

MIX IT! – Recommendations for a better inclusion of young people with migrant background into the European society

In the frame of the EMC symposium “MIX IT! – Young people with migrant background in music projects”, recommendations for a better inclusion of young people with migrant background into the European society were adopted. The full text of the recommendations are available at www.emc-imc.org.

The recommendations were sent to European ministers for culture and to ministers for integration. Here are some quotations from their answers:

[...] Diese Empfehlungen sind sicher ein wichtiger Beitrag auch zur kulturpolitischen Diskussion. [...] Im Rahmen meiner politischen Tätigkeit werde ich gerne versuchen, in meinem Wirkungsbereich darauf einzugehen. Auch das Jahr des Interkulturellen Dialoges 2008, das seitens der Europäischen Kommission ausgerufen wurde, wird dazu einen wichtigen Beitrag leisten.

Franz Morak
Staatssekretär für Kunst und Medien Österreich (bis Januar 2007)

Please allow me to truly thank you for your kind letter. Including young people with migrant background into the European society is certainly a very important subject. The role of culture in this process must not be underestimated.

Raivo Palmaru
Minister for Culture, Estonia

Pour ma part, je puis vous assurer de toute mon attention sur ces questions, qui devraient trouver une résonance toute particulière lors de l'année européenne du dialogue interculturel, qui aura lieu comme vous le savez en 2008.

Jean de Saint Guilhem
Directeur de la musique, de la danse, du théâtre, et des spectacles,
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, France

[...] The intercultural perspective in various fields of culture is an issue of actuality. I particularly appreciate the fact that the recommendations are in line with the European Union position regarding the cultural diversity and its activities in this area, in which Poland is actively involved. Music projects are of incomparable value in spreading the spirit of intercultural dialogue and harmony.

Krzysztof Olendzki
Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

I would like to express my gratitude to You and Your colleagues, as well as to all participants of the Symposium for the recommendations concerning a better inclusion of young people with migrant background into the European society. The recommendations contain various new ideas and practices of social inclusion, using youth, culture and music. I would like to assure You that we will take into consideration the results of the symposium.

Oskars Kastens
Minister for Social Integration, Latvia

[...] Sachez que je soutiens de nombreux projets à destination des jeunes dans le domaine de la musique et que je partage votre analyse et vos recommandations. La culture et la musique en particulier produisent incontestablement des effets en matière d'épanouissement des jeunes de l'immigration ou non. Soyez assurés que je serais attentive à vos recommandations dans la mise en œuvre de la politique culturelle de jeunesse.

Fadila Laanan
Ministre de la Culture, de l'audiovisuel et de la Jeunesse, Belgique

[...] Access to music projects whether formal tuition within school hours or outside school hours is already available to children regardless of their country of origin. [...] The Government launched in 2004 a Music Manifesto developed in collaboration with music educators, the music industry, musicians and arts organisations.

Julie Sealey,
Public Communications, Department for Education and Skills, UK

Für die Hessische Landesregierung ist die gesellschaftliche Integration von Zuwanderinnen und Zuwanderern sowie deren Kindern eine zentrale politische Aufgabe, die viele Bereiche der Landespolitik betrifft. Ich stimme Ihnen zu, dass insbesondere gemeinsame Aktivitäten im musischen Bereich gegenseitiges Verständnis und Integration fördern können.

Hessisches Kultursministerium, Deutschland

In its integration programmes the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic focuses on reducing exclusion, discrimination and unequal treatment. One of the important aims is a significant support of children and youth within the integration programmes. This is why we have welcomed the initiative of the European Music Council the recommendations of which, from the symposium MIX IT!, fully correspond to the understanding of the Slovak Republic and its integration programmes.

Viera Tomanová
Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Slovak Republic

EMC Advocacy Letter about authors' rights

Sent to the Commissioners of the DG Internal Market, Competition and Education and Culture

In this letter the EMC expresses its concern about the recommendation prepared by the Directorate General "Internal Market" and the preliminary decision of the Directorate General "Competition" about new regulations on how to handle performing rights for the Internet (online distribution), broadcasting (radio and TV) and mechanical licensing (permission to produce records, films, etc.).

I can assure you that the Commission has taken into consideration the cultural aspects involved and all the above mentioned considerations in the two Commission initiatives mentioned above. However the

Commission also has to ensure that competition in the internal market is not limited to a degree that is not necessary to ensure cultural diversity or that limits competition to an unjustifiable degree, in particular in view of technological evolution in the sector. I wish to assure you that the Commission will continue to take cultural aspects into account in applying the competition rules of the EC Treaty.

Arianna Vannini, Head of Unit, DG Competition

As you know, the full implementation of Article 151 of the Treaty, and in particular its fourth paragraph requiring the Community to take cultural aspects into account in all its policies, is not only a clear legal obligation, but also one to which I personally attach great importance. [...] The Commission, and my services in particular, will pay specific attention to the effects of the implementation on cultural diversity.

Ján Figél, Commissioner, DG Education and Culture

The Commissioner believes that a vibrant market for music online can make a significant contribution to the strengthening of cultural diversity in Europe. The Recommendation is aimed at making a contribution to achieving that goal. The Commission is monitoring developments closely. In this, your views would be most appreciated.

Helen Blake, Cabinet of Commissioner Mc Creevy, DG Internal Market

Statement – by the Music Council of the Netherlands

The Music Council of the Netherlands operates under the umbrella of the CNV-Kunstenbond (trade union of artists):

Working within the EU allows people to move around. However, free trade market rules on the one hand and too many tax regulations on the other threaten the music sector. Free market rules might on the long run endanger cultural diversity in Europe. It is important to always keep in mind that music cannot only be handled as commercial good, but also needs to be seen as a value in its own.

Complicated tax regulations on the contrary discourage musicians to travel, and the current tax system is not at all adapted to a European labour market.

We assist our members in new forms of life long learning for new opportunities. Where possible we advice musicians from the Netherlands and from abroad about their rights and fair payment.

The biggest challenge is the needed tax-reform of the EU. And in this matter we request: let the artist pay taxes in the nation he lives.

Leen la Rivière

Chairman

Music Council of the Netherlands

www.continentalart.org