





MusXchange 2015–17

A Cooperation Project of the European Federation of National Youth Orchestras



pre-professional opening horizons

Youth Orchestras

innovative training europe new skills changing on peeds peeds on the skills of the ski

EFNYO's programme for fostering transnational mobility, strengthening of skills and audience building for pre-professional musicians in Europe





Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa, July/August 2016, hosting Justine Ehrensperger, flute, and Florie Delmotte, viola (Orchestre Français des Jeunes) | Photo: © Luis Andrade

"MusXchange", the transnational mobility and training programme of the European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) which gathered 12 partners from 10 different countries, has successfully completed its third cycle 2015–2017.

As an association deeply rooted in European musical life, EFNYO and its partners provide a platform for the exchange of expertise in music training and performance among the leading national youth orchestras of Europe and take responsibility for imparting necessary skills to future generations of musicians. In this regard, the federation truly benefits from its unique position at the interface of higher music education and the music profession.

Since its beginnings in 1996, the "MusXchange" programme has seen the participation of more than 850 pre-professional musicians to date. It has given them opportunities to gain orchestral practice in youth orchestras abroad, discover new repertoire, experience different performance styles and orchestra traditions, meet conductors, tutors, and young fellow musicians in a different cultural environment. In view of an increasingly global and intercultural community, it has developed into an indispensable instrument for the professionalization of the European music sector. "MusXchange" represents a wonderful example of intercultural dialogue, transnational learning, and the empowerment of youth and musical excellence throughout the European Union.

In the present brochure, both managers and musicians give a lively account of the valuable outcomes and experiences resulting from two years of cooperation and musical exchange. Next to well-established mobility projects between EFNYO member orchestras, the 2015–17 programme has gradually been extended to embrace new sub-strands, such as bilateral chamber music projects, internships with professional orchestras, and European bootcamps focusing on audience building and creative entrepreneurship.

Enjoy reading about "MusXchange", a European pilot programme that offers young musicians a range of multifaceted training formats paving their way for a professional life in music!

With best wishes

Renate Böck

President | European Federation of National Youth Orchestras General Manager | Wiener Jeunesse Orchester







Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, October 2015, welcoming MusXchange musicians from Austria, France and Spain Photo: © M. Borrelli

EFNYO Cooperation projects involve activities:

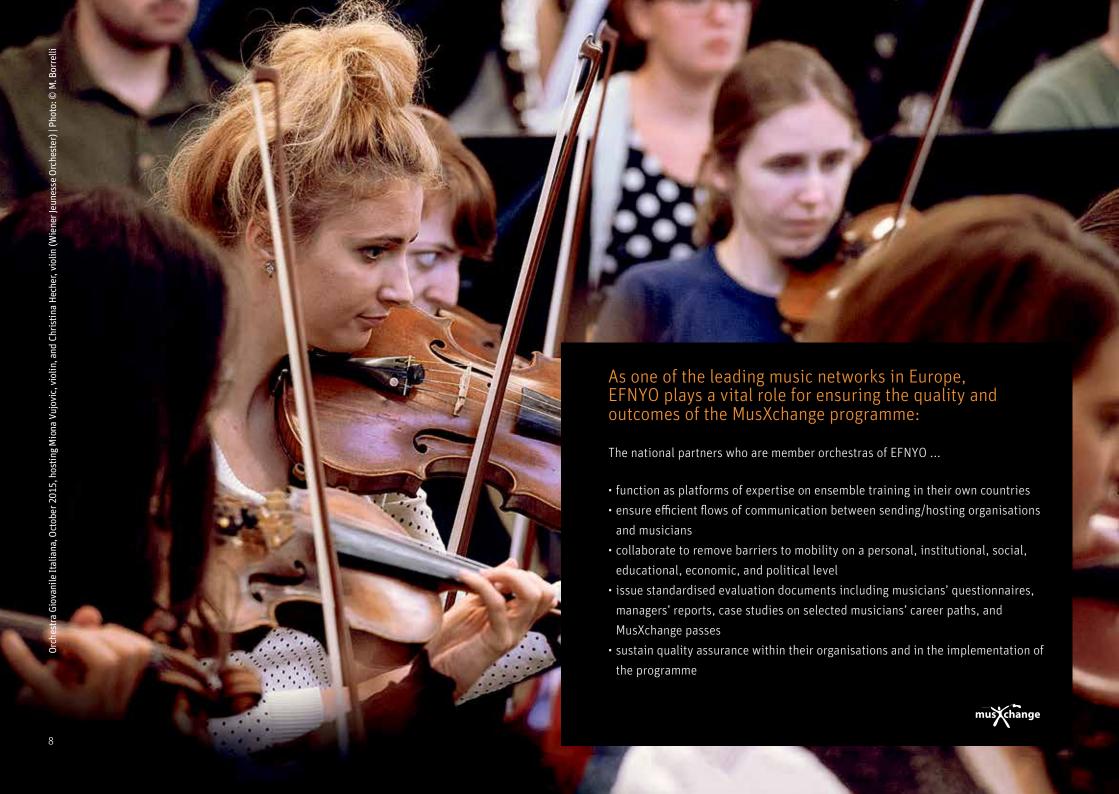
- to sustain and shape the future of symphonic music in Europe
- to nurture new youth orchestra initiatives on both a national and an international level
- to promote the brand of pre-professional youth orchestras
- to support the mobility of a new generation of orchestra musicians
- to raise the interest of young musicians and new audiences with regards to musical diversity and contemporary music performance

