EMTC GENERAL ASSEMBLY
At University of Applied Sciences, Muenzstr. 12, 97070 Wurzburg, Germany
Pending official vote of approval at the General Assembly in 2016
Saturday 16th May 2015
9.00am – 17.30pm

Present: Hanne Mette Ridder (President), Adrienne Lerner (Vice President, Secretary), Ferdinando Suvini (Vice President, Treasurer), Elide Scarlata (Italy), Albert Berman (Netherlands), Teresa Leite (Portugal), Maria Teresa Del Moral (Spain), Tali Gottfried (Israel), Snezana Oluski (Serbia), Teodossi Tzinguilev (Bulgaria), Bettina Kande-Staehelin (Switzerland), Agnes Varga (Hungary), Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland), Melanie Voight (Germany, host), Antonia Hadjieftychoiu (Cyprus), Evangelia Papanikolaou (Greece), Freya Drossaert (Belgium), Alice Pehk (Estonia), Dzintra Zarina (Lithuania), Zita Abramaviciute (Latvia), Nicole Duperret (France), Marketa Gerlichova (Czech Republic), Marianne Wiltgen (Luxembourg), Elena Fitzthum (Austria), Rut Wallius (Sweden), Karina Erland Jensen (Denmark), Esa Ala-Ruona (Finland), Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway), Tessa Watson (UK, minutes)
Apologies: Valgerdur Jónsdóttir (Island)
Replacements for Absent Country Representatives: Serbia, Denmark, Latvia, Spain

9.00 – 10.15

1) WELCOME AND OPENING

Dr Hanne-Mette Ridder (President of EMTC) welcomed all to the meeting, including the three new country representatives, and declared the assembly open.
Action approved: It was approved that Tessa Watson would take the minutes for the meeting on Saturday and Sunday.

OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2014

The minutes of the meeting in Luxembourg 2014 are on the website and have been distributed to Country Representatives. **Action approved:** These minutes were unanimously approved.

2) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hanne Mette made a report from the Core Board, and reminded those present of the tasks and roles in the EMTC and of Country Representatives. She spoke about the following areas;

- National associations
- Country representatives
- Core Board
- Board Regional Co-ordinators. South: Ranka Radulowic (Serbia), Middle: Elena Fitzthum (Austria), North, Alice Pehk (Estonia)

Member associations

In EMTC in 2015, there are 28 member countries, 43 member associations, representing 5683 Music Therapists. There are 3 new Country Representatives, as follows: Hungary - Agnes Varga, Bulgaria - Teodossi Tzinguilev, Cyprus - Antonia Hadjieftychiou. Tali Gottfried also joined the meeting from Israel

as an observer, after a 5 year break from Israeli involvement in EMTC. It is hoped that Israel will join again as a full member in the future.

EMTC Activities 2014-2015

The focus of the activities in the Core Board have been on three themes:

- Recognition
- Registration
- Visibility and Exchange

These have been delivered through the following actions:

- Administration and organisation
- EMTR (Rut Wallius – Co-ordinator, plus 9 commission members. They have been working on the streamlining of the application process)
- Approaches (editing, writing, reviewing). One of the most important products of these themes has been the edition of Approaches, which is just about to be published.
- Exchange and presentations (including conference presentations and the EMTC symposium, contact with the European Commission Directorate)

Specific activities this year have been:

- *Website*
  Personnel are as follows: Website administrator – Philippe Lecocq, Web designer – Bettina Kande-Staehelin (Switzerland), Webmasters – Soren Hald/Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway), Website system – Wordpress template. The aim is for all relevant information to be posted on the website and to give easy access to information and resources. See http://emtc-eu.com/downloads/ for information and downloads.
- Facebook group exchange – this has been set up over the past year as a closed group for Country Representatives. This has been quite active, with CRs sharing information, events and pictures
- Preparation of Vienna conference 2016, preparation of 2019 conference
- The first European Music Therapy Day (15/11/14), organised by Albert Berman (Netherlands)
- Thanks and congratulations were noted for Knight Pieter van den Berg who has worked on the website and who has recently received a national honour.
- Working groups

Tasks for 2015-2016

- Presenting on EMTC (at conferences)
- EMTC working groups follow up – these will be more closely followed up in 2015/2016.
- Website to function as an 'open office', including CVs of CRs on the website
- Rounding off the last year of the Core Board, and planning the new Core Board. This has traditionally been a trio. Applicants are invited to start the process of putting together a potential Core Board, that will be voted on in Vienna 2016. The positions will become effective just after the GA in Vienna 2016.
- Elect GA 2017 host country. There has been a statement of intent from the Netherlands.
- Future dates and deadlines:
    - June 1, 2015 – CRs to providing updated information for the website (country information)

- **July 1, 2015 to 1 November 1** – Call for abstracts for the 10th European Music Therapy conference in Vienna: www.emtc2016.at
- **August 10, 2015** – Mail stating intent (or suggestions) for the new Core Board
- **October 1, 2015** – letter of intent for hosting the European conference 2019 (every 3 years)
- The deadlines for information for the EMTC newsletters are as follows: **June 1, September 1, December 1, (2015) and March 1, 2016.**
- **January 31, 2016** - payment of fees to EMTC from Associations
- **April 15, 2016** – Nominations for the new Core Board, Nominee for the EMTC award, proposal for hosting the European MT conference 2019, proposal for hosting GA 2017.
- **July 4-5, 2016** – GA in Vienna
- **July 5-9, 2016** – 10th European MT conference

3) Financial report of the EMTC and EMTR 2014, and budget for 2015 – presented by Ferdinando Suvini, Treasurer

The Financial Report was presented, including details of payment of fees from the different countries (some pay very late; please try to work on this with your associations) and the finances of EMTR. Ferdinando presented and explained the financial obligations and the way in which the Core Board had worked to keep these manageable whilst promoting and fulfilling the tasks of EMTC. A summary of all financial posts were handed out at the meeting.

