



REPORT

Polifonia Steering Group Meeting 29 January 2010, Utrecht

Present: Christopher Caine (Trinity College), Pascale de Groote (Koninklijk Conservatorium - Artesis Hogeschool Antwerpen), Kaarlo Hilden (Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Science), Johannes Johansson (Chair – Royal College of Music in Stockholm), Bart van Rosmalen (Royal Conservatoire The Hague), Ester Tomasi-Fumics (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna), Martin Prchal (Project coordinator), Linda Messas (Project manager), Eleonoor Tchernoff (Project administrator), Şirin Tuğbay (Project administrator)

Apologies: Marc-Olivier Dupin ('Polifonia' external evaluator), Helena Gaunt (Guildhall School for Music and Drama London), Jacques Moreau (Cefedem Rhône-Alpes Lyon)

1. Welcome by chair Johannes Johansson and project coordinator Martin Prchal

Johannes welcomes the steering group to its first meeting since the second meeting of the Joint Working Groups in Lisbon.

2. Report meeting May 2009 Lisbon

The steering group approves the report of the steering group meeting in Lisbon without any comments.

3. Reports on the activities of the working groups by working group chairs

a. Report on the activities of the Bologna working group

Ester Tomasi, co-chair of the Bologna working group presents the steering group with the recent developments of the Bologna Working group. Since the last meeting in Lisbon in May, the Bologna working group met in Sarajevo (November 2009), where it held a working group meeting as well as a one-day seminar with the project partners of the Sida funded project *Widening Participation on the Road to Membership*. Their next meeting will take place in Ghent before the conference *After Tuning there is Articulation*, the joint conference of the Bologna and Accreditation working groups (12-13 February 2010). The group also reached their goal of conducting 16 counselling visits in January. The last two visits took place to Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt in December and to CESMD Poitiers in January.

Ester informs the chairs of the other working groups what has been discussed in their last working group meeting in Sarajevo:

- Before the meeting in Sarajevo, the finalised Tuning Brochure was printed in English. The group made two presentations on the template in the AEC Congress of 2009 in Maastricht.

- Jeremy Cox joined the meeting in Sarajevo to discuss the developments of the Handbook on admissions and assessment. The group decided to have a theoretical part and a practical part, which would consist of case studies of each working group member's institution. The handbook will be finalised before the third joint working groups meeting in Vilnius.
- The group also discussed the upcoming conference *After Tuning there is Articulation*. Currently there are 87 participants registered. As the first day is very political, and the second day is very practice-oriented with several workshops, some of the participants will only stay for the first part.
- The working group also discussed the analysis of the questionnaire on the use of the 'Polifonia' tools which were published in the first cycle of 'Polifonia'. The group decided to add an introduction with recommendations as well as references to the counselling visits and the use of the tools during these visits. The group would also like to send the results of the questionnaire directly to all who have answered the questionnaire.
- The group also wants to look into the English titles of degrees for Vilnius or for the possible next cycle of 'Polifonia'. The working group finds this a difficult issue, as it feels the diploma supplement should explain what the title of a degree means and that it does not matter so much what the degrees are called.

Johannes asks how the English titles differ between countries and whether the group thought of researching the different policies of students staying after the Masters without getting into a PhD programme. This is seen as a common challenge handled very differently in each institution or country. Ester thinks it might be a better option to look into the different Masters programmes.

Martin suggests that a list of English titles could be brought to the meeting in Ghent for the working group members to work on the ones from their countries and start the process on English titles. Ester agrees as long as there is time in Ghent to work on it. She mentions that the working group is also keeping track of the classification and ranking projects that are developing, as well as the new ECTS Guide that led to a corrigendum for the ECTS Handbook.

b. Report on the activities of the Accreditation working group

Christopher Caine updates the steering group on the developments within the Accreditation working group. Currently there are 20 review visits in total planned until October 2010, 9 of which are informal visits, and 11 formal visits. The last working group meeting took place in October 2009 in Poland and focused on the following:

- The group worked on the evaluation of the review visits. The review visits will use two questionnaires: one for the experts of the review visit to evaluate the visit and its organization, and second for the institution receiving the review visit. The working group found the feedback to be positive.
- The group started a formal database for experts, with a form for experts to fill in and approve. The register of experts will be used for finding experts with specific areas of expertise in the upcoming review visits.
- The group also worked on the finalization of the Framework Document as well as decided to draft a code of conduct for experts of the review. The working group finds that it may be necessary to find a systematic training process for experts in the future.

