Introducing the AEC Learning Outcomes 2017

a curriculum creativity toolkit

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Welcome

We are:
Claire Mera-Nelson
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Who else is in the room!?
Today’s Learning Goal:
To help all participants – whether new to LOs, or experienced users – to understand LOs as a creative tool to enabling learning

Today’s Learning Outcome:
We’ll see...
Session Outline: Introducing the AEC Learning Outcomes 2017

Welcome, History & Context: (40 mins)
Background, Case Studies & Practical Exercise 1

Working with the LOs: (50 mins)
Case Studies & Practical Exercises 2 & 3

Plenary Discussion & Conclusions: (30 mins)
What are Learning Outcomes?

Learning outcomes are statements of what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to do at the end of a period of learning.
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Today’s Learning Outcome:
What you need to **Know, Understand**, and be **Able To Do** by the end of this workshop
History & Context
Tuning Process

An approach to (re-) designing, developing, implementing, evaluating and enhancing quality first, second and third cycle degree programmes.

It enabled comparability of curricula in terms of structures, programmes and teaching.
The Dublin Descriptors

Designed to offer generic statements of typical expectations of achievements and abilities associated with awards that represent the end of each of a (Bologna) cycle or level.

Descriptors are phrased in terms of competence levels, not learning outcomes, and they enable learners and employers to distinguish in a broad and general manner between the different cycles.

Level descriptors include the following five components:
• Knowledge and understanding
• Applying knowledge and understanding
• Making judgements
• Communication
• Lifelong learning skills
European Qualifications Framework

Learning outcomes: what a person holding a particular qualification actually knows and is able to do.
European Qualifications Framework

The learning outcomes relevant to Level 6 are:

- advanced knowledge of a field of work or study, involving a critical understanding of theories and principles
- advanced skills, demonstrating mastery and innovation, required to solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialised field of work or study
- manage complex technical or professional activities or projects, taking responsibility for decision-making in unpredictable work or study contexts
- take responsibility for managing professional development of individuals and groups
Why does AEC encourage members to use the AEC LOs?

LOs provide transparency for students about:

- what the mission of the Institution is;
- what the goals of the programme are (i.e. the programme objectives);
- upon which goals they will be assessed (i.e. the assessment objectives/criteria).
Why do we encourage AEC members to use the AEC LOs?

LOs also allow:

- **Institutions** to assess if they are meeting their benchmarked goals as part of the quality assurance process;
- **Teachers** to provide curriculum that matches with the programme’s objectives;
- **Employers** to understand what skills and competencies students will have acquired through particular programmes of study.
Using the LOs in curriculum design

The AEC LOs are designed to:

- assist benchmarking;
- support quality management, enhancement and assurance;
- help programme teams challenge themselves in defining the purpose, value and nature of their offer.
Using the LOs in curriculum design

Curriculum design and content should enable students to achieve the intended programme learning outcomes.

Quality review considers whether higher education institutions apply proper procedures to assess it.
Development & Aims of the original AEC LOs

• To assist institutions in implementing the requirements of the Bologna Declaration and, more specifically, in (re-)designing curricula and adopting a student- and competence-oriented approach

• To facilitate the recognition of studies and qualifications and increase compatibility and transparency in the higher music education sector by defining reference points in terms of learning outcomes and competences

• To provide current or potential students with a clear presentation of the main aspects of a higher music education curriculum and its opportunities

• To offer a clear overview of the higher music education sector to a wider audience by using the ‘Tuning’ methodology and providing a musical translation of the ‘Dublin Descriptors’

• To assist institutions and relevant stakeholders in quality assurance and accreditation processes in higher music education

• To help employers and other stakeholders to understand the competences of musicians they hire
Aims of the AEC Learning Outcomes Review (1)

• Consider the wider European higher education context and any major trends, initiatives and developments that have taken place since 2009.

• Consider developments that have occurred during the same period within the sector and/or the higher arts education sector in Europe and beyond.

• Consider sector skills statements that have appeared since 2009.
Aims of the AEC Learning Outcomes Review (2)

- Review the overall structure of the Learning Outcomes, with its division into Practical (skills-based), Theoretical (Knowledge-based), and Generic Outcomes.

- Review the use of the terminology of Learning Outcomes and Competences

- Consider each statement of the Learning Outcomes, line by line and level by level.
The LO revision process: feedback comments

Do you use the LOs?

“It depends on what you mean by “use”."

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The LO revision process: feedback summary

Strengths

Subject specific, easy to comprehend, can be relied on, adaptable to local/national needs, give inspiration, can be used as a standard for quality
The LO revision process: feedback summary

Main Weaknesses

Very general, not up to date, no strong connection with employment, do not anticipate enough future changes in context of music in society, difficult to fit to specific disciplines, elaborate language
The LO revision process: challenges

How should the LOs embrace new HE concepts and changes to the context of music in society?

What about entrepreneurship, sustainability, cultural diversity, musicians in society, R&D, technological developments, etc.?
The LO revision process: key conclusions

Widespread agreement that several skills were missing or under-emphasised:

(Artistic research, career management, contemporary communication skills, entrepreneurship, international and intercultural competencies, musicians as creators, new technologies)
The LO revision process: challenges

How should we expect institutions, teachers and students to engage with the LOs?

How do we acknowledge students’ ownership of their education?
Case Study 1:
Claire’s experience
(the programme director)
Case Study 2:
Jacques’ experience
(the teacher (1))
Practical Exercise 1: Your experience of Learning Outcomes?

In groups discuss:

Do you use LOs?
How do you use LOs?
What helps/hinders you in using them?

Please identify: pros, cons & issues
Working with the LOs
Case Study 3: Ester’s experience (the curriculum developer)
Case Study 4:
Jacques’ experience
(the teacher (2))
Practical Exercise 2: Embedding technology in your curriculum

Look at: pp.11-12 1st Cycle Outcomes:

1.A.11 1.B.10 1.C.9

In groups, discuss how you might embed these LOs in your curricula (implementation & assessment)

Please identify: options & issues
The AEC Learning Outcomes 2017 a curriculum creativity toolkit
Practical Exercise 3: Creating holistic programmes of learning and teaching

Reflect on everything you’ve heard and discussed today. In groups discuss:

Can you imagine using LOs now?

How might you change your use?

What opportunities might more effective engagement with LOs offer?
Plenary Discussion & Conclusions
Today’s Learning Goal:
To help all participants – whether new to LOs, or experienced users – to understand LOs as a creative tool to enabling learning

Today’s Learning Outcome:
You tell us…
Your feedback, comments and questions

Please share with us some examples of your experience with Learning Outcomes
The LO revision process: your feedback and comments

Please use the AEC Learning Outcomes 2017 which are available along with the ‘Background to the 2017 Revision Process’ document at: https://www.aec-music.eu/about-aec/news/the-aec-learning-outcomes-2017-now-available-in-english-french-and-german

*Please let us know your views on the AEC Learning Outcomes 2017.*

We’d love to hear about work on LOs (new or old) in your Institution: please share examples about how you use LOs, your experiences and your aspirations.
Learning Outcomes Working Group

Claire Mera-Nelson (Chair): London, UK
Jef Cox (Secretary: AEC Office)
Angelo Valori: Pescara, Italy
Ankna Arockiam (Student member)
Anita Debaere (Employer member)
Ester Tomasi-Fumics: Vienna, Austria
Ingrid Maria Hanken: Oslo, Norway
Jacques Moreau: Lyon, France
Thank you!!