

Music study, mobility and accountability

newsletter 1

A cooperative project for European and American institutions for professional music training

The Music Study, Mobility and Accountability Project

Although music is critically important in European and American culture and education, and although the music profession has always been a subject area with a strong international dimension, contacts between music institutions in Europe and the United States have been limited in number and highly informal. A clear need has been identified on both sides of the Atlantic to conduct an analysis and then to compile and disseminate information in two related areas: (1) advancing and improving joint cooperation projects between European and American music institutions, and (2) considering common issues of curriculum, quality control and assessment, program, and improvement with particular attention to their impact on student mobility. The project will promote cooperation between European and American music institutions by publishing a handbook addressing issues regarding the transatlantic mobility of students and teachers engaged in professional education in music, including prospects for future cooperation initiatives in the development of joint curricula and

specific intensive courses. The group will furthermore produce a comparative study of EU and US music institutions regarding goals for student achievement, internal student evaluation criteria, and external review mechanisms and prospects, all linked to current and future issues regarding curricular content, educational excellence, student mobility, quality assurance, and partnerships and exchanges between EU and US

music institutions, including possibilities for distance learning.

The project will create a substantive foundation for perpetual cooperation and continuing innovation, not only among project partners, but among all professional music institutions and programmes in Europe and the United States. The involvement of AEC (190 members) and NASM (585 members) means continuous dissemination during the project and a continuing commitment to pursue findings and recommendations after the project is completed. These project efforts will support an educational sector facing many challenges due to globalisation. Most of all, they will improve educational opportunities for students pursuing professional music training in Europe and the United States.

The issues

In the course of the project, the partners intend to address the following issues and subjects:

- Transatlantic cooperation between music institutions
- Transatlantic student and teacher exchanges between music institutions
- Joint curriculum development and joint intensive programmes
- Quality assurance and quality control approaches in music institutions

The working group has opened a formal dialogue, by developing a basic joint research and policy analysis effort and by assembling examples of good practice. Music institutions will be encouraged to pursue transatlantic exchanges, supported by the information produced by this project.

Target groups and dissemination activities

The project will serve the following target groups:

- Music institutions in Europe and the United States responsible for education and training of future musicians, and the

students, teachers, and administrative staff of these institutions.

- International and national organizations (governmental agencies, educational organizations, professional organizations, etc), seeking information about educational potentials of closer cooperation between European and American music institutions and/or about issues of quality assurance in the arts and other disciplines.

The following dissemination efforts are scheduled:

- The production of two newsletters and a special website, updated regularly, to provide information on developments and results of the project.
- The production and distribution of specific project final publications to provide detailed information on project results. In both printed and electronic forms, results will be in the libraries and information resources of hundreds of institutions.
- Presentations during full-scale conferences, organized by the AEC and NASM in November each year.

The project partners

The project consists of the following project partners, with coordinating institutions on both the US and EU sides:

- The Eastman School of Music (US coordinating institution) is a professional school within the University of Rochester, a private research university. Director James Undercofler represents the Eastman School of Music in the project working group. www.rochester.edu/eastman
- The Moores School of Music is part of the University of Houston, a public research university. The Moores School of Music is represented by professor of music David Tomatz, current president of NASM. www.uh.edu/music
- The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) is represented by executive director Sam Hope. The major responsi-

lity of the National Association of Schools of Music is the accreditation of education programmes in music, including the establishment of curricular standards and guidelines for specific degrees and credentials. NASM has 585 members in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; its office is based in Reston, Virginia. www.arts-accredit.org

- The North Netherlands Conservatoire (EU coordinating institution) is part of the Faculty of Arts of the Hanze University for Professional Education in Groningen. The NNC is represented by director Rineke Smilde, current vice president of the AEC. www.hanze.nl
- The Malmö Academy of Music is part of the Lund University, a public research university in Sweden. The Malmö Academy of Music is represented by director Johannes Johansson, current Secretary general of the AEC. www.mhm.lu.se
- The Royal College of Music in London is a publicly funded higher education institution, with its own degree-awarding powers to doctoral level, and a strong research tradition. Director Janet Ritterman represents the RCM. www.rcm.ac.uk
- The Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) is represented by chief executive Martin Prchal and by project administrator Janneke Vrijland. The AEC is a European educational network with 190 members in 46 countries, primarily in Europe. Its office is based in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The AEC is active in establishing international research projects and in the organisation of seminars and congresses in the field of professional music training on European level. www.aecinfo.org

Meetings and events calendar

- EU-USA Working group meeting, 2-6 November 2002 in Halifax, Canada
The first working group meeting took place in Halifax (Canada) during a conference on transatlantic co-operation in higher education, 2-6 November 2002. During this meeting, which was preceded by a preparatory meeting with AEC and NASM staff at the NASM Office in Washington DC, the working group met to establish a working plan and to decide on short-term and long-term project objectives.

- EU-USA Working group meeting, 27-30 June 2003 in Utrecht, The Netherlands
The working group will discuss the first draft version of the texts produced by the project as well as organise its participation at the AEC Congress in Karlsruhe and the NASM Annual Meeting in Seattle.
- AEC Annual Congress 2003, 7-10 November 2003 in Karlsruhe, Germany
At the AEC Annual Congress 2003, an important part of the programme will be dedicated to the EU-USA project. The working group will meet in advance to prepare presentation, discussions and breakout group sessions. The congress will be attended by app. 200 representatives from music education institutions in and outside Europe. As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, AEC will open up participation to the congress for institutions from all over the world in order to create a 'world conference'.
- NASM Annual Meeting 2003, 22-25 November in Seattle, USA
European and American members of the Working Group will present findings to date and seek response and recommendations for refinement from attendees.
- EU-USA Working group Meeting, 2-4 July 2004 in Washington, USA

The EC/US Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (2001-2005)

In December 2000, the European Community and the United States of America signed an Agreement renewing the 1995-2000 cooperation programme on higher education and vocational education and training; the 2001-2005 EC/USA Programme entered into force on 1st March 2001. The programme aims primarily at promoting understanding between the

peoples of the European Community and the United States of America and improving the quality of their human resource development. To achieve these objectives the Programme supports innovative, multilateral, student-centred projects with the potential to stimulate substantive and long-lasting structural transatlantic co-operation in higher education and vocational education and training. It may also support international education projects that give rise to new forms of cooperation between the United States and the European Community. In addition, through the Fulbright/EU scheme, the programme supports the study of research and lecturing on European Community affairs and EC/US relations. The Music Study, Mobility and Accountability Project is partly sponsored by the European Union and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), US Department of Education (www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/), through the EU/USA Programme of the European union (www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/ec-usa/usa.html).

Additional ideas and comment

This project is being developed to help institutions work together, primarily on a one-to-one basis. The Project Partners are committed to developing materials and ideas that will serve the institutional members of AEC and NASM as each member creates for itself specific approaches to exchanges and international relations. The Partners would be most grateful for suggestions, ideas, concerns, stories about what has or has not worked or specific topics that music school administrators and faculties feel need special attention. European institutions should contact the AEC and USA institutions should contact NASM at the addresses provided below.

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