



REPORT

AEC ANNUAL MEETING FOR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COORDINATORS 2023

"Opening Doors: Adopting a
More Inclusive Perspective"



LUCA
SCHOOL
OF
ARTS

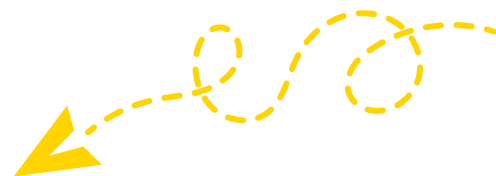


Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen



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Theme and teaser

After being in the South, let's go back to the North! [LUCA School of the Arts in Leuven](#), Belgium, is opening its doors to all participants joining the [2023 AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators entitled "Opening Doors: Adopting a More Inclusive Perspective."](#) This event, organized in the framework of the EU Creative Europe co-funded project "[ARTEMIS – Empowering Artists as Makers in Society](#)," invites higher music education institutions' international relations coordinators to adopt a more inclusive perspective while looking at the themes close to the daily business of any international relations coordinator: mobility, employability, diversity, international cooperation and digitization. The meeting has been designed mostly as an in-presence one, but online pre-conference sessions will be organized on 8th and 13th September and all Plenary Sessions and their follow up discussions will be streamed from Leuven for online participants.

Unleashing the Power of Diversity and Inclusion

Workshops by the [IncluMusic](#) and [TUNE](#) projects, our keynote speaker [Aygul Gunaltay Weyler](#) and the "Safe Space" group discussion moderated by the [AEC Gender Equality and Non-discrimination Mainstreaming Task Force](#) will help participants discovering innovative approaches to fostering diversity and inclusion in higher music education institutions and in our communities by promoting an environment that celebrates artistic and personal differences. The goal is to learn how to create an inclusive and diverse ecosystem that opens its doors to different genres and genders and nurtures creativity, collaborations, equality and personal growth and well being.

Digitization and Artificial Intelligence: Revolutionizing the Music Education Landscape

The ARTEMIS Digitisation working group and the [FAST45 Project](#) will open a door on the future of higher music education by exploring the dynamic interplay between digitization, artificial intelligence and society within future possible scenarios for our sector. Cutting-edge technologies that amplify pedagogical possibilities, expand access to music education and exchanges, and transform the way we teach, learn, create music and cooperate will be explored: blended mobility will be addressed by the [TUNE project](#) and by the session on Erasmus Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs); the digitisation of administrative procedures that comes with the Erasmus Without Paper initiative will be addressed during the [EASY Mobility Online](#) workshop and session.

Global Cooperation Beyond Europe: Forging Stronger Connections.

International cooperation, transcending borders and opening doors to higher music education institutions worldwide, will be addressed – on the conceptual side – by two sessions on the idea of Global Musician by the keynote speaker [Anothai Nithibon](#) and – on the practical side – during the session on International Credit Mobility (Erasmus Key Action 171). Participants will be invited to share best practices to cultivate fruitful collaborations, establish connections beyond Europe, and foster cultural understanding to shape a global community of IRC.

Unmissable Highlights Await You

The networking opportunities offered during the event, including our traditional final “Share your Food and Drinks” from our countries and a special tour of the charming Flemish city of Leuven on Friday afternoon, will forge lasting connections with international peers. In the session dedicated to environmental sustainability by the ARTEMIS working group AEC Goes Green, practical strategies by AEC member institutions to build a greener future will be shared and discussed; the transformative potential of international internships for music students and graduates, internationalisation at home and lifelong learning for graduates and staff will be addressed by dedicated sessions and discussion groups aimed at opening doors to institutional and personal growth and career development.

Your Voice Matters: Information Forum and Topics Discussion Groups

Participate actively in shaping the conference’s agenda by proposing in the registration form topics for the Discussion Groups and short presentations for the Information Forum. Take the floor and share your knowledge, insights, and experiences, contributing to a vibrant exchange of ideas and best practices. Together, we will open our doors to a more inclusive, progressive, and transformative future for higher music education. See you online and in Leuven for the IRC Meeting 2023!

IRCs Meetings and the IRCs Working Group

The AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators is meant for administrative or teaching staff members in Conservatoires who deal with international relations and European programmes (such as ERASMUS), as well as for institutions not familiar with these programmes, but with an interest in becoming involved.

The meeting is important for networking, exchanging useful information and for developing partnerships. With this annual meeting, the AEC is bringing together a growing community of International Relations Coordinators. The programme of the meeting, as well as other important documents and policies on the field of international relations of conservatoires, are the result of the collaboration between the AEC office and the IRCs Working Group.

