

Report on Regional meetings 2019

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Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Ukraine (Zdzisław Łapiński)

Attending: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine**

- 1.) At the Annual Congress in Torino only Armenia, Belarus and Poland were represented. Unfortunately, the other countries did not appear despite my personal invitation presenting a special program of travel bursaries. In Regional Meeting only representative of Polish Academies from Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Kraków, Łódź, Poznań, Wrocław and Chopin University in Warszawa took part. In addition there was young Spanish pianist, previously studying in Kraków and now in Lübeck - Guillermo Rodriguez (representing the Spanish, Polish and German students community!).
- 2.) The program of the Congress was evaluated not so high as previous ones in Zagreb and Graz - some presentations were not very interesting and there were too many activities in the same time.
- 3.) Last year meeting was dominated by the coming evaluation and this year the majority of Academies are already prepared for visit MusiQuE's experts.
- 4.) After short discussion about Sustainability Plan all Polish representatives accepted actions of AEC and fully support them.
- 5.) All Polish Rectors accept changes concerning new AEC language policy and are very satisfied with a possibility of translating important documents to more languages - they presented their opinion on the matter in Survey on AEC publications and their Translations sent in October.
- 6.) AEC goes green - this topic is difficult for Poland, because almost all our electrical energy comes from coal. All we can do is to create more energy-efficient buildings, reduce energy consumption and try to manage documents and procedures mainly electronically.
- 7.) Polish Rectors are rather cautious about EASY project, mainly because of uneven balance between costs and number of in and out-going students and they are waiting for the further development.
- 8.) All disputants were informed about new AEC project concerning Application Writing and will take into consideration in the future.
- 9.) The „joker” topic was: „What steps must be taken to increase professors and students interest in AEC actions”. We had a heated discussion, in which different solutions to this important problem were proposed, but we did not come to the definitive conclusion.

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia (Georg Schulz)

Attending

Austria

Graz Irene Hofmann-Wellenhof, Georg Schulz

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo Maja Ačkar Zlatarević

Croatia

Zagreb Anđelko Krpan

Hungary

Budapest Gyula Fekete, Orsolya Freytag, Julia Torda
Abel Fazekas (Student from the Netherlands with Hungarian roots)

Romania

Cluj-Napoca Nelida Nedelcut

Serbia

Belgrade Ivana Perković, Katarina Mitić

Novi Sad Zoran Krajišnik

Slovakia

Bratislava Katarina Haskova

- 1.) During the **introduction round** the group cordially welcomes to new vice-deans Anđelko from Zagreb and Katarina from Bratislava. There were two students present as well: Katrina, a PhD from Belgrade and Abel who studies in The Netherlands. Georg conveys the best greetings from Maja Ačkar from Sarajevo who tried hard to come but due to the Lufthansa strike was not able to.
- 2.) From the **minutes of last year** no new discussion came up.
- 3.) The group is happy with no **simultaneous translations**, and is questioning if Serbo-Croatian might be added to the list of languages in which essential documents are translated.
- 4.) The group decides to discuss in depth a **new application for a strategic partnership** about innovative orchestra education (EUphony). On 27.11.2019 there will be a preparatory meeting in Cluj to submit an application in March 2020. Besides Cluj, Belgrade, Ljubljana, Budapest and Graz are already part of the consortium. Representatives from Zagreb, Bratislava and Novi Sad show interest to (re-)join, but have to discuss this at their home universities. Georg will send them the last application written by Zagreb. Content wise it is discussed to cancel the tour especially because it is not fitting the funding scheme. There might be more than one concert at the academy that hosts the rehearsal period exploring new concert formats and audiences. Furthermore the selection of the students is discussed. For the application it is not possible to keep it open how many students come from which partner. Therefore deciding by the conductor after submitting videos is not possible. Every partner must take care of the best quality and preparation of its students.
- 5.) After the **new AEC statutes** were provided in English during our meeting the crucial points are discussed. The group sees no problems to decide on them at the General Assembly on Saturday.
- 6.) The group is happy about the **candidacy of Ivana Perković** for council. They will give her full support. If elected she could take over the responsibility of the group, because in 2020 Georg will end his second term as vice-president.

- 7.) Zoran introduces the idea of a **regional deans' conference** for former Yugoslavia to strengthen lobbying for music academies. Georg reports that he has done this for Austria together with a colleague on a personal initiative.
- 8.) In follow-up the **brainstorming session** Ivana asks in which academy there is musicology as well. Bratislava and Cluj are affirming. Because of time constraints the three representatives will discuss this topic during the coffee-break.

