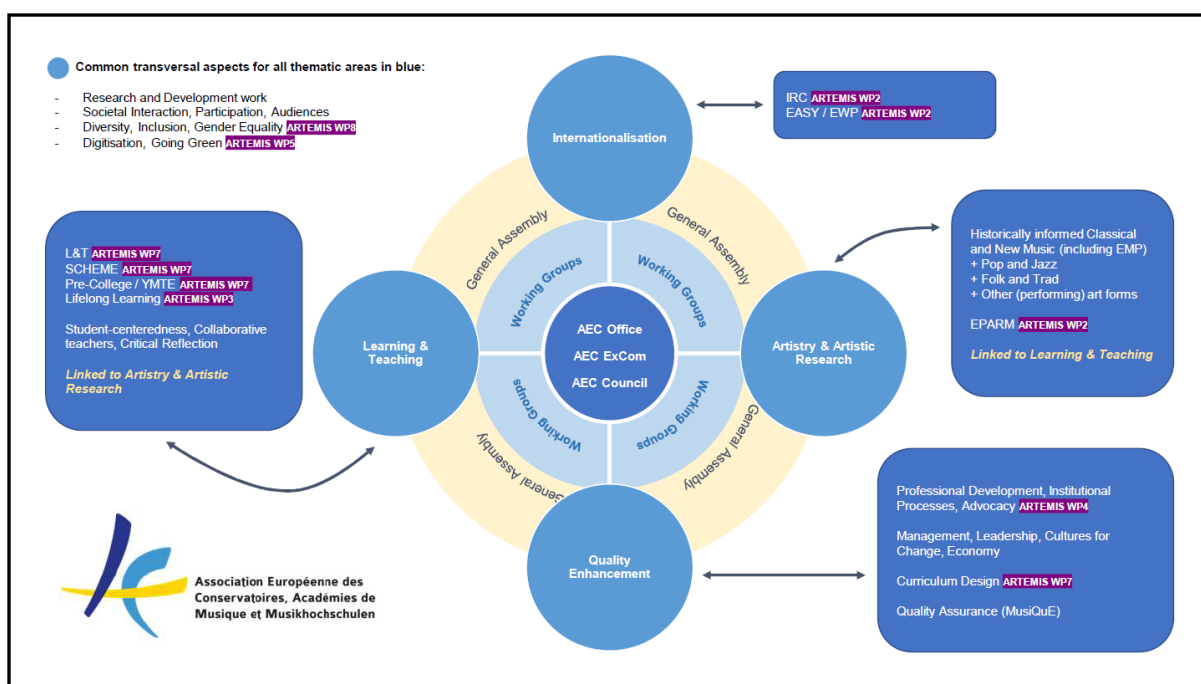
The AEC office prepared the Action Plan including actions for 2022 and 2023. They are organised under the pillars of the AEC Strategic Plan and the new colour code indicates progress status. This plan will be reviewed monthly within the office and regularly by ExCom and Council. *AEC invites its members to carefully read the directions and initiatives of the Action Plan 2023, and to share eventual comments.*

5. Preparations for the next AEC Strategic Plan (2014-2028)

A new Strategic Plan should enter into force from January 2024 onwards. To prepare this work, Council and ExCom have initiated a reflection on the future in 2 areas:

- 1/ how AEC working groups, platforms and events could be restructured in future
- 2/ how AEC's financial sustainability could be ensured

1. How AEC working groups, platforms and events could be restructured in future



The aim of this graph is to be sharing thoughts on how AEC activities could be structured in the coming years.

The core and the circles surrounding it represent the key bodies involved in AEC's work: AEC Office, ExCom and Council, AEC Working Groups, AEC general assembly.

In an attempt to structure AEC's work, the following 4 key areas have been defined:

1. Internationalisation
2. Artistry and Artistic research
3. Quality Enhancement
4. Learning and Teaching

Each area displayed is not only a theme but could represent a forum where AEC members would meet and exchange (whether through events, meetings, online activities, projects, and/or other possible ways).

Concerning Internationalisation, this forum would have the International Relations Coordinators at its core, and include work on the EASY application system.

Concerning Artistry & Artistic Research, a forum is planned, that would bring together the activities related to:

- Historically informed Classical and New Music (including the early Music Platform)
- Pop and Jazz
- Folk and Trad
- Other (performing art forms)
- But also the European platform for artistic research EPARM.

This forum would also be particularly linked to the Forum Learning & Teaching.