The International Relations Coordinators (IRC) Working Group:

- **Jan-Gerd Krüger**, [Prince Claus Conservatoire](#), Groningen, The Netherlands (WG Chair)
- **Frauke Velghe**, [KASK & Koninklijk Conservatorium](#), Ghent, Belgium
- **Dimitrios Marinos**, [Athens Conservatoire, College of Music](#), Athens, Greece
- **Oana Balan-Budoiu**, [The National Academy of Music Gheorghe Dima](#), Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- **Melissa Mercadal**, [Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya \(ESMUC\)](#), Barcelona, Spain
- **Iveri Kekenadze**, [Malmö Academy of Music](#), Malmö, Sweden
- **Wei Boon Tan**, [Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music](#), Singapore, Singapore
- **Sara Primiterra**, AEC Office Team (WG Coordinator). Contact [here](#).

More information about the role of the IRCs WG on the [ARTEMIS project](#) can be found on the dedicated [webpage of the ARTEMIS Work Package 2 – Networking of organisations and individuals \(artists and culture professionals\) throughout Europe and beyond](#).

8 September

Online Session for first-time delegates

Opening Doors on the AEC for Newcomers

Dimitrios Marinos (IRC Working Group) guided newcomers during their first encounter with the AEC community and the IRC meeting in particular. In this session, he presented AEC's mission, vision, objectives, and activities and introduced the participants to the IRC community.



Key Topics

- 1 Definition
- 2 Mission
- 3 Vision
- 4 Events & Projects
- 5 Organisational structure
- 6 What can the AEC do for you
- 7 Q&A

IRCs Annual Meeting 2023



 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

The Global Musician

Online Presentation of the AEC strategic document “**Rationale, strategy and actions to promote global cooperation in HME**” by **Sara Primiterra**, AEC Projects and Events Manager.

Anothai Nitibhon, Vice President, Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music and Vice President of SEADOM

moderated by **Wei Boon Tan**, IRC working group



In this presentation, Anothai Nitibhon delved into the role of musicians as global citizens and why they have transformative impact on societies worldwide. Drawing inspiration from institutions in Southeast Asia, they examined how initiatives serve as catalysts for collaboration, cultural exchanges and artistic innovation.



 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

13 September

Online Pre-conference Workshop A - TUNE

Developing intercultural understanding through blended exchange in **traditional/folk music** higher education

TUNE (Traditional Music Undergraduate Network in Europe) is a 3-year Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project (2021–2024) that aims to promote strategic cooperation between five European higher music education institutions through the development of an innovative joint module in traditional music based on blended mobility.

During this online session, leaders of the project's work packages presented some of the different ways that **students have worked together** online and in person during the first three semesters of the project.

In particular, the presentation focused on how **international cooperation and exchange in the field of traditional/folk music** higher education can foster the **development of intercultural understanding**. The progress of the joint module was also presented and discussed. This session also served as an introduction to a pre-conference workshop and parallel session about the project, that took place at the AEC Congress and General Assembly on 9 and 10 November 2023 in The Hague.

The image shows a presentation slide on the left and a video conference grid on the right. The slide, titled "Project Objectives", lists six goals in a 2x3 grid:

- Joint undergraduate module
- Online learning platform
- Access to digital educational content and live student musical performances
- Development of intercultural competence through traditional music exchange
- Build European professional network; professional performance experience; digital skills and competences
- Improve mobility between partner institutions

The video conference grid shows 18 participants from various institutions, including Norway, AEC, Estonia, Spain, and Austria. A yellow arrow points to the slide, and a yellow circle highlights a participant in the grid.



[Watch the Session](#)



[View the presentation](#)

Online Pre-conference Workshop B - Lifelong Learning

Opening doors through Lifelong Learning, by the ARTEMIS Lifelong Learning working group

Opening doors through Lifelong Learning, by the ARTEMIS Lifelong Learning working group. In the frame of the AEC - Empowering Artists as Makers in Society project (ARTEMIS, 2022-2025), co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission, the Lifelong Learning WG has conducted a **survey on Lifelong Learning opportunities offered within and beyond the AEC network**.

The Lifelong Learning WG is currently **collecting, mapping and analysing** the survey results in order to identify gaps in **Lifelong Learning provisions**. At the AEC IRCs meeting, the Lifelong Learning Working Group presented the first findings of the survey, providing attendees with valuable insights into the current state of Lifelong Learning opportunities in Europe.

In the second part of the session, attendees had the opportunity to engage in an open discussion, sharing Lifelong Learning opportunities available in their own institutions and countries, and **exploring the potential benefits of Lifelong Learning for IRCs**. Overall, this session aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the context and importance of Lifelong Learning and foster meaningful discussions on the topic.

