



Association Européenne
des Conservatoires,
Académies de Musique
et Musikhochschulen (AEC)

Music Schools in Europe / Part B: National information Country overviews

ERASMUS THEMATIC NETWORK FOR MUSIC

polifonia



Education and Culture

Socrates
Erasmus

Austria

Organisation: *Konferenz der Österreichischen Musikschulwerke (KOMU)*

www.komu.at

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Austria is divided into federal states (Bundesländer): each state has its own music school law. These laws state that “a big number of – especially young – people should have the possibility of visiting (*studying at*) a music school”.
- ⇒ Three types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music B. General Music Schools are mainly aimed at amateur training; the other two types of schools are aimed both at amateur training and at preparation for professional music training. All three types of music schools are affiliated to the KOMU.
- ⇒ There are private music schools as well: they are different in the way they are financed (mainly by school fees).
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by music schools themselves, and by the provinces.
- ⇒ Tuition has to be paid for at all music schools in Austria. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is possible. It is felt that tuition fees do not discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Austria has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. ‘Officially’ does not mean ‘by national law’, but all provinces accept the curriculum designed by the KOMU.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are not mentioned in the curriculum. In Austria, students never have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are compulsory. Ensemble playing is optional (though compulsory in some regions). Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are optional.
- ⇒ The form of tuition students receive depends on subject, age etc. Students are allowed to choose between one-to-one tuition and group tuition, depending on the financial state of the school. In the end, group tuition, one-to-one tuition and a combination of these two are all commonly used.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes and is given once a week. The same goes for instrumental/vocal group lessons. On top of that, many students attend ensembles lessons.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. The national curriculum has not been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level either. However, music schools can come up with a different curriculum for students who do want to continue their studies in higher education (although this is not the majority of students), and therefore, music school education is considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ In most provinces there are special programs for exceptionally talented students.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, at all music schools in Austria. Students who do not pass an exam can, in some

provinces, be dismissed from a music school. Otherwise, being dismissed is not very likely. Mostly, students end their studies because of their own choice.

Students

- ⇒ It is not common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school, simply because most children immediately want to start playing an instrument or start singing. Differences between the provinces are recognized.
- ⇒ For classical instruments (strings/piano, brass en woodwinds) the average starting age is between 6 and 8 years of age. Children playing improvised music/jazz/pop music tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 15 and 20 years of age, but there is a trend to teach younger children.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers must have a diploma to be able to teach at music schools; an Instrumental or Vocal Pedagogy diploma, or a 'Künstlerisches Diplom'.
- ⇒ Nowadays, music schools and primary schools start working together more often in special music projects at primary schools, for instance 'Klassenmusizieren'.

Belgium Wallonia (French speaking part of Belgium)

Organisation: *Association de l'Enseignement Musical Subventionne (AEMS)*

www.aems.be

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Belgium, the French speaking part, has a music school law. The law states that every person is allowed to learn music (children up to 12 do not have to pay for it), but it does not oblige municipalities or associations to organise music schools. However, about 98% of municipalities have art schools.
- ⇒ Five types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A, B and C.
- ⇒ There is a special school for extremely talented teenagers, called 'Chapelle musicale Reine Elisabeth'. Only 12 teenagers are accepted (piano, violin and cello). It is supported by private sponsors.
- ⇒ General Music School education is mainly aimed at amateur training. All Secondary level educational institutions are aimed at amateur training and preparation for professional music training as well.
- ⇒ The aim of Specialised Music Schools mainly is preparing students for professional music training. The Chapelle musicale Reine Elisabeth aims its education only at preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ On top of that, there are private music schools. They are not supposed to respect the laws and programs of art educational systems. Most of them purpose an alternative system to recognized schools. The AEMS only accepts schools that educate from basic to high level and that offer a complete education system.
- ⇒ Only General Music Schools are affiliated to the AEMS.
- ⇒ Quality control of music schools is being implemented by music schools themselves and by the government.
- ⇒ Music school education in Belgium¹ is free of charge for children up to 12 years of age, and can cost till 200 euros per year per other students.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Belgium has an officially established general structure for music education on a national level. Music schools design their own curriculum, which has to be approved by the Government. Ministers and School Inspectors give some indications to respect.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 50 minutes. The length of the lesson depends on the level of the student. Lessons are given once a week.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal group lesson takes between 60-90 minutes, or even longer. Lessons are given once or twice a week. Again, this all depends on the level of the student.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ All music schools design their curriculum to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.

4

¹ When 'Belgium' is mentioned, 'Belgium, Wallonia' is meant.

- ⇒ The progress of students is evaluated at all music schools in Belgium, through examinations and annual evaluation by teachers. It is stressed that it is not possible to dismiss students from a music school when their progress is not up to standard. Alternative solutions are always privileged.
- ⇒ Outstanding students can go to the Chapelle musicale Reine Elisabeth.

Students

- ⇒ In Belgium, it is not common to start with pre-instrumental music classes.
- ⇒ Children start with instrumental lessons between 6-8 years of age (strings/piano, brass, woodwinds, other). With improvised music students tend to start at a younger age, between 4 and 6 years of age, and with pop/jazz music they start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ The average age at which children start with vocal lessons lies between 6 and 10 years of age. At this age, the lessons are mainly given in choirs.
- ⇒ Belgium music schools do not have entrance examinations.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers need to have a master grade from High school or University.
- ⇒ There is no system known where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Czech Republic

Organisation: *Association of Basic Artistic Schools*

www.azus-cr.cz

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Czech Republic has a music school law.
- ⇒ There is one type of music schools: Basic Art School. In basic music studies, there are two levels: a primary and a secondary level. There is a different level established for adults. Every school has three or four departments: music, dance, drama and painting.
- ⇒ Czech Republic knows private schools too.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by the government.
- ⇒ All music schools charge tuition fees. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is not available. However, the director of a Basic Art School has the authority to grant a student a (full) remission of the tuition fee. It is felt that, in most cases, tuition fees do not discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Czech Republic has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. The national curriculum has been designed by the Ministry of Education.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are mentioned in the curriculum. In Czech Republic, students always have to take an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are compulsory, as is ensemble playing.
- ⇒ The national curriculum talks about the use of one-to-one tuition or group tuition. Students are not allowed to choose between group tuition and one-to-one tuition.
- ⇒ The length of the lesson depends on a student's plan of study: a fundamental instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 45 minutes, but talented students may receive 1,5 or 2 lessons a week.
- ⇒ The same applies to instrumental/vocal group lessons.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education, since "good work brings good results".
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured at all music schools in Czech Republic, through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, and through concerts and competitions. Students whose progress is judged as 'not sufficient' can be dismissed from a music school.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent can follow a special pathway.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.

- ⇒ The average starting age for string instruments, piano and woodwinds lies between 6 and 8 years of age. The starting age for brass and improvised music/jazz/pop music is 8 years of age or older.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 6 and 10 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers have got to have a professional qualification to be able to teach at music schools.
- ⇒ Czech Republic does not have a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools.

