EMTC General Assembly
September 6th and 7th, 2024
Brezice, Slovenia

Friday, 6th September 2024
9h - 18h

Attendance

Present: Rita Karpati (Hungary), Catherine Clancy (Spain), Rita Maia (Secretary General and vice president), Nele Fiers (Treasurer and vice president), Elide Scarlata (President), Agnieszka Szymajda (Poland), Mitsi Akoyunoglou (Greece), Tali Gottfried (Israel), Katie Roth (Latvia), Malle Luik (Estonia), Jurgita Zalgiryte (Lithuania), Lieslotte Steenkiste (Belgium), Katarina Lindblad (Sweden), Rachel Swanick (UK, joined the meeting on 7/9), Josephine Geibel (Germany), Diandra Russo (Switzerland), Gerben Roefs (The Netherlands), Fillipo Giordano (Italy), Ann Majerus (Luxembourg), Elisabeth Kaczynski (Austria/Board), Marusa Juvanc (Slovenia), Irini Ioannou (Cyprus), Daniela Morais (Portugal) and Aleksandra Denda (Observing member from Serbia).

Online: Hanna Hakommäki (Finland), Tone Steinhardt (Norway), Lenka Kruzikova (Czech Republic, joined the meeting on 7/9), Maria Habalova (Observing member from Slovakia), Jana Bendová (Czech Republic, joined the meeting on 6/9), Jenny Diouf (France), Gustavo Schulz Gattino (Denmark), Ozgur Salur (Türkiye), Valgerður Jónsdóttir (Iceland), Yulia Martin (Ukraine), Jessica Harris (Ireland) and Angelica Postu (Romania).

Welcome and opening
Elide (President) welcomes all delegates and thanks Marusa and Petra for the organization.
Nele (Treasurer) leads the song ‘What a beautiful day’, which is sung by all present.

Elide presents the President’s Report (Powerpoint 1) and greetings to the new CRs: Diandra Russo (Switzerland), thanks to Beate for many years work as CR Switzerland, Aleksandra Denda (Serbia) as Observing member and Linda Horvathova, substituted by Maria Habalovà (Slovakia) also as Observing member.

A summary is made of the meetings held in the previous year (June 23-Sept 24), by the Core Board: Core Board: 11 (online) , Hamburg 2025: 4 (online), Ecarte: 6 (online), COST: 2 (in person - paid by COST); 3 (online), EU Health Conference: 4 (online); Nele & Lieselotte as musicians 2 rehearsal; 1 present, Other: (eg Notary – statutes) 3 (online), Board: 7 (online).

The Core Board has answered more than 1,500 emails amongst EMTC groups; delegates correspondence; membership applications; incoming questions; events.

Elide presented the Core Board Agenda 2024 and explained the new platforms that the EMTC Core Board has embraced, due to the music therapy recognition in Europe:

- EU Health Policy Platform (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/)

    - EMTC has a registration number to access the platform. We can discuss about EU health issues with stakeholders
    - Webinar 15 Nov 2024 with EMTC for EMTD 2024 16:00-17:00 to raise awareness of mental health issues (children, adolescents and adults) and to support integration of MT in mental health institutions (https://emtc-eu.com/euhpp-live-webinar/). The recording will be on our website.
- COST Actions European Music Therapy Awareness and Advocacy (EMT-AA). (COST contacted Rita last year.) The Core Board proposed a poster about MT and mental health for the Stakeholder event at the Health Policy Platform on April 21, 2024, to improve connections with stakeholders. After this event COST contacted Rita and invited EMTC to a meeting in Brussels. COST promotes collaborative work between universities, institutions etc.
    - European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST): European framework for Research and Innovation which offers financial support for 4-year project involving 7+ countries including Inclusiveness Target Countries.
    - Project proposal (Elisabeth, CR Austria) + Action Team with deadline October 23, 2024. No MT proposal has been received before by COST. Psychiatrists and health professionals in COST are interested in MT.
- European Arts Therapies Summit (30 years of experience: the EMTC is older, with a research database; EMTS commission on training standards)
    - ECarTE conference Ghent, Belgium, 11-14 September 2024
    - Meetings about advocacy of arts therapies; alignment of Arts therapies professions to policy developments such as WHO European Framework for Action on Mental Health (2021-25); differences in training benchmarks and recognized evidence across the arts therapies.
- Ethical code Renewal
    - One code for professional MTs; another for Associations in the EMTC
    - The goal of EMTC is to take care of professional associations
- Research: Mental Health Review; Falco HEU project
    - Gustavo suggested work on scoping review of evidence from the last 10 years. Coordinator: Gustavo Gattino
    - Falco Project: Monica Geretsegger and Cristian Gold – the EMTC is useful for making contact across many countries; EMTC input to facilitate recruitment of therapists for study; plan and coordinate training and supervision for therapists delivering study-specific interventions. Very big funding for the 7 countries. Contact: Gustavo Gattino
- EMTC Cover letter (support letter to be requested when needed)