France and Luxembourg (Jacques Moreau)

The members of the group who were present at the Congress attended the regional meeting.

The discussion focused on the amendments to the Statutes, which were to be an important point of debate the next day.

The discussion showed that the general opinion of the group was rather close to the decisions adopted at the GA.

In relation to the discussion, the following remarks emerged:

- About the types of services that the AEC could ‘sell’ to members and non members: the association must be careful not to develop this policy to the detriment of the benefits currently offered to its members, in particular as regards the availability of the office team;
- Institutions that are most in need of services are also the most fragile: it is therefore essential to uphold the principle of solidarity.

Future Congress in Lyon

Next to the Lyon CNSMD -hosting the event- it seems important that ANESCAS should figure in a position and play a role yet to be defined.

Feedback on the Congress

Number of sessions: opinions are divided. Some consider there are too many sessions during the Congress and would rather see their number reduced. Others do not see that as an issue, since participants are free to choose which sessions they wish to attend.

Parallel sessions: These are generally well received. However, a few remarks were made:

- More sessions but fewer speakers per session to leave more time for discussion;
- Thematic sessions should be more focused;
- Ensure the quality level of the contributions.
- Specify the format of the session in advance: workshop, presentation, round table etc.

Germany, Switzerland and Austria (Elisabeth Gutjahr)

(approx. 40 participants)

1) Feedback on the Congress programme / content so far

In this year's planning of the congress, the fact that new formats are being offered (for example, the World Café in the parallel sessions) is proving to be a positive development. This leaves enough time for informal exchange.

Long plenary sessions are perceived as less constructive, as neither exchange nor discussion is possible there. This does not serve to further enlarge upon the topics of discussion. Therefore, the proposal is made to shorten the plenary format and then offer discussions in smaller groups/formats.

Some participants have brought up the issue of the AEC's political impact and whether it is being used to the best possible effect. The President's reports could be more explicit on this issue.

A note in passing: In the congress reader, the German and French translations are frequently incorrect this time. Sometimes whole sentences are wrong.

2) Report of last year's regional meeting

The 2018 minutes clearly summarise the main concerns.

3) How to prioritise and further develop ongoing AEC activities

The priorities in the Action Plan 2020 are generally endorsed.

On the subject of linguistic diversity, it is again pointed out that linguistic diversity is precisely an essential part of what Europe is. It is unfortunate when, for practical reasons, everything is done in English, leaving those at a disadvantage who are less proficient in conversing in English. However, participants can also relate to the motive for this decision. Written translation into multiple languages is emphatically advocated.

The AEC has decided to go green. How important is this initiative for your institution? What specific proposals do you have with regard to this issue? What contribution can each individual member make to contribute to sustainable climate and environmental policy?

The Regional Group has specifically addressed this issue and discussed how the AEC can best meet this principle through congress organisation and other measures.

The following options are put forward and discussed:

- a. The annual congress (or other forums) is held via digital media. This would have the advantage of significantly reducing travel activities. However, one would then have to do without the valuable personal encounters.
- b. At the annual congress, much more attention could be paid to sustainable food catering: Coffee capsules, disposable cups, etc. should be avoided.
- c. Since all music academies regularly host events, there would be a common interest here in green guidelines for the organisation of such events. The AEC could take the lead in this respect.

4) AEC services which could be further developed

The European online Application System (EASY)

EASY is used by some German institutions. After initial teething problems (e.g. with data protection), the experience gained has now been assessed positively. Digital audio and presentation techniques could be improved significantly, since still a lot of time gets lost in their application. This is annoying and unprofessional and is ultimately negatively attributed to the AEC. The offer of DreamApply should be further developed.

Pilot project to support in Application Writing for European project funds

So far, only the Cologne Hochschule für Musik und Tanz has used this application service. The support provided by the AEC is generally viewed favourably, although the process is still in the course of development. The Regional Group takes note of this service with great interest and expressly advocates it.

5) Do you have any 'Joker' topics?

On a side note:

The Regional Group is asked to provide the students at their institutions with more information about the AEC and what it offers. The question arises as to why so few students from German-speaking countries are active in the AEC. The AEC provides financial support for students. This year (2019) the fund was not fully used.

Italy (Lucia di Cecca)

Attending

Delegates from the Conservatories of Bari, Brescia, Castelfranco Veneto, Catania, Cosenza, Firenze, Genova, L'Aquila, Messina, Milano, Monopoli, Novara, Padova, Parma, Roma, Salerno, Torino, Udine, Venezia, Verona, Vicenza.

