EMTC GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 6th-7th 2013
Norwegian Academy of Music, Slemdalsveien 11, Oslo, Norway

Present: Dr. Elena Fitzthum, *Austria*, Freya Drossaert, *Belgium*, Marketa Gerlichova, *Czech Republic*, Magda Papadopulu-Kantaris, *Cyprus*, Signe Dalgaard-Nielsen, *Denmark*, Dr. Alice Pehk, *Estonia*, Dr. Esa Ala Ruona, *Finland*, Dr. Nicole Duperret, *France*, Dr. Melanie Voigt, *Germany*, Maria Arapoglou, *Greece*, Dr. Valgerdur Jónsdóttir, *Iceland*, Elide Scarlata, *Italy*, Mirdza Paipare (+ Dzintra Zarina), *Latvia*, Dr. Vilmante Aleksiene, *Lithuania*, Marianne Wiltgen-Sanavia, *Luxemburg*, Kerstin Dyblie Erdal, Regional Coordinator, *Norway*, Agnieszka Szymajda, *Poland*, Dr. Ranka Radulovic, *Serbia*, Dr. Eva Kralova, *Slovakia*, Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, *Spain*, Rut Wallius, *Sweden*, Heidi Fausch, Regional coordinator, (+ Bettina Kandé), *Switzerland*, Albert Berman, *The Netherlands*, Tessa Watson, *United Kingdom*, Dr. Hanne Mette Ridder, president, Dr. Adrienne Lerner, vice-president general secretary, Ferdinando Suvini, vice-president treasurer.
Last minute Apologies: Vilmante Aleksiene, *Lithuania*.
Excused: Anya Fekete, *Hungary*, Liliya Ahtarova, *Bulgaria,* Teresa Leite, *Portugal*.

1) WELCOME AND OPENING

Dr Hanne-Mette Ridder (President of EMTC) welcomed all to the meeting and declared the assembly open.
Action approved: It was approved that Tessa Watson would take the minutes for the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting in Estonia 2012 were approved.

2) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hanne-Mette gave the President's report and outlined the work of the core board. She spoke about the following areas;

Aims and reasons for the existence of the EMTC:
Collaboration and commitment
Collaboration and exchange – our role is to work together. The EMTC has respect for the conflicts and cultural differences reflected in training courses and different associations.

The work of the EMTC covers the following areas:

- Organisation
- Exchange
- Development

- EMTR
- Member associations
- Ethics, training, research

Specific meetings and tasks have included:

- European congress in Oslo
- EMTR roundable
- EMTC poster
- Meeting at the Oslo conference about the future collaboration between EMTC and Israel

ORGANISATION

- Complaint from MAUT; this was considered according to the complaints procedure. Following this, it was decided that the Czech vote was accepted and that Marketa Gerlichova will be the country representative.
- Newsletters (June 2012, Sept 2012, Dec 2012, March 2013, June 2013)
- Core board are in close contact through email, telephone conference. They had a meeting in Brussels in February 2013 in order to meet with Mr Martien, the EMTC accountant and to prepare the GA.
- The board are in contact with the Country Representatives

EXCHANGE

- Democratic process and transparency
- National associations should assist with communication, sharing and supporting the work of EMTC
- Country representatives should attend the GA, network, discuss issues and make decisions as required
- Website – aims for the coming year include more information to be posted visibly, and provide easy access to information and resources
- Sharepoint – Pieter van den Berg is still administrating this. The content depends upon member activity – please use it! The main function of Sharepoint at the moment is as an archive for internal documents. It is also an important resource for Country Representatives. NB Passwords are restricted to CRs and should not be shared. Contact Adrienne if you need a new password which will then be sent to you after the GA.
- EMTR – this is on the agenda for the GA. Rut Wallius is the EMTR co-ordinator (Ilse Wolfram has retired as the EMTR administrator).

EMTC member associations in 2013

There are 28 member countries (there is one new full member - Slovakia). There are 42 member associations, representing 5101 Music Therapists (2011: 4268 and 2012: 4726).