Mission

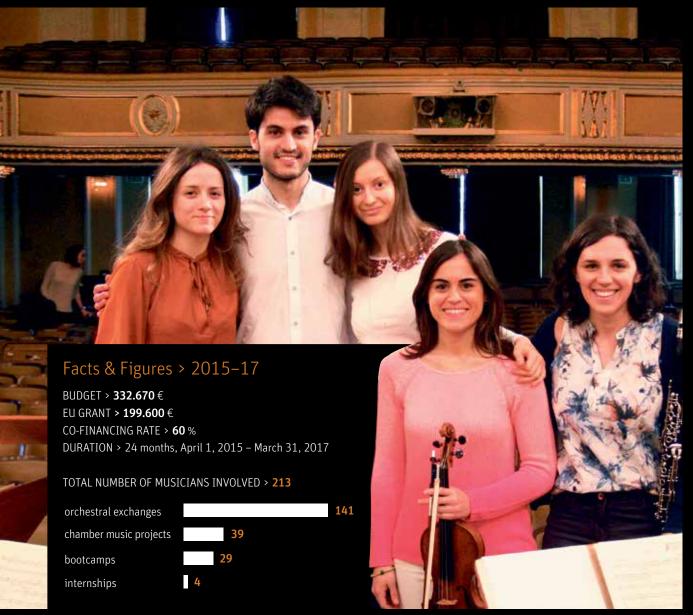
EFNYO strongly believes in the added value of short-term mobility projects in professional music training. The MusXchange programme is based on more than 20 years of experience of EFNYO members involved in musicians' exchanges and training throughout Europe.

Recognising the specific characteristics of education and performance in music, MusXchange offers efficient methods of enhancing the transnational mobility of young musicians and supporting their career paths in the European labour market.

The experiences of participating in ensemble projects lasting between 10 days and 4 weeks and in 3-day intensive bootcamps widely contribute to young musicians' competitiveness, social, language and intercultural skills, performance practices and professional development such as audience skills, leadership and communication skills, and creative entrepreneurship.