Introduction

Regional meetings are extremely important for the AEC as they give the opportunity to the members of a specific geographic area (in our case, Italy) to share a detailed feedback on the Congress and more generally on the activities carried out by the Association, and to make proposals. Moreover, this year the Council asks for a feedback on a few specific topics; Lucia sent by email to all the Italian participants the points to be discussed. One point has to be discussed first, and it is about the Statutes.

Statutes

Some changes are going to be presented during the General Assembly and the approval will be requested. The formal version of the Statutes is in French and unfortunately versions in different languages have just arrived. They are available on Whova. Paper copies are delivered. Lucia explains the proposed changes. During the meeting the President will first ask if they feel ready to vote on the new Statutes; only in case the majority feels ready, they will be asked to vote, otherwise everything will be postponed.

Report of last year's regional meeting => what AEC has done about what was expressed

There is a general satisfaction about how the AEC took into consideration the proposals expressed during the past Italian regional meeting, as it happened for the request by the Director of the Conservatory of Parma about a concrete support in designing a project (a pre-conference workshop was organized). On the other side, it was not possible to include pre-conference workshops within the event, as it was asked by another delegate.

Feedback on the Congress programme/content so far

The Director of the Conservatory of Torino underlines that the student in the panel of the Friday plenary session was a pop one, sitting near representatives from educational and production bodies, and complains that there was not a classic music one, which, according to him, is sort of nonsense.

There is a general dissatisfaction for the session about research, especially expressed by the delegate from Florence. The session was quite shallow, and poorly contributive to clarify what artistic research is. It is also debated (by the Director of Torino) that we need a clear definition and that the examples given during the session, although not so convincing, were understandable, and clarity is essential if we want to characterize artistic research; this challenge will also reflect on doctorates and more generally on the third level of music studies. It is underlined (by the Director of Rome) the urgent need to get clear and distinctive guidelines so to avoid any misunderstanding. The Director of Milan reminds that this is the aim of EPARM; University can take advantage from standardized paradigms, we

need to elaborate ours; Milan is working on this direction, and a call was launched for projects presented by teachers and students; the AEC could be very helpful providing guidelines and clear examples. Anna Maria Bordin (Genova) reminds two very important documents, also in Italian on RAMI website: the White Paper, by the AEC and very clear, and the Frascati Manual (2015); the Frascati Manual is extremely important because for the first time Artistic Research is listed as a research which is useful for humanity and to be sustained by governments; the profile is not so precise but with many information. It is underlined (by the Director of Rome) that not to have comprehensive documents cannot be an excuse for waiting for a definition which we should look for by ourselves; sometimes we should also have the courage to say no.

To summarize, research seems to be an extremely sensitive and current topic, which deserves much attention. It also means that attention has to be given to the choice of presentations, since the whole discussion is born from a session on research that was not convincing; it is also noted that the evaluation of a session includes the quality of the content, on the one hand, and the effectiveness of communication, on the other. It is suggested (by the Director of Milan) to invite as speakers representatives of institutions with the third level. It is observed that the AEC gave great attention to AR in the past, but afterwards focused on other topics; probably the AEC should not consider the problem as “solved”, but should continue to propose and develop it, by inviting institutions that ALSO have the third level and not ONLY the third level, because the perspective can be deeply different as well as the mission of the institution. The delegate from Salerno proposes to draw on existing experiences so to avoid getting stuck.

Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and Action Plan 2020

No observation are made

Language policy

Lucia asks the participants if they feel comfortable with the new language policy. One delegate does not approve the decision to discontinue the simultaneous translation because he does not know English and has to ask for support from another delegate. Understanding is made even more difficult by the speed with which speakers speak. Slides can help a lot. It is suggested by all the participants to prepare sort of “code of conduct” for speakers: they should talk a clear and simple international English, at a moderate speed, and they should use slides.

The reader has become increasingly heavy year after year, and this year it is really weighty; moreover, the quality of the layout and even the translation is not entirely satisfactory. It is proposed to receive only the programme in paper form; all the reader could be available through Whova; the proposal is put to the vote. Ten delegates declare that they prefer to have the paper copy, so the suggestion to the AEC is to keep the choice between online documents and paper copies.

Environmental sustainability

The AEC has recently decided to go green and is looking for good examples to share. Lucia asks what happens in the different institutions.