Elide presented the Core Board Agenda 2025: Priority to Growth; Connection; Active participation:

- Cost Action Team (creation of an Action Team to work on the application for COST ACTION;
- Investment of 5000€ to be decided;
- Clarification for EMTC membership categories;
- Revision of Bylaws;
- Renewal of Ethical Code(s).

Treasurer's report

Nele Fiers (Treasurer) presented the Financial report (Powerpoint 2).
For 2023 we only have a minus of 85€ instead of the estimated 1,600€. The main costs were the statutes and notary.

The estimated balance for 2024: no special expenses expected.

The GA for 2025 will be at the Hamburg conference so the 5000€ support will not be necessary. Katie suggests some merchandising in Hamburg so that we are more visible / approachable.
There is an increase in membership, but 16 countries were late paying, which causes extra work. Please respect the date.
GA support can continue.
For the end of 2025, there will be a financial buffer. If we have more than 25,000€ at the end of the year, we would have to pay taxes.
Invite suggestions for the use of 5,000€+:

- Inclusive actions for Hamburg congress to bring people to the conference?
- Some CRs find it difficult to get here – where do we draw the line?
- More podcasts?
- Ethic code – legal advice?

Some suggestions were made by the delegates:
Angelica: to give economic support to new student MTs.
Tali: call for new research to encourage new researchers, which would contribute to EMTC too, but would need a committee.
Rita / Elide: the COST project could lead to this. We could apply for funding for different projects.
Gerber: EMTD – The NLS website could be moved to the EMTC website.
Elide: Thanks to Ksenija for the EMTD work
Katie: We need Instagram but it must be of good quality. We need PR of a professional level (which would need funding).
Elide: We need to be visible. This requires investment.
Elizabeth: needs to be events planning etc.

Several suggestions have been collected. A google form will be created with all the suggestions made, for voting. It will be sent during the next few months.

Voting: for President's report / Financial report: Approval by all.

Reflections of the Board about the work from 2023-2024

Tuning In I. Regional Report

1) Gustavo: Here you are safe in a protected environment. A right to be heard, love, care, respect and dialogue are the foundations of everything we do and believe.
2) Elizabeth: this year has been a remarkable journey – national conflicts and challenges but also collaboration and CB support. Incredible progress with the EU commission which opens up new projects for the future. Deep respect and genuine affection on the board.
3) Catherine: This year our meetings have been very intense, mostly with tight, full agendas, and recently deeply honest, supportive meetings with a very strong feeling of team spirit.

Short reports and thoughts from Country Representatives

Tuning in II: Short reports from CRs.

Elisabeth (CR from Austria) moderated this section, allowing each Country Representative to introduce themselves and give any updated information from their country.

The following CRs gave brief updates:

Özgür (Türkiye):The process of change of CRs (eg Serbia) needs to be transparent

Diandra (Switzerland): Prize awarded in German speaking countries. Can we find a spot for the presentation of the master's thesis? (In Hamburg?)

Katarina (Sweden): I miss the online people. It would be great to bring you here.

Catherine (Spain): There have been two pitches for hosting the next national congress, but both were found inadequate and the suggestion for both entities to collaborate together was turned down.

Marusa (Slovenia): The symposium is a significant event. We have a new website. https://glasbenaterapija.si Actions include first year in the health system in neonatal and child psychiatry. Choir leaders for Alzhiemer choirs. Workshops for people with dementia.

Angelica (Romania): We are in touch with the health ministry. There is a new association that leads MT services. Survey of MT practitioners had 50 replies.

Yulia (Ukraine): 1st conference in MT in July.

Daniela (Portugal): Recognition process is stuck with European Law which requires a Proportionality test to be done. We don't know how to do this.