Since the GA in 2012 there are new country representatives for the following countries:

- Italy – Elide Scarlata

- Latvia - Ezintra Zarina
- Norway – Ingeborg Neblung
- Slovakia – Eva Kralova
- Spain – Melissa Mercadal-Brotons
- Switzerland – Bettina Kande

Thanks were given to **Heidi Fausch, Kerstin Erdal, Patricia Sabatella, Stefano Navone** for their work with the EMTC.

Country Information
Please use the 10 categories that are listed at point 18, page 10.
The deadline for this information is September 1st 2013.

Themes for the core board in 2013/2014

- Revision of procedures and bylaws
- Visibility and sharing
- Music therapy definitions
- Recognition and registration

Dates and deadlines

- September 1st 2013 – country information for the website (see point 18 at page 10). Please send to Adrienne Lerner.
- October 21st 2013 – information on the website on each member country. Ferdinando Suvini will send mail.
- September 1st 2013, December 1st 2013, March 1st 2014 – deadline for mailing information to the core board to share in the newsletters
- May 14-18th 2014 – GA 2014 (including pre-meetings and symposium)
- Hosting of GA 2015. Deadline for proposals: 30 April 2014. Voting at the GA in May.

This report was accepted by those present, with a round of applause in appreciation of the Core Board's hard work.

3) Financial report 2012/2013

This was presented by Ferdinando Suvini (Treasurer). Information was given about the different countries, their associations and fees for 2012. Ferdinando then presented the expenses for the core board meeting in Brussels and Tallin, and other costs for 2012 (including the website, postal costs, taxes for change of address, administrator). The total for these was Euro 3.640,33. Ferdinando gave the costs for the EMTR and for EMTC association fees. He then gave a provisional balance for 2013, and the current state of the EMTC accounts (pro pack and savings accounts).

Albert Berman (Netherlands) asked if money had been reserved to develop the website. Hanne Mette informed the meeting that the website administrator, Philipe Lecoq was likely to undertake some of this work for a low cost, which was most appreciated.

Esa Ala-Ruona – (Finland) asked if the meeting was happy with the fee of 1 euro per member of the association. Those present felt that this was still an acceptable fee.

The Financial report was approved with a round of applause in appreciation of Ferdinando's hard work.

4) Reports from the regions

Northern Europe - Kerstin

Southern Ireland would like to become a member, but their application has not yet been received.

Middle Europe - Heidi

This region has welcomed Slovakia. There has been a complaint from Czech which is now resolved.

5 and 6 European Music Therapy Register

- Rut Wallius gave a presentation about the history and current direction of the EMTR. A summary of this presentation is given below.
- The EMTR has been discussed since the 1990s, initially with the aim to be connected and administered by the EU. After a meeting with the EU it was decided that this was not possible, but that the register would be administrated by the EMTC.
- The EMTC website states that "The purpose of establishing a European Register of Music Therapy is to ensure that music therapists are trained to the EMTC standards and to promote the mobility of professional music therapists within Europe". This statement is related to the Bologna Declaration, which is a collaboration between 47 European countries to encourage exchange in higher education.
- Since 2010, the EMTR has been in operation, with 3 levels (EMTR-BA, EMTR- MA and EMTR-supervisor).
- Rut Wallius advised the meeting that there are currently 6 EMTR-registered music therapists and 5 applications waiting. She suggested that this is a small number, and although promoting the register will take time, maybe the process needs adjusting. She presented the views that have been sent to her from the EMTC country representatives:

The European Music Therapy Register.... FOR

- Demonstrates that music therapy is a profession that exits and is being used throughout Europe
- It is a help and a guide to gain registration on a national level
- It supports dialogue and exchange between music therapists in Europe
- Stimulates individual professional development
- Supports the ambitions to create training programmes of a high quality
- Can guarantee that the music therapy that is performed within a research project is of appropriate quality
- It protects our patients/clients/service users

The European Music Therapy Register.... AGAINST

- For many (most?) countries the EMTR is of no significance in order to achieve a protected title
- Too much work is connected to administer the applications with too much money involved (and perhaps the process is too complicated)
- The fee is too high and thus excluding for some
- The EMTR does not have significance relating to work in the EU – eg all European members can work across Europe without any registration because of the European working directives
- Self-experience and supervision are concepts that are interpreted differently according to culture and tradition
- The cost associated with self-experience and supervision is very high
- The current criterion do not match those of the countries that already have a protected title
- They do not show the real competence of a music therapist (many well experienced music therapists education at graduate or research level do not qualify)
- Music therapy is not equal to psychotherapy
- Academic titles/categories may not be helpful. Maybe they need adjusting to match the difference across Europe

