

REPORT

Re-thinking and Opening Curricula for Diverse Cultures

Pre-Congress Seminar with the members of the Diversity, Identity, Inclusiveness Working Group of the Creative Europe funded project “AEC - Strengthening Music in Society (SMS)”

On 4 November, the members of the [AEC-SMS Diversity, Identity, Inclusiveness Working Group](#) presented its second publication *Decentering Curricula: Questions for Re-evaluating Diversity and Inclusiveness in HMEIs* in the frame of the AEC Annual Congress 2020. It consists of a compendium of self-reflective questions aimed to challenge the ways of thinking of curricula from a diversity perspective within the Higher Music Education (HME) institutions, and follows up on *How are ‘diverse cultures’ integrated in the education of musicians across Europe?*, its first publication available [on the SMS website](#).

The presentation was delivered in a workshop format: *Re-thinking and Opening Curricula for Diverse Cultures*, as part of the pre-Congress programme. In this workshop, aimed to share experiences, challenging our own ideas and perspectives, WG members presented the questions to encourage participants to reflect on how to build healthy and diverse learning environments all across Europe and beyond. The session drawn on plenary and small breakout groups as follow:

- After a brief introduction in plenary by the WG members, participants were randomly split into breakout groups in order to introduce themselves and discuss #megatrends. *Decline in Concentration and Creative Thinking*, *Decreasing Biodiversity* and *Confusion is Power* broke the ice and got the conversation started. Right after, WG members connected the idea of megatrends with the WG’s work, and presented their publication in the main room.
- Participants were then split into breakout groups, pre-assigned taking into account their profiles and nationalities in order to privilegiate diverse experiences from different perspectives and backgrounds. Following the structure of the second publication, four rooms were created on the following questions:
 - What do we study? What do we teach?
 - How do we study? How do we teach?
 - Where do we study? Where do we teach?
 - Who is the student? Who is the teacher?
- A third round of breakout rooms kept the conversation going, this time focusing on linking the megatrends initially presented with the main questions of each room. Then, facilitators brought participants to the main room and summarized the ideas of the conversations.

Finally, a word cloud was displayed in order for participants to express their thoughts on what they would take away with them, which actions would take in their institutions after the session. This, together with the overall conversation and a collaborative document provided to participants to collect written feedback and reflections during and after the session, are the outcomes of the workshop and will contribute to the “[AEC - Strengthening Music in Society \(SMS\)](#)” project.

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