

ExTra! Exchange Traditions – Project description

Aim of the project

The aim of the project “ExTra! – Exchange Traditions” is to stimulate exchange between different music traditions present in today’s multicultural Europe. The main focus is on the integration of musical traditions of immigrants and cultural minorities in Europe with those already existing in the European countries.

The following objectives shall be pursued:

Objectives

- Cultural dialogue between different musical traditions present in Europe today should be increased and enhanced. Cooperation between these traditions representing various cultures and minorities will be encouraged. Special attention will be given to “cross fertilization” within different musical genres. Innovative compositions and unusual applications of old traditions with a special focus on integrating the use of multimedia will be stimulated.
- European cultural identity will be increased by actively involving the general public in the project. One region in Europe, considered highly active in the field of traditional music, could serve as a model for other regions where local and regional traditions are less well known and should stimulate an increase of awareness. Specific educational tools will be developed to transmit traditional music and to acknowledge the musical diversity in Europe.
- Immigrants bring their own musical traditions to Europe; these should be identified, disseminated and protected in the same way as those autochthonous to Europe’s national, regional and provincial communities.
- The project “Extra! – Exchange traditions” intends to identify the music traditions that form a part of the day-to-day life of European citizens and of the minority cultures present. Influences from traditions of other parts of the world are part of the study. The research will be a collection of essays underlining the unifying musical factors between peoples in Europe today which may be obtained through teaching, practice, promotion and exchange. A publication will be prepared.
- The outcome of the project is to reach a high level of awareness and visibility in Europe and beyond using the international network of the European Music Council (International Music Council) and through the networks of the project partners, making full use of new communication technologies.

Partnership

In its conference “Many Musics in Europe” (Budapest, April 2005), the European Music Council (EMC), “ExTra!” project leader, set a milestone for the promotion of different musical traditions in Europe. For the ExTra! project, the EMC has brought together organisations focusing on different aspects in the field of music such as education, production, musicology, socio-culture and new media: En Chordais, Greece; Music Information Centre Austria (MICA); Fondazione Adkins Chiti – Donne in Musica, Italy; International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation (IYMF), Belgium; Association National Cultures et Traditions (ANCT), France; Cité de la Musique, France.

Activities

1. Artistic Production

Artists working in the field of traditional music will be invited to perform at various places throughout Europe. These artists may be active in a special field of traditional music and heritage, they may integrate influences from non-European musical traditions and/or they might be coming from an immigrant or cultural minority background.

2. Collaborative and creative Workshops
Many regional, national and European organisations are active in the field of traditional music. To increase the awareness for traditional music in regions where they have nearly disappeared and to integrate musical traditions from immigrant and cultural minorities is essential in a growing Europe. In collaborative and creative workshops an approach to these focal points shall be guaranteed. The creation of new musical languages is an expected outcome.
3. Summer Academy
Traditional music of the different regions in Europe and the music of immigrant and minority cultures are hardly taught in professional training throughout Europe. To increase the awareness for other musical traditions and to become familiar with musical and performing practices of traditional and immigrant music, a summer academy will be organised for music students from European training institutions.
4. Encounters for information exchange
Further investigation on the state of traditional music in Europe and on the integration of immigrant and minority cultures is essential to make full use of synergy effects. Experts and representatives from organisations active in the field will meet to exchange information on the different musical traditions present in today's multicultural Europe. The encounters will facilitate the mobility of artists and cultural operators.
5. Research
A comparative research study on music traditions present in today's multicultural Europe will provide musicological data for this sector and will be prefaced by a description of the "ExTra! – Exchange Traditions" project. Existing studies (e.g. results from the EU-funded project "Medimuse" and other extant regional and national studies on the subject) will be mentioned. Special interest and attention will be paid to the social aspects of music traditions present in European daily life.
6. Dissemination and Evaluation
Information about the project and the project results will be disseminated through publications (both printed and digital), a project website and European music networks. A special download platform will be created providing music files, sheet music and publications on ExTra! related subjects. Tutorials and workshops next to other ExTra! activities will provide information on online dissemination tools and copyright issues. The project progress, project operation and results will be evaluated.
7. Implementation and administration
The ExTra! project leader will take care of the realisation and coordination of the project activities, the project research and of an adequate dissemination and evaluation.

European Added Value

In many parts of Europe, traditional music belongs to the living culture of every day. It is an important factor for the cultural identity of the individual citizen. The project "ExTra! – Exchange Traditions" will raise the understanding of the culture of each other's neighbours – including traditions of immigrants and cultural minorities. Hence, the awareness of a common European cultural identity will be promoted.

As the project aims to initiate new contacts and co-operations that will go on and develop independently after the end of the project period, sustainability will be guaranteed.

Inviting musicians and music experts from countries all over Europe and beyond to exchange experiences and develop new ideas, the project will contribute to the cultural dialogue and the mobility of cultural operators within Europe as well as between Europe and other parts of the world.