Denmark

Organisation: *Dansk Musikskole Sammenslutning (DAMUSA)*

www.damusa.dk

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Denmark has a music school law. From 1/1/2007 every person has the right to enter a music school in every community.
- ⇒ Five types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A, B and C.
- ⇒ Every music school aims its education at amateur training as well as preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ All Secondary level educational institutions (A, B and C) are a member of the DAMUSA, the other types of music schools are not.
- ⇒ There are no private music schools.
- ⇒ There is no system of quality control/assurance in relation to music schools.
- ⇒ All music schools charge a tuition fee. There are grants available for unprivileged students. Tuition fees are considered to discourage students from taking lessons at a music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Denmark has an officially established curriculum for music education on a national level, but music schools are free to choose whether they want to implement this national curriculum or not.
- ⇒ The curriculum has been designed by the art council of the state.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are not mentioned in the curriculum. In Denmark, students never have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes and musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not incorporated in the curriculum. Ensemble playing is compulsory.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not talk about the type of tuition that students should receive. Generally, one-to-one tuition is the type of tuition which is used most.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes between 0-30 minutes. An average instrumental/vocal group lesson takes between 30-60 minutes. All lessons are given once a week.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training.
- ⇒ Music school education is considered to give students enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ Student progress is never measured at music schools in Denmark.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students can go to talent classes of pre-conservatory classes for 1 to 3 years.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. There are pre music classes for children from 0 to 8 years of age.
- ⇒ Children wanting to play a string instrument or piano usually start playing between 6 and 8 years of age. With playing brass instruments, woodwinds and improvised music/jazz/pop music, children tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards. With other instruments, children start, averagely, between 6-8 years of age.
- ⇒ The starting age of vocal lessons lies between 10 and 15 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers who want to teach at a music school need to have a conservatoire or university diploma. Musicians (not specified) are also allowed to teach at music schools.
- ⇒ There is a system known where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Estonia

Organisation: *Eesti Muusikakoolide Liit (Estonian Union of Music Schools)*

www.eestimuusikakoolideliit.ee

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Estonia does not have a music school law, but there is a law for all kinds of schools of “interest”.
- ⇒ There are two types of music schools: General Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music B.
- ⇒ Over the last years, General Music Schools started to continue amateur training in amateur-secondary level too. There are special Secondary level educational institutions specialised in music B that only aim their education at preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ Only the General music schools are affiliated to the Estonian Union of Music Schools.
- ⇒ There are private music schools as well. These schools do not use the common curricula.
- ⇒ There is a system of quality control/assurance in Estonia. This system is implemented by music schools themselves, the national music school union and by the government.
- ⇒ Tuition fees have to be paid for the majority of music schools. Grants or subsidies are available for those who cannot pay the regular tuition fee. Music school tuition fees are not considered to discourage students to take lessons at a music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Estonia has an officially established curriculum for music education on a national level. All music schools belonging to the local authorities are using this curriculum, which has been designed by the Ministry of Education.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not mention entrance exams and/or admission requirements, although entrance exams have to be taken to enter any music school in Estonia.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes and ensemble playing are incorporated in the curriculum, they are compulsory. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are optional.
- ⇒ The national curriculum talks about the type of tuition that students should receive: Instrumental lessons should be given on a one-to-one basis while other subjects are to be taught in groups.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 45 minutes, and is given once or twice a week. An average group lesson (not instrumental/vocal) takes 45 minutes as well, and is given once or twice a week, depending on the subject.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training. Music school education is believed to provide with students enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in professional secondary level and in higher education in some professions (e.g. music teacher at regular schools).
- ⇒ Student progress is measured at all music schools in Estonia. This is done through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers.
- ⇒ If a student does not pass an exam he can be dismissed from a music school.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent can study in the secondary school of the Musical Academy.

Students

- ⇒ It is not common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ Children wanting to play a string instrument or piano or woodwinds usually start playing between 6 and 8 years of age. With playing brass instruments and improvised music/jazz/pop music, children tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ The average starting age of vocal lessons lies between 15 and 20 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers who want to teach at a music school have got to have taken higher education.
- ⇒ There is a system known where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Finland

Organisation: *Suomen musiikkioppilaitosten liitto (Association of Finnish Music Schools)*

www.musicedu.fi

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Finland has a music school law. This law states that everybody under school age has the right to study at a music play school. After that, entrance exams have to be fulfilled.
- ⇒ Five types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A, B and C.
- ⇒ The first four types of schools aim their education at amateur training and at preparation for professional music training. Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music C aim their schooling at preparation for professional music training only.
- ⇒ All types of music schools are affiliated to the Association of Finnish Music Schools.
- ⇒ There are private music schools as well. These schools are business minded; “they make profit, not musical quality”.
- ⇒ Finland knows a system of quality control/assurance. This system is being implemented by the national music school union.
- ⇒ Music school students have to pay for their tuition at all types of music schools in Finland. There are grants available for unprivileged students. Tuition fees are partly considered to discourage students to take lessons at a music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Finland has an officially established curriculum for music education on a national level, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. The national curriculum has been designed by National Board of Education together with the Association of Finnish Music Schools and some other organisations (not further specified).
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not mention entrance exams and/or admission requirements. However, entrance exams have to be fulfilled to be able to enter any music school in Finland. Theoretical classes are incorporated in the curriculum, they are compulsory. Ensemble lessons are optional, while musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not mentioned in the national curriculum at all.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not talk about the use of one-to-one tuition or group tuition. In general, one-to-one tuition is the most common way of training, although a combination of one-to-one tuition and group tuition also exists.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes between 30-60 minutes, and is given once or twice a week. An average instrumental/vocal group lesson takes between 60-90 minutes and is given once or twice a week as well.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ In Finland, there are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. However, the national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training. Music school education is believed to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ Student progress is measured at all music schools in Finland. Examinations and annual evaluations by teachers are the most common ways of measuring the progress of a student. Private music schools, with no state money, do not necessarily have examinations.

- ⇒ Students who do not pass their exam will usually not be dismissed from a music school. In these cases, the principle and the teacher will discuss the matter with the student and his/her parents: as a result of that a personal plan of study will be made, or the student decides not to continue his/her studies.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent will get more private teaching and chamber music lessons. Special talented students can get into the youth music department of the Sibelius-Academy (institution of higher education).

Students

- ⇒ Almost half of all Finnish students are studying in pre-instrumental music classes.
- ⇒ In general, children start playing instruments at quite a young age: between 4 and 6 years of age. For improvised music/jazz/pop music this is a different story; children start studying these styles of music averagely from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ The starting age of vocal lessons lies between 10 and 15 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ For teaching at music schools a Master of Music degree and pedagogical studies are required.
- ⇒ Almost all children have music studies during their school day (primary school).