Other comments and ideas suggested through the survey

- The information on the website needs to be clearer
- Specify how the EMTR fee is being spent to prevent it from being felt to be inappropriate
- The member countries need to be given a clear idea about the development of the European identity as a priority
- A register could be used to stimulate CPD and exchange between music therapists by giving points to teaching, giving workshops, doing research etc

There was a brief discussion in the meeting, relating firstly to the clarity of the aim/purpose of the Register, the fee, and simpler titles (eg clinical music therapist, training music therapist).

Rut then presented the conclusions of the EMTR committee who had met today (6/8/13)

- The titles will be revised to titles that do not include academic labels
- There will be no change to the criteria
- The administration process will be simplified
- The registration fee will be kept at 200 euros (plus a reduced application fee of 50 euros)
- A promotion package will be formed for the conference in Vienna
- The website will be clearer with a checklist added

Further discussion on this topic will be possible at the Roundtable at the conference on Friday morning. Thanks and applause was given to Ilse Wolfram for accepting the role as administrator in this first period of the EMTR.

8) Country reports

Each Country Representative present gave a short report on the situation in their country. New information from the countries is updated at the website.

10) Presentation of application to host the EMTC GA 2014 from Luxemburg

Marianne Wiltgen-Sanavia gave a presentation about the proposal for hosting the EMTC GA next year. Marianne has worked with her colleagues to find a competitively priced venue which could host the GA, accommodation and all catering etc. This venue is also near to the city centre, and would allow delegates to explore the cultural and historical attractions of Luxemburg. Marianne stressed the importance of hosting the meeting for Luxemburg Music Therapists. There are 20 or so Music Therapists and another 20 or so Art Therapists, and they would greatly welcome the congress in order to promote and give authority to their work. The date will be the **14-18th May 2014**. It is easy to travel to Luxemburg. The GA will take place from May 16-17. The Core Board, Board and EMTR meetings will begin on May 15th.

A vote was taken. There was a unanimous vote in favour of the EMTC GA being held in Luxemburg in 2014.

Action approved; that the EMTC GA will be held in Luxemburg in 2014.

11) The EMTC award

Two nominations were received.

Firstly Jos de Backer, for his contribution to the development of music therapy education and practice in Europe. Also his personal qualities of warmth and openness have encouraged collaboration and development.

Secondly, Brynjulf Stige and Gro Trondalen (together), for their active contribution to the EMTC from the early stages of the organisation. Following this, the nominees have devoted their time to research, political work, international dissemination and teaching in music therapy in their own countries and in Europe. The nominees are from two different training courses but they have shown how colleagues from different approaches can collaborate for the benefit of music therapy in Europe.

A vote was taken.

Action approved; The award was made to Brynjulf Stige and Gro Trondalen. The justification for the award will be uploaded at the website.

12) Presentation and discussion of revised bylaws

Hanne Mette described the background to the revision of the bylaws, and the difference between bylaws and statutes (that preferably should remain unchanged). Suggested changes in bylaws must be circulated to the EMTC Country Representatives prior to a general assembly, and a vote made following discussion at the EMTC. Hanne Mette explained that the core board have been working on the bylaws over the past year, and that the revision of these is an on-going process. Voting to pass the laws is undertaken via majority vote.

The suggested changes relate to the role of the Country Representatives, Regional Co-ordinators and to the fees for each country. Also to nominations to the Board and voting procedures

themselves. Most of the suggested changes are at present accessible in operational documents that are available at the SharePoint. When clearly inscribed in the bylaws, these regulations will be clear to all.

There was discussion about particular points in the bylaws, in particular the characteristics of the professions who are paying the fees (e.g. do students or non-professional members count in the fees). After a long discussion it was decided that this is up to each association, in order to accommodate different situations across Europe. This was a point of some debate, as some countries felt that it was important that only Music Therapists should be able to contribute to EMTC through their Associations as there is conflict between qualified and non-qualified Music Therapists.

