



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

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Ref. No. 62-00-101/09.05.2025

TO
MR TILL SKORUPPA
SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE EUROPEAN MUSIC
SCHOOL UNION
office@misicschoolunion.eu

SUBJECT: request for information regarding requested EMU membership

DEAR MR SKORUPPA,

At the Ministry of Culture, we have reviewed your letter with Ref. No. 62-00-101/02.04.2025 regarding a request for information on the requested membership in the European Music Schools Union /EMU/ by the “Association of Schools of Arts and Culture under the Ministry of Culture” /ASAC/.

In this regard, I would like to inform you that there are 23 schools of arts and culture under the Ministry of Culture. They are the oldest educational institutions in the country, with some of them having more than 120 years of history.

Music education in the country began with the enthusiasm of a group of citizens who formed their own associations and formed the first private music schools in Sofia, Plovdiv and Burgas. Gradually, they grew into public schools and increased their number, adding musical folklore to classical music.

Currently, the state schools of arts and culture under the Ministry of Culture educate students from grades 1 to 12 in the field of musical and performing arts, as well as fine and applied arts. They educate more than 9 thousand students, with whom more than 1000 teachers work, who are not only high-level teachers, but also artists with significant achievements. Students receive general and professional education, thus preparing the future cadres of Bulgarian culture. Many of them are now on the world stage with exceptional success. All those who currently work in orchestras in the country and teach in secondary and higher schools received their education from early childhood in music schools in the country.

In 2017, the Ministry of Culture assisted Mrs. Helena Maffli, Chairperson of EMU, to visit Bulgarian music schools, including the National Music School “Lyubomir Pipkov” - Sofia and the National School of Arts “Panayot Pipkov” - Pleven.

In Bulgaria, music education also exists in municipal schools, which are subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science. In 2015 they created their own organization called “Section of Schools with Profiled and Extended Study of Music in the Republic of Bulgaria at

the Association of European Music Schools”. It is registered as a non-profit legal entity and represents only a portion of the schools in the country that study music.

In 2023, the schools of arts and culture under the Ministry of Culture established their own association, which is registered as a non-profit legal entity. Currently, 19 schools with more than 8,370 students participate in it.

I believe that the necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the music schools at the Ministry of Culture, and together with them the other state schools that teach other arts, including dance, theater, fine and applied arts, find their place in your organization and in the European family of music schools. This will lead to new interesting contacts that will be beneficial for the schools of arts and culture, exchanges between them and similar European educational institutions.

Sincerely,

GEORGI SULTANOV
Deputy Minister of Culture

Questionnaire for organisations wishing to join EMU

1. Describe what kind of organisation you are and when it was established:
Association of Arts and Culture Schools at the Ministry of Culture - 29/12/2023
2. Is your organisation in a position to:
 - a) Pay the annual observer membership fee?
Yes
 - b) Attend the general assemblies and music festivals?
Yes
3. How is music and arts education organised in your country (e.g. in terms of legislation and funding)?
National Schools
4. Which ministry does music and art schools come under?
Ministry of Culture
5. Are the music and art schools maintained by municipalities, districts, regional or national authorities, private structures (e.g. foundations and organisations)?
National Schools
6. How is your organisation organised?
Schools of Arts and Culture at the Ministry of Culture
7. How is your organisation financed?
Through membership fee
8. How many music and art schools are there in your country?
23
9. How many of them are associated with your organisation?
18
10. How many students are attending music and art schools associated to your organisation?
8370
11. How many teachers are employed in the schools associated to your organisation?
1430
12. Is there a national association of music and arts schools in your country?
Yes
 - b). What is your relation to this association?
Members
13. Address of your office or contact:
Bulgaria, Plovdiv 4000, 23 Ivan Vazov Str.

Date: 16.01.2025

Name: Neli Popova-Koeva