Wiener Jeunesse Orchester, March/April 2016, hosting Alicia Navidad, violin, Carla Garcia Molina, violin, Oana Geanina Vasilache, viola, and Miguel Angel López Valero, percussion (Joven Orquesta Nacional de España) | Photo: © WJO

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR:

European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) | www.efnyo.org

FULL PARTNERS:

Wiener Jeunesse Orchester (AT) | www.wjo.at

Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (ES) | http://jonde.mcu.es

Jeune Orchestre de l'Abbaye (FR) |

www.abbayeauxdames.org/jeune-orchestre-de-labbaye

Orchestre Français des Jeunes (FR) | www.ofj.fr

National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (IE) | www.nyoi.ie

Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT) | www.scuolamusicafiesole.it

NJO: Nationaal Jeugd Orkest (NL) | www.njo.nl

Ungdomssymfonikerne (NO) | http://ungdomssymfonikerne.no

Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa (PT) | https://ocp.org.pt

Orchestra Română de Tineret (RO) | www.orchestratineret.ro

The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (UK) | www.nyos.co.uk

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS:

Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra (CY) | www.cyso.org.cy
Bundesjugendorchester (DE) | www.bundesjugendorchester.de
Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra (FI) | www.uniarts.fi
Guildhall School of Music and Drama (UK) | www.gsmd.ac.uk
Live Music Now Scotland (UK) | www.livemusicnow.org.uk/scotland

The programme MusXchange 2015–17 was preceded by the **pilot mobility project "MusXchange 2009–11"** and a **second cycle "MusXchange 2012–14"**, and received co-funding from the European Parliament and the European Commission.



Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union This publication reflects the view only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The specific impact of EFNYO is an internationalization and increase in the mobility of Spanish musicians. Also a progressive change of mindsets and attitudes of musicians towards their future careers, and the awareness of the importance of entrepreneurial skills needed for a difficult and more competitive labour market. The self-confidence and international perspective musicians achieve via MusXchange has to be stressed.

Saulo Muñiz Schwochert | Artistic Coordinator Joven Orquesta Nacional de España (JONDE)



The atmosphere in the orchestra was amazing! All the guys were good partners and friends. I loved to see how they used to study in their free time: they were divided into small groups or pairs. First, they played an orchestral excerpt together and then, they were helping each other with musical difficulties like rhythm, intonation or whatever. It's really a good way of learning and a good example of comradeship.

Gema Jurado Blanca | JONDE/ Spain (hosted by OGI/ Italy)

I now have a deeper and more solid knowledge of what it means to work in an orchestra, which will allow me, for example, to be more efficient in the way my sound will merge with the other instruments.

Ana de Castro Albergaria | JOP/ Portugal (hosted by JONDE/ Spain)





I think this is a great exchange programme. Communication between orchestras and the organisation seems to work extremely well. If only this was possible with professional orchestras, too! It makes such a difference being able to immerse oneself in a different culture and language, as opposed to just touring to another country. I hope this programme will last for decades to come.

Veronika Tief | WJO/ Austria (hosted by OFJ/ France)



The results of the cooperation are very satisfying because the MusXchange project 2015–2017 has been a real occasion for all partners to exchange their working methods. Both musicians and managers improved their competences.

The fact that musicians from another European country joined the Orchestre Français des Jeunes was not only a good experience for them but also made the rest of the orchestra aware of this opportunity. Welcoming musicians allows all the orchestra to open to a new culture.

Our organisation has benefitted a lot from this project:

- OFJ members who are allowed to take part in an exchange project are more committed in the OFJ alumni life afterwards
- welcoming European students pushes the French musicians to improve their language skills, which allows us to hire international pedagogues
- our staff developed new competences thanks to the site visit and the bootcamps organised; bootcamps welcomed very competent guest speakers and allowed orchestras to exchange best practices
- some OFJ musicians participated in bootcamps dedicated to entrepreneurial projects and outreach programmes; they developed skills that will help them to enter the music market

Pierre Barrois | Director Orchestre Français des Jeunes (OFJ)



I've learned a lot about being a professional orchestra musician from the conductor and the percussion teacher. They showed me how my life as a musician could be. I also have learned a lot about what orchestras in Ireland want to hear on auditions. This will help me for my preparation on auditions in different countries.