Summary of 2014 balance presentation: In 2014, the EMTC had income amounting to € 5.400 that are the fees that the Associations have paid (€ 1 for each member). The main expenses for 2014 were related to the cost of the Core Board meeting in Brussels in February 2014 (€ 1.192) and the travel costs of the Core Board to Luxembourg for the EMTC General Assemble in May 2014 (€ 1.262). The total expenses were € 3.556

The other expenses during 2014 are explained as follows:
• Mr. Martin, the accounting fees (€ 931)
• Web site fees to Philippe Lecocq (€ 120)
• EMTC Gift (€ 49 + 27)
The provisional expenses for 2015 will take into account the expenses of the Core Board to travel to Wurzburg.

4) Reports from region co-ordinators

Northern Europe – Alice Pehk (Estonia)

There are 9 member countries in this group. It is hoped that Ireland will be able to join EMTC soon (Alice has been in touch with Alma McQuade to discuss this). The themes for discussion on the regional meeting will be; collaboration between countries, recognition and registration in the Nordic countries, and commonalities and differences between Music Therapy and Music Psychotherapy.

Middle Europe – Elena Fitzthum (Austria)

Elena took up this role in 2014. She has become aware of the difficulty of finding a useful and efficient way to communicate with all the Country Representatives. Elena noted some of the issues in Czech and Slovenia. Slovenia hopes to come back to EMTC when their association is more settled.

Southern Europe – Ranka Radulovic (Serbia)
Ranka has asked all CRs to provide updated information about their countries and professional associations; if you have not yet returned this to Ranka, please do. The issue of recognition is a considerable issue in Southern Europe, and so this group continues to discuss issues related to this.

Voting (president's and treasurer's reports)
Action approved: The President's report was unanimously approved, and a round of applause was given to thank the Core Board for their work.
Action approved: The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, and a round of applause was given to thank Ferdinando Suvini for his work.

Brief country news
This was reported by each Country Representative.

5) Orientation and update on:
EMTR (Rut Wallius, administrator)
Rut presented some of the history of EMTR. The 3 categories of EMTR – EMTR BA, EMTR MA, and EMTR supervisor were agreed in 2007, and the register was operational in 2010. The first three years of the EMTR were seen as a trial period, and during these years there was a co-ordinator external to EMTC. In Oslo 2013, a new model was proposed due to the amount of communication/time that the existing model took. It was decided to bring the organisation of EMTR within the EMTC (in 2014). There were approximately 10 applications processed in 2014. In 2015, the EMTR commission evaluated the new administrative system, and it was agreed that it can be managed within the EMTC/EMTR commission (given the number of applications currently received).
Last year a change to the categories was agreed as it was considered that the academic titles were confusing given that EMTC is not an academic body. It was decided to have only one type of EMTR registration. In 2015 there have not been any applicants for EMTR.

Rut gave feedback on the meeting of the commission that took place on Friday 15th May, and the opportunity that the commission had to reflect on the register and discuss key issues. The commission had discussed possible reasons for the lack of applications this year:

- Too expensive
- Don't see the value
- The criteria do not fit Music Therapists' competencies or the criteria in each country

The commission went so far as to question the necessity of EMTR, and will encourage Country Representatives to seek the opinions of their Association members.

Rut asked those present who are members of EMTR why they had registered. Marketa (Czech Republic), Alice (Estonia) had registered because she has no recognition/protection of the title Music Therapist in her own country. Teresa (Portugal) had registered because
she had wanted to promote the EMTR to others. Teresa felt that EMTR has not yet evolved into the useful register it could become.

The EMTR commission made one proposal – that Music Therapists who are members of Associations within countries who have registration/standards on the same level as the EMTR competencies could be

able to request membership of EMTR. The commission will investigate possibilities for this by looking at selected countries, and fee will be discussed.

The 10th European Music Therapy Conference in Vienna 2016 (Elena Fitzthum)
This will take place from 5-9th July 2016. The organising committee hopes for a high number of delegates, and there is likely to be a limit of 500. The call for abstracts will be between July 1st – November 1st 2015 (with no extension). There will be plenty of time for discussion as well as paper presentations. Elena reported on the different working groups; all is progressing well. The organisers have tried to find a solution around a reduced fee for countries with less money (based on GDP), for a limited number of places. One working group is discussing the topic of "reduction in registration fees". They have found an answer to an old question: fee reductions have been suggested for participants from countries with a lower GDP (gross domestic product). More details will be announced on the website.
It is hoped that the conference will be a certified 'green' congress, with e.g. food provided by local suppliers, congress bags by local projects, no plastic cups, and with coffee from social projects abroad.

