5.11.

EMTC General Assembly Meeting Nantes 2008

Friday 30th October 2008

Present:
Jos De Backer, Monika Nöcker-Ribaupierre, Julie Sutton (Europe),
Stephen Sandford (UK), Jasperien van der Paasch (NL), Eszter Forgacs (HU), Ranka Radulovic (SRB), Elena Fitzthum (AU), Adrienne Lerner (F),
Marijke Schotsmans (BE), Kerstin Dyblie Erdal (NO), Rut Wallius (SE),
Marianne Wiltgen- Sanavia (LU), Teresa Leite (PT), Ilse Wolfram (D),
Wita Szulc (PL), Mirdza Peipare (LA), Vilmante Aleksine(LI), Gabi Frank (IS), Ferdinando Suvini (I), Heidi Fausch (CH), Jaakko Erkkila (FI), Patricia Sabbatela (E).

Apologies:
Hanne Mette Ridder (DK), Lilia Ahtarowa (BG), Christina Kalliodi (GR),
Valgerdur Jonsdottir (IS), Alice Pehk (EE).

1. Welcome
Jos De Backer welcomed everyone to the General Assembly

2. Minutes General Assembly Einhoven 2007
Communications matters
JDB – Emails issues were discussed
Memberships Fees are an issues
The EMTC need reliable country representatives
Emails are required to be responded within one week by country delegates
Jos pleaded to have a response please from country representatives
When a country do not respond the Core Board need to contact the country

Action Point
The north require to receive the excel document from Jaakko as they have not received it

Discussion regarding payment of membership fees
Jos explained that payment is required every year due to the fact that membership of different country associations for music therapists does fluctuate from year to year.

Thanks were expressed to Pieter van Den Berk with regard to his offer to make the website for free

Agreement on Minutes from 2007 General Assembly
Proposed: Monika Nöcker-Ribaupierre
Seconded: Patricia Sabbatela
All agreed the last minutes expect those who cannot vote

Jos explained that there is a live radio interview at11.45 - 12.45 Julie Sutton will take over to chair the meeting during that time, unless a radio can be found and we can listen to the programme

3. Agenda of the 2008 GA

Jos outlined the agenda for the meeting

4. Small update reports from each country

Finland

Trying hard to get recognition from state of Finland, discussion within the country now happening due to the terrible events that have happened with regard to young people. Lots of funded research projects, and liaison with international networks

Switzerland

Upgrade to Masters studies in French and German. 2012 art therapy will be an accepted profession, but not music therapy

Italy

Government have chosen to recognise the professional association, waiting the answer from the Italian government about whether the association is recognised
Training course lots of university are more and more interested in the new training courses, general courses of two or three years. Majority of the training courses are private, bad news of the research

Israel

Final stage of having the profession registered, this week final meeting with parliament, and hopefully a law will be passed by the end of 2008 2009 finally there will be a clearer definition of our opening and with the ministry of health. This development comes with a major problem as the Israeli parliament condition the music therapy profession with a first degree of psychology or social work, this is not the standpoint of the Israeli music therapy association. The association is facing dispute with the music therapy training programmes due to how the new law will effect them. Israel is very proud to have its first professor of music therapy

Lithuania

Training programme – arts therapies specialize within social work. Three years of approval for music therapy training programme, it is difficult to lobby due to changes in government, priority for training programmes is the international perspective for training. A private centre for arts therapies (art and music) has opened.

Latvia

Invitations to participate in next years art therapy conference

Poland

Music therapy is very popular, visit of famous of music therapists to Poland this year – Clive Robbins. New Journal is launched for art therapy? Many universities run courses, main problem is the proliferation of music therapy services by those who are untrained, founding of new association required to defend the music therapy profession

Germany
Some changes which will influence the next years. A Larger organisation has merged which will issue certification in the future. There are good links within the medical system, Music therapists work closely with the arts therapies. Huge issues with training, famous training has been closed down

Portugal
Year in progress, good news two music therapy programmes now showing interns within the workplace. Practice is growing with students coming out of programmes. Portuguese guidelines for applying for certification are moving forward. Waiting for government recognition. Supervision groups have been started.

