**NORDPLUS IRC FORUM**

**October 19-21 2015  
Royal Danish Academy of Music**

**Monday, 19th of October**

**WELCOME SESSION**

Marianne Løkke Jakobsen welcomed everyone and introduced the participants to RDAM and the international profile of RDAM

*Musical Welcome by RDAM students*

*Introduction round*

**Welcome of EXCOM** by Michael Strobelt

*Michael introduced the work of the Nordplusmusic EXCOM*

Composition of EXCOM: 8 members – 4 network coordinators + 4 elected members

Call for candidates for the EXCOM for next year.

This meeting is based on the evaluation of last year’s meeting in Viljandi

* wish for more clarity and transparency
* wish for more hands-on approach
* wish for minutes from all meetings
* wish for strong thematic day theme

Expectations about this meeting and its outcome: Michael explained the reasons for having a thematic day. Hopefully it will lead to some reflections and inspiration.

EXCOM activity 1415:

* During 1415 a joint ANMA/IRC meeting in Stockholm in May 15
* EXCOM has had 2 meetings in 1415 – topics have been planning of ANMA/IRC meeting and this meeting in Copenhagen
* A new Learning Agreement form has been published
* A discussion about “sleeping partners” – we will not force anyone to contribute, but encourage institutions who are active in the networks, also to become members of ANMA

**NETWORK PRESENTATIONS**

**SIBELIUS** 1415, Knut Myhre:

120000 Euro spent, 1 IP

**PULS** 1415, Keld Hosbond

60000 Euro spent, 3 IP/development projects

Keld pointed out a dilemma. The networks are getting more funding for projects, but less for mobility. This will be a challenge in the years to come, and we will have to tell our students to use Erasmus rather than Nordplus funding for long-term mobility

**Nordtrad** 1415: (presented briefly by Keld Hosbond)

Challenge with funding for mobility and to prioritize between joint study programme and annual conference

**Nordopera** 1415 (Rima Rimšaitė)

81000 Euro, 2 IP projects. Total 3 regular student grants, 27 students express, 22 teachers grants.

Challenge with leftovers, however solved by organizing extra intensive course *Audition Training* using mobility grants only and distributing grants to other music networks: 3 students express to *Sibelius* network, 2 students long term study grants to Nordpuls network.

**RDAM INTERNATIONALIZATION**

Overview and inspiration (presented by Marianne Løkke Jakobsen, KatjaElkjær-Pedersen, Stine Johanne Thiesen)

16:30-17:30

Guided tour of RDAM

*The session was moderated by Michael Strobelt*

**Tuesday 20.10.2015**

**MORNING SESSION**

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President Bertel Krarup wished welcome to RDAM for our annual forum

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**GENERATION Y – WHO ARE OUR NEW STUDENTS AND HOW DO WE TARGET THEM?**

*External speaker Sidsel Jess*

Professor Sidsel Jess introduced us the Generation Y based on her study with approx. 3500 students aged 18 to 25. Students were mainly Danish with some exchange students also.

Worldview

* In eyes and experience of Generation Y the world is globalized and in rapid change. Transformation is the state of reality.
* Generation Y feels that world is small, many of them have already been able to travel a lot. They have not experienced the west/east division of the world.
* Freedom and flexibility is an ideal and choices are only temporary.
* Destination and goal is emphasized instead of history.
* Education should be something that opens the possibilities in the future. 75 % believed they will be working in a company that doesn’t exist yet.
* No overall authorities and objective measures of the true and false.
* Success and failure are the two options in life. Passion and happiness are valued. Working hard is not necessarily what makes success but to be in a right place in a right time for example.
* The individual is at the center, but focus on network and social relations. Social feedback is a necessity in their existence.
* Money is important but social capital is the most important currency.
* Choices will be made based on emotion, rather than rationality. Intuition and “how I feel” leads the decision making.
* Generation Y thinks that “I need to be passionate about what I do, that gives me prestige”.
* The worst thing must be a boring routine job – then rather be unemployed.
* Identity is constructed with many things, work alone is not that big part of it anymore.
* Internet, mobile phones, social media and reality TV; Line between private and public area has changed. Demand of authenticity.

