

**IMC Report to EMC Annual Meeting
Covering the period 1/6/2021 – 31/5/2022**

The International Music Council (IMC) is the world's largest membership-based professional network dedicated to the promotion of the value of music in the lives of all peoples. IMC's mission is to develop sustainable music sectors worldwide, to create awareness about the value of music, make music matter in all social fabric, and uphold basic music rights in all countries.

IMC was founded in 1949 at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO as a non-governmental advisory body to the agency on musical matters. It is based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and functions independently as an international NGO maintaining a formal partnership with UNESCO.

The transformative role of music in its three representations – as an artform, a product and a tool – has been and will be of key importance as our societies face the pandemic and other current global challenges, including increasing urbanisation, migration, climate change, the digital transformation, rising social inequalities and poverty.

In these challenging times, an organisation such as the International Music Council became even more important for its members and the music world at large. For us, the lesson learned from the pandemic is that we need to create a future where we are less vulnerable: we need to build back better.

IMC's global action builds on three equally important pillars: advocacy, network, projects.

Value-driven
organisation
(Advocacy)

Network of
networks

Project
organisation

A. IMC as value-driven organisation

Over the past year, IMC has continued to focus its advocacy action on the Five Music Rights as these are the core values of the organisation.

Representation to UNESCO and in other international fora

The Board and the Secretariat seized a number of opportunities to represent the music community towards UNESCO and in other international/national fora, using such opportunities to promote the FMRs.

Among others, the Secretariat represented IMC with oral interventions at the following occasions:

- UNESCO General Conference, November 2021
- Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention, February 2021
- Conference of Parties to the 2005 Convention, June 2021
- Events related to the 2005 Convention
- Regional consultations organised by UNESCO for the Mondiacult 2022 Conference (December 2021 – February 2022)

The representation function involved also permanent policy monitoring which included IMC's participation as observer in meetings of the UNESCO Executive Board, information meetings etc.

In this respect, it should be noted that in October 2021, the UNESCO Executive Board decided, upon recommendation of the UNESCO Director-General, to renew the associate status of the IMC as NGO official partner of UNESCO.

Participation in debates, surveys and reports, co-signing of letters and petitions

The pandemic exacerbated the already precarious situation of musical artists while we could also observe increased violations of artistic freedom. IMC was therefore very vocal about these issues.

Throughout the past year, IMC President Alfons Karabuda, members of the IMC Board and Secretariat have expressed the voice of IMC on numerous occasions, in panels, podcasts, publications etc. It will be difficult to share an exhaustive list and we limit ourselves here to a few examples:

- Debate on Ramy Essam and the Bahala case (organised by Museum of Movement in Malmö in the framework of their Safe Havens Freedom Talks @MoM)
- Ressonancias – Classical Professionals Day
- International Music Day video message to participants of the 2nd International Symposium “Music and Social Transformation” (Ibagué, Colombia, 2021 with 1.500 online participants from 15 countries of the world)

IMC’s engagement for the Five Music Rights found also its expression in the co-signing of letters and petitions, either regarding specific cases or for general statements.

In addition, IMC has contributed to a number of surveys, most of them being dedicated to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the music sector.

At the invitation of UNESCO, IMC contributed to the report – coordinated by UNESCO – of the United Nations Secretary General Report on the implementation of the Resolution 74/230 on Culture and Sustainable Development.

IMC President Alfons Karabuda was invited by the Secretariat of the 2005 Convention to provide a peer-review of the chapter on artistic freedom of the 2022 edition of the Global Report on the implementation of the Convention.

IMC Secretary General Silja Fischer served on the Academic Committee of the 2nd International Seminar “Music and Social Transformation”, contributing to the definition of content and identification of international guests.

IMC also participated in the Voices of Culture Structured Dialogue on international cultural relations which comprised several discussion rounds and a meeting with representatives of the European Commission to share the conclusions.

Members as agents of promotion

It is through its members and their networks that IMC is able to spread the word about the Five Music Rights and over the past year, the Board and Secretariat were pleased to observe a greater awareness and mobilisation among members, be it at conferences, on websites or social media. The Secretariat was available to assist members in their promotional efforts.

Thanks to the help of members, the FMR are translated into more national and local languages. Some members also developed customized promotional material with the FMR.

Strategic collaborations for efficient advocacy

The Five Music Rights reflect values that are shared by other culture networks and organisations from other sectors, notably when it comes to cultural rights.

