

EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION



EUROPA CANTAT

9 November 2013
Pécs – Hungary

Inspiring Cooperation
through

Voice

VISION ON
INNOVATION FOR
CHORAL MUSIC
IN EUROPE



Culture

www.thevoiceproject.eu



Through **VOICE**, we want to develop a new long-term, innovative vision on choral singing in Europe, inspire others and cooperate across disciplines.

VOICE is a European project that brings together **14 coorganisers** in 11 countries for a duration of **3 Years** (June 2012 to May 2015), during which **18 main events** are organised, along with **3 research programmes** and **3 data and song collection** efforts.

14 partners
decided to



- exchange, discover and share good practices and innovative approaches at the European level;
- work together to develop new ideas and projects;
- help singers, composers and conductors travel across Europe and meet one another;
- gather data about the choral world to help better policy making;
- promote singing as a tool for education, peace and personal development for people of all ages and origins

Inspiring Cooperation



- The VOICE project is trying to reach results that can be shared within the singing community: new contents but also new methods
- First results will be presented next year in Barcelona
- We want to share today about the **process of cooperation**
 - Examples from the VOICE project
 - Examples from other projects, EU funded or not

Cooperation is an
exciting challenge



Specific challenges to cooperating on such a scale:

- Physical distance
- Cultural and linguistic differences
- Difference in national administrative and financial regulations, and their articulation to EU rules
- Differences in work environments and habits



Challenge: **Physical distance**

- Email, mailing lists, online chats and video conference through Skype, telephone, etc.
- Shared documents (Dropbox)
- Steering group meetings once a year, plus other gatherings (GA, festivals, conferences)
- Specific budget line to allow partners to visit each other during events or for work sessions
- Onsite visits from the Project Manager (preparation and/or events)



Challenge: **Cultural and linguistic differences**

- Use of “International English” as a work language.
- Visits between partners, including informal activities to discover each other cultural environment



Challenge: **Difference in national administrative and financial regulations, and their articulation to EU rules**

- **General Frame:** a **contract** with the EU (20 pages + budgets + annexes + reference texts) = very difficult to use on a daily basis
- **Specific to VOICE:** a **Cooperation Agreement**, 20 pages detailing what is expected from each partner, and pointing to the main applicable rules
- **Internal Tools:** A **Reporting Kit**, to standardise the financial and technical reporting to the EU



Challenge: **Differences in work environments and habits**

- Different types and size of organisations. different means and worktime to dedicate to VOICE
- Different levels of openness regarding internal organisational and financial issues. *Solution: explain and prove that the Project Manager is not working for the EU, or for ECA-EC, but for the partners.*
- Cooperation is **also** about sharing problems, since solutions can be found inside the group. But it implies to develop **trust**.



The Project Manager

- Coordinating and stimulating the cooperation process
- Assisting the partners for their activities
- Making sure that the EU rules are respected
- Compile, verify and submit the reports to the EU
- Communication on the project as a whole, conference, internet, printed documents, videos, etc.
- As a partner: supervision of SINGING EUROPE

singingeurope.org

your **voice** makes a difference!

SingingEurope is a pilot study, aiming to discover:

- How many people are singing together in Europe
- What and why they are singing together
- What are their activities (concerts, rehearsals, etc.)
- How they are organised and networked

SingingEurope will provide a more accurate image of the choral landscape of Europe, to allow for better policy making and empower the stakeholders

singingeurope.org

your **voice** makes a difference!

To succeed, **SingingEurope**:

- **NOW!** Is gathering existing statistical data from various sources
- **NOW!** Is running a Europe wide survey for the choirs and vocal ensembles
- 2014 Will compile the data and produce a report that can be used by all the stakeholders
- 2015 Will disseminate the results and **share the data** with other organisations promoting “singing together”.

16:30 Session 1.1 Presentation by Roman BARTEL

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