5.9.

EMTC GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Spain - September 29th 2006

Present: Jos De Backer; Monika Nocker Ribaupierre; Julie Sutton; Teresa Paula Leite; Ranka Radulowic; Wita Szulc; Marijke Schotsmans; Jasperin van der Pasch; Carole Lelong; Ferdinando Suvini; Jaakko Erkilla; Heidi Fausch; Kirsten Dyblie Erdal; Elena Fitzthum; Alice Pehk; Hanne Mette Ochnser Ridder; Adrienne Lerner; Mirdza Paipare; Vilmante Aleksiene; Camino Bengoechea; Rut Wallius; Ilse Wolfram; Ranja Radulowic;
Apologies: Chava Sekeles (Israel)

Official Meeting opened at 9.30am

1) Jos De Backer (President) welcomed everyone. He outlined the agenda for the day.

2) **Small report from each country**

Austria (Elena):
We now have established a second generation of therapists. Things are changing – ongoing work towards legal recognition began 50 years ago. This has been caught up with government changes, and this is frustrating. The latest development is that the music therapists now work together with arts therapists. This process will also take more time. Our difficult decision is now between continuing this, or to go alone as in Switzerland.

Belgium (Marijke)
There is a masters programme for music therapy in Leuven, and a programme in Brussels. 2 different associations represent each programme, but communication is not easy between the two. There are 48 members in the Flemish association. We have no details about the other association. We are in the process of recognition – this is a lot of work, which goes slowly.

Denmark (Hanne Mette):
We have a masters training and a research school. We have a new professor - Inge Pederson. We have 2 organisations. One is for people interested in music therapy. The other is only for music therapists. The energy is in the music therapy organisation, so the second is closing down and no longer a member of the EMTC. We work to keep connection. We

began to make some formular relating to the EMTR (for instance forms to show the supervision we had). We are looking to the future.

Estonia (Alice):
Training continues to develop. We prepare bachelor studies in creative arts therapies. But, it is not an easy time for the society - no-one wants to lead or take responsibility for the society. But we are working on this. The next annual meeting is in January. We hope this will be a time to make a step forward.

Finland (Jaakko: Vice President):
The rules for music therapy are becoming more tight every year. So far it has been possible to respond to these changes. In terms of training - the masters programme is going well, plus the clinical training. There are some problems with polytechnic schools (with funding) - but so far they are still in existence. Now there is an interesting new programme: music psychotherapy training. The big improvement is with research. There are important research projects – these are international and interdisciplinary, with major funding.

France (Adrienne):
We have 7 associations. The situation is very similar to Portugal. Training had always been postgraduate, and a mix of psychodynamic and pedagogic. You can check the internet site for current news. It is remarkable that we are all working together so well!

Germany (Ilse):
The Federal Association of Music Therapy now represents most of the German music therapists (although not all). Areas of responsibility are clearer, for instance how the small working groups link with the general assembly. National guidelines (describing diagnosis and treatment) have been changed to include recognition of the successful effect of arts therapies (pain, rehabilitation, schizophrenia, dementia).

Israel (given in Chava's absence by Monika):
There are 3 active music therapy schools. One is at diploma level, and one at masters. There is a lot of work now with traumatised people. Chava has published a new book, and a lot of this is related to issues in Israel.

Italy (Ferdinando: Vice President):
Ferdinando represents the Italian associations. We have a lot of training courses in Italy – many are private, and a lot of universities are interested

in developing programmes. Recognition is very important for the profession in Italy.

Latvia (Mirdza):
The association formed last year. We now have 46 members. We work to establish professional standards. We have been able to invite established international experts to visit and give further training. We have international projects and collaboration - and we invite you to be a part of this.

Lithuania (Vilmante):
We established a group called 'arts therapies' under government commissions, to work towards recognition. After 5 years we now have a clear idea of how to establish a postgraduate (hopefully masters) programme. We have verbal agreements to work in this direction, from different institutions. We are looking for other universities to have collaboration. We need more foreign professors and we look for collaboration within ERASMUS. We are looking for guest lecturers specialising in the geriatric and epilepsy areas. It will be very important to organise an international seminar in Lithuania – this would help us a lot.

