

**European Music School Union**  
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**Activity Report 2021**

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## **46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and European Music School Forum**

The 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EMU and European Music School Forum were hosted by the French Federation for Arts Education (FFEA) and initially scheduled to be held in Bordeaux, France on May 14 & 15. However, due to the corona pandemic, the events were hosted online for the membership of the EMU with only a limited number of participants from France coming together in Bordeaux. While the General Assembly was held as a Zoom meeting, the FFEA made considerable efforts to host a high-profile online event for the European Music School Forum which was streamed live from a tv studio.

54 persons from 26 European countries participated in the General Assembly. During the General Assembly, a new board was elected for the period 2021 to 2024. The members of the newly elected board are: Philippe Dalarun as president (France), Romain Asselborn as vice-president (Luxembourg), Aleksandar Djuric (Serbia), Csilla Gál (Hungary), Zuzana Horváthová (Slovakia), Paolo Ponzecchi (Italy) and Robert Vroegindeweij (Netherlands). However, Zuzana Horváthová announced her resignation from to the board in December of the activity year, due to personal reasons.

The European Music School Forum revolved around the topic of *Music and Arts Education at the Heart of the European Society*. The programme included a diverse set of speakers from France and all over Europe, presentations, round table discussions and was followed on May 15 by a day of exchange between the members of the EMU and further participants. While the FFEA and the EMU regret not having been able to welcome the membership personally to France, the online format of the forum allowed roundabout 1800 people to connect to the stream of the forum on May 14.

## **Creative Europe Programme of the EU: Support to European Networks**

### ***Strengthening Music in Society (SMS) Project 2017 - 2021***

The EMU acted as a partner organisation in the *Strengthening Music in Society* project, which is coordinated by the Association Européenne des Conservatoires (AEC). The project was supported by the *Support to European Networks* strand of the EU funding programme for culture, Creative Europe. The project started on December 1, 2017 and came to an end on November 30, 2021.

Two strands of the project, the *Early Childhood Music Education (ECME)* and *Digitisation* working groups were coordinated by the EMU.

The ECME working group produced an early childhood music education handbook, which includes pedagogical material and learning tools. The guidebook is freely available online and physical copies are available upon request at the EMU office. The working group also hosted an online webinar on 1 & 2 October (see the section on events below for more details). During the activity year, the working group held online meetings on February 23, April 16, May 6, June 14, July 21, August 24, September 21 and November 23 and attended the AEC congress on November 3 - 6.

The aim of Digitisation working group was to collect practices on the use and the needs of digital learning and teaching tools as well as to enhance the use of technology in music

education. The results and publications of the working group can be accessed on the SMS website ([sms.aec-music.eu](http://sms.aec-music.eu)). The group furthermore hosted a webinar on digitisation in music education on April 30 & May 1 (see the section on events below for more details). During the activity year, the working group held online meetings exclusively on January 18, February 19, March 11, March 23, April 29, May 6, August 16, October 21 and November 17 and attended the AEC congress on November 3 - 6.

The working groups were composed of experts from AEC, EMU and the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS). The working groups were coordinated by Till Skoruppa. In this role, he attended all working groups meetings as well as several meetings with the colleagues from the AEC. All of these were held online, except for the AEC congress, which took place in Antwerp, Belgium.

### ***Creative Europe Programme 2021 – 2027***

During the activity year, the EMU has applied to the *Support to European Networks of Cultural and Creative Organisations* strand of the Creative Europe programme, the European Commission's flagship programme to support the culture and audiovisual sectors. The funding programme would have provided financial support to the EMU for three years. Unfortunately, following the evaluation, the EMU's application has not been successful. The next call for applications is expected in 2023 or 2024. In the meantime, the EMU will make contact with the European institutions to understand the reasons for this decision and improve any potential future applications.

### **Cultural Policies**

During the activity year, the EMU has regularly updated its members on relevant European cultural policies developments through newsletters and mailings. Especially the following two activities played a central role for the EMU in this field:

#### ***MusicAIRE – An Innovative Recovery for Europe***

The European Music Council (EMC) together with its partner Inova+ have launched the new European project *MusicAIRE – An Innovative Recovery for Europe*. The consortium develops grants to support the music ecosystem to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis in a green, digital and just and resilient way. During the activity year, the EMU took an active part in shaping the grants, ensuring European music schools are able to benefit from the calls for funding. This included taking part in an interview conducted by the consortium and being represented in think-tanks, which identified what kind of support the music sector needs. The findings of the think-tanks have formed the basis of the first calls for grants published in early 2022.

