International Monitoring and Comparative Research in Arts Education

Resolution Minutes

Possible goals of the meeting in Wildbad Kreuth

- developing a system of monitoring arts education systems worldwide
- distributing research
- collaborating in research
- establishing a common network and a website

Overall awareness and consensus of the participants

- **Contextualization** (Study results, methods, strategies etc. cannot be simply adapted or compared. All kind of work in the field of arts education should be regarded in its specific geographic, cultural, educational etc. context.)
- **Diversity** (Each culture has unique artistic expressions and cultural practices. International Monitoring and Comparative Research in Arts Education do not aim at standardisation processes or country rankings – despite the fact that there might exist common criteria of quality of arts education (e.g. expressed in the Seoul Agenda). There's a broad awareness of the responsibility of sustaining and promoting cultural diversity.)
- **Need of evidence of the impact of arts and arts education** (Although there's a lot of research on the impact of arts in education, the participants see a lack of high quality research in this area and in the field of arts education in general.)
- **Arts education as a core issue in the development of high quality in education systems** (Besides arts education as a subject in formal and non-formal settings, arts education should also be seen as a core issue in the development of high quality education system, as for example in a holistic teacher education programme for all teacher.)
- **Indicators of quality in arts education** (The participants see the need for indicators and criteria that help to identify quality in arts education. These indicators could help monitoring quality in arts education worldwide. Putting up criteria does not necessarily lead to an international ranking system such as the PISA study.)

Framework for the scope of interest

- formal, non-formal and informal arts education
- early-childhood to life-long learning
- teacher education/professional development
- cultural policies
- all kind of art forms (specific skills, needs, methods etc.)

Key questions that have been raised during the symposium and that must be answered during the next steps

- Should the group start from a large scale (project) or rather try to tackle small targets at first?
- Who are the addressees? (scientists, politicians, practitioners?)
- What is the particular purpose of common efforts in the future? (What do we want to know? And what for?)
- Is advocacy the task of the group?
- How can the gaps between researchers and practitioners and between scientific research and political decision making processes be filled / bridged?
- Main problem in the field of Arts Education is not the access to information, but navigation in a vast bulk of information.
- What is the relation between the project of an international monitoring and the Seoul Agenda? Does the structure or the contents of the Seoul Agenda serve as a guideline?
- What exactly is meant by 'monitoring'?
    - new research (Is the group aiming at a common research project?)
    - mapping (Does the group want to show the structures of Arts Education in different countries? Does the group try to keep track of recent studies?)
    - meta-analysis (Does the group want to make new use of already existing data and / or research?)

Concrete suggestions for implementation & dissemination strategies

- Need for a clearing house
    - that can be used by researchers as well as by practitioners.
    - that gives access to research studies.
    - that establishes quality criteria for research that has been done.
    - that provides a digest of moderated research.
    - that offers a database
    - that can be used as a social network.
    - that offers a "book of open questions", an agenda for possible research projects.
- Establishing further UNESCO Chairs in Arts Education and UNESCO Observatories for Arts Education
- Using the structure of the Seoul Agenda for monitoring projects. The Seoul Agenda already exists, has a strategic focus, a clear-cut structure and uses well-defined words. So it may be used easily as a springboard for action.
- Launching peer reviewed commentary journals, published by major organisations that use citation indices to enhance the field of Arts Education in the scientific community.
- Focus on the 3rd World Conference

Final resolution (extract of the presentation at the closing session)

The chair group will…

    I. Draft an outline of a proposal to create a website / portal that will facilitate:

        a. **Networking** of experts and researchers interested, distribution of news and information via social network

        b. **Digest / Index** of (moderated ?) research

        c. **Links & cooperation** with other networks, organizations and initiatives like WorldCP, WAAE, UNESCO

    II. Seek funding

    III. Complete the process:

        a. Create steering committee to refine the design and content taking advice from UNESCO, IFFACA, Compendium, WAAE etc.

        b. Engage professional site designer & site administrator / manager

        c. LAUNCH!!!

The chair group will keep the group (present at Wildbad Kreuth) informed and continue to encourage input. All issues will be linked to the Seoul Agenda.