Luxembourg (Carole):
We are very proud to be a new voting member. We have 11 therapists and 6 students. There is a masters programme at a university, but we have no information about this yet (no communication yet). Music therapy is still not recognised, so people often do not know about our work. \we make a lot of publicity and need to look at pay systems for our work. Our main objective is to push for recognition. We formed working groups for this. We also work on a register, in association with the EMTR (on a less high level). We work also on an internet site, to disseminate information. Our national congress is in November. It will be in 3 languages - and everyone is welcome to come.

Netherlands (Jasperin):
We now have our own music therapy association. The main goals are to unite music therapists inside and outside the country. Also, to enlarge professional knowledge, research, and lobbying the government for registration. We are also busy in work groups (e.g. forensic work, work with the elderly). We organise workshops throughout the year. Our big project is organising the European conference in 2007.

Norway (Kerstin):

The newest development is that the Sandane training moved to Bergen. Now there are 2 courses in Norway. This is an exciting development. In Bergen – it is more research orientated. In Oslo – it is more clinical orientation. We work towards the ethical code, and also to registration. Things take time – !

Poland (Wita):
Wita represents the Polish association. There is some progress since last year. We have a new department of arts & music therapy - they organise courses and postgraduate study. In the future, we look at supervision and lobbying the government for official recognition. 25 people are now professional members.

Portugal (Teresa):
Things move slowly. There are 2 programmes in music therapy, 1 in expressive therapies. The university system has changed to the Bologna agreement - because of this it is quite a difficult time, with a lot of changes. One round of the masters programme has finished – we are waiting for the approval from the government. The music therapy association has organised workshops throughout the year. There is interest from various institutions. People are becoming much more aware of music therapy – because of this we hope there is a move towards paid work. In June there was a conference on training and professional issues:. We proposed requirements for practice. These are based on the EMTR, but changed to fit with the current situation (so it is at a lower level). We want to move towards the full EMTR.

Serbia (Ranka):
Our association has continued the work. Please note that Montenegro recently separated from Serbia – the Yugoslav association voted special by-laws and changed the name of the association. It is now "the Association of Music Therapists of Serbia". We work towards state registration. 11 students are being trained. 4 students now take the final exam and they will qualify in 2007. We have new conditions nationally, about the recognition of private universities. The number of music therapy services has increased. We continue to lobby the ministry for official recognition.

Spain (Camino):
The situation is similar to last year. We work towards recognition – we feel that research is an important way forward.

Sweden (Rut):

We have 2 associations. We are working towards one association for music therapists. The functional music therapists are discussing double membership. We have 150 members. Most of them are fully trainined. We have 2 programmes - one psychodynamic, one functional. Masters level is also included and we have 2 PhD students. The big event was the Nordic conference (Stockholm). We also had cooperation with music therapists in Bolivia – this is ongoing. There are not so many developments about registration: - this has to be comparable with either psychotherapists or social workers, and we are looking at the regulations about these. We have discussion about cooperation with other arts therapists, etc.

Switzerland (Heidi:Vice President):
In the past 12 months, very important decisions regarding Music Therapy recognition have been made in Switzerland.
Anthroposophical Training (Steiner Schools) and Art Therapists have worked together to obtain the recognition from the government (Office of Professional Education) for the profession of Art Therapist (Music Therapy).
A private training course for Music Therapy also joined this group.
The Swiss Association for Music Therapy (SFMT) was also asked to join. Without its inclusion, these two training courses would decide the curriculum and levels of the profession without any input form the SFMT. However, this resulted in resistance by the Music Therapists.
In June, at an extraordinary general assembly of the SFMT it was decided not to affiliate with the Art Therapists, but to remain separate. Currently, this decision is working out well.
The Zurich Institute of Art and Music and the Institute for Psychology offer a 4-year Course in Music Therapy to become a Music Therapist MA (Master of Advanced Studies).
Since Mai 2006 music therapy is recognized as a method of psychotherapy in Switzerland. Music Therapists MA are also recognized as psychotherapists, if they have Master's degree in Psychology. Other Music Therapists can "update" their degree at the Institutes at Zurich to reach a MA.

