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# activity report 2023 - early 2024

# welcome words

## a message from our president



Dear readers,

As President of ECSA, it is a great honour for me to introduce you once again to this yearly report on the activities of our Alliance between January 2023 and April 2024. Before looking back on what has been another momentous year for us, I would like to express my gratitude to all ECSA members and the entire ECSA Board for their tireless efforts to fight for our common goals, as well as to the Creative Europe programme for its invaluable support. Moreover, I am delighted that we have once again strengthened our Alliance by welcoming five new fantastic members to ECSA: *Zväz autorov a interpretov populárnej hudby* (ZAI, Slovakian Union of Authors and Performers), *Syndicat français des Compositrices et Compositeurs de Musique Contemporaine* (SMC, French Union of Contemporary Music Composers), *Lietuvos kompozitorių sąjunga* (LCU, Lithuanian Composers' Union), *Sámi Dáiddárráđđi* (Sami Composers), and *Fédération des Auteurs·rices, Compositeur·rices et Interprètes Réuni·es* (FACIR, Federation of Authors, Composers and Performers). I am really happy to see we are joining forces while expanding our cultural and geographical diversity.

Looking back at the past year, I'm pleased to say that ECSA is playing an ever more important role in the way authors rights' legislation and policy is shaped across Europe and beyond. It has been an incredibly active year for ECSA, in every sense of the word. Music streaming, artificial intelligence, unfair contractual practices and other topics impacting music creators have been at the heart of our advocacy strategy and the many events we organised – with the absolute highlight being the Creators' Conference in Brussels in March 2023.

I am really pleased to see that policy makers have heard our concerns. Firstly, this year marked the adoption of the European Parliament's report with recommendations to the European Commission on "Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market", which includes vital recommendations to reach a fairer and more sustainable streaming ecosystem, in which composers and songwriters can finally benefit from the streaming pie.

## welcome words

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I would like to sincerely thank Member of European Parliament Ibán García Del Blanco and the European Parliament as a whole for putting today's imbalances in streaming services' revenue allocation systems on the agenda, while recommending crucial steps towards more transparency, the improvement of the identification of music authors and exploring fairer and alternative remuneration models. All those issues were at the heart of ECSA's report on music streaming, published in July.

Similarly, no one could have missed the extremely high pace in which AI has evolved over the last year, leaving composers and songwriters not only with opportunities, but also with many questions and concerns. Many of our activities therefore focused on the use of AI and the establishment of the EU AI Act, with numerous panels and several advocacy activities together with many other creators' and artists' organisations. After all these collective efforts, we welcome the adoption of the AI Act as a positive first step for the protection of our works, through the compliance with EU copyright law, as well as important transparency obligations. However, we will make sure that the AI Act is implemented in a way that properly values creators' works and that EU policy makers engage in comprehensive debate leading to a clear legal framework preserving the rights and the integrity of music creators' works.

At the same time, harmful contractual practices for creators, including buy-out contracts, remained on our core agenda. Last year, the European Parliament once again called for action against buy-out contracts in the report on an "EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors" and published a study, denouncing the harmful impact of buy-out contracts on composers. While these achievements on music streaming, AI, and unfair contractual practices give us hope, we look forward to seeing the European institutions continue to act on these issues after the European elections in June this year.

Importantly, thanks to the unique position that ECSA has with our vast network, all these activities have been shaped through constant exchanges and consultations with our community of composers and songwriters on their needs and concerns. Too often, music authors still find themselves in insecure working conditions, including low and fluctuating income and weak bargaining power with contractual counterparts. Our Fair Practice report, published in November 2023 and building on the results of an extensive consultation among our members and other music creators, highlighted the most pressing insecure economic and social conditions. All these challenges and our members' experiences in general served as a foundation for our advocacy activities over the last year.



## welcome words

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Our ECSA Sessions with our members across Europe played a key role in shaping our agenda. I would therefore like to take this moment to thank all our members for the wonderful ECSA Sessions in Brussels and in London – in particular The Ivors Academy for being fantastic hosts. I really look forward to seeing all members again in Paris during our Autumn Session in November 2024.

Looking further ahead, this year will be another eventful one for us. With the EU elections coming up, it's more important than ever to keep the pressure on and keep on advocating and campaigning for legislators to protect music authors. Next to our advocacy activities in Brussels, we will, as always, be present at music conferences throughout Europe to make sure that the music author's voice is heard.



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Finally, we have some great cultural events in the pipeline to showcase the fantastic works of European creators. In November, we will organise the first Camille Awards since 2022, this time taking place in the frame of our ECSA Autumn Session in Paris. Moreover, I'm really excited to see three new editions of the ECCO Concerts being organised by our members.

Together with all of our members, and with all other allies and friends in our network, I am confident that ECSA will continue to play a vital role in furthering the aims, aspirations and desires of music authors across Europe, working for a brighter future for us all. Thank you all for helping to make the organisation a force to be reckoned with.

**Helienne Lindvall**  
*ECSA President*



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# about ECSA

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ECSA represents over 30,000 professional composers and songwriters in 29 countries. With 59 member organisations across Europe and beyond, the Alliance speaks for the creators of popular music, art and classical music, and film & audiovisual music. ECSA's core mission is to defend and promote the rights and interests of composers and songwriters with the aim of improving their social and economic conditions, as well as enhancing their artistic freedom.

ECSA was initiated in 2006 in Vienna within the framework of the Mozartjahr. It was established as an alliance on 7 March 2007 in Madrid with the purpose of becoming the central European organisation representing the interests of all music authors, giving composers and songwriters a unique and independent voice in Europe.

The structure of ECSA is composed of three committees. The APCOE committee deals specifically with topics relevant to composers and songwriters of popular music, whereas the ECF committee is focused on issues affecting the composers of art and contemporary music. The FFACE committee works on the challenges of composers of film, advertising, and other audiovisual music.

Located in Brussels, the ECSA office is in regular contact with all relevant European institutions on topics ranging from author's rights and contracts, music streaming, artificial intelligence, artistic freedom, cultural policies and all other issues related to composers and songwriters. The Alliance cooperates closely with other like-minded European organisations in all creative and cultural sectors and is an active member of numerous coalitions, such as the Authors' Group, which gathers authors' organisations from various creative sectors.

At an international level, ECSA is a permanent observer at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as a member of the European Music Council (EMC) and the International Music Council (IMC). Last but not least, the Alliance is a permanent observer to the International Council of Music Creators (CIAM) and maintains close relations with numerous music creators organisations across the world.

# executive summary

ECSA kickstarted 2023 with the Creators' Conference, one of our major events, held within the frame of our Winter ECSA Session in Brussels. The Creators' Conference took place in *Cinema Palace* in Brussels and brought together almost 150 creators, EU policy makers and stakeholders from the music sector to discuss European music creators' present and future challenges, including on music streaming, AI and new technologies, contractual practices and the EU strategy for the music sector. The event set the tone for ECSA's further advocacy activities in 2023 and contributed to put those topics on the agenda of European policy makers and stakeholders active in the cultural and creative sectors.