Agnieszka (Poland): We are planning to organize a conference in an oncology center.

Tone (Norway): Our association has been under a lot of pressure due to an employee situation. Pediatric conference is being organized for next year.

Gerben (Netherlands): 3 Young MTs at master level are offering CPD for MTs.

Ann (Luxembourg): We are holding a 20-year celebration event. The Health Ministry is showing interest.

Jurgita (Lithuania): Greetings

Katie (Latvia): We might lose one training course because of a merge of universities.

Filippo (Italy): We are working towards the 2026 world congress. 6 positions open for PhDs.

Tali (Israel): There is a shortage of professionals for physical and mental trauma, resulting from the barbaric attack of 7th October 2023 and subsequent war. We are trying to provide access to families, and offer safe rooms for trauma victims. There are people from 24 nationalities affected.

Jessica (Ireland): Greetings.

Valgerður Jónsdóttir (Iceland): There is a full time position in a nursing home. The association was founded 27 years ago, but still has just 10 members. Grateful for support by the EMTC.

Rita (Hungary): Developments in education. Now there is a master level programme and postgraduate course (Symphonia method) for children with disadvantaged backgrounds. Lots of short courses, but we need to clarify standards for trained MTs.

Mitsi (Greece): ESPEM has joined an Arts Therapy association. We are offering projects in a psychiatric congress soon.

Josephine (Germany): European Conference in Hamburg 2025. Due date 15 September for abstracts (*now extended to 30 Sept*).

Jenny (France): We are considering collaboration with other arts therapies. How do other countries collaborate? Does it help? Is it useful for the recognition process?
Hanna (Finland): Uncertainty for students and professionals as there are severe cuts being made by the government.
Malle (Estonia): I will leave after this year. Estonia has a good certification system. Therapists are working mostly in rehabilitation centers. We have good stability. MT is only taught in the capital. Good news has come from the Tartu University in South Estonia, which is conservative and not open to new ideas, but has now accepted MT training.
Gustavo (Denmark): We had a conference in Aalborg (June 2024) with 300 participants. A documentary on MT for Dementia is promoting the profession. A national law for MT is a long way off, but initiatives are growing.
Lenka (Czech Republic): We are trying to negotiate recognition through the Ministry of Health.
Irini (Cyprus): We now have an official registry and MTs have their own official number. The Deputy Minister of Culture is looking for funding for arts and health and has asked for projects. There are 3 new positions for MTs in special schools.
Ksenija (Croatia): Thanks to Rita for her patience, and to Slovenia for the organization of the GA. Recognition is not happening yet, it seems to be reversing.
Teodossi (Bulgaria): We have just 3 people on the board now. New energy. 30 years of association next year. We'd like to make an international symposium. Criteria of CPDs needs to be clarified.
Lieselotte (Belgium): Greetings.
Elizabeth (Austria): Remember that we have 2 countries with war in Europe, and many challenges locally. Peace is more important than the EMTC.

Regional meetings

The regional groups have met in person. Regional reports about the outcomes of each group have been presented.

Regional Reports

North Region Group (Gustavo)

The group is learning from each other. Dialogue about how they can help each other with what they know now. Suggestion to write an abstract about this and present the results.

The group had a discussion about the topic: Ideas for possible projects for the money. Some ideas have been presented: Support colleagues in GAs; use technology to support accessibility; funds for PR Instagram, Universities for some projects; students involved in one event of EMTC; learning materials for music therapists; specialized training for Music therapists; and supervisors for specific Music Therapy work.

Middle Region Group (Elizabeth)

The group has spoken about experiences, challenges and difficulties with finding dates to meet. Have discussed working in smaller groups. Maybe 3-monthly meetings and meanwhile smaller meetings.
The group had a discussion about the topic: Ideas for possible projects for the money. Some ideas have been presented: EMTC needs some money for legal advisors; bring CRs to the GAs; offer support to early career MTs; visibility of EMTC – we need this

outside our community; and member countries could apply for money for special projects?

South Region Group (Catherine)
The group dedicated the meeting to the discussion about the topic: Ideas for possible projects for the money. Some ideas have been presented: Scholarships for students; supervision for new practitioners; advocacy for EMTC podcasts; accessibility of CRs; and professional Media
We believe that the EMTC needs to ensure that all media content should look professional.

