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, 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 responsibi-
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 Royal College of Music in London is a short-term and long-term project objectives. It establishes a working plan and to decide on education, 2-6 November 2002. The Royal College of Music is represented by director Johannes Johansson, current Secretary general of the AEC. www.mhm.lu.se
- 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 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
- EU-USA Working group meeting, 27-30 June 2003 in Utrecht, The Netherlands
- EU-USA Working group meeting, 2-4 July 2004 in Washington, USA
- EU-USA Annual Congress 2003, 7-10 November 2003 in Karlsruhe, Germany
- EU-USA Working group Meeting, 2-4 July 2004 in Washington, USA

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