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[^1], initiated and led by the Youth Committee (formally Working Group Youth) of the European Music Council[^2], to identify and address this situation. The consultation process was launched at the 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[^3] 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.[^4] Music education must be a compulsory aspect of the curriculum in all European schools.
- In order to ensure access to inclusive lifelong 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 engaged in the development of new curricula; thereby recognising their unique skills and perspectives and their significant role in the evolvement 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 specialist and non-specialised pedagogues working in the music arena 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! Existing initiatives must be adopted 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[^4].

**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 in the music sector must be interdisciplinary, forward looking and innovative. Students must be engaged in the development of new curricula; thereby recognising their unique skills and perspectives and their significant role in the evolvement of the sector.
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**RESOURCES**

- Financial support at local, regional, national and European level in the public and private sector is vital to fulfill 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.
- 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[^5] in the music sector and in society as a whole is unthinkable without youth.

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[^1]: With the support of the “Youth in Action” Programme of the European Commission.
[^2]: Partners to the project: Access!
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