Action Teams meeting and presentations
The afternoon began with meetings of the current ACTION TEAMS, followed by short presentations.

AT European Music Therapy Day - Chair Ksenija (CR Croatia)
A new website was created by Croatia and all the history is preserved there. However there still are two websites regarding the European Music Therapy Day. Ksenjia remembered the titles from the years before: 2021 Share your emotion; 2022 Music begins; 2023 Community MT (Song and dance). Last year´s mote had a poor level of participation and questioned: What can we do to promote participation?
In 2024 the motto is Music Therapy & Mental Health 'the rhythm of wellbeing – harmonizing mind and spirit'.
The lyrics of the song were written by a Music Therapy client who is writing a book about her experience.
The poster and the flier can be downloaded, translated and culturally adapted, encouraging participation in each country.
It is important to host the EMTDay page to the EMTC website, technical issues will try to be solved.
Nele Fiers remembers that it is important to make sure to ask permission for recording and suggests making a playlist. Each therapist must be ethically alert. Audio / written ..
In the performance of the original song, it is sung by the MT and spoken by the client.
It is a proposal, not a suggestion.

AT - CPD: Chair Gustavo
This AT had no meetings during the year.
Maybe relate the CPD to regional meetings. The group questioned the usefulness of the team, as it is a huge topic. Regional legislation is relevant. CPDs can be promoted during the European Conference.

AT - Students and early career MTs: Chair Gustavo
The group had no activity last year. Interest started in Edinburgh where students wanted to collaborate with EMTC.
Gustavo says that the EMTC should offer a safe space to recent Music Therapists and students. But it is difficult to have meetings once the participants are always changing.
Possible conflict of power with a Music Therapist facilitating for students. Gustavo makes the following suggestions: Could students possibly get in touch with CRs? Could we have a student (1st year) to stay for 3 years with us? Could there be a task force with students making their own team within the EMTC?

AT – Recognition: Angelica (Chair)

Each country has a unique situation, so the AT should have an email address for people to contact.
The team would like to create a database of the actions of different countries.
The group produced an abstract for the 2025 EMTC Conference with a round table about recognition.
The Action Team launched the following questions 2022-2025: How do we understand recognition and the process? What sort of support do the countries need? Who would like to join the Round table? Several CR´s have offered: Austria (good example of a country where the profession is already recognized); Katie (CR from Latvia, will pass PwP from earlier webinar); Rita (CR Hungary, on the way to the professional recognition); Özgür (a profession only for doctors and dentists);Irini (CR Cyprus), has a country where the profession has been recognized recently.

AT - Research : Tali Gotfried (Chair)
The biggest challenge of the group was the impossibility to meet with all members together.
In 2022, in Edinburgh – the group launched the database, which strengthens the EMTC as a body of knowledge.
The group wants to keep it up to date. The group received and reviewed fourteen surveys this year (students) . The research page of the website is bringing consultations. This last year, the group called for updates. Katie and Gerben updated the database on the EMTC website.
Some members of the group are participating in the SCOPE review, together with the Board. The goal is to send a proposal to Hamburg – this paper reflects bridges between researchers & clinicians, regarding Music Therapy and Mental Health in Europe.
The group wants to create research stories on video.
Gerben says that PhD students get lonely. The group wants PhD students to be able to meet. The AT could moderate sessions online to meet up.
Diandra says that there is already a worldwide platform of phd students (Discord platform) and Hanna Riedl: (Riedl@mdw.ac.at) can facilitate this.
Gerben says that the AT research could also offer a space in EMTC with students at Master level too.
Angelica says that in Hamburg there were eight PhD students, so they also asked about a round table.

AT – Accessibility: Katie Fitzpatrick (Chair)
No meetings. The group had nothing to present.

AT – PR: Katie (Chair)
Katie asked all the members to look at their contact details and all info about the country they represent.
Country Representatives can make a video: with their name, what you do, their work… maximum 90 seconds. The video will be posted on the EMTC website.
The group finds it difficult to take action. They just do maintenance.
The group would like stories to publish. Katie asked: How can we collaborate together?
Facebook is the most active social media platform. Once a month they will check association info in member countries and share it. What criteria should they follow?
Is it OK to share shared info? Only posts on Facebook.
Rita Karpati (CR Hungary):asked what about language issues?
Tali (CR Israel) prefers to ask the associations for their permission to publish.

Katie questions: Should the EMTC spend money on Professionals? An option could be collaboration with an arts therapy, but this would require supervision.
Can the EMTC use freelance database professionals? Would EMTC finance it?
Aleksandra (observing member form Serbia)) suggests creating a calendar of events.

AT – Supervision: Malle (Chair)
The Supervision AT made a research 2021-24 and presented in 2024, inAalborg.
Discussion: most people don't experience music in supervision.
The AT presented a summary of the survey they worked on – supervision is not generally understood as an independent profession. Music Therapy has a wide range of requirements. There is a huge difference in requirements, certification, etc…among the European countries. Eight countries have professional supervision training. There is the need to raise awareness. Standardization is necessary for equal quality.
The Action Team is working on a recent survey in 6 countries: How do supervisors use music?
Katarina (CR Sweden) asks how to proceed?: Online intervision or supervision: seminars on topics (trauma, neonatal..) in English, offered internationally as webinar online?
Supervision needs to be considered together with EMTS and Ethical code (see PDF).

Margot (made the first Internship in the EMTC), creating three podcasts about Music Therapy in different contexts. Margot made a short video thanking the EMTC for the opportunity to learn about MT.

EMTS Presentation
The EMTS Commission has made a presentation regarding the EMTS. The standards will be published in the next months and presented and discussed in the EMTC Conference in Hamburg 2025. Please, see Powerpoint including EMTS Competencies and Q/A session with noted answers.
The context: Diversity of traditions and approaches in different countries.
The main goal of the EMTS was to create high quality training standards, in order to promote a safe and effective practice. The Research took six years of work collecting information from training programmes in Europe, to identify competencies and learning outcomes.
There have been eight study areas in consideration.
The standards are competence-based: What competencies are needed for good practice.
These are recommended standards – no prioritization.
Self experience is unique to Europe.
Clinical placements – supervision is important, as are research skills and professional skills.
Information taken from bachelor, master and private courses.
Levels EQF – from the European education system.
4 – basic level to build on.
5-8: higher education level

SONORA membership status, Greece
Can Sonora continue as an active member of EMTC or should it become an observing member?

The decision can only be taken through the vote of the CRs at a GA. The Core Board and the CR from Greece may not vote.
All CRs received an email one month earlier than the date of the GA, with the relevant documents for their study. This topic was previously announced on the EMTC GA Agenda. The documents and information sent from SONORA and received by the Core Board, have immediately been sent to all the delegates. Questions are asked about Sonora's training activities, and about the representation of the Music Therapists of Sonora in EMTC. The delegates are aware that the decision will have implications for other member associations. The delegates understand that this is a situation of reassessment of status, as Sonora was accepted by EMTC in the past.
Voting is made anonymously on ballot papers, and through private messages by the online delegates. The Core Board and the CR for Greece do not vote.
Question: Can Sonora continue as an active member of EMTC? Possibilities for voting: Yes … No … Abstain …
Result: Yes: 3 votes; No: 23 votes; Abstain: 1 vote
The result: Sonora cannot continue as an active member of EMTC and should change their membership type.

Ethical code.
Suggestion: make two ethical codes:

a) Update general ethical code for practitioners
b) Write ethical code for professional associations in the EMTC and the actions of Core Board, associations and CRs. An ethical committee will be needed to react to this, emphasizing collaboration.

Katerina (CR Sweden) says the ethical code is rather culture specific but is useful as a guide.
Tali (CR Israel) asks who would be the members of the ethical committee?
Özgür (CR Türkiye) says that a legal advisor could be consulted from outside the committee.
Gerben (CR Netherlands) says that it is Important to have an ethical code for EMTC as an institution.
Corrections to ethical code have been made: 'Should be trained' rather than 'should have specific training.
Elide (President) says that It is important for CRs to have tools from outside the EMTC.
The CRs have voted and were unanimous about the support for two Ethical Codes.

Saturday, 7th September 2024
9h - 13h

Opening

The GA started with a song, led by Nele. It was a lovely way to connect and there were lots of smiles by the end.

The delegates welcomed Zsófia who will be the new *substitute* country representative for Hungary.

