

AEC Position Paper on the European Agenda for Music

The Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) is a European cultural and educational network representing around 300 member institutions for professional music training in 57 countries. The AEC responded to the call of the European Music Council (EMC) for the creation of a common European Agenda for Music (EAM). The main objective of this initiative is 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. After a consultation within AEC, EMU and EAS memberships, the AEC would like to express its view on the following:

1) The Aims of the EAM should include:

- To raise **awareness** of the benefits of music and music education for society and every human being's welfare;
- To develop **cooperation** and mutual understanding about music at European level in order to draw attention to music education in general and to defend the interests of the music sector in the political debate.

2) The Objectives of the EAM in the field of music education should include:

- To ensure/ facilitate participation/**Access** to music education for everyone regardless of his or her social and cultural background;
- To propose music education to be a **compulsory aspect of the curriculum** in all European schools (primary and secondary education);
- To recognize **Diversity** in music education;
- To enhance **Mobility**: fostering international exchange among teachers and students;
- To enhance the **Quality** of music education;
- To foster the **Value** of music education in society.

3) The Actions the EAM should recommend:

a. to European institutions, as well as national and regional governments:

- To recognize access to music education as a human right;
- To recognize music education as a tool for personal development, social inclusion, intercultural understanding;
- To recognize music as an essential and compulsory subject in general education;
- To remove physical, social and financial obstacles to access to music education;
- To provide tangible and stable support to music education through national and European funding to music education programmes and institutions at all levels;
- To facilitate and secure funding for the participation of music education institutions to international projects and networks, mobility programmes, exchange of good practices;
- To create, promote and facilitate opportunities for music making through the wide establishment of youth orchestras and choirs;
- To facilitate the interconnection of different levels of music education and interinstitutional collaboration;
- To ensure quality of music education at all levels, including professional music education at pre-college and higher music education level.

b. to music education institutions:

- To pursue quality in music education through the implementation of innovative pedagogical approaches, research based teaching and learning, lifelong learning courses for teachers;
- To nurture both the artistic and entrepreneurial mindsets of students, providing them with adaptable skills to a variety of changing contexts, different settings and genres to face the present day job market;
- To educate future professionals in the music field who can give a tangible contribution to society with their activity;
- To recognize and foster diversity in music and music education in terms of pedagogical approaches, genres, gender and musical traditions;
- To engage in international projects and networks, mobility, exchange of good practices;



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- To engage in the political debate at all levels;
- To strengthen bonds between actors in the music sector by increasing collaboration and interdependence between institutions and between the different levels of education;
- To promote music and music education initiatives reaching out a wide spectrum of audiences within local communities;
- To communicate to the wider society about the value of music for the development of the human being and the contribution of music education institutions to society.

The AEC holds both decision makers at European and national level as well as individual music education institutions equally responsible for implementing the abovementioned recommendations; and expresses its commitment to act as a mediator to facilitate understanding and cooperation among both.

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