UK (Julie: Treasurer):
This year UK music therapy took a decision – this year we focus on merging the 2 associations. One association is for people interested in music therapy. The other is only for professional music therapists. We also continue to respond to the legal requirements of being officially registered with the government. The title of "music therapist" is protected

by law (you can only call yourself a music therapist if you complete a recognised masters training). But this costs something – we have to respond to rules made by other people. To do this, we have to make a good dialogue with the official organisations. When there is a new government, these rules can change – so it is an interesting challenge! We have many working parties for clinical work, research, and special interest groups. We are also looking for new people (and new energy) in our national committee.
I can also report that my colleagues in South Ireland (Eire) are moving toward becoming a member of the EMTC.

(Country reports took one hour – to 1030am)

3) **To Agree the Minutes of Bologna.**
Minutes read and agreed by everyone.

4) **Matters arising from the Minutes**

(a) The Communication Procedure (communication between the Member Associations, the Country Representatives, and the EMTC Board and Core Board). Now we slightly changed that document. This document was given to everyone in hard (paper) copy.
It is also sent by email with the Minutes.
We ask everyone to use this system for communication.
Most important of all, everyone must have a good and working email address. We have a lot of problems without this.
Also, we ask you to:

Please check your email every week!

(b) Complaint Procedure. We introduced this last year. We are testing this system. It is a draft (not the final document). We have 2 complaints, and we test the procedure. We report back at the General Assembly in 2007. Here, we vote to accept the document.

ACTION:
The Board makes a final document.
We vote on this in Eindhoven, 2007.

(break: 1055-1125)

5) **Report from Brussels**

Julie gave a short report about the EU meeting in Brussels:

Report of Brussels meeting

Thanks to Monika, we had contact with very important people in Brussels.
We met 2 people from the EU: Pamela Brumter-Coret (the Head of Unit, European Commission, Internal Market, regulated Professions, Unit D3) and Corinne Guidicelli (responsibility for regulated mutual education system, internal market).
They read documents prepared and sent in advance by Monika.
We had a 90 minute discussion and information exchange, which was incredibly useful.
The EU supports the way we are working, to develop the strong foundation of a professional body, and to set up high minimal standards of professional practice (and the EMTR in particular).
We will not have a rigid official recognition, because this has a lot of bureaucracy and it would be too rigid for our profession. In fact, we found out that this is very uncommon with the professions. In the way we are working, we can actively avoid the danger of over-regulation.
This was a very useful meeting, and with their support, it gives us real confidence to continue.

Discussion: how will this affect the EMTR?
(It should not change the work; we are doing. That we are working together was seen as a very strong thing and the commissioner was impressed with this. It does not help individual countries in their own struggles to gain recognition, but this is still very positive news.)

1140-1230: break into 3 groups for regional meetings of south, middle and north Europe.

6) **Resume:**

S. Europe: Discussion – to avoid complaints, S. Europe requests that there will be a new formula to show that all associations have agreed the country representative.

To avoid unnecessary conflict, for 2007 membership, the Vice President will send a confirmation document that lists the member associations for each country in their region.

After the voting, this official confirmation document has to be signed by a representative from all the member association.

When the document is complete, the Country Representative sends it to the Vice President.

This process must be complete by 1st July 2007.

ACTION:
BOARD TO FORMULATE THIS (see Action Point in item 7).

N. Europe: Problems in the different countries. We have a wish that there could be a declaration about recognition. Discussion: it is possible that the report from the Brussels meeting covers this. We need to think about the website – perhaps a statement relating to our joint work on recognition can be added?

ACTION:
Board members to look at website

M. Europe: Checked address, information – quite a few changes. Discussed working conditions for the different countries, and the different roles the associations cover. We also discussed the GIM training/graduates – they are outside EMTC and this could be a problem. Ethical code: discussion about these in different countries. Voting process – all associations have their annual meeting at the beginning of the year.