Luxemburg
A few weeks ago a new association for arts therapies have been started, training is on a private level and many courses but not accredited. Main thing for association now is to have a frame and structures, formulated standards for a register and to have a vision for European standards.

Sweden
No news on recognition for music therapy, quality is getting stronger for music therapy in the field, two kinds of education programme, functional music therapy (200) and psychodynamic (100). Sweden are working on uniting these two groups as people are asking for an integrated training programme.

Norway
Music therapy is very alive
In August music therapy education is 30 years old. New music therapy "bible" a compilation of Norwegian music therapy has been published.

Belgium
one association instead of two now, working on official guidelines for music therapists in private practice. New website will be launched, planning to organise a big conference in 2009 along with the Netherlands

Spain
growing demand for music therapy but national standards being developed, discussion and meetings with training programmes, 21 associations for music therapy in Spain and issues with regard to training courses standards, minimum standards. Need for a unified approach across the country.

France
Evaluation of training programmes to see if they reach towards unified training
More music therapists working in private practice

Austria is small beautiful and different
50th birthday for music therapy, 8th book has been published now from WIM association. Good discussion around the roots of the Viennese school. Advice was offered to the group with regard to the what it takes with regard to the establishment of the profession and how long this takes, and it takes two generations to establish the profession

Serbia
Established rules around education and a new website, most important event is that health insurance has decided to pay for music therapy now

Hungary
Two training courses have started in the past two years. 50 people have graduated in this new system, but you need a relevant first degree in order to be a music therapists and this has precluded music teachers who want to train. New website to be created, difficulty with funding.

Netherlands
January this new year there is a new registration system which is in progress. Dutch association has a new website which is very with a forum to talk to each other, we have a current research on Speech music therapy with asphagia. Recognition with government is in progress. Changes in the board of the Dutch association and a new president. A new EMTC member for Netherlands will be appointed soon to replace the current member.

UK
The UK has been busy, we hope the National Institute for Clinical Excellence will validate Music therapy as a treatment for Schizophrenia, we work hard with our arts therapies colleagues to move forward together.

5. North, Middle and South Europe regions meetings

Vice President's Reported back
Feedback from the area meetings was that there was too little time for discussion

The North Feedback
Communication – Discussed some problems
Lack of general overview, request for a year wheel so everyone is more aware of what they need to do over the course of the year. Request that delegates update their addresses, hopefully the new website will solve these problems. Some people not sure about how the information they provide is used and how visible it is.

Living together with other professions eg Art Therapy "a strong but problematic marriage!" Problem that music therapy is strong and that our colleagues are perhaps scared of our position, we used the group to encourage each other and use our strength in our research base to support our relationships but also find the common core for what we do together.

EMTR – Questions with regard to this
Music therapy has a benefited from linking to education training institutions. The group advocated the academic training system. How do the hours of supervision and self-experience relate to the register?

Julie Sutton commented that the core board have discovered that this is a huge task and there will be times for change as the process of the register will not happen quickly. The situation now is not the same as it will be in three years time. Julie commented that she was interested in the communication between countries. Julie made the idea (not a proposal) that these could be translated to help everyone

further. Germany spoke in response, the statutes and the bylaws and the complaints procedure have been translated into Germany.
The website will help this with proposal to begin the best practice of translation. Spain spoke that these documents should be on the website. Sweden said that the discussion in the north group was not just about translation but the question about similar questions being posed with little feedback. Monica asked for an example - request for country report was mentioned as an example. Julie described this being work that needs to be done and the example of the year view was reiterated as being useful. Sweden mentioned that the core-board gather lots of information and this could be useful in terms of how it is used. Finland mentioned that the space between the meeting for everyone is difficult but as the core board meet weekly, then there is more that could be fed back. Netherlands spoke to ask how the group could be more involved over the whole year. Julie feels passionate about working together more and thanked the group for their helpful comments. Sweden spoke about interpreting the words, what does the EMTC mean for supervision or self-experience. Germany mentioned that there are definitions, Julie mentioned that sitting down and going through the material together is good, Sweden reading the documents realises that we mean a lot of different things. Julie mentioned Sweden holding that thought till this afternoon.

