



## **What is it all about?**

The FULL SCORE Student Working Group was formed in September and has already met two times: The first meeting took place at the end of September in The Hague, during the Polifonia final conference The Musician as Creative Entrepreneur. In November 2014, the six of us were invited to participate in the 41st AEC Annual Congress in Budapest, during which we got an overview of what the AEC is and how it operates. From our perspective, the AEC could be called a multi-purpose platform, allowing for the exchange of ideas, views and reflections on higher music education, finding common concerns and goals. It also creates great networking possibilities and enables its members to start and maintain diverse international cultural engagements and projects.

## **Why and how should students get involved?**

We, students, should be able to give our opinions on the negative and positive sides of the educational systems. We can also help improve the way of teaching and learning thanks to our different perspectives and youthful energy, so that the systems can serve us better and more efficiently. We, students, should take more responsibility for our own and future generations' education.

We know that each of us lives and studies in a different reality. It is also difficult for some of us to express our opinions, concerns and needs if we have never been asked to do so before. Like never before, though, we have now an opportunity to influence the way in which we study. It is time for a European student brainstorming. If you are a student and you have any thoughts, suggestions, dreams or reservations about the student involvement in HME, do not hesitate to contact us!

## **The AEC Congress 2014, Budapest – Students and/in AEC**

During the Congress we had the chance to get to know different issues and problems concerning students from different countries. We had several meetings where the student WG gathered to try to find out in which way students could have more influence on the educational system they are part of.

We saw that much of what was being said during the Congress' plenary sessions had little to do with the problems that students in different countries face every day. We also felt that the AEC is, as of now, unprepared for cooperation with students – the end users of the educational system. The institutional language of the sessions and meeting is rather difficult to follow for a regular student. In addition, there are still no procedures designed to enable the students to participate the decision-making process or to share their perspective.

This was specially highlighted during the Plenary Session on the European Agenda for Music. Although we felt that the Agenda is extremely important, we also paid attention to a lack of more experience-based presentations, practical and concrete approaches: objectivity, concretion, of making decisions and designs

of action plans as far as possible and particularly necessary. The student WG will have a meeting in spring, during which we are planning to draw our comments and recommendations, from the students' perspective, for future development of the agenda.

During the Congress, we were told that the AEC wants our voice to be heard in the debates. All of the officials and representatives kept telling us that the involvement of students is very important in the future projects of the AEC. The AEC (and the FULL SCORE student WG) should urgently think on how to build a **systematic procedure designed to enable the students to participate** in the vote of making decisions, or at least, to give the opportunity to share a student's perspective during AEC meetings and events.

### **What is the Student WG planning to do during 2015?**

**Events:** This year we will attend the AEC Pop and Jazz Platform in Valencia, and the European Platform for Artistic Research in Music (EPARM) in Graz. After both events, we will report our feedback, exploring how we could be more involved in their preparation and content.

**Communication:** We would also like to make the AEC more known within the students in AEC member institutions. In order to achieve this, we are currently building up an extensive database with contact details of student associations. We are also going to create a student community on the AEC Facebook group.

**The AEC Website as a tool for students:** The FULL SCORE student WG has given some recommendations to the AEC office to develop the members database in the AEC website ([www.aec-music.eu](http://www.aec-music.eu)). From this week, part of the database is open to all and can also be accessed by students that wish to study abroad. We have helped the AEC office to draft a list of information that we think any student would like to know when thinking of moving abroad to study: Average living costs (room/flat rent, estimates on food and other necessary expenses), accommodation provided by the institution...etc.

**A Student WG meeting in May at the AEC Office, Brussels:** We are looking forward to holding a meeting in Brussels; after going to several AEC events and gathering lot of feedback, we will have the opportunity to sit together and draft concrete action lines for the following year.

As we said before, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@aec-music.eu](mailto:info@aec-music.eu) if you have any comments or ideas about all the issues raised above.

With best wishes,

The FULL SCORE Student Working Group



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