



Diversity of singing practices in Europe Leonardo da Vinci program 2013 - 2015

Session 5/5 in Copenhagen 11 & 12 June 2015 - report

Participants:

EVA:	Florian Städtler (chairman), Peter Martin Jacob (vice-chairman) and Karin Mueller
EVTA :	Susan Yarnall-Monks, Secretary
RAMA:	Jim Daus Hjernøe, Professor
INECC:	Camille Kerger, Artistic Director
MCC:	Marina Velasquez, Secretary
CERPAVOI:	Céline Morel, Director
PFI:	Géraldine Toutain Artistic Director and Stéphane Grosclaude, Coordinator

1. Introduction :

This last session of the partnership was the opportunity to :

- Work on the formalizing of the final report to be submitted to the European Union for the financial support to the project,
- Discuss between the partners about the evaluation and observation of the work in progress
- Types of documentation, publications and dissemination,
- Opportunities of presentations of the results of project results, especially at Eurovox Congress in Riga - Latvia (18 - 22 june), Europa Cantat festival in Pécs (25 july - 2 august),
- Future projects and cooperation

2. Final report :

The final report is composed of:

- PDF document
- Certificates of attendance
- European Shared Treasure data base to fill in
- Other documents required by national agencies (can differ from one country to another)

Each partner is strongly invited to look at the website of his national agency very soon, in order to collect the different requested documents for the final report.

It is a long process to fill in the final report, it is recommended to begin as soon as possible, even if the deadline for the final report is September 30.

Working document to prepare and put in a shared Web space :

- A text for the part A of the PDF report in order to write it collectively (Stéphane)
- A list of references to choose among the items in the PDF report (Stéphane)
- A list of documents edited in the partnership (Stéphane)
- The presentation and contribution of the partners to the project (Susan)

This documentation will be useful for EST to be completed during summer

2. Assessments of the partnership:

The feedback from participants was very positive. While some felt the project was too broad in its expectations others felt that at least we were trying to do something about understanding the diversity of singing in Europe. While it was clear we were not going to be able to achieve all we wanted in what was basically 4 sessions the feeling from participants was that some concrete outcomes had been achieved. It was not possible to go into depth on all genres of singing and vocal music and so the emphasis on popular and choral/a capella music was understandable given the participation of people involved.

However, there was a good inter-connexion, a good balance between classical (mostly practiced) and contemporary music in all the sessions and every body/partner have moved from the beginning. The topic of diversity is relevant because it allow to make bridges and connexion between people and organisations.

The main goal for **Plate-forme interrégionale** (PFI) was to join a great diversity of organisation and people from voice field, and this is achieved! Moreover, some cooperation with other networks could be established (e.g. Europa Cantat, European Music Council, ...)

One of the goals for PFI was to reach different national federation of contemporary music in the session in Aalborg, to allow them to discover the training in Aalborg and than to work with them to see how the intelgent choir method can be considered in other diploma courses.

Representatives of PFI are using terms like exciting, amasing, fantastic, "I went to the market and I had some things to drink and eat" ... very positive words, underlining the good balance in doing music. Musical report is an example of innovative way to try and practice.

There was good ideas about education (Barcelona) and Tours, but sometime difficult to do with people because it wasn't clear and prepared enough before (e.g. working as musician going in prison or in hospital, mapping the diploma courses in Europe). These subjects are interesting and must be prepared. This is the purpose of Mission voix and there is unfortunately no equal organisation in other countries.

PFI assumed the coordination of the project, which represents a half time work during 2 years, considering the preparation of the project one year before the beginning of the partnership.

EVTA was a late partner to the project having been initially turned down. As a result we were not able to broadcast the information to our member countries (and they in turn to disseminate to their members). This meant that for the first 2 sessions most of the interest has come from the board members of EVTA. We have however used all the mobilities (12).

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MCC had a difficult position to host the first session, as people didn't know very well each other and it was a big challenge. There were two meetings before, but we would have changed many things if we knew what would happen. This comment is shared by all hosting partners. The enquiry about singing in education was rather made for researchers and perhaps didn't get the goal, but it gave the opportunity to people to ask themselves questions and try to answer from their own position/job

Hosting a session for **CEPRAVOI** was a good opportunity to meet several national and European organisations (AFPC, EVTA, Conservatoires de France, ...). The fact of joining forces in common evens is relevant. It is a good way to think in any project

It was also relevant for students to be able to be part of the session in Aalborg, in order to discover more concretely and meet teachers of the method they could experiment during a previous training course in Tours.

