EMTC GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LIEPAJA, LATVIA
SATURDAY 13TH AND SUNDAY 14TH MAY, 2023

Present in person

Core Board: Elide Scarlata (President), Nele Fiers (Treasurer), Rita Maia (Secretary General)

Country Representatives: Elisabeth Kaczynski (Austria/Board), Lieselotte Steenkiste (Belgium), Irini Ioannou (Cyprus), Lenka Kruzikova (Czech Republic), Gustavo Schulz-Gattino (Denmark/Board), Malle Luik (Estonia), Hanna Hakommäki (Finland), Dominique Praquin (ex-France), Jenny Diouf Lewis (France), Stefan Mainka (substitute - Germany), Rita Karpati (Hungary), Katie Fitzpatrick (Ireland), Fiippo Giordano (Italy), Katie Roth (Latvia), Liga Krumina (Latvia), Zita Abramaviciute (Lithuania), Ann Majerus (Luxembourg), Gerben Roefs (Netherlands), Tone Steinhardt (Norway), Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland), Daniela Morais (Portugal), Angelica Postu (Romania), Petra Gabrscek (Slovenia), Catherine Clancy (Spain/Board), Katarina Lindblad (Sweden), Beate Roelcke (Switzerland), Yuliia Martyn (Ukraine), Rachel Swanick (UK)

Present online
Country Representatives: Teodossi Tzinguilev (Bulgaria), Ksenija Buric (Croatia), Mitsi Akoyunoglou (Greece), Valgerdur Jónsdóttir (Iceland), Tali Gottfried (Israel), Ranka Radulovic (Serbia), Özgür Salur (Türkiye) , Marusa Juvanc (Slovenia)

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Saturday 13th May, 2023

Welcome

Elide opened the General Assembly (GA) by welcoming all country representatives, both attending in person and online.

The GA began with the singing of Hallo Django by all CRs.

- Elide welcomed the following new CRs: Lieselotte, Belgium; Irini, Cyprus; Lenka, Czech Republic; Jenny, France; Rita, Hungary; Filippo, Italy; Jurgita, Lithuania; Josefine, Germany; Gerben, Netherlands; Tone, Norway; Daniela, Portugal; Petra, Slovenia; Rachel, United Kingdom; Yullia, Ukraine.
- Elide made a warm farewell to Yosef; Marketa; Dominique; Stefan; Boglaka; Zita; Laurene; Ingeborg; Claudia and Tessa, and thanked all for their voluntary work.

President's report

Elide noted that all core board meetings have been held online to save costs. Thanks to the regional coordinators for their creativity and energy. Thanks to Rita and Nele for their efficiency and accessibility.

- ECArTE Summit: Elide was invited to talk about different levels of regulation and recognition. ECArTE made use of the EMTC web page about recognition and linked to it through their web page. The next meeting will be online in September 2023 to discuss a presentation of the Federations at the Ecarte Symposium that will be held in Ghent (Belgium) in 2024.
- SATTIE: There are inaccuracies in this report. We can continue presenting corrections and adding information as it is continuously updated information.
- WFMT: We would like the Regional Liaison of Europe to be of EMTC. Mitsi (Greece) will stand for election in July.
- WMTD – ' Music Therapy Begins'.A webinar with the WFMT, regarding professional recognition. The delegates from Cyprus, Romania and Iceland were invited as speakers, to share the state of the art, challenges and procedures of the process of professional recognition and regulamentation in their own countries.
- The EMTC 2025 conference in Hamburg is involving the work of some 70 people from the local MT associations. Key values of the conference include keeping the conference fees accessible. All CR ideas are welcome.
- European Commission: Informal meeting with a member of the Commision to talk about MT in Europe: EMTC was present at a Stakeholder webinar with a poster that was created within only 1 week and was shown amongst 22 posters in 6 theme categories. Our poster was a proposal for concrete action and was placed in the theme 'Access to treatment and care', thus representing an important step towards recognition
- Mentally Healthy Communities: Mental Health Europe (MHE) invites you to celebrate the fourth edition of the European Mental Health Week (EMHW), which will run from 22 May until 28 May 2023. The theme this year is "Mentally Healthy Communities". More information can be found here: https://www.mhe-sme.org/mentally-healthy-communities-european-mental-health-week-22-28-may-2023/