## Advocacy activities

ECSA continued to be very vocal about the need to make streaming fairer for music authors. Next to a dedicated panel session at the Creators' Conference, we have advocated for a fair music streaming ecosystem in our position paper on music streaming, published in July 2023. The paper, which included six major recommendations on how to fix streaming, was echoed in various of our other activities in 2023, such as during panels at conferences such as

ESNS (January 2023 and 2024). Moreover, in February 2023, we organised a Capacity Triangle webinar on the importance of correct metadata, so that creators can be correctly credited and fairly remunerated. Also, ECSA's Working Group on Music Streaming organised various meetings, which also featured presentations of two external speakers: law professor Dr. Jozefien Vanherpe on the power imbalances in music industry contracts and PhD candidate Frederik Juul Jensen on alternative payment systems on music streaming platforms. Finally, in April 2024, the European Liberal Forum published the paper "Music Streaming: How to Make It Sustainable for Music Creators", a paper co-authored by ECSA President Helienne Lindvall and Tobias Stenkjær (Chair of ECSA's Music Streaming Working Group).

For ECSA, the adoption of the European Parliament report on "Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market" was a key milestone to put music streaming on the EU agenda. We warmly welcome this report, which takes duly into account our recommendations in the abovementioned position paper.



We would therefore once again like to thank Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Ibán García Del Blanco for his work as rapporteur of this report, and for exchanging with ECSA, notably with our President Helienne Lindvall during the stakeholders' meeting in the European Parliament in June 2023, and with UK MP Kevin Brennan, Tom Gray (Chair of The Ivors Academy), Tobias Stenkjær (Executive Chair of DPA) and Luis Ivars (Honorary President of Musimagen & ECSA Board member) on 25 January 2024.

Another major policy file for ECSA in 2023 has been the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act). Throughout the year, our Alliance, in close connection with our Working Group on Tech & AI, worked with a broad coalition of artists' and creators' organisations to identify the shortcomings of the AI Act and published several open letters to policy makers to improve this key regulation. Moreover, we organised and participated in various panels on AI at music conferences throughout Europe, with a Capacity Triangle panel on the EU AI Act called "AI and Authors Rights: what awaits us?" at Soundtrack Cologne in June 2023 and other events, such as Soundtrack Zurich (September 2023), MaMa Music & Convention (October 2023), ESNS (January 2024) and the Music Moves Europe conference (February 2024).

Next to music streaming and AI, the livelihoods and working conditions of composers and songwriters have also been at the heart of ECSA's activities.

On 13 November 2023, we published our Fair Practice report after an extensive consultation we initiated in September 2022, exploring the working and living conditions of music creators in Europe. The report, carried out in close collaboration with ECSA's Working Group on Fair Practice, unveiled how music authors often face insecure economic and social conditions, including precarious working conditions, low and fluctuating income, and weak bargaining power with their negotiating counterparts.

Making the voice of music authors heard when it comes to harmful contractual practices, including buy-out contracts, has also remained a key priority for ECSA in 2023. We therefore organised various panel discussions on contracts impacting composers, including at ESNS (January 2023) and Soundtrack Zurich (September 2023), as well as on our own Capacity Triangle panel at World Soundtrack Awards Ghent: "Streamers in Europe: the Myths and the Legends".

In line with those priorities, ECSA has also been highly engaged at international level, such as with WIPO for Creators and the participation of our President to the WIPO Information Session on Music Streaming, on 16 March 2023. We also organised an International Creators' Dialogue together with IMC in the frame of the Visa for Music Conference in Rabat, Morocco on 24 November 2023. The session focused on how to ensure a viable music streaming ecosystem for music creators.

## Cultural activities

With the support of Creative Europe, ECSA also organised various cultural events and projects in 2023, continuing its goal to promote music authors and their works.

ECSA members organised several ECCO concerts over the course of the year, with the aim to promote contemporary art music beyond national borders and support Europe's musical diversity. ECSA launched two calls under its ECCO-System grants, after which six ECSA members were selected to organise at least one concert in collaboration with an ensemble. In 2023, concerts were organised at CROMA Festival (organised by Portuguese ECSA member Associação Portuguesa de Compositores), at *Le Senghor* and *Maison du Peuple* in Brussels (both organised by Belgian ECSA member *Forum de la Création Musicale*), and at CEME festival (organised by Israeli ECSA member Israel Composers' League).

This year, ECSA, together with AEC (European Association of Conservatoires) and EJM (Europe Jazz Network) also kicked off its female mentorship programme. The programme aims to offer an introduction to the music industry to female (identifying) composers and songwriters, with the ultimate goal of enhancing gender equality within the sector. After the kick-off meeting on 21 March 2023, a six-month mentoring session took place.

The project was designed in close collaboration with ECSA's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.

On 21 June, ECSA published the second edition of the "[Discover ECSA Music Creators Playlist](#)" in the frame of the World Music Day, with the theme of this year's playlist being "Melodies of the Future".

Another programme was an open call to European film composers to award a two-day mentoring course, in partnership with OTICONS – "The European talent agency for film composers", which took place in September 2023.

# 2023 and early 2024 at a glance

## January 2023

- **19 January:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at Eurosonic Noorderslag (ESNS) panel: "It's the (Streaming) Economy, Stupid!"
- **20 January:** ECSA panels at Eurosonic Noorderslag Festival 2023: "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: All you need to know about composer's contracts and buy-outs" and "Creating a safe working environment in the music industry" featuring several ECSA members
- **24 January:** ECSA Board member Anselm Kreuzer, Secretary General Marc du Moulin, and KODA Senior Legal Advisor Kasper Lindhardt at Nordic Film Music Days panel "Buy-outs - What are they and how do they affect you?"

## February 2023

- **9 February:** Joint statement from ECSA and other authors' and performers' organisations on Artificial Intelligence and the AI Act
- **28 February:** Capacity Triangle webinar: "The Importance of Managing your Metadata: How to Get Paid and Credited Correctly"

## March 2023

- **16 March:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at WIPO information session on the Music streaming market in Geneva, Switzerland
- **17 March:** ECCO Concert organised by ECSA member Associação Portuguesa de Compositores, in the frame of the Oieras 2023 Contemporary Music Cycle (CROMA), through ECSA's ECCO-System grants
- **21 March:** Kick-Off Meeting ECSA-AEC Mentorship Programme, connecting young female (identifying) composers and songwriters with music role models
- **21 March:** ECSA Creators Conference in Brussels, Belgium
- **22-23 March:** ECSA Winter Session in Brussels, Belgium

## April 2023

- **1 April:** Move of ECSA office to MEDAA building, Rue du Prince Royal 85, Brussels
- **20 April:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at "Breaking new talent" panel at IMPF General Assemblies in Stockholm, Sweden
- **26 April:** ECSA Secretary General Marc du Moulin at online panel of Screen Composers Guild of Ireland on the implementation of the 2019 Copyright Directive and composers' contracts

## May 2023

- **10 May:** ECSA signs joint statement: The European audiovisual sector welcomes the European Parliament's report on the AVMS Directive
- **11 May:** ECSA Secretary General Marc du Moulin at panel on "Authors and performers' future prospects" at FERA and FSE joint seminar on collective bargaining in Brussels, Belgium
- **17-19 May:** ECSA EU Affairs and Programme Officer Claire Iceaga in the Creative Europe Networks: Focus meeting #1: "Youth, Independent Culture, Artistic Freedom and Democracy", and Nuits Sonores Lab in Lyon, France
- **24 May:** ECCO concert organised by ECSA member Forum de la Création Musicale at le Senghor, Brussels, Belgium through ECSA's ECCO-System grants

## June 2023

- **8 June:** ECSA President at European Parliament's stakeholders' meeting on EP report on "Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market"
- **9 June:** ECSA signs open letter to EU institutions on the European Media Freedom Act regulation proposal
- **21 June:** Capacity Triangle at Soundtrack\_Cologne: "AI and Authors Rights: what awaits us?"
- **21 June:** ECSA publishes 2023 Music Creators Playlist: "Melodies of the Future"



# 2023 and early 2024 at a glance

## July 2023

- **12 July:** ECSA publishes its [report](#) “Music streaming and its impact on music authors”
- **20 July:** ECSA co-signs open [letter](#) to policy makers on AI

## October 2023

- **1-2 October:** OTICONS Film Music Business mentoring course
- **5 October:** ECSA panel at Rome Film Music Festival: “Understanding your rights: ECSA and the current challenges of music creators”
- **9 October:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall participates in panel “Songwriting with Composers and Authors” at IMPF Summit in Palma
- **11-13 October:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall participates in two panels at MaMA Music & Convention in Paris on AI and deep fakes
- **20 October:** ECSA Capacity Triangle panel at World Soundtrack Awards Ghent: “Streamers in Europe: the Myths and the Legends”

## December 2023

- **29 December:** ECCO Concert organised by ECSA Member Israel Composers’ League at CEME Festival, through ECCO system grants.

