

EMC Newsletter – December 2008

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Editorial**Dear Reader,**

the year 2008 was a very intense and active year for the European Music Council (EMC). We had our Annual Conference in Brno, Czech Republic, focusing on different ways of "Access to Musical Diversity" where a new Board was elected. In October the conference "Music on Troubled Soils" gave an impressive insight in music projects taking place under socially and politically deprived circumstances. Together with the ExTra! project, the conference contributed actively to the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue. For 2009, "Creativity and Innovation" will be the subjects in focus which will also be reflected in the next issue of the EMC magazine "Sounds in Europe". With the last newsletter this year we would like to wish you a peaceful and relaxing holiday time and all the best for the new year 2009! Enjoy reading!

With kind regards,
Simone Dudd
 Acting Secretary General

Preview

Reach out, Open Up, Take In
Developing your skills in advocacy, networking and international cooperation
Pomáz, Hungary, 27 February – 1 March 2009

The seminar "Reach out, Open Up, Take In" addresses national music organisations (e.g. national music councils) in North, Central and South Eastern Europe, from Albania to Slovakia and from Ukraine to Estonia. The seminar will provide an insight on how to be recognised as a cultural advocacy body in your country and how to put the 2005 UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity into practice. The seminar is organised jointly by the International and European Music Council (IMC/EMC), the Hungarian Music Council, Europa Cantat, the Europa Cantat Central Eastern European Centre (ECCEEC) and the Choral Castle Pomáz. Further information and registration are available [here](#).

ExTra! Exchange Traditions
EMC Annual Conference and final event of the EU funded project
23 - 26 April 2009, Athens, Greece

In 2009 the EMC Annual Conference will be the final event of the ExTra! project, which focuses on musical traditions of migrant and minority cultures in Europe and their interaction with cultures already existing in the European countries. The conference will discuss how music can serve as a tool for integration in education as well as in a political



context. What role media can play to enhance inclusion of diverse cultures will be for debate. Speakers from the EU institutions, UNESCO, European and International NGOs as well as individual experts are invited to share their vision with the participants. The conference is open to everybody interested. It is organised by the European Music Council in co-operation with the Greek ExTra! partner EnChordais and will take place at the B&M Theocharakis Foundation in Athens, Greece. Registration and updated information will be available at www.extra-project.eu in January 2009.



Review

Music on Troubled Soils, 23-26 October 2008, Jerusalem, Israel

The three-day conference taking place in the Jerusalem Music Centre provided a diverse overview on different music projects taking place on troubled soil. Projects from the Balkan area, Cyprus, Palestine, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Mediterranean area were presented. In the projects music served both, as interlocutor between peoples providing a means for dialogue and as a means of development aid to improve the social situation and to function as mind-opener. The conference was framed by inspiring concerts of the Mozaic choir (a cooperation between an Arab and Jewish choir) as well as by the Derech as-Salam Ensemble (with musicians from Israel and Palestine) playing songs in Arab and Hebrew.

The event was organised jointly by the European Music Council (EMC) and the Israeli Music Council (IMC Israel). [Read more.](#)



Sawa Choir



Derech-as-salaam Ensemble



Access to Music: New Perspectives in Education, Distribution and Politics 17 to 20 April 2008 in Brno, Czech Republic

In this year the EMC Annual Conference investigated specific needs for Access to Music regarding the different aims and interests of education, distribution and politics. More than 90 representatives from 24 European countries, Israel, Venezuela and Australia came to Brno to exchange their vision on the music life of the 21st century. The conference was organised in cooperation with the Czech Music Council and the Janáček Academy for Music and Performing Arts in Brno.

You will find a detailed documentation of the conference [here](#).

Cultural Policy

European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

The 'European Year of Intercultural Dialogue' (EYID) 2008 is about to draw to an end. It was established by the EU to encourage all those living in Europe to explore the benefits of our rich cultural heritage and opportunities to learn from different cultural traditions.

More information on the eventful EYID at www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu.

The work of the 'Platform for Intercultural Europe' relates closely to the EYID. The platform was initiated in 2006 by the European Forum for Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF). It comprises over 200 civil society organisations and their individual members engaged in intercultural action throughout Europe - at local, national and international level. This year culminated in the final Rainbow Paper (after two earlier versions), which contains recommendations to civil society organisations and to the European Union on how to practice respect for cultural diversity.

The final Rainbow Paper is available and ready for endorsement at <http://rainbowpaper.labforculture.org>.

