



Association of Swiss Music Schools ASMS

National Report 2024

1 General information

The Association of Swiss Music Schools (ASMS) serves as the umbrella organisation for the cantonal associations, which represent all 26 cantons as well as the Principality of Liechtenstein and their music schools. 367 music schools with around 14'000 teachers provide music education for approximately 250'000 children and young adults. By comparison, 1'024'200 children and young people in Switzerland attended school at the primary and secondary I level in school year 2023/24. The ASMS-departments for Management, Public Affairs, Music Pedagogy and Research, Finances as well as Services worked very closely together on a broad variety of projects to improve the general conditions for the music schools and further develop musical education in Switzerland.

This National Report also covers the Liechtenstein Music School in the Principality of Liechtenstein, which is a member of the Association of Swiss Music Schools and teaches approximately 2'000 children and young people.

2 Management

2.1 Music teaching in elementary and secondary school

Since 2012, the Swiss Federal Constitution has stipulated that the federal government and the cantons are committed to high-quality music teaching in schools ([Art. 67a, para. 2](#)). The implementation of this requirement is insufficient from the point of view of the ASMS. That is why our association is involved in a project of the Swiss Music Council to develop new approaches in the areas of training and career options for the teaching persons. Reliable data on the status quo must be collected as a basis for this work.

2.2 Tariffs at music schools

[Article 12a of the Culture Promotion Act](#) (2016) aims to facilitate access to music education by defining basic criteria for setting the tariffs at music schools. In 2022, the Federal Office for Culture (BAK) reminded music schools and their sponsors, the cities and cantons, of the need to ensure equal opportunities in access to instrumental and vocal training. At the same time, the federal government announced a new evaluation for 2025. In the second half of 2024, an advisory group with the participation of the ASMS prepared the basis for this survey. The results will serve as a basis for formulating measures at the political level. The report is expected to be available in mid-September 2025.

2.3 Job situation at music schools

The ASMS survey on the situation regarding job placements at ASMS music schools from 2023 shows a need for action. It is difficult to find teaching staff in some subject areas. To improve this situation, the ASMS and the Conference of Swiss Universities of Music (CSUM) set up a

joint working group in April 2024. Various subgroups address the problem of recruitment, the criteria for admission to teacher training programs at music universities, and the skills profiles of teachers.

2.4 Federal Programs *Young Talents in Music* and *Youth and Music*

The two federal programs *Young Talents in Music* and *Youth and Music* are important pillars for implementing Article 67a of the Federal Constitution. The *Young Talents in Music* program is designed to provide children and young people with above-average musical potential with early and sustainable support tailored to their needs. As of the end of 2024, 16 cantons had created structures to implement it, and nine other cantons were in the process of developing cantonal support structures.

The Youth and Music program, which promotes musical education at a broad level, has been in place since 2017 and is continuously being developed based on practical experience. As a result of the evaluation carried out in 2023, the funding period 2025-2028 is planned to include, among other things, a lowering of the age range.

3 Pedagogy: Research and Education

3.1 Digital Transformation at Music Schools

The megatrend of digitalization has taken hold of our entire lives – including music schools and musical education. The ASMS developed a digitalization concept as a basis for music schools to deal with the digital transformation and to develop their own digitalization strategies. The concept is available online in [German](#), [French](#) and [Italian](#). Further follow-up documents, such as a reference framework for digital skills in music schools and best practice examples, will follow.

3.2 Competition “Good-Practice at music schools” 2024

In 2024, the ASMS announced the fifth edition of its good practice competition. Ten successful, innovative projects in the categories of *new forms of teaching*, *integration/inclusion*, *development of new target groups and cooperation* were admitted to the final by the jury and presented at the ASMS's biennial conference on music education in 2025. Three projects were awarded prizes by the jury and the conference audience chose a further project for the audience award. An overview of all the finalist projects and the prize winners can be found [on the VMS website](#).

3.3 Music Management Education

Graduates of training programmes at the Bern University of the Arts HKB (since 2005) or the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts HSLU (since 2022) are awarded the ASMS Diploma in Music School Management after successfully completing the required courses. Those responsible in music education institutions who wish to qualify for management positions in music education and/or in the music industry can acquire the basic knowledge and skills needed to take on a management role, particularly at a music school. In 2024, a further 13 graduates were awarded the ASMS diploma.