The national organizing team (Monika Geretsegger for ÖBM; Elena Fitzthum for WIM; Thomas Stegemann for the University for Music and Performing Arts Vienna) provides the general framework. About twenty working groups are working in several areas. The starting point was a professional controversy about current issues in fields such as science, economics and art. The purpose is to link all these topics with music therapy. To achieve a real "Symphony of Dialogues" we shall offer dialogues instead of single keynote speakers. As first discussed in EMTC´s working group "Ethics" in Luxembourg in 2014, ethical guidelines for congresses have to be taken into account. Patients' privacy must be protected, especially with regard to videos or congress documentation. Learning from congresses in the past, another important issue is "health and safety". The Vienna organizing team clearly defines how to deal with accident or illness. Social programmes like the opening ceremony in Mayor´s Reception have just been organized, but since nearly 500 participants are anticipated, social events such as "Heurigen" have become a challenge. We are doing our best to avoid long distances between the activities.
Members of the scientific committee: Heads are Karin Mössler (Norway) & Thomas Stegemann (Austria)

Esa Ala-Ruona (Finland)
Laurien Hakvoort (the Netherlands)
Friederike Haslbeck (Switzerland)
Stine Lindahl Jacobsen (Denmark)
Susanne Metzner (Germany)
Melissa Mercadal-Brotons (Spain)
Stefano Navone (Italy)
Alice Pehk (Estonia)
Ranka Radulovic (Serbia)
Krzysztof Stachyra (Poland)
Monika Smetana (Austria)
Brynjulf Stige (Norway)
Giorgos Tsiris (UK/Greece)

Save the date 05-09 July 2016 and please visit the website to get all the latest information. And take a chance to be updated on the congress -> subscribe to the newsletter: www.emtc2016.at

Call for Abstracts will be open from **July 1, 2015.**

The EMTC website - Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway) and Bettina Kande-Staehelin (Switzerland)
Ingeborg reported on the work of this group. Last year's work included correcting errors, and uploading country information. Bettina has remained in contact with Philippa LeCoq (Website Administrator). Ingeborg has negotiated a good agreement with the Norwegian Association for Music Therapy, who will redesign the website for a low cost.
The core board has worked on the website and added an Archive with documents with a login for board members, and has posted all EMTC documents of relevance so they are accessible to all. Several documents describing various procedures could be deleted as the procedures were included in the bylaws at the GA in 2014.

Evaluating the first music therapy day in 2014 and plans for the second in 2015 (Albert Behrman)
Albert reminded those present that the focus of the music therapy day was to raise the profile of music therapy to Europe. Albert suggested that a future goal could also be to raise the profile of EMTC to members and to strengthen bonds between Music Therapists. The 2014 day had a central theme of 'The Rhythm of Life', and many different countries sang this song on the day. There was a map, poster and information in different languages. Albert reported some of the creative events that took place; seminars, presentations, films, flashmobs, concerts, taster sessions, drum circles etc. This involved skype improvisations. The next European music therapy day will be on Sunday 15th November 2015. Albert suggested keeping the same website and same layout – see http://www.europeanmusictherapyday.com/

The Approaches Special Issue on Paths of Professional Development
Approaches is an online journal, however the edition of the special issue 7(1) 2015 will be published as a hard copy (see http://approaches.primarymusic.gr/approaches/). Hanne Mette Ridder (President) described some of the themes in the issue. Print copies can be ordered later via: approaches.adm1@gmail.com (partly funded by EMTC). The best price for printing is being sought within EMTC countries. Copies will be sold at the Oslo conference, and delegates and authors will be given a free copy.
Hanne Mette suggested EMTC might subsidise hard copies of this journal edition (depending upon the cost, a subsidy of perhaps 6 euros per copy). This was discussed. Ferdinando Suvini (Treasurer) advised that there are savings in the EMTC accounts and he considers this to be a good use of the money. Elena Fitzthum (Austria) noted that this should be acted upon quickly as the articles will quickly become out of date. Elida Scarlata (Italy) suggested that those present should encourage their associations to buy copies.
Action approved: Those present voted unanimously to use some funds to subsidise print copies, but to spend no more than 2,000 euros.

Vote of CRs committed to work on website
Bettina Kande-Staehelin (Switzerland) reported back from the discussions during the session in the morning. She confirmed that she, Elide Scarlata (Italy) and Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway) wish to continue to work on this topic, as long as the website can be redeveloped. These three delegates represent each region, and so will take responsibility for each regional area. They will be in touch with Country Representatives to ask for updated information; please respond to their messages.

Action approved: Those present voted unanimously for the redevelopment of the website and for the three delegates named above to continue their work on the website.

Candidates for new core board after GA 2016
Hanne Mette described the structure of the board:
President, Vice President and Treasurer in the core board, plus 3 region co-ordinators. None of the three core board members continue to work as a Country Representative once they are on the board and their travel expenses are therefore covered by the EMTC. Each nomination lasts for three years. The workload varies but the role does require regular attention to emails. The Core Board met regularly by skype (particularly in the beginning) as well as one mid-year meeting in Brussels with Mr Martiens, the EMTC accountant. The role involves holding an overview of European music therapy issues, making good links with member countries, promoting music therapy and also involves organising and bringing clarity to the structures. It is not necessary that the Core Board represent each region.
Hanne Mette encouraged people to make contact with the Core Board if they are interested and for others to suggest names of people they think would be effective in these roles.

