GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Akoesticum, Ede, Netherlands

Saturday 27th May (0900-1700) and Sunday 28th May 2017 (0900-1200)

Present: Esa Ala-Ruona (President), Melanie Voigt (Vice President/Secretary General), Alice Pehk (Vice President/Treasurer), Ranka Radulovic (Serbia), Stefan Mainka (Germany), Melissa Mercadal-Brotons (Spain), Elena Fitzthum with Elisabeth Kaczynski (Austria), Marketa Gerlichova (Czech Republic), Evi Papanikolaou (Greece), Stefanie Lefebvre (France), Malle Luik (Estonia), Teresa Leite (for Rita Maia, Portugal), Tali Gottfried (Israel), Albert Berman (Netherlands), Teodossi Tzinguilev (Bulgaria), Maria Munkesjö (Sweden), Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway), Tessa Watson (UK, minutes), Claudia Knoll (Slovenia),Laurence Reuter (Luxembourg), Agnes Varga (Hungary), Karina Erland Jensen (Denmark), Antonia Hadjieftychoiu (Cyprus), Rozemarijn Claes (Belgium), Bettina Kande-Staehelin (Switzerland), Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland), Katie Roth (Latvia), Vilmante Aleksiene (Lithuania), Beate Roelcke (Switzerland), Ksenija Boric (Croatia)
Observing member: Özgur Salur (Turkey),

Apologies: Dr Valgerdur Jonsdottir (Iceland), Alison Sweeney (for Hilary Moss, Ireland), Kaija Oivamäki-Tahtinen (Finland), Elide Scarlata (Italy)

1 Welcome and opening

Esa Ala-Ruona (President of EMTC) welcomed all those present to the meeting, including the new Country Representatives, and declared the assembly open. Esa noted the schedule for the 2 days, and gave information about the procedures for the weekend. Melanie Voigt and Alice Pehk added their welcome to the event and all three members of the core board stated their wish that the GA would provide a forum for open and constructive discussion between EMTC delegates. A formal vote of thanks was given to Albert Berman and his team (Netherlands) for organising the symposium and the GA.
Action approved: It was approved that Tessa Watson would take the minutes for the meeting on Saturday and Sunday.

UPDATE THIS Member associations 2017

There are 29 member countries, 42 member associations, representing 5936 Music Therapists. Turkey and Slovenia are observing members at present.
There were 7 new Country Representatives at the GA 2017.

2 President's report

Esa made a report from the Core Board. The focus for the Board's activities has been;

- To request and consider a reflective narrative on the heritage from the previous core board (Hanne Mette Ridder, Adrienne Lerner and Ferdinando Suvini).
- To manage a long process of official financial arrangements and sorting out the procedures with the accountant
- To negotiate with new countries
- To create ways to communicate within the core and the board
- To continue to work on the renewal of the website
- To organise and conduct the SWOT analysis
- To follow up the procedure for renewing the European Music Therapy Register (EMTR)
- To re-think the procedures in the General Assembly
- To clarify the role of regional co-ordinators (North: Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway), Central: Agnes Varga, South: Elide Scarlata. Ranka Radulovic will lead the Regional Group when it meets)
- To continue to work to connect people and organisations

Proposal of main activities for 2018

- Preparing the 2019 EMTC-congress in Aalborg, Denmark
- Preparing the next GA in Italy
- Working to make EMTC more relevant and integrated with European Music Therapists and everyday practice.
- Renewal of EMTR
- Analysis of training programmes
- Aiming for transparent communication on the profession and clinical qualifications
- Establishing communication between professional and educational associations

Action approved: This report was unanimously approved.

3 Financial report of the EMTC 2016, and budget for 2017 – presented by Alice Pehk, Treasurer

Alice presented the accounts for the EMTC, and explained the expenses that had been incurred by the core board, and projected expenses. Projected budget for 2017 is 5936 income, and 2950 outgoings (including Music Therapy Day).

Albert Berman (Netherlands) asked if Music Therapy day could be included in the budget of EMTC in order to make it a high-quality event. He anticipated that approximately 500 would be required.

Action approved: This report was unanimously approved.

4 Official approval of minutes 2016

The minutes of the meeting in Vienna 2016 are on the website and have been distributed to Country Representatives. **Action approved:** These minutes were unanimously approved.