Max Calanducci | WJO/ Austria (hosted by NYOI/ Ireland)



The MusXchange project enriched the lives of participating musicians as well as each project partner. The framework allowed for the free flow of information between us and has resulted in valuable learning experiences and positive professional relationships.

The project has had a positive impact on NYOI because it has united us with the other great youth orchestras of Europe. It has given our musicians a chance to travel, learn and form friendships that may not have been possible otherwise.

As an island, it would be very easy for Ireland to be disconnected from the musical activities and institutions of Europe. Our geographical situation puts us at the edge of Europe but MusXchange has brought us closer together, and it has afforded our musicians an opportunity for networking.

Carol-Ann McKenna | General Manager National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (NYOI)

The NYOI is like a big, loving family. Nobody got left behind and lots of people cried, when we had to say good-bye after the concert on Sunday. Plays after rehearsals, programme organised by the staff, everybody was totally into it and we had so much fun. I'm very happy, that I've met so many nice people, and I will really try to stay in touch with them.

Patricia Kiefl | WJO/ Austria (hosted by NYOI/ Ireland)

National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, January 2017, hosting four percussion players from Austria and Portugal Photo: © Carol-Ann McKenna



NJO: Nationaal Jeugd Orkest, August 2016, welcoming MusXchange musicians from Romania | Photo: © Roelof Rump



NJO treats its orchestral members like mature professional musicians and gives them a lot of independence. Each member is given a bike to travel to and from rehearsals; during the concert tour, musicians are allowed to make their own way to the venues and work round their own schedules. I also really liked how NJO gives musicians plenty of opportunities to practice their individual parts.

After our last concert we returned to the hostel where we were staying, full of energy and excitement – not quite ready to let go of our experience. The Big Band players who were also staying with us had already returned home from their concert that night, and were enjoying a bit of a party in the social area. We decided that this party was the perfect place for us to blast through the Shostakovich Octet once more. Everybody gathered round as we gave our most energetic performance yet! Afterwards the party went on late, and we even got a Scottish Ceilidh going, much to everyone's confusion/excitement.

Abigail Young | NYOS/ Scotland (hosted by NJO/ Netherlands)

Although NJO is already highly internationally orientated, MusXchange brought us many new experiences, both by sending and hosting musicians.

In their questionnaires, our musicians explained how they got inspired by experiencing other cultures and how they enjoyed working with colleagues from different countries. Sometimes, they were surprised about how things worked differently such as discipline, rehearsal (and dinner...) times, hierarchy, and so on, but all musicians learned a lot about the host orchestra, and about themselves. For MusXchange students coming to the Netherlands, it was sometimes a new experience to participate in a smaller project, for example an opera or music theatre performance.

Miranda van Drie | General Manager NJO: Nationaal Jeugd Orkest

YeYe Xu | NYOS/ Scotland (hosted by NJO/ Netherlands)



Jeune Orchestre de l'Abbaye, July 2016, welcoming MusXchange musicians from Romania | Photo: © Accent Tonique

I had a really good time playing with the JOA. Everybody was nice.

Gilles Guénard, who organized everything, was the best because
he made you feel like home. The atmosphere in the orchestra
was fantastic, everyone did their best for the orchestra.

Sara Altur Melo | JONDE/ Spain (hosted by JOA/ France)

Any kind of project like this one is very beneficial. You gain more and more experience, and not only in terms of the orchestral world. I think that I have improved my listening skills, because this orchestra was more sensitive than youth orchestras are in general. Maybe, in my opinion, due to the particular, more beautiful sound that historical instruments have.

