**Nordplus IRC Forum 2016**

24 – 26 October 2016  
Sibelius Academy

**Monday, 24th of October**

**Opening session**

Tuomas Auvinen and Tuovi Martinsen welcomed everyone and introduced the participants to the international profile of the Sibelius Academy and the topic of the meeting, *Change.*  
  
Michael Strobelt welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Committee

**Presentation of the new Nordplus programme period** by Kenneth Lundin from CIMO

* Nordic Council of Ministers has prolonged the current programme period for one year
* The integration of refugees and immigrants is to be included as a priority area in the new period (no earmarked money for this)
* Erasmus+ vs Nordplus
  + Erasmus+ budget expected to increase, no increase foreseen in Nordplus. Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Denmark do not use all allocated Erasmus money – could be allocated to Nordplus mobility
  + Approx. 400 000 EUR Nordplus money is returned every year – political pressure to use it
  + Political pressure to fund new networks
  + Nordplus should not fund annually repeating events
  + 130 IC applications are received annually, projects are evaluated based on qualitative issues only (separate from networks)
  + Nordic Master programme: includes only Nordic countries, research-based, funds primarily for implementation, programme should be nearly ready at application stage

**Ben Nothnagel “Smart when it matters”**

* Changes and stress affect the ability to perform at the current level
* Can brain be switched on – “smart when it matters” (access existing ability)
* Effective people have low cortisol and high testosterone levels. Cortisol – primary stress hormone – rises in situations of stress and uncertainty and disrupts almost all brain and body processes. Testosterone – willingness to compete
* Stress should not become a habit. If it does, you are performing less than you are capable of
* See – evaluate – response
* Need to switch off the loop

**Tool:**

1. Recognise an emotion that leads to a behaviour.
2. Evaluate: ask yourself “should I be…” as soon as you become aware of these emotions (irritation, frustration etc.) – within up to 6 seconds. This breaks the habit, includes problem solving ability and stimulates thinking. The idea is not to control emotions but to regain access to your current ability.

**Tuesday, 25th of October**

**ANMA news and strategy**

* Strategic plan has been downsized:
  + Cautious about being too specific
  + With regard to non-European countries, change from “development” focus to “global”
  + Ongoing discussion about extending to include ABAM members (Baltic music academies), new status category of associated members (see Nordplusmusic.net 🡪 ANMA
* Mentoring pilot project: sharing knowledge about leadership, will be finalized and distributed after the next ANMA meeting
* Next meeting in Tromsø, May 2017. Preliminary topic: The role of traditional music in a globalized world. Balance between tradition, innovation and new forms of musical practice.

**Reporting back from the networks** (network coordinators)

Network coordinators gave a general overview of the activities and funding situation within the networks.

**Reporting back from IPs and development projects 2015/2016**

* Composition, Arranging, Bandleading (November, Oulu)
* Nord+Mix (February, Vilnius)
* Development of Classical Music Education (March, Copenhagen)
* Band teaching Conference (March/April, Aalborg)
* Girl Power in Jazz (August, Aarhus)
* Newtime (August/September, Aarhus)

**Coming IPs and development projects 2016/2017**

* Baltic Nordic Brass Academy (November, Riga)
* CAB - Composition, Arranging, Bandleading (March, Aalborg)
* Nord+Mix (April, Vilnius)
* Newtime (Aarhus)

**Suggestions for IP's 2017/2018**

* Combining Artistic Research and Entrepreneurship (CARE) suggested by Esbjerg
* Guitar synergy suggested by Aalborg
* Jamming project in connection to a Jamming festival suggested by Esbjerg
* Jazz orchestra suggested by Örebro

**Collaboration between networks** – incl. eventual redistribution of unused grants between networks

* Borrowing mobility funds needs to be confirmed before with CIMO
* The mobility needs to be included in the report of the borrowing network

**Nordplus – practicalities**

* Hanneleen Pihlak introduced the basic practicalities and regulations to keep in mind when applying for mobility grants and filling the grant forms as well as how the travel and subsistence rates for different mobility types and lengths are calculated. The overview is available on the Nordplus website.

**Election for EXCOM**

2 member spaces were up for vote. No new candidates were suggested. Christofer and Michael were re-elected.

**Open Space sessions**

* New IP proposal Nordic Jazz Orchestra, Örebro
* New IP proposal Guitar Synergy (N.E.R.D), Aalborg
* Change = the new normal. How to cope with it in our daily work
* Opportunities and challenges with placements
* Internationalization and green thinking
* Refugees and our music networks
* Mentoring
* Work in the EXECOM, how to recruit new members

**From NOAS to EASY**

**Hopes**

* Skip sending LA back and forth
* 100% paper free
* Possibility of open applications (without existing bilateral agreements. Optional, institutions can refuse the possibility)
* Possibility of different templates
* Direct communication within the system between all parties
* Less paperwork
* User friendly from the student’s perspective
* The students are able to do it themselves
* More intuitive for generation Y
* Make the institutions more visible in new regions
* Supporting Nordplus specifics (network based)
* Less paperwork and less work
* All European institutions included
* System would produce Erasmus IIA
* Stability and flexibility
* Agreement before application?
* Learning agreement both with listed subjects and manual input option

**Fears**

* Will it be ready & functioning in time for 201772018?
* Will the system produce necessary documents and reports?
* How do the not involved institutions handle our student’s applications?
* Study programmes not compatible
* Losing control of outgoing students (if they can just send applications)
* Fear to lose incoming applications
* Ownership of sensitive information. Which laws apply? Estonian laws?
* Too many functions – will we need all?
* System issues (break down!)
* Yet another system – compatibility/link with other systems (used on University level)
* Not easily understandable for teachers evaluation the applications
* Lack of communication
* SLA
* Costs in the future? No funding source fixed

**Expectations**

* Has to be easy to use
* Has to be developed and supported continuously (helpdesk?)
* Active communication by the system developer (Dreamapply)
* No problems/extra usernames and passwords for teachers who evaluate the applications and listen to the recordings
* Less work both incoming and outgoing
* Possibility of saving applications as pdf
* Simple communication tool between applicants, coordinating and host institution
* Overview/calendar of application deadlines
* Support the whole process from start to finish
* Preview function
* We need a person at AEC WG who is responsible for the project

IRC Forum 2017: University of Gothenburg, Academy of Music and Drama

**Wednesday, 26th of October**

Guided tour of Metropolia UAS, Department of music

* Presentation of the school and the new curriculum structure
* Student presentations