Members of the ARTEMIS Lifelong Learning Working Group (LLL WG)

Esther Viñuela, Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía (Madrid Spain)

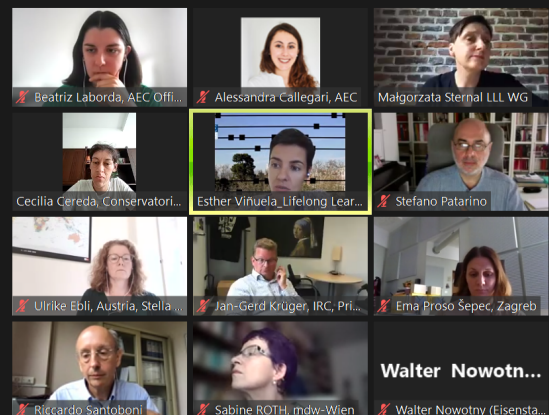
Małgorzata Sternal, Academy of Music in Kraków (Kraków, Poland)

Beatriz Laborda, AEC Office Team (WG Coordinator)

LLL Working Group main tasks

- Monitoring the mapping of Lifelong Learning (LLL) opportunities for artists
- Encouraging AEC members to improve and/or develop LLL opportunities for artists
- Enhancing the teachers' competencies as facilitators

for more details see: <https://aec-music.eu/project/empowering-artists-as-makers-in-society/wp3>



[Watch the Session](#)



[View the presentation](#)

Online Pre-conference Workshop C - Digitisation

Opening doors through Digitisation, a workshop by the **ARTEMIS** Digitisation working group

When talking about digitisation, we should first look at what is happening in our daily work: directors, administrators, students and teachers are all experiencing **new challenges and opportunities related to the digital dimension**. Digitisation can lead to opening doors to new audiences, new creative paths, new ways of performing, new ways of organizing and administrating, opening to enhanced learning and teaching experiences at all levels.

Opening doors to something different, neither better nor worse, different, **opening doors through digitisation to a new mindset**. What is the potential of digital development? How can our institutions exploit it? This workshop faced the topic from four different perspectives: Digital as a creative medium, Digital Audience, Digital Skills for musicians and Digital Learning & Teaching.

Members of the ARTEMIS Digitisation Working Group

Sandrine Desmurs, Cefedem Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (Lyon, France)

Haakon Kvidal, Norwegian Academy of Music (Oslo, Norway)

Enric Gaus, Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) (Barcelona, Spain)

Thom Gilbert, Royal College of Music (London, UK)



Alessandra Callegari, AEC Office Team (WG Coordinator)

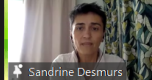







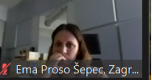

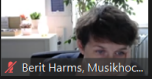



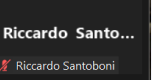
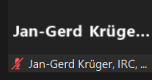
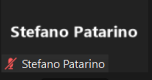
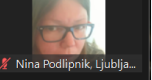
Current audience understanding

- Humans want **experiences**
- Humans want **interaction**

yesterday: a small number of transmitters addressed silent audiences
today: numerous transmitters, innumerable subjects and an enlarged, responsive audience

—————> What? Where? Who? How?



 Sandrine Desmurs	 Beatriz Laborda, AEC O...	 Enric Gaus
 Håkon Kvidal (Norwegi...	 Alessandra Callegari, A...	 Thom Gilbert
 Lamberto Coccioli, Roy...	 Philipp Ahner	 Erna Proso Šepeš, Zagr...
 Louise Ring Hansen	 Berit Harms, Musikhoc...	 Clarissa Foletto, Univer...
 Fernando Agüerla	 Sara Primiterra, AEC O...	 Riccardo Santo...
 Jan-Gerd Krüger, IRC, ...	 Stefano Patarino	 Nina Podlipnik, Ljublja...

 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

20 September

Workshop on the new EASY Mobility Online System

Prior to the event's official opening, around 100 International Relations Coordinators (IRCs) gathered for a workshop centred on the new **EASY Mobility Online system**. This informative in-person training session provided a comprehensive overview of the system, and went through the system settings, the application process and EWP matters in detail. The workshop was guided by the Mobility Online team.

Sara Primiterra, AEC European Online Application System (EASY) Task Force Coordinator

Laura Diethart, Mobility Online

Ivan Calfa, Mobility Online



[View the presentation](#)

21 September

Pre-Conference Workshops

IncluMusic: a roadmap towards a more inclusive Higher Music Education

Members of **IncluMusic** (strategic partnership project co-funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by the Academia Națională de Muzică „Gheorghe Dima” in Cluj Napoca, Romania) delivered a workshop for participants to know more about the different methods through which **students with special education needs (SEN) in Higher Music Education (HME) can be integrated**, and how teaching in this area is delivered at the national and European levels. Moreover, the workshop provided room for discussions around a new professional role, the 'Academic Tutor, aimed at monitoring social inclusion practices within HME institutions.