5 New members of EMTR

New members of the EMTR who had applied and been accepted by the core board are: Marketa Gerlichova (Czech), Albert Berman (Netherlands), Tessa Watson (UK). **Action approved:** These new members of EMTR were unanimously approved.

6 Brief country news

Each Country Representative gave brief country news. For more detailed reports from each country please see the EMTC website.

7 Definition of future role and tasks of regional co-ordinators

Ingeborg gave a brief update on the discussions that took place yesterday at the Board meeting around this topic. Ideas for motivating more exchange were discussed. For example, regional events across several countries could take place. It was felt that improving communication between Country Representatives, and between Country Representatives and the Board would improve the exchange and productiveness of EMTC. This could include skype meetings in the year. In addition, Regional Co-ordinators will aim to contact countries in their region that are not yet members of EMTC. It was noted that new associations cannot approach EMTC directly, but instead must go through their Country Representative (this is within the statutes/bylaws).

8 New EMTC country – Turkey. Presentation on music therapy in Turkey

Özgur Salur gave details about music therapy work in Turkey. Danny Lundmark was the first trained Music Therapist to come to the country. The President of the National Association, Professor Burcin Ucaner Cifdaloz; a Music Psychologist, has worked to prepare legal documents for establishing music therapy as a legal profession. There are now certification standards (July 2016). There is a neurologic music therapy unit and music therapy is starting to develop in a more professional way, with some presentations/symposiums, workshops and PR on social media, books being translated into Turkish. There is currently no music therapy training programme, but Professor Cifdaloz is working on developing a training programme under the health sciences faculty.

9 EMTR update

The EMTR commission met yesterday. Melanie Voigt (Core Board) and Tessa Watson (UK) gave an update.

The EMTR meeting had begun with a starting point of 3 options;

- to work over the existing EMTR
- to follow country qualification criteria
- to end the EMTR entirely.

The meeting undertook a quality management exercise to articulate the problems for EMTR, and the influences and causes of the problems. The largest problem identified was that the EMTR does not currently have credibility or usefulness for EMTC members.

Melanie described some of the discussion that took place around these topics, and presented the outcome of the meeting. The following aim for EMTR was identified by the committee:
'The aim of the EMTC is to promote safe and effective music therapy practice. EMTC supports high standards of competency for clinical practice. The EMTC recognises the listed practitioners as having attained appropriate standards of qualification and experience to practice as a Music Therapist in their country.' The EMTR will be renamed as EMTS (European Music Therapy Standards). Two tasks were identified as being useful as a development of the EMTR.

1) To identify the standards and qualifications for each country that EMTC identifies as training safe and effective practitioners. These to be listed on the website. In addition, each country page to include information about qualifications in their country, and a list of those practitioners (or a link to find them) who wish to be listed.
2) To develop a project that collects and analyses core curriculum and standards of proficiency across training courses in Europe, with a view to developing *suggested* European Music Therapy Standards of Proficiency that can support high standards of training, support the development of music therapy in European countries, and encompass the diverse practice that exists. It was suggested this possibly could most usefully be articulated in competencies/proficiencies rather than hours/credit points. It was decided to define a range of hours typically allocated to a course in order to provide a certain level of competence.

10 SWOT analysis small group work

Alice Pehk (Core Board) presented the results of the recent SWOT analysis of EMTC.

Strengths	**Threats**
Human resources International capacity and diversity Cooperation Professional Traditions Resources	Economy Diversity Recognition/legislation Qualification Distance Membership Efficacy

Alice Pehk (Core Board) introduced a small group exercise to work on the SWOT analysis themes. After lunch the leader of each group presented a summary of their work.

GROUP ONE: WEAKNESSES: Elena Fitzthum (Chair)			
01 Lack of financial resources	**02 Goal of the EMTC is unclear**	**03 There is no common platform for music therapy training**	**04 Lack of mutual understanding and curiosity of each and every country's tradition and background in music therapy**
Need to identify the	This statement was largely	Each country has its own	Need a future framework

projects that need funds Fundraising does not always solve issues	agreed with. It was suggested that a clear strategy was needed to show what EMTC is and what the goals are for EMTC Goals/aims should be evaluated The role of the CR is essential as CRs are a conduit for information to be conveyed to each country	tradition Perhaps the training courses are not linked directly to EMTC It is important to collect data (perhaps a new working group 'recognition/qualification group')	Website needs more information and possibly a database Website needs guidelines for Music Therapists and institutions outside music therapy The goal of recognition is often discussed but perhaps there are other important goals too.