Proposal for EMTC Agenda 2024

- Update ethical code
- EMTC cover letter to represent to your governments
- Active participation in the European Commission.
- Connection to EU policy platform, which is interactive
- Growth: to talk about funding from the EU. Inclusivity is good so it is no problem to have countries that are not in EU

Delegate Vote of acceptance of report by Elide: Yes (all) No (none)

Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

Nele clarified the number of members, the cost of the new website (quite expensive); the core board expenses; the costs of Accountancy and publications (which is a lot but will finish this year).

- The balance is – 100€
- The 2023 budget has a small increase in members. Core board expenses include flights etc. Accountancy is an estimate. Notarial costs are clear.
- The year will end with -1000€
- Balance now is nearly 26,000€
- Membership is stable
- Costs are saved by online meetings
- Proposed Budget 2023-2024

Angelica asked if the ethics code needs to be changed. Nele clarified that the statutes are not presented in English as the official languages in Belgium are Dutch and French.

Gerben's suggestion to add 10% of balance for unexpected costs was accepted.

Nele: the balance shows that it was necessary to raise the fee from 1-1.5€.

Delegate Vote of acceptance of report by Nele: Yes (all) No (none)

Tuning in I

Reflections of the Board about the working year 2022-2023

Gustavo (North Region Coordinator) spoke about topics that unite the board in the meetings: communication flow, respect for everyone's opinion, open listening. The work is pragmatic, ending with concrete decisions and actions.

Elisabeth (Middle Region Coordinator) was a member of the previous board and spoke of more flow of communication and connection among the board. Everyone is more up to date as the regional meeting minutes are shared.

Cath spoke of the strong constant feeling that we are a team that is alive and actively supporting everyone all the time: 'We are with all of you, and you are with all of us'.

Gustavo noted that, at the 1st face-to-face meeting of the board yesterday, the strategy of keeping up to date gave the board more time to discuss work in detail.

Tuning in II

Brief presentation from all CRs. No repetition of written country reports.

Elizabeth was a timekeeper of 33 countries.

Austria: Elisabeth had nothing to add to the written report

Belgium, Lieselotte: In April 2024 an international congress about clinical improvisation will be held in Leuven. A research consortium will come to talk. Language: English.

Bulgaria, Teodossi: Regarding Recognition: the MTs are starting to talk to Art therapists, while respecting the boundaries of each profession. EMTC communication and ECArTE is important here.

Croatia, Ksenija: We have engaged a lawyer and are approaching the Ministry of labour to add MT as a work nomenclature.

Cyprus, Irini: MT was recognized in May 2022 by parliament but there has been no action since then. Delays in paperwork by the government. We are being invited to conferences by doctors. There is interest in studying but we have no MT courses.

Czech Republic, Lenka: Recognition is on the way. There was an art exposition in parliament about music and families with posters for the days previous to the event.

Denmark, Gustavo: 11th Nordic conference will be 26-29 June 2024. Deadline for abstracts 1 october 2023. Theme: let's face the music. Please join us.

Estonia, Malle: New board after 9 years with the last board. New president is beginning to make contacts internationally. This spring there are new requirements for MT as supervisors or trainers.

Finland, Hannah: Research is carried out in collaboration with centres of excellence of 2 universities (2022-2029). International paediatric conference last year led to 2-3 more vacancies in children's hospitals. Interest in MT, Art Therapy and Dance Movement Therapy is exploding. This may spread to other university hospitals in Finland.

France, Jenny: New partnership with France Parkinson, with 1st meeting 2 days ago to make good communication. A big step to close working.

Germany, Stefan: hello from new CR Josefina, who was elected in March. Academic teacher with the Research action team. (Stefan is present as substitute).

Greece, Mitsi: GA of ESPEM at the end of June: ESPEM is joining the Arts Federation. She thanked the south group for support. Regarding the Greek situation, a lawyer is asking for information. Elide and Nele assure that the board will respond soon.

Hungary, Rita: The educational system is based on professions, and people specialise once they achieve a profession. Confusion about what is a MT. The President asks for central guidelines about professional recognition. How can we preserve unity within our profession and avoid division?

Iceland, Valgerdur: No changes. Private practices are a struggle. Dementia care is growing. Open to collaborations in the near future on an academic level.

Ireland, Katie: The situation is similar to Finland. National hospital is opening in 3 years and wants arts therapists. But competencies must be created for the future posts. We have produced a list of MT papers published. This is a good idea for government reviews.

Israel, Tali: Recognition is still ongoing. New MT training is now offered. Artistic committee of DMT, drama, Art, MT, in which Tali is present. Goals: develop training, supervision, connections with the health ministry to promote funding.

I**taly**, Filippo: There is a process of unification of 2 associations. Now there are 3 instead of 4. Regarding training: Master degrees are now in conservatoires like university training. Next year there may be PhD training.

Latvia, Katie: Work is in collaboration with arts therapists, now working on professional standards. All 4 arts therapies are recognized by the ministry of health and paid through the government. Work on this week's arts conference since February.

Lithuania, Zita: Jurgita will be at the next meeting as the new CR.

Luxemburg, Ann: Pleased to see that the ethical code is being updated.

Netherlands, Gerben: The website has just been updated and the statutes too. Again, the profession has failed to get legalised, but the logo of 'certified music therapist' has been accepted.

Norway, Tone: Recognition is still on the agenda. MT competency is very important. We need to clarify differences between Music Therapy and Working with Music. How do we ensure good transfer between health settings?

Poland, Agnieska: New board in Association. The president is a university professor. We want to reactivate our polish MT journal, to publish in collaboration between the University and the Association. Conference in April in English about 'Trauma, music and MT'.

Portugal, Daniela: Recognition - in January there was discussion in parliament about MT. For the law proposition to advance, we have to produce a document of Proportionality.

Romania, Angelica: Membership has doubled from 6 to 13. Lawyer working. Bucharest is going to offer a postgraduate course in MT. On October 6-8 there will be a conference in Bucharest and Cluz. A military hospital in Cluj is offering practicum.

Serbia, Ranka: Lobbying for law for MT. Terrorism has caused a lot of trauma here due to an attack with 17 people killed, and I have been helping. Thanks to the core board for the poster.

Slovenia, Petra Gabrscek: I replace Maruza. We are a small country: 12 students of MT are studying in the Music academy in Liviana. We applied for the Erasmus project. Trying to spread 'Music for all' through geriatric care, schools etc.

Spain, Catherine: We are trying to unite the country by bringing together the many associations. We have revised the accreditation requirements and relaunched the process.

Sweden, Katerina: we are reworking our association structure. We have one academic system; and another that is private. Evidence suggests that we can't stay together.

Switzerland, Beate: Our experience about recognition is that we have to show publically what we do. Two students have made a film with subtitles which shows our work in hospitals in real situations. www.netzwerk-musiktherapie.ch

Türkiye, Özgür: The earthquake led to 40,000 dead. We are collaborating with Berkley university to teach musicians how to use music to help, and MTs are supervising. MIDDEL project with Norway in symposium. MT is not recognized as an intervention, except for doctors and dentists. Please contact me for help if you are approached by collaboration offers.

Ukraine, Yullia: Not a long history of MT as a therapeutic method. Recognition is not a priority. The Association has 21 members, and certification began 1 year ago. Work with Ukrainian refugees, with children with psychological trauma and with military personnel after war actions. 3 articles and 1 textbook printed in Ukrainian.

United Kingdom, Rachel: There will be a conference in May 2024 in Leicester, working on diversity and inclusion. Community groups. Questions: 1) regarding recognition: would it be useful to have written documentation about the process of recognition? 2) What projects are EMTC working on?

Regional Meetings and Reports

North Region: Gustavo

We decided to talk about what unites us as a group, and we concluded that we are a diverse group with many differences. We looked at the main MT approaches in each country. There are some common approaches – we can learn something from each other. There are some surprising approaches such as 'attachment approach'

There was no time to talk about recognition. North region can do some CPD together.

It was very nice to work face to face and to share. Keywords: Dialogue / diversity / richness

Middle Region: Elisabeth

We have a proposal to work on the definition "Music Therapy". We collected ideas and suggestions. We consider going from WFTM, to a definition in the EMTC, then each member country has its own definition (to attend to each culture).

Website: How can we be more present on the website? Can our countries bring the public to the website? Important to keep it updated. We could report more of our activities on the website. There needs to be a stronger connection with PR from each country.

South Region: Catherine

Most CRs of the South Region are online, so we haven't enjoyed a face-to-face meeting like the other regions. The meeting was very intense. The key word is Collaboration in research, clinical ideas, supporting each other, recognition and education. We need central help to clarify MT terms and definitions.

Action Team Meetings and Reports

(with accompanying PowerPoints)

1 CPD Action Team: Gustavo

Members: Elisabeth (Austria), Gustavo (Denmark), Daniela (Portugal) Zita (Lithuania)

CPD is mandatory for MTs

We looked at the websites to see what CDP events have happened in the last 5 years, precovid and after. We are searching for trends, opinions and real needs of MTs

Please respond to the future survey. We don't know where to find information about CDP courses in your countries. We need a person or a link for this.

We have 2 new members – Rachel and Agneska.

2 Recognition Action Team: Angelica

Members: Jenny (France), Lenka (Czech Republic), Ann (Luxemburg), Angelica (Romania) (leaving: Dominique, ex France; Boglarka, ex Hungary)

There have been many changes in the group. Now Boglarka has left.

We have sent a questionnaire to legalised countries. We would like to provide a database of documents. We suggest a 2025 round table

We need the basic study requirements (EMTS) to help the new countries to build up curricula correctly.

Interaction is needed between different AT teams like CPD.

3 Research Action Team: Tali

Members: Tali (Israel), Gustavo (Denmark), Filippo (Italy) Gerben (Netherlands), Rachel (UK), Katie (Ireland) Josephine (Germany) (Leaving: Laurien ex NLS, Stefan ex Germany and Claudia ex Slovenia)

We rely on CRs to share the research that is going on in each country.

The database is being updated constantly by new work and by removing old work

4 Accessibility Action Team: Katie (Ireland)

Members: Katie (Ireland), Özgür (Türkiye), Teodossi (Bulgaria), Yullia (Ukraine), Ranka (Serbia)

The team has clear goals within the EMTC, such as how to improve access for lower income countries to EMTC conferences and the GA, and to being host for the GA. Beyond the EMTC are questions of inclusivity and diversity, language barriers, compensation for MT work etc. The team are working with the Hamburg organisation on accessibility issues.

5 PR Action Team: Mitsi (Greece) Katie (Latvia), Ksenija (Croatia), Ann (Luxembourg), Lieselotte (Belgium), Mitsi (Greece)

11 articles published on the website this year. PR and CRs need more communication.

Information must be sent in Jpeg not pdf

EMTD – Ksenija (Croatia) will continue

6 Supervision AT: Malle

Members: Malle (Estonia) Catherine (Spain), Beate (Switzerland), Ranka (Serbia), Özgür (Türkiye), Katarina (Sweden), Hanna (Finland), Teodossi (Bulgaria)

A survey was sent to all countries, and took many months to receive the answers. We found wide differences in supervision requirements, no general standard for supervision, and generally no clear definition of what Supervision is.