The student from Florence reports that in his Conservatory students had asked for drinking water dispensers so to eliminate plastic bottles, but the request was rejected for the costs of installing the dispensers; he is wondering if the AEC could support economically this need. The Director of Torino reports that his Conservatory is gradually eliminating the use of plastic cups, and also bottles will be gradually eliminated, with the hope of encouraging producers to use biodegradable plastic. The catering for the Congress was chosen also with regard to the materials which were used. It is reminded that it is possible to use tap water and that the solution can be a reusable bottle brought from home or a personal mug to keep inside the institution.

It is suggested to dedicate a short session to the topic during future events, which could help increase a new mentality.

EASY

EASY is considered a good service, although not used by all present; there are delegates who are considering the possibility to join the system.

Support in application writing

No Italian used the support in application writing/reviewing but it is considered a useful and interesting service.

Suggestions for other services and other topics for discussions

The delegate from Parma recalls the idea to support students' short mobilities. It is announced that the new Call and the new Guide have just been published and mobility has maintained the same characteristics.

The delegate from Bari hopes for an active role of the AEC in facilitating and supporting the creation of partnerships: it is often difficult to find institutions available to participate in new partnerships and the AEC can help a lot. Lucia reminds that the Information Forum can be used to announce a new project and ask for new partners. A specific session for facilitating the search for partners is proposed.

It is also launched the idea of a specific page of the AEC website for finding internships; it is reminded that it already exists, but it can be increased.

At the end of the meeting, Roberto (student WG) thanks all the students who are participating in the meeting and asks institutions and directors to support and send their students to all the AEC events.

Nordic and Baltic countries (Kaarlo Hildén)

The Regional meeting was opened by Secretary General of the Association of Nordic Music Academies, Claus Olesen, introducing the new members and explaining the connection between the ANMA and the AEC regional meeting. Kaarlo Hildén continued and explained the role of the regional meetings as a part of the dialogue with the AEC membership and the importance of hearing the concerns, ideas, wishes and feedback institutional representatives may have in relation to the development of the services and activities the AEC provide for.

1. Conference feedback

- a. The **2nd Plenary Session on Friday** was discussed. The comment was made that the higher music education institutions needs to take a more proactive role in defining the possible futures of the orchestral musician and the concept of the symphony orchestra in general. This should be done in close and ongoing dialogue with the sector. The need for proactivity and collaboration should be better reflected in sessions such as this one. ANMA had this as a theme in the meeting in Bergen some years ago, and the discussion should be continued.
- b. It was noted that we need to better **connect artistic research with our core activities and external partners & society**. There is a danger that AR becomes too isolated both within our institutions and towards external partners. This is a theme that could be valuable to discuss in an upcoming AEC event.
- c. Student representatives commented that some of the **small meetings could be more effective and general sessions more beneficial**. The methodology of organizing such a congress could be looked upon innovatively. There were too few leaders in the pre-congress session on strengthening the society in your institution, which weakened the possibilities and outcomes. As this theme is seen as a very important one, this session should in the future be part of the actual congress program in order to enable a more balanced and fruitful discussion of the theme. In many cases the students were still only participants in the sessions - too few students were on stage.
- d. How **to innovatively cope with the ongoing budget cuts** many institutions are experiencing could be a theme for a future session.

2. New Statutes

- a. The situation with the **delay of the translation** of the new statutes, the main changes made and the options for the GA were explained.
- b. The changes seemed not to be very dramatic from the point of view of the Nordic-Baltic institutions, but as the translations had not arrived, it was difficult to discuss the issue further. If the translations would not arrive in time, the only options are to make the approval online or postpone the decision to the next GA. The translations arrived at the end of the meeting and it was explained how the new materials can be found on the website or within the Whova-app.

3. Other ideas, wishes, concerns or feedback

- a. No comments were made

4. Martin Prchal held a short presentation of the MusiQuE and the recent developments.

5. ANMA Thematic Day: Sustainability in Music Education

- a. Claus Olesen presented the theme and opened the discussion on the topic. A bootcamp will be held by the Act In Art -network just before the meeting. Institutions are encouraged to send at least one student. There are some grants available in case institutions are not able to cover the costs. More information will be available on the NordPlus Music website.

6. NordPlus

- a. Keld Hosbond presented the NordPlus, the different networks and their relation to the ANMA. It has been decided that the annual NordPlus-meeting will be organized together with the ANMA-meeting, allowing for synergy and savings.

7. ANMA Mentorship program

- a. Claus Olesen presented the program - who is it for, how you can apply and where can you find information. Participants were encouraged to make use of the system and inform possible mentees of this opportunity.