Juan Salas Ruiz | JONDE/ Spain (hosted by JOA/ France)

mus change

The MusXchange 2015–2017 project has had a very strong impact on the Abbaye aux Dames, la Cité musicale, Saintes. It has contributed to its European and international development, the internationalisation of its activities, and new forms of collaboration with EFNYO partners. During managers' meetings and bootcamps, highly competent trainers and guest speakers have offered us an extremely enriching and inspiring environment in terms of innovation in audience development applied in the classical music sector. Thanks to the MusXchange project, staff members of the Abbaye aux Dames have had the opportunity to learn best practices from other youth orchestras and to develop their skills in fields such as management, leadership, audience development and new business models. MusXchange has also inspired the progress of the training curriculum of the Jeune Orchestre de l'Abbaye, which is currently developed by the Abbaye aux Dames in cooperation with the University of Poitiers (France) in the framework of a reorganisation of its master degree in music.

Vincent Soccodato | European Projects Coordinator Jeune Orchestre de l'Abbaye aux Dames de Saintes

The Norwegian National Youth Orchestra has had the possibility of meeting managers of partner EFNYO orchestras and discussing how other administrations and orchestras are organized. This has been very fruitful for our organisation. It was a good experience for NNYO to be a hosting orchestra in 2016. We learned how to help guest musicians integrate in our orchestra and how to improve the ways we communicate and share information.

Cathrine Halland Bering | General Manager Ungdomssymfonikerne (NNYO)



This experience was one of the best musical experiences I have had so far, so I really do not have anything to add that might improve it ... It set a new standard of musical experience.

Pedro Manuel Gomes da Costa Ribeiro Marques

JOP/ Portugal (hosted by JONDE/ Spain)



EFNYO has a tradition as well as a future and it is so important to be together with other colleagues from other countries. I learned a lot in the past few years since I had the opportunity to be part of EFNYO, and the future is clear, we need each other, we need what we do, it's important for our countries and it's important for our Europe.

Marin Cazacu | Artistic Director Orchestra Română de Tineret (ORT)

I found it interesting that they utilise traditional Romanian clothes as a concert dress code. It makes them special and it is nice that they want to share, spread and show the Romanian culture in this way.

Miona Vujovic | WJO/ Austria (hosted by ORT/ Romania)

Joven Orquesta Nacional de España, January 2017, hosting Horațiu Ludușan, cello (Orchestra Română de Tineret) | Photo: © Aracelie Fernandez



NJO: Nationaal Jeugd Orkest, July/August 2015, hosting Abigail Young, violin, and Sarah Ayoub, cello (National Youth Orchestras of Scotland) | Photo: © Nic Limper

It was very nice to work with the people from NYOS and the Hebrides Ensemble. The Hebrides Ensemble consists of professional musicians, and because of that we could learn a lot from them!

It was a very nice chamber orchestra as a whole. Everybody knew what he or she had to do and was prepared very well. Because of this, the rehearsals were a lot more fun and we could almost directly start with making the piece become something more than just notes.

Kris de Roeck | NJO/ Netherlands (hosted by NYOS/ Scotland)



The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland is very satisfied with the results and outcomes of the MusXchange project. It has allowed NYOS to work with other European youth orchestras to help provide exciting and worthwhile opportunities for our students. We have had the chance to send students to chamber and symphonic projects in Europe, to participate in bootcamps as well as welcoming students from other European countries to work with NYOS students in their home country and to help introduce them to Scottish musical traditions.

Not only has the project allowed students to work with other young people from other European countries, but it has given the staff at NYOS the chance to work with likeminded organisations through the sharing of ideas via email and telephone contacts as well as meetings, general assemblies and training opportunities.

Nicolas Žekulin | Chief Executive
The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (NYOS)



The MusXchange programme is a mobility project which focuses on sending/hosting musicians to/from EFNYO partner orchestras in order to support and develop various areas of their skill set (musicianship, intercultural mobility, adaptability, foreign languages). In 2015 and 2016 the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana welcomed 19 musicians for four symphonic projects and one chamber music project and sent several of its own members to collaborate with various partner orchestras. These exchanges, a vital learning experience for guest and host musicians alike, take the musicians outside of their comfort zone and give them the confidence they need in order to search for professional employment in a wider Europe.