Middle Europe Feedback
Payment is an issue for middle but as you travel east this is more worse
Representatives are responsible for this. New members, issue of them not being able to come to this place, but the context for meeting in Vienna was proposed as more doable. Future of EMTC was discussed and the core board proposals. Austria spoke and said that from the 3rd November the Job Description for the new professor post will be available for one month only and Austria asked for us to go to our own associations to tell them about this wonderful job. So please show your interest. A very concrete proposal has been made with regard to the membership fee and the process. Julie will circulate a document relating to how this has gone this year and will make a proposal based on this year (this would be talked about later in the meeting this afternoon)

South Europe Feedback
Discussion around exchanging information, when we are here we are very friendly and have lots of ideas, but when we go home we have not so much time. The group decided that they want to share information and set up some little tasks for the next month and they have an opportunity to check how the work has gone. Problems within each countries is difficult especially if there are lots of professional associations. The group wanted the EMTC to define very clearly what a professional association actually is. Our task in the next month is the share the standards for all professional associations in the south of Europe and visit this material in May.

Germany responded that Monica has already given a definition of what the EMTC is (2003) however this is not widely available and will be brought to the general assembly this afternoon. Austria asked how our status is with the European Parliament. Julie responded that they have had meetings with European commissioners however the core-board have not met this year. Julie's feeling was that more work is required on the EMTR before another meeting in Brussels. Monica responded also to say that the EU is not the right place for music therapy to get official recognition. The encouragement was that we build up our own organisation

and keep it simple, keep it clear, “don’t turn into the EU” as this is too much work. Belgrade spoke that Psychotherapy was acknowledged by the EU however this was responded to by the UK to say that this did not grant state registration in particular countries.

Julie asked was recognition in each country the main focus for 60% or 70% of the general assembly. Germany responded to say that she had sent to Julie the details of what country’s have a national register. Monica asked that the paper would be sent to everyone. Luxemburg requested clarification on the meaning of the word “register” and whether it was a national register or a list from a professional body or an individual licence. The group wanted clarification on the terms of “licence”, “registration” “list” or “legal document”

Belgrade have requested that those countries that have a government for music therapists could share their work (Israel, Austria and the UK). Julie mentioned the Health Professions Council Website from the UK and that other countries could test their requirements for training against the government requirements in the UK that have been agreed for using the title “music therapist” that is protected by law in the UK. Belgrade mentioned that collaboration with the UK was very successful for their situation and with regard to Cochrane research collaboration in pushing forward the case for music therapy to be used there. The UK responded by saying that the research done in Belgrade had only helped their situation also.

Austria requested a list of the most important websites from countries are circulated including the websites that are relevant to registration and to the development of working towards registration in different countries. Julie thanked everyone for their contribution and stated that she felt the group were a very strong working group.
The group left to have lunch together for one hour.

Lunch was a delicious combination of Quiche of many kinds and then to follow fabulous cakes which were plentiful.

We resumed from lunch to begin work again at 13.57 hours. Jos was back from his interview.

6. Membership: overview of the current system and procedure & a clear structure (Core Board)

Julie talked through her proposal for the membership of the organisation. Next year there will be a more strict procedure for membership and submitting the requirements as in the rules in the EMTC Statutes.

Julie thanked everyone for their efforts in improving the membership and submission of membership requirements. Countries and or Associations need to be submitted by June each year or that country or organisation will be written to by the core board to say they have been excluded from the EMTC, there is no flexibility for this anymore.