EMTS Commission Presentation

Melanie Voigt, with accompanying PowerPoint

Important: All information regarding EMTS is strictly for internal use. Material for public use will be distributed after the presentation of the results in July 2023 (WFMT Congress, Vancouver)

Melanie: We need to use this knowledge to create a common platform. There is a problem of credibility at a national level. We used a bottom-up process based on competencies instead of approaches: Skills / attitudes / Safe and practice skills.

EMTS standards commission sent out 160 questionnaires – 65% return.

There are 12 different areas of study. How are they evaluated? How many credits? We identified subcategories and Core competencies in order to formulate minimum standards. We are working within the EQF (European Qualifications Framework), and our terminology is based on Skills and Competencies.

There are very different traditions in the different countries. The contexts are diverse. Definition is very important for governmental approval, and we are working on the definition of Music Therapy that supports our work with other disciplines.

The standards concentrate on learning outcomes and areas of study. Example of standards: The higher the number level – the greater the complexity. 4,5,6 are the levels of basic standards.

By the end of 2023, CRs will be asked to communicate the Standards to their associations and on to training programmes.

Publication of the Standards: This will be a living document which can be updated when needed, to ensure safe and reflective practice.

Presentations: The first presentation will be in WCMT Vancouver, July 2023.

Gerben (NLS) asked about what 'Clinical MT' means? Melanie: Clinical practice is the term for all MT practice, in all settings.

Katarina (Sweden): What is Self experience? Melanie: the person becomes aware of themselves. Self-reflection. There is no single way to do it or a specific theoretical background, but we are clear about the results of it.

Özgür (Türkiye): congratulations after the long journey. Can we bring these standards into a type of certification that shows that the training is following these standards? Or ¿Can the associations say this? Melanie: the country chooses the terms, but the competencies show if the training is doing the job. EMTC can only dictate a recommendation.

Ranka (Serbia): will we make a European certification MT in the future? So there is mobility in Europe for MTs. Melanie: We seek to promote mobility in Europe, but we are not working on it yet.

Beate (Switzerland): did you define Supervision in the process? Melanie: We need help. We have competencies that should come from supervision. It itself is not defined.

New Statutes

Nele presented the updated statutes and explained why they have been revised.

EMTC was founded in Belgium. In 2019 a new law required that the statutes be updated. This is explained in the Framing Document. The deadline is December 2023. In 2022 EMTC changed accountants and notaries, who will accept a votation online to accept the revised statutes, but two thirds of CRs must be present online. A Power of Attorney can be given to another CR.

Gerben questioned and edited the statute language.

Ranka asked about the relationship between the EMTC and the WFMT, and for control of MTs who can become members of WFMT while not being members of national associations. The topic was not accepted for debate now.

Online Notary Date for all CRs will be June 8th CET 17:00-18:00 (only Ranka (Serbia) and Rita (Hungary) will be absent.)

Delegate Votation:

1) Proposition to leave money to Red Cross in the event of EMTC liquidation: Yes (all) No (none)

2) Acceptance of revised statutes: Yes (all) No (none)

Sunday 14th May, 2023

Small Group Work and Presentations

Small Group Work to brainstorm on various topics as the first step in an ongoing exploration during the coming years. Small groups are asked to collect their thoughts in presentations.

Each group was formed by CRs from different regions, previously organised by the Board.

Group 5. Topic: Ethics: How would you like to be treated when you have an ethical problem? What can the EMTC do to help?

The group considered various scenarios, including the discussion of a hypothetical situation.

In the context of ethical issues, the EMTC could:

- Pre-empt issues
- Promote ethical practices
- Produce a plain language code of ethics for both professionals and public
- Stand up for an organisation when there is an issue
- Offer mediation between parties.

The EMTC could collaborate by giving support, with the CR acting as the bridge.