Over the past year, IMC has been engaging in diverse collaborations:

Member of the Steering Committee of the Global CSO Coordination/ 2005 Convention

- Analysis of documents of meetings of the governing bodies of the Convention (IGC and Conference of Parties)
- Information to CSO community
- Coordination of CSO oral interventions at meetings
- Presentation of jointly formulated statements
- Debriefs and follow-up

- Consultation with Convention Secretariat (UNESCO)
- Revision of Conclusions document of the 3rd Civil Society Forum (May 2021) for presentation to the IGC of the 2005 Convention in February 2022

Member of the Steering Group of the #Culture2030Goal Campaign

- Participation in Steering Group meetings (IMC representatives: Silja Fischer and Maria Claudia Parias)
- Presentation at UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir/Turkey (September 2021)
- Contribution to analysis of [Voluntary Local Reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030](#)
- Co-organisation of ResiliArt x Mondiacult debate (28 February 2022)
- Drafting of [Campaign Statement](#) on UNESCO Mondiacult 2022 Conference
- Co-design of Survey on future stand-alone goal on Culture
- Liaison with UNESCO unit for Culture and Development

Climate Heritage Network

- Participation in meetings, contribution to the Manifesto presented to COP26 (Glasgow, November 2021)

International Cultural Relations Research Alliance (ICCRA)

- Participation in meetings contributing a practitioner's perspective
- Preparation of 2021 conference
- Contribution to policy brief

Collective collaboration mechanism among NGO official partners of UNESCO

Over the past few years, IMC has established an active cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, the body elected by the International Conference of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO. Against this backdrop, the IMC Secretariat took part in various events, organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in close cooperation with UNESCO Secretariat in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO partnership with non-governmental organizations.

Since December 2020, IMC Project Manager Davide Grosso serves as Chair of the International Conference of NGOs and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. This position strengthens IMC's visibility and role among NGOs in official partnerships with UNESCO.

Cultural policy consultancy for EMC

- Participation in meetings of Commission's expert group on cultural heritage
- Contribution to EAM addition on COVID-19
- 2005 Convention related issues
- Webinar series of Relais Culture Europe
- Contribution to Voices of Culture consultations

B. Network

Over the past year, the Board and the Secretariat continued their efforts to position IMC as a strong and dynamic global network of organisations and individuals involved or interested in music and the livelihood of professionals in the field of music.

IMC reinforced its action to provide exceptional value to its membership by building knowledge, creating networking opportunities, supporting and enhancing the visibility of projects that promote the FMR.

In a certain way, the fact that almost all activity went online facilitated IMC's connection with members since Board members and the Secretariat were able to attend events organised by members, without the financial constraints of travel and subsistence costs.

Over the past year, the Secretariat was able to attend some in-person events organised by members, such as the Europa Cantat Festival in Ljubljana (July 2021), organised by the European Choral Association.

The Secretariat spares no effort to incite members to avail themselves of the Facebook group titled "IMC MEMBERS". The group is meant to be an additional space for exchanging and networking among

IMC Members. A place where members can share news about their organisation, ask for support and expertise or simply be up to date with the daily life of IMC in a more informal way. Soon after its launch, members started to populate it with interesting and relevant content. It is understood and was clearly communicated that such group will not substitute IMC official communications since not all IMC members use this social medium.

Members' newsletters and other news are continually featured on the IMC website.

The Secretariat also maintained a close relationship with the Secretariats of the Regional Music Councils, notably of the European Music Council.

IMC President and Secretary General have an ex officio seat on the Board of the European Music Council and thus participated in Board meetings.

The [39th IMC General Assembly](#) took place online from 25 November until 8 December 2021, including one session dedicated to discussions with members hosted by Board members. It elected a new Board and re-elected Alfons Karabuda as IMC President.

C. Projects & Partnerships

[International Rostrum of Composers](#) (IMC project) – ongoing

In 2021, thanks to the strong cooperation with RTS Radio Television Slovenia, the 67th edition of the IRC finally took place in Belgrade from October 12 to 15 (after two postponements).

The 2021 Rostrum gathered representatives from 21 national radio networks from four continents, which presented 37 works composed within the five years preceding the Rostrum. 17 of these works were by composers under the age of 30.

Although the IRC had lesser participation compared to previous editions, it remains a very well known platform and one of the most important rendez-vous for radio professionals worldwide.

Moreover, the 2021 edition saw the launch of a new IRC Prize, consisting in the commission of a work for the composer selected in the general category, which has been made possible thanks to the support by RTP Antena 2 (Portugal). In fact, the IMC Secretariat was able to secure a yearly contribution of 3000 euros from RTP for the years to come.

The young composers selected in the "under 30" category have been receiving a commission by Swedish Radio since 2015 with works premiered by the NEO Ensemble (Sweden).