GROUP TWO: OPPORTUNITIES: Agnes Varga (Chair)			
05 Promotion of international music therapy research	**06 Popularising music therapy on an everyday level, making music therapy more visible in Europe**	**07 Finding partners for collaboration**	**08 Multicultural approach in the field of music therapy**
Create an online data base on the EMTC website (different feelings about this	Need to communicate to others Share videos from other countries (translate them?) EMTC could make a video about the work of EMTC	Regional connections and world-wide connections Through regional coordinators	Translation is a key word

GROUP THREE: WEAKNESSES: Melissa Mercadal-Brotons (Chair)			
W5 Difficulty in visibility for every music therapist and local music therapy organisation in order to engage them	**W6 EMTR is beyond reach**	**W7 Lack of coherent project plan/work stream**	**W8 Lack of information about music therapy courses, opportunities for study and employment in different countries**
More communication between CRs and association More information on the website EMTC should have clearer procedures regarding communication and procedures What are the benefits of belonging from EMTC – make this clearer	Needs to be changed to a different type of scheme The importance of analysing the training programmes was noted	The majority of people agree that a 3-year strategic plan should be beneficial This should have short objectives to be met every year International projects The importance of flexibility if objectives are not attainable	There is a lack of collaboration and communication between associations Some issues regarding language, some translation? Develop the website and add to the country pages (possibly Facebook pages, newsletter and links to specific events and information in different countries)

GROUP THREE: THREATS: Tessa Watson (Chair)			
09 Lack of involvement of European music therapy students in international activities	**10 Slow bureaucracy, communication and processes**	**11 lack of opportunities for CRs to connect between GAs**	**12 Lack of collaboration with other international partners**
Possible reasons for this; money, lack of information, language barrier, feeling that international events aren't relevant, feel overloaded already. Ideas were; student rates, translators, more engaging invitations,	There are complicated processes in CRs contacting Associations and negotiating information. Sometimes information from Core Board is too complicated. Solutions: Simple emails (protocol such as 1 issue, 1 task, 1 deadline, 1 contact).	Reasons for this are geographical isolation, time/workloads, motivation? Working groups do not always have a clear aim and timelines. Ideas to solve the problem; use skype, Facebook. Most importantly set clear tasks,	May be 2 reasons; firstly we may not yet feel confident enough and might need to be at a position of further develop before contacting global bodies. We may be overwhelmed with Europe and feel that we have other priorities. It was suggested

information/description. Ask students who attend events to provide a short write up and post this on the EMTC website. Possible grants for students (including a student charitable arm of EMTC?). Have a student EMTC representative? Use the updated lists of email contacts for trainers to put together a whole list of trainers that EMTC CRs could send information to.	Stagger work throughout the year. Use technology (eg Google documents). Newsletters – what is their function, who are they for? Use skype, discussion forum on website? Write job descriptions for country reps that they have to sign up to with an agreement that if they do not fulfil tasks they will have to relinquish their posts.	responsibilities, deadlines and personnel.	that there could possibly be an international representative for EMTC who has a remit to have a broad strategic vision of international issues. Also to make more contact with Angela Harrison (European representative for WFMT). Also possibly identify those within EMTC who have other roles and might already have contacts with international partners.

GROUP FOUR: OPPORTUNITIES: Ingeborg Nebelung (Chair)			
01 Sharing professional knowledge and learning from each other	**02 Guarding the quality standards for Music Therapists**	**03 Strengthening the position of music therapy through recognition**	**04 Opportunity to influence on political processes on EU level**
Knowledge exchange Erasmus Questionnaires, journals, websites, lists of supervisors Create more meeting points locally and internationally for students	Protects clients Professionalisation Professional competencies and quality standards Guidelines/ethical guidelines Supervision	Clarifying exactly what we mean by professional standards Better salaries Reaching more clients Use the media Compare the law across Europe Use lobbying	Access international projects (eg refugees) Need to work on our visibility

SWOT analysis exercise scoring from Country Representatives	
Guarding quality standards	10 votes
Goals of EMTC aren't clear	10 votes
Sharing professional knowledge and learning from each other	8 votes
Promotion of international music therapy research	7 votes
Strengthening the position of music therapy through recognition in Europe	5 votes
Slow bureaucracy, communication and processes	5 votes
Difficulty in being visible	4 votes

This useful exercise culminated in discussion, and the agreement that the EMTC should work towards SMART long term goals and aims.