Hollie Grey | European Project Manager Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (OGI) I think I gained more self-confidence, a more professional approach to orchestral scores. I improved my reading skills and I learned how to feel more comfortable in the orchestra. Also, I realised once more how important it is to be well prepared and to have an open ear for everything happening around you, listen to your peers and be able to anticipate the musical construction that is developing.

Maria Magdalena Boros Lazar | ORT/ Romania (hosted by OGI/ Italy)

The only suggestion is to circulate information about this project to more and more people, because it is important to share experiences and open your mind when going to different places in order to grow and improve, not only musically but also humanly.

Thomas Maria Defonte | OGI/ Italy (hosted by WJO/ Austria)

The Portuguese Youth Orchestra is very satisfied with the MusXchange project 2015–2017. This has been a unique and most valuable cooperation project. MusXchange has a very special outcome to everybody involved. Students, managers and staff learn what a great responsibility they all have by building up relations and creating a dialogue between partners of MusXchange and EFNYO, therefore creating a better understanding of Europe.

Teresa Simas | Artistic Administrator Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa (JOP)





I think that even more exchanges should take place. There are many things we learn and skills we develop from an increased mobility, not only in professional ways but also as human beings, as we face new cultures and ethical values. Maybe, the key to a better future starts from this cultural mix, and the possibility of making music together. This process connects every musician and human being in a network of tolerance, care, humility, fraternity, but also resilience and courage. I truly believe that we, as musicians, have the possibility of changing the world, but only if we do it within our profession first. That's why this programme is so important and should reach every musician!

Francisco de Oliveira Alcobia Vassalo Lourenco
JOP/ Portugal (hosted by OGI/ Italy)

MusXchange bootcamps for musicians & managers

Within MusXchange 2015–17, the European Federation of National Youth Orchestras organised two three-day intensive bootcamps for the professional training of young musicians.

In **September 2015,** 15 musicians from 7 national youth orchestras were invited to Glasgow for a bootcamp on "audience development and outreach skills" held in cooperation with Live Music Now Scotland. The event offered mentoring and coaching under the guidance of highly experienced trainers. Young musicians were challenged to perform and engage directly with audiences ranging from pre-school children to older people. Training sessions involved creative programming for different formats, and helped musicians to enhance their musical, social, communication and leadership skills.

In October 2016, the format was continued by gathering 14 musicians from 9 national youth orchestras on the topic of "creative entrepreneurship" at the October Gallery, London. The bootcamp was organised in cooperation with renowned training and resource centres such as the Guildhall School



of Music and Drama, Cause4, SpokenWord, and Wordville. To support the development of their entrepreneurial projects, young musicians received coaching from experienced trainers on "communications & PR", "building a project budget", "pitching & presentation skills", and "building a business canvas". On the final day, students had the opportunity to present their projects in a pitching session in front of EFNYO managers. Over the three days, managers also followed their own agenda in meetings on mentoring entrepreneurial projects, online-teaching tools, and further development of the MusXchange programme.



Because of this bootcamp I improved my English skills, learned more about different kinds of audiences, got a chance to practice chamber music with musicians from different cultures and met other young musicians sharing the same thoughts about the importance of music.

Annika Valkeajoki | SIBA/ Finland (Bootcamp Glasgow/ UK)

The atmosphere was very comfortable, all the participants tried to support each other and to help everyone improve their skills. After only a few hours we felt like friends and had a very good time together. Also the trainers were very supportive and we've learned a lot!

Hannah Pichler | WJO/ Austria (Bootcamp London/ UK)

The key skills I learned during this bootcamp are the careful selection of a programme for a specific audience (kids, older people, etc.), the courage to improvise and to interact with the audience and a certain amount of acting and reacting if something unpredicted happens.

