

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!* Project¹, initiated and led by the Youth Committee (formally Working Group Youth) of the European Music Council², 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 culture³ 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 life-long 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 integrated into the development of new curricula; thereby recognising their unique skills and perspectives and their significant role in the evolution 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 specialised and non-specialised pedagogues working in this area 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.⁵ Existing initiatives must be adapted 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.⁶

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 at a European level for working conditions in the cultural sector is necessary.

RESOURCES



- Financial support at local, regional, national and European level in the public and private sector is vital to fulfil 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.
- Young people need clear information on the opportunities available to them and on their legal and personal rights.
- 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 growth⁷ in the music sector and in society as a whole is unthinkable without youth.



Partners in the project Access!



¹ With the support of the "Youth in Action" Programme of the European Commission. Partners in this project were Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI), European Festivals Association (EFA), European Choral Association – Europa Cantat (ECA), Italian Music Council (CIDIM) and Feniarco.

² The EMC Youth Committee is a representative body of young adults (aged 18-30) active in different professional fields and genres in European music life and the voice of youth in the EMC and its membership network. Our central aim is to enhance youth participation within the EMC's network and throughout European music life. The EMC is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of all kinds of music in Europe. It is a network for representatives for both national music councils and European organisations involved in the fields of music education, creation, performance and heritage. It was founded in 1973 as a regional group of the International Music Council.

³ The EMC Youth Committee acknowledges the progress brought by the Council Resolution on a Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018), the Commission Flagship Initiative "Youth on the Move", the Green Paper on "Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries", the "European Agenda for Culture in a Globalizing World", and the UNESCO "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions".

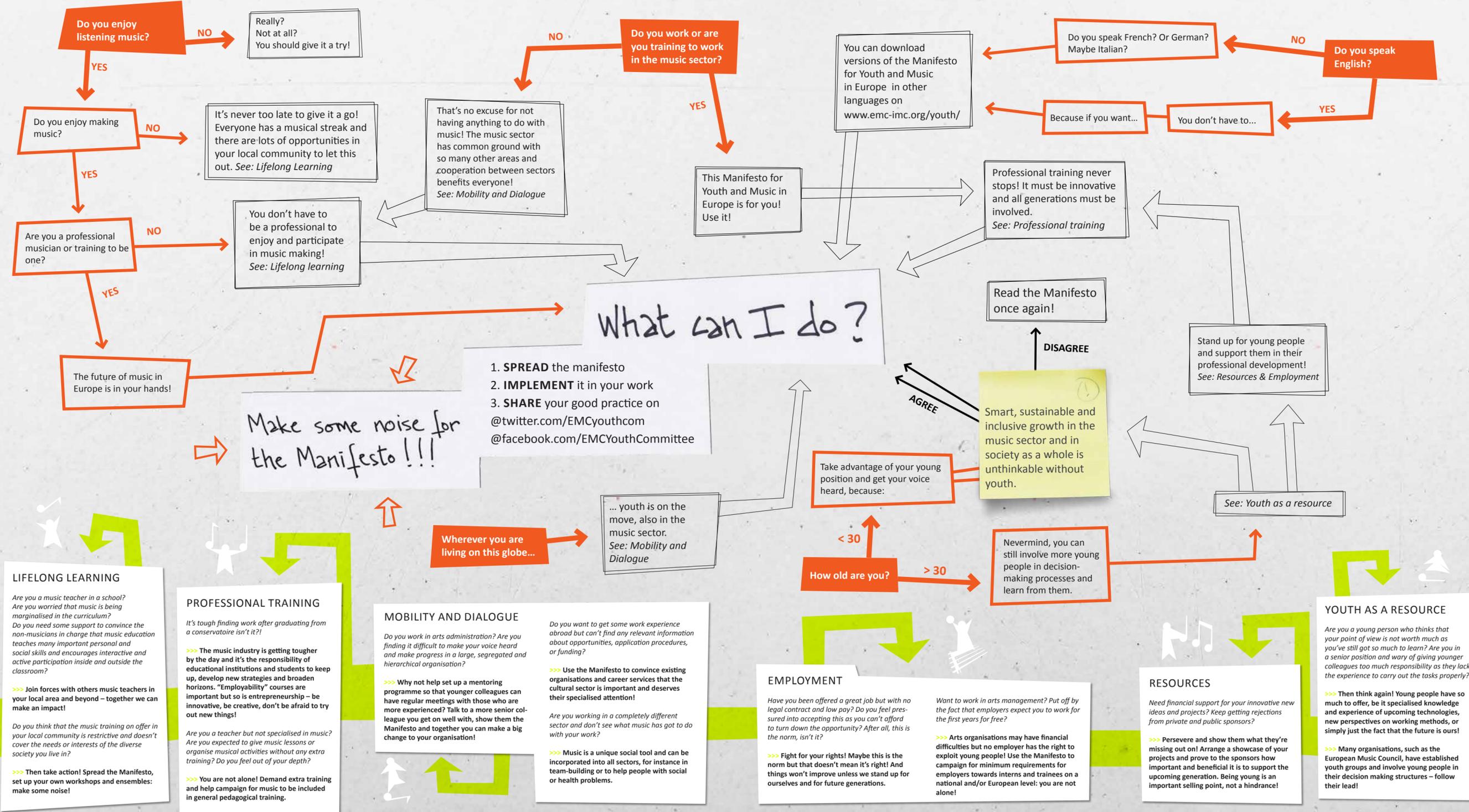
⁴ In line with UNESCO's "Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education"

