



Call for ideas

Response form

General Information

Please give some details about yourself.

Gender	Female	Session.Finalized:1
Username	info@emc-imc.org	
Surname*	Dudt	
Forename(s)*	Simone	
Activity/Position	Deputy Secretary General	
City/Town	Bonn	
Home country	Germany	
Tel (mobile)		
Tel.	+49-228-96699664	
Fax	+49-228-96699665	

Professional Information (to be completed only if the person is writing on behalf of a company/organisation)

Name of company / Organisation* (as appropriate)*	European Music Council
E-MAIL*	info@emc-imc.org
City/Town	Bonn
Country	Germany
Tel.	+49-228-96699664
Fax	+49-228-96699665
Website	www.emc-imc.org

Question A

How can one contribute towards identifying, evaluating, developing and exchanging experience and good practice in intercultural dialogue on a European scale?

It is important that European umbrella organisations active in the field of culture receive information about the European year of intercultural dialogue and circulate them among their members. This means that many cultural organisations on European, national and local level can spread the information through their channels to guarantee that it reaches out to as many citizens as possible. During the year itself, the organisations shall be encouraged to organise activities around the issue, such as meetings, symposia, conferences and workshops in which best practices from various field and various countries will be presented, identified and evaluated. The European Music Council (EMC) already is very active in promoting intercultural dialogue throughout Europe, e.g. it has published an issue of its magazine "Sounds in Europe" focussing on this subject. In 2006, the annual conference of the EMC and a symposium focussed on the inclusion of young people with migrant background in the European societies through music projects. In 2008 the activities within the project "ExTra! Exchange Traditions", coordinated by the European Music Council, will foster intercultural dialogue in Europe.

It would be very useful to have a website on which examples of good practice are presented in order to make information of European organisations, who are active in the field of intercultural dialogue, available to a broad public. Research activities should be encouraged and supported. The research shall identify the impact active participation may have on young people including those of cultural minorities.

Question B

What information and communication initiatives could contribute towards involving all European Union residents, and particularly young people, in the promotion of intercultural dialogue in day to day life and familiarising them with it?

Intercultural dialogue is closely linked to interaction of people. Thus, it is of great importance to encourage and promote the interaction of young people with different cultural backgrounds on local, national and European level. Cultural activities are very important tools to achieve this intercultural interaction. Especially in the field of music playing and singing such a mutual understanding between young people can be promoted.

Members on local, national and European level of the European Music Council organise activities focussing on intercultural dialogue in 2008. In the frame of the EMC coordinated project "ExTra! Exchange Traditions" there will be a workshop in Portugal on the subject of "Traditional music as a tool for integration", exchange sessions on cross-fertilization of music and an "Artists in resident" programme that will bring musicians of different cultural backgrounds together.

The information channels of European umbrella organisations provide contact to citizens all over Europe; it is of great importance not only to inform about the activities but also to actively involve partners on a local level in the respective countries.

Question C

What specific European scale initiatives likely to reach, directly or indirectly, as many people in the European Union as possible - and particularly young people - could contribute towards promoting intercultural dialogue?

European scale initiatives should act on three levels: local (including the communities), national and European. Such a European scale activity might act as a brand, e.g. "The EU year of intercultural dialogue". The only way to reach as many people as possible will be to act on these three levels. Direct contact will be mainly guaranteed through local and national activities, indirect contact will be achieved through exchange sessions of European umbrella organisations where the actors of the local and national level will meet to exchange best practice.

High media presence is required as a further means of dissemination.

It is important to have a big variety of activities, e.g. workshops, conferences, concerts, summer academies, evening classes, political discussion rounds, etc. This variety of activities should include grassroots activities as well as visionary meetings with experts in the field. It will be also important to include the educational institutions of the European countries in this process, as especially in schools young people with different cultural backgrounds get together. Intercultural dialogue begins where people of different cultures are living next to each other. We should not miss to enhance the intercultural dialogue where it is already happening.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to reply to our consultation questionnaire.

Your response has been registered successfully.

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