

AEC / EAS / EMU on Music Education & Access to Music - a Joint Agenda and a Shared Vision

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1. Introduction

The [EAS](#), the [EMU](#) and [AEC](#) are the three main organisations in Europe covering the whole range of music education through music lessons both in primary and secondary schools, learning opportunities provided by music and art schools and higher education institutions.

2. The value of Arts, Creative Expression and Music Education

In May 2018, the Council of the European Union adopted a [recommendation on 8 key competences for lifelong learning](#). These competences include 'Cultural awareness and expression' which can only be obtained through a comprehensive offer of formal music education as provided by the members of AEC, EAS and EMU. Cultural awareness and the ability to express creative ideas are contributing to personal fulfilment, a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, but also to increased employability, social inclusion and provide human beings with the needs and competences to fulfil their roles as an active citizen of a modern and democratic society.

3. From STEM to STEAM

Arts and culture are the glue that holds all of the other competences together and advances Europe toward being a more cohesive and inclusive society. It is therefore a logical consequence of the recognition of the contribution of art and cultural education to social well-being that the A standing for Arts, in addition to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, is now widely understood to be incorporated into the series of key educational subjects: STEM became STEAM. In line with this development, the World Economic Forum identified creativity as the third most valuable skill of the future and recommended changing curricula.

4. The European Agenda for Music

At the initiative of the European Music Council (EMC), the [European Agenda for Music \(EAM\)](#) has brought together for the first time at European level under one umbrella professional and amateur musicians, music industry and non-profit initiatives, music performance and music education, art music and popular music.

5. Access to music is a human right

"Everyone, regardless of physical ability, gender, age, social, cultural or geographical origin, should be able to engage in music from childhood. Music education in schools is one effective way to implement this."¹

Priorities²

- Ensure that access to and participation in music is open to all, regardless of physical or intellectual ability, gender, age, cultural origin, geographical or economic circumstance
- Guarantee sufficient and sustainable funding for music education, both in schools and in non-formal settings
- Develop and maintain the quality of music education in schools
- Foster high-quality opportunities for participation in music in non-formal settings
- Adapt methods, tools and spaces of musical education to the ongoing digitisation
- Contribute through music education to promote ecological, economic and social sustainability
- Ensure ongoing funding and develop capacity building opportunities for all music sector professionals and non-professionals

¹ [Original text from the EAM]

² [as stated in the EAM]