

# MANIFESTO FOR YOUTH AND MUSIC IN EUROPE

Young people (aged 18-30) involved in music in Europe today have much to offer to the society which will soon be theirs to govern. However, we also have particular concerns and needs which are currently being overlooked.

This Manifesto for Youth and Music in Europe was created as part of the *Access!* Project<sup>1</sup>, initiated and led by the Working Group Youth of the European Music Council (WGY of the EMC)<sup>2</sup>, to identify and address this situation. The consultation process was launched at the WGY's European Youth Forum on Music: Access! in October 2010 in Torino and extended to take into account the views of individuals of all ages as well as organisations working in the youth and music sectors throughout Europe.

This Manifesto acknowledges existing initiatives at European level relating to youth, music and culture<sup>3</sup> and adheres to the Five Musical Rights advocated for by the International Music Council.

**WITH THIS MANIFESTO WE CALL UPON POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS ON A LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL TO RETHINK THEIR EXISTING STRATEGIES, TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MUSIC SECTOR, AND TO ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING KEY REQUIREMENTS:**

## LIFELONG LEARNING



- Music making offers infants, children, young people and adults of all ages substantial benefits for personal development, social inclusion, the acquisition of valuable transferable skills, and active citizenship.<sup>4</sup> Music education must be a compulsory aspect of the curriculum in all European schools.
- In order to ensure access to inclusive life-long music learning for all, it is important to bridge the gap between formal, non-formal and informal education. Creativity, diversity and enjoyment must be fostered through live performance and active music participation.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



- Professional training in the music sector must be interdisciplinary, forward looking and innovative. Students must be integrated into the development of new curricula; thereby recognising their unique skills and perspectives and their significant role in the evolution of the sector.
- Training, mentoring and professional integration schemes must provide the necessary artistic and entrepreneurial tools to survive as an individual in a fast moving market.
- In order to ensure quality music education for all, both specialised and non-specialised pedagogues working in this area must be trained appropriately. Equally, professional training for musicians must incorporate pedagogical skills.

## MOBILITY AND DIALOGUE



- Youth is on the move, also in the music sector.<sup>5</sup> Existing initiatives must be adapted and directed to young musical and cultural professionals.
- Mobility and dialogue between sectors and generations is of mutual benefit: frameworks and models for this must be created and fostered.<sup>6</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT



- Young people embarking on a career in the music sector must be supported, their skills must be valued, and they must be fairly remunerated. A legal framework at a European level for working conditions in the cultural sector is necessary.

## RESOURCES



- Financial support at local, regional, national and European level in the public and private sector is vital to fulfil the aforementioned requirements, as well as for innovative entrepreneurial start-up initiatives of young people in the field of music and the sustainable development of the sector.
- Young people need clear information on the opportunities available to them and on their legal and personal rights.
- Qualified, experienced and open-minded professionals at decision and policy making levels must act to enable youth participation throughout the music sector and beyond.

## YOUTH AS A RESOURCE



- The participation of young people in decision making structures offers essential new insights and practices.
- In this fast moving digital age flexibility and adaptability are crucial for the survival and flourishing of the music sector. Young people possess the required attitude and skills to keep ahead.
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth<sup>7</sup> in the music sector and in society as a whole is unthinkable without youth.



A Regional Group of the  
International Music Council

<sup>1</sup> With the support of the "Youth in Action" Programme of the European Commission. Partners in this project were Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI), European Festivals Association (EFA), European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA), Italian Music Council (CIDIM) and Feniarco.

<sup>2</sup> The WGY is a representative body of young adults (aged 18-30) active in different professional fields and genres in European music life and the voice of youth in the EMC and its membership network. Our central aim is to enhance youth participation within the EMC's network and throughout European music life. The EMC is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of all kinds of music in Europe. It is a network for representatives for both national music councils and European organisations involved in the fields of music education, creation, performance and heritage. It was founded in 1973 as a regional group of the International Music Council.

<sup>3</sup> The WGY acknowledges the progress brought by the Council Resolution on a Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018), the Commission Flagship Initiative "Youth on the Move", the Green Paper on "Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries", the "European Agenda for Culture in a Globalizing World", and the UNESCO "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions".

<sup>4</sup> In line with UNESCO's "Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education"

<sup>5</sup> This Manifesto adheres to the European Union's Flagship Initiative "Youth on the Move", part of its Europe 2020 strategy.

<sup>6</sup> We welcome the Proposal for a Council Recommendation "Youth on the move – promoting the learning mobility of young people"

<sup>7</sup> In line with the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy.