

European music schools in times of Coronavirus

In April 2020, the European Music School Union launched a survey among its members as a first assessment of how the corona crisis affects music schools in Europe. The survey was answered by 22 national associations of music schools and one observer member.

All associations answering to the survey have indicated that the current situation has affected the work of their member music schools. Not a single association has indicated music schools continue teaching face-to-face. The most immediate effect of the crisis is derived from the directives on physical distancing, leading to music schools closing and to the cancellation or postponement of concerts and other public events. While one answer indicated that the budget of music schools has already been cut, others have expressed their concern about potential budget cuts and decreasing numbers of students. Several associations have indicated they have started new advocacy activities to mitigate the effect of the crisis and to call on their respective authorities to provide financial support to music schools.

Whilst all associations have unanimously indicated the crisis has affected their member music schools, they have equally unanimously indicated their member music schools currently continue their activities by e-learning. A vast majority of 96% has indicated they use e-learning for individual lessons. A comparable majority of 91% has indicated e-learning is also used for theoretical lessons. With regards to group lessons or practices however, the answers are deviant with only 48% indicating e-learning is used for this type of pedagogy, 43% indicating they use it partly and 9% stating it is not used at all.

With regards to the economic repercussions of the crisis, almost half of the associations have indicated they do not believe it will have an effect on the salaries of their music schools' administrative or teaching staff. The other half indicated the situation might potentially affect the salaries and only few individual associations stated they definitely believe salaries will be affected. The data collected does not show any tendency as to whether it will rather be the administrative or the teaching staffs' salaries that will be more severely affected. While it might be too early to predict the scope of the economic effect of the crisis on music schools and draw conclusions from it, 52% believe it will affect their members music schools' budgets. The remaining organisations stated the budgets might potentially be affected and only one individual answer denied this assumption.

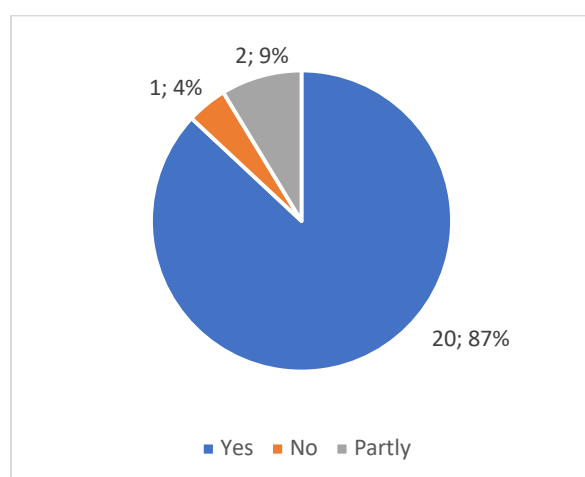
Finally, the answers received to the question "when the association believe their member music schools will resume their activities as usual" were quite diverse. Some countries indicated that first face-to-face lessons will start as early as May, others indicated dates at the end of the year only. Some associations gave mixed answers with openings being achieved step by step. The majority of associations however believed, or at least hoped, music schools will be able to continue business as usual with the start of the new school years after the summer.

The following organisations responded to the survey:

Austria	KOMU
Azerbaijan	Baku City Head Office of Culture
Belgium	Acad Arte
Bulgaria	SUPRIM
Cyprus	Music Schools of Cyprus
Czech Republic	AZUS CR
Denmark	DMK (Danish Music & Art schools)
Estonia	Estonian Union of Music Schools
Faroe Islands	Musikkskúlaskipan Føroya (observer member)
Finland	Association of Finnish Music Schools
France	FFEA
Germany	Verband deutscher Musikschulen
Hungary	Hungarian Music School Association
Italy	AIdSM - Associazione Italiana delle Scuole di Musica
Latvia	LMIIA
Liechtenstein	Liechtensteinische Musikschule
Luxembourg	AEM (Association des écoles de musique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg)
Norway	The Norwegian Council for Schools of Music and Performing Arts
Serbia	The Association of Music and Ballet Schools of Serbia
Slovenija	SMSA, Slovenian Music School Assosiation
Spain	UEMyD
Switzerland	Verband Musikschulen Schweiz VMS
The Netherlands	Cultuurconnectie