The session took place in plenary and small discussion groups, challenging participants to try looking through the lens of a SEN student and making them understand what is required in order for them to develop skills in the music field. The outcomes collected by project partners will help develop a tailored project training course, to be officially presented towards the end of the project period. All contributions were highly valuable and had a significant impact in the development of the project outputs.



 [IncluMusic project website](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

Opening Doors on the Future: Imagining art education in 2045, a hands-on workshop by the FAST45 Project

Opening Doors on the Future: Imagining art education in 2045, a hands-on workshop by the FAST45 Project In 2045, the world as we know it today will look very different. While we cannot accurately predict what lies ahead, we can help shape it. The FAST45 (Future Art School Trends 2045) project workshop embraces the immense potential of creativity and imaginative thinking fostered in art schools.

Participants joined this future-thinking workshop where four captivating and speculative scenarios for higher arts education were explored, and participants could immerse themselves in the possibilities of tomorrow. The workshop compares impressions from these thought-provoking scenarios to the work we are already engaged in today.

Participants could embrace themselves for a speculative adventure that bridges the gap between the familiar present and the enigmatic unknowns of the future. Together, we will embark on a conjectural journey to help shape the world of higher arts education for generations to come

The workshop was facilitated by **Sandrine Desmurs** (CEFEDM Lyon), **Koenraad Hinnekint** (LUCA School of Arts) and **Sara Primiterra** (AEC Office).



[View the presentation](#)



[Check the cards used in the workshop \(1\)](#)



[Check the cards used in the workshop \(2\)](#)

In-presence session for first-time delegates

Opening Doors to Cooperation for Newcomers



Dimitrios Marinos and **Frauke Velghe** (IRC Working Group) guided newcomers coming to Leuven during their first encounter with the AEC community and the IRC meeting in particular.

In this session, Dimitrios and Frauke presented AEC's mission, vision, objectives, and activities and introduced the participants to the IRC community. The event was very well attended, indicating a strong presence of newcomers this year.

Opening event

Welcome words by:

Thomas De Baets, Head of Music, LUCA School of Arts

Simon Van Damme, General director LUCA School of Arts & Dean Associated Faculty of the Arts KU Leuven

Jan-Gerd Krüger, IRC Working Group Chair

Stefan Gies, AEC Chief Executive

Musical intermezzos:

4 little pieces from Ludus Modalis – Geert D'hollander
Jasper Depraetere (carillon) and Andrea Onnis (clarinet)

Kyoto for percussion quintet - John Psathas

LUCA Percussions (Erika Kono, José Cruz, Ilkka Haapanen, Mattia Rizza & Torben Vancrayenest)



 [Watch the Session](#)

Opening Doors through Inclusion

Aygül Günaltay-Weyler, Music Director and Conductor of the 'Brussels International Amity Orchestra'

moderated by **Frauke Velghe**, IRC working group

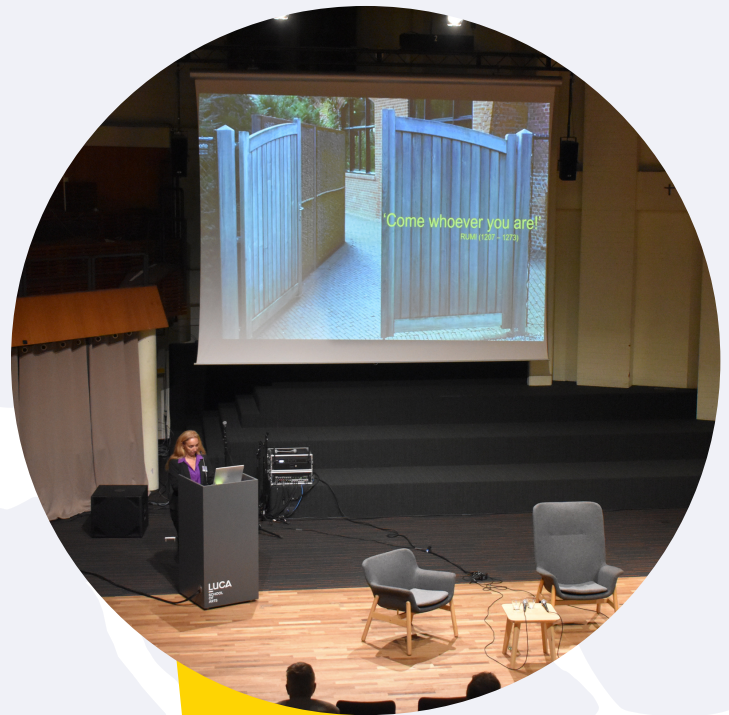
The presentation focused on good practice examples of several initiatives and projects at the EU level, aiming to raise awareness, questions, and discussions on the utilization of music to enhance diversity and inclusion practices. The topic was contextualized from various angles by taking practice-based experiences and observations both on local and international levels as a starting point and moving up to the meta-level.