Chris finds that if review visits are to be continued, there is much to discuss. Johannes mentions that the AEC strategic questionnaire which was handed out during the 2009 congress in Maastricht shows that the AEC membership is in full support of the accreditation activities of the AEC. Chris mentions that the continuation of the project requires some decisions such as staff resources and the current detailed reporting format. The steering group decides that the

Accreditation working group should make a proposal on the “product” of the review visits (i.e. quality label or certificate of accreditation etc.)

c. Report on the activities of the CPD for directors working group

Pascale de Groote informs the steering group on the activities of the CPD for directors working groups:

- The first of the 2 planned seminars for continuing professional development for senior management of conservatoires took place in October in Elzenveld, Antwerp. The seminar was very successful, and the participants, although smaller in number than planned, made a very open and interesting group.
- Pascale informs the steering group about the topics and the speakers of the first seminar. The topics of the first seminars were very general. This was perfect, as the group consisted of directors as well as middle management, but this makes the choice for topics of the second seminar more challenging, as the working group would like to focus on some issues. The working group has decided to work in groups in the second seminar to ensure that the seminar is relevant to all participants.

Kaarlo mentions that he attended a management seminar for heads of programmes in a conservatoire and for music schools directors and there mixing the two types of directors was not a problem at all. Pascale brings up the question of the continuation of such seminars after the second one. The seminars will not be supported by the next cycle of ‘Polifonia’, but there is interest in continuing, so an evaluation and business plan will need to be developed to assess opportunities for future continuation.

d. Report on the activities of the INVITE working group

Kaarlo Hilden informs the steering group that the last meeting of the INVITE working group took place in Banja Luka in October. He mentions the Lisbon meeting as the turning point for the working group’s work; they have divided the working group into 3 subgroups that work on specific tasks: (1) competence list for instrumental and vocal teacher training, (2) the writing of the handbook and (3) the upcoming conference in Dublin.

In Banja Luka, the working group held a 1 day seminar with the project partners of the *Widening Participation on the Road to Membership*. This seminar was interesting for both groups. The dependence of the Western Balkan conservatoires on the state music schools was the focus of the discussion. Kaarlo mentions that in addition to working on the handbook and the upcoming conference, the working group also has completed its planned site visits. The working group was also invited to join the annual meeting of the National Associations of Schools of Music in the United States. The NASM also has a working group for teacher training, which had a joint meeting with two members of the INVITE working group. Kaarlo reports that the teacher training field is much different in the US but it was a good experience to meet with the American colleagues. They found that despite differences there are some global trends such as the ever-widening amount of genres, students from very different backgrounds and music education outside of the 1-to-1 teaching paradigm. This connection will be followed up when an American speaker will be invited to the 2nd INVITE conference in Dublin in April.

Kaarlo mentions that a logical structure for the handbook has now been found. The first part of the handbook will be an overview of what is going on in Europe through the expertise of the site visits and the working group members. This will be followed by a mapping exercise which will come out of the updated national descriptions. The next part of the handbook will focus on curriculum issues such as developing a programme in instrumental and vocal teacher training specifically on training and competences as well as institutional challenges.

e. Report on the activities of the Research working group

Bart van Rosmalen reports to the steering group that the Research working group is now working on their "pocketbook". The pocketbook will start with a 10 page mapping overview which will be based on the two questionnaires the group sent out earlier in the project. This mapping will be followed by a 20 page case study section, which consists of 5 case studies of the site visits which are taking place at the moment to Graz, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Hannover and Australia. There will be one page dedicated to examples of Research projects, which will be followed by a model for the continuing professional development for teachers. The pocketbook will end with a practical list of "20-points on how to create a research environment".