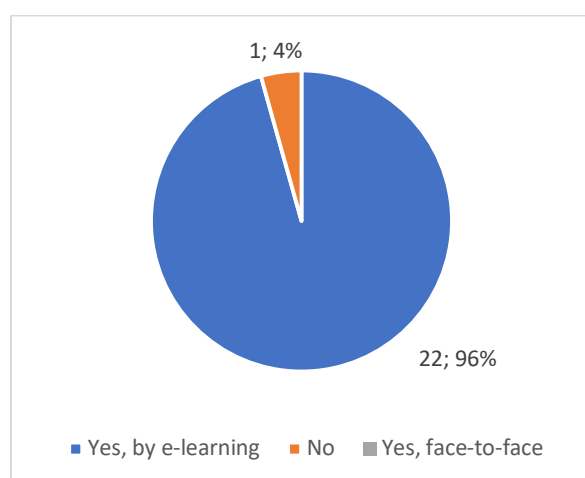
The statistics below indicate both the number of national associations that responded and the percentage that this represents, for example: 20; 87%.

Does the crisis affect your own organisation?



- While only one organisation has answered it is not affected itself, they still indicated their member music schools have been affected.
- In an open comment field, the associations have been asked to elaborate further on the ways music schools have been affected. Most associations indicated their member music schools had to close and switched to e-learning. Another frequent answer was that concerts and other events had to be cancelled or postponed. Several associations answered the crisis caused lots of additional work, especially in the fields of advocacy and lobbying. Further individual answers included concerns about potential budget cuts or a decline of the number of students.

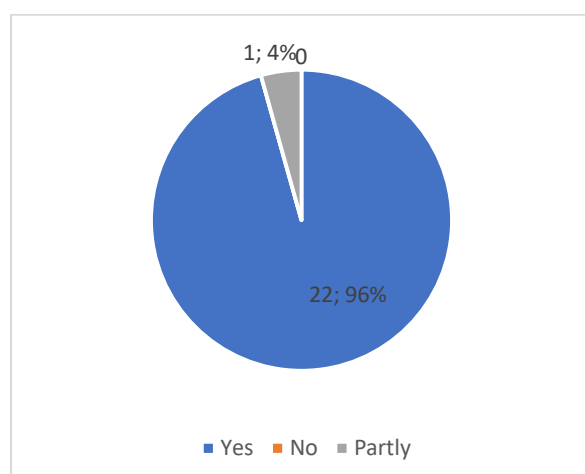
Do your music schools continue their activity in this period?



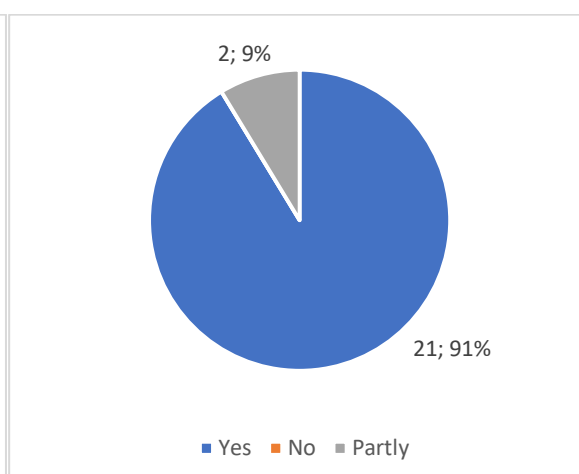
- Only one association indicated their member music schools do not continue their activities. However, in the following questions, they also indicated their music schools have indeed switched to e-learning.

