

INFO-BULLETIN based on the 6th Meeting of the EMU Presidium in Latvia on 12 and 13 December 2008

Present were:

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

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Opening and welcome by the president, Gerd Eicker. He thanked the Association of Latvian Musical Educational Establishments and especially the president Aivars Broks and vice-president Dace for their hospitality and for arranging the meeting.

The presidium met the board of the Latvian Association; Agnese Miltiņa and Jolanta Klišāne, Centre of Culture and Creative Industries Education, who gave a presentation on the system of Cultural Education in Latvia and Artis Simanis, rector of the Latvian Academy of Music today, who gave a presentation on the connection between the Academy and music secondary school and music schools).

The presidium also met Daina Raksniene, the Chair of Lithuania's Association of music school teachers, who was invited as special guest.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes and action list presidium meeting in Vaduz, Liechtenstein in October 2008

The minutes (appendix 1) were approved.

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

- . Poland and Croatia welcome a delegation of the presidium. The final date to Poland will be at the end of March. Gerd, Helena and Gerrie will participate. A final date to Croatia has not yet been set.
- . EMU sent information about EMU membership to Dirk Rombaut in Belgium Flanders.

3. Evaluation EMU Seminar for music school directors 'Music makes Europe' in Livorno 14 - 17 October 2008

Thirty people from 14 countries participated in the Seminar, which was well organized by the Italian co-organisers of the meeting, Andrea Pellegrini and Paolo Ponzecchi, and well prepared by EMU and Gerrit Walstra, Haute Europe. The seminar ended with an interesting Jazz concert by the orchestra Atipica Jazz Bonamice 'Group One', directed by Andrea Pellegrini.

The reactions from the participants during and after the meeting were generally positive.

The seminar was very useful for the participants and a great opportunity to be informed about the EU programmes and to discuss the possibilities and ideas of working together in international projects with colleagues from different countries. Paolo reported that the seminar generated several articles in the regional newspapers, which might have a positive impact on the music schools in the region.

The 'Idea Market' – an exploration of ideas and ambitions – resulted in an extensive list of themes, activities/results and aims, and objectives/added value (attached to the minutes). On the second day of the seminar, working groups with similar interests were formed which resulted in several project ideas.

4 Project ideas have been published on EMU's intranet site:

- . Education methods and tools
- . Leadership training
- . Exchange of students
- . International creative cultural exchange.

One of the groups – Education methods and tools, lead by Marion – already took a further step during a meeting in Amsterdam in December. Six directors participated (from Belgium, England, Germany,

Italy, Netherlands and Spain). The main goal of this meeting was to exchange ideas, experiences and funding possibilities, which are generally hard to obtain. Marion made several phone calls to several organisations focussed on EU funding and discovered that a special code will be needed from the Ministry of Education, rather than the ministry dealing with culture. Also very important to obtaining funding is to have a very clear mission. However, the group saw no reason to be afraid of any difficulties and will push forward. The next meeting takes place in Brussels in February 2009. Peter Minten and Hector Herzig from Switzerland are interested in joining.

Gerd reported on the project group 'Leadership training'. He sent an enquiry to all associations to be informed about their national activities on this issue and received several interesting replies. He will meet a person specialised in European funding next week.

4. 10th European Youth Music Festival in Austria in May 2009

Gerd has been in regular contact with Walter Rescheneder and received an overview of the participants. *Katalin and Viktor have been invited to Austria in January to be updated about the present situation.*

5. General Assembly and Conference 'Music Education in Southern European Countries' in Gmunden, Austria from 18 – 21 May 2009 (appendix 2)

EMU received a reaction from Gerhard Gutschick (president of the Austrian association) in the draft outline of the programme for the meeting. He will try to find a person from the Austrian ministry for the keynote speech on the **future** of music education in Austria.

Programme 19 May

- . *Gerd will contact Gerhard concerning the welcoming speaker and the keynote speaker.*
- . *Paolo tried to find a place and date for the preparatory meeting in Spain.*
- . *Gerrie will contact Hector Herzig concerning the content of his speech.*

Programme 20 May

- . *Open space working groups: general introduction by Gerd. The other presentations will be discussed during agenda item 'EMU in future'.*

6. Management meeting in Italy from 30 September to 3 October 2009

Paolo reported that Milan is very willing to organise the Management meeting in 2009.

Hosting expenses will be about 350 > 400 Euro.

The presidium again discussed the content/themes for the meeting and concluded that it might be difficult to create a programme that will be interesting for the management of the associations as well as the organising country. Besides people who always participate in each EMU meeting, it is important to involve new people from the management of the associations including board members.