Bart shows the website of the CPD for teachers seminars, which has video interviews as well as comments written by the participants. He explains the steering group the working method of the seminars, as well as the different topics they deal with such as practice, health, improvisation and self-reflection. The third and final seminar will focus on how to bridge research and practice. The next working group meeting will take place in Novi Sad in February, where they will work on the pocketbook and the planning of the next seminar.

f. Report on the activities of the External Stakeholders panel

The External Stakeholders panel held their second meeting in Brussels on October 5. The group suggests producing a short feedback document with their impression of 'Polifonia', the trends they see as important and what they think conservatoires should do and take account of. The group decided to cancel its Vilnius meeting and instead to involve individual WG members in Polifonia activities, e.g. like attending conferences. The group is also overseeing the production of 'A Handbook for European-level Work Placements in Higher Music Education', which is going to be ready in May 2010.

4. Group discussion on project progress

Kaarlo mentions that it would be good to have a reflection on what worked and what didn't work, so that the chairs of the next Polifonia cycle could be more informed. He adds that the use of new technology should be taken into account. He informs the steering group that the INVITE working group had several Skype and phone conversations in addition to the working group meetings. Another idea is to have a 1 or 2 page input to the next steering group meeting in terms of workload of the chairs and recommendations.

Ester adds that it is nice to see the long-term work and its effects, she would also like to continue asking reflective questions and analyzing the effects of the tools produced in this cycle.

Johannes thinks that the group underestimates the dramatic step of the sector accepting the Bologna declaration. This has been a huge change in the system and the gap between the leadership and the daily work has been considerable. Bart adds that the strength of the AEC is that it contributes to the changing process, it is a helping hand. Johannes mentions that the AEC is for the rectors of conservatoires and should therefore provide information for strategic decisions. Finding the balance between the service to the directors and the link to the teachers or students is also important. The steering group agrees that the link to teachers and students has to be there, but such a more practical approach should not weaken the role of the AEC as a body focused on strategic development. Johannes adds that the quality assessment issues and the subject area guidelines will set the tone for the AEC for the years to come.

5. Information on Polifonia III application

The discussion leads to the application for a third cycle of the 'Polifonia' project. Martin explains the overview document he has prepared, with the overarching topics and the potential work packages he thinks will be relevant for the next cycle. The first topic will focus on modernisation of the higher education in Europe, with Curriculum Reform carrying on the work of the Bologna working group with an assessment study and with Governance Reform which will carry on the work of the Accreditation working group. There will be a research initiative, a student based platform for all 3 cycles which will be related to the European Network for Artistic Research (ENAR).

It is also expected to have an international benchmarking system for conservatoires in the work package for mobility and promoting international cooperation. The links to the profession will continue to be a part of the third 'Polifonia' cycle with a work package on lifelong learning.

There will also be additional non-EU members in the project, which would enable involving long-time AEC contacts from the United States and Australia into the new cycle.

The steering group discusses the topics of a possible new cycle, and are happy with the comprehensive list of topics to focus on. Martin informs the group that the deadline for the application is at the end of February.

6. The Polifonia website www.polifonia-tn.org – continuous information update

Linda informs the steering group that the website is continuously updated. The most recent updates are the pages for the conference of the Bologna and Accreditation WGs *After Tuning, there is Articulation*, and for the conference of the INVITE WG. Ester asks if there is a list of webpage abbreviations, as the abbreviated versions look much nicer and the working group members would like to use it when informing others about the website. Linda replies there is no list at the moment, but the team will look into this with the website provider.

7. Current financial situation

Linda and Martin inform the steering group the budget is tight but manageable. The AEC has been able to take on some of the costs in its own budget and the coming weeks will be used to assess what exact budget there will be for the final publications. There are still staff hour declarations for the second half of the project to be collected, and the 'Polifonia' team is working on collecting the contracts at the moment.

8. Next steering group meetings

The next steering group meeting will take place in Vilnius on 18-20 June 2010. The schedule of the third joint working groups meeting will be similar to the Lisbon meeting; arrival on Friday with afternoon sessions, full Saturday with steering group meeting and joint working groups meeting. Working group meetings will continue on Sunday morning.

It is also decided to have another steering group meeting in September as in the previous cycle of 'Polifonia'. Several dates are suggested and the final date will be confirmed by e-mail to the steering group.

Report made by Şirin Tuğbay