

EMU General Assembly part II - 21 May - Linz, Austria Conference 'EMU in Future'

Reports Open Space Working Groups

- . Benefits broad talent development*
- . Benefits of working with new target groups*
- . Benefits of working in regional groups*

French speaking working group.

Chaired by Philippe Dalarun (France); report Helena Maffli (board member EMU)

Our point of departure: a few statements.

We agreed upon, based on the very interesting presentations of this morning. Then we had a general discussion, asked some provocative questions, and finally made conclusions and recommendations.

Our global context is a society where the education in human sciences and arts in general has less weight and money than purely scientific disciplines and technology. This goes from the primary school until the fundamental research in universities.

In this society, music is more accessible than ever, music is present everywhere and all the time. YouTube, iPhone and television – everybody is listening to music. Still, how many families, children and youngsters know the difference between consuming recorded music and **making** music, being in a personal contact with a living and vibrating chord?

In our music and art schools, this way of that way, we only touch a small percentage of the population. Is this discrimination and exclusive? Or do people also have the rights not to want to make music?

This morning we often heard the words 'helping people'. Do some target groups WANT to be helped by us? Are we becoming missionaries and converting people, is this a form of imperialism? Where are the limits of our action, which way should we go, all together, without losing our soul and giving up our profound knowledge, experience and our mutual competencies? Can and should we be social workers and therapists'?

There is a danger of confusion, and we should really clarify our missions and models of functioning. We should make the difference between a large cultural offer of sensibilisation and experimentation, together with public schools and institutions – a huge task and not an easy one – and **music and art education**. We cannot impose this education, the families must agree, we must have common values and agree upon the methods and contents of teaching we offer to their children.

What would and could be the task of the EMU in this context? First, on the level of the member countries: information, exchange, contacts, diffusion of manifestos and charts. Second, maybe a scientific and professional approach through an European study: what is dys-functioning and why, what is functioning – and we have a whole lot of best practices to show. A literature study could provide us with strong and objective arguments to advocate. There are models for this type of studies, we all know the Polifonia study of the AEC and its implications.

We also need more visibility for our young musicians on European platforms. In addition to the festival, the EMU could ask countries with a cultural capital to provide these platforms for music groups on a regular basis.

There is a lot of work to do, work in progress. Let's go all together!

L'Unité fait la force!