

## Press Release

For immediate publication

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### **ACCESS! – European Agenda for Youth and Music**

Music plays a vital role in the lives of young people – yet how is the young perspective taken into account in political decision making, and how is it reflected in European music organisations today?

The idea for Access! was developed by the Working Group Youth (WGY) of the European Music Council (EMC) with the support of the Europa Cantat Youth Committee (ECYC). Its principle aims are to get young people from across Europe to become more active in musical life, for the voice of youth to be heard in democratic processes, as well as to allow participants to pursue their own interests. Supported by the Youth in Action programme, this six month project is based around a series of meetings and events, centred around the concept of non-formal learning, welcoming a total of 80 young people, aged 18-30 from across Europe.

One major and long-lasting outcome of the project will be the drawing up of the European Agenda for Youth and Music, a qualitative document outlining the current interests and future aspirations of young people active within all areas of musical life in Europe, and offering models of best practice. The Agenda will serve to encourage politicians at all levels as well as the music sector (civil society), to involve young people in decision making processes. Furthermore, it will stimulate more young people into action.

Coordinated by the Working Group Youth of the European Music Council, further partners in the project are Europa Cantat, Feniarco - Italian National Federation of the Regional Choral Associations, Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI), Cidim -National Music Council of Italy, and European Festivals Association (EFA).

Next Steps...

- Drafting of the European Agenda for Youth and Music will begin in September...

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2010. The outcomes will be made available to a broader public on an online forum, allowing young people from across Europe to raise issues they feel important for inclusion in the document.

- The main Access! event the European Youth Forum on Music, will take place from 15-17 October 2010 in Turin, Italy. Through keynote lectures and specialised workshops young participants will have the unique opportunity to broaden their skills, knowledge, contacts and engage in an exchange of ideas with like-minded Europeans and music professionals. Inspirational keynote lectures will be led by Zuhail Sultan (National Youth Orchestra of Iraq) and Peter Gregson (a young cellist and composer). Topics of the workshops include: European Cultural Policy, Youth Policy, the Role of the Musician in the 21st Century, music & social change, arts management, social networking, and music education. Participants will also enjoy a varied music programme.
- The project's final activity will see the European Agenda for Youth and Music presented to important decision makers at an official launch in Brussels in spring 2011 which will support their participation in the mechanisms of representative democracy.

For more information on Access! and details on how to apply to take part in the European Youth Forum on Music visit the WGY website at: [www.emc-imc.org/working-group-youth](http://www.emc-imc.org/working-group-youth)

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