** Ideas/themes: changes and challenges in future: communication; publicity; media; new technology in music education; (political) strategy; promoting the principles of the Road map, working together with professional music education; cultural greenhouse; future research; support EU policies; working with other art forms, regional working groups.*

** Participants: board members and management of the associations*

** Minimum participating countries: 10*

** A preparatory group (Matthias Pannes, Ap de Vries, Marion, Gerd and Paolo) will make a concept for the programme (including a new and more attractive name for the seminar) in February, which will be discussed further at the next presidium meeting. Final proposal during General Assembly in Linz.*

** Specialists to introduce or to lead special themes.*

** Paolo will try to find out if the hosting expenses can be reduced to make it more attractive for countries to send more people from their association. Obtaining European funding might be difficult for Italy to realise.*

7. Working plan and budget 2009 (appendix 3a, 3b and 3c)

The presidium accepted the working plan but also concluded that the working plan is ambitious, causing an overload of work for the general secretary and the president. As also concluded in the last presidium meeting, EMU should arrange for the financing of a professional office. A first step could be to extend the working hours of the secretary general or to find assistants.

There should be more room for this in the proposed budget. The printing of the booklet 'Music education in Europe' could be moved to 2010 and there might be some room for working hours in the projects, which should be specified in the budget. Also the membership fee should follow the inflation per year.

Concerning the content of the working plan 2009: Timo will be the contact person for Unesco. The contacts with AEC should be improved and made structural.

8. Latest news on other EMU activities

. EMU concert in EU parliament: Timo reported that it is impossible to organise the concert before June 2009. *The presidium accepted his proposal to postpone the concert to spring 2010.*

. Small statistics: nearly all updates have been received. *Gerrie will try to find some assistance for the final update at the start of 2009.*

. European Youth Music Festival in 2011 or 2012: the possibility of organising the festival in Italy is still being looked into. Gerd had a discussion with Dieter Boden from Saarland (Germany) on organising a small border festival together with the IMS (International Music School Seminar) but hasn't yet received a reaction.

9. Membership Culture Action Europe (CAE) (new name for EFAH)

Helena participated in the General Assembly and Congress of CAE in Marseille on 23-26 October and reported an intense, interesting and well-organised congress, attended by 328 participants (210 from France and the others from 26 different countries). The main discussion point was 'How to find a connection between what we are doing and the European cultural policy'. Although Helena was initially a bit sceptical about this cultural 'melting pot', as the congress progressed she became more and more convinced of the value of this kind of cultural platform in Europe.

The CAE congresses are also open to non-members.

The presidium concluded that membership of CAE would be interesting but the presidium also realised that it means a more active role and work for EMU. The presidium therefore decided to follow the CAE activities and to participate in the Congresses only as observer.

10. EMU news, news from presidium members and news from EMU members

. The Irish Association of Music Schools has elected a new chairman: Malcolm M. Gullis

. The Norwegian Council of schools of music and performing arts elected Aase Saetran as chairman in October 2008.

. Helena reported that 160,000 signatures have been collected in Switzerland in support of improving music education at the federal and cantonal level. 100,000 signatures were needed for a possible amendment to the constitution. Political debates with parliamentary groups and politicians have started.

. Paulo reported that the Italian ministry of education and culture has launched a new programme to foster a choir in every regular school at 2 levels.

. Gerd mentioned that the newly-elected INGO chairman of the Council of Europe announced the appointment of 3 subcommittees on Education, Culture and Science. Since the main interest of many is Education, he doesn't want Culture and Science to be neglected.

11. Relocation of EMU's official seat

Gerd described that as concluded during the last presidium meeting in Liechtenstein, EMU is unable to apply for an annual operating grant because the official EMU seat is located in Switzerland.

Over the last months, Gerd researched a possible move to one of the eligible countries of the European Union but discovered that the law in these countries doesn't accept only a move of the

official seat, but requires that EMU found a new organisation. The only solution is to close the official seat in Switzerland and to found a new organisation in another country, for instance Germany, because the present statutes are based on the statutes of a German association, which makes the administrative part of opening a new EMU seat easier.

This presidium decided to propose at the General Assembly in May 2009 the closure of the official seat of EMU in Switzerland, and to open a new EMU seat in Germany. To the statutes will be added that the new organisation is a sequel organisation to the organisation founded in 1973.

Gerd will take care of the administrative part (new statutes by notary etc.).

12/13. EMU in future: results survey on present situation (appendix 5) / brainstorm with a delegation of the Nordic Countries (Harry Rishaug, Norway and Neif Lysten, Finland)

EMU sent a questionnaire to all EMU members on the present situation of the music and culture schools in each country and 25 of the 26 members and 1 observer responded.