France

Organisation: *Fédération Française de l'Enseignement Musical, Chorégraphique et Théâtral (FFEM)*

www.ffemnet.com

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ France does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ There are many types of music schools: Specialised Music Schools are mainly aimed at amateur training and some preparation for pre-professional music training.
- ⇒ Two “conservatoires nationaux supérieurs” (Paris and Lyon) are training students at higher education level.
- ⇒ Many Specialised Music Schools are affiliated to the FFEM.
- ⇒ France has private music schools as well. The situation in France is very complicated, because of the number and the differences of statuses of music schools. There are about 4 types of public schools (2000) and thousands of private music schools.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being put into practice by the government.
- ⇒ Music school students have to pay a tuition fee for all types of music schools. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is generally not possible. It is difficult to state whether tuition fees discourage students to take music lessons, since it depends on the situation of each music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ France has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. The curriculum has been designed by the Ministry of Culture.
- ⇒ The national curriculum mentions the subject of entrance exams and/or admission requirements. In the next months, reforms are going to be implemented. In France, students often have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school. This concerns conservatoires « à rayonnement régional » and « à rayonnement départemental ».
- ⇒ Ensemble playing and theoretical classes are integrated into the national curriculum, they are compulsory. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are optional.
- ⇒ The national curriculum encourages group tuition. However, one-to-one tuition is generally used. Students are generally not allowed to choose between group tuition and one-to-one tuition.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes between 30 to 60 minutes and is given once a week. Instrumental/vocal group lessons take between 60 and 90 minutes and are given once or twice a week.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has not been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level. However, there are some schools that do design their curriculum to lead up to this level.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education generally provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ A student's progress is measured via examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, at most music schools in France.

- ⇒ Students whose progress is judged as 'not sufficient' could be dismissed from a music school: it depends on the school.
- ⇒ Whether or not an exceptionally talented student can follow a special pathway depends on the music school as well.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ Children wanting to play a string instrument or piano tend to start between 6 and 8 years of age. For all other instruments (brass, woodwinds, improvised music/jazz/pop and others) starting ages go from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 15 and 20 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers wanting to teach at a music school need to have a one of the three following diplomas: Certificat d'aptitude, Diplôme d'Etat, Diplôme universitaire de musicien intervenant.
- ⇒ There are few examples of systems where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Germany

Organisation: *Verband deutscher Musikschulen e.V. (VdM)*

www.musikschulen.de

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Germany does not have a music school law, but some Federal States (Bundesländer) have special legal regulations/laws for music schools: Brandenburg, Baden-Württemberg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Bayern, Berlin and Bremen. These regulations/laws concern legally binding standards concerning aims, responsibilities and structure of the music schools, qualification of the teachers and directors, protection of the name “music school” and public financial support/subsidies.
- ⇒ Germany knows four types of music schools: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A and B.
- ⇒ All schools aim their education at both amateur training and preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ Only the General Music Schools and the Specialised Music Schools are affiliated to the VdM.
- ⇒ Germany knows private music schools as well. Public music schools wanting to become a member of the VdM have to fulfil several conditions: they have to receive public subsidies, lessons can only be given by qualified teachers with diploma, they have to offer a full range of music education (strings, wind instruments, plucked instruments, piano etc. and likewise canto), ensemble playing and complementary subjects like theory, harmonics etc. Private music schools do not have to fulfil any of these conditions
- ⇒ A system of quality control/assurance does exist, but not everywhere. In Federal States with music school regulations/laws, financial support depends on the fulfilment of the requirements mentioned above. Music Schools that apply to become a member of the VdM also have to fulfil the necessary requirements. VdM also offers two quality management instruments for self-evaluation: QsM (based on EFQM) and EDuR - inter-municipal benchmark test. (For more information please see www.musicschools-emu.net/index.php?mid=179 and www.musicschools-emu.net/index.php?mid=152)
- ⇒ In short, quality control/assurance is being implemented by music schools (internal evaluation), the government, and the VdM.
- ⇒ Tuition fees have to be paid for the majority of music schools in Germany. Financial support for unprivileged students is possible. It is felt that tuition fees sometimes discourage students from taking music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Germany has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools affiliated to the VdM. The curriculum is being designed by the VdM.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are not mentioned in the curriculum; German music schools do not have entrance exams. Theoretical classes and ensemble playing are optional. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not integrated in the national curriculum.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does talk about the use of group tuition and one-to-one tuition. Students are allowed to choose between the two.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes and is given once a week. An instrumental/vocal group lesson takes between 30-90 minutes, and is given once a week as well.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. However, the national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level. Because Public Music Schools offer curricula for starters up to curricula that prepare students for the entrance examinations for higher education in music, music schools are considered to provide their students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ At some music schools, a student's progress is measured. This is done through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers.
- ⇒ There are no regulations from the VdM about dismissing students when they have failed an exam, but music schools can establish rules to dismiss students in certain cases.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students may get special support, for instance pedagogical or financial.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with so called 'Musikalische Früherziehung' (4-6 years of age) or with special programs even earlier, before they start their instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ The age at which children start their lessons at a music school differs. With strings/piano, children tend to start somewhere between 6-8 years of age, or later. The same goes for woodwinds. Children who want to play brass instruments or improvised music/jazz/pop music tend to start from 8 years of age onwards. For other instruments the starting ages vary between 6 and 8.
- ⇒ The average age at which children start with vocal lessons lies between 6 and 15. Children who want to start singing in choirs can do so from 4 years of age onwards.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers have got to have a diploma in music/music education from a university or conservatory to be able to teach at a music school.

Hungary

Organisation: *Association of Hungarian Music and Art Schools (MZMSZ)*

www.mzmsz.hu

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Hungary has a music school law. It states that every child has the right to develop his or her talents. Music education financed by the state is part of the general education system.
- ⇒ All five types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A, B and C.
- ⇒ General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are aimed at amateur training and preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ The secondary level educational institutions specialised in music A are aimed at amateur training. Secondary level educational institutions specialised in music B and C are only aimed at preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ There are music schools being founded that use foreign music pedagogical systems, like 'Yamaha'. These schools are only aimed at amateur training.
- ⇒ There are a few private music schools. They use the instruments of the General Music Schools.
- ⇒ All General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are a member of the Association of Hungarian Music and Art Schools. Only a part of the Secondary educational institutions specialised in music A and B, and the 'new' music schools (like Yamaha) are associated to the Association. The Secondary educational institutions specialised in music C are not affiliated of the Association.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by music schools themselves, by the national music school union and by the government.
- ⇒ Tuition fees are charged for all music schools in Hungary. There are subsidies or grants available for students who are not able to pay for their tuition. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students from taking music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Hungary has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. Schools use the national curriculum as a guideline; based on that every school develops its own curriculum.
- ⇒ The national curriculum was designed by experts and published by the minister of education. The Association of Hungarian Music and Art Schools cooperated in this process.
- ⇒ The national curriculum touches upon the topic of entrance exams and admission requirements. All Hungarian music schools use a gradation system. Every grade asks for certain skills and knowledge. At the entrance exam these are examined. It is possible to start with a preparatory year in theory and instrument.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are incorporated in the national curriculum, they are compulsory. Ensemble playing is optional. In the national curriculum, musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are regarded as separate genres.
- ⇒ According to the national curriculum, instrumental/vocal lessons should be given on a one-to-one basis, while theoretical classes should be taught in groups. Consequently, students are not allowed to choose between one-to-one tuition and group tuition.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes and is given twice a week. As said before, instrumental/vocal group lessons do not exist.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level. Music schools develop their own curriculum after the national curriculum; consequently, their curricula are always designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is believed to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers at all music schools in Hungary. Starting in 2007, there will be a final examination of arts.
- ⇒ Students who do not pass an exam can repeat the same grade only once.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students can get more classes.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ For strings/piano and woodwinds the average starting age lies between 6 and 8 years of age. Children playing a brass instrument or improvised music/jazz/pop music tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 15 and 20 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers need a university or college degree in teaching and music to be allowed to teach at a music school.
- ⇒ There are systems where music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools.

