

INFO-BULLETIN based on the 11th Meeting of the EMU Presidium on 5 and 6 March 2010 in Velenje, Slovenia

Present were: Gerd Eicker (president), Paolo Ponzecchi (vice-president), Katalin Asztai, Marion van der Hoeven, Timo Klemettinen, Viktor Zadnik, Gerrie Koops (secretary general, report).

Excused were: Helena Maffli

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Opening and welcome by the president, Gerd Eicker. He thanked the Slovenian Association 'Zveza Slovenskih Glasbenih Sol' and the Fran Korun Koželjski Music School, Velenje for their hospitality and for arranging the meeting. The president referred to the meeting just before with Mr. Srečko Meh, mayor of Velenje and Anton Savnik, president of the Slovenian Association, who are interested in organising a European Youth Music Festival in the region of Velenje within some years.

Helena Maffli is unable to join the meeting because of private circumstances.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes and action list presidium meeting in Essen in December 2009 (appendix 1).

The minutes were approved.

Referring to the motions enclosed in the minutes and the action list and not mentioned in the agenda:

. European Youth Music Festival in Austria: all participants received a very nice DVD and booklet some weeks ago.

. Working programme and budget 2010: no objections have been received and the working programme and budget 2010 can be considered as approved (appendix 2).

. Publication 'Music Schools in Europe': the text for the publication is nearly written and will be translated into English and French (by Pierre Kolp) and submitted for the final check during the GA. Members will be asked to send a photo (obligation free) which can be included in the booklet.

. The working group 'Co-operation between music schools and the other arts' will meet next coming days. Harry Rishaug will report on the activities of the working group during our GA in Essen.

3. EMU's General Assembly and Conference 'Music Education in Europe – Music For All', Essen, Germany 13 - 16 May 2009

The invitation has been sent to all members.

The VdM will send the final remarks on the programme schedule within some weeks.

Household Matters: the presidium accepted the proposal to nominate Timo Veijola as honorary member of EMU.

All speakers and presenters of the projects accepted EMU's invitation. Presenters of the projects will be asked to join the working groups.

Philippe Dalarun, (French-speaking group focusing on Projecte 4Cordes), Klaus Beck (German-speaking group focusing on JeKI/JeKiss), Alexandar Djuric (English-speaking group focusing on Progetto Musica and Leerorkest) will be asked to lead one of the working groups. Marion will also lead one of the English-speaking working groups (focusing on Wider Opportunities and JeKiSti)

Gerd has prepared guidelines for the discussion in the working groups, which will be sent to the leaders beforehand.

4. Financial results 2009 and balance per 31 December 2009

The presidium approved the financial results 2009 and balance per 31 December 2009.

The documents will be sent to the auditors.

5. General Assembly and Conference in May 2011

Estonia informed EMU that they are able to organise the General Assembly and Conference in 2011. The date has been moved on the presidium's proposal to 26 – 29 May 2011.

The presidium accepted the proposed theme for the Conference: "The Future of Music Education in Europe - Further Development Music Schools" based on a research in Finland last year (appendix 8).

Members will be asked to prepare 6-8 questions beforehand; Timo will prepare the basic questions, such as: What are the values?; What are the goals?; How are the values reflected in quality systems?; How do they evaluate their quality?; What are the results?

6. Seminar for music school directors 'European Leadership Training' in Sindelfingen in October 2010 and proposal for a follow-up in the coming years (appendix 3a and 3b)

The invitation will be sent to all members at the end of April.

7. EMU4YOU

Gerd will ask Mathias Mendl, director of the music school in Winnenden (a participant in the pilot group since December) to act as project leader for emu4you and to develop a marketing plan.

8. European Youth Music Festival 2012

Slovenia:

Viktor explained that the Slovenian association has set up a working group and a festival committee in which 6 cities should be involved. The ministry may offer € 50,000 in support, but so far no concrete response has been received from the cities around Velenje.

Italy:

Paolo declared that Italy (the Region Emilia-Romagna) would be able to organise the festival in 2012.

He handed over official letters from the Region Emilia Romagna, Provincia di Ravenna, Provincia di Forli-Cesena and the Provincia di Ferrara.

The Region Emilia-Romagna would like to organise the festival in spring 2012 under the condition of reducing the festival size to 4500 participants (900 from Italy and 3600 from abroad).

A budget plan will be handed out during the GA in Essen.

The presidium is very pleased with the Italian application and decided that Italy will be nominated to the GA in Essen to organise the XI European Youth Music Festival in 2012.

The presidium will also propose to the GA the following amendments to the minimum requirements for organising a festival:

. To raise the participation fee from € 85 since 2005 to € 95 per 2012 (article 3.2)

. To add to article 3.4: 'Under certain circumstances it may be possible to have a reduced number of participants. It should be proposed to the EMU presidium beforehand, which will then make the final decision'.

9. Proposal to participate in the EMC-MuST project (Music and Societal Tasks)

EMU has been asked to participate as partner in the EMC-MuST project and has sent a first positive reply.