4 Public Affairs

4.1 Delegates' Meetings and Cantonal Associations

All cantonal associations are represented in the Assembly of Delegates. In 2024, the delegates met for two ordinary meetings at which the statutory business and substantive issues of the association's work were discussed. As an umbrella association, the ASMS has furthermore networked on an ongoing basis with the cantonal associations through visits to the cantons and consultancy in political matters and advocacy.

4.2 National and International Cooperation

The ASMS continued to cooperate with the *Swiss Music Journal*, the *Swiss Music Council*, Swiss music associations of professional musicians, and the amateur associations. The ASMS worked together particularly closely with the *Conference of Swiss Universities of Music* on various topics and there was very good, regular contact with the *Federal Office of Culture*.

International networking with the EMU took place at the Meetings of the Boards as well as in the regional group of Romance-language countries *Onda Latina* (France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland) and the *LLACHD* regional group (Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Austria, Switzerland, Germany), which held its annual meeting in Malbun, Principality of Liechtenstein, in November 2024. The ASMS was represented at the EMU's General Assembly in St. Pölten in May 2024. At the subsequent *European Music School Forum* the representatives presented the federal program *Young Talents in Music* and the quality management system *quarte Open Label*.

5 Quality management

5.1 Quality management system *quarte Open Label*

As part of ASMS quality management, the music schools continued to be offered the quality management system *quarte Open Label*, which has a modular structure and is adapted to the needs of the music schools. At the end of 2024, one cantonal association and 16 music schools carried this label.

5.2 *Pre-College Music CH* label

The aim of the *Pre-College Music CH* label, developed by the Association of Swiss Music Schools (ASMS) and the Conference of Swiss Universities of Music (CSUM) in 2019, is to promote quality, networking and visibility of the preparation for musical studies in Switzerland. The 11 institutions of music and the music schools certified with the label offer specific pre-college courses for talented young people with university potential.

These certified institutions are organized in the *Swiss conference of Pre-College Music CH*, an association that aims to promote networking and dialogue among the certified precolleges. In 2024, the first two national Pre-College Days were held. The first event took place in January 2024 at the Conservatoire de musique neuchâtelois and was attended by around 80 students. In November 2024, around 130 students took part in the Pre-College Days at the Lucerne School of Music.

6 Communication and Marketing

The 20 editorial pages on which the ASMS topics were reported in the Swiss Music Journal was once again the focus of media work. News items were reviewed for our members each month as part of our media monitoring. Within the Association, the ASMS communicated directly with the music schools and other interested persons via the newsletter (11 issues in German, French and Italian). The ASMS website contains current information about the ASMS, its projects, and the developments in the music school landscape. Since May 2024, the ASMS has been present on the social media platforms Instagram and LinkedIn. We publish exciting stories and information about the activities, offers and events of the ASMS and network with regional and national players in musical education.

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the ASMS has fundamentally renewed its visual identity. The result is a new graphic appearance with a new logo in fresh colours.

7 Support

7.1 Counselling and ASMS services

The ASMS has offered a wide range of services for its members. In cooperation with various partners, discounted insurance and other offers, pension solutions, further training opportunities and quality management solutions have been available.

The competent Secretariat has been happy to assist interested persons with all issues relating to the organisation of the music schools and the cantonal associations.

7.2 Acknowledgements

The 2024 ASMS year was characterised by many different activities by the Board, the Secretariat, and the working groups, with a constant focus on equal access to music education in Switzerland. Our world needs music more than ever, because it promotes personal development and the resilience of our students. The skills that develop through learning music should be considered first and foremost in themselves, as a key to an infinitely rich artistic universe, but also as resources that enable us to better meet the social challenges ahead of us. In this spirit, we look forward to continuing our work alongside our institutional and political partners, our music schools, the cantonal associations and their delegates. I would like to thank them all for their support and trust.

To my colleagues on the Board and to the administrative and communications team at the ASMS, I would like to express my deep gratitude for another year of intensive, very gratifying work in a cooperative and constructive atmosphere.

Association of Swiss Music Schools ASMS

Philippe Krüttli
President

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