

April 25, 2012



Dear Friends,

The Association of European Conservatoires has recently received funding from the European Commission for a 2 ½ year project grant to study issues of governance, research, mobility, and the professional entrepreneurship as they relate to higher education in music.

I am currently chairing the AEC working group “Lifelong learning : Education for Entrepreneurship”.

Our group is composed of representatives of professional music advocacy groups and conservatoires. Our point of departure will involve digitally documenting six innovative “entrepreneurial” musical projects or more permanent working models from across Europe.

The group wishes to collect examples of good practice from all over the EU into consideration a strong and original artistic vision and an innovative, collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that is appropriate to the context. The musicians should also demonstrate flexibility, strong social skills, and knowledge of business, language, analytical, managerial, and networking skills. Above all, they should be successful! Obviously, what constitutes “innovation” may vary from one context to the next, but for the moment, any and all suggestions you might have would be more than welcome!

We will interview the representatives of the chosen “models” – and in our follow-up, will pay particular attention to skills and competencies artists may have been lacking in their training. This will help define areas for development in the higher music education arena. Specifically, the group would develop regionally based workshops to develop skills in these areas – and these digital documents would constitute the basis for renewed dialogue between Higher Music Education and professional organisations.

At the moment, we would be most grateful to know of the artistically “entrepreneurially” viable models of which you are aware, or that you believe deserve to be better known. If you could share web site links, or even better, descriptions and personal contacts – and the reasons you feel they would constitute valuable resources for us in this study, that would be wonderful.

For any thoughts you would like to share, we would very much appreciate hearing back from you the beginning of May.

Thank you in advance for your help!

With warm regards,

Gretchen Amussen
Chair, AEC “Polifonia” Working Group
Lifelong Learning : Education for Entrepreneurship