The website of the platform is available at <http://www.intercultural-europe.org/>

European Year of Creativity and Innovation

2009 will be the EU Year of Creativity and Innovation. It has the objective to raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development, to disseminate good practices, to stimulate education and research, and to promote policy debate and development. The official inauguration will take place in Prague on the 7 January 2009, in the presence of the President of the EU Commission José Manuel Barroso and the Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek. All Member



States will be represented, among others by their specially-appointed national coordinators.

The website dedicated to the Year has already been launched on 5 December 2008 and is accessible [here](#).

EU Agenda for Culture

In order to implement the EU Agenda for Culture the European Commission is enhancing the dialogue with the cultural sector by the support of the Platform for Intercultural Europe and the setup of two further civil society platforms in 2008:

- Platform on Access to Culture

Three Working groups were installed to prepare and work already on the recommendations dealing with different field of "access":

1. Education/Learning, 2. Creation/Production, 3. Participation/Audience

- Platform on the Potential of Culture and Creative Industries

Five Working Groups were installed to draft first recommendations in different areas of culture and creative industries:

1. Regulatory Environment, 2. Small and medium sized enterprises, 3. Exchange and export in a globalised world, 4. Circulation of works and artists, 5. Interface "creation-industry"

All three platforms are meeting on a regular basis and working on position papers to submit to the EU.

The Council of the EU adopted conclusions on the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States, and a Resolution on a European strategy for multilingualism in its meeting on 20/21 November 2008. By this the EU is asking its member states to strengthen the cultural foreign affairs and to establish closer cooperation with third countries in the culture sector. Download the respective Press Release [here](#).

There will be more information available on the EMC website soon!

EU funding for cooperation Projects with third countries

The Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency has announced the countries that are in the focus for the project funding for actions with third countries (strand 1.3) from 2009-2011:

Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Moldova, Jordan, Palestine territories, Tunisia

You will find more information to the EU Culture Programme 2007-2013 [here](#).

On The Move – threats of closure

The EMC would like to express its deep concern about the anticipated closure of the On-The-Move mobility information services, due to difficulties in funding the basic running costs in 2009. On-the-Move (OTM) is a web site dedicated to information about professional mobility in the areas of theatre, dance, music and other performing arts disciplines. It helps performing arts, music professionals and arts operators to search for information and funding for their international activities. EMC finds this service a very useful source of information and hopes that OTM will find a way to continue its valuable work! Find more information at www.on-the-move.org.

EMC Activities

ExTra!


There have been plenty of wonderful activities taking place within the ExTra! Exchange Traditions project in 2008. You will find detailed information at www.extra-project.eu.

The ExTra! Newsletter with updated information will be circulated via email soon.



The official project period is going to end in June 2009. Its final event will take place in Athens, Greece, 23-26 April 2009 (see above). At this occasion the project research study "Music in Motion. Diversity and Dialogue in Europe" will be released.

Sounds in Europe #4

On schedule with the start of the 2009 EU Year of Creativity and Innovation, the EMC will publish the fourth issue of its magazine "Sounds in Europe". The issue will discuss different ways of interpretation of the notion of the terms "creativity and innovation". Furthermore, it will inform about the Euro  culture sector, report on EMC events and present some member activities as in the previous issues. All EMC members will receive a free issue by regular post. You can download an electronic version of the three previous issues [here](#).

Member News

AEC: Variazioni

The Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) is partner of the 'VARIAZIONI' project. The project is a content enrichment portal where major European Musical Institutions and User communities integrate, enrich and reuse existing musical contents (courses, teaching material, articles, thematic webs, etc). The project is supported by the eCONTENT Programme and coordinated by the Foundation Albéniz in

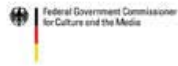
Madrid.

Find more information and the 2nd Variazioni Newsletter at www.variazioniproject.org.

Welcome to new members

The EMC welcomes the European Composers Forum (ECF) as new member in the IMC / EMC community. ECF was accepted during the Board meeting, held in Ramallah 22/23 October 2008, unanimously. The European Composers' Forum (ECF) is the official network organisation cross-linking all national composer societies that represent Art and Classical Music composers in their countries. Find more information on the ECF homepage at www.composersforum.eu.

The EMC is supported by



Explore the EMC and ExTra! Websites:

- www.emc-imc.org
- www.extra-project.eu

Information, activities, press articles, reports... and a lot more!

This communication reflects the views only of the EMC and its members. The funders cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.