[Watch the Session](#)



[View the presentation](#)



Parallel Sessions I

1 - Reflection and discussion on Inclusion

This session is a follow-up of the AEC Talk on Inclusion. **Kim Fallen Bailey** and **Jessica Harris** from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin opened the panel by addressing the biases and barriers and proposing solutions to open doors and give better access to music education. **Oana Balan** gave a short presentation with outcomes and results of the IncluMusic Project, focusing on how teachers can provide support to inclusion. **Katrien Faubert** from LUCA School of Arts gave a short presentation of research at LUCA with action points for the upcoming years. How can we bring students in contact with others outside of the campus?

After those inputs, the floor was given to the participants who were invited to present the situation at their institutions with the aim to engage in an interactive discussion with the panelists.



 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

2 - BIPs and short mobilities - examples and exchanges of good practices

Given the interest in the Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) and the large number of responses to the questionnaire sent to the IRCs earlier this year, the focus in this session was about discussing the bottlenecks, practical difficulties, workload and administrative approaches to tackle such a collaboration. Examples from Belgian Conservatoires were presented, as well as some tips and tricks. Participants as well were invited to present their approach to BIPs.

Thomas De Baets and **Wim Aerts** (LUCA School of Arts)
moderated by **Bart Meuris** (LUCA School of Arts)

 [View the presentation](#)

3 - Opening global doors - a closer look into KA171 projects and partnerships with third countries

Aino Jalkanen (Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki), **Milena Osiecka** (Academy of Music in Gdansk), **Rossella Gaudenzi** (Saint Louis College of Music in Rome) moderated by **Iveri Kekenadze Gustafsson**, IRC working group.

The panel discussion featuring international relations coordinators (IRCs) from diverse institutions, explored the opportunities and challenges of developing, implementing, and administering ICM KA171 projects. IRCs shared the best practice examples from their first-hand and broad experience.

Since its establishment in 2015, Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) has been a game-changer in developing partnerships with institutions outside the Erasmus+ programme and associated countries. ICM projects, designed to encourage mobilities of individual students and staff, have been significant internationalisation instruments for those in non-associated countries.

Those projects often affect policy formation and administration, cause organisational change, and improve study environments in third-country institutions. Simultaneously, International Credit Mobility enhances European higher music education institutions' internationalisation efforts and fosters diverse, inclusive and global approaches in their organisations.

 [View the presentation](#)

4 - Going Green - Presentation and discussion on sustainable practices, moderated by the AEC Goes Green working group

Findings from the AEC Goes Green Survey on Green and Eco-Sustainable Needs and Practices in Higher Music Education launched in Spring 2023 showed high personal concern regarding the climate change and environmental problems, with over 56% respondents stating the highest level of interest. The rates significantly drop when considering the level and possibility of personal (19,3% rated it the highest value) and institutional (21,1%) contribution to the green transition in the HME sector.

In this session, the AEC Goes Green WG addressed the gap between the expressed care for the health of our planet and the possibility of practical personal and institutional contribution to its greener future. They also discussed the guidelines for environmental sustainability in Erasmus, Creative Europe and other funding programs, the role of the international relations coordinators in communicating and implementing them, as well as share some concerns and practices related to reducing the HME institutions' daily, educational and artistic work impact on climate and the environment.



 [View the presentation](#)

5 - Employability: traineeships, best practices and challenges

In this session, two very different models on how to organize students' internships abroad was presented: on one side, **Elsa Ferreira** showed how internship opportunities are presented, organized and followed up at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, The Netherlands; **Lucia Di Cecca** responded to Elsa's presentation by showing the experience of the Italian consortium for internships "Working With Music" a successful story that provided dozen of Italian conservatoires' graduates with working opportunities abroad for 12 years. The two models were compared and differences were highlighted. **Francesco Spina**, former AEC intern and former EPASA board member, now employed by ENCACT, spoke about his various internship experiences abroad during and after his studies. The floor was opened to the audience to discuss challenges and opportunities of international internships and how a future online platform for international internships managed by the AEC could help IRCs and students open up this opportunity to a larger audience.