Spain and Portugal (Iñaki Sandoval)

Attending

AEC

Stefan Gies, Chief Executive Officer

Alfonso Guerra, Membership and Finance Coordinator

Portugal

Porto (ESMAE): Pereira Bruno

Spain

BARCELONA Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu - ESTAPÉ Víctor; MARTÍNEZ ROJAS María Fernanda; SERRAT MARTIN María

BARCELONA Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) - BAECKER Rolf

BARCELONA Taller de Músics - GASPARD Jordi

MADRID Centro Superior Katarina Gurska - GURKSA Katarina; SITZ GENTO Cristina

MADRID Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía - GUIBERT Álvaro, VIÑUELA Esther

MADRID Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid - AUSEJO SISAMON César

MURCIA Conservatorio Superior de Música "M. Massotti" - TORRES Miguel

OVIEDO Conservatorio Superior de Música "E. M. Torner" - AGÜERIA Fernando

PAMPLONA Conservatorio Superior de Música de Navarra - ESCAURIAZA Julio

SALAMANCA Conservatorio Superior de Música de Castilla y León - GARCÍA-LÓPEZ María José

SAN SEBASTIÁN Musikene - Centro Superior de Música del País Vasco, IÑARGA Miren

SEVILLA Conservatorio Superior de Música "Manuel Castillo" - BÁEZ CERVANTES Santiago José; SÁNCHEZ LÓPEZ Israel

TENERIFE Conservatorio Superior de Música de Canarias - PIA Roberto

VALENCIA Berklee College of Music - BARBERA Clara, MARTÍNEZ ITURRIAGA María

VALENCIA Conservatorio Superior de Música de Valencia - PINA Miguel, BELTRÁN Juan Ramón

VIGO Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo - FERNÁNDEZ José Luis; GASPARD GRANDAL Jacobo, VALVERDE CORRALES Esteban

Students

BARCELONA, GONZÁLEZ DELGADO Isabel

MADRID, LIMA GUERRERO David

MADRID, ANTÓN CÁMARA Alejandro

MADRID, ARRILLAGA María José

OPORTO, SOUSA Ana

Group coordinator: Iñaki Sandoval (University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy, Estonia), AEC council member

II. MEETING CONTENTS

**AEC Chief Executive Officer was present only for the first topic.*

The Regional meeting was opened jointly by Iñaki Sandoval (AEC Council member) and Stefan Gies (AEC Chief Executive), explaining the role of the session as a part of the dialogue and flow of information between the AEC and its members. Here there was room for the concerns, ideas and wishes institutional representatives may have in relation to the development of the services and activities the AEC provides. Also, it was the time to collect

feedback from the overall organization of the 46th AEC Annual Congress and General Assembly 2019 hosted by the Conservatorio di Musica “Giuseppe Verdi” di Torino.

Stefan started the conversation stating that is good to talk about how the AEC supports the situation in Spain. He offers full support in conversations with the government and institutions. Regarding the General Assembly, the main topic is the revision of the statutes (French version is the original one because of the Belgian law). On the other hand, Iñaki informed the newcomers that, unfortunately, the meeting scheduled with the Spanish education ministry, ACESEA and AEC in Madrid in March 2019, was cancelled. Stefan and the AEC Council are aware of the situation. Iñaki opened a round of questions.

María Serrat Martín (General Manager, Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu, Barcelona; ACESEA President) starts with an overview of ACESEA developments and activities during the year, in relation with the negotiations with the education ministry about the law for the Arts in Higher Education in Spain. She asks about HME models that exist in Europe.

Stefan claims to be patient until having a stable government situation in Spain, in order to have a reliable way to direct the negotiations. There are different models through Europe in how to do HME: the common point of all of them is that they are not on the same level that a university but advocate for the same recognition. This is still the main problem in Higher Education, even though 60 years ago, none of the conservatoires in Europe had the situation they have right now. He gives a recent example of a Southern European country, the Pôlle Supérieur (France), whose recognition was possible thanks to the partnership they have with the local university.

Iñaki highlights that the AEC gives full support to the Spanish institutions in the negotiations with the government, both political and as international expert and main representative of European institutions.

About the main point of the GA, Stefan informs that there is a need to renew the statutes. The main reason is to create a newly shape for the set of memberships. Here, he explained briefly the new membership modalities that would be presented for voting during the GA. Not individual members (full membership) but different categories (HME outside Europe, associated membership with no HME, not delivering education (festival), affiliate membership, etc.) - not substantial changes. Other adjustments that will be attempted are how to involve students in the Council and some other small technical changes (for example, Stefan’s role as Executive Secretary instead of CEO).