Iceland

Organisation: *Association of Music School Teachers*

www.ki.is

Iceland does not yet have an official organisation of music schools. However, most music school teachers as well as directors of music schools are a member of The Association of Music School Teachers in Iceland (FT). FT was granted a two year temporary membership to EMU in November 2005 in Prato, Italy. FT has committed itself to establish an official organisation of Music Schools in Iceland before this temporary membership expires.

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Iceland has a music school law. "Law regarding financial support to music schools was first passed in 1963. This law was last modified in 1989 when financial responsibility moved entirely to the local governments. Prior to 1989 the state and local governments split the cost. Existing law only deals with financial support and requires that support from local government can be used only to pay salaries of teachers and headmasters. Other costs should be covered by student tuition.
Music schools in the capital, Reykjavik, are roughly 20, almost all owned by individuals or organisations, but subsidised by the city in accordance with the above mentioned law. Most music schools outside of Reykjavik are, however, owned and run by the local municipalities. Student fees are thus somewhat higher in Reykjavik.
- ⇒ New and broader law regarding music schools is now being prepared. The curriculum guide also requires modifications. Even though one-to-one tuition has been the predominant form of teaching, flexibility has increased in recent years (more group teaching, mixed group and individual teaching etc.). Pressure has also grown from the municipalities that the music schools serve more people and that waiting lists are eliminated.
The law does not state that every person has "the right to study music". This "right" has been taken for granted and everyone with interest has been able to apply for admission to music schools (however, many music schools have had long waiting lists). The curriculum guide, published by the Ministry of Education, states that music schools shall provide education to all who wish to study music. This attitude towards access is now changing and some municipalities have suggested rules that limit access to people below the age of 25 or 27 (voice students) and to students who have a permanent living address within the particular municipality."
- ⇒ Two types of music schools are known: General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools.
- ⇒ General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are mainly aimed at amateur training and some preparation of professional music training as well.
- ⇒ General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are affiliated to the Society of Music School Teachers in Iceland.
- ⇒ There are private music schools too.
- ⇒ In Iceland, music school studies are divided into three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. FT, the Icelandic Musicians' Union, the Association of Music School Headmasters and the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland together run an independent organisation that guarantees that exams from each of these three levels are properly executed and judges sufficiently trained. In this way the quality of music schools is being protected.
- ⇒ All types of music schools charge a tuition fee. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is not available. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Iceland has an officially established curriculum for music education. It is designed by various committees, specialist and experienced music teachers hired by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The national curriculum is not being implemented by all music schools. Most music schools who are owned or financially supported by local municipalities claim to use the official curriculum guide. Service of the independent organisation as described above is voluntary. Most instrument types (keyboards, strings, wood wind instruments, etc.) are covered by the curriculum guide. One booklet is devoted to all theory subjects, including music history.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are not mentioned in the curriculum. In Iceland, formal entrance examinations do not exist. However, students who move between music schools or have some level of skill when entering a music school usually have to demonstrate their proficiency and perhaps take some theory exams so that they can be properly placed.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are mentioned in the national curriculum, they are compulsory. Ensemble playing and musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are optional.
- ⇒ One-to-one tuition has been the general rule in Iceland and the curriculum guide sees this form of teaching as giving the best results. Small group teaching is briefly discussed and considered economical and useful, especially with respect to beginning students on instruments. Flexibility is underlined (group size, a combination of one-to-one and group teaching) as well the use of appropriate teaching material.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson lasts between 30 and 60 minutes. It is generally given once (60 minutes) or twice (30 minutes) a week. So called "full time students" usually get 60 minutes once a week or 30 minutes twice a week. Part time students (called "half students") usually get 30 minutes once a week.
- ⇒ Instrumental/vocal group lessons usually take 30-60 minutes and are given once or twice a week.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Icelandic music school education is considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education, since music school graduates have generally proven well prepared for continuing their studies abroad or at the Iceland Academy of Arts.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations, annual evaluations by teachers and public performances at most music schools in Iceland.
- ⇒ Students who do not pass an exam are not very likely to be dismissed from a music school. The rules about a student's progress are not very rigid. Usually students give up their studies because of their own will.
- ⇒ There is no special pathway a student can follow when he or she shows exceptional talent.

Students

- ⇒ In Iceland it is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. In fact, most music schools require children to enrol in these classes for one or two years. This requirement is not as strict with regards to older children or teenagers.
- ⇒ Children usually start playing an instrument from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Averagely, children start vocal lessons between their 15th and 20th year of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers do not need to have a diploma to be able to teach in music schools in Iceland, provided that someone is willing to study with them or hire them to teach. Current salary agreement between FT and the Icelandic Musicians' Union, on the one hand, and the salary committee of the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland on the other, grants teachers with professional qualification, either as teachers or instrumentalists/singers, higher salaries depending on certain degrees and/or years of study in qualified institutions or with qualified instructors. Music teachers in Iceland are generally well educated.
- ⇒ Iceland knows a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools. Some music schools provide instrumental music lessons in co-operation with primary schools where students attend lessons during their regular school day. This arrangement is increasing in popularity due to the difficulties arriving from longer school day in primary schools.

Ireland

Organisation: *Irish Association of Music School (IAMS)*

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Ireland does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ There exist three types of music schools: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools, Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A.
- ⇒ General Music Schools are aimed at both amateur training as well as preparation for professional music studies. Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A aim their education mainly at preparation for professional music studies, but provide some amateur training as well.
- ⇒ General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are affiliated to the IAMS.
- ⇒ There are private music schools too. They are not necessarily different from the music schools mentioned above, they just chose not become a member of the IAMS.
- ⇒ In relation to music schools, Ireland does not know a system of quality control/assurance.
- ⇒ All music schools in Ireland charge a tuition fee. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is possible. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Ireland does not have an officially established curriculum for music education.
- ⇒ Every music school designs its own curriculum according to the current teaching staff, following the curriculum each particular teacher studied under. But individual teachers may differ in their teaching methods and material so it is done on an ad-hoc basis from school to school.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes and is given once a week. The same goes for instrumental/vocal group lessons.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ General Music Schools design their curriculum to prepare students towards the entrance level of professional music training.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education does not provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. There is no national curriculum and no system of monitoring standards and this leaves music schools devising their own program of work, sometimes with unqualified teachers who do not have the experience to impart sufficient knowledge and skills to their students.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, at most music schools in Ireland.
- ⇒ Students who do not pass an exam can be dismissed from a music school.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent can follow a special pathway. However, it depends on the music school that must promote and nurture exceptional talent at a local and national level. There are various performing and scholarship opportunities for gifted musicians in some of Ireland's third level institutions.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. Most music schools have a pre-instrumental

course for age 3 to 7, but it is not always necessary for a student to have completed this course to commence instrumental/vocal lessons.