## February 2024

- **17 February:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall and Vice-President Jesper Hansen participate in panel at Nordic Film Music Days: “Rights & International Law”
- **22 February:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall participates to the Music Moves Europe dialogue in a panel discussion on AI trends in the music sector

## April 2024

- **25 April:** ECSA publishes [joint statement](#) on AI and EU AI Act
- **17-18 April:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at CISAC European Committee in Athens, Greece
- **25-26 April:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at IMPF General Assemblies in Dublin, Ireland
- **30 April:** European Liberal Forum publishes “[Music Streaming; How to Make It Sustainable for Music Creators](#)”, co-authored by ECSA President Helienne Lindvall and Tobias Stenkjær (Chair of ECSA’s Music Streaming Working Group)

## September 2023

- **18-19 September:** ECSA Session in London, hosted by The Ivors Academy
- **26 September:** ECSA co-signs joint [statement](#) on the draft EU AI Act
- **27 September:** ECCO Concert organised by ECSA member Forum de la Création Musicale at Maison du Peuple, Brussels, through ECCO system grants
- **29 September:** ECSA Secretary General Marc du Moulin participates in two panels at Soundtrack Zurich on “Video Games + Buy-outs” and “AI and Music Rights”

## November 2023

- **13 November:** ECSA publishes [Fair Practice report](#)
- **23 November:** ECSA publishes [joint statement](#) on EU AI Act
- **24 November:** ECSA co-organised International Creators Dialogue with International Music Council (IMC) on “Fixing music streaming, ensuring a viable ecosystem for music creators” at [Visa for Music](#) in Rabat, Morocco
- **29 November:** ECSA publishes report “[Mapping Royalty Free Music: ECSA Report on Royalty Free Music trends](#)”

## January 2024

- **18-19 January:** ECSA President Helienne Lindvall participates in three panels at ESNS Festival: “The AI Ecosystem: Ethical and legal challenges vs new business opportunities”, “Moneymon: the Streaming Economy Evolution”, and “Tackling Fake Streams: Industry Responses to Streaming Fraud”. ECSA holds Capacity Triangle panel “The future of composing: AI as a limitless tool?” panel at ESNS Festival.
- **25 January:** ECSA and Ivors Academy organise exchange of views on music streaming and AI between MEP Ibán García del Blanco and UK MP Kevin Brennan

## March 2024

- **18-19 March:** ECSA Session in Brussels



# policy bits

## 1. Music streaming

Addressing the problem of unfair remuneration in music streaming has remained a key priority for ECSA. Our Alliance has been particularly active on this front over the last year, one which was marked by several new policy and industry developments.

Music streaming was a prominent topic at the Creators' Conference in Brussels. Following this panel, ECSA shared its vision for music streaming in a report titled "Music streaming and its impact on music authors", published in July 2023. Denouncing the persistently low levels of remuneration and the lack of transparency in the music streaming ecosystem, the report presented six major recommendations. These included ensuring a fairer distribution of the streaming pie, improving the identification of composers and songwriters on streaming services, and finding an alternative to the pro-rata model of revenue allocation. Our Alliance reiterated its stance on music streaming in a policy paper co-authored by ECSA President Helienne Lindvall and Board member Tobias Stenkjær (Chair of Danish Popular Authors) and published by the European Liberal Forum in April 2024. Echoing our position paper from July, the text also touched upon Spotify and Deezer's recent changes to their revenue models. In addition, Helienne Lindvall also spoke about the problems posed by the current music streaming ecosystem during two different panels held on 18 and 19 January at the 2024 Eurosonic Noorderslag (ESNS) Festival in Groningen, the Netherlands.

The abovementioned issues were also central to a report by the European Parliament Culture and Education (CULT) Committee on "Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market", adopted on

17 January 2024. ECSA welcomed this crucial report while thanking rapporteur and MEP Iban García del Blanco (S&D, Spain) for supporting new rules towards a "fair and sustainable ecosystem for music streaming in the Union". In particular, we appreciate the report's calls for improving metadata, assessing contractual practices and the high level of concentration in the music industry and for establishing a European Music Observatory. We stand ready to engage with all those recommendations in the context of a dialogue with all policy makers and stakeholders across the music sector. Furthermore, at international level, ECSA participated to the "WIPO for Creators" initiative and to an information session on music streaming held in Geneva in March 2023. Lastly, ECSA's Working Group on Music Streaming saw the participation of two external speakers. On 7 November 2023, law professor Dr. Jozefien Vanherpe held a presentation on the power imbalances in music industry contracts, discussing ways to solve this persistent issue. On 15 January 2024, Frederik Juul Jensen, PhD student at Sorbonne Paris North University, presented his research on alternative payment systems on music streaming platforms.

## 2. Artificial Intelligence

Over the last year, AI's rapid developments and its impact on authors' rights have become increasingly urgent issues. The topic was therefore put at centre stage of ECSA's advocacy efforts, with a particular focus on the EU AI Act, which was formally adopted by the European Parliament on 13 March 2024, after a lengthy negotiation period.

ECSA closely monitored relevant provisions and the entire legislative process, while raising concerns about the legal challenges related to copyright, ownership and transparency. In collaboration with other authors and performers

organisations, ECSA published a first joint statement on AI and the AI Act in February 2023, calling for transparency requirements for content generated or manipulated with AI. A second statement, endorsed by an increasing group of 13 organisations, was sent to policy makers on 17 July 2023. The paper advocated for the highest level of transparency, both from the input (the copyrighted works being used for training the AI) and the output side (labelling requirements for AI-generated content). It also warned against an incorrect interpretation of the text and data mining exceptions provided by Art. 3 and 4 of the 2019 Copyright Directive, as well as the inability of effectively securing opt-outs under Art. 4. On 20 July, we co-signed another open letter to policy makers on AI, outlining seven principles for the development of transparent, ethical and fair legislation on AI systems. Continuing its collaboration with various authors and performers organisations, ECSA published two further statements on the AI Act in September and November of 2023. Both papers reiterated our call for a human-centric approach to regulating generative AI, stressing two main points: first, the need for transparency obligations for AI-generated or AI-manipulated content, and second, the protection of the right of authors to withhold authorisation of the use of their works. Finally, in the context of the final stages of the adoption of the AI Act, and with the same coalition of organisations as with the statements mentioned above, we published a statement on 25 April 2024, welcoming the AI Act while calling for an effective implementation in order to preserve fundamental rights, safeguard transparency, and enable authors and performers to exercise their rights.

