

ANMA Country Reports

ANMA & NORDPLUSMUSIC FORUM 7.-8.5.2026

Faculty of Performing Arts, University of Stavanger (Campus Bjergsted)



Country report Denmark 1/2



Publicly funded, decentralised system

Pathway:

Music schools (ca. 100) → MGK (7) → Conservatoires (4)

Artistic + pedagogical training (BA-level: min. 30 ECTS)

Increasing educational focus on music in society

Political context:

- 2015–2019: 2% annual reductions
 - From 2019: funding added to safeguard quality
 - 2028: this funding expires → ‘funding cliff’
 - Accreditation costs +50–80% (no extra funding)
- Growing structural pressure on core education
- Political focus on cultural resilience in society opposed to anti-democratic threats

Country report Denmark 2/2



Challenges & Threats:

Narrowing recruitment base (classical music)

Social inequality in access

Instrument shortages

Portfolio careers and labour market uncertainty

2028 funding cliff + rising unfunded costs

Outlook:

Risk of reduced capacity and quality

Need for political response to sustain system

Continued focus on relevance, collaboration, innovation

Technology provides broadening of artistic possibilities

Country report Estonia



Music Education System

- Structure & autonomy of universities
- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre – full-cycle institution
- Funding model & recent developments
- Current negotiations with the Ministry
- Pre-higher education music institutions: music schools and vocational schools.
- Dual funding system
- University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy (folk music focus)

Political Context

- Stable political environment
- Strong role of Universities Estonia (Rectors Council)
- Regular dialogue with decision-makers
- Supportive approach to internationalization
- Debate on tuition fees
- Elections ahead → possible policy shifts
- Impact of war in Ukraine

Country report Estonia 2/2



Challenges & Threats

- Demographic decline
- Attracting and preparing future students through stronger pre-higher education links
- Changing labour market
- Increasing international competition
- High expectations on graduates
- Curriculum design and development
- Future funding uncertainty
- Structural debates (mergers)

Prospects

- High quality and strong traditions
- Positive impact of recent funding
- New career models and entrepreneurship
- International cooperation
- Overall resilience and adaptability

Country report Finland 1/2



The music education system

- Finnish music education is built on a **three-level ecosystem**: basic arts education (Taiteen perusopetus, TPO), upper secondary education (general and vocational), and higher education (universities and universities of applied sciences, UAS).
- **Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)** play a key role in music pedagogy, community-oriented practices, and regional cultural ecosystems.
- A nationwide UAS collaboration, **“Possibilities of Music Pedagogy” (60 ECTS)**, coordinated by Metropolia and involving **seven UAS institutions**.
- The *Music Education Vision Group* project **“Future-Sustainable Educational Culture”** is nearing completion, with outputs including:
 - institutional mergers (e.g. Resonaari, Keski-Helsinki, Kallio),
 - a national study on **the transformation of music teaching professionalism**,
 - regional community-based initiatives (e.g. Mikkeli),
 - leadership training developed in cooperation with the Sibelius Academy.

Political context

- Finland is currently implementing a major **reform of Basic Education in the Arts (TPO)**:
 - a **new comprehensive act** is planned,
 - transition to **one unified curriculum pathway**,
 - stronger emphasis on **accessibility, equity, cooperation and quality**,
 - legislative reform expected to enter into force in **2027**, with new national curricula implemented by **2028**.
- **Music will be introduced as a subject in the Finnish Matriculation Examination**:
 - first music examinations in **autumn 2029**, applies to students starting upper secondary education in **2027** or later,
 - replaces the current music diploma system and strengthens the status of music in general education.

Country report Finland 2/2



Challenges & threats

- **Structural pressure** on music education institutions due to declining age groups, financial constraints and increasing expectations for efficiency.
- Introduction of **full-cost tuition fees for non-EU/EEA degree students**:
 - full cost coverage required from **August 2026** onwards,
 - raises concerns about accessibility, diversity and international talent pipelines in music education.
- The forthcoming **“one study right rule”** in higher education:
 - applied from the **2026 autumn joint application** (studies starting in 2027),
 - limits simultaneous degree-level study rights and may affect flexible study paths typical in arts education.

Prospects

- Strong sectoral cooperation and **shared agenda-setting**: preparation for coordinated **advocacy and policy influence ahead of the next parliamentary elections (04/2027)**. National reforms offer a **strategic window to strengthen music education’s role** in lifelong learning, wellbeing, and regional vitality.
- Increased recognition of music in general education and national qualifications supports **broader societal legitimacy** for music studies.
- In autumn 2026, the University of the Arts Helsinki launches Finland’s **first Master’s programme in Music Theatre**, jointly delivered by the Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy — marking the first shared degree programme between the two academies.