- ⇒ Children who want to play a string instrument or piano tend to start around 6 years of age. For brass instruments, and for instance percussion, the starting age lies around 10 years of age. For woodwinds the starting age lies around 7 or 8 years of age, and for improvised music/jazz/pop music it lies around 9 years of age.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 10 and 15 years of age.
- ⇒ Some General Music Schools will have an audition process for accepting students, but this is at the discretion of the administration of the schools concerned.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers are required to have a teaching diploma and, in most cases, a music degree from a recognised third level institution to be able to teach at music schools.
- ⇒ Ireland knows a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools. It would be implemented on a school to school basis as part of an Outreach programme. Music teachers go out to primary schools usually one day per week for instrumental and or vocal/choral tuition.

Italy

Organisation: *Associazione Italiana delle Scuole di Musica (AIdSM)*

www.aidsm.it

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Italy does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ Music education in Italy is basically divided in three main institutions representing two different levels of studies: Music Schools - run by local governments, or associations, Music schools -officially recognized and enabled to release diplomas (named Istituti Musicali Pareggiati - IMP) and State Music Conservatories.
- ⇒ Music schools are spread all over Italy and some of them, mostly situated in the central and northern part of the country, have an important historical tradition. They are aimed at amateur training, but a number of schools also prepare students for professional music training. Conservatori di Musica and IMP are addressed to professional music training and, in some cases (IMP), to amateur training as well.
- ⇒ Music Schools and some Istituti Musicali Pareggiati are associated to AIdSM, Conservatori di Musica are not.
- ⇒ Italy knows private music schools; they are said to be profit oriented.
- ⇒ In relation to music schools, there is no system of quality control/assurance.
- ⇒ All music schools in Italy charge a tuition fee. There are subsidies or grants available for those who cannot pay for tuition. It is felt that tuition fees do not discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Italy does not have an officially established curriculum for music education.
- ⇒ Music schools design their own curriculum; some schools have a special committee, others use guidelines for the curriculum from the local municipality.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes and is given once a week. A group lesson usually lasts between 60-90 minutes, sometimes even longer than that, and is given once or twice a week.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ It is felt that Italian music schools provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. Although not lately revisited, teaching offered is considered to be "quite good".
- ⇒ At most music schools in Italy a student's progress is measured. This is being done via annual evaluations by teachers, and sometimes through examinations.
- ⇒ Students will never be dismissed from a music school when failing an exam, but will be encouraged to reconsider their commitment.
- ⇒ Outstandingly talented students can follow a regular examination programme supplied by a Conservatoire. In that case, longer individual lessons are given. If these students fail an exam, they can be re-addressed to amateur studies.

Students

- ⇒ In Italy, it is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. Orff or Dalcroze or similar classes are available.
- ⇒ Most children start playing string instruments or piano between their 6th and 8th year of age, although some children start later. Woodwind students start between 6 and 8 years of age as well.
- ⇒ Children wanting to study brass or improvised music/jazz/pop music start from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ For other instruments, the starting ages lie between 6 and 8 years of age.
- ⇒ On average, children start vocal lessons between 10 and 15 years of age. These are individual lessons. Children can start singing in choirs earlier.
- ⇒ Sometimes, students have to take an entrance exam to be able to take lessons at a music school. This mainly happens when there are too many applications for specific courses (e.g. pop singing, drums).

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers have got to have a diploma to be able to teach at music schools; a Conservatoire Diploma, or University Degree (History of Music).
- ⇒ In Italy, it is rather common for music school teachers to give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Latvia

Organisation: *Association of leaders of Latvian Musical Educational Establishment (LMMIVA)*

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Latvia has a music school law. This law implies that every person has the right to study music.
- ⇒ Latvia knows Specialised Music Schools, called 'music schools', and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in music B, called 'secondary music schools'.
- ⇒ Specialised Music Schools aim their education mainly at preparation for professional music training, although some amateur training is provided as well. Secondary level educational institutions specialised in music B only prepare students for professional music training.
- ⇒ Both types of schools are affiliated to the LMMIVA.
- ⇒ Latvia does not have any private music schools.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being put into practice by the government.
- ⇒ Secondary music schools do not charge a tuition fee. For tuition at music schools, students have to pay a small fee.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Latvia has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. This national curriculum was designed by the Arts Education Centre of Latvia on charge of the Ministry of Culture, to which all music schools are submitted.
- ⇒ The national curriculum mentions the subject of entrance exams and/or admission requirements. In Latvia, students always have to take an entrance exam before being admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes and ensemble playing are integrated into the national curriculum, they are compulsory. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are incorporated into the national curriculum as well, but these lessons are optional.
- ⇒ The national curriculum mentions the topic of one-to-one tuition and group tuition. Both types of teaching are included. Students are not allowed to choose between group tuition and one-to-one tuition.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30 to 60 minutes, and is given twice a week. The same applies to instrumental/vocal group lessons.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ A student's progress is measured by the use of examinations and annual evaluations by teachers at all music schools in Latvia.
- ⇒ Students, whose progress is judged as 'not sufficient', can be dismissed from a music school.
- ⇒ In Latvia, there are no special pathways an exceptionally talented student can take.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ The average starting age for children wanting to play a string instruments or piano lies between 6 and 8 years of age. For brass and woodwinds and folk music the average starting age lies at 8 years of age or older.
- ⇒ The average starting age for vocal lessons lies between 6 and 10 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers wanting to teach at a music school need to have a higher professional qualification and a higher pedagogical qualification.
- ⇒ Latvia knows a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools: there are schools with an accent on music studies, where music subjects are offered and one-to-one tuition and group lessons are available.

Luxemburg

Organisation: *Association des Ecoles de Musique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg*

www.em-echternach.com

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Luxembourg has a music school law. This law implies that every person from 7 years up has the right to study music.
- ⇒ General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A and B are the types of music schools that can be identified in Luxembourg.
- ⇒ General Music Schools are mainly aimed at amateur training and some preparation for professional music training. The other three types of schools are mainly aimed at preparation for professional music training and to a lesser extent to amateur training.
- ⇒ Only General Music Schools are affiliated to the Association des Ecoles de Musique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.
- ⇒ Luxembourg knows private music schools (music education outside the general education system); the level is said to be different than that of public music schools.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being put into practice by music schools themselves, and by the government.
- ⇒ Tuition has to be paid for at all music schools in Luxembourg. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is not possible. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students from taking music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Luxembourg has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. The curriculum is designed by the government, harmonising traditions of music schools.
- ⇒ The national curriculum mentions the subject of entrance exams and/or admission requirements. In Luxembourg, students sometimes have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school. There are many different admission requirements regarding the age and former musical education of the student, and they are different for every subject.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are integrated into the national curriculum, they are compulsory. The same applies to ensemble playing. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not mentioned in the national curriculum.
- ⇒ As stated by the national curriculum, the use of group tuition is related to the level of the student.
- ⇒ Depending on the level, an average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes between 0 to 90 minutes or longer and is given once a week. Instrumental/vocal group lessons take between 0 and 90 minutes and are given once a week as well.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ In view of the fact that many students from music schools in Luxembourg continue their studies in higher education in a foreign country, it is felt that music school education provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.

