



## **REPORT**

### **Polifonia Steering Group Meeting**

### **27 February 2009, Utrecht**

### **DRAFT**

**Present:** *Johannes Johansson (Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Chair), Pascale de Grootte – CPD for directors WG (Koninklijk Conservatorium - Artesis Hogeschool Antwerpen), Bart van Rosmalen – Research WG (Koninklijk Conservatorium, Den Haag), Christopher Caine – Accreditation WG (Trinity Laban, London), Ester Tomasi – Bologna WG (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna), Kaarlo Hilden – WG for Instrumental/Vocal Music Teacher Training (Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences), Marc-Olivier Dupin (External Evaluator), Martin Prchal (Polifonia project coordinator), Linda Messas (Polifonia project manager), Şirin Tuğbay (Polifonia project administrator), Eleonoor Tchernoff (Polifonia project administrator).*

**Apologies:** *Jacques Moreau – Bologna WG (CEFEDM Rhône-Alpes Lyon), Helena Gaunt – Research WG (Guildhall School for Music and Drama)*

#### **1. Welcome by chair Johannes Johansson**

Johannes welcomes the steering group to its meeting in Utrecht. Martin also welcomes the steering group and gives a short overview of project's progress. 'Polifonia' has been able to keep a high level of visibility in the EU context through several important conference presentations. He adds that 'Polifonia' II is running according to schedule, but has a more complex feel to it compared to the first project cycle, which in a way was very straightforward. Possibly this is due to the fact that some of the activities such as the seminars for teachers and managers are somewhat experimental. Martin also mentions that a monitoring visit took place by a European Commission official in December and that this visit went very well. In the meantime, the project management team has changed due to Friederike's departure and Martin is happy to report that the new team consisting of Linda, Sirin and Eleonoor has taken over the project very well. He also informs the group it is likely the AEC will be involved in a new project supported by the Swedish Developmental Agency Sida to help the music academies in former Yugoslavia in their development. As many of the topics in this new project are similar to those in 'Polifonia', discussions with individual working groups may be held at one point to see how some of their work could be integrated into the Sida project. Finally, he points out to the group, that the deadline for a possible new 3-year phase for 'Polifonia' (2010-2013) will already take place in early 2010: although it is also very much a decision of the AEC Council whether to continue with 'Polifonia' or not, the 'Polifonia' Steering Group could contribute to the discussion by thinking of some theme for the new cycle already

## 2. Report meeting October 2008 Stockholm

The report of the last steering group meeting is approved and no further comments are made.

## 3. Reports on the activities of the WGs by WG chairs

Johannes invites the WG chairs to inform the steering group about the work that has been done in their groups so far.

### ▪ *Report on the activities of the Bologna WG*

Ester reports back that the group had a successful meeting early February in Ljubljana. In this WG meeting, the Tuning template has been discussed and reworked according to the comments from the pop and jazz area to make the document clearer and more inclusive. Additions such as forewords and references for the document have been prepared. Some further editing will be done by the 'Polifonia' team and the Tuning project and the final version will be put online as a PDF document at the end of the process. Apart from the Tuning template, the Bologna WG has worked on a questionnaire to evaluate the use of 'Polifonia' tools which will be sent out in the first week of March to all AEC members. Ester mentions the Handbook for admission and assessment procedures in institutions for higher music education that will be written by Jeremy Cox. A detailed outline of the handbook was approved in the Ljubljana meeting and Jeremy aims to have a first draft by the Joint working group meeting in Lisbon in May 2009.

### Other topics discussed:

- The working group also compared the 'Polifonia' Framework to the European Qualifications Framework as the group saw a need for such an exercise: it is useful to have a practical tool showing that the "Polifonia" framework fits with the EQF; and it is important to make the EQF more subject-specific. Ester and Jan prepared a table for the pre-college level which was discussed in the meeting. The WG has decided to make a table with codes to the Learning Outcomes as a table of references and to discuss it more in detail in Lisbon.
- The most recent counselling visit to Banja Luka made by Jan Rademakers and the upcoming counselling visits to Berlin, Copenhagen, Antwerp and Frankfurt are mentioned.
- The WG approved a draft brochure to promote counseling visits in Ljubljana.
- The WG discussed the Classification Project which defines 14 dimensions to classify higher education institutions. This document has caused a lot of discussion because of its potential implications for music institutions. The group has drafted comments which will be made into a recommendation document and presented to the Project Advisory Board meeting in March. This is important to 'Polifonia' and the AEC, as this classification as it is suggested now is very problematic for the higher music education sector.

### ▪ *Report on the activities of the Accreditation Working Group*

Chris reports about the recent meeting of the Accreditation WG that took place in Genoa a few days before the Steering Group meeting. He updates the steering group members about the presentation and workshop with the Italian conservatoire directors, during which the Accreditation WG presented the AEC framework for Quality Assurance and the Framework Document.

The Accreditation group will edit the Framework document in order to distinguish the institutional review from the programme review. For this, the group will go over criteria and specific suggestions for programme review, and present a new draft to their colleagues in the next Accreditation and Bologna Joint working group meeting in Lisbon. The working group also worked on comparing the AEC criteria with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG) and found out that many items match with the ESG, but that some issues need further consideration.