CEPRAVOI took part largely in communication of the project: finding a name, creating a logo, which was a lack in the evaluation of the application. This was relevant and gave another dimension to *LEO Sings!*, and to the sessions, with lots of dissemination of press release and flyers.

For **RAMA** it was a while to understand what the project was about and no staff to manage it. The main objective was to share about conducting and the different technics and methodology, with a view that our is at the same level of any other methodology, classical or other. It is relevant to seat and show what we have in the country, who are the internal partners. It is a kind of firmware in choir singing.

It is very good to host a session: many students could come, train, especially exploring distant learning with Adobe connect. We received lots of comments during the training and feedback before and after straining sessions in France.

At the beginning, the project seamed unrealistic to **EVA**, needing many papers and work for European level project. Joining the project was a good opportunity for meeting singing teachers and networks and for the process of exchanging ideas.

It is difficult to make not profit things in a professional way, but very relevant and inspiring. Something started, but is not completely available yet: the network is existing and can continue to share, and perhaps make some new projects. It is important to create "something", to make it possible.

Participants from **INECC** are all very satisfied of the sessions. It was a long way from Barcelona to Freiburg. *LEO Sings* is actually an image and has to confirm it in production.

3. Recommendations and final observation:

Interarts was supposed to give an observation of each session and to be with us for the last session to discuss together the final contribution and recommendations to present to EU and local governments.

The draft document sent by Interarts remains superficial and does not take into account the contributions of Jordi Balta during the first session in Barcelona. This document is not sufficient analysis and in the absence of Interarts, partners collectively decide to write another observation

and recommendations text. Susan Yarnall made the following proposal, based on the contributions of Interarts, in order to get a substantial observation of the partnership.

A brief overview of Interarts contribution to help us evaluate LeoSings

LEO Sings! has identified the common challenges across Europe and the fundamental role of European exchanges in vocal practices.

How do we operate in the broader European environment with collective singing practices?

The challenges...

- **Community:** *recognising the intrinsic value of singing with its impact on welfare, educational attainment, community cohesion and economic opportunities*
- **Media:** *are singers recipients or participators - creators or performers?*
- **Policy:** *do countries offer universal or limited opportunities for singing?*

Do community singing policies and practices **evolve**?

Diversity

This was well reflected in the Barcelona, Aalborg, Tours and Freiburg sessions. Each had a different focus, and a different group of people, but LeoSings recognised areas for development:

- Adapting our music education to embrace different styles of music and social changes
- Encouraging accessibility for singing for all, in terms of location, price, ...
- Improving choral training of directors and facilitators, especially in public and music education
- Complexity of career paths after training are inevitable but we can share some common certification of choral and vocal practice
- Transferring across Europe good practice, good quality and healthy singing, sharing expertise with participating partners, as experienced in the sessions
- Interaction of regional and international networks needs to continue, sessions are most productive when all participants are proactive and there is a balance between technical exchanges and skill development, and networking opportunities
- Policy recommendations maybe beyond the framework of LeoSings and subsequent projects but by adopting a bottom-up approach we can spread the value of singing for social and personal development in communities and influence policy
- Social impact of vocal practices need to be examined further, singing in hospitals, prisons, refugee camps etc.
- More European countries involvement should be encouraged through follow up projects

Possible outcomes as seen by Interarts

These are some of the suggestions made by Interarts for continuing the project. They are just suggestions as seen by an observing partner.

1. Mapping diverse career paths from professional singers

2. Collecting existing research and individual testimonials on link between singing and personal welfare
3. Explore the external and internal obstacles for choral participation
4. How can a clear understanding of quality in singing help new monitoring and assessing frameworks?
5. Combine research based arguments on values of collective singing with personal narratives
6. Link with UNESCO 2005 Diversity of Cultural Expressions, explore further meaning of diversity
7. Develop training programmes
8. Exchange of good practice in singing across Europe
9. Interaction between vocal networks and other social agents to explore increased diversity in European society and social impact of singing.
10. Mapping of music education which maybe beyond the scope of LeoSings

4. Communication and dissemination:

Films: -> Céline, Jim, Films Loup Blanc

The first one is already done. The duration is 10 minutes. It was used for presentations of LEO Sings in several occasions.