#### ***2% for Culture***

During the activity year, the EMU resumed its contribution to the joint effort of the European cultural sector to urge the EU to earmark 2% of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to culture. The RRF is the EU's financial instrument to help its member states to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. The EMU has co-signed an open letter coordinated by Culture Action Europe in response to the drafts provided by the member states on how they intend to use the funds allocated to them. The EMU furthermore updated its membership on relevant developments with regards to the RRF through its newsletter, encouraging them to call upon their national governments to allocate 2% of it for culture.

## Events

During the activity year, the EMU hosted three own events and worked together with the EMC and SCHEME on a joint webinar:

### ***Meeting of the Boards (online)***

The EMU held an online edition of the Meeting of the Boards on October 15 & 16 revolving around the topic *European Music Schools in a (post) pandemic society*. The event was initially planned as a physical event scheduled to take place in Novi Sad, Serbia upon the kind invitation of the Association of Music and Ballet schools of Serbia (ZMBSS). However, it was eventually turned into an online event because of the pandemic situation. 52 participants from 20 countries had registered for the event with discussions revolving around the repercussions of the pandemic on music education, such as new societal or economic challenges, but also around digitisation, quality in music education or the advancement of highly talented students. Speeches and presentations were held by Philippe Dalarun (EMU president), Katharina Weinert (Policy Advisor at the European Music Council), Michaela Hahn (former EMU board member), Dr Gordon Munro (Chair of MusiQue and Director of Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), Aleksandar Đurić and Robert Vroegindeweij (EMU board members).

### ***Webinar on Digitisation in Music Education***

The working group on Teacher Education in the Digital Age of the EU-funded project *Strengthening Music in Society* (see page 3) hosted an online webinar on *Digitisation in music education* on April 30 and May 1. The working group consisted of 7 experts from various European countries with backgrounds in, among others, music pedagogy and teacher's education, computer science, music technology and empirical musicology. Through workshops and interactive lectures, the webinar set out to shed light on the meaningful integration of digital tools in music education, give the opportunity to engage in hands-on experience with digital tools and methods, and inspire a more creative use of digital learning tools for music learning and teaching. 56 participants from 16 countries had registered for the seminar.

### ***Webinar on Early Childhood Music Education***

The task force on early childhood music education of the EU-funded project *Strengthening Music in Society* (see page 3) hosted an online webinar on October 1 & 2. The webinar aimed to both introduce the topic of early childhood music education to participants from countries with no or only little tradition for this kind of pedagogy, while at the same time bringing together different European perspectives on the topic for participants with more experience in the field. It was hosted by three speakers from Cyprus, Finland and Germany who have both academical as well as practical professional backgrounds in this type of pedagogy. 85 participants from 22 countries had registered for the event.

### ***Webinar on the European Agenda for Music Education (with EMC and SCHEME)***

The EMU hosted a joint webinar on February 5 with the European Music Council (EMC) and its colleagues in SCHEME (see page 6): the AEC and EAS. Presentations and discussions revolved around concepts such as diversity, reaching out to new audiences, social relevance

of music and music education, or smart and creative use of digital means. Participants were able to update their knowledge and to exchange views on these topics during this 90-minutes, interactive webinar which was meant for teachers and senior management staff in all kinds of music (education) institutions, musicians and other stakeholders in the music sector. 164 participants from 31 countries had registered for the event.

## **Statistics**

During the activity year, the survey to collect statistical information from its members has been sent to the membership. Under the supervision of former EMU board members Michaela Hahn, the questionnaire had been renewed and largely extended. The answers have started to be reviewed and processed during the activity year with the publication of the results scheduled for 2022.

## **XIV. European Youth Music Festival REMIX22 in Luxembourg in 2022**

During the activity year, the Association des Écoles de Musique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (AEM), the host of the XIV. youth music festival, have started to disseminate information on the festival jointly with the EMU. Music schools have been invited to register for the event through their national association member of the EMU from April 1 on. Furthermore, regular updates on the registration, extension of deadlines and other issues relevant to the festival were also communicated to the membership.