National registration together with EMTR
Hanne Mette explained more about EMTR, that it is a European Music Therapy register that started a long time ago. It was started at a time when there were no other registrations within individual countries, and the aim was to have a legal registration connected to Europe. However, the former Core Board were advised by European parliament not to move ahead with a registration within the EU system, because of the length of time it may take and the limitations of any regulations.

Tessa Watson (UK) queried the purpose of EMTR, given the information on the website –
The purpose of establishing a European register for music therapists is to ensure the recognition and protection of the professional title of music therapist.
She asked for clarity that the EMTR does this, and also promotes the mobility of professional Music Therapists within Europe as this is how it is currently described on the website.

Standards of EMTR
Marianne questioned whether it was accessible for music therapy members across Europe to have the baseline qualification as a Masters level, as the reality is that there are BA courses in Europe. In order to encourage more members, it may be more helpful to lower the standards.

Cost of EMTR
Teresa Leite (Portugal) encouraged those present to register with EMTR, and queried whether the cost for registration could be lowered.
Marianne Wiltgen (Luxembourg) suggested making membership of EMTR free. This would be in order to build up the numbers on the register.

Information about registration across Europe
Alice Pehk (Estonia) presented information from her country relating to the process of registration. They are planning 2 levels of registration – BA (level 6) and MA (level 7). Level 6 therapists will be able to work only under supervision. It is hoped that these standards will be recognised by November 2015. Psychotherapist/Music Therapist (level 7, MA) is likely to be recognised by the end of May 2015. Level 7 would meet the EMTR standards.

Elena Fitzthum (Austria) presented information from her country. In Austria there are 2 levels of qualification; Master Level (autonomous occupational qualification) and Bachelor Level (jointly

responsible occupational qualification). The qualification in Austria would allow graduates to enter the EMTR – but so far Austrian Music Therapists have not done this.

Adrienne Lerner (EMTC Vice President Secretary) presented information from France. To be on the FFM register, the applicant must have a copy of the diploma from a recognised training programme and a signed copy of the ethics code.

Ferdinando Suvini (EMTC Vice-PresidentTreasurer) presented information from Italy. The process of professional recognition is under way. Professionals can be recognised by belonging to a professional association and/or being self-regulated by the Italian Institute of Regulation (UNI). In Italy the qualification is a diploma. There are three registers; Music Therapist, Trainers and Supervisor, with clear criteria. Ferdinando wanted to stress how important the EMTC/EMTR standards had been for Italian training courses. Maria Teresa del Moral (Spain) and Teodossi Tzinguilev (Bulgaria) also wanted to state the importance of the EMTR for their countries.

Melanie Voigt (Germany) talked about the rejection of Psychotherapy in Germany due to the lack of a common platform. The European Psychotherapy Association had tried to have a Europe-wide regulation for Psychotherapy which was rejected because of the lack of consensus among the countries. They said that it is not the duty of the EU to regulate professions that are not yet regulated, but that is the duty of the countries to find a common platform.

Tessa Watson (UK) suggested that it was important to have systems that can accommodate difference between countries, in order to present a unified front. She considered that EMTR should be accessible for members of associations, clinical practitioners from graduation onwards, who are the bulk of the membership of the associations. Despite music therapy training and practice in the UK being regulated by law, and the central place of self-experience in the trainings, there are not 200 hours of self-experience required within the basic training.

Mobility within Europe
Tali Gottfried (Israel) noted that the mobility of music therapy within Europe is not supported by EMTR (particularly for Israel). There is currently a statement on the EMTR website that the EMTR aims to promote the mobility of professional music therapists. Tessa Watson (UK) noted that even with EMTR and European legislation, in order to protect standards to service users international Music Therapists have to go through an international process in order to work in the UK.

One statement might be;
The EMTR represents a clear message about the high level of training considered important for music therapy.

Rut Wallius suggested that she could send information to all Country Representatives for discussion within their associations, to gain more detailed responses to inform this discussion.

8 Regional meetings and regional reports

Central Europe

One issue this group had discussed was the idea of a music therapy day in Hungary. Entrance is free and open to anyone. There is a presentation, discussion and an improvisation. This region also discussed how to grow their professionals groups, and how to manage splits within countries.

Southern Europe

This region welcomed Israel where there is an umbrella association of arts therapies (1500 members), but professional Music Therapists (120) are not at the same level of training. They are working for recognition, and have established a very good document for the new government to approve. It is hoped that this will happen in a couple of years.

In France Music Therapists are preparing a major document on music therapy for the government. The problem is different levels of training. They are trying to equalize these. There are few people with an MA.

In Portugal, criteria have been established with pioneers beginning the process of certification. However, now they are in a dilemma about this in their association because they cannot approve themselves. In Portugal there is a document which recommends music therapy for special education in the public system.

Greece – In Greece there are no training courses or recognition. There are problems with private professionals who are not registered.