11 Regional country meeting reports

NORTH EUROPE REGION

Ingeborg Nebelung (Regional Coordinator)

- The Facebook page (Nordic Music Therapy Collaboration) was discussed. All to use this Facebook page more.
- Decided to create a closed Facebook group as a way of keeping in touch
- Apprenticeships – Tessa Watson (UK) spoke about the development of the idea of apprenticeships within healthcare training
- Discussed the regulation of Music Therapists in Lithuania. This was discussed and support offered to Vilmante Aleksiene (Lithuania).
- This group requested a short summary of the minutes to be provided to all CRs soon after the GA in order to publicise the work of the GA to their Associations and members.

SOUTHERN EUROPE REGION

Ranka Radulovic

- This group discussed the idea of documents that it might be useful to write and share. For example, ethical codes. These are not available from all countries. Ranka Radulovic (Serbia) suggested that there should be an EMTC policy for complaints. There was discussion about this in the whole meeting. Those present did not feel this was the remit of EMTC. Tessa Watson (UK) suggested that EMTC could survey CRs for fitness to practice or ethical procedures and pull these together as a resource/advice for members. **ACTION** To put this on the agenda for 2018.
- This group discussed the application procedure for associations, and consider that it is not clear. They suggest that it should be clearly stated on the EMTC website as the proper procedure has not always been followed. This group feels that an application should be completed and a recommendation given by the Country Representative.
- It is proposed to make an official Facebook page for EMTC (an open group for the public, not the closed group that currently exists)

CENTRAL EUROPE REGION

Agnes Varga

- Discussed what positive developments have taken place in the region, to inform and inspire
- The group discussed how to make communication and collaboration more effective. They will create a google group, and use google drive to collect and share documents
- Conference meeting/call
- This group will share information about events (with a short translation in English), and put them in an online 'inspiration box' to be shared

12 Communication – website and Facebook page

Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway) gave a brief update. Ingeborg has been making updates to the website and she thanked the web builder who has provided a good structure. Some of the information will be simplified. For example, the training institutions will just provide a web link (instead of numbers/emails). Ingeborg asked the core board to provide some news to put on the website (this might include GA, music therapy day, symposiums, new high level jobs that are good to share). Ingeborg also intends to share information about journals and new books.
Ingeborg asked all Country Reps to check that the information that is provided for them is correct.

Antonia Hadjieftychoiu (Cyprus) will be one of the administrators (with Ingeborg) for the public Facebook page. Initially the moderators will be Regional Coordinators. This page will be to promote and share music therapy with the public.

13 Music therapy day

Music Therapy day was successful last year. Following the day in 2016, Albert Berman (The Netherlands) circulated a survey, and there were 14 responses. There were 82 activities that took place last year, involving over 2,000 persons. In the Netherlands alone, over 6,000 people were reached. There is a Facebook group. In March 2017 there was a skype meeting to plan MT day 2017. There were technical problems, and so not all could contribute fully. The theme is 'hearing your voice', and Albert has communicated with Melanie Voight and Tessa Watson (to check English) about this. A poster is currently in the process of design (the working group will look at this together). The date will be November 15th 2017.

14 Host proposal for the General Assembly of EMTC for 2018

Elide Scarlata (Italy) was unable to be at the GA but had sent through her proposal for the GA to be held at the National Conservatory of Music in Trapani. The symposium 'Music in Music Therapy: Theory, clinical practice, research'. Melanie presented a thorough proposal for the GA. The dates will be 3-6 May 2018. Those present voted unanimously for the GA to be held in Italy.

15 11th European Music Therapy Conference in 2019

Karina Erland Jensen (Denmark) made a presentation about the EMTC 2019 on behalf of Hanne Mette Ridder (previous President of EMTC). The conference will be held from the 26th-30th June 2019 in Aalborg. Aalborg, the 4th biggest city in Denmark has an international airport and is in the Northern part of Denmark. The theme for the conference is Fields of Resonance. The host is the music therapy training programme at Aalborg Psychiatric Hospital, Aalborg University and the Danish Music Therapy Association. Deadline for abstract is October 1st 2018, and acceptance/rejection notification by end of January 2019. Early bird registration will be open until March 1st 2019.
Related to this, Tali Gottfried (Israel) asked if reduced fees for conferences had ever been considered for Music Therapists who are members of associations that are members of EMTC. This would mean that those countries who do not engage with EMTC might have incentive to do this (and their members might lobby them about this). **Action:** This will be discussed with Hanne Mette Ridder (EMTC 2019 Conference Lead).