⁵ This Manifesto adheres to the European Union's Flagship Initiative "Youth on the Move", part of its Europe 2020 strategy.

⁶ We welcome the Proposal for a Council Recommendation "Youth on the move – promoting the learning mobility of young people"

⁷ In line with the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy.

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LIFELONG LEARNING

Are you a music teacher in a school? Are you worried that music is being marginalised in the curriculum? Do you need some support to convince the non-musicians in charge that music education teaches many important personal and social skills and encourages interactive and active participation inside and outside the classroom?

>>> Join forces with others music teachers in your local area and beyond – together we can make an impact!

Do you think that the music training on offer in your local community is restrictive and doesn't cover the needs or interests of the diverse society you live in?

>>> Then take action! Spread the Manifesto, set up your own workshops and ensembles: make some noise!

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

It's tough finding work after graduating from a conservatoire isn't it?!

>>> The music industry is getting tougher by the day and it's the responsibility of educational institutions and students to keep up, develop new strategies and broaden horizons. "Employability" courses are important but so is entrepreneurship – be innovative, be creative, don't be afraid to try out new things!

Are you a teacher but not specialised in music? Are you expected to give music lessons or organise musical activities without any extra training? Do you feel out of your depth?

>>> You are not alone! Demand extra training and help campaign for music to be included in general pedagogical training.

MOBILITY AND DIALOGUE

Do you work in arts administration? Are you finding it difficult to make your voice heard and make progress in a large, segregated and hierarchical organisation?

>>> Why not help set up a mentoring programme so that younger colleagues can have regular meetings with those who are more experienced? Talk to a more senior colleague you get on well with, show them the Manifesto and together you can make a big change to your organisation!

Are you working in a completely different sector and don't see what music has got to do with your work?

>>> Music is a unique social tool and can be incorporated into all sectors, for instance in team-building or to help people with social or health problems.

EMPLOYMENT

Have you been offered a great job but with no legal contract and low pay? Do you feel pressured into accepting this as you can't afford to turn down the opportunity? After all, this is the norm, isn't it?

>>> Fight for your rights! Maybe this is the norm but that doesn't mean it's right! And things won't improve unless we stand up for ourselves and for future generations.

Want to work in arts management? Put off by the fact that employers expect you to work for the first years for free?

>>> Arts organisations may have financial difficulties but no employer has the right to exploit young people! Use the Manifesto to campaign for minimum requirements for employers towards interns and trainees on a national and/or European level: you are not alone!

RESOURCES

Need financial support for your innovative new ideas and projects? Keep getting rejections from private and public sponsors?

>>> Persevere and show them what they're missing out on! Arrange a showcase of your projects and prove to the sponsors how important and beneficial it is to support the upcoming generation. Being young is an important selling point, not a hindrance!

YOUTH AS A RESOURCE

Are you a young person who thinks that your point of view is not worth much as you've still got so much to learn? Are you in a senior position and wary of giving younger colleagues too much responsibility as they lack the experience to carry out the tasks properly?

>>> Then think again! Young people have so much to offer, be it specialised knowledge and experience of upcoming technologies, new perspectives on working methods, or simply just the fact that the future is ours!

>>> Many organisations, such as the European Music Council, have established youth groups and involve young people in their decision making structures – follow their lead!

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With this Manifesto we call upon policy and decision makers on a local, regional, national and European level to rethink their existing strategies and to address the specific situation of young people in the music sector. We also call upon everyone active in the music sector, of all ages, to take action! **MAKE SOME NOISE FOR THE MANIFESTO!!!!**

What can you do with the Manifesto? It's simple:

- Spread
- Implement
- Share!

These practical examples demonstrate how you can implement the Manifesto in your work or study environment or within your organisation. We hope that the Manifesto will be a tool to aid your professional development and enhance your musical future!