Group 4: **Topic: How to Sell the product of EMTC in the future?**

The group thought about what the EMTC does; what it offers; and to whom it should sell. There are three visual concepts: a cone, a spiral and a tree.

The CR is the key person to promote the EMTC in the country, and the job description should be updated to include this role.

The cone (see figure) illustrates the different levels of MT organisation, from the world situation (top) to the individual MT client (point at the bottom). It is important to remember that the principal purpose of all is to ensure quality care of the client.

The Spiral represents the outreaching effects of the MT cone, far beyond MT itself.

The Tree – leaves are patients; EMTC is the strong trunk; CRs are the branches.

EMTC needs to be visible in the physical world (eg monthly calendar marked with all European events) and online (facebook)

As CRs have a lot to do already, this information should be brief and easy to find.

Group 3: Topic: Regarding the EU mental health strategy: what to do as MT/ EMTC?

The group looked at the website MHE/SME.org to consult MHE's strategic plan. Suggested keywords related to MT:

- Promote **awareness** of how music can promote health.
- Share our knowledge to create **inclusiveness.**

We could write a document about the perspective of MT tied to mental health strategies.

We could create a visual collage including the following:

- EU: Human rights-based approach
- Psychological model of health
- Recovery-based intervention
- Co creation with experts
- Mental health stigma and discrimination
- MT as a sustainable resource.

Group 2: Topic: What Dreams and Inspirations do you have for the coming year?

The group discussed **diversity** vs **centralization** at the EMTC level

Dreams included the wish to speak freely ; round table format for discussions; Clarity of language and definitions.

The EMTC could make more information available; Students could get more involved

Regarding diversity, it is important to respect differences, but limits are necessary to contain so that everything does not become too wide.

Pragmatic EMTS guidelines are necessary

The EMTC is a key part of the development of the regulation process.

The principal Dream of the group: to have everybody, all CRs, in the GA in person.

Group 1: What is the role of the EMTC when associations are fighting each other inside their own country? How can the CR´s of the countries that are in such conflict situations be supported? Concrete actions.

Hosting EMTC GA 2024: bids presentation

Rita

Since no bid has been received, the deadline is extended to September 20th, 2023

Rita stressed the importance of working face to face and not online. There is financial help up to 5000€ offered by EMTC.

To help plan a GA, Rita has circulated a document titled ‘EMTC GA bid Guidelines’ and Excel ‘template estimated budgets’ which set out the different aspects of hosting a GA and help with the budgeting and planning.

Elizabeth offered to give advice as she has been CR when Austria has hosted 3 times. She suggested that a team of 3 people works well: 1 person for accommodation (this person should tolerate frustration well, as it is quite complex); 1 person for the food, which can all be pre-arranged, and 1 person for the symposium. The two weeks leading up to the GA are very busy.

Katie (Latvia) noted that all the team needs to be able to speak English as well as the local language.

Accommodation: Katie suggested that each CR could arrange their own through the internet, and could receive financial help individually from the EMTC fund as necessary. Elsabeth warned that this could involve a cultural change, as the host country traditionally invites the CRs (and so pays for the accommodation), and should now receive the financial help directly from the EMTC.

Tali suggested going to Aalborg for 2024, thus taking advantage of the Nordic Conference. **Katerina** agreed that this would reduce costs of travel and would be easier for many, and that geographical variety is not necessary all the time.

Elide remembered the hard work of the GA in Trapani, Italy, and that it is very rewarding to host and look after the CRs.

Gerben and **Gustavo** recommended that the GA conference would be advantageous for countries that are less strong, as MT would get an impulse.

Ranka remembered that previously the EMTC had regulated the host according to regions.

Petra said Slovenia might bid to be host. Other interests began to spark and were encouraged.

A big thank you was given to Katie for her huge and wonderful work in organising the GA in Latvia. Elide said: 'We thank you for your warmth and hospitality'. The Core Board gave tokens of appreciation, and the CRs gave an emotional standing ovation to Katie and her colleagues.