Catherine Clancy (south group region coordinator) welcomed Aleksandra Denda who is an observing member for Serbia. Catherine also said that there has been a change in

the southern region. The Board had asked Ranka (previous CR from Serbia) to step down temporarily from the team, being represented by the country's substitute. Ranka did not accept and decided to withdraw completely the membership of the Association she represented. The Board received a new membership application from Serbia, Aleksandra Denda is representing the country (as an observing member). Tali and Gerben said that Aleksandra had already contributed a lot on the first day of the GA.

First activity - Small group work

Rita Maia- introduced the activity. Questions from the countries will be discussed in small groups and the aim is to debate the issue and share findings. There are two online groups and four in person groups. The questions were previously suggested by the delegates.

Group 1 - Gustavo (CR from Denmark)- How can we improve our communication between the different groups and countries? How can EMTC be brought closer to the MT community - professionals and students?

Feedback
The group saw that it was important to acknowledge the different styles of communication for individuals. Generally the groups are going well even though they are becoming bigger. One suggestion was to have a smaller version of today's activity where issues are discussed during different times of the year. CRs could be offered a space to share their music and therapy tools with others. Having more social aims for groups might be good to build confidence, especially for new CRs. The aim should be for inclusion and integration.The group also discussed the importance of having guidelines for new CRs.

The group felt the EMTC needs to invest in more social media and build on this communication. The group thought about how to share information from EMTC to professionals and students through newsletters. The group thought about how to involve more MTs involved in the EMTC alongside the CRs. They thought about CRs inviting other MTs to GA and meetings to share how the process works and feel more involved.

Group 2 - Lieselotte (CR from Belgium) - with the current boost of AI and VR, how can we include this in music therapy and what are the ethical implications?

Feedback
The group had a good discussion about the many issues associated with AI. The group did not know exactly the applications of AI and little direct experience but good knowledge. The main question the group discussed was "what do you feed the machine?". It was felt that guidelines were needed for MTs using AI and how this could be incorporated into therapy in an ethical way. The second question was "what is the aim of using AI?". A discussion happened around the therapeutic alliance, different apps and tools and how this could be incorporated.

Elide added that her experience in Belgium where doctors told her that it is important for professional music therapists to manage AI devices to avoid that other professionals could manage music and musical tools in therapeutic contexts. Katie

Roth shared some information on AI from a workshop held in Latvia with Petra Kern. Gerben highlighted the importance of including this in the ethical code of practice.

Group 3 - Elizabeth(CR Austria) - Is it okay to have three regions or do we need larger or smaller groups to enhance our work? Do we still want to have country reports and what is best to be included?

Feedback
The group discussed why and how EMTC work should be structured. Country reports are thought to be positive and helpful but they need to be shared more openly, to professionals outside of the EMTC. They wondered if there was a way to do this.
The website could have a members section with newsletters, country reports, regional meetings and minutes. The group discussed the structure of the GA as it has felt stressful at times. It was felt that GA could be extended so there is more time in between activities. This could be achievable with the new funding so that CRs could stay over for three nights. Giving issues at times felt important. They discussed the regional groups and how this will work best. Should the structure change? Should the grouping change? Meeting minutes are important and should be shared as they will help bring connection.

Josephine said that Hamburg next year and if this could be planned differently. Rita said that the GA is 22-23rd July, before the conference next year. As the conference is happening, it felt important to balance time away for the GA, too. Nele suggested streamlining the agenda for Hamburg and sending a questionnaire to everyone to ask for the important issues. Rita reflected that having more time does not necessarily mean more work will be done. Gerben and Tali emphasized the need to concentrate on wellbeing and the importance of meeting together.

Group 4 - Katarina (CR Sweden) - How can we bring EMTC together?

Feedback
The group concentrated on practical ideas to bring everyone to get on european music therapy day. The group shared how they disseminate music therapy in their countries and contexts and this felt very positive. The group felt that they were not using the EMTC song and not feeding back to EMTC. The biggest barrier was that the song was in English. The group thought making the song “dobidoo” might be better and suggested CRs to write their own lyrics. If the aim of the day is to promote music therapy in our countries? If so, this is going well. If the aim is to promote EMTC, then this is not happening.
Diandra shared in their country, they made t-shirts which said “a music therapist is like a normal therapist, only way cooler”. The group enjoyed this. Diandra continued that CRs could share ways that they promote music therapy in their countries so that everyone felt confident. Katie Roth said that there is a page on the EMTC website. She has tried to make it clear and inspiring! Katie reflected that during Covid, there was a lot of effort put into a video, and times in Latvia when they made jingles to share music therapy as an intervention.