Hanne Mette encouraged Country Representatives to make suggestions about changes to the byelaws that could be discussed over the year and at the next general assembly.

A vote was taken which unanimously supported the changes as presented.
Action approved; that the bylaws will be revised as presented at the EMTC website.

13) Regional meetings

A vote of Region Coordinators was taken at the regional meetings.
Action approved; three new regional coordinators were duly elected for the board: South: Ranka Radulovic. Middle: Elena Fitzthum. North: Alice Pehk.

14) Plenum; regional reports and presentation of new regional co-ordinators Northern Europe: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom

Kerstin opened the meeting by inviting discussion about news and views in this region.

Registration
Esa Ala-Ruona described the process of applying for registration in **Finland**. There has been correspondence with the government and now there is a deadline of the end of December 2013. The information/arguments that they have been presented ~~with~~ do not seem relevant. The delay seems to be related to a concern about over-regulation, and there has been much avoidance of progress.

The country representative for **Iceland** reported on their progress towards registration. The professional association has had a meeting with the Minister of Health and is awaiting their response.

In **Sweden**, Rut Wallius reported that they have also been told that there are issues related to numbers and over-regulation. It was discussed whether the Scandinavian countries might be well placed to join together and make a joint representation to their countries.

Tessa Watson (**UK)** noted that in 1996 when Music Therapy in the UK gained registration, they worked with Art and Drama Therapy and are regulated together as 3 professions under one umbrella as Arts Therapies. Now, the trend seems to be towards less regulation, and the UK regulator has voiced concerns about over regulations, stopping the process of regulation for Dance Movement Therapists. This is the website for registration in the UK http://www.hpc-uk.org/

Alice Pehk **(Estonia)** explained that Drama, Art, Movement and Music Therapy were all working together to be registered but last Spring there was a realisation that the criteria did not meet the needs of these professions. It has been hard to separate from this process as it is linked to the University and the vision of the future of expressive arts therapies in Estonia. Now, the association is pursuing registration through psychotherapy professions /standards for the music therapists using music psychotherapy in their work. Alice further reported that they would like to create their own standards for Music Therapy registration.
Esa (**Finland)** noted concerns that because not all Music Therapists work in a psychoanalytic way, it may not be helpful to link with psychotherapy for registration. This is a complicated question and tied to national cultures.

CPD was also noted as a useful way to give evidence of readiness for registration. Eg showing that the profession has ways of maintaining high standards and can bring this to registration.

Bettina Kande reported that in **Switzerland** a report was commissioned to find out what it would take for Music Therapists to be registered. Many questions have been sent to government, in order to table questions in parliament that must be discussed and answered.

In **Latvia,** there is also umbrella registration with Art, Drama, Dance therapists. Music Therapists work within this group, with a specialty of developmental work (this involves training in physical medicine).

Esa and Rut suggested collecting information about registration in every country. This could be posted on sharepoint. Please respond to requests for this information and share your country's journey towards registration.

Regional representative
Kerstin described the role of Regional Co-ordinator: to liaise with the Core Board and with Country Representatives within the region. Kerstin noted that the next representative will need the motivation and time to read and respond to emails and information. The role also involves leading the meeting at the GA, and meeting with the board prior to the GA. Kerstin invited any country representatives present to state their interest in the role of Regional Co-ordinator. Alice Pehk (Estonia), proposed by Rut, was interested in accepting the role and the group was pleased to support the choice of Alice as new Northern Europe Regional Co-ordinator.

Sharepoint
Tessa suggested that Sharepoint could usefully be more accessible. For example the link to Sharepoint at the website could be more visible. At the moment it is accessed via http://emtc-eu.com/delegates-bis/ where you have to scroll down to the bottom of the site, or it is accessed directly via http://emtc-eu.com/delegates-bis/ Bettina suggested that perhaps an email could be automatically prompted when there is a new post on Sharepoint. Rut noted that she had found it was not possible to upload a document, there were prompts on the webpage for more passwords but Rut's country representative password was not accepted. There are several possibilities for group share rooms at the internet, and the core board encourage the country representative to take action if they realize a relevant solution.