We also discussed the impact of AI on authors' rights at international events throughout the year. At ECSA's Creators Conference in March 2023, songwriter and ECSA Tech & AI Working Group Chair Arriën Molema and copyright lawyer Florian Koempel discussed how to limit the threats posed by AI while embracing its opportunities. On 21 June, we organised a Capacity Triangle panel at Soundtrack\_Cologne titled "AI and Authors Rights: what awaits us?". ECSA Board member Anselm Kreuzer (Composers' Club) moderated the panel, which also featured panellists Marc du Moulin (ECSA Secretary General), lawyer Stefan Ellenberg, Janne Spijkervet (TikTok), and Katharina Uppenbrink (Initiative Urheberrecht). They discussed the intersections between AI, music, and authors' rights, including the AI Act

and its link to text and data mining exceptions. On 12 October, Helienne Lindvall participated in a panel on the impact of AI on the music industry and authors' rights at the MaMA Music and Convention in Paris, together with Gadi Oron (CISAC), Chris Kim (Kilometre Music Group), Anne-Marie Pecoraro (UGGC Avocats), and Éric Baptiste (QwantumRights Solutions). On 19 January 2024, ECSA and Buma Music in Motion co-organised a Capacity Triangle panel at ESNS, titled "The future of composing: AI as a limitless tool?". The panel was moderated by ECSA President Helienne Lindvall and saw the participation of Arriën Molema (BAM! Popauteurs), composer Tomas Louter (Media.Monks) and Assistant Professor of Law and Technology Lorena Flórez Rojas (University of Groningen). The panel covered the opportunities and pitfalls of incorporating AI tools into the creative process of composing. One day prior, Helienne Lindvall also moderated a panel on the ethical standards and legal integrity of AI in the music industry. Lastly, Helienne presented ECSA's position and exchanged views on AI trends in the music sector with various policy makers and stakeholders at the "EU conference on music: Challenges, needs and opportunities of the European music ecosystem" on 22 February 2024.

### 3. Buy-out contracts and other harmful contractual practices

Throughout 2023, our Alliance continued its efforts to address the harmful effects of buy-out contracts. Such contracts cover all services performed by an author, including future exploitations, in exchange for a single lump sum payment. This means that the author will not receive any royalties in the future, regardless of the success of the work. ECSA organised various panels on the topic, with the first one being held on 20 January at the 2023 edition of Eurosonic Noorderslag titled "The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: All you need to know about composer's contracts and buy-outs". Moderated by Helienne Lindvall, the panel saw the participation of Sarah Glennane (Screen Composers Guild Ireland), Guido Heeneman (BCMM), and Rutger van Rompaey (Buma/Stemra). The topic of buy-outs was also discussed on 5 October at the Roma Film Music Festival during the panel "Understanding your rights: ECSA and the current challenges of music creators". The hybrid panel was joined by ECSA Board Member Luis Ivars, Composer Manel Santisteban, ECSA's Secretary General Marc du Moulin, and Nuovo IMAIE



President Andrea Micciché. In addition to contractual practices, the panel touched upon AI and music streaming. A third panel on the topic, titled [“Streamers In Europe: The Myths and the Legends”](#), was held on 20 October at the Ghent World Soundtrack Awards (WSA) in the frame of ECSA's Capacity Triangle series. The panel focused on buy-outs and other contractual practices deployed by US streaming services in the European market, and featured ECSA Board member Anselm Kreuzer (Composers Club) as moderator, and panellists Quentin Boniface (Netflix), David Hutsebaut (Sabam), Chantelle Woodnutt (Air-Edel) and composers Hannes de Maeyer and Volker Bertelmann.

On 6 November, ECSA welcomed the publication of a European Parliament study on “Buyout contracts imposed by platforms in the cultural and creative sector”, which featured key findings from ECSA's 2021 consultation on buyout contracts in the audiovisual sector. The EP's study calls for further policy actions, in addition to an effective implementation of the Copyright in the Digital Single Market (CDSM) Directive and the mandatory application of European laws in European contracts. ECSA will also contribute to the ongoing European Commission Study on Contractual Practices affecting the Transfer of Copyright and Related Rights and the creators and producers' ability to exploit their rights.

## 4. Fair Practice

Understanding and mapping the unfair contractual practices and precarious working conditions experienced by our members remained a priority for ECSA in 2023. On 13 November 2023, ECSA published its [Fair Practice report](#), which provided a snapshot of the working conditions of music creators in Europe. The report was built on the results of an in-depth consultation that ran between September 2022 and May 2023, organised in collaboration with our Working Group on Fair Practice. Shedding light on the precarious working conditions of music authors, the report reveals that more than 90% of respondents have experienced completely unpaid work at least once in their career. Less than a third of respondents claimed to earn sufficient income exclusively from their main work as creators, and only a mere 20% claimed to have never or rarely experienced unfair remuneration. Overall, the report highlighted the persistence of unfair practices affecting authors' remuneration, while stressing the need for more collective

actions and agreements. In this vein, allowing recommended rates would help improve the negotiation process and the fairness of contracts for music authors. Following the publication of the report, ECSA published a [summary document containing all the results of the consultation](#) in March 2024.

## 5. Other events and activities

Our Alliance has also been active on additional advocacy fronts. In June 2023, ECSA joined over forty cultural organisations in signing an [open letter](#) warning EU policy makers for the potential negative impact of the draft European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) on audiovisual policies. The signatories emphasised that EMFA's Article 20 would create legal uncertainty and weaken Member States' cultural policies that protect and promote European audiovisual works.

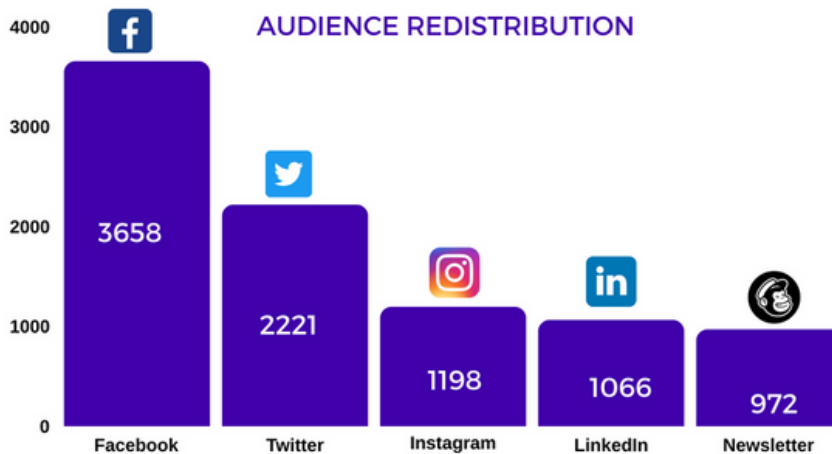
From 8 to 11 October, ECSA President Helienne Lindvall took part in the second edition of the IMPF Global Music Entrepreneurial and Creative Industry Summit in Palma, Spain, and discussed the creative aspects of songwriting on a dedicated panel.

On 24 November, the second edition of ECSA's [International Creators Dialogue](#) took place in Rabat, Morocco. This edition was co-organised with the [International Music Council](#) within the frame of the [Visa for Music](#) (VFM) Festival, which offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives with African and Middle Eastern creators. During a vibrant exchange moderated by ECSA Vice-President Zahra Mani, outgoing IMC President and ECSA Honorary President Alfons Karabuda, Benoît Machuel (International Federation of Musicians), Didier Awadi (Studio Sankara), Sharon Onyango-Obbo (Santuri East Africa), Habib Achour (SACEM), and Noelia Salas Muñiz (AIE) discussed how to fix music streaming and ensure a viable ecosystem for music creators.

November 2023 also saw the publication of the ECSA report [“Mapping Royalty Free Music: ECSA Report on Royalty Free Music trends”](#). Building on the results of a questionnaire conducted by ECSA in May 2023, the report explored royalty free music practices and the ways in which they affect music authors, presenting potential solutions and alternative models to the usage of royalty free music.

# reaching and engaging with audiences

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ECSA followers are spread on our four main social media networks, as well as our newsletter as shown by the graph.



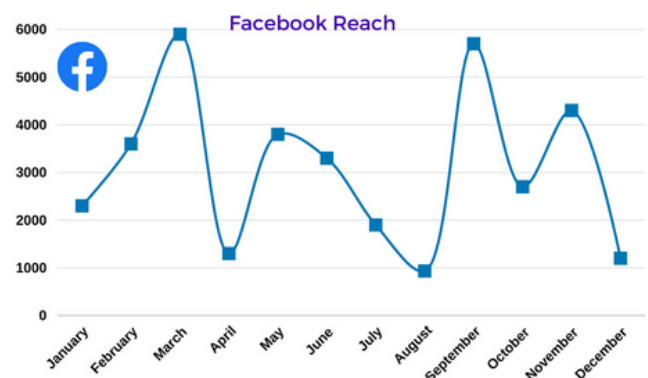
ECSA gained over 900 followers across its five platforms in 2023. Over the year, ECSA's audience on all social media platforms increased steadily, with LinkedIn seeing the highest increase in following (+360), followed by X/Twitter (+228), Instagram (+196), and Facebook (+105).

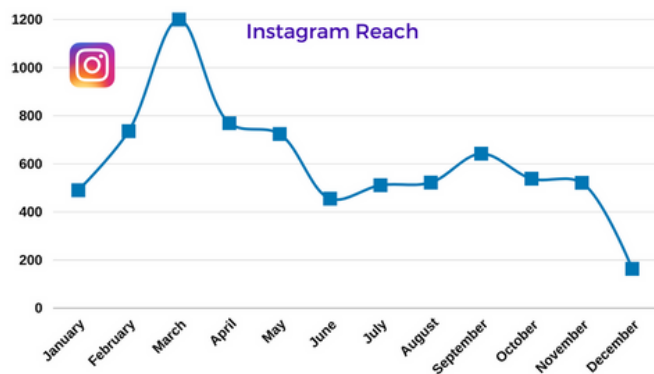
## Social Media

The following charts show how the ECSA news and activities that are being shared through the platforms are immediately reflected in the reach and engagement on our social media channels. The statistics and graphs display the data for the period of January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

### Facebook and Instagram

Throughout the year, the peak activity and reach for Facebook and Instagram was between February and April, similarly to 2022. In **March**, ECSA held the Creators Conference and hosted its winter session Brussels, with both events boosting activity on both social media platforms.

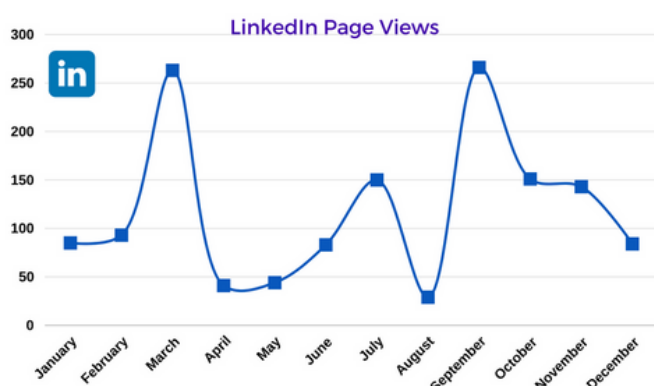
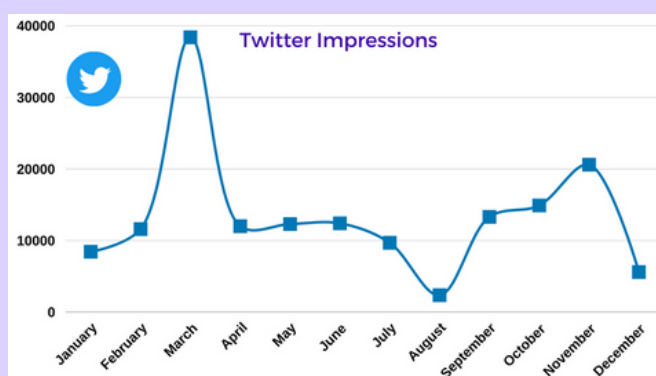




On **Instagram**, the most liked posts were a reel from ECSA President Helienne Lindvall at a WIPO information session on music streaming and a post advertising the aftermovie of the Creators Conference. September also saw another peak in Facebook reach and a slightly more modest Instagram reach, this time due to the 2023 ECSA session in London on 18 and 19 September.

## Twitter

**Twitter** similarly saw a peak in activity in March 2023, in occasion of the Creators Conference and the winter ECSA session in Brussels. Moreover, a peak in impressions was reached in November, when the European Parliament CULT Committee adopted two important reports on music streaming and the status of the artist.

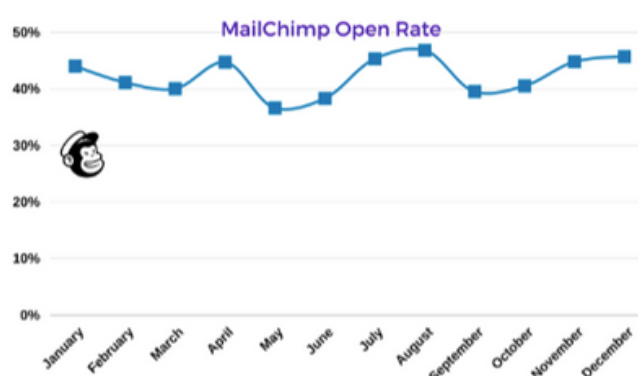


## LinkedIn

On **LinkedIn**, the updates regarding ECSA's advocacy and in general about our newsletters have been the most popular. The graph indicates that similar to our accounts on other platforms, our LinkedIn page accumulated most views around March and September.

## Newsletter

Our monthly newsletters, reporting on ECSA's advocacy, cultural, and member activities, were read by a bigger audience compared to the previous year, with an increased opening rate as well. 2023 reached a total amount of 972 subscribers. If you haven't done so already, [subscribe to our newsletter here](#).





## External outreach / press coverage

ECSA also received press coverage in various European countries both for its cultural events and its advocacy efforts in favour of European music creators. In particular, ECSA's advocacy activities regarding the Creators Conference generated the media's interest (for instance via [Complete Music Update](#)).

Moreover, ECSA's various statement regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and particularly the EU AI Act were widely picked up by international media. Find examples via [Complete Music Update](#), [MusicAlly](#), and [Billboard](#).

Finally, ECSA's vision on music streaming, published in July 2023, also generated media coverage, such as from [Complete Music Update](#).

## Websites: ECSA website and Camille Awards

ECSA's [official website](#) serves as the go-to source for information about the alliance, its members, publications such as policy position papers and joint statements, events, and much more. Furthermore, the [Camille Awards](#) website is regularly updated with information about the upcoming edition.