Concerning Quality Enhancement, a forum where we would discuss about and work on is planned:

- Professional development, institutional processes and Advocacy
- Management, Leadership, Cultures for change, Economy
- Curriculum Design
- Quality Assurance (in collaboration with MusiQuE)

Concerning Learning and Teaching, a forum is planned that would bring together the activities related to:

- L&T
- Harmonisation of music education
- Pre-college and young talents
- Lifelong learning
- Student-centredness, collaborative teachers, critical reflection

Finally, the following transversal aspects have emerged, common to all 4 for a:

- Research and Development work
- Societal Interaction, Participation, Audiences
- Diversity, Inclusion, Gender Equality
- Digitisation, Going Green

The complete draft reflects where the Council stands with its reflections. The aim is to include as an objective in the next Strategic period starting in 2024 the progressive implementation of changes to AEC activities in order to progressively implement this new structure. During 2023 the work on this will continue and the working groups and platforms are invited to discuss these ideas and give feedback and comments.

AEC's financial sustainability

The sustainability plan has been implemented as planned and the objectives from 2017 have been reached, among which building financial reserves amounting to 10% of AEC total annual budget.

The only element which is not fully realised is the aim back in 2017 to become less dependent on project funding. In 2022, a significant part of the income came from the many projects in which AEC is involved (included ARTEMIS); however the organisation has gained in solidity with the structural increase of membership fee and the reserves and could now sustain a smaller team if need be.

Preparing a new AEC Sustainability Plan

- The plan will focus on the following key aspects:
 1. Ensuring the sustainability of the organisation: how AEC's work can be pursued after January 2025 (with but also, alternatively, without project funding), how AEC could reach the objectives that will be agreed on as part of the new Strategic Plan
 2. Ensuring the sustainability of the AEC Office Team: attention will be brought to the level of salaries which needs to be increased to reward the work done, the knowledge and expertise gained, and to retain staff, but also to keeping the workload manageable for the staff
 3. Developing a new income strand strategy, including a revision of the balance between the various income strands
 4. Planning the cooperation with MusiQuE in terms of serviced staff and finances

6. Financial report of the Secretary General

Annual Accounts for 2021

The Secretary General informs that external auditors Małgorzata Sternal (Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music, Krakow) and Mario Carrillo (Centro Superior Música Creativa, Madrid, Spain) both recommended approval of the 2021 Accounts and he expressed gratitude for their work.

- ✓ The Annual Accounts for 2021 were approved through an online vote: 90 votes were cast, out of which 83 members approved and 7 abstained from voting.

Proposed membership fees for 2023

In accordance with the principles of the Sustainability Plan approved at the 2017 GA, the following is proposed:

- All 2022 membership fees are no longer increased but are simply adjusted in line with the inflation rate (+1,5%).
- As in previous years, a discount of 5% will be applied to the figures listed in the document, if the payment to AEC is made before 01/04/2023.
- In addition, a discount of 10% is offered to member institutions who are member of both AEC and ELIA

- ✓ The General Assembly approves the proposed membership fee levels for 2023 (121 valid votes, 98 yes, 4 no, 19 abstentions)

Forecast outturn 2022

The expected result for 2021 is 13.740,73 €.

Income 2022

- Based on the principles of the Sustainability Plan, AEC's income from membership fees has further increased in 2022
- Income from events fees have slightly increased compared to 2021, as all events could take place in presence again
- In relation to project income: the successful application of the ARTEMIS project and the income from other projects led us to a significant increase
- A decrease of the income from EASY is expected, given that a new system will be applied
- Finally, as agreed last year by the AEC Council, the amounts reimbursed by MusiQuE to AEC for staff and overhead costs remain the same as in 2021

Expenditures 2022

- Staff costs shall increase in comparison to 2021 levels, mainly because of the increased level of the internship fees and hiring more interns in 2022.
- Events costs were partially covered by the ARTEMIS project budget.
- Office costs have increased due to a VAT regularisation process with VAT lawyers, and Other.
- increased travel costs.
- ARTEMIS and other project expenses shall remain stable, as it was planned in the different project applications.
- Finally, the EASY service fee will remain stable as well.

- ✓ The General Assembly approves the forecast outturn 2021 (121 valid votes, 106 yes, 1 no, 14 abstentions)

Proposed budget for 2023

Harrie van den Elsen presents the proposed budget which shows a result of almost 2.000 €.

Income of 2023

- An inflation rate of 1,5% should apply to AEC membership fees in 2023
- The income for events should slightly increase in 2023 (some venues being more easily reachable)
- Concerning project grants, the ARTEMIS funding should remain stable in 2023, as well as the other project funds
- The income from EASY and METRIC coordination should remain the same as in 2022
- There should be an additional income from a service of application writing

Expenditure 2023

- Staff costs shall increase significantly (due to an indexation announced so far at the level of 10%)
- Events costs shall slightly increase, in line with the overall inflation, while office and travel costs shall decrease
- Project expenses should increase for the second year of implementation of the ARTEMIS project, as planned
- Finally, the EASY expenditure should decrease in line with the developments of the new system by the SoP provider

✓ The General Assembly approves the proposed budget for 2023 (121 valid votes, 105 yes, 1 no, 15 abstentions)

Appointment of two auditors for the 2022 accounts

✓ The General Assembly approves the appointment of Mario Carrillo, Centro Superior Música Creativa, Madrid and Kaarlo Hilden, Sibelius Academy, University of Arts Helsinki as external auditors for the 2022 accounts (121 valid votes, 106 yes, 2 no, 13 abstentions)

7. Elections to the Executive Committee and Council (continued from point 3.)

Results Executive Committee elections

There were 117 votes cast.