Germany responded to say that she had discussed this situation with the 5 organisations in Germany, they do not want to have to fill out the “membership form” each year, and requested to not call the form the “membership” form when they are already members. Julie responded to say that this request did change the proposal that she had suggested and the need is for country representatives to nationalise or

localise the form in terms of what it is called so it is understood by each country. Julie stated the form could be changed to be called whatever works best for the country and some suggestions from the assembly were “membership dues form” or “membership renewal form” “annual renewal form” were all suggestions that might work more clearly for each country. It is the country delegates responsibility to tell their Associations of the new rules. Germany responded to ask if there is a financial report available. Julie responded to say there is a financial report available for this meeting and it will be tabled after the EMTR.

8. Website

Jos showed the assembly some sample pictures and framework of the new website to be launched -

- The website will have pictures of the country delegates
- The website will keep a record of up to date and current membership
- The website will have information about European conferences
- There will be translations of the rules and regulations and bylaws
- There will be a map where you can click on countries to get their information
- There will be an archive for material that is older
- The layout will be professional and have a proper layout

Monica commented that as she was responsible for the updating of the old website. Monica tried to receive information this year of all the training courses and this has been added to the new website and the country reports. There are new country reports on the website, but some of the country reports are very old and need updated. Monica thanked the group for sending their information

Spain asked for guidance on the types of information and format for the reports that are required. Julie responded that the idea of the year plan was useful in this context and this would help further. Germany brought up the issue of country reports and wanted to clarify that each year a maximum of one page is required for update to the EMTC general assembly each year.

This is the new Website Address –
www.emtc-eu.com

Jos requested photos from the group. There is a one week deadline for the group to respond to send their photograph and Jos said that you can send a new photograph to him if you want to replace one he might already have of you.

Luxemborg asked is it still that the website is only updated once per year. Monica said that the future will be that it will be updated very regularly and the future is that there will be a working group for the website and that for the next general assembly this will be sent up so delegates are to be appointed for this, one from the core board, one from the board and two delegates. Minutes and agendas will be posted on the website and all the working documents and structural material. Minutes and agendas will be sent out also. A forum is also a possibility for the site also to allow discussion.

7. EMTR

Julie fed back about the commission meeting in Ireland in February.
Julie outlined that following this meeting there was a decision to make a proposal to the EMTC about how they make decisions with member countries. Notes from Julie's report will be circulated to the General Assembly.

Sweden requested that the minutes of the meeting in Ireland could have been sent to delegates prior to the general assembly. Jos said that the meeting in Ireland was communicated to the general assembly at last year's general assembly and the minutes of this meeting were still incomplete. Sweden requested more information on the meeting be circulated in terms of the minutes of the last meeting.

Portugal requested an example on the working process of the commission and decision making process.

Germany responded by picking up the idea that Sweden had posed and perhaps the need to communicate to the delegates between the Ireland and the Nantes meeting however tasks were finalised in the meeting yesterday and also outlined some examples of the process that is involved.

Sweden responded that it is not necessary to be part of the decision but rather know more about the discussions that are involved. Sweden also asked how she transfer thoughts from members in her country to the commission. Germany answered as they have had strong reactions to the EMTR which are still going on which are controversial in the country. The advice was to encourage discussion within your organisation and then send comments to the commission.

Austria said that a project that takes more than 5 years is a dead project and which countries do really need the EMTR. Jos responded that the requirements of the first document were still the same as they always had been and that the work of the EMTR is being used for new training courses that are being set up and that the EMTR will be important in 10 years. Sweden requested that a timetable be requested for the work, however Jos responded that new means to use technology does not necessarily save time but making decisions saves time. Sweden requested more focus on the tasks that are required in terms of separating out the work that is required. Jos outlined that the core-board are doing lots of work, and there are clear ideas around, however the commission perhaps needs widened and how we can use this assembly further.

Germany mentioned that a newsletter would be a good idea, however it would require someone to do it if this was decided.

Luxemborg mentioned that the sharing of information is two way process and that delegates do need to ask for information.

A vote was taken on the process Julie had proposed and was agreed by all

Financial Report (added to agenda)

A financial projection was outlined for the coming year including the website costs, core board hotel accommodation

Julie outlined the current financial situation and the report will go with the minutes of this meeting.