- ⇒ A student's progress is measured via examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, at all music schools in Luxemburg.
- ⇒ Students who do not pass an exam can repeat the lessons of the past year and try to pass the examination once again. If they fail, they are dismissed from the music school.
- ⇒ There are no special programs for exceptionally talented students.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school, but this applies only to string and percussion music lessons.
- ⇒ Children wanting to play a string instrument or piano tend to start between 6 and 8 years of age. For all other instruments (brass, woodwinds, improvised music/jazz/pop and others) starting ages go from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 15 and 20 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers wanting to teach at a music school need to have a 'premier prix' from a conservatoire.
- ⇒ There are no systems known in which music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools.

The Netherlands

Organisation: *Kunstconnectie (Dutch association for art education and art participation)*

www.kunstconnectie.nl

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ The Netherlands do not have a music school law.
- ⇒ The only type of music school known is the General Music School, which aims its education at amateur training and some preparation for professional music training. Many music schools are part of a larger Centre for Arts Education, which provides courses and workshops in other art disciplines as well.
- ⇒ Besides the General Music Schools, there are private music schools. They are not subsidised by the local government; for that reason they have a limited offer of subjects (only more 'contemporary' instruments). Mostly, private music school education is more expensive as well.
- ⇒ Only General Music Schools are affiliated to Kunstconnectie
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by Kunstconnectie and the national organisation for amateur arts participation 'Kunstfactor'.
- ⇒ Tuition fees have to be paid for all music schools in the Netherlands. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is possible in most of the municipalities - sometimes with the restriction that it is only available for highly talented students - and via private funds.
- ⇒ It is felt that tuition fees discourage students from taking music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ The Netherlands have an officially established curriculum for music education; it is a curriculum for Harmony, Fanfare and Brass bands only. It's up to each music school to decide whether or not they want to implement this curriculum.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed by the Association for art schools and the national amateur art institute.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not mention entrance exams and/or admission requirements. In The Netherlands, students never have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 0-45 minutes and is given once a week. An average instrumental/vocal group lessons lasts between 30-60 minutes, and is given in groups of 2 to 4 pupils.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. The national curriculum has not been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is considered not to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. This can be explained by the fact that it is not the main target of music schools in The Netherlands. The main target of Dutch music schools is to provide the opportunity for as many people - children as well as adults - to receive training in music, in their leisure time or during school hours (in cooperation with regular schools). Another explanation can be found in the demands of the professional/higher education: the entrance requirements are changing and they are different for each conservatoire.

- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers, at most music schools in The Netherlands.
- ⇒ When a student fails an exam, it depends on the policy of the music school whether the student will be dismissed or not. This depends mostly on the subsidising law of the local government.
- ⇒ If a student shows exceptional talent there are special pathways a student can take; students can go to private teachers, or make use of private funds.

Students

- ⇒ In the Netherlands most children start with General Music Education before starting their instrumental/vocal studies at a music school. Sometimes these General Music Education classes are given at regular schools.
- ⇒ Children playing string instruments, piano, brass or woodwinds tend to start between their 6th and 8th year of age, while children wanting to study music/jazz/pop music are likely to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 10 and 15 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers wanting to teach at a music school need to have a diploma from a conservatoire with a specialisation in teaching.
- ⇒ There is a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools.

Norway

Organisation: *Norsk Kulturskoleråd (The Norwegian Council of Music and Art Schools)*

www.kulturskoleradet.no

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Norway has a music school law. The law is one paragraph, stating that 'all municipalities should, by themselves or in cooperation with other municipalities, have a music and culture school offer for children and youngsters, organised in connection to the compulsory school system or the local cultural organisations'.
- ⇒ Norway knows three types of music and art schools: Music as a subject in general schools, music schools with talent programmes (Saturday Schools) and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in music and art subjects (music, dance and theatre).
- ⇒ In general Music and Art Schools are aimed at amateur training and some preparation for professional music training. The other types of schools are aimed both at amateur training and at preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ Music and Art Schools are affiliated to the Norwegian Council of Music and Art Schools, through a membership owned by the municipality.
- ⇒ There is only one private music school in Norway, which is located in Oslo. It is a privately owned school, but it is supported by the municipality. The school offers special education to talented children and teenagers. Oslo has a 'normal' municipal music and art school as well, where music is taught at all levels.
- ⇒ The national music school union offers a programme for quality control/assurance for music and art schools.
- ⇒ Tuition normally has to be paid for at all music schools in Norway. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is possible. It is felt that tuition fees in some places discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Norway does not have an officially established curriculum for music education. Normally, music schools do not design their own curriculum; instead, teachers have the responsibility for making a plan of study for each student. However, there are a few music schools that use international based exams as a free offer to their students.
- ⇒ A number of music and art schools has an average lesson time of 15 to 20 minutes for each student. This is based on group teaching, but often it is not possible to set up groups. Consequently, quite a number of students have one-to-one tuition for 15 to 20 minutes, once a week. Students who have a higher level could get one-to-one tuition for 30 minutes or more.
- ⇒ An average group lesson lasts between 30 and 60 minutes and is given once a week. In quite a few music and art schools, young children should in principal be taught in groups. Too often this is not the case, because teachers do not have enough knowledge of group teaching or, as mentioned above, there are not enough pupils to form a group.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Some music schools design their curriculum to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level. This mainly applies to music and art schools with Saturday schools or similar advanced offers for students. The average music school is dependent on the qualification of the teachers.

- ⇒ Music school education in Norway is generally not considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. The main reason for this is that many schools are small institutions where teachers often not have a diploma from an institute that provides higher music education. On the other hand, the larger music schools do have high quality teachers. During the last decade, the level of students applying for higher music education has improved greatly.
- ⇒ In Norwegian music schools, the progress of a student is normally not measured. However, evaluation is done through performances. When applying for higher education, teachers could be asked to write an evaluation and forward some documentation of concerts.
- ⇒ Under normal circumstances, students cannot be dismissed from a music school because of slow development. Dismissal only happens when a student does not attend his or her lessons. If a student does not function properly, the teacher will discuss the matter with the parents. Normally, these kinds of students will leave the music and art school.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent can attend Saturday schools or a national Talent program for Young Musicians, managed by the National Academy of Music and the regional Conservatoires of Music in cooperation with the County board of Music and Art schools in the main cities.

Students

- ⇒ It is not common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. Nonetheless, some schools have preparatory classes, a kind of music kindergarten, and there are also special offers for mothers with babies etc.
- ⇒ Children averagely start playing the violin between their 3rd and 5th year of age (mini-violins). Children tend to start playing all other instruments (piano, brass, woodwinds and improvised music/jazz/pop music) from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 10 and 15 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ To have tenure at a music school, a teacher should have had higher music education.
- ⇒ Norway knows a system in which music school teachers give structural music lessons at primary schools. In fact, many teachers have a combined position in music and art schools and primary schools.

