

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC THEORY (TSD)

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Abstract:

The national professional networks are a landmark in the development of teaching practice, based on standardized values and procedures, in order to obtain performance indicators with reference values. A first step in this regard took place in Timișoara, between February 6 and April 6, 2024, during the meetings organized by Casa Corpului Didactic (The Teachers Forum) of Timiș County.

Keywords:

Professional networks; Music Theory; musical education; standardization

Introduction

The Timis County Teachers Forum (Casa Corpului Didactic a Județului Timiș) in partnership with the Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, organized in the period unfolding between February 6 and April 6, 2024, 2 series of the postgraduate training course named **Modern Strategies, Applications and Resources in TSD teaching** (TSD is the official name in Romania and it stands for "**Music Theory – Solfeggio – Musical Dictation**"; abbreviated **TSD**, acronym that we will use from now on), conducted in accordance with the Education Ministry Order. no. 4224 of July 6, 2022.

The duration of the training program was 16 hours and was carried out online system, in order to facilitate the access of the target group - made up of teachers who teach the discipline of TSD at all levels of education in vocational art units (but not limited to them) in Romania. Accessing to the course was tax free, within the limit of 25 places/series, without registration or participation fee and was enabled by completing the online registration form, made available by the organizers.

As all places were sold out in about 45 minutes, it was necessary to suspend the registration form and organize 2 series of the course with extended capacity, with 33 and 31 students/series respectively.

The competencies targeted in the training program were:

- Use of the school curriculum and general / TSD - specific skills;
- Didactic design centered on the student and skills training in the current context;
- Applying the specific methods of critical / active-participative thinking in music theory lessons from an evolutionary perspective; Assessment / self-assessment design and application;

The trainer was Professor, Ph.D., Habil. Veronica - Laura DEMENESCU from Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad assisted by Assoc. Prof., Ph.D., Habil. Ion - Alexandru ARDEREANU from Aurel Vlaicu University in Arad (technical assistance / data collection) and Ph.D. Student Cosmina - Silvia STITZL from Oradea University (technical assistance).

The course organizer was Prof. Ph.D. Dan Aurel BĂCILĂ from The Teachers Forum of Timiș County.

Methods

The training program encompassed 8 modules lasting for 2 hours each, 4 of which were synchronous and 4 asynchronous. Within the synchronous modules, the structure was configured as follows:

Module 1

- Presentation of objectives / theme / results
- Music theory – current issues / challenges / solutions

Module 2

- Solfeggio – current problems / challenges / solutions

Module 3

- Dictation – current problems / challenges / solutions
- Musical hearing – current problems / challenges / solutions

Module 4

- Insights, conclusions and recommendations

The asynchronous modules were dedicated to the development of didactic materials in accordance with the content areas provided by the school programs and their application in the classroom, with a view to national validation, with all contributions to be published in a collective digital volume, which will be available for free online, on the page of the Timiș Didactic Corps House.

Results

Attendance in the training program included a number of 64 participants from 36 educational units, with a county representativeness of 64% at the national level, namely 26 counties out of 41, to which the Republic of Moldova is added:



The participating institutions were:

- Colegiul de Arte "Sabin Drăgoi" - Arad
- Universitatea Aurel Vlaicu – Arad
- Colegiul Național de Artă George Apostu – Bacău
- Colegiul de Arte – Baia Mare
- Liceul de Muzică Tudor Jarda - Bistrița
- Liceul de Artă Ștefan Luchian – Botoșani
- Liceul de Muzică Tudor Ciortea – Brașov
- Liceul de Arte Hariclea Darclee - Brăila
- Colegiul Național de Muzică George Enescu - București
- Școala Gimnazială de Arte nr. 2 – București
- Școala Gimnazială de Arte nr. 3 – București
- Școala Gimnazială de Arte nr. 4 – București
- Școala Gimnazială de Arte nr. 5 – București
- Școala de Arte Iosif Sava - București
- Liceul de Arte Margareta Sterian – Buzău
- Școala Gimnazială de Arte NN Tonitza - Bârlad

