

WHO CAN USE MUSIQUE'S SERVICES?

- Higher music education institutions and programmes (AEC members are offered special rates compared to non-members).
- Joint programmes, jointly developed by several higher music education institutions.
- Pre-college music education institutions and programmes.
- National quality assurance and accreditation agencies interested in joint procedures.
- Staff and students in higher music education through the Quality Assurance Desk.
- Other disciplines in higher education looking for a model of a subject-specific European-level approach to quality assurance.

Interested in the services provided by MusiQuE?

CONTACT US!

www.musique-qe.eu
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MUSIQUENHANCEMENT
QUALITY

WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE FOR MUSIC STUDENTS?

- **Improvement of the quality of the education and services offered to students**, as MusiQuE procedures result in concrete recommendations from peer-reviewers with a background in the field of music.
- **Empowerment of students**: student feedback plays an important role in the review processes and is considered in the recommendations made.
- **Involvement of students**: all review teams include a student. This way, music students become increasingly involved in quality assurance issues and develop a greater understanding of the procedures.
- **Enhanced recognition of studies and qualifications**: by building trust between institutions, MusiQuE facilitates student mobility and employability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING MUSIQUE SERVICES FOR INSTITUTIONS?

- **International specialists in the relevant musical fields**, able to understand the specificities of the various institutions, programmes and disciplines. Institutions therefore receive tailor-made recommendations formulated by competent colleagues.
- **Internationally accepted standards**, which take into account the specificities of the sector and are also compatible with generic international and national standards used in higher education.
- Focus on the **enhancement dimension of quality assurance**: in all procedures the main focus is on how the institution/the programme can further develop and improve.
- Assistance to institutions with establishing an **international reputation**.
- **Building trust** between institutions by using a comparable approach based on internationally accepted criteria.
- **Flexible services for different institutional needs** and an increased relevance of external quality assurance processes to various stakeholders in institutions (students, teachers, management, etc.).

WHAT IS
MUSIQUÉ?

MUSIQUENHANCEMENT
QUALITY



Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen



PEARLE
LIVE PERFORMANCE EUROPE



emu
MUSIC SCHOOL UNION E.U.



eqar
European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

WHAT IS MUSIQUE – MUSIC QUALITY ENHANCEMENT?

MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement is an independent external evaluation body dedicated to the continuous improvement of the quality of higher music education across Europe and beyond, and to assisting higher music education institutions in their own enhancement of quality.

MusiQuE is registered on the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). EQAR is a register of agencies that have demonstrated their substantial compliance with a common set of principles for quality assurance in Europe, laid down in European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance. At the European level, MusiQuE has through its inclusion on EQAR the same formal status as most national quality assurance or accreditation agencies.

WHICH SERVICES DOES MUSIQUE PROVIDE?

MusiQuE offers a range of quality enhancement services and accreditation processes tailored to the needs of higher music education institutions:

- 1. Quality enhancement reviews for institutions, programmes and joint programmes (also offered to pre-college institutions and programmes);**
- 2. Accreditation procedures for institutions, programmes and joint programmes;**
- 3. Joint procedures with national quality assurance and accreditation agencies;**
- 4. The ‘Critical Friend Approach’ focused on programmes and departments as a content-driven form of external quality review;**
- 5. Evaluations of research activities.**

WHO IS MUSIQUE?

MusiQuE is composed of:

- The MusiQuE Board which consists of experts proposed by 3 partner organisations: the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC), the European Music Schools Union (EMU) and Pearle*-Live Performance Europe (the Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe). This way MusiQuE functions as a unique partnership of the higher music education sector and the music profession. The Board has the responsibility to oversee all activities of MusiQuE, consider all review reports and, where relevant, decide on granting an accreditation.
- Supporting staff who carry out the work determined by the Board (MusiQuE Staff, externally hired staff and review secretaries).
- A Peer-Reviewers Register of experts who form the panels that carry out the reviews commissioned by the Board.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED AS PEER-REVIEWER?

Individuals who are interested in acting as peer-reviewer in MusiQuE review procedures are encouraged to take part in the annually organised Training for peer-reviewers. More information about the Training sessions and on how to submit an application to become a peer-reviewer can be found at www.musique-qe.eu/review-team.

STEPS OF ALL REVIEW AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

All procedures are carried out on the basis of the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme or Institutional Review* and include the following steps:

- An analytical self-evaluation report prepared by the institution and/or (joint) programme team which is sent to the peer-reviewers.
- An onsite visit of minimum 1.5 days by the peer-reviewers (at least four persons, including a student), accompanied by a secretary, during which they meet various stakeholders (such as members of the management team, the academic, artistic and administrative staff, students, and representatives of the profession), have the opportunity to visit classes and lessons, and attend concerts/recitals.
- The outcome is either an advisory report highlighting good practice and including a set of recommendations for further improvement (in the case of a Quality Enhancement Review) or a report which, in addition to highlighting good practice and including a set of suggestions for improvement, concludes with a formal recommendation to granting an accreditation.

MusiQuE also provides support to institutions in the area of quality assurance and enhancement through its Quality Assurance Desk, which is set up as a hotline for any questions on the MusiQuE tools and guidelines, as well as general questions linked to quality assurance and accreditation in the sector.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND FOCUSED REVIEWS

MusiQuE offers a set of quality enhancement services in addition to its regular review and accreditation processes:

- **‘Critical Friend Approach’:** in this innovative approach to external review, annual visits by ‘critical friends’ are combined with a shorter version of MusiQuE’s regular review visit. A ‘critical friend’ is an external expert who is considered to be an international authority with regard to the content of the programme or department that is being reviewed. This ‘Critical Friend Approach’ seeks to bring a more content-driven focus to external quality assurance processes which will result in an increased relevance of these processes to students and teachers.
- **Reviews of pre-college institutions and programmes:** these quality enhancement reviews of pre-college institutions and programmes are based on a specific set of standards (*Standards for Pre-College Music Education*) which form a toolkit aimed to guide pre-college music education providers in evaluating their activities and enhancing quality.
- **Evaluations of research activities undertaken by higher music education institutions:** such evaluations are based on a dedicated evaluation framework developed by MusiQuE and aim to provide an analysis of research objectives and results within the higher music education context.

All MusiQuE services are tailor-made to the needs of the institutions and programmes and strongly focused on enhancement.