

Sonja Greiner, Secretary General
European Choral Association – Europa Cantat

Why it is important for governments to support singing and music education

Who we are

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is **the result of a merger** between Europa Cantat - European Federation of Young Choirs (EFYC), founded in 1960/1963 and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände (AGEC), founded in 1955.

The merger was completed in January 2011.



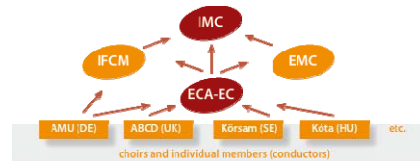
Membership

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat has around 50 member organisations in 40 European countries and several hundred member choirs and individual members in over 50 countries worldwide.

The European Choral Association – Europa Cantat cooperates with other associations and music institutes and has recently started cooperating with research institutes.



The Network



The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is a network of organisations, choirs and conductors in Europe. The General Secretariat offers information and services about the choral world in Europe. Through our membership in the IFCM and EMC/IMC we are also connected to the choral world outside Europe and to other music organisations.



Our relation to Music Education

The European Choral Association - Europa Cantat is **an organisation active in informal / non-formal music education** with:

- educational festivals for choirs and singers
- seminars and academies for (young) conductors, composers and managers
- educational projects for young singers
- conferences on different issues



UNESCO Seoul Agenda

The **Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education** reflects the conviction [...] that arts education has an important role to play in the constructive transformation of educational systems that are struggling to meet the needs of learners in a rapidly changing world characterized by remarkable advances in technology on the one hand and intractable social and cultural injustices on the other.

The European Music Council has adapted the agenda for the field of music education.



Adapt Seoul Agenda to music education



Goal 1: Access

Access to music education and active music participation is a **human right** which has to be ensured for people of all ages and all backgrounds.

Music education including participatory approaches with active music-making must be a **compulsory aspect** of the curriculum in all schools.



Adapt Seoul Agenda to music education



Goal 2: Quality

Focus on how to reach high quality in music education, since this contributes to the personal development.

Music Teacher Training must be **modernised** and the teachers equipped with the most up- dated methods and tools, **continued professional development** is necessary.



Adapt Seoul Agenda to music education



Goal 3: Social and Cultural Challenges

Focus on the extrinsic values of music education and its potential for **social responsibility** and **intercultural dialogue** without forgetting the intrinsic value of music.

Music is a powerful **tool for inclusion** and building bridges and for meeting the social and cultural challenges of European societies.



Singing and Music Education



At the **conference on Singing and Music Education** in Vilnius in 2009, the participants formulated recommendations based on lectures and research presented which proved that

„Singing together is an educational, social and artistic phenomenon that ensures **intercultural understanding, social integration** and respect for others, contributing to the physical and mental **health** of citizens and therefore the society in which they live and work.“



Singing and Music Education



Thus not only music education must be compulsory, but a **curriculum of singing together** must be accessible to every child in every school and **singing in groups must be encouraged** in families, in different parts of society and in all kinds of institutions with singers of all ages.

Also projects involving group singing must be awarded **high priority funding** and be staffed by musically and pedagogically **qualified teachers and conductors**.



Singing and Music Education



Since singing in groups

- contributes to the improvement of students' **skills**
- has an impact on the singers' **health**
- empowers **human qualities** and helps decrease violence and crime
- is essential to the preservation of intangible **heritage**

the recommendations on Singing and Music Education are addressed to the **Ministries of Education, Culture, Health and Social Affairs**



Examples of Good Practice

Singing Poland – a programme for the development of school choirs, aiming at the creation of 300 choirs in Poland

Jedem Kind seine Stimme and **Singen macht Sinn** – two German initiatives to increase singing in primary schools and improve the training of students and teachers for singing with children

Anti-Drug Choirs – the creation of boys' choirs in the frame of an Anti-Drugs Campaign in Lithuania



Thank you very much for your attention
Sonja Greiner, Secretary General

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ECA
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www.EuropeanChoralAssociation.org /eca-ec.org
info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org/eca-ec.org