Education

* Generation Y has a certain Global confidence. But at the same time they are insecure about everyday tasks and they feel that though the word is small it is filled with information.
* Choices are contemporary, no one knows what tomorrow brings.
* Change of mind is adaption to the current situation, not irresolution. “I don’t feel like it…”
* Yesterday’s information is history, communication happens in real time. Instant answers are requested, chatting not mailing.
* Information is wanted just in time, not just in case as Generation X. This means for example that information delivered too early is same as no information.
* Ongoing – never ending information flow, more like marketing/advertisement than informing.
* Education needs to feel good – an emotion.
* Edutainment, dialog and fun in the classroom.
* Individualized education and personal “aha” experiences.
* The teacher needs to give feedback and set clear goals.

**Group work and discussion**

*Groups (divided roughly by countries) discussed about possibilities and obstacles in the current reality in regard to send student abroad.*

Challenges are how to get the current information to the right students in right time. Our (Generation X) tools and habits of delivering information are in some part outdated and should be brought to meet the needs of our students (use of social media, personalized guidance, timing of information etc.).

We tend to plead to reason instead of feeling, we deliver faceless information to the masses early on, we expect students to fill up complicated applications by themselves and we trust them to be able to plan and commit to the plans for something that happens in faraway future which doesn’t exist yet.

On the other hand internationalization is considered highly important in Nordic countries higher education and so there are resources and possibilities to pay personalized attention to the students heading abroad –now than we know better how to reach them.

In some way music students are also a special kind of group of generation Y. They do know and appreciate the value of hard work. They have all had to make a lot of work to get to the institutions we all are working. They have had to make long term plans and commitments. Also authority may still have more meaning in the field of music since good teachers are highly appreciated and looked up to. All this makes it even more complex to figure it out how we should encounter and communicate the Generation Y in the field of music.

*Session was moderated by Katja Elkjaer-Pedersen*

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**MEMBER INSTITUTION SPOTLIGHT**

* Barratt Due (Oslo, Norway)  
  Bjørn Einar Halvorsen presented Barratt Due, a longtime Nordplusmusic member but inactive in terms of mobility. First teacher exchange took place this year. College department with 75 students, only classical studies. High standard of students and excellent teachers.

**PROJECT INSIGHTS**

The IP and DP coordinators reported back from projects of 2014/2015 and introduced the upcoming projects of 2015/2016

**Intensive Projects**

* **Operetta and Classical Musical** (Helsinki, February 2015)   
  Nordopera IP between Stockholm, Tallinn and Helsinki. Focus on individual and group lessons, language training and dance training.  
  No IP funding allocated for another session but if possible, will be organized in February 2016 with other funding sources.
* **Africa Meets the Nordics** (Helsinki, May 2015)

Nordpuls IP with 15 students participating from institutions in Aarhus, Gothenburg and Helsinki, teachers from African partners (Mali, Ghana, Tanzania, Mozambique). Programme compiled of small and big group sessions and regional presentations. Supported by North-South-South funding in addition to Nordplus.

* **We Make an Opera** (Vilnius, June 2015)

Nordopera IP. Biannual event with 60 students (47 from partner institutions) and 37 teaching staff (21 from partner institutions).

12 parallel classes in the morning, afternoon sessions focusing on work on opera fragments that were presented at the Gala concert at the end of the event.

* **Improvise to Improve** (Helsinki, August 2015)  
  Final session of the Sibelius IP. Presentations, workshops, individual and group lessons. Public concerts in open spaces – in the school, in the streets etc.
* **Girl Power in Jazz** (Aarhus, August 2015, 3rd session in May 2016 – host TBD)  
  Nordpuls IP focusing on female instrumentalists in jazz. Programme composed of seminars, ensemble playing and jam sessions in public venues.
* **COSA –** Connecting Opera and Sound Art (Gothenburg, October 2015)  
  Nordopera IP between Gothenburg, Vilnius and Oslo.  
  Opera, composition and sound art students working together, with Ovid’s Pygmalion and the Orpheus myths as a starting point. Final outcome presented at a public venue in Gothenburg.
* **4 to 24 Saxophones** (Riga, October 2015)  
  Sibelius IP for student and teacher participants from Oslo, Helsinki, Aarhus and Riga. Focus on different saxophone ensembles and ensemble performance, topical discussions and concerts. Final concert live-streamed.
* **CAB** – Composition, Arranging, Band-leading (Oulu, November 2015)  
  Nordpuls IP focusing on the Generative musician – fulfilling all of the C-A-B roles. Students and teachers from Aalborg, Esbjerg, Tallinn and Oulu. Final concert in connection to a public festival in Oulu. A documentary film and a short video clip produced by the Media department of Oulu UAS.
* **Nord+ mix**: Creative Music Innovations in Spatial Sound Sphere (Vilnius, February 2016)

Sibelius IP focusing on music technology and sound spatialisation.

