



**Norges  
musikkhøgskole**  
Norwegian Academy  
of Music

# **The institutional global responsibility**

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# Examples of international projects

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- **Education of choir conductors in South Africa**

Cooperation between University of Port Elizabeth,  
Norwegian Choir Association and NAM

- **Modernising Georgian higher music education**

Cooperation between Tblisi State Conservatory  
and NAM

- **Supporting cultural activities in Lebanon**

Cooperation between several NGOs and  
and NAM

# Reasons for our involvement

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## Culture as a human right

“Everyone has the right fully to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.”

UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948), article 27

# Reasons for our involvement (cont.)

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“Norway has a special responsibility as one of the wealthiest countries in the world. We are facing an ethical demand to do something about the injustice, and influence the development in a positive direction since we have the possibility to do so.”

White paper no 35 (2003-2004), p.1, my  
translation

# Reasons for our involvement (cont.)

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“ To strengthen the cultural rights is a goal in itself, as well as a means to strengthen the civil society as a driving force and change agent for development towards more open and democratic societies”

White paper no 19 (2012-2013), p. 49, my translation

# Outcomes

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Participants in Palestinian refugee camps:

- Their Palestinian identity is confirmed and strengthened
- They feel competent
- They feel recognized rather than marginalized
- They have more hope for the future
- They are offered new and more empowering roles

# Outcomes (cont.)

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Infrastructure for culture:

- Supplying instruments
- Training of older participants
- Further education program for Palestinian and Lebanese culture workers and teachers

# Outcomes (cont.)

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Students at NAM:

- A strong feeling of being competent
- A sense of purpose
- Triggers development of a professional identity
- Better prepared for challenges in Norway



## Outcomes (cont.)

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“This project is so important. Students at NAM get a broader competence which far exceeds what other institutions can offer. This competence makes students more qualified to meet the multicultural schools we have in Norway today, and it creates understanding and acceptance for different religions and cultures.”

(Student in an evaluation report 2011, my translation)

# Outcomes (cont.)

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Also:

- Teachers at NAM develop new competences, materials, methods
- NAM is better prepared to develop "community music" competences among our students
- A new understanding of our mission in Norwegian society
- Research which contributes to our common knowledge base

# Conclusion

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We have a definite global responsibility as institutions:

We – as educational and cultural institutions – are facing an ethical demand to do something about injustice and to secure human cultural rights

We – as educational and cultural institutions – have the *possibility* to make a difference: by sharing knowledge and competence we can create forceful ripple effects.