



3/5 Management of collective vocal practices **Tours, 18/22 – Saint-Lô 23 October 2014**

Workshop “Choral singing and disabled people”

1st we began with 4 questions and after we discuss about several topics, regarding the answers and the pros and the cons of the different situations.

NB : in this workshop we were about 15 persons. The majority was French people, only 2 people came from 2 other European countries.

1/ Legislation

The question was : “Is there, in your country, a specific law, or a plan of action, or an obligation... for disabled people?”

France:

- law in 2005 saying that disabled people should be able to participate at all the social life (go to school, have a job, have cultural activities...) as all the other people. The Ministry of culture has signed this law and wrote 2 decrees saying that all music school (and all public building in general) should be accessible to disabled people and saying that all the cultural activities (concerts, training) should be accessible to disabled people. This law should be applicable in 2015, but some obligations will be done later.
- National commission “Culture and disabilities” that offer grants and devices for cultural projects in the social institutions.

Germany: law for disabled students at school to facilitate their inclusion

2/ Forms of intervention

The question was : When a musician is involved in some institutions with disabled people, what is expected from him? performing in a concert? making disabled people sing? training the employees of the institution?

France:

- The 3 situations exist and the situations are different in the regions and depend sometimes on the local public policies. Most of the times, the musician is asking to performing in a concert or to making disabled people sing.
- Some observations when a musician is involved in some social institutions :
 - o It’s not easy for the musician to be able to work with disable people, to know the different kind of disability and to know how to adapt or get along within a musical project? The musician should be trained to work with disabled people.
 - o Lot of musical projects are specific actions, it would be more interesting to do regular workshops, but most of the time the institution have some money only for a short specific action.

- Sometimes, there is a confusion between 3 representations: making people playing music (with an artistic goal, as people were not disabled) vs making music therapy (with a therapeutic goal) vs making music to fill free time (occupational goal). The role of the welfare / fun / or social role of the activity can supplant the artistic aspects. A musician should have artistic requirements in all situations, and with disabled people too. Even if making disabled people sing can have therapeutic benefits, the musician is not a therapist.

3/ Role of stakeholders

The question was : Generally, who is behind the project when a music project is set up in an institution with disabled people: a musician? The institution? Another cultural actor? ...

France :

- There is no majority of one kind of answer. Sometimes it's an employee of the institution (nurse, sport teachers...) who is behind the project, sometimes it's some cultural actors ("mission voix", director of conservatory & music school, artist...).
- Legal framework: each year public institutions create "call for projects" to finance musical project with disabled people.
- Places of practice: most of the time, the projects take place in the social institutions. What about the usual / open environment ? mixed public? Places of special musical education (music school, conservatories...)?
- Sometimes disabled people themselves are behind a musical project but it's uncommon.

4/ Training and job for musician working with disabled people

The question was: Is there a job title describing a musician working with disabled people? Do you have jobs like this in your country?

Germany :

- It exist a training and a job for Music-therapist and Sonderpädagoge (in public school, it's not specially for music).

France:

- It exist a job for Art-therapist but not a job for musician working with disabled people.
- In France it exist a special training and job "musician intervenant" : it's musicians who go in primary public school to make musical projects with the children during school time. In this training (during 2 years after bachelor), they can study another year and specialize in "music, disabilities and health".
- There is some cultural actors ("missions voix", association "MESH") who organize some professional training, for example "teach music to people with disabilities" ; "music and deafness" ...
- There is in France a lack of initial and continuous training combining music aspect and disability aspect, and there is no system of reference of abilities. So, who frames a musical collective practice with people with disabilities? Professional supervision (by a musician, a skilled artistically musician) ? Or supervision by an employee of the social institution (who may have a personal musical practice amateur) ?

5/ Wrap up

In each workshop we note a lack of experience and knowledge among the participants in the Leo Sing network. So it was difficult to discuss practices in different countries, to share information, to debate and reflect together about and from personal experiences...

6/ Prospects

- Thirst, each partner can collect information and resources in their own countries and try to answer the 4 questions which was asked in each workshop,
- After, we could create a workgroup with interested people to gather and share all the information and resources, to identify and share "good practices", to debate and reflect together about and from personal experiences, to identify lacks and needs in the country and the structures...
- Present the material and the fruit of this work at the forthcoming World Symposium of Choral Music, organized in 2017 in Barcelona,
- Create a new sheet in the vocabulary book about the topics "prevented people" : what are the good words, which words and expressions are "politically correct" to speak about prevented people...