

## **Leonardo Project Preparing for Success in Music**

### **Minutes of Leonardo Partnership meeting held in Bursa in Turkey on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

#### **Present**

Ireland, Laois: Nuala Kelly, Rosa Flannery, John Davidson, and Robert Solyom from Laois School of Music

France : Ben, Saskia, Marie, Fergus Mckay, Gaia, and Mauve from ANIMATO

Turkey: Sirin Akbulut Demirci, Mustafa Alp, Gokai from Bursa Muziz Ogretmenleri Dernegi

Ireland Tallaght Songwriting Collective/ Tallaght Community Arts Danai Kelleher, Tony Bardon (Chairman), Andrew Lea and Shane Ó Fearghail

#### **Opening Session**

##### **Welcome**

Tony Bardon welcomed the delegations and thanked Turkey for hosting this meeting

##### **Feedback**

The meeting began with delegates introducing one another and their backgrounds, then feedback was given on what has happened since the French visit.

Nuala mentioned the CEO of the Education and Training boards in her County of Laois was interested in the work we were proposing and may be in a position to support our activities. There was also a possibility of getting FETAC accreditation for our final output. FETAC is a system of recognising training courses in Ireland.

Fergus is in the process of making contact with Music schools and researching how the course would be received in France.

##### **Presentation by Turkey**

Sirin put on a presentation on Music in Turkey which showed among other things, the strength and depth of the teaching of Music in Turkey particularly to young people. There are 24 Conservatories of Music and 23 Music teacher training schools in Turkey.

##### **Survey**

This was followed with results from a survey carried out in their music school

The goal of the survey was to see what music students were interested in learning with regards to music; incorporating reading music, marketing, song-writing etc. The survey was carried out over 4 different class years and produced interesting results. One of the most interesting results was that song-writing was very low on students list of priorities. However as Fergus mentioned, the Music school where it was carried out is a school where pupils are classically trained without much

emphasis on song-writing. We agreed that it may have been better to have listed song-writing as “creativity” instead or even “composition”. This survey provided valuable information but gave a very particular cross-section of music students only and did not cater for non-academic aspiring musicians. Both the French and Laois delegations agreed that they would use the Turkish Survey as a general template and use it in their own areas/schools.

### **Overview Presentation**

Tony presented an overview on his perception of where we are in the project and he outlined what a section on voice training might look like. Nuala made a presentation on what a course module would look like.

The original concept was that we should design course modules and that these would be supported by the coaching toolbox. Following detailed discussions it was decided that it made more sense to reverse the process. The topics which we wanted to include in the process would be specific sections in the Self Coaching Toolbox. These sections would be capable of being used on a standalone basis but their effectiveness could be considerably enhanced by being used as part of a course in a Vocational & Training or Other Institution where a teacher / lecturer would instruct students on how to use the toolbox and be available to them to guide them through the process.

## **Minutes of Leonardo Partnership Turkey Second Meeting 07/03/2014**

### **Present same as first day**

We were also joined by a representative of the Turkish Organisation who monitored our proceedings and presented each of us a gift on behalf of the organisation.

### **Introductions**

We opened the second day by each participant introducing a colleague and this was helpful in enabling us to get to know one another.

### **Lessons from Mindtools**

Tony began the meeting by showing us a website called Mindtools which was an outline resource for developing new skills and learning capacities and he felt there were lessons to be learned from this website as to how we should structure our own Toolbox / Website

All delegations were concerned that this website was too dense with information and a stripped back style would be more appropriate for us. Mauve suggested something more colourful also and Gaia remarked that the website looked too formal.

Tony pointed out that this website was only by way of illustration and that the feedback would be taken on board.

### **Name for website**

We need a website to host our project and to host the Toolbox and Course Modules

We broke into groups to brainstorm possible names. This generated quite a number of ideas including presumus short for Preparing for success in Music Cleffe Cultural Learning Education Friendship and Fun. Doreme and a number of others

Ultimately, we agreed on E-Clef.net standing for European Cultural Learning Entertainment and Fulfilment. There was concern about the absence of music in the title but it was felt that this was covered by Clef. Tony was instructed to purchase the website.

We still have to make a decision as to where the website should be hosted.

### **Next Meeting**

Fergus asked if there was a possibility of Music Workshops to be performed by one country of the delegates for the other delegates on the next trip e.g song-writing. Shane and Danaí agreed they would be happy to perform a workshop on song-writing at one of the meetings in the future and the subject was left open.

Fergus expressed a concern that the next meeting was too far away and that perhaps a meeting in the summer could be a possibility. Following discussions it was agreed that we would return to Turkey in June and we would aim to have a meeting in Laois in September to be held in conjunction

with the National Ploughing Championship which is a major commercial/ cultural event in Rural Ireland. There would be an opportunity to perform on their entertainment stage.

Action steps were discussed to be undertaken before the next meeting:

- Each delegation will perform a questionnaire/survey themselves in their own areas/schools
- A write-up of idea for the module itself and ideas on how it would work in practice
- Tony advised us all to download Mindtools as a resource
- Each person to fill in a template in their own particular area of expertise of what they could teach aspiring musicians/ what area they could focus on in the module

Lastly Sirin spoke about a Music Festival in Turkey in the summer and would any children in the delegate countries be interested in a student exchange. Delegates agreed that they would ask their own students.

## **Evaluation of Meeting in Bursa**

We carried out a review of the meeting on the following headings

### **Preparation of the partners**

- Generally all partners were reasonably well prepared for this meeting, bearing in mind that we are still at an early stage of the project.
- Papers minutes and agendas had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- The quality of the presentations were good
- All of the partners engaged with one another during the course of the meeting and we were satisfied that a lot of constructive work was done.
- There was far greater clarity at the end of the meeting over the overall direction of the project.

### **Preparation of the host**

- The host country Turkey had prepared well for the meeting
- . The facilities they had arranged were excellent.
- The quality of the accommodation is very good.
- They had given us a very good insight into musical activities in Turkey both in their presentations and visits to a music school and visits to gigs.
- And they had put on an excellent program for us and had been exemplary hosts.

### **Progress on the physical output expected from the partnership**

- We are at an early stage of the partnership and progress is acceptable

Progress on the administration of the partnership

- Also acceptable

A check on the quality of relationships we have established within the partnership

- We have achieve a good working relationship

A check on the degree to which we have been creative within the partnership

- We have displayed a degree of creativity and flexibility in the project to date but it is early days yet.
  
- A check on the difficulties we are encountering within the partnership
  - We decided to reverse the approach to the project by placing the initial emphasis on the Toolbox
  - There were communications problems on the timing of the meetings
  - Any difficulties encountered to date have been overcome