The second is about to be finished and will consist of an interview of Jim explaining the intelligent method. This will be a good tool to present the course and to give interest in it.

Films du Loup Blanc (FLB) made a provisional cast of the third film which is presented to partners, in order to give them a collective feedback.

Portraits of participants are appreciated. Some comments concerning the contents could be added, instead of several atmosphere considerations.

The part concerning overtone singing can be shorter.

Music could be more appropriate. Jim propose to give the final cast to his students who could compose some music specially for the film, if FLB agree on it.

Communication:

The objective is to continue connecting people and organisation, and so showing what we did to give good and innovative examples and imagine new cooperation projects.

The documentation made during the partnership, the films, results and presentation of potential project or partnership are enough to present the project.

A hand book is not relevant.

Mediums to be done:

- Facebook group will be open by Karin and Géraldine
- Prezi.com presentation (Florian)
- Calendar of vocal events will be shared on line (to be completed) :

2015 June 18 - 21	Riga - LV	Eurovox	https://www.eurovox2015.eu
2015 July 24 - Aug 2	Pécs – HU	Europa Cantat festival	http://ecpecs2015.hu/en
2015 Aug 27 - 31	Fossano – IT	Vocalmente festival	http://www.vocalmente.net/it
2015 Aug 31 - Sept 4	Firenze – IT	Pan European Voice Conference (PEVOC)	http://www.pevoc.org/pevoc11.php
2015 Sept 29 – 30	Nancy – FR	Pop Mind	http://www.pop-mind.eu/index.php/fr
2015 Oct .1 – 4	Bayreuth - DE	Sangeslust Vocal festival	
2015 Oct. 19 – 21	Paris – FR	AFPC Pedagogical conference	http://www.afpc-evtta-france.com
2015 Nov 11 – 14	Rabat - MA	International Music Council General assembly Visa for Music festival	http://www.imc-cim.org http://visaformusic.com
2015 Nov 12 – 15	Helsinki - FI	Europa Cantat General assembly and conference	www.europeanchoralassociation.org
2016 May 19 – 22	Wroclaw – PL	European Music Forum	http://www.emc-imc.org
	Istanbul - TU	Mediterranean conference	

2017 May	Aarhus -DK	Aarhus festival	http://aavf.dk
2017 End July – Aug	Barcelona - SP	World Symposium for Choral Music	https://www.ifcm.net
	Paris - FR	Biennale d'art vocal	
	Lebanon - LB	Mediterranean conference	

Further presentations of *LEO Sings*!:

- EMC Forum on music June 13 and 14 in Riga – Latvia : Stéphane
- Eurovox 18 – 21 June in Riga – Latvia : workshop with Jim, Astrid and Stéphane
- Europa Cantat festival 24 July – 2 August in Pécs – Hungary : workshop with Jim, Astrid and Stéphane,
- PEVOC August 31 to September 4 in Firenze – Italy : workshop with Wolfgang and Tobias,
- Cultural forum of the European commission 14 – 15 October in Brussels: possible focus on Leo Sings (to be confirmed),
- Pop Mind September 29 – 30 in Nancy - France
- General assembly of PFI in October in Paris
- IMC General assembly 11 – 14 November 2015 in Rabat – Marocco,
- Europa Cantat General assembly 12 – 15 November 2015 in Helsinki – Finland.

5. LEO Sings today:

LEO Sings permitted to open several doors. We need time to think about the future. How to keep the link until the next project?

The main subject and space of experimentation and work for *LEO Sings II* is vocal identity.

We want to share and/or produce:

- Diploma courses and place/list of training centres in Europe:
 - ⇒ The development of pop/contemporary music and consideration of A Capella in courses in France
 - ⇒ More academies
- Music and repertoires:
 - ⇒ Enlarge repertoire with compositions and arrangement of traditional music from different countries
 - ⇒ Give the opportunity to choir to find their own way with different styles, improvisation and all kind of music (classical, pop, world music). This will bring us to talk about vocabulary
- Resources:
 - ⇒ How to adapt/use methods (like Intelligent choir) in tradition and local cultures?
 - ⇒ Taking the LEO Sings dynamic in some places to make some meetings, week-ends anywhere
- Ambassadors of LEO Sings: Intelligent choir can be used by anyone, we need some ambassadors:
 - ⇒ A tool box with *LEO Sings* signature explaining the balance between human and musical, You tube channel and Facebook
 - ⇒ Being aware not to be in competition with other organisations and networks. We can not be ambassador in all countries, so the question is also how to connect with local vocal/music communities

The value of *LEO Sings* network:

LEO Sings is supported by the European Union Longlife learning program Leonardo da Vinci 2013 - 2015

LEO Sings permitted to open several doors and the discovery of a treasure we collectively found/shared/built.