ACTION:
Minutes / to do items have to be sent out as soon as possible (e.g. before end of October

7) **Role of Country Representative and the voting of new Country Representative.** There is a new Confirmation Document, that has to be

signed by the associations. This should be complete by 1st July 2007. Without this the country cannot be represented in the General Assembly.

ACTION:
This system is in existence from January 2007
(Details will be sent with the minutes.)

8) **Voting countries**

A list of countries eligible to vote was given, as follows -
VOTING: Heidi (Switzerland), Julie (UK) Camino (Spain), Marjke (Belgium), Jaakko (Finland), Ilse (Germany), Adrienne (France), Ferdinando (Italy), Mirdza (Latvia), Hanne Mette (Denmark), Carole (Luxembourg), Vilmante (Lithuania), Jasperin (Netherlands), Kirsten (Norway), Teresa (Portugal), Rut (Sweden), Elenena (Austria), Wita (Poland)
Non-voting: Ranka (Serbia).

9) **Report of financial situation** (Julie)

€2811 received this year from membership fees.
€4.998,45 total funds (26/09/2006)
EMTC paid only travel costs to Brussels for the Core Board, and the payment of the accountant Eventually the running costs of the Core Board should be paid (email, telephone, etc).
From the general assembly 2007 there will be a new system for the account, with three signatories (Core Board). The accountant will prepare formal accounts for this meeting.
Core Board members will make a projection of their running costs, and this symbolic payment to be made from 2007

ACTION:
To make a proposal for voting at the next general assembly. Account to be set up with the Core Board members as signatures.

Lunch break 1.15-3.05
Resume

10) **Report from members of the EMTR Commission.**

ACTION:

We make a document detailing the findings of the commissions and this will be sent with the minutes.

Report from Monika (team 1)
Discussion about describing the levels of membership – hierarchical is difficult but it is inevitable; however, can we avoid judgemental descriptors but still define the different levels? We discussed already in Bologna that we need the levels, and there is a difference in the training, and also in the clinical work. In Denmark there is an example of a profession doing this and the higher masters standard worked well. In Luxembourg there are 2 different levels of masters qualification. In Switzerland people who train often have a masters qualification already. Finland: good idea to have parallel levels of membership, but that we cannot avoid hierarchies; we have to compete with other professionals and this limits the choices. Best alternative might be level 1, 2, 3 membership. Belgium – associate member is OK but full member is not – it implies that 'full' means that the learning journey is ended. Germany – membership should not disagree with what we suggested before; can we refer back to the reform of education studies (i.e. system of bachelor and masters). But – if we make it depend only on the diploma – the qualification is the basis and there are other things that are also required. It is very likely that we need time to discuss and sit with this defining of the levels of membership. Switzerland – the level 1, 2, 3 is preferable – it is more neutral, but also clear. Maybe all we need to define the 3 levels at this stage.

<u>ACTION:</u>
Can we ask nationally how these levels are defined (what words are used)?
Also, in the health system, how are levels defined?

France: could it be masters or equivalent?

Report from Ferdinando (team 2)
Discussion: Austria – question concerning clinical experience – not currently doing this. But, maybe teaching is clinical work; maybe supervision is clinical work. Opinions will differ and we need further discussion. Portugal: some people have asked that previous teaching be included within clinical experience, yet teaching is not therapy. Also, what are we defining as clinical work? Finland – what do we do about trainers? They have much clinical experience, but they don't have the time to make the clinical work hours. Can you be a trainer and not have

clinical experience? More research has to be done to see how other professions have formed their register – and to see what cold be comparable from other situations. Recognising the value of both having the documentation and the time to think about this, and also sitting together as the EMTC and thinking about it. There is also the danger of over-regulation.

Teams 3 & 4 – not the time to give the details in the meeting, but these documents will be given with the minutes.

ACTION:
Do we take half a day or a day for the EMTR in future?
EMTR Commission (or group from Commission) to also meet together to discuss this and the future work.

Question from Austria: how long will this registration process take? (Perhaps this cannot be set right now – we have the foundation for this and we need some more discussion, within a small working party, that will report back to the next meeting.)