Spain has the same problem. There are 16 masters training courses and 49 associations. In one region there is a document that includes music therapy with disabilities of any kind. The accreditation system is REMTA with a commission: there are 41 registered Music Therapists and 6 supervisors.

Cyprus- music therapy is not recognised, and there are no training courses. The Cypriot Music Therapists have been in contact with the government and have been told that they need a BA and MA. They hope to have another meeting with the government.

Serbia- 1 association is not recognized as a profession in the document of medicine.

Northern Europe

Three topics were raised.

Nordic collaboration: The nature of this collaboration was discussed. It could be sharing practice issues, information about conferences, initiatives, journals and publication. It may be possible to share articles as well. Alice suggested collating information each quarter year (in the middle of May, August, November and February). She will send emails to the group to collect information. There was some discussion around professional journals and how we might share articles. Also discussion about possible seminars/events.

Recognition and protection of the professional title/possible collaboration regarding these issues

Esa updated the group about the laws in Finland. Last year, an official act took place to pass a law to protect the titles of health care workers. This was then passed to a health care sub group, and was stuck

with this group for a long time, during a period of the election. Because it was not passed prior to the election the process must start again. This has been very frustrating for the Finnish music therapy community. Those countries within the group looking at recognition/registration would welcome the expertise of other CRs in this area.

Sunday 17th May 2015
9.00am – 12.00pm

1 Presentation from the working groups from 2014-2015

Working group European Music Therapy Day
Albert (Chair), Freya, Magda, Valgedur, Ranka, Nicole, Ingeborg, Dzintra
This update was given yesterday.

Website
Ingeborg (Chair), Bettina, Elide
This update was given yesterday.

New Sharepoint/Facebook Group
Elide (Chair), Albert
Elide gave a presentation about this group. It is one of the EMTC bylaws that County Representatives should be sharing information about music therapy in their country. Three different possibilities for sharing information have been discussed:

- Members' area in the EMTC website (a closed page accessible by password). This would be secure, and have easy access. However it would be up to CRs to go there and add information.
- Closed group on Facebook. This has existed for a year, created by Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway). At the moment there are 22 members. If you have not yet signed up, please consider doing this. News, pictures etc. arrive directly to you with a notification. You can easily share questions, videos, posters and pictures. Those who do not wish to be on Facebook due to professional reasons can choose another name: for example 'EMTC ****' (the name of their country).
- Folder in Dropbox. This is an easy way to share large documents. You need to create an account, wait for an invitation to share a folder, and respond. There is currently a folder for country representatives as an experiment.

It was agreed that the website would be used to store documents as an archive, but that drop box would be used to hold documents that are actively being worked on. Those present felt that having a members' area on the website was a good idea, but that this would be done after the website has been redesigned in order to ensure that it is attractive and accessible to EMTC CRs. Facebook will continue to be used for sharing more informally but it is not the place for documents etc. Hanne Mette advised that e-mails will continue to be sent directly to Country Representatives about important items of news and action: please ensure that you read these.
There was discussion about the website and the information under each country. Alice Pehk (Estonia) suggested that it might be possible to click through to each country report rather than posting the whole report on the website. Full country reports/information are held here: http://emtc-

eu.com/country-reports/). Updated country information for the website for 2015 should be sent to Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway; ingneb74@gmail.com).

Vision and mission think tank
Esa Ala-Ruona, Finland (Chair), Marianne Wiltgen, (Luxembourg), Melanie Voigt (Germany), Rut Wallius (Sweden), Albert Berman (Netherlands)
Esa presented some preliminary ideas which have been discussed by e-mail. The work will continue in future years. The group has considered several questions regarding training, research, recognition, networking, resources, politics and overall strategies See Annexe 1 for outline of presentation. Alice Pekh suggested that this might be a time for a SWOT analysis.

Ethics
Elena (Chair), Adrienne, Signe, Spela, Agnieska, Rut, Ranka, Evangelia
Elena explained that she had been very caught up in the conference in Vienna and had not been able to work directly with the group on this topic. However, the idea of ethics has been central to the conference in Vienna and Elena will bring her insights and learning from this back to EMTC. Marianne Wiltgen (Luxembourg) asked if there is a complaints procedure for EMTC. Hanne Mette confirmed that there is, and that she will ensure this is more visible on the website.

Recognition group and qualification for music therapists
Melanie Voigt (Chair), Magda, Elide Scarlata (Italy), Evangelia, Lilya
Melanie Voigt (Germany) reported that she had needed to hand over the leadership of this group to Elide Scarlata (Italy). Melanie had written on the Approaches journal on recognition and this had helped her to bring together and summarise ideas about it. Melanie noted that experiences of Music Therapists in countries who are regulated have been good, but that regulation is the beginning of the process, rather than the end of a journey. Issues of payment, CPD etc. will continue. Melanie feels clear that Europe will not regulate without each individual country having registration.
Elide gave an update on further work. They will be using the information in the article by Ranka Radulvic to further develop their work next year.