Procedure for the election of new CRs

Rita reminded that CRs and their substitute are elected for a minimum of 3 years, which is the time it takes to understand the work of the EMTC and become fully productive.

CR stepping down must inform their Regional Coordinator and the Core Board, and the association must email the election template and photo of the new CR to the Core Board. The photo will go on the website.

The CR job description should be sent by the regional coordinator. It is important that new CRS are made aware of the amount of work that they are taking on, as it is all voluntary.

Ranka recommended that substitute CRs should be kept informed at all times.

Plenary session – Summary of the GA

Elide: This is a summary of the main points discussed during the GA.

1) A European definition of MT. This topic arose several times. The definition needs to be written and should be placed in the FAQ section. This can be worked on by all the regional groups.

2) Specific definitions need to be written (for activity of EMTC and for modalities of music and health). We need to make clear what we do and how we work.
3) FAQs – We need more questions about the process, the discipline, the clients. CRs can suggest questions based on their country's needs.
4) EMTD – Croatia can continue but we welcome offers. The responsibility can be shared between countries. The theme and the flyer need to be available by September. The song theme used to come out of the GA, but this was lost through covid. The CRs translation of the templates are uploaded to the website. The two weeks around 15th November are full of events.
5) Social media actions by CRs, and the website – Thank you to Katie for the maintenance of the Website. This work could be shared. **Gustavo** informed that students use the site, especially the News page for videos etc. **Katie** would like a new photograph for the launch page which could be of a group of MTs around a piano, conveying the idea of a good therapist-therapist network. There is a closed EMTC CR Facebook which is useful for keeping CRs in touch.
6) EMTS – The Standards will be formally presented in the MT World Congress in Vancouver (July 2023). We will discuss how to use them in the future. This is a response to many questions asked during the GA.
7) Database for achieving Recognition. The website has an interactive map and a list of the processes, which are country specific. The information is in separate recognition pages. Austria is a good example. This could be developed further, and be linked to the excel sheet. To start, we can look for similarities in the first steps. **Katie** said that it is necessary to understand the context of each country, and this makes it a complex task. **Elizabeth** suggested testing if the processes described are understandable. **Lenka** asked for information about the concrete steps for the early process. How can we start? And what do we want to achieve? **Angelica** stressed the importance of seeing all the relevant parts of the process. **Filippo** described the success of the process towards recognition in Italy. Since 2023, Masters in MT are taught only in conservatories, and there should be a PhD programme in the near future (2025 or 26). Now, a PhD is only available in the medical context). **Elide** noted that the training programme came first, then the recognition, because the government has to be able to employ professionals. There are hybrid situations. **Ranka** explained that, in Serbia, the Austrian model was used and proposed to the Ministry of Health. Her book defined MT for the profession. The Austrian model needs to be adapted to each country. **Gustavo** suggested using the research database as a model for a recognition database.
8) Research: Please continue updating this useful research database.
9) Cover letter: The Core Board will produce a template letter that can be used for the implementation of MT and for making requests for funds.
10) Ethical code: This could be much more visible and should be updated. This is a task for next year.

Discussion from the plenary session

Gerben suggested that a present be given to Nele for her hard work and translation of the statutes. The delegates voted YES unanimously. Elide and Rita will do this.

Stefan asked for the old EMTD website to be shut down to avoid confusion. Perhaps some of the content could be kept elsewhere.

Mitsi asked what the procedure is for new associations to become members of the EMTC? She described the situation in Greece where there is 1 professional association and another association which is not professional. How can we safeguard so that the EMTC does not make decisions which lead to problems in the countries? **Nele** replied that the Board relies on the CR at the time of membership. The CR must be neutral, and this requires goodwill. We must be able to trust the

election process. Member associations must be music therapy associations. In the statutes there are 3 levels of membership: Active; Associate; Observing. **Mitsi** stressed that we need to safeguard so that future problems don't occur. **Elide** responded that each CR has a great responsibility to be an intermediary between the EMTC and your country. It is a big problem when someone is not neutral.