**Development Projects**

* **Band Teaching Conference** 2015 and 2016 (Aalborg, 2015, 3rd session 30 March – 1 April 2016)

Nordpuls Development Project.Teachers’ conference, partly theoretical and partly hands-on.

Open call for teachers involved in band teaching to join from the Nordplus institutions

* **Newtime**   
  Nordpuls Development Project. Three focus points: taking nordplusmusic to the next level, supporting the further development of NOAS and organizing an Experimentarium (Aarhus, May 2016), a 3-day conference focusing on different e-learning tools
* **Development of Classical Music Education** (Copenhagen, March 2016)  
  Sibelius Development Project focused on mapping the situation and possibilities of new technologies for innovative teaching and learning. Participants invited from each partner institution.

**NORDPLUS MOBILITY**

* CIMO seems to prioritize project funding over individual mobility when awarding grants
* Network budgets are not sufficient to cover the applied grants by the institutions. If this situation continues, individual mobility grants might need to be reduced
* Institutions are encouraged to use Erasmus+ for long term mobility

**Financial regulations (maximum amounts)**

* Student mobility  
  200 EUR per month + travel grant (330/660 EUR). The weekly rate of 70 EUR should be applied for mobility less than a month
* Express mobility  
  70 EUR subsistence grant for one week mobility (5-7 days) + travel grant (330/660 EUR)
* Teacher mobility  
  355 EUR for one week mobility (5-7 days) + travel grant (330/660 EUR). The minimum length of teacher mobility is 8 working hours – 70 EUR subsistence cost. For exchanges less than 5 days, the daily rate should be applied.

**NOAS**

* Presentation of different possible stages of NOAS development with added features, e.g. the possibility of multiangle video audio recording
* NOAS is currently more of a prototype than a final project

Based on the group discussions, the following suggestions and decisions were made:

* As the first priority, the focus needs to be on bug fixing
* A reference group (preferably 4 members from different types of institutions) will be formed to support the process. Meetings can take place via Skype
* ANMA needs to be active towards the Grieg Academy regarding NOAS development

**EXCOM ELECTIONS**

* Presentation and discussion of the structure and tasks of the EXCOM
* Discussion of the principles of network coordinator representation in the EXCOM
* Michael Strobelt, Anna-Stina Sinisalo, Christofer Fredriksson and Dagfinn Bach are elected as the new EXCOM members
* Nordopera coordination will be handed from Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre to Oslo National Academy of the Arts , which will mean new representation in the EXCOM

*The session was moderated by Christofer Fredriksson*

**Wednesday, 21. October**

**FINAL SESSION**

**Reflections on the presentation on Generation Y from IRC level**: what can we learn from the presentation in the context of our students? *Discussions lead by Michael Strobelt*

* Important to reflect on the possible clash between the students’ gut feeling of interest vs the “objective” decision from the institution on what is useful and important to succeed in working life, also from the aspect of curriculum design
* Sending the students out on an exchange is a part of the shift from teaching to learning. Danger for a misconception that the students can be left alone, both from the academic and administrative perspectives

**Communication as the key**

* The channels and content of information to reach and attract the students need to be reconsidered. We need to meet the students where they are not wait for them to come to us
* Instant information sharing solutions preferred (Facebook, Messenger) – info needs to be available in real time when it is needed
* The importance of personal contact increases in the light of the intense pace and amount of information

**IRC FORUM EVALUATION**

* Immediate participant evaluation carried out with the focus on what should be kept and what changed regarding the IRC Forum structure
* Online evaluation form will be sent to all participants
* Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for the next IRC Forum in the Form
* Suggestion to repeat the joint ANMA and IRC meeting

**IRC FORUM 2016**

* Host: Sibelius Academy
* Dates depend on the availability of the premises, suggested 24. – 26. October

The moderators thanked the stepping down EXCOM members for their contribution, Eystein for his work on NOAS support and the RDAM team for the wonderful hosting of the Forum.

*The session was moderated by Christofer Fredriksson and Hanneleen Pihlak*

*Minute takers: Keld Hosbond, Mari Miettinen, Hanneleen Pihlak*