Stefan Gies leaves the room. From this point on, the meeting was held in Spanish.

Round table of introductions

Iñaki highlights the increasing number of Spanish member institutions participating actively within the AEC Working Groups and related activities, with a total of 6 members, double than last year. This is very important in terms of being represented and informed, internationalization of our institutions, and to influence the future developments of the AEC. Álvaro Guibert, from Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, has applied as candidate for new member of the council in the upcoming election tomorrow at the GA. We have also a notable participation of students.

Discussion topics

1. Feedback on the Congress programme / content so far

The topic "Re-imagining Success?" was indeed quite interesting, but not the way it was presented and discussed. It is the general feeling that the debates were lacking of methodology and concrete outcomes, with no specific information and conclusions at the end of the sessions.

The feedback for the keynote speaker, Alfonso Karabuda, is that although the presentation was full of interesting points and data, it was really boring and old-fashioned approach, not helping to the energetic and motivational opening expected from the keynote session. PA sound system was not working properly (not only in this session but during the whole congress) making even more difficult for the attendees to understand and focus on the presentation.

2. Report of last year's regional meeting => what AEC has done about what was expressed (see the Reader for the Report)

Everyone agreed. No comment about it.

3. How to prioritise and further develop ongoing AEC activities

- 2 years ago, the GA adopted a **Strategic Plan 2016-2021**, from which an action plan for 2020 is derived. **Does your regional group / institution support the prioritisation as proposed in the draft Action Plan 2020?**

General comments are quite negative about the quality of this year's congress, being one of the worse of the last years, both in content and organizational matters:

- Logistic has been very deficient.
- Sessions should be shorter and more concrete.
- This model of Congress it is not attractive for the participants, it is needed to find a new model.
- Lack of goals on most of the sessions.
- Discussion doesn't normally follow what has been introduced in the briefing.
- No conclusions and clear goals to unify the criteria of the speakers.
- There have not been separated parallel sessions for newcomers (i.e. some of them don't even know what EPARM is).
- Parallel sessions should be less in number and limited, so the participants can attend most of them. And with 3-4 speakers, no more, with the same time to talk.
- More important and active role of the moderator in the discussions, controlling the time and direction of the talks, making questions which bring the speakers close to the topic, and making final remarks.
- Women presenters in this Congress are quite a few if compared with men.

Common agreement and willingness from the Spanish/Portuguese members to be more involved in the elaboration of the next Congress program, with a transparent and shared open call with enough time to prepare and contribute.

4. The AEC is undergoing a process of revising its **Language Policy**. Upon resolution of the GA made in 2018, providing simultaneous translation at the AEC Congress has been discontinued. **What are your first experiences with this modification? What expectations and suggestions do you have regarding the further development of the AEC language policy (see proposal in Congress reader)?**

Iñaki reports that, as of this year, the measure of not having simultaneous translators to save on budget has been implemented. Given this, the general comment was to provide with a proper PA sound system for the sessions. Also, a survey has been sent to ask members what publications they would like to have in Spanish (relevant for the high number of Spanish speaking members).

The AEC has decided to **go green**. How important is this initiative for your institution? **What specific proposals do you have with regard to this issue? What contribution can each individual member make to contribute to a sustainable climate and environmental policy?**

Everyone agreed. No comment about it.

5. AEC services which could be (further) developed

- The **European online Application System (EASY)** to facilitate staff and student mobility soon enters its fifth year. In the last years, big steps have been made towards the **Digitisation of Erasmus Procedures**, but also in further developing a European music specific campus management system. **Does your institution support this development? What are your needs/challenges in this regard?**

The general feedback about EASY is that it is a really practical tool. Everyone is happy with this service, as it makes a big difference and facilitates the flow of information between institutions. For the students it also makes the task much easier. Some members are interested in EASY being able to host other facets of mobility, such as teaching practices and / or mobility.

- The AEC is currently running a pilot project to support its members in **Application Writing** and submitting applications for European project funds as a fee-based service. **Are you aware of this project, and might such a service be relevant to your institution in the long term?**

Everyone agreed. No comment about it.

- **What kind of other services could AEC develop which you/your institution would need and be willing to pay for?** Workshops (on which topic)? Collection of data (which data?), etc.

