



Association Européenne  
des Conservatoires,  
Académies de Musique  
et Musikhochschulen (AEC)



Education and Culture

**Socrates**  
Erasmus

# 'Polifonia'

## ERASMUS Thematic Network for Music

### Past, Present and Future

**Martin Prchal (AEC)**

ERASMUS THEMATIC NETWORK FOR MUSIC

*polifonia*

*Annual meeting EMC, Brno 18 April 2008*

# The AEC

- More than 250 member institutions worldwide
- Promotes European cooperation in higher music education
- Represents the interests of the sector
- Organises conferences, meetings, seminars, etc
- Implements projects funded by the EU
- Main office in Utrecht (NL)

# 'Polifonia' I (2004 – 2007)

- Project in ERASMUS – chapter for higher education in EU Lifelong Learning Programme
- In ERASMUS support given to Thematic Networks – large European networks organised at discipline level
- 34 of such networks
- 'Polifonia' first ERASMUS network for music
- 'ERASMUS Success Story'

# Project aims 'Polifonia' I

- Further study of issues connected to the Bologna Declaration Process
- Collect information on levels in music education before and after the 1<sup>st</sup> (Bachelor) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Master) study cycles
- Explore European trends and changes in the music profession

# Project activities 2004 – 2007

97 activities in 26 different European countries:

- 31 Working Group meetings
- 18 site visits
- 7 counselling visits
- 4 seminars
- 21 conference presentations
- 16 organisational meetings

# ‘Tuning’ Working Group: Outcomes

- ‘Higher Music Education - characteristics, learning outcomes and competences’
- Handbook for the Implementation and Use of Credit Points in Higher Music Education
- Handbook on Curriculum Design and Development in Higher Music Education
- Handbook for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Music Education
- ‘Polifonia’ Counsellors

# 'Profession' Working Group: Outcomes

- Study on the latest trends in the music profession in Europe based on research, site visits and portraits of European professional musicians
- Overview of alumni systems and practice in higher music education in Europe
- Handbook 'Today's student: tomorrow's alumnus' on cultivating good alumni relationships in conservatoires
- Study 'Free Movement of Musicians in the EU'
- DVD 'Dialogue in Music'

# 'Pre-college' Working Group: Outcomes

- Final Report including:
  - a pre-college definition
  - a European survey on the preparation of students for and admission procedures to the higher music education level
  - a set of competences for pre-college music education
  - a position statement about the importance of pre-college music education
- Literature study 'Preparing young musicians for professional training: What does scientific research tell us?'
- Survey on the current situation of music schools in Europe
- Several examples of best practices of successful pre-college music education systems based on site visits
- Descriptions of national pre-college music education systems in 26 European countries

# '3<sup>rd</sup> cycle' Working Group: Outcomes

- 'Guide to 3rd cycle Studies in Higher Music Education' including:
  - Tools for music institutions wishing to establish a 3rd cycle
  - Learning outcomes and 'Polifonia/Dublin Descriptors' for 3rd cycle studies
  - A description of the current status of and the latest trends/developments in relation to 3rd cycle studies in music in European institutions for professional music training
- National overviews of 3rd cycle music courses in Europe

# 'Polifonia' II (2007-2010)

- Contractor: Royal College of Music Stockholm
- Combination of addressing the main political frameworks with the needs of the sector:
  1. 'Bologna' Strand:
    - Continuation of work on 'Tuning' ('Tuning' WG):
      - Further work on descriptors and learning outcomes, including assessment of use of learning outcomes, credit points, etc
      - 'Polifonia' counsellors
    - Continuation of AEC work on QA and accreditation ('Accreditation WG')

# 'Polifonia' II (2007-2010)

## 2. 'Lisbon' strand:

- Governance: Continuing Professional Development activities for directors (WG for continuing professional development for conservatoire management)
- Employability: panel with representatives from the profession (external stakeholders group)
- Creativity: Instrumental/vocal music teaching (WG for instrumental/vocal teacher training)
- Access: Pre-college training conference (Pre-college WG): Oslo 30-31 May 2008

# 'Polifonia' II 2007-2010

## 3. 'Research' strand ('Research' WG)

- Collection and dissemination results of research done in conservatoires
- Based on previous points, the development of Continuing Professional Development seminars for conservatoire teachers

# Relevant websites

AEC:

- [www.aecinfo.org](http://www.aecinfo.org)
- [www.bologna-and-music.org](http://www.bologna-and-music.org)
- [www.polifonia-tn.org](http://www.polifonia-tn.org)
- [www.doremifasocrates.org](http://www.doremifasocrates.org)
- [www.studymusicineurope.org](http://www.studymusicineurope.org)

Bologna Declaration process:

- [www.bologna2009benelux.org](http://www.bologna2009benelux.org)



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**[polifonia@aecinfo.org](mailto:polifonia@aecinfo.org)**

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