Continuing professional development
Freya Drossaert (Belgium), Chair, Tessa Watson (UK), Alice Pehk (Estonia), Nicola, Teresa Leite (Portugal)
Freya Drossaert (Belgium) and Tessa Watson (UK) gave a presentation of the work of their group. This work will continue next year. Tessa has been involved in CPD in the UK for years, firstly developing the voluntary scheme in the UK, now as an HCPC assessor (regulatory body in the UK), assessing CPD for 18 health care professions. Tessa is happy to share her knowledge, please email if you have questions.

Define continuous and new working groups and individual tasks (eg for presentation at the conference in Vienna 2016).
New working groups
*Presentation on EMTC at Vienna conference 2016 – **Elena,** Hanne Mette, Ferdinando*
Elena reported that at the conference there could be one hour for presentation of EMTC issues (including the history of EMTC and information from working groups). It has been 25 years since the first EMTC congress, so this could be a promotion of the work of EMTC over this time. It was agreed it would

be excellent if the redeveloped website was ready for the conference. Time to rehearse this presentation will be included in the next GA (prior to the conference).

*Website – **Ingeborg,** Elide, Bettina*
This group have begun to think about the website and have started to have some creative ideas. Ingeborg encouraged all Country Representatives to check their country information to ensure that it is up to date, and that any website links included in your information still work. Please send updates to Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway).

*Vision and mission think tank – **Esa**, Marianne, Melanie, Rut, Albert, Alice, Marketa*
This group have decided to conduct a SWOT analysis and will present the results from this, along with suggested EMTC core values, at the GA next year. Their aim is to map the actual situation of the EMTC and to find out the needs and expectations of the member organizations, and according to this knowledge to plan the future of the EMTC (to create a development program for the next 5 years) as well as the future of the profession of music therapy.

*Ethics – **Adrienne,** Agnieska, Rut, Ranka, Evi, Elena*
This group will research ethics codes in the different EMTC countries.

*CPD – **Freya**, Alice, Nicole, Tessa, Teresa*
This group will continue with some more detailed research. They will be in touch with particular Country Representatives to ask for more information, and will begin to draft a template for good practice in CPD that could be recommended to European countries. This could be a poster presentation at the conference in Vienna.

*Recognition group and qualification for MT – **Melanie**, Antonia, Elide, Evangelia, Marketa, Ranka, Theodossi, Agieska*
The group wants to ask how recognition in each country is going on. What does the health system ask of our profession in each country? They are planning to make a dropbox folder and they will collect information.

*The MT day – **Albert,** Ranka, Dzintra, Tali, Agnes, Antonia*
The music therapy day group has thought of a theme for this year: Just play! (NB. after the GA it's changed to 'Let's Play!). There are many ideas, to make it a successful European music therapy day again. It's important that all activities are seny first to the country representative, just to be sure that they are organised by music therapists. The website www.europeanmusictherapyday.com will be updated, but the layout will stay more or less the same. Each country can download the flyer and the idea is that it will be easy to put in your own textblocks. There will be a song or improvisation 'theme' and the plan is to connect different countries by Skype.

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1. Vision and mission think tank

Esa Ala-Ruona, Finland (Chair), Marianne Wiltgen, (Luxembourg), Melanie Voigt (Germany), Rut Wallius (Sweden), Albert Berman (Netherlands)

Esa presented some preliminary ideas which have been discussed by email. The work will continue in future years. The group have considered several questions:

- How do we see the future of the profession within five years – e.g. recognition/regulation, European level agreements on training, applications of clinical practice?
- An ideal vision of the profession in 2025? Will the profession still exist – if so, how?
- What are the top three next steps to be followed when aiming to reach the goals set for the next five years? What are the crucial action points? This group are keen to include any visionary initiatives (wild cards) from the Country Representatives – please respond to requests for ideas.

These are the outputs that this group suggests could be aims in the next 5 years:

- Music therapy being regulated/authorised in at least 5 more countries
- Strategic thinking has taken place about our place in society and within health care
- Music Therapists are willing to see their profession as something that is always striving for improvement and further development
- As a result of research, music therapy will be recommended in national guidelines
- More people recognise the power of music and music therapy
- Music therapy, provided by a professional competent Music Therapist should be accessible for everyone who needs and chooses it

Possible scenarios and actions: what is our mission in society?

- To unite in our aim to have music therapy recognised as a health care profession all over Europe
- To stimulate music therapy research, work together and find funding
- To make music therapy more known to the public
- To make music therapy accessible for all (through health care systems and alternative paths)
- To set standards for training, build a professional community via associations, promote research, provide orientation, inspiration, resources, networking, connectedness
- EMTR has the potential to show that music therapy in Europe has a common ground and standard

- A structured, intense and close work with the member associations of EMTC in order to make us a strong and united professional group having an impact on national decision makers.
- Working on three statements: Vision, mission and the core values

Esa presented three questions:

- What is the future the EMTC wants to create for music therapy and Music Therapists?
- Where is EMTC going?
- What would EMTC ultimately hope to accomplish as a result in the future?
- What is EMTC here to do? What is ETMC's purpose? For whom does it do it? What is the impact?
- How does EMTC plan to work towards its vision?
- For whose specific benefit does EMTC exist?
- What does EMTC stand for and what does it believe in?
- What EMTC will or won't do to get where it wants?