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# ECSA projects 2023 - early 2024



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# The Creators' Conference

**The Creators Conference provides a high-level forum to discuss crucial issues of the music industry and gathers EU policy makers, music creators and stakeholders of the cultural and creative sector.**

On 21 March 2023, the Creators' Conference, held under the patronage of the European Parliament and with the support of the Cultural Creators Friendship Group (CCFG), took place in Cinema Palace in Brussels, Belgium. This year's edition was mostly focused on following issues: music streaming, new technologies and Artificial Intelligence, contractual practices and fair remuneration, and the EU strategy for the music sector.



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The Conference welcomed various speakers, addressing different key topics during two Q&A sessions and two panels. Moreover, member of the European Parliament Iban García del Blanco, who was also rapporteur of the European Parliament's report on "Cultural diversity and the situation of authors in the European music streaming market", addressed the audience with a keynote speech highlighting the importance to "promote better working conditions for creators and a well-functioning, fair and transparent streaming market". The full programme of the conference can be found [here](#). The conference gathered around 150 participants in person in a fully packed Cinema Palace. The event was also livestreamed on [ECSA's YouTube channel](#). The [press release](#) of the conference is accessible on ECSA's website, highlighting the event's key moments.



# The ECCO Concerts through ECCO-System grants

**ECCO is a concert series dedicated to performing and promoting contemporary art music beyond national borders as well as to reaching new audiences.**

ECSA has launched the **ECCO-System grants (financial support to third parties)**. ECSA members are invited to apply for this funding opportunity to organise an ECCO concert in collaboration with an ensemble, whether possible **in the frame of one of their national concert series or contemporary music festivals**. Funding will be awarded in accordance with the requirements set out by ECSA.



Through the ECCO-System, ECSA seeks to promote contemporary European composers and their works across national borders and empower its members to organise the ECCO concerts in the framework of festivals or concert series taking place in their respective countries. During these concerts, the repertoire of contemporary composers for previous ECCO concerts will be further performed. The aim is to increase the active involvement of ECSA members in the ECCO project and to enhance its outreach by organising concerts in more European countries as well as providing more opportunities for the re-performances of contemporary art music, including in established festivals and concert programmes.

The first ECCO Concert organised through the ECCO-System grants was organised in the frame of the Oieras 2023 Contemporary Music Cycle (CROMA - Ciclo de Música Contemporânea de Oeiras), organised by ECSA member Associação Portuguesa de Compositores (APC), on 17 March 2023. During this concert, the Lisbon Ensemble 20/21 performed pieces of Elis Hallik, Matti Heininen, Charlotte Torres, and Johan Svensson.



Moreover, Belgian ECSA member Forum de la Création Musicale organised two ECCO concerts in 2023. On 24 May, at le Senghor in Brussels, the Sturm und Klang Ensemble performed various creations of international composers such as Ziv Cojocar, Moritz Eggert, Henrik Strindberg, as well as Belgian composers Sarah Wéry and Christian Klinkenberg.

*Forum de la Création Musicale* organised another ECCO concert on 27 September, at *Maison du Peuple* in Brussels. For this edition, Sturm und Klang was invited again, this time to perform new works from renowned composers Jean-Luc Darbellay, Denis Ivanidze (solo bassoon: Mavroutdes Troullos) and Jörg-Peter Mittmann. Also on the programme for this concert were pieces by Olli Virtaperko, Pierre-André Bovey, Ursula Gut, Hans Eugen Frischknecht and Markus Hofer.



© Mitrugno

# Capacity Triangle webinars

With support of the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission, the Capacity Triangle panels and webinars aim at building capacities to foster the professional adaption of music creators and empowering creators through knowledge.

Throughout 2023 and early 2024, ECSA organised one webinar and three panels within the Capacity Triangle series.



The first webinar, "**The Importance of Managing Your Metadata: How To Get Paid and Credited Correctly**," held on 28 February, 2023, emphasized the critical role of metadata in ensuring fair compensation for creators. It tackled challenges related to mismanaged metadata, covering aspects such as song titles, copyright splits, and ISRC identifiers. More detailed information and the recording can be found [here](#).

On 21 June 2023, the hybrid panel "**AI and Authors' Rights: What Awaits Us?**", in collaboration with **Soundtrack\_Cologne**, explored the evolving landscape of AI technologies and authors' rights. The panel delved into legal implications, the proposed EU AI Act, and ethical considerations, providing insights into the complex relationship between artificial intelligence and creative rights. More information can be found [here](#). The recording can be found [here](#).

In collaboration with **World Soundtrack Awards Ghent**, ECSA organised a Capacity Triangle panel titled **"Streamers in Europe: The Myths and the Legends"** on 20 October 2023. The panel explored US streaming services' increasing involvement in the European television, film, and music industries and their impact on European composers. The panellists discussed several challenges of European film composers, such as the threats of buy-outs and other harmful contractual practices. More information can be found [here](#).



“It is impossible to predict the success of a work. Lump sum and other one-off payments therefore often withhold music creators from proportionate remuneration and fair participation in the economic value music provides. Since refusing contracts with such buy-out requirements is really difficult to composers, we need to make sure to have legislation that ensures a proportionate and fair remuneration for creators.”

**Anselm Kreuzer, composer, ECSA Board Member**

On 19 January 2024, ECSA and [Buma Music in Motion](#) co-organised the Capacity Triangle panel **“The future of composing: AI as a limitless tool?”** at the conference of **Eurosonic Noorderslag (ESNS)** in Groningen, Netherlands. Various experts dived into the opportunities and pitfalls of incorporating AI into the creative process of composing and the legal implications that may occur. More details can be found [here](#).



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# The International Creators Dialogue

The International Creators Dialogues (ICD) serve as platforms for networking activities with international music creators' associations in America, Asia and Africa.



In 2023, ECSA organised its International Creators Dialogue at Visa for Music Festival (VFM), an event that welcomed around a hundred participants from four continents for three days of conferences and meetings in Rabat, Morocco. On 24 November, together with VFM and the International Music Council (IMC), ECSA co-organised its International Creators Dialogue on "Fixing music streaming, ensuring a viable ecosystem for music creators". The panel, moderated by ECSA Vice-President Zahra Mani, delved into crucial issues related to music streaming, such as the revenue distribution per stream, user centric vs. pro-rata models, fraudulent streams and fake artists, and the current metadata gap. It explored solutions to ensure sustainable remuneration for music authors and performers, including the Fair Music Project, launched by IMC. Zahra Mani was joined by six panelists: outgoing IMC President and ECSA Honorary President Alfons Karabuda, Benoît Machuel (International Federation of Musicians), Didier Awadi (Studio Sankara), Sharon Onyango-Obbo (Santuri East Africa) Habib Achour (SACEM), and Noelia Salas Muñiz (AIE).



## ECSA-AEC Mentorship Programme

**The Mentorship Programme, co-developed by ECSA, AEC (European Association of Conservatoires), and EJM (Europe Jazz Network), is an EU-funded initiative that aims to serve as an introduction to the music industry for young female (identifying) composers and songwriters who are in the beginning phase of their careers, with the help of female role models and with the ultimate goal of enhancing gender equality within the sector.**

The kick-off meeting of the programme took place on 21 March 2023 in Brussels during ECSA's Creators' Conference. During the meeting, the mentors and mentees had the opportunity to meet, network, and receive guidelines for their one-on-one sessions. April 2023 marked the beginning of a six-month mentoring project, consisting of three individual online meetings every two months, which concluded in September 2023. Upon completing these sessions, participants submitted their feedback to the ECSA office. This feedback will contribute to a final report for further discussion within the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. The outcomes of this programme will be showcased at a dissemination event that will take place during the AEC Annual Congress in November 2024.