Country report Iceland 1/2



- Iceland University of the Arts (IUA) – Department of Music 147 students
- 3 study programs on BA level – Fully revised
- 2 study programs on MA level
- Current Dean of the Department of Music: Pétur Jónasson (currently concluding his term)
- New Dean of the Department of Music: Berglind María Tómasdóttir (appointed to begin her term next August)

Music education system

- IUA is the only higher art education institution in Iceland with 7 departments - 676 students
- Self-governing institution with a contract with the Ministry for providing Higher Arts Education
- One music school on upper secondary level
- 84 music schools on primary and lower secondary level

Country report Iceland 2/2



Political context

- Leadership in Iceland: Now all top positions held by women
- Universities now fall under the Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- Minister of Culture, Innovation and Higher Education is an Architect
- The government is cutting funds to a newly established Center of Music
- New funding model No major cuts to art education despite economic reform focus
- Referendum in August on negotiations for EU membership
- Tuition fees for students outside of the European Economic Area, excluding Greenland, Føroyar and Switzerland
- A new established National Opera is currently launching
- Discussions about strengthening music education on primary level

Challenges & Threats

- Ongoing delays of the new building
- Curriculum Reform: BA-level has been revised.
 - Changes need to be implemented
- Developments in instrumental teacher training
- Political Climate: Increased polarization
- Funding: Reliance on short-term contracts
- Shortage of instrumental teachers for music schools
- International socio-economic instability

Prospects

- Rising number of applicants, especially for classical studies
- Launch of a new programme: Music x Innovation x Technology
- Fully revised BA programs in Music will launch the fall of 2026
- Interdisciplinarity: New structures for cross-departmental and elective combinations
- National Opera

Country report Latvia 1/2



Performing Arts

(Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral Studies)

Education

(First Cycle, Bachelor's, Master's)

- New structural changes and departments, e.g., Interdisciplinary and Electronic Music Composition class, Musical Theatre Singing class, Accompanists class
- Enhanced performance results in the international scientific evaluation
- Ever closer cooperation with the industry and main employers: Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Latvian Opera and Ballet, Latvian Radio Choir, etc.
- Ongoing work to ensure close cooperation with music schools and high schools
- New further education initiatives, including micro-qualifications and a special emphasis on teacher education
- The new professional doctoral program celebrates 5 years, with 25 graduates
- On-site psychologist services for students and employees
- A new Steinway piano

Funding

→ Still the lowest in the Baltic States – we are actively advocating for increased state grant allocations

Country report Latvia 2/2



Upcoming

- 2026 – Vītols International Competition for Choral Conductors
- Numerous BIPs (Blended Intensive Program) each year in various thematic areas, supported by Erasmus+ funds and some by KKF (state grants). JVLMA ranks No. 1 among state HEIs
- Launch of a further education program in music production
- Concert hall modernization and other infrastructure development projects
- Potential for children's educational program and events

Political situation, changes

Upcoming parliamentary election in autumn 2026, with a potential change of both Culture and Education ministers

Challenges, threats and prospects

- Securing funding (state, EU) and sponsorship (enterprises, private)
- Ensuring a safe environment
- Staff turnover and human resource management
- Reputation management
- Student recruitment for arts pedagogy program

Country report Lithuania 1/2



Lithuanian music education system

- There are 88 state children's music schools in Lithuania.
- There are 8 specialized music schools (gymnasiums, conservatories and secondary schools)
- Music studies are conducted at universities:
 - Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (Vilnius, Klaipėda),
 - Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas)And higher education institution VIKO.

Country report Lithuania 2/2



- **Threats:**
 - the war in Ukraine
 - Security threats by growth of IT technologies
 - AI challenges for artists and researchers
- **Challenges:**
 - the shortage of music teachers is increasing,
 - the career of a music performer is becoming less attractive to young people
- **Prospects:**
 - A significantly revised “Music and Education” program focused on training music teachers for secondary schools and music schools
 - Joint study programs with foreign higher education institutions
 - Expanding Erasmus connections and international contacts

Country report Norway



Context

- All together 10 institutions are members of the national network FUM (Higher Music Education)
- 5 institutions in Oslo, 5 institutions around the coastline of Norway
 - Specialized institutions (NMH, KHiO)
 - Institutes or faculties at Universities
 - Mainly state institutions. But also some private ones (however with substantial state support)

Political context & Challenges

- Norway will have a labor shortage in the future. "We will run out of people before we run out of money"
- «At arm's length» is somehow under pressure by Ministry of Education and Research. More tendency to "control" Universities. "We expect you to priorities certain educations".
- Teachers, healthcare workers, IT skills etc. matters. Not music, not the arts.
- Number of study places will probably decrease over the next years

Country report Norway 2/2



Prospects

- The Norwegian institutions in HME cooperate well.
- Ongoing work to become a part of the research council (NFR), regarding artistic research
- There is a growing political awareness that music must be strengthened in the future.
- A research report from [Telemarksforskning](#) shows that our former students land well on their feet after completing their education. They get relevant jobs and earn a living.

Country report Sweden 1/2



- The Government is investing in quality in higher education and increasing per-student funding rates in order to enhance teacher–student ratios.
- The Government does not intend to raise the overall funding cap, which will result in fewer students in higher education; this is presented as a means of improving quality, though it carries significant consequences.
- The productivity deduction has increased, thereby complicating the long-term financing of higher education.
- The teacher education reform likewise emphasises quality while reducing the number of students within the system. The requirement of the grade Swedish C from upper secondary school appears likely to pose considerable challenges for programmes with low enrolment as well as programmes in music and art.

Country report Sweden 2/2



- The Government encourages the expansion of collaboration between higher education institutions, both in teaching and research.
- Application pressure remains high in higher music education in Sweden, which is positive.
- Alumni in music and the arts demonstrate high employability, according to a report by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) published in April 2026.
- The Government is actively dismantling adult education initiatives, thereby jeopardising preparatory educational levels.
- What are the implications of increasing xenophobia for institutions with a strong international presence in certain programmes? Expanded reporting obligations to the Migration Agency entail consequences that remain unclear.