Future frame: dynamic and well-grounded continuous development
To meet the needs on several different areas and levels of them:

- Impact on the development of national associations
- Impact on the educational system and clinical practice
- Impact on research activities and application of the knowledge gained
- Impact on political acts and decision making
- Impact on developing society favourable for music therapy on national and European levels

2. Country Reports

Please visit the EMTC website for the latest updates on Country Information: http://emtc-eu.com/country-reports/ and the Approaches Special Issue 7(1) where country reports from each country are added: (see http://emtc-eu.com/news). A few countries have in addition included country news for the GA-minutes 2015.

Austria (Elena Fitzthum)

News from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

In October 2014, we celebrated the 55th "birthday" of the Viennese training program which started in 1959 (in German: Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien, abbreviated mdw). More than 120 former and current students and teachers came together to remember the "good old days" and to discuss current developments and visions for the future while enjoying live music, celebratory drinks, and a "Heurigen" buffet. Music therapists, students, and supporters of music therapy contributed to a Festschrift (in German) that was edited and published by Thomas Stegemann and Elena Fitzthum, portraying the long and rich history of the music therapy training in Vienna. It also includes an overview of all 506 music therapy theses that have been written since the early 1960´s. There are now four students enrolled in Austria´s first music therapy PhD program at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, which is also headed by Thomas Stegemann.

News from the EMTC´s members:

ÖBM – Austrian Association of Music Therapists

This organization is headed by Monika Geretsegger and her team. At the moment (May 2015), we have 334 registered music therapists in Austria. The ÖBM currently has 246 members and 40 student members. Although we thought that after three years of close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the national ethics guidelines for music therapists in Austria would be completed in summer 2014, it has now taken another year to incorporate

amendments, and we now await finalization by the ministry. Due to the fact that these guidelines are the newest ones of health professions in Austria, the ministry intends to take them as a model for updating other guidelines.

Another important long-term task is finding a way to have music therapy funded by health insurances. This is important for freelance colleagues and for clients of music therapy outside of institutions. While working on this, the ÖBM liaises closely with the three Austrian study programs and the Association of Ethno Music Therapy.

The association continues to offer an increasing number of workshops and seminars for continued professional education (CPE) throughout the year. This helps music therapists to fulfill their professional duty of regular CPE as regulated by the Music Therapy Act. 5000 copies of the new folder about music therapy (issued in May 2014) have been distributed to the public so that another batch will be produced soon. After visiting the cities of Linz and Innsbruck in the west of the country in recent years, ÖBM board members travelled to Graz/Styria for one day this spring to meet local music therapists, to discuss their specific professional needs, to strengthen local networks and the development of music therapy in parts of the country where the profession is less well established.

WIM – Viennese Institute for Music Therapy

This organization is headed by Elena Fitzthum and her team. WIM, as well as ÖBM and the University for Music and Performing Art, is part of the local organizing team of 10th European Congress of Music Therapy.

Belgium (Freya Drossaert)

1. The Master's **training** in music therapy is doing very well, with many different people collaborating in different international projects.

2. We also have a **new book** coming up in 2016, which also will be the result of an international collaboration. The main topic is improvisation, and the book will consider its clinical applications, research and didactics.

3. Concerning **contributions to research** Drs. Anke Coomans this year will be completing her doctoral research, which investigates the role of musical improvisation in the development of a therapeutic relationship with elderly with dementia. Prof. Dr. Hanne Mette Ridder is one of Ankes supervisors in this.

4. Also the **OPAK research** will be completed this year. This research project is entitled 'The exploration of specific modalities of musical co-play in relation to psychopathology. Development of new styles in clinical improvisation and artistic composition.' Prof Dr. Jos De Backer is the promotor of this research. Next year a book about it is published, but it will only be available in Dutch.

5. Furthermore the Belgian professional association has continued working on **recognition**, but there wasn't made a lot of progress. The professional association bumps against the argument that everybody is awaiting the activation of the law on the professional recognition of clinical psychology, orthopedagogy and psychotherapy in 2016. So we hope that in 2016 we can move forward with this.

6. The professional association also keeps on working on putting music therapy on a **list** of professions that are found to be necessary in clinical treatments.

7. The **website** of the professional association was translated in four languages, namely English, German, French and Dutch. Now it is handier for people to find and contact the professional association from abroad. And like this it includes all languages that are spoken in Belgium, which before was not the case.

8. To conclude: new board **elections** for the professional association are coming up in the autumn of this year, which will result in a whole new board.

Bulgaria (Teodossi Tzinguilev)

Two main paragraphs comprise our Bulgarian country report for 2014 preceding the General Assembly of EMTC in Wuerzburg this May, 2015. The first of them is dedicated to publicity, and the promotion and recognition of the profession of music therapy. The second one describes the latest news and tendencies from education in the field of music therapy. On November 15th, the European Music Therapy Day (EMTD) has been celebrated for the first time. The Bulgarian Association for Music Therapy (BAM) organized an Open House event, where presentations, ateliers and workshops on different aspects of music therapy took place. Thus, we gained significant interest and publicity in only one day. In addition to that we offered an interesting and useful initiative to the public – patients and clients were able to book one session with a music therapist for free during the week following the EMTD. We were able to build a live video connection with our colleagues from the Netherlands. Here is the time and place to underline the exceptional work of Albert Berman and the organizing committee from the Dutch Association for Music Therapy (NVvMT) in channeling everybody's effort around Europe. Preparing flyers in all languages for the Downloads section of the EMTD website makes us feel proud to be there and also significant, as a part of a big professional family.