## Mentoring Course for Film Composers with OTICONS

**This year, ECSA partnered up again with OTICONS – “The European talent agency for film composers” and launched an open call for European film composers to award a two-day mentoring course performed by OTICONS' founder George Christopoulos.**

The call ran for one month and gathered applications from various European countries. ECSA and OTICONS selected two winners: Emer Landers from Ireland and Magnus Hexeberg from Norway. After having announced the winners in August 2023, the course offered the two winners customised career advice and industry insights from networking techniques, to pitching, contracts and music publishing.

# "Discover ECSA's Music Creators" Playlist

Since 2022, in the frame of the World Music Day, ECSA publishes the "Discover ECSA's Music Creators" playlist each year. This is a collection of compositions and songs coming from the ECSA member organisations. The goal is to promote European composers and songwriters and raise their visibility to the wider public.

On 21 June 2023, ECSA proudly presented the second edition of the playlist, titled "**Discover ECSA's Music Creators Playlist: Melodies of the Future**".



The carefully curated selection showcased the innovative work of European composers and songwriters coming **from nine different European countries**. The diverse array of genres includes chamber-pop, classical, experimental, instrumental, pop, rock, contemporary art music, electronic, and jazz. Under the theme "**Melodies of the Future**," the playlist captures the evolving spirit of the times, presenting a snapshot of the dynamic and varied musical expressions emerging from these talented artists.

Building upon the success of the previous year, the 2023 playlist underlines ECSA's commitment to promote European talent and providing a global platform for diverse musical expressions.

Listen and enjoy our playlist on ECSA's [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#) accounts.

# ECSA working groups

## Music Streaming Working Group

ECSA's Music Streaming Working Group aims at elaborating on concrete solutions to improve the remuneration for music authors and collaborating with stakeholders to make music streaming revenues a meaningful source of income for music authors. In collaboration with the Working Group, ECSA led numerous discussions and published various papers about music streaming in 2023. This year, the developments around music streaming and the need to solve related issues remained more than relevant. As such, the Working Group members' input on the European Parliament's report on music streaming as well as ECSA's position paper on music streaming has been of vital importance throughout the year.



“Streaming must be made sustainable for creators once and for all, and doing this will require several changes, from ensuring fairness in revenue distribution to reassessing the legal nature of a stream and fixing metadata requirements. ECSA’s Music Streaming Working Group provides a perfect platform for creators to join forces on these issues.”

**Tobias Stenkjaer, songwriter, Chair of the Music Streaming Working Group**

The first Working Group meeting of the year took place on 22 February 2023. The Working Group members discussed the current state of play of music streaming, various recent studies on music streaming, and gathered the Working Group members' suggested priorities for ECSA's upcoming position paper on music streaming.

On 7 November 2023, assistant professor at KU Leuven Jozefien Vanherpe, specialised in intellectual property rights, presented the main results of her PhD at the Working Group's second meeting of the year. Her dissertation, titled “Towards a fair balance in the digitised music industry”, covers the legal framework of contractual dynamics in the digitised music industry. Her presentation highlighted the unbalanced nature of music industry contracts, and discussed potential avenues for change. The presentation was followed by an open discussion with ECSA members.



Another meeting took place on 15 January 2024, in which Frederik Juul Jensen (PhD student, Université Sorbonne Paris Nord) presented the findings of his research paper titled “Rethinking Royalties – Alternative Payment Systems on Music Streaming Platforms”. He discussed various alternative remuneration models for streaming platforms, and the recent changes implemented by Spotify and Deezer.

## Communication Working Group

The Communication Working Group’s mission is to support and offer guidance to the ECSA office in developing a communication strategy that increases the awareness on ECSA, its activities, and its members. The group consists of communication experts from different ECSA member organisations whose responsibilities are ensuring the visibility of ECSA projects and securing a wider outreach of their outputs. Key objectives of the group are to optimise ECSA communication actions, to improve the dissemination of ECSA projects results as well as ECSA position papers, joint statements, and press releases.

## Diversity & Inclusion Working Group

The Diversity & Inclusion Working Group raises awareness on the lack of gender balance and equality when it comes to the representation and promotion of diversity among composers and songwriters. The Working Group provides advice to the Alliance to ensure gender equality and inclusion of people with diverse backgrounds in the project activities and the structures of the Alliance and its members.



“We are still a long way from a fairly represented music industry in which everyone can work in a safe environment. I therefore hope that our mentoring programme for female (identifying) composers can serve as a small step in the right direction.”

**Delphine Ciampi-Ellis, music and soundtrack composer, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group Member**

Throughout 2023, the members of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group met online on three occasions. During these meetings, the group focused on defining concepts and categorising topics aligned with the group’s objectives. Additionally, discussions covered the group’s involvement in various initiatives, such as the Learning Lounges 2023, which aimed to inspire ECSA members to reflect on their own challenges regarding gender, diversity and inclusion, as well as the ECSA-AEC Mentorship programme for young female composers and songwriters, described in the previous section of this report.



## Tech and AI Working Group

Technological developments, in particular the enormously high pace of the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in music, heavily impacted the music sector in 2023. ECSA has always supported a human centric approach to AI, based on fundamental rights and essential EU values. As AI comes with opportunities as well as risks and challenges for music authors, ECSA's Tech & AI Working Group aims to ensure that music creators and their rights are protected in further policy initiatives on this matter, while also informing composers both creatively and legally.

The Tech & AI Working Group met online on 13 September 2023. During the meeting, the Working Group members and other ECSA members discussed the draft EU AI Act, which was at that time in its last negotiation phase. Marc du Moulin, Secretary-General of ECSA, updated the Working Group on the latest developments of the AI Act and its intersection with music and authors' rights. After this presentation, the Working Group members discussed ECSA position on the AI Act and the potential implications the new regulation could have on music authors.



“We must ensure that AI’s rapid advancement does not come at the expense of original human creativity. Strong transparency and copyright obligations are essential to preserve the rights and livelihoods of music creators.”

**Ole Henrik Antonsen, songwriter and music producer,  
Chair of ECSA’s APCOE Committee**

## Fair Practice Working Group

Most composers and songwriters in Europe are confronted with insecure economic and social conditions stemming from precarious work, unfair contractual practices, low and unstable income, and weak bargaining power vis-à-vis their negotiating counterparts. The Fair Practice Working Group is seeking to analyse the enduring social and economic challenges of music creators across Europe, drawing a picture of the current realities of the labour market, comparing the situations of ECSA members, and sharing best practices to provide practical recommendations.

Throughout the past year, the Fair Practice Working Group met four times. The discussions centred around ECSA's survey on Fair Practice, which was launched in September 2022 with the aim of collecting data and evidence on the social and economic situation of music authors in Europe. The survey officially closed in May 2023, having collected a total of 247 responses from members across 24 European countries.

During its first meeting in April, the Working Group discussed possible next steps following the conclusion of the survey. In June, members provided additional input on the report and brainstormed on potential activities for a campaign on Fair Practice. At the meeting in September, members finalised the details of the survey's report and agreed on a timeline for its publication and for the rollout of related activities.

The ECSA Report "Navigating the Path to Fair Practice" was published in November 2023, presenting an overview of the key findings that emerged from the survey. A summary document presenting the full results of the consultation was published in March.



"Composers and songwriters are often subject to precarious conditions. Our Fair Practice report demonstrates how fragile the working conditions often are and how much remains to be done to improve both the economic and social situation in order to overcome the insecurity confronting numerous music creators."

