



European Music School Union
Europäische Musikschul-Union
Union Européenne des Ecoles de Musique

European Music School Union

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Activity Report 2022

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47th General Assembly and European Music School Forum

The 47th General Assembly of the EMU and European Music School Forum were hosted by the Association des Ecoles de Musique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (AEM), the Luxembourgish member of the EMU, from May 25 to 27 in Esch-sur-Alzette and Differdange. The events were directly followed by the 14th edition of the European Youth Music Festival.

39 persons from 20 European countries participated in the General Assembly. The event dealt with all relevant household matters and featured a presentation by the Associação de estabelecimentos de ensino particular e cooperativo (AEEP) as a potential new member from Portugal (with voting scheduled for 2023). It furthermore included a vote by the delegates on a webinar topic to be organised by the EMU. Following this vote, the board and team of the EMU were entrusted with the task to organise a webinar dealing with cooperation with other types of arts education.

The European Music School Forum revolved around the topic of *Music School Teachers of the Future – A Profile Under Change*. The programme included a presentation on the new bachelor in music education of the university in Luxembourg, a presentation by Stefan Gies on the AEC's new project *Empowering Artists as Makers in Society*, reports from the regional groups on their perceptions of the profile of music school teachers and furthermore featured working groups discussions on this topic.

14th European Youth Music Festival Remix 22

The 14th edition of the European Youth Music Festival entitled Remix22 took place from 26 to 28 May in Luxembourg. It brought together roughly 2.500 students from 15 countries to perform around 350 concerts. The festival took place in the frame of the European Capital of Culture 2022 Esch-sur-Alzette but featured performances on stages spread all around the country. The opening ceremony of the event took place in the Rockhal in the presence of H.R.H the Crown Princess Stéphanie–Wilhelmus.



Opening ceremony of the Remix22 festival

The preparations of the event proved to be highly challenging, as the pandemic made all plans and provisions unpredictable. Eventually, the festival was able to take place shortly after all sanitary measures came to an end in Luxembourg. The success of the festival is result of the thorough planning, transparent communication, and sensitive handling of the concerns of participants by the AEM and their partners.

Preparations of the EMU's 50th Anniversary

The EMU will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023, as it was initially founded in 1973. To this end, a working group was created that features representatives of the EMU and the VdM, which will be hosting the General Assembly in 2023. The VdM had initially invited the EMU's General Assembly to Stuttgart in 2020 already, but due to the pandemic, the physical event had to be cancelled eventually. However, with the event postponed to 2023, it allows the EMU to celebrate its 50th anniversary in the same country in which it was founded.

The activities to celebrate the anniversary will include putting together a founding members ensemble with students coming from the countries which had initially founded the EMU, a brochure reflecting on the history of the association and the commission of a musical piece by student representatives from all current members of the EMU.

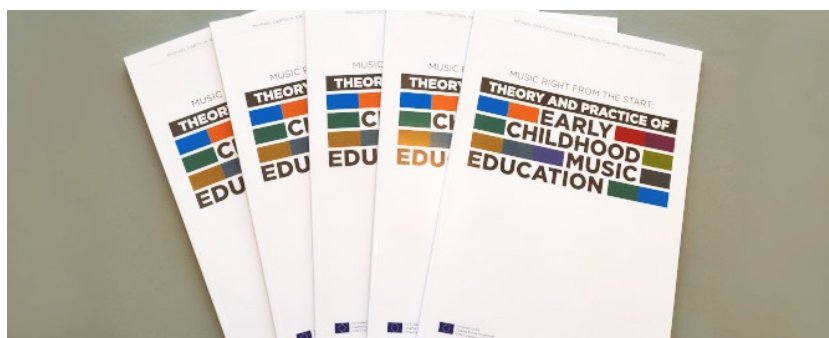
Statistical Information About the EMU

The latest edition of the EMU statistics has been published online during the activity year. The EMU has a long tradition of collecting statistical information from its members and make these available to the broad public and interested parties for research, advocacy work on the national and European level, strategic development of associations as well as national music educations systems and further purposes. This latest edition includes data from the beginning of 2020, therefore from shortly before the beginning of the pandemic. The publication provides both information on national associations of music schools themselves as well as on their member music schools. It is important to underline that the data on the music schools only refers to those that are members of their respective national associations and not necessarily to all music schools in a given country.

The data has been collected by former EMU board member Michaela Hahn and her colleague Doris Pamer, who have done a tremendous effort in enhancing the questionnaire, validating the data, adding context and editorial work.

Early Childhood Music Education Guidebook

The working group on Early Childhood Music Education (ECME) has published its main outcome during the activity year: a guidebook entitled *Music Right from the Start: Theory and Practice of Early Childhood Music Education*. The working group consisted of three international experts from the field who jointly worked on the guidebook as part of the EU-funded *Strengthening Music in Society* (SMS) project run by the AEC in cooperation with the EMU between 2017 and 2021.



