

In the summer of 2015, the European Music Council (EMC) launched a call to all its members to participate in the creation of a common agenda for Music at a European level: **The European Agenda for Music (EAM)**. The main objective of this initiative was to constitute a platform to bring together the music sector as a whole in order to allow stakeholders to join forces more effectively in European cultural policy-making. Within this context, the AEC, in close collaboration with the European Music School Union (EMU) and the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS), decided to contribute by representing the voice of the Music Education sector.

As a first step, the AEC asked its members what they expected from this initiative and what they felt to be the most urgent issues to be addressed by the European Agenda for Music. By the end of October 2015, more than 150 AEC member institutions had completed the questionnaire, representing more than half of the AEC active members.

According to the questionnaire results, most of the AEC institutions expected this joint initiative to **raise awareness of the benefits of music and music education for society and every human being's welfare**. Among the answers received, it is generally agreed that a closer cooperation within the sector would be the right objective to pursue in order to draw attention to music education in general and to defend the interests of the music sector in the political debate.

From the perspective of the AEC members, the main objectives of this initiative should be to improve the quality of music education, to recognize the diversity of approaches and methods in the Higher Music Education Institutions' activities and goals, and to promote open access to music education.

The same questionnaire was sent to the members of EMU and EAS, with similar participation rates. By comparing the answers of the three member organizations, the common priorities and values that should be addressed in the EAM stand out clearly. The most compelling and perhaps most unexpected outcome of this comparison is the fact that the members of all three organizations unequivocally agreed on what they thought to be the highest priority to be addressed to cultural policy-makers: **To propose music education as a compulsory aspect of the curriculum in all European schools (primary and secondary education)**.

The AEC considers this main result a strong starting point for a successful cooperation for developing and implementing the European Agenda for Music.