There was then general discussion about different approaches within countries within the region. The meeting was a productive and encouraging opportunity to share experiences of music therapy across the region.

Central Europe: Belgium, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Hungary

Heidi gave feedback from this regional meeting. Heidi advised that some country members in this group found it too expensive to come to the congress because of the situation in their countries and the finances of their associations. Heidi's group asked that the option of some country delegates staying with other Music Therapists and their families in order to save costs in the future be considered.

Sharepoint – similar points were noted to Northern Europe. For example, easier to use and a clearer layout.

Many country representatives are reluctant to use their own personal email accounts for EMTC business and asked if there might be a possibility of using EMTC email accounts? Elena reminded those present that emails to the group should be used for EMTC information only, and should have in the subject line the following: EMTC: (then the rest of the topic heading).

Heidi noted the publication of her new book '*Music Therapy and Psychodrama*' and was congratulated on this. This region also shared information and experiences across their region in a productive and positive meeting.

Southern Europe: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Serbia

Ferdinando led this group due to the absence of Stefano Navone.
Issues were discussed relating to the number of associations in some countries (eg Spain, which has 9 associations). Dr Ranka Radulovic (Country Representative for Serbia) will take on the role of Regional Co-ordinator from this point onwards. Ranka noted the inspiration and problem solving skills that the group has, and felt that there are resources to tackle issues and challenges in the future. Priorities were established for 1 year and 3 years. For example, guidelines will be drawn up to establish umbrella associations in Italy and Spain. Countries that have 1 association will draw up

a rule book for Music Therapy associations and Music Therapy activities (eg non-professional activities). France was viewed as a great inspiration as they have many working groups. Their task is to establish more contact with the Ministry regarding registration.

This regional group felt that there should not be Country Representatives who live outside their countries; however Hanne Mette noted that this was raised as an issue last year and the one exception was approved (Greece). It was noted that the Country Representative for Greece, Giorgos Tsiris has a strong connection with Greece and is experienced as being a strong and reliable colleague.

Vote of thanks

Ferdinando gave a vote of thanks and a gift to Kerstin in recognition of the excellent organisation and facilities for the EMTC GA this year.

16) Presentation of core board

Election: EMTC core board 2013-2016

Hanne Mette stated that she, Adrienne Lerner and Ferdinando Suvini accepted to stand again for the next 3 year period. However, she noted that we should all work for having three new people standing in these positions at the next election in Vienna 2016.
The current Core Board left the room whilst voting took place, and Hanne Mette, Adrienne and Ferdinando were duly elected.

17) Use of the EMTC network for surveys and questionnaires (appendix 3)

If you wish to use the network for collecting surveys and questionnaires, please check with a member of the Core Board prior to sending this. Ensure that you share the information that you have collected on Sharepoint in order to inform the whole EMTC.
The newsletter can also be used to share information in this way.

18) Website: information externally and internally

Updating of country information

From now on, the Country Report on the website will be called **Country Information.** This is factual information that should follow the headings given in the June 2013 newsletter, as follows:

1 History and background
2 Definition of music therapy
3 Theoretical foundation
4 Recognition and approval (only short text. If you want to add details, you can add links to your national websites)
5 Training (level of training, content and overview of courses. The contact details about training courses are to be listed here: http://emtc-eu.com/courses/)
6 Professional associations (only short text. A list with member associations and contact details are to be listed here http://emtc-eu.com/members/)
7 Research

8 Selected links (eg journals, online resources and databases)
9 Other (such as working areas, or what you find important for your country)
10 Updated by * * (your name and email)

The Country Reports, that include the short update from each country presented at the GA, will be included in the minutes of the GA and uploaded on the website as part of the minutes; please send your short country report to Adrienne Lerner.

The WFMT with the Regional Liaison for Europe Ms. Angela Harrison, UK, link to the Country Information via http://www.wfmt.info/WFMT/Regional_Information.html

19) Topics for the EMTC to address in the coming period

20) Definition of working groups and individual tasks

The following working groups from 2012 gave updates. These groups will continue in 2013

CPD

Freya sent out a survey on CPD. The results were collated and the next step is to discuss what the next step might be in relation to EMTC CPD (Tessa and Freya to lead, Alice, Nicole).

