



Brussels, 21 January 2019

To the kind attention of the Bologna Follow Up Group

l'Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC), a European network set up in 1953 which represents about 300 Arts and Music Higher Education Institutions in 57 European and extra-European countries, would like to propose its candidacy to become a partner of the European Higher Education Area, thereby allowing it to make a significant contribution to its development.

The AEC, international stakeholder of reference for the Arts and Music Higher Education Institutions (AMHEI) sector, is eager to share its know-how acquired over decades of experience with European projects, quality evaluation (in particular through the Agency for Quality in Higher Music Education *MusiQue*) and advocacy in the sector, in order to give a positive contribution in the way you feel most appropriate.

The purpose of the activities carried out by the AEC and MusiQue is, as already expressed in the Paris communiqué, to work in the AMHEI sector and improve “the comparability and transparency of our higher education systems, but also to increase their quality and attractiveness”.

With a aim of supporting the Bologna Follow Up Group to satisfy the request enshrined in the Paris Communiqué by the Ministers to present concrete proposals related to the priorities identified for the next decade, the AEC would like to propose itself as the reference stakeholder for initiatives in the field of higher music education, and arts in general, in line with the innovative educational approach known as *STEAM*, which flanks the traditional pillars of education and research (the STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics) with the “A” of arts.

In the hope that our requests will be well received and welcome, please accept our kindest regards.

We wish you every success in your work.

Stefan Gies

AEC Chief Executive

AEC Vision & Mission

AEC is a voluntary coalition representing Higher Music Education Institutions (HMEIs) in Europe and beyond.

Vision

AEC is the leading voice for Higher Music Education in Europe, a powerful advocate for its member institutions.

AEC sees professionally focused arts education as a quest for excellence in three areas: artistic practice; learning and teaching; research and innovation. It seeks to foster these elements and to encourage the diversity and dynamism with which they are pursued in different institutions, countries and regions.

AEC understands and supports music and arts education, together with cultural participation, as central contributors to quality in human life, and inclusive societies founded on democratic values.

Mission

AEC works for the advancement of Higher Education in the performing arts, primarily focusing on music. It does this based on four pillars:

Pillar 1: Enhancing quality in Higher Music Education

Pillar 2: Fostering the value of music and music education in society

Pillar 3: Promoting participation, inclusiveness and diversity

Pillar 4: Strengthening partnership and interaction with stakeholders AEC operates inclusively, sustainably, efficiently and effectively, enabling communication and sharing of good practice.

Please read the [AEC Strategic Plan 2016-2021](#) to find out more about the Vision and Mission of the association.

MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement

MusiQuE is an independent European-level external evaluation body which has the aim to assist higher music education institutions in their own enhancement of quality and to improve the quality of higher music education across Europe and beyond.

MusiQuE offers a range of review and accreditation procedures tailored to the needs of higher music education institutions.

MusiQuE provides services for:

- higher music education institutions (members of the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) are offered special rates compared to non-members)
- national quality assurance and accreditation agencies interested in joint procedures
- staff and students in higher music education through the Quality Assurance Desk
- other disciplines in higher education looking for a model of a subject-specific European-level approach to quality assurance

The Vision and Mission of MusiQuE are described on the MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement website where all information on its activities, principles and procedures can be found.