Serbia

Organisation: *Association of Music and Ballet Schools of Serbia*

www.zmbss.org.yu

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Serbia does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ In Serbia, there are Specialised Music Schools at primary and secondary level. The primary music schools give elementary musical-instrumental education; they are aimed at amateur training, and prepare children for the next level of education as well.
- ⇒ The Secondary level educational institutions mainly aim their education at preparation for professional music training and provide some amateur training as well.
- ⇒ All schools at primary and secondary level are affiliated to the Association of Music and Ballet Schools of Serbia.
- ⇒ There are no private music schools.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance in relation to music schools is being implemented by music schools themselves.
- ⇒ Music school students hardly ever have to pay a tuition fee to be able to study at a music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Serbia has an officially established curriculum for music education. The national curriculum has been designed by the Ministry of Education.
- ⇒ Entrance exams and/or admission requirements are mentioned in the curriculum. In Serbia, students always have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes and ensemble playing are compulsory. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not incorporated in the curriculum.
- ⇒ The national curriculum talks about the use of one-to-one tuition and group tuition; there are no instrumental/vocal group lessons. In general, one-to-one tuition is used most.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30 or 45 minutes and is given twice a week (at primary level) or three times a week (at secondary level).
- ⇒ Other lessons which are taught in groups (solfege, theory lessons, chamber music classes and orchestra or choir lessons) last 45 minutes and are given two or three times a week.
- ⇒ In primary and secondary music education both individual and group lessons exist.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations, at all music schools in Serbia.
- ⇒ There are special programs for exceptionally talented students. These students can take talent classes or pre-conservatoire classes for 1 to 3 years.

Students

- ⇒ It is not common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. However, there are pre-music classes for children from 5 to 8 years of age.
- ⇒ The average age at which children start playing string instruments or piano lies between 6 and 8 years of age. For brass, woodwinds and improvised music/jazz/pop music, this starting age lies higher; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ For all other instruments the starting age lies between 6 and 8 years of age, or older.
- ⇒ Generally, children start with vocal lessons between 15 and 20 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers who want to teach at music schools need to have a musical university diploma.
- ⇒ Serbia does not have a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Slovakia

Organisation: *Association of Basic Arts Schools of Slovak Republic*

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Slovakia has a music school law. It guarantees the right of education and the right to develop skills for each member of the Slovak society.
- ⇒ Three types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music B.
- ⇒ General Music Schools aim their education at amateur education as well as preparation for professional music training. Specialised Music Schools mainly prepare their students for professional music training, but provide some amateur training too. Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music B prepare their students for professional music training only.
- ⇒ General Music Schools and Specialised Music Schools are affiliated to the Association of Basic Arts Schools of Slovak Republic.
- ⇒ There are private music schools as well; these are not associated to the Association of Basic Arts Schools of Slovak Republic.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by the government.
- ⇒ Tuition fees have to be paid for all music schools in Slovakia. Financial support for those who cannot pay for tuition is not available. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Slovakia has an officially established curriculum for music education, which is being implemented by all music schools and for all subjects. This national curriculum has been designed by the Ministry of Education.
- ⇒ The national curriculum mentions entrance exams and/or admission requirements, but only in relation to Specialised Music Schools. In Slovakia, students always have to pass an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are incorporated in the curriculum, they are compulsory, as is ensemble playing. Musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are not integrated into the curriculum.
- ⇒ The national curriculum specifies which subjects have to be taught in groups and which in one-to-one tuition. As a result, students are not allowed to choose between one-to-one tuition and group tuition.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 30-60 minutes, and is usually divided into two lessons.
- ⇒ Instrumental/vocal group lessons take between 30-60 minutes, and are given once or twice a week.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through examinations, annual evaluations by teachers and other ways (not specified), at all music schools in Slovakia.

- ⇒ Students who do not pass an exam can be dismissed from a music school. Dismissal will be based on the judgement of the exam committee.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students can become an extraordinary student of The Music Conservatoire (Secondary Level Educational Institution).

Students

- ⇒ In Slovakia, it is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. Most students start with a preparatory pre-instrumental class, which usually lasts for a year.
- ⇒ The average starting age for strings/piano and woodwinds lies between 6 and 8 years of age. Children playing improvised music/jazz/pop music or brass instruments tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 6 and 10 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers are required to have a professional qualification to be able to teach at music schools.
- ⇒ Slovakia does not have a system where music schools teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Spain

Organisation: *Unión de Escuelas de Música y Danza (UEMYD)*

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Spain has a music school law. It is essential to keep in mind that each community has its own law. The national music school law does not imply that every person has the right to study music: the music education in music schools is a free option.
- ⇒ Five types of music schools are known: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A, B and C.
- ⇒ General Music Schools aim their education mainly at amateur education and some preparation for professional music training as well.
- ⇒ All other music schools are only aimed at preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ The General Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music C are affiliated to the UEMYD.
- ⇒ Spain knows private schools too. They cannot become a member of the UEMYD because they are not publicly funded, and therefore have different interests.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by music schools themselves and by the government.
- ⇒ Tuition has to be paid for at all music schools in Spain. There is financial support available for those who cannot pay for tuition. It is felt that tuition fees do not discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Spain has an officially established curriculum for music education. This national curriculum has been designed by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has a curricular decree of minimums, but each community has its own law. Consequently, not every music school uses the national curriculum. Each music school can come up with its own curriculum, elaborating its interests, the characteristics of the municipality and the objectives of the centre.
- ⇒ The national curriculum does not mention entrance exams and/or admission requirements, although students in Spain often have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school.
- ⇒ Theoretical classes are incorporated in the curriculum. Ensemble playing and musical cross-over projects or improvisation lessons are optional.
- ⇒ The national curriculum talks about the use of group tuition and one-to-one tuition. Students are allowed to choose between one-to-one tuition and group tuition.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 0-60 minutes, and is given once a week.
- ⇒ Instrumental/vocal group lessons take between 60 and 90 minutes or longer, and are given once a week as well.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ The national curriculum has been designed to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level. Most music schools design their curriculum towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level as well.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education does not provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. Music schools are said 'to make fans

and lovers of music, but no talents'. Music schools do identify students with capacities and abilities to study music at a professional level.

- ⇒ The progress of a student is measured through continuous evaluations, at all Spanish music schools.
- ⇒ If a student's progress is judged as 'not sufficient', a student will not be dismissed from a music school, but the school will attempt to adapt the curriculum so that it suits the student.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students receive more lesson hours and another curriculum.