- Școala de Arte Valeriu Poleakov – Chișinău, Republica Moldova
- Colegiul Național de Arte Regina Maria – Constanța
- Liceul de Arte Marin Sorescu - Craiova
- Colegiul de Muzică Sigismund Toduță – Cluj Napoca
- Școala Gimnazială de Muzică Augustin Bena – Cluj Napoca
- Liceul de Arte Sigismund Toduță – Deva
- Liceul de Arte Ioan Ștefan Paulian – Drobeta Turnu Severin
- Liceul de Arte Dimitrie Cuclin – Galați
- Colegiul Național de Artă Octav Băncilă - Iași
- Liceul de Arte Victor Brauner – Piatra Neamț
- Colegiul de Artă Carmen Sylva - Ploiești
- Liceul de Arte Aurel Popp – Satu Mare
- Liceul de Arte Plugor Șandor – Sfântu Gheorghe
- Liceul de Artă - Sibiu
- Liceul de Arte Ionel Perlea – Slobozia
- Liceul de Arte Constantin Brăiloiu – Târgu Jiu
- Colegiul Național de Artă – Târgu Mureș
- Liceul de Artă Ion Vidu – Timișoara
- Școala Gimnazială Șag - Timișoara
- Liceul de Arte Bălașa Doamna – Târgoviște

During the synchronous work sessions, the following aspects were tackled:

- the current problems of specialized music education,
- teaching and assessment methods,
- educational resources,
- the means of using information and communication technology in the didactic process,
- best practice models from Europe, Asia, USA.

The issues identified in the TSD training program mainly refer to the need to restore school discipline, to recover the massive losses during the pandemic, to organize working time in accordance to the needs of the students, to stimulate responsibility, to stimulate performance, to collaborate intensively with the academic environment in order to reduce the discrepancies between the contents of school programs and the requirements for admission to university education, the standardization and transparency of the evaluation at the national level, the approach to the working procedures of elite European institutions.

The final evaluation component of the course materialized through the development of the first Romanian auxiliary didactic material for TSD, a collective volume dedicated to grades I-X, available online for free, which will be presented in a follow up article.

We note that all the materials developed for publication were previously validated in class within the asynchronous modules and were highly appreciated by the students. The decision to develop this volume was based on the results obtained from the search carried out on the www.manuale.edu.ro platform of the National Center for Policies and Evaluation in Education, where no result was identified for the Music Theory discipline.



The volume was developed based on the school programs, following a standardized structure, starting from the national and international best practice models, presented in the training course.

Conclusions, Discussion and Recommendations

Increasing school performance, as well as continuous adaptation to the students' needs, is the attribute of a successful teacher, of a teacher who is informed and willing to constantly update their teaching technologies.

In this sense, the postgraduate training course Modern and competitive strategies for teaching the discipline of music theory, organized by The Teachers Forum of Timiș County in partnership with Aurel Vlaicu University in Arad from February 9 to April 9, 2024, managed to bring back to the forefront plan the acute need for training in this field after the absence of such events for over 25 years.

The main conclusion drawn at the end of the meetings was that of the need to establish a national network of professionals in the field within the national / Romanian Music Theory Association, in the shortest possible time, with the aim of organizing regular annual meetings, workshops, competitions, to develop specialized didactic materials.

The recommendations of the specialists in the field met during this course were formulated on the basis of the proposals made and validated through debates and aimed at the imposition of new motivational strategies that would contribute to increasing the level of performance by participating in several competitions, the standardization of evaluation at the national level by using scale models, the use of validated didactic technologies in favor of the currently used experimental ones, the efficient organization of working time in the stage of fixing the accumulated knowledge, exchanges of best practices between teachers and between educational units, the use of the latest generation bibliographic resources at national and international level, stimulating the activities of teaching staff by increasing the number of concrete actions that facilitate obtaining merit grades.

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