16 Schedule for GA

Esa Ala-Ruona (President) presented his ideas regarding an extended period of time for the GA. He suggested starting on Friday afternoon, having a whole day on Saturday and half a day on Sunday. There was discussion about this. Some members felt it would be a positive development, others were concerned that it might take more resources in terms of time and money.

17 Working groups

There were 6 groups last year; Website, ethics, CPD, recognition and qualification for music therapy, European music therapy day and research. Melanie sent guidelines

Title	Chair	Members 2016	New members
Ethics	Elena Fitzthum (Austria)	Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland) Ranka Radulovic (Serbia)	
This was a wide-ranging discussion, including consideration of social media/photography etc. Elena talked about the difference in law and governance regarding ethics in different countries. Can the EMTC influence ethics in different countries across Europe? The difference between ethical and personnel governance within EMTC was discussed, and it was suggested that a clear job description may be helpful in managing CRs who do not fulfil their role on EMTC.			
CPD	Marketa Gerlichova (Czech Republic)	Teresa Leite (for Rita Maia, Portugal) Stefanie Lefebvre (France)	Vilmante Alexsiene (Lithuania)
Marketa's presentation will be sent with the minutes. There will be another survey sent to all CRs in the summer.			
Music therapy day	Albert Berman (The Netherlands)	Ingeborg Nebelung (Norway) Agnes Varga (Hungary) Laurence Reuter (Luxembourg)?? Tali Gottfried (Israel) Ranka Radulovic (Serbia)	Ksenija Boric (Croatia)
Albert informed the group that a skype meeting has already taken place earlier in the year. The theme for the day in 2017 will be 'Hearing your Voice'. The group focused on the images for the poster, and the song. Each country will be asked to take on the theme, with a structure provided by EMTC working group. There may be an opportunity to add in a track from each country and build up the song across countries.			
Recognition and qualification for music therapy	Antonia Hadjieftychoiu (Cyprus)	Marketa Gerlichova (Czech Republic) Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland)	Evi Papanikolaou (Greece) Karina Erland Jensen (Denmark) Maria Munkesjö (Sweden) Rozemarijn Claes (Belgium) Teodossi Tzinguilev (Bulgaria)
Antonia noted the new members and welcomed them. The group have worked towards focusing on qualification standards in each association (following training) in order to ascertain differences.			
Music therapy and the Arts Therapies; possibilities and	Claudia Knoll (Slovenia)		Özgur Salur (Turkey) Katie Roth (Latvia) Beate Roelcke (Switzerland) Malle Luik (Estonia)

challenges			
Claudia noted the new personnel in the group and welcomed the new members. Claudia presented some of the discussions that had taken place. For example, some of the 'political' differences, lack of understanding across professions, and the fact that Music Therapists can be more qualified than other Creative Therapists. There was also discussed about the benefits of working together in collaboration. Claudia and the group are planning to survey the associations to find out about good practice and challenges across Europe.			
Research	Melissa Mercadal-Brotons (Spain),	Elide Scarlata (Italy) Tali Gottfried (Israel) Laurence Reuter (Luxembourg)?? Vilmante Alexsiene (Lithuania)	Stefan Mainka (Germany)
Tali Gottfried (Israel) reported for Elide. Stefan Mainka (Germany) was welcomed to the group. The group has been collecting information about research that is going on around Europe. Not everyone has been able to reply with information, particularly where there is a lot of research taking place. The research group will define criteria for research (eg which level) and fields of research. Stefan will investigate using ResearchGate instead of a list. Tali also noted ideas to encourage European research, such as a small EMTC reward. The research group aims to make a strategic plan for the next years in order to manage and focus their work.			

In addition to the working groups, the Core Board will continue to work on the main issues raised, and the EMTS committee will continue to work on the evolving EMTR/EMTS.

Esa ended the GA by speaking about the WFMT and the fact that Elide Scarlata (Italy) has been nominated as European representation for WFMT. It was discussed that this could be a useful connection, however there were different opinions presented.