

SMS Early Childhood Music Education Working Group

The European Music School Union

European umbrella organisation of national music school associations in Europe representing more than 6000 music schools.

- Information exchange
- Capacity building
- Lobbying & Advocacy
- Collection of statistics
- Events (European Youth Music Festival)

AEC SMS Project

4 year project funded through the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission

Joint working groups on Teacher Education in the Digital Age and on Early Childhood Music Education

The situation in Europe

- * Strongly varies between different countries
 - * Some countries have a relatively long tradition of ECME, other none at all
- * Diverse educational background of ECME teachers
- * Different understanding of ECME

Early Childhood Music Education (ECME) Preconditions

- * In the ideal situation:
 - Teachers have specialised HME training (master of music) for early childhood music education and they are both qualified pedagogues and good musicians
 - Annual and long term (for 0-6 year old) study plans
 - Teaching materials and facilities are suitable for early childhood music education

ECME Learning Outcomes

- * Children are able to:
 - Understand basic music elements
 - Read notes
 - Sing and play by hearing
 - Play basic chords (major and minor) and can accompany easy songs
 - Choose their own instrument as they get familiar with different instruments via “instrument presentations”
 - * teachers use the same terminology as instrument teachers and collaborate with instrument teachers
 - Perform
 - * early childhood concerts and performances with or without professional musicians are an important part of early childhood music education

Project outcomes

- * Mapping of the situation in Europe
 - ECME classes
 - Starting age
 - Setting (music school, public school, kindergarden, etc.)
 - Curricula (national, defined by music schools, commercial)
 - Educational background of teachers
 - Activities and musical elements

Project outcomes

- * Guidebook

- Expert group as authors
 - → Natassa Economidou, University of Nicosia
 - → Michael Dartsch, University of Music Saar
 - → Ulla Piispanen, ECME teacher & author
- Practical guide offering insights and guidelines for this type of pedagogy
- Example lessons
- Further reading/ Bibliography
- Online publication disseminated through the network of the EMU

Project outcomes

- * Pilot project

- Training sessions on ECME for music school teachers
Carried out in different European countries, especially in those where there is no tradition of ECME
- Advice on designing lessons and further reading
- Monitor progress and feed back to the membership of the EMU



Till Skoruppa
Secretary General
European Music School Union

till.skoruppa@musicsschoolunion.eu