11) **Position of treasurer.**

Currently the Treasurer is not ex-officio, and this creates a split – to represent both the country and to remain neutral at the same time. Proposal that the treasurer becomes ex-officio for the future. Questions? Clarification of current situation.

Proposed: Ferdinando
Seconded: Jaakko
Vote: agreed (Heidi not present)

ACTION:
Treasurer is now ex-officio. Letter to be sent to UK professional association - the UK needs to elect new Country Representative

12) **Presentation of Netherlands conference.**

Context given, geographical location and reason for location (Eindhoven). Background to profession in Netherlands – 4 training

programmes. 1,040 registered art therapists and estimated 300 music therapists. For the conference, everyone will be in the same site. The concept and outline of the conference was given.

Discussion themes given:
How to stimulate Music Therapists in each country to participate?
Maybe some other things in terms of relaxation and social time could be outlined. Email to the EMTC a PDF file (like a registration booklet) along with registration form. Also the deadlines. Estimate €600 including accommodation. There will be a maximum of guests. The language will be English, and powerpoint will be included.

Tasks of EMTc delegates to promote European conference.
Meetings of the EMTC.
Details will be given later. Meetings will take place before or after the conference. Take care that you don't give the members too much work. A list to be given of EMTC people, including those who do and don't want to chair sessions.
Each country to make a poster to present MT in their own country (from guidelines given)?

Website: www.musictherapy2007.com

(break for tea)

Resume:

13) **Core Board: call for candidates for the next President, General Secretary & Treasurer**

Monika presented the situation on behalf of the Core Board.

Discussion about the future of the Core Board:

The current Core Board was voted in until 2007.

The EMTC is now in a process of transition – particularly with the EMTR. We are also working hard on developing clear systems and structures, that formalise the day-to-day working of the EMTC – this is not yet complete.

What is the best solution when the EMTC is in a transition place?

Does the Core Board stay on, through the transition process, or, is a new core board voted in?

Yesterday the Board discussed this. The feeling is that it would be best for the Core Board to remain working together during the next period. However, new people will bring new energy to the Board. So, we are asking you to hold in mind the possibility of creating a new Core Board.

To help you think about this, we can give the following advice:

- You need to identify 3 people.
- These 3 people must be able to work closely and constructively together. There should not be any one leader or dominant person, but the roles need to be flexible. This should be a group that works together, and not 3 individuals. We know this is not always an easy task, but it is very possible to develop this.
- You will have to be in contact almost every day.
- You have to be organised.
- Remember that the members of the core board have different tasks (please look at your Communication document & the Statutes & By Laws for more details)
- It is really helpful if you already have experience of a broader context for the profession. It is helpful that you have a doctorate.
- It is helpful if you have experience of a position of responsibility, for instance, involved in a training programme or a professional organisation.

Jaakko presented his response from the Board: the Core Board has much passive knowledge & we need a smooth and soft transition between this core board and the next; we need to transfer this passive information (in the form of documented structures and systems. EMTC has really done very serious work, hard work in more recent years.

Heidi presented her response from the Board: it is fortunate that we have a core board who has agreed to stay on for this period. We have the opportunity to also have some closer contact in the year before the vote. It is also important that there is a variety of personalities on the Board – there cannot be 3 people the same.

Jos commented on the experience of communication within the board. For instance, splitting is easy, for instance if someone is dominant or rigid in their thinking. In the past the president had the most power. Jos found out that the 3 are all on the same level, working together as a team. This

is the only way to work. It is a lot of work and even when you aren't actively working on the material you are holding the work in mind. Perhaps a new group can form and have some closer contact before the vote for the next Core Board.

Julie spoke about the challenges and rewards of the work and recommended that people think about this opportunity.

Monika said that we need to complete the formalising of the processes that the work involves.

ACTION:
TO BE DISCUSSED IN 2007.