- With 105 votes, Deborah Kelleher is elected as AEC President
- With 96 votes, Ivana Perković is elected as AEC Secretary General
- With 95 votes, Jeffrey Sharkey is elected as AEC Vice-President

Elections to the Council

In the year 2022, the Council opened 5 seats and has received 9 candidacies (out of which 7 new candidates and 2 current Council members):

- Riccardo Ceni, Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito, Parma, Italy
- Kathleen Coessens, Conservatoire royal de Liège, Belgium
- Henrik Frisk, Royal College of Music, Stockholm, Sweden
- Keld Hosbond, Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus/Aalborg, Denmark
- Karin Johansson, Malmö Academy of Music, Sweden
- Claire Michon, Pôle Aliénor Poitiers-Tours, France
- Bruno Pereira, ESMAE P. PORTO - School of Music and Performing Arts, Portugal
- Guntar Pranis, Latvian Academy of Music, Riga, Latvia
- Martin Prchal, Royal Conservatoire the Hague, The Netherlands

✓ The members present proceed to the vote. See point 11 for results.

8. Internal regulations

Deborah Kelleher reports that the revised Statutes, which were approved by the General Assembly in 2021, entered into force in October 2022. As per Article 13 of the new Statutes, “Each year, the Council shall re-examine any internal regulations in force and shall adapt them if necessary.” Internal regulations further clarify and define procedures such as the nomination and election of AEC Council and ExCom members, eligibility, profile, roles and duties of Council and ExCom members and the profile, role and responsibility of AEC Chief Executive.

As the Council identified towards the end of the year some passages with an unclear wording regarding the role and tasks of the returning officers, it was decided to once again revise the document in 2023.

9. Matters related to the European subject-specific quality assurance agency for music, MusiQue

Deborah Kelleher invites the Chair of the MusiQuE Board, Jacques Moreau, to present the latest developments in MusiQuE.

Besides its review activities in Thailand, The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK, the following important developments were initiated:

- Revision of the MusiQuE Standards in collaboration with EMU And Pearle representatives
- Collaboration with EQ-Arts
- Trend Analysis by Don McLean
- MusiQuE series of webinars on topics including:
- MusiQuE Peer Reviewers’ Training Workshop

10. Membership matters

The following institutions have been accepted as Active Members:

- Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali Conservatorio “Franco Vittadini” (Italy)
- Music Academy of the University of Montenegro
- Conservatorio di Musica Giacomo Puccini (Italy)
- University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)
- National Academy of Music Prof. Pancho Vladigerov (Bulgaria)
- Université du Luxembourg, Institute for Musicology and Arts
- Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali “Giovanni Paisello”(Italy)
- Athens Conservatoire, College of Music (Greece)

The following institutions have been re-admitted as Active Members:

- Cairo Conservatoire, Academy of Arts (Egypt)
- Kazakh National University of Arts (Kazakhstan)
- Conservatorio di Musica Giuseppe Verdi di Como (Italy)
- UNIC – University of Nicosia, Music and Dance department (Cyprus)

The following institutions have been accepted as Ukrainian Active Members:

- Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music in Kyiv
- A. V. Nezhdanova Odessa National Academy of Music

- Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Music Academy of Lviv
- Kharkiv I.P. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts (was already an Active member of the AEC and has been granted free membership until further notice)

The following institutions have been accepted as Associate Members:

- K-Arts Korea National University of Arts (South Korea)
- London Performing Academy of Music (UK)
- Oacademy, The Orchestra of the Americas Group (USA)
- Indiana University-Bloomington, Jacobs School of Music (USA)
- Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music (Thailand)

The following institutions have withdrawn their membership:

- The Siena Jazz Foundation - National Academy of Jazz (Italy) – Active membership
- Sunway University, School of Arts (Malaysia) – Associate membership

Finally, memberships with 2 years of non-payment of the membership fee are expired. The following memberships have been expired in 2022:

- Conservatorio Statale di Musica “C. G. da Venosa” (Italy)
- University of Niš, Faculty of Arts (Serbia) – Active membership
- Golden Jazz, Contemporary Music Institute (China) – Associate membership

Taking these changes into account, AEC ends 2022 with 298 members.

11. Announcement Council election

The returning officer Ghassan Yammine announces the candidates who reached the absolute majority of the votes cast and were elected as Council members:

- ✓ Members present elected Claire Michon for a second term as an AEC Council member.
- ✓ Members present elected Riccardo Ceni, Keld Hosbond, Bruno Pereira and Martin Prchal as new AEC Council members.

12. Future congresses

- 2023: Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag, The Hague
- 2024: Looking for a host