Students

- ⇒ In Spain it is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. Young children start with lessons in music and movement, with percussion instruments.
- ⇒ The average starting age for strings/piano lies between 4 and 6 years of age.
- ⇒ Children start with vocal lessons, averagely, between 6 and 10 years of age.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers are required to have a professional qualification (so called 'teacher superior') to be able to teach at music schools.
- ⇒ Spain knows a system where music schools teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Sweden

Organisation: *Sveriges Musik- och Kulturskolerad (SMoK) (Swedish Arts School Council)*

www.smok.se

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Sweden does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ There is one type of music schools: General Music Schools. They are mostly aimed at amateur education, and some preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ General Music Schools are affiliated to the SMoK.
- ⇒ There are no private music schools.
- ⇒ Sweden does not have a system of quality control/assurance in relation to music schools.
- ⇒ For the majority of music schools, tuition fees have to be paid.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Sweden does not have an officially established curriculum for music education.
- ⇒ Music schools do not establish their own curriculum either: Each teacher uses his or her own 'curriculum'.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 0-30 minutes and is given once a week.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal group lessons lasts 30-60 minutes and is given once a week as well.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Some music schools design their curriculum to lead towards the entrance level of professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is not considered to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is never measured at Swedish music schools.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent can receive more lessons time.

Students

- ⇒ In Sweden, it is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ The average age at which children start playing an instrument is 8 years of age or older.
- ⇒ Children usually start with vocal lessons between their 6th and 10th year of age.
- ⇒ Music schools do not have entrance examinations.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers who want to teach at music schools in Sweden are required to have a professional qualification: they need to have a Music Teacher diploma, which can be obtained after 4,5 years of study.
- ⇒ Sweden does not have a system where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.

Switzerland

Organisation: *Verband Musikschulen Schweiz (VMS)*

www.verband-musikschulen.ch

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ Switzerland does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ Switzerland only knows one type of music schools: General music schools.
- ⇒ General Music Schools are aimed at amateur education and preparation for professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ General music schools are affiliated to the Verband Musikschulen Schweiz.
- ⇒ There are private music schools as well. These schools are not supported by the State. They only provide tuition.
- ⇒ Switzerland does not have a system of quality control/assurance in relation to music schools.
- ⇒ Music school students have to pay for tuition at all music schools in Switzerland.
- ⇒ Grants or subsidies are available for those who cannot pay the regular tuition fee.
- ⇒ Tuition fees are not considered to discourage students to take lessons at a music school.

Curriculum

- ⇒ Switzerland does not have an officially established curriculum for music education on a national level. Each music school has to establish its own curriculum.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes between 30-60 minutes, and is given once a week. This applies to average instrumental/vocal group lessons too.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level.
- ⇒ Music school education is believed to provide students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education. This can be explained by the fact that music school teachers have had a good education at a 'Hochschule'.
- ⇒ Student progress is measured at some music schools in Switzerland, by examinations.
- ⇒ If a student's progress is judged as 'not sufficient', he or she can still not be dismissed from a music school.
- ⇒ Students who show exceptional talent cannot follow a special pathway.

Students

- ⇒ It is common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school. From 6 years of age, children can go to 'Musikalische Früherziehung' (music education for young children).
- ⇒ Children wanting to play a string instrument or piano or woodwinds usually start playing between 6 and 8 years of age. With playing brass instruments and improvised music/jazz/pop music or other instruments, children tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ The average starting age of vocal lessons lies between 6 and 10 years of age.
- ⇒ Students sometimes have to fulfil an entrance test to be admitted to a music school.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers who want to teach at a music school are required to have a professional qualification.
- ⇒ There is a system known where music school teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools. Pre-instrumental tuition is given in kindergarten and at primary schools. Children receive one or two lessons a week.

United Kingdom

Organisation: *Federation of Music Services*

www.federationmusic.org.uk

Organisation of music schools

- ⇒ The United Kingdom does not have a music school law.
- ⇒ There are four types of music schools: General Music Schools, Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A and B.
- ⇒ Most music schools under the first category are called “Music Services” and deliver much of their teaching in the state schools during the normal school day.
- ⇒ Almost every city or county has a music service. Most of these provide instrumental lessons for pupils in their schools. So a large secondary school might have as much as 30 hours of teaching which could include almost anything – orchestral and band instruments, guitars, steel pans etc. A primary school would probably have more limited provision. For most of these lessons which take place on a weekly basis the children will come out of their normal school class (maths, history etc) to attend their instrumental or singing lesson. The instrumental/singing lesson will probably be in a small group of 2, 3 or 4 children. As children get older and they are faced with examinations, more will have their lesson before or after school or over the school mid day break. In many schools parents will pay something towards this instrumental lesson but in most the cost will be subsidised to some extent. The majority of schools will have some sort of ensemble in which the children can play but in addition each music service will run one or more music centres which will operate in the evenings or at the weekends. Children can go to these to take part in orchestras, bands, choirs etc and in some cases to have a group or individual lesson. In some places, children who have made good progress in school will have the chance of additional tuition or individual tuition at the music centre.
- ⇒ General Music Schools (Music Services) aim their education mainly amateur education and some preparation for professional music training. Specialised Music Schools and Secondary level educational institutions specialised in Music A are aimed at amateur education as well as preparation for professional music training.
- ⇒ General Music Schools (Music Services) are affiliated to the Federation of Music Services.
- ⇒ The United Kingdom knows some private music schools as well. They are not different from ‘normal’ music services, but chose not to become a member of the Federation of Music Services.
- ⇒ Quality control/assurance of music schools is being implemented by the national music school union.
- ⇒ Students have to pay a tuition fee for the majority of music schools in the UK. It is possible, for unprivileged students, to get financial support. It is felt that tuition fees discourage students to take music lessons.

Curriculum

- ⇒ The UK does not have an officially established curriculum for music education. Consequently, music schools have to create their own curriculum. Many schools follow a curriculum based around one created by the Federation of Music Services called ‘A Common Approach’, but this is not formally established as the national curriculum. All mainstream schools (i.e. not music schools) have to follow the National Curriculum in Music.
- ⇒ An average instrumental/vocal one-to-one lesson takes 0-30 minutes, and is given normally once a week. The same applies to instrumental/vocal group lessons.

Link to professional music training

- ⇒ There are no formalised links between music schools and institutions that provide professional music training at higher education level. Most music schools design their curriculum to lead up towards the entrance level of professional music training and higher education level.
- ⇒ It is felt that music school education provides students with enough skills and knowledge to continue their studies in higher education.
- ⇒ The progress of a student is being measured at most music schools in the UK, through examinations and annual evaluations by teachers.
- ⇒ Students whose progress is judged as 'not sufficient' could be dismissed from a music school, although it would be very rare.
- ⇒ Exceptionally talented students can follow a special pathway.

Students

- ⇒ In the United Kingdom, it is becoming more and more common for children to start with pre-instrumental classes before starting with instrumental/vocal lessons at a music school.
- ⇒ The average starting age for strings/piano and woodwinds lies between 6 and 8 years of age. Children playing improvised music/jazz/pop music or brass instruments tend to start later; from 8 years of age onwards.
- ⇒ Children start vocal lessons, averagely, between 10 and 15 years of age.
- ⇒ Students sometimes have to fulfil an entrance exam to be admitted to a music school. In Music Services it will be just a test, for a specialist music school it will be a full exam.

Teachers

- ⇒ Teachers are required to have a professional qualification to be able to teach at music schools. However, in some cases they may be admitted without qualifications. It depends on the nature of the work they are doing.
- ⇒ The UK does not have a system where music schools teachers give structural music lessons in primary schools.