Stefan suggested that there should be an updated regulation for the process of new associations. **Elide** clarified that all requests should go through the CR to the Core Board. For Ukraine, as a new country, the Middle Regional Coordinator was responsible. Otherwise, the CR is the key figure. **Elisabeth** remarked that when there is a conflict of interest, there are further filters. **Gustavo** suggested that the CR job description should include the requirement of neutrality in point 6. **Nele** observed that, in the statutes, a conflict of interest must be declared at the beginning of a situation. Further work on the bylaws can be done in the future.

Ranka asked about a working group for MT intervention in crisis situations. WFMT is very supportive in this area but EMTC is not.

Özgür explained that, after the earthquake in Türkiye, an offer for help came from the WFMT Global Crisis committee. We had requests from WFMT to do a webinar, although this didn't materialise. During those days, we had a problem of requests for academic collaboration across Europe from so-called music therapists from Türkiye, and we asked EMTC for help to protect against these requests by notifying CRs, but this didn't happen. We, as music therapists and citizens from Türkiye, were making our best efforts to help survivors and traumatised (first-hand or second-hand) people in Türkiye. Notifying CRs about this issue would have eased our minds a bit in that turmoil. CRs are responsible for building bridges, but the context is as important as the needs. We should be aware of the context of our countries. We need more collaboration between the different countries, and this would develop more through knowing each other more.

Ranka: Serbia offered support to Özgür. And the webinar we offered also helped me recently in Belgrade.

After the statements of Ranka and Özgür, the whole room kept silent, and there was a strong sensation of emotion.

Katerina remarked on this to Özgür, as he was online and might not be aware of the impact of his words. She would have liked to help more.

Elide and Nele responded quietly that the EMTC cannot offer funds to help the country. We sent messages. Nele said she personally felt powerless to help.

Ranka commented that we need to be aware of our abilities. We are not capable of hearing or understanding in the first moments of trauma. As a group, we have a huge amount of empathy.

Özgür gave his thanks for the sincerity. We did not request funding. We live in different countries, different social and political environments, different people, media and so on. The social part of our meetings is very important. Just being aware of each other is an important first step to cultivating relationships with each other.

Ranka finalised by asking for any documentation about MT in social care.

Reflections on the GA

Elisabeth: We need more time to work together without such a rush.

Gustavo: we could work for longer in the regional meetings, and prioritise the human contact we lack the rest of the year.

Katarina: we could make cross-over groups for the Action Team meetings, so that the ATs could receive refreshing ideas from non-members.

Daniela: It would be good to mix the AT groups to exchange ideas from different realities.

Mitsi: the reports of the ATs went too fast for questions to be answered. Cross-over work could be very good.

Özgür: Regional Meetings and AT meetings were the most intense part of the GA when all people were present. But the Regional Meeting is less important at the GA now. We could use that time for AT meetings.

Ranka: our intensity has phases

Gustavo: we could be more productive if we get together the night before.

Tali: Good to connect ATs to lead to more profound work. The work at a plenary level is important. If people are divided in AT time, that is a loss.

Stefan: Heads of ATs could think in advance before online and presential meetings, and send out the agenda to all, and open meetings to anyone who wants to join temporarily.

Rita, Hungary: We need a pragmatic summary to close the GA.

Tali: congratulations for good working of the online technology

Rita (SG): Please let your associations know how much work you have done. It is important for them to recognise your hard work.

Elide: For the next year, advocacy at the EU level will take a lot of time.

Elide thanked all the CRs for their hard, intense work, and wished a safe return journey for those who came to the meeting in person.

We sang Hallo Django Jazz-Kanon by Uli Führe to close the GA.

The meeting began on Saturday 13th May 2023 and finished punctually on Sunday 14th May at 13:00.