

## Press Release

### „MIX IT! Young people with migrant background in music projects“

#### Adopted Recommendations for a better social inclusion of young people with migrant background.

About 90 guests from numerous countries such as Romania, Latvia and Tunisia, but also from Germany and the Bonn region accepted the invitation of the European Music Council and the broadcasting station Deutsche Welle to the symposium 'MIX IT!', which focussed on the topic of social inclusion of young people with migrant backgrounds in the European society.

Lectures, project presentations, workshops and discussions illustrated how different musical traditions enrich each other and contribute to a European identity.

The participants in 'MIX IT' have adopted recommendations for a better social inclusion of young people with migrant backgrounds. The suggestions made by the keynote speech and panel discussion are an essential part of the introduction of the recommendations: "The European society consists of people from many different backgrounds and origins. This results in many valuable cultural perspectives and presents a particular challenge for mutual understanding. To avoid the segregation of people from a migrant background, it is imperative to foster an understanding of cultural diversity in *all* children at the earliest possible age. Therefore, it is essential not to dilute the divergences between different cultures, but to ensure that each culture is given the opportunity to affirm their own identity and autonomy through a common process of deliberate coexistence. Music projects can contribute substantially to this process of intercultural learning and understanding." Furthermore, the Recommendations claim in 10 points that the right to cultural education needs to be an integral part of any curriculum, that formal musical projects in formal as well as in informal settings should receive appropriate structural and financial support, and that people with different backgrounds and origins have to be equally involved in musical projects. It is pointless to provide Turkish instruments courses for Turkish children at German music schools in Turkish districts and, by doing so, to strengthen the build-up of parallel worlds. It is essential to provide musical projects for ethnically and linguistically mixed groups and thereby treat everybody equally. Nobody must be made a typecast because of their origin.

*Ruth Jakobi*

For further questions concerning the symposium please do not hesitate to contact the EMC office in Bonn:  
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