Later in November 2014 former BAM chair and Bulgarian country representative in EMTC Lilya Ahtarova, has been awarded with a lifetime achievement award for her pioneering work and outstanding contribution to the development and practice in the field of music therapy in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Association for Psychotherapy (BAP). That is a great honour for our profession among our colleagues, working in the field of psychotherapy. On May 10th, 2015 BAM celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a concert. Both Music Therapy Institute-Sofia (MTI-S) and the Chamber Ensemble "Come Ye Sons of Art" are at the final stages of the development of their own official websites. Both of them are about to be launched soon.

Education in music therapy had a few developments during 2014. The Music Therapy Institute-Sofia (MTI-Sofia) has a new class of motivated people, who all come from different parts of the country and some of them finding this financially challenging. That is why we have been considering some sort of scholarship and sponsoring for the coverage of travel costs. Sharing any experience and ideas how to manage this in the best possible way from all of you within EMTC, is very welcome. A new Master program in music therapy started at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (AMDFA) in Plovdiv, where MTI-S educators Lilya Ahtarova and D.Sc. Nadejda Vitanova also teach as a part of the faculty there. Still, hours dedicated to the personal therapeutic training of students and work under supervision are insufficient in an otherwise well designed program. The cost of that course is already high (estimated at a total of about 3000 Euro for all 4 semesters) and even though students have the understanding that this is an essential part of their education, they could hardly afford to pay for it. Those are the idiosyncrasies of the economic state of Bulgaria right now.

We are glad to announce our ongoing cooperation with the Swiss Professional Association for Music Therapy (SMFT/ASMT), whose help is invaluable for our professional community in Bulgaria. As a result, MTI-Sofia had the honour and privilege of organizing workshops by Heidi Fausch - dedicated to group work with the means of music therapy, and Beate Roelcke – dedicated to neurorehabilitation, the first ever workshop of this kind in Bulgaria. Our gratitude towards SMFT and Heidi Fausch here is beyond words. SFMT is also providing supervision to the MTI-Sofia board, regarding the management of the organization.

Luxembourg (Marianne Wiltgen)

Through the organisation of the GA 2014 the music therapy association learned a lot of skills and got experiences in PR work, contacting officials, deputies of parliament etc. The participation in the EMTD allowed furthermore to increase its visibility and to emphasize the concerns of a profession that still is not recognized. Psychotherapy law has been voted end of May. A big polemic beforehand, concerning training and psychotherapy schools as well as the conditions for access to the profession of psychotherapist, for a moment put in danger the permission to exercice as a music therapist at the risk to be illegal practicing something analog to psychotherapy. The response

the health ministry gave to GML's request for a meeting in 2012 suggested to wait for this psychotherapy law before taking into account the music therapist's request. So now is the moment.

In May the representatives of the GML got an appointment with one functionary of the ministry willing to consult the board of GML about the strategy to choose and the documents to add to the demand. With art therapy's association we are consenting on the position that music therapy and art therapy are to be considered independantly from medical, psychological and psychotherapeutical treatments. We worked hardly on a the documentation to underlye the request for an appointent. For the ministry the consent on a european level is very important. The Austrian law is considered as a reference. Every art therapy form will probably have to present its own dossier documenting its specific research, training, etc.. So the music therapists are encouraged to follow the path they engaged in. The GML-R national register based on consensus of conditions for registration aligned with EMTR philosophy, and based on GML-definition of music therapy and GML ethic code is progressing by additional registrations every year. GML plans to participate with great excitment in the EMTD 2015 !

United Kingdom (Tessa Watson)

Music therapy in the UK is registered and regulated by the Health and Care Professions council (HCPC, see http://www.hpc-uk.org/). This is an independent body that was created by Government legislation. Continuing professional development (CPD) for UK therapists is also monitored by HCPC. This year, HCPC launched a national campaign to highlight how statutory regulation of Arts Therapists protects service users.

More research is developing in the UK, with PhD student places being advertised at Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge. The British Journal of Music Therapy is moving to online publication in 2016 and is interested in hearing from international as well as UK authors.

In June 2014 the UK hosted a MANDARI event (Music and the neuro-developmentally at risk infant). An exhibition 'Music Therapy – the art and science', presenting a visual history of music therapy, has been touring the UK in 2015. Several Music Therapists, including Professor Helen Odell-Miller and Dr Simon Proctor attended the all party parliamentary group for Arts in Health in February 2015; further raising the profile of Music Therapy to the government.

BAMT is undertaking an employment survey of Music Therapists' work and employment, launched in May 2015. Over the past 2 years the number of jobs advertised through BAMT has steadily increased, with almost 100 being advertised in 2014-2015. The next UK Music Therapy week will be 22nd-28th June 2015. This is the third such event. This year's event will focus on the instrumental role music therapy has to play in supporting people with dementia. In future months there will be conferences on music therapy in neuro-disability, research, and dementia. The next national BAMT conference is being planned for 2016 in Glasgow, Scotland.