[View the presentation](#)

Welcome reception at the townhall

After a day filled with engaging and informative sessions, participants had the chance to unwind and enjoy a warm welcome reception at **Leuven's town hall**. They were treated to the flavors of delicious **Belgian beer** while taking in the breathtaking beauty of this historic landmark.



22 September

AEC Talk 3

Artificial Intelligence in Higher Music Education

Members of the ARTEMIS Digitisation Working Group

Sandrine Desmurs, Cefedem Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (Lyon, France)

Enric Guaus, Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) (Barcelona, Spain)

Thom Gilbert, Royal College of Music (London, UK)

Artificial intelligence is on everyone's lips these days. What are we talking about? What are its uses in music? And in music education? After a general overview to understand AI, they took a look at a number of examples of use in musical practice and also talk about the immediate challenges posed by Large Language Models to established methods of assessment, propose strategies for navigating these challenges and discuss the opportunities that may emerge in responding to the use of this technology in higher music education. The AEC ARTEMIS Digitisation Working Group is composed by international digital experts belonging to AEC Member Institutions. The group helps the AEC assisting HMEIs in dealing with the digital shift (which is affecting their own practices and educational methods, as well as the way in which artists interact with their audience). The group also collects and analyses data to ultimately provide guidance to the sector on how to develop and test tools that have been created to both practice distance learning and teaching as well as enhance digitally supported remote ensemble play.



 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)

EASY presentation and Information Forum

The **New EASY Mobility Online System** - presentation on the main updates on the project by Sara Primiterra, EASY Project Manager

- **Ukraine's fundraising campaign** by the AEC – Alessandra Callegari
- Workshop '**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in HME: An Invitation for Action**' – Alfonso Guerra
- Challenges and opportunities in **online and blended teaching** – Audrius Dabrovolskas
- **MUSENSE** and **VIETMUS** Projects – Aurora Pulizzi
- **The module Jean Monnet (2023-26)** EUPROGEMS – Carla Conti
- Project proposal NEB + **Research on physical awareness** – Charlotte Saelemakers
- **TUNE: Traditional Music Network in Europe** – Claire Michon
- **Music studies and research at the University of Aveiro** and Inet-MD – Helena Marinho
- Beyond Limits: **Fostering Innovation in the Tradition-based Higher Music Education**' – Iveri Kekenadze Gustafsson
- BIP: **CELLO SPRING 2023** (dissemination) – Karolina Jarosz
- **European University Alliance IN-TUNE** – Innovative Universities in Music & Arts in Europe – Martin Prchal
- **Opera Out of Opera 2** – Michelangelo Galeati
- **HarMA HUB project** – Salvatore Gioveni
- **ECMA Pro**: Deepening the collaboration between HMEIs in an artistic context & supporting musicians' professionalization – Veronika Leiner
- 90 years of **JAMD** and next generation of artists – Sarah Meltzer

The speakers who presented their projects and initiatives at the information forum were also given a space at the **Information Market**. This provided participants with the opportunity to connect with them directly and gather more information about their projects and initiatives. It was a valuable platform for networking and engaging in meaningful conversations about the showcased endeavors.



[Watch the Session](#)



[View the presentation](#)



Parallel Sessions II

1 - Reflection and discussion on Artificial Intelligence

In this session, the Digitisation working group members gave the floor to participants to look back on their own experiences and debate with them the issues raised by the use of AI in our institutions and artistic practices, in connection with the previous presentation.



 [Watch the Session](#)

The Parallel Sessions **2** - BIPs and short mobilities - examples and exchanges of good practices, **3** - Opening global doors - a closer look into KA171 projects and partnerships with third countries, **4** - Going Green and **5** - Employability: traineeships, best practices and challenges were scheduled in the first slot and repeated in this time slot. To find out more, kindly check **pages 13-15**.

Discussion Groups – topics suggested by participants and by the IRC WG

After the Parallel Session II, the participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in engaging discussions on the following topics during the breakout groups moderated by IRCs WG members and participants.

- 1 - ARTEMIS Safe Space session
- 2 - Internationalization at home
- 3 - Issues related to student mobility
- 4 - Issues related to staff mobility
- 5 - Issues related to cooperation projects
- 6 - Global Mobility in the pacific region
- 7 - New musicians and institutions.... How to face the transition? How to welcome new mindsets?

Networking activity

In the afternoon, participants engaged in various networking activities, starting with a group photo session. Following this, participants enjoyed a guided tour around Leuven, exploring the city's history. Despite the heavy rain, the group gathered at Oude Markt and united in song. The evening ended with a concert featuring the LUCA Chamber Orchestra, Choir, and soloists, conducted by Michel Tilkin.