## **Collaboration with European organisations**

During the activity year, the EMU maintained relations and collaborated with the following European organisations:

### ***Steering Committee for the Harmonization of European Music Education (SCHEME)***

The Steering Committee for the Harmonization of European Music Education (SCHEME) consists of representatives of the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC), the European Association of Music in Schools (EAS) as well as the European Music School Union (EMU).

These three complementary networks have a good history of cooperation through the Music Education working group of the European Music Council (EMC); in the development of Learning Outcomes and Quality standards for both musical performance and music pedagogy; in work on pre-college music education (within the AEC 'Polifonia' and 'Full Score' projects); in joint policy statements and in the organisation of joint events. To further enhance the areas and levels of cooperation between these three networks, their representatives meet regularly in the frame of SCHEME meetings.

In 2021 the SCHEME held online meetings January 20, February 26 and August 24. The group worked together on the webinar on the *European Agenda for Music Education* (see page 5) and hosted a joint session on advocacy work at the European level at the AEC congress in Antwerp, Belgium on November 5. Till Skoruppa represented the EMU as one of the speakers in this session.

## ***European Music Council (EMC) and International Music Council (IMC)***

During the activity year, the EMU resumed its close cooperation with the European Music Council (EMC) and the International Music Council (IMC). Besides a regular exchange of information, there are personnel connections with EMU president Philippe Dalarun currently serving as internal auditor for the IMC, while the EMU is represented by its former board member Willem van Moort in the board of the EMC where he currently serves as treasurer.

During the activity year, the EMU cooperated with the EMC in the organisation of a webinar (see page 5). The EMU was represented by Till Skoruppa in the work on the MusicAIRE funding programme (see page 4) and he also attended the EMC's Annual Meeting of members and online edition of the European Forum on Music on June 2 to 5 revolving around the topic of *Claiming a front row seat. The place of music in society*.

## ***MusiQuE (Musique Quality Enhancement)***

MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement is a recognised European independent accreditation and external evaluation body for music, contributing to the continuous improvement of the quality of higher music education across Europe and beyond. Its board consists of experts proposed by 4 partner organisations: the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC), the European Music School Union (EMU), the European Association for Music in Schools (EAS) and Pearle\*-Live Performance Europe (the Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe).

Martin Prchall, who left his position as chair of MusiQue at the beginning of the activity year, has been interviewed by EMU president Philippe Dalarun on the work of MusiQue. The interview was published in the well known French magazine *La lettre du Musicien*. Martin Prchall's successor, Dr. Gordon Munro, was invited as one of the speakers at the Meeting of the Boards (see page 5). The MusiQuE Board member mandated by the EMU is currently Michaela Hahn who represented the interest of European music schools at all meetings.

## **Communication**

The EMU published three newsletters in 2021 that included updates from the EMU itself, articles from its board members, announcements of various events, cultural policy news as well as other news items relevant to music education on the European level. The EMU furthermore send out several mailings to its members to provide updates on individual events or developments. Furthermore, both the public section as well as the members area of the EMU website have been updated regularly.

## **Personnel**

During the activity year, Till Skoruppa worked as Secretary General with 16 hours of weekly working time until August. From September on, his weekly working hours were increased to 20 as he also took over the tasks formerly carried out by Valeria Barvinska. Additionally, he coordinated the working groups on digitisation and ECME of the *Strengthening Music in Society* project until its end in November of the activity year.

Valeria Barvinska worked as Office Administrator with 8 hours of weekly working time until the end of June. She left her position as she had graduated from university and moved on to a full-time employment. The board of the EMU warmly thanked her for her thoroughness and dedication and wished her all the best for her professional future.

## **Membership Recruitment**

During the activity year, the board and team were in contact with individuals from Portugal to inform them on the work of the EMU, enquire about how music education is organised in their country and to discuss a potential membership.

## **Presidium Meetings**

The EMU presidium held the following meetings in 2021:

- February 3, online
- March 1, online
- March 19 & 20, online
- April 23, online

Following the elections at the 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the new board held the following meetings:

- June 17, online
- June 29, online
- October 14 & 15, Novi Sad, Serbia
- December 10 & 11, Berlin, Germany

## **EMU Regional Groups**

EMU worked in close cooperation with its regional groups: EMU Nordic group, Visegrad, LLACHD and Onda Latina.