All the reactions together create a very interesting compilation.

The results of the questionnaire (for some of them, other arts only means dance):

. In 17 countries music education is the main task of the association; in 8 countries music and other arts

. 11 countries expect that there will be more culture schools in the country in the coming years.

The presidium realised that the comments of the members depend on what you are looking for: it gives good argument to both sides, although the main reaction is that working together with the other art forms creates opportunities but also poses risks.

After presenting the results of the enquiry, the presidium and the delegation of the Nordic countries continued in an intensive brainstorm session. The Nordic countries offered EMU to brainstorm together on this issue beforehand, which will be discussed further at the General Assembly in Austria. The Nordic countries hold the opinion that including or working together with the other art forms could mean a big change for EMU in the future, in terms of broadening their activities and gaining broader (political) influence in Europe. In some countries (in Norway by law), nearly all schools represent music and other arts. However, the Nordic delegation also realised that EMU must equally preserve its traditions and music education interests.

The presidium realised that EMU, besides only music, also represents countries whose main task is music education and other art forms. The presidium is of the opinion that EMU can support organisations, which main task is music education and other arts, but that music education should remain EMU's main target. Therefore a change to the statutes and to the name of EMU is not an option.

The presidium proposed that one of the themes of the working groups during the following General Assembly will be: cooperation with the other arts. The Nordic countries will prepare this working group. The Netherlands will be asked to join. If needed the working group can continue after the General Assembly.

EMU will invite Ms Eickhoff, one of the leaders of Arts4All, to give a presentation on the other arts.

The president thanked the Nordic delegation for their contribution to the meeting.

14. Final themes working groups 'EMU in future' during General Assembly in Austria

- 1) Cooperation between music and regular schools (presentation of a project by Marion)
- 2) Music school education and other arts (presentation by Harry Rishaug)
- 3) EMU regional groups (presentation by Herman Vleeschhouwer, Flanders? Via Dirk Rombaut)
- 4) New target groups in music education (children with special needs etc.: presentation by Philip Shaw? via John Witchell?)

15. Next Presidium meetings: General Assembly and Festival 2009 / Management meeting

. 27 February - 1 March: Austria

. 17 – 24 May: Austria

. 16 - 18 October: Serbia? Viktor will contact Serbia

. 11 - 13 December: Germany

The schedule for the GA/Festival in Linz, Austria

- . Sunday 17 May: arrival presidium
- . Monday 18 May: presidium meeting in the morning / arrival participants GA in the afternoon
- . Tuesday 19 May: GA
- . Wednesday 20 May: GA
- . Thursday 21 May: departure or transfer to Linz for EMU members attending the opening and the festival
- . Friday 22 May: Festival
- . Saturday 23 May: Festival and closing in the evening
- . Sunday 24: Departure

Note: it means that EMU members attending the opening of the festival can either attend the opening and leave after, or can stay extra nights at their own expense in Linz (hotel costs 50 Euro per night).

Management meeting: Wednesday 30 September – Saturday 3 October 2009 in Italy

16. Miscellaneous and Closing

- . Timo reported on the following EMC activities/projects:
 - * The seminar „Reach out, Open Up, Take In“ in Pomáz, Hungary, 27 February – 1 March, addresses national music organisations in North, Central and South Eastern Europe. The seminar will provide an insight on how to be recognised as a cultural advocacy body in your country and how to put the 2005 UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity into practice.
 - * Exchange Traditions EMC Annual Conference and final event of the EU funded project on 23 - 26 April 2009, Athens, Greece. In 2009 the EMC Annual Conference will be the final event of the ExTra! project, which focuses on musical traditions of migrant and minority cultures in Europe and their interaction with cultures already existing in the European countries. The conference will discuss how music can serve as a tool for integration in education as well as in a political context. What role media can play to enhance inclusion of diverse cultures will be the topic of debate.
 - * Report of the Conference "Music on Troubled Soils" Jerusalem, Israel, 23 - 26 October 2008
The three-day conference taking place in the Jerusalem Music Centre provided a diverse overview of different music projects taking place on troubled soil.
- . Gerd received an invitation to a meeting of the International Society of Music Education in Finland. Timo will try to participate.
- . EMU received an invitation to collaborate in a Grundvig project on the exchange of Good Practices related to training for Artistic Education teachers, initiated by the Canary Islands. More information will follow.
- . Helena met Rosa Gomes from Portugal in Marseille to discuss the existence of a Portuguese music school association. Gerrie will try to contact the person mentioned in the email Helena received.

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