Students of the Escuela de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid, ask for more scientific rigor and methodology in the contents of the parallel sessions. More attention should be paid to the communication and information provided to people under 30 in reference to technology. "There is no foundation in the sessions, nor digitalization, nor diversity, nor rigor or actual interest".

Another proposal is that part of the Congress could be used as a class, parallel session in class format, to learn new capabilities that can then be implemented in their institutions.

6. Do you have any 'Joker' topics?

Mobility between Spanish institutions

Slack (software) as a communication tool for Spanish-Portuguese Congress attendants

The Netherlands and Belgium (Harrie van den Elsen)

Attending

Eline Accoe, Marcel Andriessen, Christian Boel, Kathleen Coessens, Monica Damen, Peter Dejans, Joop van Deuren, Harrie van den Elsen (*chair*), Ruth Fraser, Jasper Grijpink, Raf de Keninck, Martien Maas, Bart Meuris, Luc Nijs, Jos Schillings, Laurien Timmermans, Marlon Titre, Mark Vondenhoff (*minutes*)

2. Minutes previous meeting (Graz)

- Kathleen Coessens mentions she was at the meeting last year but is not in the list of attendees.
- Minutes have been approved by all.
- Thanks to Pieter Schoonderwoerd for providing the minutes.

3. Reflections on the 2019 Congress to date

- The wish to not only involve students but also teachers in the annual congress is discussed. We realise there is a capacity issue (this year big number of attenders), but we have the feeling we are missing an important layer of our institutes if we only involve deans, management and students.
- This is the first annual meeting where there are no translations at the congress. It is not experienced as a great success. Native speakers should be more aware of their speaking; translations should be back in the congress. Quality of audio was also not helping understand the speakers all the time.
- Quality of sessions is of different level. Some suggestions were made:
 - Please take the time to check if everything (incl. sound) works.
 - Titles/subjects have sometimes been adjusted by others then the ones who brought up/were presenting the session; they did not sometimes recognise the subject they brought up
 - May be allow a maximum (of 30?) participants at active sessions to facilitate a better discussion
 - Better directives for speakers (Harrie reacts on behalf of the ExCom explaining that improvement has been made and it has the attention of the organisation)
 - Reduce the number of presenters in each session (it was the experience that when there were less presenters in a session, the quality of the session was better)
- It was also commonly acknowledged that improvement over the years can be seen. We could also all be involved more by giving presentations ourselves as members of the AEC.
- Keynote Speech was ok from the point of view of presentation and audibility. The content was slightly old-fashioned.
- There is a positive feeling about the input of the students (40 in total); very valuable in the smaller group discussions. Students seem to have clear thoughts (i.e. about curriculum building issues). Contribution to the opening session of the students was impressive.
- Big number of attenders is a success, but also a threat. There is a maximum number of enrolments.
- Congress next year will be in Antwerp.
- Catering: day 1 was complicated. Quality is ok.
- Sustainability should be even more on the agenda. We have to keep thinking about it. Suggestion was made to hold several congresses at the same time on different locations with internet connections etc so people have to travel less, and we still

can share discussion on one or more topics. One strong aspect of a 'live congress' is of course meeting each other which you then will miss. To be discussed!

- About the SMS-theme:
 - Involved in working groups makes members more involved (most of the conservatoires present are in one way or another involved in working groups of the AEC)
 - There is improvement possible regarding more involvement in broader AEC-subjects
 - We have a small discussion if SMS should not be SCMS with a C for Classical because we seem to focus only on Classical Music. Are we not thinking too much from the Northern-Western point of view for Classical Music? Could/should we not be much more open to non-Western input?
 - From the point of view for future work for our students: we seem to still focus a lot (only) on symphony orchestras. There is a wish to broaden the professional perspective in the AEC discussions.

4. Changes in the statutes of the AEC

Harrie mentions the 3 'major' changes:

1. An extra form of membership will be added (affiliate)
2. Role of the CEO in the Council/ExCom
3. Some minor changes (such as voting digitally)

All changes seem to be clear to the attendees.

5. Any other business

No other issues were brought up.

Turkey, Greece and Israel (Linda Messas, replacing Ingeborg Radok Žádná)

United Kingdom and Ireland (Deborah Kelleher)

In attendance were representatives from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal College of Music, University of Leeds, Leeds College of Music, Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Amendments to AEC statutes

The minor amendments to the AEC Statutes were amended and the group confirmed willingness to vote on same at the AEC General Assembly.

Affiliate/associate membership - the centrality of the conservatoires in the AEC as full members, and the power that this focus has, was seen as a core strength.

