

Together  
in  
Diversity



# Music on Troubled Soils

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# History of the EU

- The EU origins date back to the post-second world war era, in particular the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community in Paris 1951
  - Financial and economical Union
- First-ever European agenda for culture in a globalizing world, was launched by the Commission in May 2007
  - three main objectives
    - promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue
    - promotion of culture as a catalyst for creativity
    - promotion of culture as a vital element in the EU's international relations



# EU year of Intercultural Dialogue

- The main objective of the Year is to promote intercultural dialogue as an instrument to assist European citizens, and all those living in the European Union, in acquiring the knowledge and abilities to deal with a more open and more complex cultural environment.
- The enlargement of the European Union, deregulation of employment laws and globalization have increased the multicultural character of many countries, adding to the number of languages, religions, ethnic and cultural backgrounds found on the continent. As a result, intercultural dialogue has an increasingly important role to play in fostering European identity and citizenship.
- Artists and cultural actors have for many years benefited from a creative dialogue with other cultures. Cultural expression is key for mutual understanding and cultural cooperation can contribute to Europe-wide cohesion and identity.



# Survey on Intercultural Dialogue in Europe (2007)

- Commissioned by the European Commission DG Education and Culture, asked citizens to report their patterns of interaction with people of different cultural backgrounds, and to inquire about their general attitude towards cultural diversity
  - Day-to-day interaction among people belonging to different cultures is a reality in Europe
  - Almost three-quarters of EU citizens believe that people with a different background (ethnic, religious or national) enrich the cultural life of their country
    - 23% of citizens disagree with that idea
      - cultural isolation is mainly the choice of respondents with the lowest levels of education
  - The dominant sentiment in the EU is intercultural dialogue is beneficial, but for many, carrying on the cultural traditions is equally important



# Agenda

- The Year will feature a small number of flagship **projects** on a European level, as well as EU support for a **national project\*** in each Member State, and a Partner programme aimed at mobilising civil society.
- The active **involvement of civil society** will be essential in highlighting good practices and identifying needs in intercultural dialogue.
  - demonstrating how intercultural dialogue can be translated into concrete actions adaptable to different contexts.
    - The Civil Society Platform / Culture Action Europe

\*Each Member State has developed a national strategy to implement the EYID 2008 in close consultation with civil society.



# THE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

- Culture Action Europe
- Activities focus on increasing the appreciation of diversity among EU citizens, and on enabling them to cope with and benefit from this diversity.
  - share the concepts and practice of intercultural dialogue
  - work towards integrated strategies for intercultural dialogue
  - mobilise all sectors concerned so that they have a voice
  - contribute to policy analysis and development
  - influence cultural policymaking
- The Civil Society Platform launched an international call for contributions, to feed into the so-called 'Rainbow-Paper', a cross-sectoral set of political recommendations on intercultural dialogue
- Next step; Platform for Intercultural Europe
  - “structured dialogue” with civil society (“Open Method of Coordination”)



# Music education and intercultural dialogue

- Education lays the foundations for future intercultural competences
- Cultural diversity has to be included in schools' curricula
- People from different cultural backgrounds should be involved in the planning, organising and managing music projects and music education
- Music and art education can build a bridge to families
- Cultural understanding and “taylor made” music programs
- Support for both formal and non-formal music education
  - projects on grass root level should be well recognised and supported financially and structurally
- Teachers' intercultural competences
  - Traditional Music University programmes do not provide the skills and knowledges needed for the work in a multicultural societies
  - People from different cultural backgrounds should be involved in teaching



# Critical comments

- Visibility and results of the EYID
- EU culture politics
  - Platforms for culture political discussion
    - EU, national and local level
      - The role of music organizations
- From top down or from bottom up
  - Change will be made in “grass root level”
- “Politically correct speaking” /real engagement?
  - realistic culture programs
- Minorities’ participation in decision making
- Socio-economical equality and inclusion
  - intercultural dialogue and equality
- We lack of knowledge of different cultures (preassumptions)
- Language and cultural understanding
- Harmonization and assimilation / cultural identity and multicultural society
- Media and intercultural dialogue