Timo explained the background and aims of the project:

European societies are challenged by diverse factors, such as migration, demographic change, climate change and globalisation. Music and music politics offer possibilities to face these challenges and to perceive them as opportunities. The European Agenda for Culture in a Globalized World as well as the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions offer arguments that strengthen the role of music in the political and societal sphere. The project MuST aims to raise awareness of the Agenda and the Convention and the opportunities offered. MuST will offer capacity building workshops and discussion platforms for EMC members and partners, addressing questions as: What are the advantages provided by the UNESCO Convention and the European Agenda for the music sector? How can you use the arguments given in those documents for advocacy work?

MuST will address political decision makers on local, national and European levels to take measures ensuring musical diversity. MuST will contribute to the promotion of musical diversity with practical music activities.

EMC will be responsible for the whole project; EMU will be responsible – in case EMU receives EU funding – for their own project. Applications should be submitted before the summer. Start of the project is in 2011.

The presidium accepted the proposal to apply for project funding for the MuST project. Katalin offered to help with the application.

10. How should we develop EMU with the help of EU operational funding?

Timo explained that the discussion paper (appendix 10) is intended as a starting point for the discussion.

An EMU Vision-Mission-Activity plan is needed when applying for EU operational funding. The deadline is 15 September, which means that the documents should be ready before summer holiday.

To build up projects and the organisation, it is recommended to apply for 3 years.

Marion remarked that EMU should also discuss the risk management of EU funding.

Gerd underlined that, if EMU receives EU funding, it must take care to ensure its survival if the funding ends. The general secretary should be able to continue the basic work in the office without any EU funding.

The presidium discussed the first ideas on the Vision-Mission and Activities of EMU for the coming years. The presidium decided that a working group - Gerd, Timo, Marion, Katalin - will prepare a (draft) strategy plan (with vision/mission and the values of EMU) and after that an action plan.

Katalin, who is experienced in EU applications, will take care of the final application to the EU (5 to 7 working days).

The basic method to work out our vision and tasks will be by identifying the 20 most important points (5 per issue), which are based on the following - already existing - documents/papers:

Gerd: Weimar declaration

Timo: what is relevant for music education in the Unesco convention

Katalin: roadmap

Marion: changes in society; what does it mean for our mission

All presidium members should send proposals for the action plan before 12 April.

Gerrie will collect all papers, which will be discussed further in Essen.

Timo will inform Helena.

11. EMU secretariat per 2011

The 4-yearly contract with Kunstconnectie concerning the general secretary will expire per 1 January 2011.

The presidium decided to ask Kunstconnectie to extend the contract until the end of 2014.

12. Presidium elections in May 2011

Gerd asked board members about their interest to continue per 2011. However, the nomination should be supported by the national association, since they are providing for the travel expenses.

After that a discussion started on the maximum period for presidium members.

To solve the problem in future, the presidium has the opinion that the statutes should be changed to a limited numbers of years: 3 or 2 times 3 years. The elections should also be more open. *However, a proposal to change the statutes should be done by the new board. In the meantime members will be asked – at the end of the household matters in Essen – to also nominate new young persons to the presidium.*

13. EMU news / news from presidium members

. Timo reported that: 1) The Finish ministry will decide in April about the autonomy of music schools in Finland.

The ministry received funding for cultural development projects which will start with a Nordic project.

. Marion mentioned that all communities in Holland have to reduce their costs by 20%. Amsterdam proposed to reduce 20% on culture. However, it all depends on the new elections in June.

. Katalin remarked that : 1) Instead of the planned 30% the ministry decided to reduce funding for music schools by 9%. 2) large (music) education events have been planned for a 3-year European project: the 'Danube Strategy'.

. Paolo reported that: 1) they will receive extra funding from the Tuscany region; 2) At the national level, Berlusconi promoted a education law which should establish special secondary schools focusing on music and dance. So far only 11 schools have been realised. 3) Paolo reported on the ISME congress in Italy. 4000 teachers from Italy participated.

. Viktor mentioned that his school has developed new curricula. He also reported developments in secondary schools to spend more time on music lessons.

Gerd reported that: 1) the importance of music education has become more recognised, which means that some ministries spend more money on music education; on the other hand, municipalities have major financial problems which means that music schools have to change their policy.

14. Next Presidium meetings: General Assembly and Conference / Directors Seminar

. 13 May in Essen, Germany (arrival 12 May; General Assembly 13 to 16 May)

. 8 - 10 October in Luxembourg

. 10 - 12 December: the presidium has been invited to France

Seminar 'European Leadership Training' for music school directors: 20 – 23 October 2010 in Sindelfingen, Germany

2011

General Assembly: 26 – 29 May in Estonia.

Presidium meetings 2011

. 4 to 6 March

. 7 to 9 October

. 9 to 11 December

Members will be asked in Essen to host one of the meetings.

15. Miscellaneous and closing

. Elections EMC board in April: Timo has been asked to continue as president. The Swiss Music Council will nominate Helena as board member.

. First meeting 'EMC working group on music education': Katalin (instead of Marion who was on holiday) represented EMU at this meeting. 12 European organisations on music education were presented. Aims and goals: advocacy at European level, but if needed subgroups on a special theme can be added. The working group will try to organise a seminar for music educators in Bonn in autumn.

After that the president thanked the presidium members for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Marion will further represent EMU.

. 2nd World Conference of Arts Education in Seoul from 25 to 28 May: Katalin is trying to obtain funding from her ministry to participate. If needed EMU will provide support.

. Helena wrote an interesting article on 'Music Education for All in a Multicultural Society', to be published in an EMC publication.