Printed version of the guidebook

The guidebook offers insights in the field of ECME, including theoretical backgrounds, an overview of the different types of activities for this kind of pedagogy, examples on how to design lessons and more. The guidebook is available as an online publication and as a printed copy. As part of the EMUs commitment within the SMS project, all members of the EMU were offered to be sent up to 50 copies free of charge and shipping cost. Furthermore, all higher music education institutions member of the AEC have been sent two copies each for inclusion in their university libraries.

Early Childhood Music Education Seminar in Veszprém

The EMU has cooperated with the Hungarian Association of Music and Art Schools and the Veszprém-Balaton European Capital of Culture in the organisation of a capacity building seminar on early childhood music education. The seminar took place on December 2 & 3 of the activity year at the Antal Csermák Elementary Art School in Veszprém, Hungary, the European capital of culture in 2023.



Practical demonstration by Prof. Dr. Michael Dartsch during the seminar

The seminar explored the Hungarian traditions of teaching music in the early years and discussed its methods and benefits for cognitive, motoric and social development. It

furthermore brought together international experts to present the latest developments, best practices, and different approaches from all over Europe. The seminar introduced the topic of ECME to participants with no or only little experience with this kind of pedagogy, while at the same time deepening its understanding for teachers and practitioners already active in the field. The seminar was attended by around 20 Hungarian and 20 international participants.

Move of the office

The EMU had to leave its office premises in Berlin, Germany during the activity year. The building belongs to the *Institute for Federal Real Estate* (in German: *Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben*) and housed various cultural associations with a state-subsidized rent. However, as the building will be put to a ministerial use, all tenants had to move out without being offered any replacement.

The board therefore decided to adopt a remote working system, while ensuring that the EMU office can still be reached via mail and phone. The current phone number (+49 (0) 30 206 202 50) is still valid, but please note the new mailing address: European Music School Union, Postfach 41 08 52, 50868 Cologne, Germany.

Collaboration with European organisations

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

Pre-Symposium to the 3rd European Music School Research Symposium

The 3rd European Music School Symposium revolving around *Music schools and their ecosystems: Building sustainable futures*, will take place in Vienna on 6 and 7 October 2023. During the activity year, an online pre-symposium was held on October 14 and 15. Participants in the online pre-symposium could form interest groups related to various topics such as cultural, social, environmental or economic sustainability. The EMU has acted as a partner of the research symposium since the first edition thus creating links between practitioners and researchers.

Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture

During the activity year, the EMU was in contact with representatives of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) 2023 in Veszprém to work on joint projects and help to bring in European perspectives to the events planned in Hungary. The cooperation includes the organisation of a seminar on early childhood music education (see p. 5 above). Furthermore, the EMU has helped the ECOC in organising a youth music festival similar to the EMU's very own festival by providing advice and helping to disseminate information and invitations to the festival among its members. The festival will take place in May 2023.

Cyprus Culture Summit: Music 2022

The organisation for European programmes and cultural relations in Cyprus organized the Cyprus Culture Summit: Music 2022 as a parallel event of the 9th edition of the Cyprus Jazz & World Music Showcase. Taking place in Limassol, the event brought together representatives of European and International cultural networks. This event provided information and working sessions on issues related to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a blueprint for action, advocacy and partnership in the international music field. It offered around 100 participants a programme of conference sessions, networking events, workshops and meetings. In addition, individual program items were curated by relevant partner international organisations and networks. Board members Csilla Gal and Aleksandar Djuric attended the event and were involved in the organisation and hosting of session on music education in the 21st century.

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 2022 the SCHEME held online meetings 20 January, 25 March, 13 June and 11 November. Furthermore, EMU President Philippe Dalarun and Secretary General Till Skoruppa attended the online AEC congress on November 10 to 12.

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. EMU board member Robert Vroegindeweij and Secretary General Till Skoruppa attended the EMC's Lab and General Assembly taking place in Brussels, Belgium on 10 & 11 June.



Delegates of the EMC Lab and General Assembly in Brussels

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). Currently, the EMU is represented by Michaela Hahn on the MusiQue board.

Cultural Policies

During the activity year, the EMU has regularly updated its members on relevant European cultural policies developments through newsletters and mailings. Major developments that the EMU reported in during the activity year include the place of culture in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) and the MusicAIRE funding programme administered by the European Music Council.

Communication

The EMU published four newsletters in 2022 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 20 hours of weekly working time until August. From September on, his weekly working hours were increased to 24 as his duties regularly require him to work additional hours.

Membership Recruitment

During the activity year, the EMU was in contact with representatives of the *Associação de estabelecimentos de ensino particular e cooperativo (AEEP)* to learn more about the music education system in the country and bring their application for discussion to the General Assembly.

Presidium Meetings

The EMU presidium held the following meetings in 2022:

- 25 February, online
- 6 & 7 May, Bordeaux, France
- 25 May, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
- 7 & 8 October, Middleburg, The Netherlands
- 1 & 2 December, Veszprém, Hungary

EMU Regional Groups

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