Further questions/comments:
Will the present core board stop together? The passive knowledge they have has to be safeguarded. This is very important. (The core board members have already agreed to continue to document the good systems of practice. These documents can be used by all the future boards.)
It is very good that the topic is on the agenda and there is free discussion about this, and that there is time for decisions to be thought about.
What about the issue of country representatives and new people being elected? Perhaps we need to change the statutes so that Vice Presidents are elected at different stages.
The proposal for new Board members must come from within the delegates.

14) **EMTC Award.**

The award was received as a recognition of work done on behalf of the music therapy profession. Could we think of a honorary kind of membership? Or to recognise an association?

Guidelines for EMTC Award:
A person or association who promotes music therapy, for instance in terms of:
Involvement in publicising the profession internationally
Involved in communication (e.g. website, work with others, dialogue within the profession and outside it)
Involved in training
Involved in research
Involved in publication
Is forward looking/visionary

Operates in an international context
Serves the music therapy community

The first award was given to Dr Tony Wigram in Finland. We have now to decide the second EMTC award in the Netherlands.
A suggestion from the Board members was accepted. This person has promoted music therapy, and publishes, researches, & supports the profession in the background. The name of the person is to be kept secret until Eindhoven, when the presentation is made.

The Board proposed this person. The delegates felt this was a good decision – he has a long history of fulfilling the criteria.

Proposed by Jaakko
Seconded by Ilse
Vote: unanimous.

ACTION:
The next EMTC Award recipient is agreed
(this to be kept secret until the ceremony in Eindhoven).
Core Board sends a mail 3-4 weeks before Netherlands to remind everyone to bring a small teddy bear!

15) **Netherlands:**
How long do we need for the general assembly? The congress begins at 8pm in the evening – can we begin the day before? We can consider sending the country reports before.
The Board can work one day before.

ACTION:
General Assembly meets 14th August at 5pm.
Board members meet 13th August

16) **Think about the next candidate country for the general assembly in 2008.**

Think about the time and the dates. You offer meeting rooms, food and accommodation. North Europe. The EMTC offers some presentations – you can ask others than the Board members.

17) **Action points** :

(1) The Board makes a final Complaint Procedure document. We vote on this in Eindhoven, 2007

(2) The Board to make a new 'confirmation' document, to show that all member associations in any country have voted and agreed the Country Representative. This document will be used for 2007 membership (see also Action point 5).

(3) Board members to look at website, to see what extra information we have to add. We need a statement to show that we are working on recognition in Europe and that we have EU support for this

(4) Minutes / to do items have to be sent out as soon as possible (e.g. before end of October)

(5) From January 2007, the new Confirmation Document has to be signed by the associations in each country. This shows they voted and agreed their Country Representative. This process should be complete by 1st July 2007. Please send the information to your Vice President.

(6) New EMTC account to be set up. 3 people will sign this account – the Core Board members. The Core Board members will be eligible for the running costs of their work (e.g. email, telephone, post costs). Core Board members will make a projection for the amount of money each year. A proposal will be made in Eindhoven 2007, and there will be a vote. This payment will be made after the vote and agreement.

(7) The Registration Commission will complete their work at the end of June 2007 and they will present their work at the next General Assembly. There will then be a vote.

(8) All Country Representative ask how the levels of professional membership are defined in the health system (what words are used)?

(9) Do we need the Registration Commission (or members of the Commission) to meet together to discuss this further? Perhaps we take half a day or a day for the EMTR in future? Some months before Eindhoven, the Commission will meet for at least 2 days to complete their work.

(10) Treasurer is now ex-officio. UK to elect new Country Representative as soon as possible.

(11) Discussion about the further transition to the next Core Board in Eindhoven. Current Core Board will continue to document systems and procedures for the future running of the EMTC.

(12) The next EMTC Award Recipient will be kept secret until Eindhoven. Everyone to bring a small teddy bear from their country to Eindhoven, to present to the new recipient of the award. An official EMTC gift will also be made.

(13) Board to meet next during the afternoon of August 13th 2007. General Assembly 2007 to begin 14th August (5pm?).

(14) Everyone to think about the next candidate country for the General Assembly in 2008.

General Assembly closed at 6.15pm