Concert:
A Midsummer Night's Dream - Felix Mendelssohn
LUCA Chamber Orchestra, Choir and soloists
Conductor: Michel Tilkin.
Preparation of the choir: Kurt Bikkembergs


Opening Doors for the Global Musician – Enhancing Intercultural Communication Through Exchanges

Anothai Nithibon, Vice President, Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music and Vice President of SEADOM

moderated by **Deborah Kelleher**, AEC President

In this presentation, Anothai compared and examined findings from previous discussions on how the creation of global musicians can enhance their employability and opportunities. Drawing on experiences from Southeast Asia, the speakers explored how traditional music can be included in educational institutions and show how embracing musical diversity in curricula can enrich students' own cultures. The presentation emphasized the significance of intercultural competence in our interconnected world, underscoring the power of global cooperation in music to foster intercultural understanding through meaningful exchanges.



 [Watch the Session](#)

 [View the presentation](#)



Discussion groups

Reflection on the conference and future topics, moderated by the IRC working group members

On Saturday, before the closing session, participants were allocated to seven discussion groups to facilitate reflections on the event moderated by IRC WG members. This interactive session provided an opportunity for attendees to share their thoughts and insights about the IRC meeting.

During these discussions, participants expressed their satisfaction with various aspects of the event. Some highlighted engaging keynote presentations, interesting panel discussions, and the overall positive atmosphere. The diverse perspectives and expertise brought by the speakers and attendees contributed to the richness of the discussions throughout the conference.

Furthermore, participants took the opportunity to convey their expectations and suggestions for future IRC meetings. Additionally, attendees expressed interest in more interactive workshops and hands-on activities, providing practical insights and skills applicable to their day to day work.



Closing Session



The closing session of the IRC meeting was marked by a musical introduction featuring "Souvenir des Etoiles" by Pieter Opsteyn and musicians Merel Van Hemelryck (cello), Val Kravos (piano), and Pieter Opsteyn (bassoon).

Following the musical introduction, **Deborah Kelleher**, AEC President, and **Stefan Gies**, AEC Chief Executive, delivered updates on the latest developments within the AEC. The announcement of the next IRCs Meeting was made and the **next IRC meeting will take place in Dublin at the Royal Irish Academy of Music.**

The closing remarks were delivered by **Riccardo Ceni** (member of the AEC Council), wrapping up the conference.

In conclusion to the IRC meeting, participants shared the cultural richness of their countries through a communal **sharing of food and drinks** which has become a tradition at the end of the IRC meeting.

 [Watch the Session](#)

Thank you!

The AEC would like to thank the host - LUCA School of Arts, Leuven, the office staff members, the IRCs working group members, the ARTEMIS working group members, the speakers as well as the whole AEC IRCs community for this event. **THANK YOU ALL!**

We look forward to meeting you in Dublin next year!

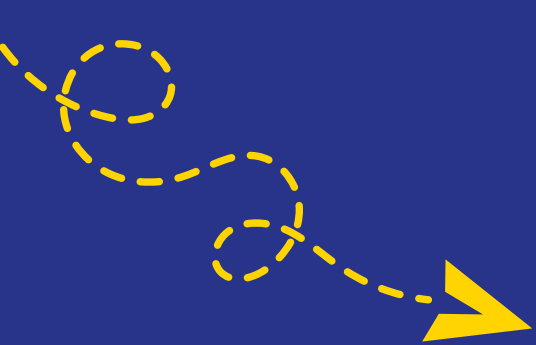
Photo Gallery











THANK YOU!

WHO

The Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) is a European cultural and educational network with around 300 member institutions for professional music training in 57 countries. The network is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme.



Co-funded by
the European Union

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Wednesday 20 September

14:00 – 18:00 **Workshop on the new EASY Mobility Online System - Room 403**
(coffee break 16:00 - 16:30)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COORDINATORS

"OPENING DOORS: ADOPTING A
MORE INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE"

2023

Thursday 21 September

9:00 - 9:30 **Registration for pre-conference workshop participants and welcome coffee - Entrance Hall**

9:30 - 12:30 **Pre-Conference Workshops (coffee break 11:15 - 11:45)**

Room 47 - IncluMusic: a roadmap towards a more inclusive Higher Music Education

Room 210 - FAST45 - Opening Doors on the Future: Imagining art education in 2045, a hands-on workshop by the FAST45 Project

12:30 – 13:15 **Lunch for pre-conference workshop participants at the Foyer**

12:45 **Registration open and refreshments - Entrance hall and foyer**

13:15 - 14:15 **In-presence session for first-time delegates - Opening Doors to Cooperation for Newcomers - Room 403**

moderated by Frauke Velghe and Dimitrios Marinos, IRC working group

14:30 – 15:00 **Opening event - Welcome words with music intermezzos - Chamber Music Hall**