Research

Links have been made to the Cochrane Reviews, and to Doctoral Training courses. There is now a link 'music therapy research' on the EMTC home page. (Marketa, Vilmante, Giorgos, Hanne Mette, Soren and Esa).

Ethics

Elena will take the work forward with the group (Elena, Adrienne, Spela, Agnieska and Rut).

Recognition group and qualification for MT

There has not been any contact between members of this group (Magda, Melanie, Giorgos, Elide).

Eastern European working group

This group continues to communicate by email on issues relating to their area (Ranka, Mirdza, Spela, Marketa, Nicole, Agneska, Alice). This group, directed by Ranka, has been set up for to resolve specific East European question, interests, demands or issues.

Vision and mission think tank

There was discussion about this group and whether it was useful work for the EMTC. Esa, Marianne, Melanie, Rut, Albert.

Ethical code or guidelines for conferences

Elena (Austria) asked that EMTC work on developing an ethical code for conferences, relating to the protection of clinical material and to the capacity for consent. This particularly relates to photographs and audio and video material. She suggested that it could be a condition of submitting an abstract or applying for a conference place. For example that the delegate/speaker

has to tick a box to agree that they have met ethical standards. This could also extend to safe storage of audio/visual material (eg encrypting material, password protecting, anonymisation) and also labelling of material (eg with emergency conference number/email).
Esa raised the point that delegates should be informed not to take photographs that include any patient identifiable information. There was a situation where some photos from a conference were uploaded to Facebook which included some clinical material.
Elena asked that any useful material relating to this issue should be sent to the Core Board. This link from the NHS in the UK may be useful;
http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/infogov and
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/confidentiality-nhs-code-of-practice

Music Therapy Day
New initiatives were discussed such as a music therapy day across Europe. It was thought that perhaps this could be held on 'Blue Monday', which in 2014 is on 20th January. There was debate about this and the different cultural ideas, and definite interest in taking the idea forward. Since 2011 the UK have had a music therapy week biannually, and the Netherlands have a day planned for January 2014. The working group for this topic will be Albert Berman (Netherlands), Magda Papadopoulou-Kantaris (Cyprus), Freya Drossaert (Belgium), Nicole Duperret (France), Ranka Radulovic (Serbia), Vaigerour Jonsdottir (Iceland).

EMTC Website
Philippe LeCoq will continue to work on this. Hanne Mette asked if there were Country Representatives who were interested in making comments and helping with the development of this (this is to do with content and layout and not technical ability). Bettina Kande (Switzerland) and Eva Kralova (Slovakia) will be part of this task, with assistance from Soren. Tessa Watson (UK) is happy to edit text if it is sent to her by email. Adrienne has informed Philippe about this working group.

NB the British Association for Music Therapy have recently invested money in their website which has been a success; see http://www.bamt.org/. This includes a 'donate' button; http://www.bamt.org/support-us-british-association-of-music-therapy/donate-now.html. This linked with Ranka's idea about raising funds for EMTC.

Ingeborg Neblung (Norway) is happy to take over Kerstin's role as website worker.

Other issues
Ranka noted that she was sorry that Stefano Navone was not able to meet with the EMTC and to resolve the issue that had arisen between the Italian associations. This was echoed by others at the meeting.
Country Representatives were encouraged to bring issues to the EMTC GA during meeting times rather than discuss issues outside the meeting, in order to model good collaboration, even during difficult times. The Core Board can assist with issues of this kind.

It was noted that there is also a complaints procedure. It was questioned if there should be a code of conduct for Country Representatives (which might include confidentiality). However Esa noted that the more we write guidelines, the more we set limits for EMTC.

21) The Vienna 2016 conference (Elena Fitzhum and Monika Geretsegger)

Monika was not able to attend this part of the meeting. Elena gave some details, including the website at http://www.emtc2016.at/. It is hoped that the conference will be 'green'. Work is ongoing on the conference.

Any other business

Kerstin thanked the EMTC for coming to Oslo and for her enjoyable years of service. A round of applause was given in recognition of her long service to EMTC.