Financial Report
Proposed Heidi
Seconded by Ferdinando
Voted and agreed by all (Except Poland)

9. Next GA in Vienna

Austria proposed that the next GA would be in Vienna, the Associations are very happy to invite you. The location would be in a monastery in central Vienna in May.

Sunday17th May	Music Therapy Conference (free attendance for delegates)
Monday 18th May	Core Board meet
Tuesday 19th May from 2.00pm	General Assembly starts
Wednesday 20th May	General Assembly Continues
Thursday 21st May	A tour for delegates may be organised

At this point the Assembly had a short ten minute break

10. Update on European Conference in Spain 2010

Patricia circulated to the General Assembly Delegates an information pack on the conference in Cadiz. The Assembly expressed their thanks for this work in preparation.

11. Membership of the World Federation of Music Therapy

Monica outlined that since she had been involved in the WFMT things have changed and there is no place for them in the organisation. Discussion was made about the benefits for this membership or not. Could the EMTC profit from our work now or not? Portugal commented that the EMTC began as an informal group because of the work of the WFMT and that if they are restructuring we should give them the time to do this. Monica mentioned that Patricia is a already a member of the WFTM council as the chair of the Commission on education and training.

Action: Jos to check what type of benefit we would have and if a confederation like the EMTC can be a member of the WFMT and Jos will bring to the next meeting.

12. Proposals for the new Core Board and Board; issue of non-EU Countries as part of the board/any other non-voting country in the future

Jos outlined the plans for the transition from the current to the new core-board. From The next GA will decide the new board and from 2010 the new core-board will start their work. A discussion happened with regard to the work of finding the new core-board and finding the balance of the new group which would make effective. A request was made for the regions to meet for a bit longer today to think about the process around collating three names by the end of March. There was informal agreement that Core-board members should hold a Phd.

Jos posed the question should there be voting for non-EU members if there are votes required for important political work. Issue relating to Associate Members and

Observers was discussed. Is the EMTC a confederation for the EU or Europe. Issue relating to the fact the EMTC are not a "political" organisation as a full member there will be political consequences around whether some countries cannot be full members. **Jos is to check with Brussels and ask the question around this and ask that they write down the rules and changing the statutes if we need too.** Portugal commented that we were advised to be a strong European organisation rather than replicating the EU. Norway requested some information before the next GA for discussion. Israel finds it very difficult to be here if they are not a voting member given the costs to be here.

13. Matters Arising

a) Jos – In 2003 a definition for what an association was proposed –

An *Association* is defined as:

An official organisation representing music therapists in any one country or an official organisation representing the development and practice of music therapy in any one country.

This excludes schools, training or research institutes clinical centres and community centres offering music therapy training

Proposed by: Ilse Wolfram
Seconded by: Jaakko Erkkila
This was voted by all.

b) Monika has to speak at a conference next year. She will circulate a brief questionnaire to send to delegates which relates to research in your own country, she will be very grateful if you will please respond to her until December 1rst.

c) Ilse Wolfram will draft a version of the document relating to education of music therapists and whether bachelor and masters level and circulate to the commission for comment

d) Rut Wallius requested to be involved in the commission earlier than the deadline for new members.
Jos ended the meeting by thanking the delegates for the work done today and the long hard work and energy and investment and fun and finances required to be here. He expressed his appreciation for everyone taking time to come here and the good feeling there is in the group to work and take the work seriously. This is the core-boards reward. Especial thanks were offered to Adrienne. Adrienne responded to say it is a pleasure and that the European Confederation General Assembly in France has really helped music therapy in France by encouraging the French music therapists to be more involved in their own country's federation and in increasing its membership.

Jaakko then presented a little present to a Jos (an older man today). The present was instructions on how to build a very big mechanical elephant, just like the same job he has done so well of building the EMTC which also is able to live to a very old age like an elephant does.

The meeting was closed at 1730 hours

Fine :0)

written by Stephen Sandford