PEDAGOGICAL QUESTIONS

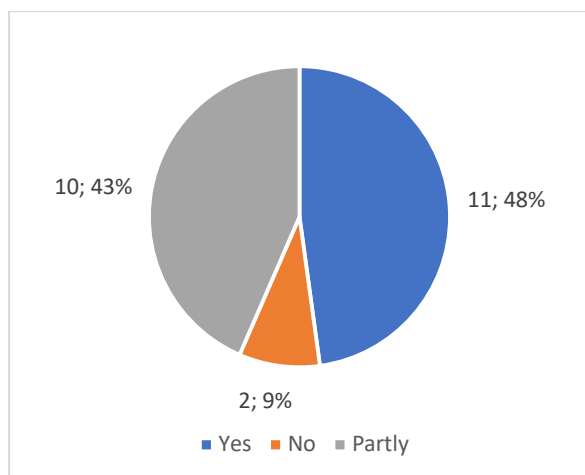
Is e-learning used for individual lessons?



Is e-learning used for theoretical lessons?

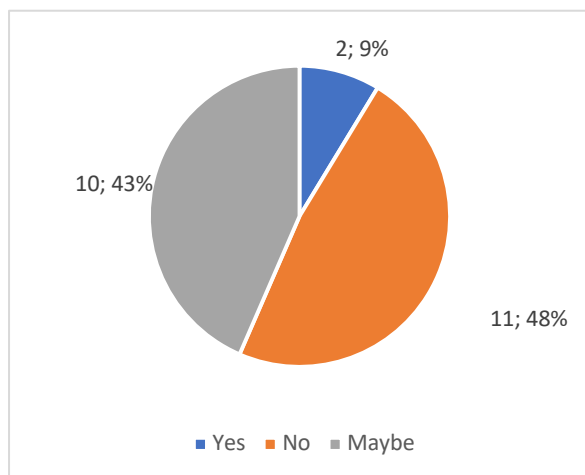


Is e-learning used for group lessons or practice?

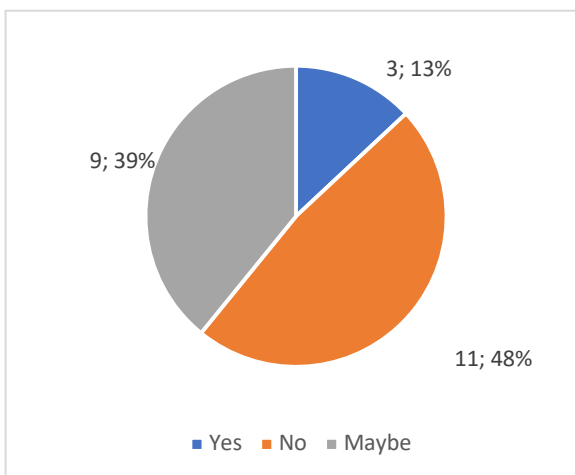


QUESTIONS ON THE ECONOMIC EFFECT

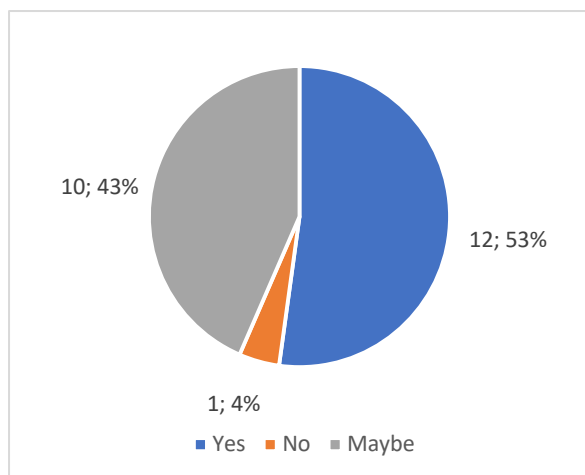
Do you think the crisis will affect the salary of your music schools' administrative staff?



Do you think the crisis will affect the salary of your music teachers?



Do you think the crisis will affect the budget of your music schools?



At this date, when do you think your music schools will be able to resume their usual activities?