Reflections on Turin Congress

Some very positive experiences in meeting colleagues, having the opportunity to talk in open sessions and innovations such as the world café style.

The size of the Congress (c. 400) made it difficult to meet colleagues, and bonding was a challenge outside the training days.

An explanation of the many acronyms in the Congress reader was suggested.

It was difficult to hear some speakers due to acoustics, and this was a challenge, especially in the year where the simultaneous translation had gone. Being audible in the future was regarded as a priority.

Due to the size of the Congress, it was suggested that future locations might have quiet spaces to get out of the buzz and noise. Mindfulness classes, or moments of this type could be helpful.

Some of the attendees were uneasy that there was no clear outcome from many of the sessions. 'What's the plan?' Others were comfortable with the 'slow burn' approach to large projects - giving issues time to mature.

Going green - this was approved of, but more could be done at the Congress itself. Noted were the use of a lot of paper; single use plastic bottles and cups. Perhaps an impact assessment of all congresses/platforms might be done? That said, the group was in favour of physically meeting their colleagues.

General situation for UK and Ireland conservatoires

Brexit is a big issue as all institutions are in 'contingency mode'

The decline of young people studying music at school has had an effect on applications that is being felt by all conservatoires in UK.

Widening participation is a goal, but the challenge is succeeding in that - the definition of success here needs to be careful, though the institutions that had hard targets found that they helped.

MusiQuE

MusiQuE is a very valuable organisation, but the group suggests a name change, and a move into other disciplines (which has begun in a small way already). The name implies music only and can be off-putting for multi-discipline institutions who want to use the service.

AEC Platforms

The two platforms which were found to be particularly useful were EPARM (allowing research to become visible) and PJP (the pluralism of curriculum).

Students

10% of the Congress were students and this was seen as a positive. The student attendees liked the themes of SMS because they harmonised with their own aims. They saw women leaders at the Congress which was positive as a message.

Associate Members (Bernard Lanskey)

Attendees:

Bernard Lanskey, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore (Chair)
Adrian Walter, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts
Brenda Ravenscroft, Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Canada
Dan Dressen, NASM, USA
Don McLean, University of Toronto Faculty of Music, Canada
Francis Perron, Universite de Montreal
Gretchen Amussen, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts
Jacqui Smith, Sydney Conservatorium, Australia
Jade Shi Yu Tan, Hannover University of Music, Germany & YST alumni, Singapore
Jenny Ang, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore
Joseph Bowman, Mahidol College of Music, Thailand
Karen Moynahan, NASM, USA
Lee Cioppa, Colburn Conservatory of Music, USA
Mist Thorkelsdottir, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California, USA
Narong Prangcharoen, Mahidol College of Music, Thailand
Pauline Chan, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts
Rob Cutietta, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California, USA
Shahanum Mohd Shah, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
Thomas Novak, New England Conservatory, USA
Xavier Bouvier, Geneva HEM, Switzerland

Notes from meeting

1. Council Representative (Bernard Lanskey) shared that there were some updates to the AEC statutes which were distributed at the meeting.
2. The meeting discussed:

What value AEC brings to Associate Members:

- Access to resources and services e.g. MusiQuE
- A platform/network for meeting old friends and new connections, discuss projects and seek partnerships
- Conversations and interactions between Europe and rest of the world remains important. However, conversations on global issues could also be led from outside Europe. Some members gave examples of conversations/networks that are already being led outside of Europe (and the need to involve Europe was not particularly strong)

What AEC could do more:

- We continue to look towards Europe for answers for classical music; Europe could articulate what is the value classical music outside of Europe
- Is Europe/AEC only discussing western classical music?
- Put more effort and directionality to send students out of Europe
- Enable associate members to also lead dialogues for AEC (which could enrich debates) and to join certain council meetings

- Make greater connections to the industry (lack of industry reps at congress). Some discussion also continued about the role of conservatories in/for the music industry and that it seemed easier to work with the industry than conservatories (risk of conservatory/higher ed networks being too closed in)
- A need for inclusion of other voices (current AEC associate membership fee prohibits diversity)

Bernard posed further questions for the meeting for reflection:

- *What real engagement with the AEC could look like*
- *Do members want to lead a dialogue*
- *What are other equivalent network/groups outside of Europe*

There was a strong perception from the group that many of the questions beginning to be raised here were already much more present beyond Europe than within Europe. Some members voiced that such topics are indeed probably best led from outside, not least in terms of how they would be received by potential partners beyond Europe.