Thomas De Baets, Head of Music, LUCA School of Arts

Simon Van Damme, General director LUCA School of Arts & Dean Associated Faculty of the Arts KU Leuven

Jan-Gerd Krüger, IRC Working Group Chair

Stefan Gies, AEC Chief Executive

15:00 – 16:00 **AEC Talk 2 - Opening Doors through Inclusion - Chamber Music Hall**

By Aygül Günaltay-Weyler, moderated by Frauke Velghe, IRC working group

16:30 – 17:30 **Parallel Sessions I**

Chamber Music Hall - Reflection and discussion on Inclusion

Room 210 - BIPs and short mobilities - examples and exchanges of good practices

Room 29 - Opening global doors - a closer look into KA171 projects and partnerships with third countries

Room 208 - Going Green - presentation and discussion on sustainable practices

Room 28 - Employability: traineeships, best practices and challenges

18:15 **Welcome reception at the townhall (we get there walking all together)**

Meeting point (at 17:30): **LUCA School of Arts – Outside near the church**

Friday 22 September

9:30 - 10:30 **AEC Talk 3 - Artificial Intelligence in Higher Music Education - Chamber Music Hall**

by Sandrine Desmurs, Thom Gilbert, Enric Gaus, ARTEMIS Digitisation working group

10:30 – 11:30 **The New EASY Mobility Online System Presentation - Chamber Music Hall**

by Sara Primiterra, EASY Project Manager

Information Forum, moderated by Sara Primiterra

11:30 – 12:00 **Information Market and networking with refreshments - Foyer**

- 12:00 – 13:00 **Parallel Sessions II**
- Chamber Music Hall** - Reflection and discussion on Artificial Intelligence
- Room 210** - BIPs and short mobilities - examples and exchanges of good practices
- Room 29** - Opening global doors - a closer look into KA171 projects and partnerships with third countries
- Room 208** - Going Green - presentation and discussion on sustainable practices
- Room 28** - Employability: traineeships, best practices and challenges
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch at the Foyer**
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Discussion Groups – topics suggested by participants and by the IRC WG**
- Room 28** - ARTEMIS Safe Space session - moderated by Steven Faber
- Room 29** - Internationalization at home - moderated by Melissa Mercadal
- Room 208** - Issues related to student mobility - moderated by Iveri Kekenadze
- Room 210** - Issues related to staff mobility – moderated by Jan-Gerd Krueger
- Chapel** - Issues related to cooperation projects - moderated by Frauke Velghe
- Room 9** - Global Mobility in the pacific region - moderated by Kirsty McCahon
- Room 10** - New musicians and institutions.... How to face the transition? How to welcome new mindsets? - moderated by Anna Maria Bordin
- 15:00 – 19:00 **Networking Activity** - check detailed information in **Whova**
- 19:00 **Concert** - **Concert Hall (LUCA School of Arts)**
- 20:00 **Dinner at the Cafeteria + Foyer**
- 22:00 **Students Bar open** - buy drinks to help Leuven's student association raising money - **Cafeteria**

Saturday 23 September

- 9:15 **Sustainable walk in the Alexandriaenen Park (in campus)**
Meeting point: outside, near the church (check maps in Whova)
- 10:00 – 11:00 **AEC Talk 4 - Opening Doors for the Global Musician – Enhancing Intercultural Communication Through Exchanges - Chamber Music Hall**
Anothai Nithibon, Vice President, Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music and Vice President of SEADOM, moderated by **Deborah Kelleher**, AEC President
- 11:00 - 11:30 **Networking with refreshments - Foyer**
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Discussion Groups - reflection on the conference and future topics, moderated by the IRC working group members - Chamber Music Hall**
- Group A** moderated by Melissa Mercadal **Room 28**
Group B moderated by Jan-Gerd Krüger **Room 29**
Group C moderated by Oana Balan-Budoiu **Room 208**
Group D moderated by Deborah Kelleher **Room 210**
Group E moderated by Frauke Velghe **Chapel**
Group F moderated by Dimitrios Marinos **Room 9**
Group G moderated by Iveri Kekenadze **Room 10**
- 12:30 – 13:00 **Closing session - Chamber Music Hall**
- News from the AEC by **Deborah Kelleher**, AEC President and **Stefan Gies**, AEC Chief Executive
 - Announcement of the **next IRCs Meeting**
 - Closing Remarks by **Riccardo Ceni**, AEC Council Member
- 13:00 **Share your food and drinks at the Entrance Hall**