[Culture at Work Africa](#) (led by Interarts, Spain, IMC is partner) – Feb 2018 – June 2021

The month of June 2021 was the last project month and featured a number of activities:

- two of the three final conferences, one of them co-organised by IMC in cooperation with another France-based partner
- 2 training sessions for beneficiaries, co-organised by IMC
- final partners meeting
- Reporting

[SHIFT](#) (led by EMC, IMC is partner) – Dec 2019 – Nov 2021

- Contribution to all four intellectual outputs
- Participation in conferences/webinars
- Co-design of final event
- partners meetings
- see also EMC report

[Play it Loud!](#) March 2021 – Feb 2023

IMC is part of a consortium which has successfully applied to funding under the Erasmus+ programme for the project Play it Loud! coordinated by IMC member JMI (Jeunesses Musicales International). The project aims to contribute to a more equal and diverse youth & music sector, welcoming all underrepresented youth to express themselves, take ownership, express freely through music and participate actively in local and European democratic and civic spaces, thus contributing to shape a more inclusive society.

"Play it Loud!" uses music and creative expression to engage and empower those young people who experience or have experienced discrimination because of their gender identity and expression, empowering them to challenge inequalities, care for each other better, work in solidarity, learn together and advocate for their rights.

The project will produce 3 main intellectual outputs:

IO1 Research Study on Equity, Gender and Freedom of Expression best practices in Youth and Music organizations across Europe.

IO2 Pedagogical guidelines and recommendations on mainstreaming Equity, Gender and Freedom of Expression in Youth and Music activities.

IO3 Practical Toolkit & Checklist on implementing and facilitating activities to promote Equity, Gender Equality & Freedom of Expression in Youth and Music.

Gigger & Gee

Thanks to IMC President Alfons Karabuda, IMC entered into a partnership with Swedish companies Gigger and Gee, following a first meeting with a focus group of music professionals at the 6th World Forum on Music in Paris.

Gigger and Gee offer a multitude of services to freelancers such as administration, invoicing, payroll, insurances, taxes, bank accounts, cards, loans, insurance, pensions, equipment financing, mortgages, cash advance etc.

The overall aim of the MoU between IMC and Gigger and Gee is to benefit the global musical ecosystem and notably IMC member organisations.

IMC is providing contacts within the members and their members in a given country and in return, IMC will get a percentage on transactions made by each person who has registered as an IMC member.

Moreover, Gigger and Gee will set up a co-governed global music fund for the purpose of qualitative and quantitative development of the global music ecosystem.

Global Music Vault

In March 2021, IMC became a founding partner of the Global Music Vault, a project dedicated to pass on the world heritage to the next generations, while at the same time celebrating the music that has shaped our cultures and inspired a global community, by ensuring it is never forgotten.

Global Music Vault uses a dedicated vault, exclusively for music capsules, located deep inside the same arctic mountain as the Global Seed Vault (Doomsday Vault) on Svalbard in far north Norway. Here master files of unique music will be preserved on the music capsules using the most innovative, future-proof and timeless storage technologies available, protected in the vault and remembered for eternity. The project is managed by Norwegian company Elire.

After the official launch, the project got some wide exposure worldwide with articles, interviews on national and international medias.

The first inaugural deposit is set to happen these days.

Sound of Entrepreneurship

In October 2021, IMC has been successful in an Erasmus+ application (as project lead) for "Sound of Entrepreneurship", a project aimed at encouraging unemployed musicians and music industry workers to adopt a more inclusive and sustainable personal development through empowerment, self-marketing and entrepreneurial skills. Musicians, music industry workers and aspiring music industry entrepreneurs will be provided with a new learning path related to the development of basic and transversal skills, innovative managerial competencies and entrepreneurial spirit and to validate the updated and transferred competencies. Through the learning tools provided, they will be able to empower themselves and improve their working conditions, thus having a positive impact on their physical and mental health, and personal development. The project will also help build their resilience on how to overcome issues brought on by the pandemic. Adult educators who work closely with musicians and music industry workers will be engaged from the start of the project and trained on how to use non-formal approaches within entrepreneurship education for musicians, music industry workers and aspiring music industry entrepreneurs, based on art and music business experiences.

ONGOING

Upscaled work on resource mobilisation

Communication (Music World News published every two weeks, website update, social media)

Regular Board meetings

Interns at IMC: Isidora Andus (finished early July 2021), Charlotte White (Sept-Dec 2021), Angela

Trentin (February – May 2022), Geoffroy Decorsier (May-July 2022)