

FINAL REPORT Sida PROJECT

Widening Participation on the Road to Membership 2009-2011

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC STOCKHOLM
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATOIRES
30 April 2012



Executive Summary

This is an Executive Summary of the Final Report of the project 'Widening Participation on the Road to Membership', which has been coordinated jointly by the Royal College of Music in Stockholm (KMH) and the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) and has run from April 2009 to December 2011. The project partners in the Western Balkan region are: the Academy of Arts of the University of Banja Luka, the Music Academy of the University of Sarajevo, the Faculty of Music of the University of Arts in Belgrade, the Music Academy of the University of Montenegro and the Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad.

The two main intended results of the project were as follows:

- Result 1 – to tune five partner academies from the Western Balkans region with European educational and administrative standards at the higher education level
- Result 2 – to widen participation in music education by better and easier access for children and youth to early stage music education

The report is composed of five different sections, each elaborating on different aspects involving the project.

- **Section I** is an introduction, and explains the relationship between the Final report and the Annual Reports.
- **Section II** consists of an updating of the **Logical Framework Approach (LFA) Matrix** created at the beginning of the project. It takes the first and last columns of the original LFA Matrix ('Development area according to evaluation report' and 'Indicator') and gives an overview of how the final project outcomes correlate to the planning decisions set at the beginning of the project period. These are set out in a new column: 'Final project outcome'.

It is important to emphasise that the total outcomes of the project exceed those listed here; the approach has been to select those which seem to mirror most closely the indicators of the original LFA Matrix. By selecting appropriate project outcomes, it is hoped to show that the indicators chosen have largely been fulfilled and, in several cases, exceeded. Where appropriate, outcomes listed in this section are cross-referenced to the relevant report among the appendices.

- **Section III** comprises a **Financial Overview** of the entire project. The preparation of the Financial Overview has benefited from feedback provided by the External Auditor for the project during her visit to the AEC Offices on 16th to 17th April 2012. Using the same underlying data as that provided to the Auditor, the manner of its presentation has been altered to ensure that it correlates explicitly with the AEC's Annual Accounts for 2009, 2010 and 2011. These are key financial documents of the Association, prepared and confirmed by the Association's book-keeper, and approved by the whole active membership at the General Assembly following the year in question.

Linked to this section of the report is a set of appendices drawn from the AEC Annual Accounts for 2009, 2010 and 2011, showing the correlation between these documents and the overview provided.

- **Section IV** consists of a report on the *Exit Strategy*, compiled in 2009. In the original document, six approaches were identified. These form the basis of the reporting matrix and examples have been provided of how each approach has been followed through in the activities undertaken or planned for the period following the project.

The picture is stronger in relation to some approaches than to others. Because the music academies operate in an environment where their freedom of action is still significantly circumscribed by factors including national ministerial policies, they have had to focus upon those areas where they have the maximum autonomy. Their agreement of cooperation, signed in May 2011 and drawing six further academies of the former Yugoslavia into the partnership, is potentially an enormously valuable way of strengthening their individual and collective voice over the coming years. Meanwhile, the new TEMPUS project, successfully bid for by the Faculty of Music in Belgrade acting as lead partner, shows how this institution has capitalised upon the European contacts it has made during the current project.

- **Section V** represents an attempt to set out possible *longer-term strategies* for continuing the work started with such success during the project. As well as indicating ways in which this might happen outside the context of Sida project funding, there is discussion of possible avenues for future collaboration with Sida itself in areas which it is believed would be consonant with current and future strategic plans of the Agency.

The Report's authors and their AEC colleagues, staff at KMH and partners in all five music academies in the Western Balkan region wish to thank Sida for its support and for making possible the significant results which, as the Report hopes to show, have been achieved.

AEC/KMH

Utrecht and Stockholm

April 2012