Stefan Gottfried Tomaschitz
WJO/ Austria (Bootcamp Glasgow/ UK)

The bootcamp really improved my communication and self-management skills which are vital when working with professional orchestras. The programme included workshops for further training towards a professional career in music. The trainers from Live Music Now helped us create profiles in terms of communicating music to different kinds of audiences. I really enjoyed collaborating with other students from different countries.

Well, I learned that it's very important to be organised, especially when we're talking about money, and how to approach funders for our project because this is the most difficult part of it.

Horațiu Ludușan | ORT/ Romania (Bootcamp London/ UK)





MusXchange 2015–17 Outcomes

EVALUATION TOOLS

- Musicians' questionnaires (199)
- Managers' reports (37)
- Case studies on selected musicians' career paths (20)

MUSXCHANGE VIDEOS

"MusXchange 2015–17: Bilateral chamber music project Netherlands – Scotland"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeXFUHYyAa8

"Creative Entrepreneurship - MusXchange Bootcamp, London, October 2016 - Interview"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_P7nnSCFas

 $\hbox{``Creative Entrepreneurship-MusXchange Bootcamp, London, October 2016-Training Sessions \& Feedback from Musicians and Managers''}$

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7eiSb0uYzY

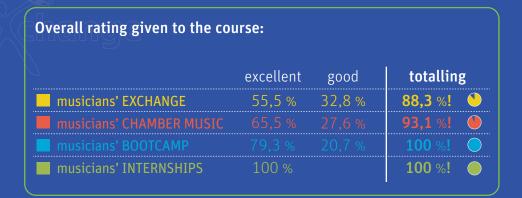
"MusXchange 2015–17: Bilateral chamber music project Austria – Romania"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hajp9thydY4

NATIONALITIES

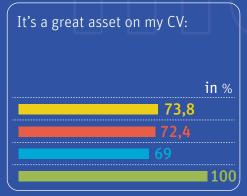
The **213 musicians** who took part in the **4 MusXchange strands** are nationals of **20 different countries** – Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Evaluation based on musicians' questionnaires

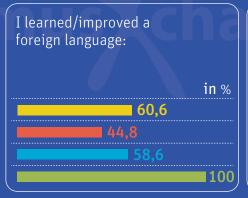


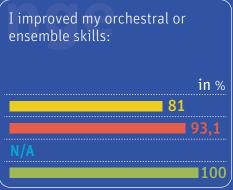


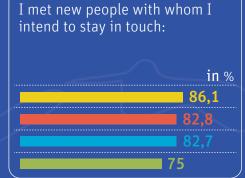


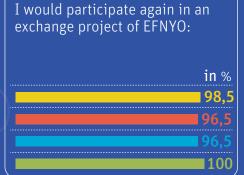












Further evaluation based on musicians' bootcamp questionnaires

(audience and outreach skills | entrepreneurial skills)





Project management | EFNYO

Renate Böck, project coordinator Aleksandra Bajde, project manager (Sept. 2014 – Nov. 2016) Malina Meier, project manager (since Jan. 2017)

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www.efnyo.org www.youtube.com/user/efnyo www.facebook.com/MusXchange

Project management | Full Partners

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Pierre Barrois, Orchestre Français des Jeunes (FR)
Carol-Ann McKenna, National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (IE)
Hollie Grey, Orchestra Giovanile Italiana (IT)
Miranda van Drie, NJO: Nationaal Jeugd Orkest (NL)
Cathrine Halland Bering, Ungdomssymfonikerne (NO)
Teresa Simas, Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa (PT)
Marin Cazacu, Orchestra Română de Tineret (RO)
Nicolas Žekulin, The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (UK)

Cover: MusXchange chamber music project, November 2016, with musicians of Wiener Jeunesse Orchester and Orchestra Română de Tineret performing at Athenaeum Bucharest | Photo: © Virgil Oprina

Publisher and responsible for content: European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) Editorial team: Renate Böck, Malina Meier, Hollie Grey

Graphic Design: geschmacksache.at medienwerkstatt, Vienna Print: Agentur 27 Druck- und VerlagsgesmbH., Vienna