**Zahra Mani, composer, ECSA Vice-President and Fair Practice Working Group Member**

During its most recent meeting on 24 January 2024, the Working Group saw the participation of Eva-Maria Bauer (Vice-President of the Austrian Music Council), who held a presentation on the Austrian fairness process, discussing its main objectives, its implementation and what has been achieved so far.

Moreover, on 19 March 2024, during the Working Group's update at the Learning Lounge as part of the 2024 ECSA Session in Brussels, Heidemarie Meissnitzer (Co-chair of the OMC Member States experts' group on working conditions of artists, Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU) presented the OMC group report on "the status and working conditions of artists and cultural and creative professionals".

## One Stop Licensing Working Group

The Working Group on One Stop Licensing, previously known as the Working Group on Royalty Free Music, focuses on state-of-the-art methods for collective licensing in audiovisual media and particularly in the online domain. The aim is to get an accurate picture of current trends and to find out the best ways to resist disruptive licensing models which are not in line with the principles of a fair and proportionate remuneration for authors. The Working Group examines chances for CMOs to create one-stop-licensing models for online content that are competitive and convenient. In addition, the Working Group aims to encourage more exchange between CMOs in various countries with regard to their methods of licensing and content management.

Throughout 2023, the Working Group members have continued regularly exchanging by email to develop a strategy to address the problem of royalty free music. Moreover, the Working Group has met formally online twice. The first Working Group meeting was held on 27 June 2023, and mainly focused on a new online only licensing model in Germany.

The second Working Group meeting, held on 28 November 2023, focused on updates on that same model, updates from contractual practices with CMO's in the various countries of the Working Group members, and on [ECSA's report on Royalty Free Music](#). This report, built upon the expertise of the Working Group members as well as a consultation among ECSA members, provides a detailed overview of the issue of Royalty Free Music repertoire, its scope in several European countries, and explores possible solutions. The report was published on 29 November 2023.



## Sustainability Working Group

The challenges of climate change, environmental protection and sustainability are at the forefront of the European Union's agenda and the European Green Deal. ECSA encourages its members and other stakeholders to actively engage on this topic to develop concrete recommendations on how music authors, songwriter associations and the music sector extensively can become greener and more environmentally sustainable.

The Working Group on Sustainability met online twice in 2023. The first meeting in April featured a short presentation on EarthPercent, an innovative project launched by a group of prominent songwriters to raise funds to tackle climate change. The Working Group also discussed the environmental impact of music streaming and of the resurgence of vinyl records, followed by a brainstorming of activities that songwriters and composers can engage in to promote sustainability in their composing and production practices.

The second meeting in October featured two guest presentations. First, Lucie Boucher (Research Coordinator, The Green Room) introduced the Sustainable Tools for Online Music Practices (STOMP), a practical guide for musicians to reduce their digital environmental footprint. Juliana Hodkinson (Danish Composers' Society) then presented insights from Julie's Bicycle's Creative Climate Leadership programme. Her presentation discussed different ways in which composer and songwriters' associations can operate more sustainably, advancing several suggestions.



# our network



## Membership update

With 59 organisations across Europe and beyond, ECSA's membership covers 29 countries. All our members are listed on our [website](#). The ECSA Office is constantly looking for new members to broaden the alliance's outreach and impact.

## New members

In 2024, ECSA had the honour to welcome four new members to the Alliance:

- *Zväz autorov a interpretov populárnej hudby* (ZAI, Slovakian Union of Authors and Performers)
- *Syndicat français des Compositrices et Compositeurs de Musique Contemporaine* (SMC, French Union of Contemporary Music Composers)
- *Lietuvos kompozitorių sąjunga* (LCU, Lithuanian Composers' Union August)
- *Sámi Dáiddárráđđi* (Sami Composers)
- *Fédération des Auteur·rices, Compositeur·rices et Interprètes Réuni·es* (FACIR, Federation of Authors, Composers and Performers, Belgium)

## The ECSA Sessions

The biannual ECSA Sessions provide an update on the state of play of ECSA's advocacy efforts, important developments in the music sector, and an assessment on ECSA's past, future, and ongoing Creative Europe activities. The ECSA Winter Session took place in Brussels on 22-23 March 2023, right after the Creators' Conference. The Session took place in ECSA's brand new office location at the Maison européenne des Auteurs et des Autrices (MEDAA).

Later in the year, our members gathered in London, United Kingdom, for the ECSA Autumn Session on 18-19 September 2023 at the Barbican Centre. The ECSA Session was hosted by ECSA Member The Ivors Academy, and was organised in conjunction with the Ivors' Global Creators Summit, offering ECSA members the chance to learn about the challenges and opportunities of AI in music, the day after the ECSA Session took place.

Finally, the most recent ECSA Session took place on 18-19 March 2024, once again organised at *Maison européenne des Auteurs et des Autrices* (MEDAA) in Brussels.

# The ECSA Board



**Helienne Lindvall**  
ECSA President



**Zahra Mani**  
ECSA Vice President



**Jesper Hansen**  
ECSA Vice President



**Aafke Romeijn**  
Treasurer



**Ole Henrik Antonsen**  
(Chair)



**Orphy Robinson**  
(Chair)



**Jesper Hansen**  
(Chair)



**Helienne Lindvall**  
(Vice-Chair)



**Aafke Romeijn**  
(Vice-Chair)



**Zahra Mani**  
(Vice-Chair)



**Niilo Tarnanen**  
(Vice-Chair)



**Anselm Kreuzer**  
(Vice-Chair)



**Luis Ivars**  
(Vice-Chair)

Popular Music  
(APCOE Committee)

Art & Contemporary Music  
(ECF Committee)

Film audio-visual music  
(FFACE Committee)

## The ECSA office

In 2023, the ECSA office team was composed of Secretary-General Marc du Moulin (FR), European Affairs and Programme Manager Claire Icega (FR), Executive and Finance Officer Tatiana Papastoitsi (GR), and Project and Communication Officer Machiel Smit (NL).

During the year, the Alliance's cultural projects, communication activities, and advocacy efforts were supported by four trainees: Giacomo Bonetti (IT), Francesco Commerci (IT), Aleyna Naz Coskun (TR), and Yuliia Lomako (UA). We would like to express our gratitude for their tremendous work.

# Acknowledgements

**ECSA would like to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to:**

- All of ECSA's Board members for their time and commitment to ECSA.
- The European Commission and its Creative Europe Programme.
- The European Parliament's Cultural Creators Friendship Group and its Members.
- Member of the European Parliament Iban Garcia del Blanco (S&D-Spain) for his leadership and tremendous work on the EP report on "Cultural diversity and the situation of authors in the European music streaming market".
- Our allies in the Authors' Group: The Federation of European Screen Directors (FERA), the European Writers' Council (EWC), the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE) as well as all other creators and performers organisations who worked together with us to defend human creation during the negotiations on the AI Act.
- The International Music Council (IMC) and European Music Council (EMC) for our fruitful collaborations.
- All music festivals and conferences we have teamed up with to organise impactful panels and other inspiring events.
- The Ivors Academy for hosting a fantastic ECSA Session in London.
- The European Liberal Forum (ELF) for giving us the opportunity to write about a fairer music streaming ecosystem.
- All experts who joined our various Working Group meetings to give a presentation: Jozefien Vanherpe, Frederik Juul Jensen, and Heidemarie Meissnitzer.
- Long time ECSA member and ally Loek Dikker for an indispensable contribution to ECSA and film and audiovisual music in particular.

**Last but not least, a big thank you to all ECSA Members for their continued support.**





Co-funded by  
the European Union



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