Internationalisation and quality: how international activities can support the enhancement of quality in institutions



By representatives of MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement



#### A few introductions...

- Who are you and why did you choose for this session?
- Who are we?



# Content

- New definition of internationalisation
- Quality and internationalisation
- Concept of quality
- International quality tools:
  - 1. International external examiners
  - 2. International benchmarking
  - 3. MusiQuE
- Questions and discussion



#### Definition of internationalisation

 The intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society.

## Quality and internationalisation

- International activities will have a positive impact on your quality but HOW really?
- Many institutions have strong international profiles, but...
  - what does it mean to be 'world-class'?
  - how does an institution know it is 'worldclass'?



# Concept of Quality

- Difference between 'standards' and 'quality'
- Music sector has always been strong on musical/artistic standards
- 'Educational quality' fairly new aspect (Bologna Process!)
- MusiQuE brings both together and can suggest tools to support both aspects



#### 3 international tools available

- International external examiners -> artistic standards
- 2. International benchmarking -> educational quality
- 3. Review by MusiQuE Music Quality Enhancement -> both artistic standards AND educational quality

#### 1. International external examiners

- Bringing an external and international perspective to the assessment of (final) examination performances
  - A specialist in a specific discipline
  - He/she serves on assessment panels in formative and/or summative performance assessments.



# 1. International external examiners

- Benefits

- Programmes continuously benchmarked at international level
- Teachers' expertise enhanced
- Objectivity of the assessment enhanced
- Link between the assessment, QA and international policies of the institution strengthened



# 2. International benchmarking

Benchmarking is a **learning tool** aimed at improving performance based on the comparison between institutions / departments / programmes that share common objectives and operate under comparable conditions.

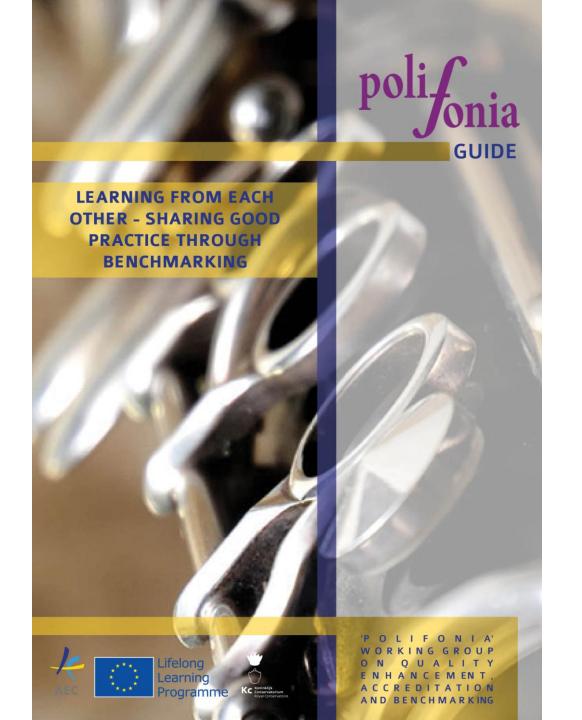


# 2. International benchmarking

- Similar institutions forming a benchmarking group to:
  - obtain a set of comparative data which can be used for internal analysis
  - compare their practices and/or performance
  - share best practice
- Example of the IBE project (Royal Northern College of Music with Oslo, Graz, The Hague, Montreal, Sydney, Singapore and Boston)

# 2. Benefits of benchmarking

- Forum for sharing knowledge and experience in a 'safe' environment
- Data to inform decision-making
- Opportunity to build networks and expand contacts
- International perspective on your educational quality



# 3. MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement

- An independent European-level subject-specific external evaluation body
- o Its aim:
  - assist institutions in quality enhancement
  - improve quality of higher music education as a whole
- MusiQuE takes over and develops AEC review responsibility (29 reviews since 2008)
- Various services with one philosophy



#### The structure of MusiQuE

3 partner organisations: AEC, EMU, Pearle\*

#### 3 main bodies:

- MusiQuE Board (5 members) responsible for overseeing all MusiQuE activities
- Peer-reviewers trained
- Supporting staff



#### The MusiQuE Services

- Quality enhancement reviews for institutions, programmes and joint programmes
- Accreditation procedures for institutions, programmes and joint programmes
- Joint procedures with national quality assurance and accreditation agencies
- Quality Assurance Desk



### Principles of MusiQuE reviews

- Respect special characteristics of the sector
- Focus on artistic standards AND education quality
- Bring an international dimension to the procedure
- Encourage institutions to reflect on their own practice, development and challenges
- Assist them in the enhancement of their quality
- Increase objectivity
- Adjust to diverse national situations



# The usual MusiQuE procedures: 3 steps

- Preparation of analytical self-evaluation report
- Site-visit of peer-review team
  - At least 4 reviewers, including a student
  - Meetings with various stakeholders
  - Visits of classes and lessons, attendance of concerts/ recitals
- Report of the peer-review team



# MusiQuE Standards for Institutional, Programme and Joint Programme Review

#### 3 Sets of Standards

- 8 Domains of enquiry
  - 1) Mission and vision /Programme goals and context
  - 2) Educational processes
  - 3) Student profiles (admission to, progress through and completion of the programme)
  - 4) Teaching staff
  - 5) Facilities, resources and support
  - 6) Organisation and decision-making processes and
  - 7) Internal quality culture
  - 8) Public interaction



# MusiQuE's future development

- MusiQuE as the 'go-to' provider for review and accreditation in music
  - Completion of EQAR registration to do formally recognised accreditation procedures
- Standards for pre-college training and music teacher training
- Supporting procedures in multi-disciplinary institutions with various performing arts disciplines



## Finally... this is all about:

- Being accountable and focus on improving ourselves
- Moving internationalisation into a central position in institutional strategies
- Confirming the international reality of our institutions and the music profession
- Strengthening credibility of the sector: this is something we can organise ourselves

#### Questions for discussion

- What is your experience in relation to linking internationalisation and quality?
- How can internationalisation support quality assurance in your view?
- and how can quality assurance support internationalisation?
- o Is your institution using one of the tools presented?

# MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement

Website: www.musique-qe.eu

Request MusiQuE reviews! Contact us! info@musique-qe.eu