The WG will also be suggesting experts for upcoming review visits (9 scheduled, 6 in queue), monitoring the operations and results of these reviews, and work on the handbook.

▪ *Report on the activities of the CPD for directors WG*

Since the Stockholm meeting in October 2008, the CPD working group drafted an ideal conservatoire director's profile, prepared a list of topics that would be relevant to the professional development of conservatoire directors and handed out a questionnaire in the AEC Arhus Congress in November 2008 to evaluate the interest in seminars focusing on the identified topics. 65 participants filled out the questionnaire and an analysis of the results showed that four topics were seen as important: general management issues, management of educational processes, international strategy and innovation.

According to this information, the CPD working group will organize two seminars, first one in October 2009, and second one in spring 2010. The first seminar will have two overarching topics. Day 1 will focus on management issues, with 2 keynote speakers. One speaker will be an outside speaker (e.g. director of a cultural organisation) and the other an insider (e.g. a conservatoire director). Day 2 will focus on educational matters and will have 2 keynote speakers (both inside the music education system). The keynote speeches will be followed by workshops, where the keynote speakers will be part of the workshop to contribute to discussions. The seminar will be for 30 participants with 2 workshops of each 15 persons, as preferred by the participants of the questionnaire.

The first seminar will take place at the Elzenveld Convent in Antwerp on 9-11 October 2009.

▪ *Report on the activities of the WG on Instrumental/Vocal Music Teacher Training*

Kaarlo informs the steering group that since the joint working group meeting in Stockholm, the INVITE group has had two Skype meetings and one informal site visit in Glasgow. There are three upcoming site visits in March: Plovdiv, Prague and Istanbul.

The WG is currently working on the following issues:

- The existing national overviews on music teacher training will be updated and a glossary or terminology will be added as this differs a lot from one country to the other.
- The handbook on instrumental and vocal teacher training that will include an analysis of the national overviews, a description of changes in the music profession, the challenges these changes might imply for instrumental/vocal teacher education, a set of competences and recommendations for further developments is in the writing

process. The process is clear and work is going well on the different parts of the handbook.

- While working on the set of competences for the Handbook, the WG has realized that it is hard to categorize information. Common nominators are hard to find in Europe. After a discussion within the steering group it is decided to make this competence list as an “essential toolkit for all teachers” regardless of the system they are in and to eventually bring it closer to the AEC Learning Outcomes. Some members of the Bologna working group members will take part in discussion of these competences in the Lisbon meeting.

- *Report on the activities of the Research Working Group*

Bart explains that the working group is currently divided to focus on two different topics; the first one is on research in conservatoires, for which two questionnaires have been designed. The first questionnaire asks for contacts that are responsible for research in institutions, the second questionnaire will be sent to these suggested contacts to get information on the research activities of the institutions. The Research WG is also working on site visits, and a handbook which will have examples of research. It will give an overview of what kind of research is done in European conservatoires described as case studies.

The Research WG is also focusing on the Continuing Professional Development Seminars for Conservatoire Teachers. This will include three successive seminars for a group of 3 teachers from one institution (or a network of three institutions with 1 teacher each) with 14 countries involved. The first seminar will be between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April in Villecroze, France. The programme will include discussions about teaching, physical well-being, assessment and master-classes and it will focus on research attitude in general. The second seminar will articulate more on the pragmatic side of research and on questions like how to connect teaching to research already available.

#### **4. Comments by external evaluator Marc-Olivier Dupin and group discussion on project progress**

Marc-Olivier Dupin comments on the impressive scope of work that the second cycle of ‘Polifonia’ has achieved so far and agrees with Martin that the second cycle is indeed more complex. He also points out how impressed he is with the constant development of the AEC, which obviously has developed a lot since he was active in the Association some years ago.

However, Marc-Olivier mentions that he finds the ‘Polifonia’ language too abstract for persons outside the ‘Polifonia’ context, who would have a hard time ‘understanding’. Regarding this abstraction, Marc-Olivier believes it is best to challenge it, and confront it with the ‘musical reality’ and find a common language of theory and practise. The steering group has a short discussion regarding theory vs. practice and the potential direction to take.

Marc-Olivier also suggests that it would be one way to challenge this abstraction by testing these ideas on a specific field. He proposes that all the ideas and theories could be tested on one instrument or musical examples can be added to theories where applicable. He understands that giving examples such as this opens the project up to be criticized, but believes that the challenge is rewarding. Marc-Olivier adds that the project must always be aware of the relevance to the everyday conservatoire.

**5. Update on the interim report**

Linda updates the steering group about the timeline, requirements and status of the interim report, which will need to be sent to Brussels on 1 April.

**6. The Polifonia website [www.polifonia-tn.org](http://www.polifonia-tn.org) – continuous information update**

Linda presents the recent changes on the 'Polifonia' website. Martin mentions that during her monitoring visit, the lady from the European Commission explained she had shown the website to the experts in the Media Department of the Commission, who found 'Polifonia' to be an excellent project website.

**7. Financial matters**

Linda presents the current financial overview to the steering group. The project is running according to schedule from a financial point of view as well.

**8. Next steering group meetings**

The next meeting of the steering group will take place in Lisbon on the weekend 15-17<sup>th</sup> of May 2009. The final date and time for the steering group meeting will be set in the upcoming weeks.

*Report made by Şirin Tuğbay*