

Activities of the French federation of artistic education (FFEA)

Since the last EMU congress and the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary in Avignon in November 2023, the FFEA has continued to invest in actions aimed at federating numerous partners around its project, continuing to reflect on our environment and its challenges, and informing its members. It will also continue to support innovation, make educational creation accessible to all and promote artistic projects.

A continuous presence at COFAC, OFAJ and the Franco-German Citizen Fund

FFEA is a member of COFAC (Coordination des Fédérations et Associations de Culture et de Communication), OFAJ (Office Franco-Allemand pour la Jeunesse) and the Franco-German Citizens' Fund.

COFAC (Coordination des Fédérations et Associations de Culture et de Communication) is the contact for public authorities in the region. It participates in the co-construction of cultural policies at regional, departmental and local levels. It brings together nearly 30 national federations working in a variety of cultural fields, including heritage, theatre, museums, music, cinema, circus schools, rural centres and youth clubs. This diversity reflects its commitment to representing all artistic and cultural practices in France.

Membership of COFAC is a strategic asset for FFEA. It provides a forum for exchange and cooperation that enhances our federation's visibility and influence in the national cultural landscape, while facilitating access to essential resources and partners. In addition, COFAC is convinced at national level that Specialised Artistic Education (EAS), Artistic and Cultural Education (EAC) and Popular Education (EP) are complementary, as are the public and voluntary structures in these three fields. Together, these components contribute to enriching a dynamic and inclusive cultural ecosystem, beneficial both individually and collectively.

The FFEA is a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of COFAC. In addition, all FFEA members can take part in COFAC events and most workshops.

Some key activities:

- Publication of the Guide du parcours de responsable bénévole (practical guide),
- Intervention with members of parliament and elected representatives at departmental and regional level following recent budget cuts targeting culture, particularly at departmental and regional level,
- Year-round barometers surveying the situation of cultural associations,
- The Culture 2024 conference held on Friday 6 December at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) in Paris,
- Participation in SNOP,

- The development of regional COFACs.

In conjunction with the OFAJ, the FFEA is an integral part of the Steering Committee of the Franco-German Citizens' Fund and works within this framework with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both German and French.

As FFEA representative, David Lalloz has continued the work of this working group, with the guiding principle of maintaining our standing as a federation that promotes the performing arts throughout life, obtaining approval from the Ministry of Education, and considering the possibility of receiving budget allocations for FFEA activities.

EMU General Assembly and Forum in Sankt-Pölten, Austria, and meeting of Onda Latina

The FFEA was present at the EMU General Assembly in Sankt-Pölten, Austria. Our colleague Philippe Dalarun, whose term as President of the EMU has come to an end, handed over to Michaela Hahn.

The Onda Latina group met in Le Bouscat, near Bordeaux, on 22 and 23 March, where its work focused on the recommendations of 'MusiQuE Standards' and how each country, according to its own regulations, integrates this thinking into the training of student musicians.

Professional meetings throughout France and with numerous partners

Ministry of Culture: the FFEA remains a professional contact for the Ministry. This year's work focused on monitoring the implementation of the SNOP in listed establishments.

Professional meetings in the PACA region, at the Conservatoire d'Aix-en-Provence, on the theme of support for the development and promotion of initiatives undertaken by artistic education establishments in the region.

Professional meetings in Essonne, Conservatoire de Montgeron: on the theme of the charter for establishments.

Participation in the APFM pedagogical days in Rennes on the theme of the place of FM in conservatoires today and tomorrow, and the lack of training for FM teachers.

Participation in the colloquium organised by the CDMC (departmental centre for culture) on the theme of artistic education, a changing world.

Musical exchanges between France, Romania and Germany in Pessac

The FFEA took part in the town of Pessac's projects with Romania and Germany.

The joint symphony orchestra of Pessac's two music schools travelled to Galati (a Romanian town twinned with Pessac) for a week in February. As well as social events and visits, the joint rehearsals included a concert of Arturo Marquez's Danzon No. 2.

110 musicians from the Göppingen Youth Orchestra (a German town twinned with Pessac) were welcomed back during the All-Saints' holiday, with a return trip to Germany planned for October.

Promoting new digital tools for teaching

The digital environment is evolving quickly in all areas, and those linked to artistic education are changing rapidly. The ecosystem in our field has seen partnerships evolve, either due to the disappearance of certain tools or their evolution into a competitive field.

Recently, the FFEA took an interest in the work carried out by Marie-Aline Bayon within her association Art Conect, which is a platform for mutual support and training around digital tools and their use in artistic education. We relayed their proposal for a training course leading to certification in the use of digital technology in music teaching.

The FFEA is called upon to take a position on the use of digital tools today and the ethical and environmental aspects they entail. The place of AI in our professions is obviously at the heart of our reflections and will be the subject of development during the congress but also during future work.

The partnerships we have forged will continue to evolve, and others may be undertaken to offer our members new services.

Digital collections of musical works

The collections of works and lists of examination pieces offered by the FFEA, always eagerly awaited by members, which have been completely redesigned to be more readable, pleasant and functional, are being prepared for 2024.

The project to make these collections of works available for consultation on a database containing various search criteria will constitute a service that will be deployed during a second phase of updating the website, planned for this year 2025.

Défis (challenges) FFEA

Every year since 2018, the FFEA has been rewarding artistic projects that showcase innovation, multidisciplinary, heritage enhancement and societal responsibility.

Prizes can be up to €3,000. You can find the list on the Federation's website.

This year, around fifteen projects were submitted and the awards were handed out live on Friday 4 April during the FFEA Congress.