EU funding permitted to meet, we don't have this anymore, but it is possible to continue connecting personal exchange out of daily job, joining different professional with different profiles, like a singing jungle, an innovative process not existing before, and imagine new project, taking into account that it will be possible to apply for next EU funding. The main question is: are we mature enough to go on?

- ⇒ 6 partners express their will to continue: EVTA, EVA, INECC, RAMA, PFI, MCC. CEPRAVOI will be still in the network, being member of PFI.

- ⇒ Partners recognize themselves in the values pointed out in Barcelona by Jordi:
 - The public value of collective singing,
 - Accessibility of singing
 - Being diverse and reflecting cultures,
 - Improve quality of singing (make it more recognised, changes in the society),
 - The fundamental role of European exchanges (cross borders)
 - Recognition within society and policies

The DNA of LEO Sings!

- Innovative - fresh creative perspectives on vocal training programmes dealing with changes in the society, through distance learning and workshops for choirs and singers and ensembles e.g. intelligent choir
- Diverse - cross-cultural and broad skill based team can contribute a range of skills across Europe with roadshow presentations
- Experiential - emphasis on living through music, helping, improving, through interaction and personal experience
- Open Source – building bridges - freely available and open to all, interactive and participative e.g. Common database or YouTube tool box e.g. Sound painting 'giving and receiving'
- Practical - useful gifts for developing vocal expertise, very user friendly

6. LEO Sings tomorrow: Singing road show

Singing road show is a Toolbox experimentation during one to a few days for singers, conductors and choirs.

The innovation is mainly in the proposition to people/ensembles who don't know/practice, building bridges in the region, mixing classical and pop/rhythmic choirs, singers and instrumentalists, like in music (high) schools, combining singing teaching/teachers and singers. It is an opportunity to share ideas.

The event can take place in many places: concert venue, but also unconventional places like public square/place, woods, ...

This will be done by organizing a cross-country tour running for 2 to 4 days and complemented by a « mobile vocal academy »

The event will take place in a concert hall with at least 500 seats. (hall, Music school, ...) and will consist of two main parts :

- a pre-performance of the high-school choir or any other local choir
- a performance of professional vocal groups who will reflect *status quo* and diversity of vocal genre across Europe

The added value of this event is an opportunity for musical students and other ensembles, choirs

and singers that are interested in the festival to receive direct coaching from renowned professionals. We also cater for the general audience and music lovers (choirs) who can observe the running of these workshops by buying a ticket.

This event shall be seen as a kick off for future support concerning continuing education and qualification in the daily work of a choir or ensemble

Singing road show programme:

- Vocal skills
- Oral skills with repertoires
- Intelligent choir experimentation
- Rhythm exercises
- Movement
- Arrangement with musical material from different countries

At the end: performance to show “musical minutes”

Issues and questions underlined through this project:

- Language and vocabulary,
- Training for trainers,
- Diploma course and professionalization of singers, conductors and other trainers,
- Repertoire and arrangement from traditional music to pop and contemporary music, with classes of writing music,
- Why do we sing : personal story of meeting, event, memory, emotion, which was determining factor in making music “What happened that made you love music/singing?”
This question can be asked at any participant in a *LEO Sings* event, building the data of research,
- Sharing resources (Training centres in Europe ...),
- Ambassadors of *LEO Sings*

Dates for pilot Singing road show : 18 – 19 or 28 – 29 – 30 January in Luxembourg

Connected projects:

- RAMA – Holland
- Connexion with AEC/EMU application concerning diploma and distant learning
- Rehearsal techniques, by Federico Trinitade

Next meetings:

We need some local meetings to go further in exchange, cooperation and to develop the project.

Two invitations for meeting can be scheduled :

- October – November in Vézelay – France where it is possible to have free accommodations and meals (dates to be confirmed via Doodle),
- Spring 2016 in Tenerife - Spain, where Marina can host participants

Finances: In case there is some remaining money in the pool budget, it will be preserved and dedicated to the new projects.

If necessary, a call will be made to partners to support new expenditures