Group 5 - Aleksandra (Observing member from Serbia) - Proposals to change EMTC procedures

Feedback

The group discussed the best way to share information from regional and CRs. The group felt encouraging CRs to attend 70% of meetings. They talked about holding a shorter meeting in the winter where everyone shares information, similar to GA but much less. The group thought that hosting all documents on a google drive might be best to manage instead of attachments to emails. The group talked about regional leaders often seeming stressed by responsibilities and how this could be shared out in the groups. The group acknowledged the difficulty of being present this weekend with the family and school responsibilities. Elisabeth said that holding the GA in September was a first and affected by the Nordic conference.

Group 6 - online - Lenka (CR Czech Rep.) - How can we bring music therapy to everybody? Not just for those interested in the field - widening public knowledge and engagement?

Feedback

The group discussed what music therapy means to the general public. The group discussed the importance of being respectful to other schools of thought in music therapy and the importance of having standards for the profession. The group acknowledged the different meanings of music therapy in different countries - healing, psychological, functional, scientific rationale. There was discussion about the PR and language that is used to share experiences in music therapy and the impact of different audiences. Talking to the medical community is different from schools, etc. THe group suggested having a YouTube channel and more social media. This could be for short videos and 'tips and tricks'. The group felt it important to include other professionals to create the content for social media, etc, and that the content should all be agreed. There could be a team for PR advocacy and to lead the thinking on this, with MTs outside of the EMTC creating videos and context. The question became, how can we promote music therapy using the standards and what we have already? They wondered if some of the new budget could be used to create a PR brand for EMTC. The group created a chart to represent each of the themes in this area.

Information and procedures regarding elections in the next GA - Hamburg 25

Rita shared that next year will be an EMTC GA where many elections will happen. There will be voting for awards, new EMTC Conference host and elections. Rita will send an email with information about the applications, deadlines and procedures for the proposals. There will be voting for:

- EMTC Music Therapy award 25 - each country can send a nomination. The proposals will be discussed and voted on the next GA. The nominees will be revealed in the EMTC Conference in Hamburg 25.
- Vote for next EMTC Conference in 2028 - this will be sent to each country and to be shared with the association. The applications will be voted on by the CRs at the next GA and the results will be announced in the EMTC Conference , in Hamburg 2025.
- Core Board elections - applications for the Core Board 25-28 will also happen in the next GA. Until then, proposals will be sent to the Core Board and presented to the CRs. Each country can vote for who they would like to represent them on the board.
- Regional coordinators will also be elected for 2025-2028 - this will only be voted by ETMC CRs.

Elide shared that the core board members will not be renewing their positions due to other commitments. The door is now open to all members to become the core board. They commit to remaining involved and sharing all information with anyone who is interested. Elide offered support to any new representatives. Nele affirmed this and said they will do all they can for the next year.

Gerben asked about the impact of the wellbeing of the coreboard and how they balance this. Nele felt that she had many things to think about, layers of work. She feels that her EMTC brain is always on and is happy with the adventure so far but it does not feel sustainable.

Rita moved to CRs and new CRs. Often there is not enough information available from organizations or the handing over CR. Rita encouraged current CRs to work closely with new CRs and to share contact information to Rita. Rita emphasized the importance of CRs giving the correct documents to new CRs and then to Rita. CRs must send the re-election forms to Rita. There are still many election documents missing and there is a new deadline for 31st December, 2024. If two or more associations are in EMTC, there needs to be a signature from each association to be accepted. CRs can be elected for a three year mandate. Rita has sent an email alerting for the dates of the terms of office, many weren't updated/renewed, so at the moment they are out of date. Rita gave a deadline to update the form of representation, until 31st of December 2024.

Tali asked for the role of the CR to be highlighted and the duties included. She emphasized the importance of actively being part of action groups and regional meetings. Rita agreed and asked CRs to ‘sell yourself’ and the EMTC so that others know the importance of the role. This can also be sharing information from GAs and meeting minutes. Daniela (CR Portugal) asked about the confidentiality of documents and meetings. Rita confirmed that CRs can talk about the issues with associations but not to share internal documents unless stated. Some documents are internal to EMTC only.

Nele will share the CR job description. There was a discussion about how to share this document.

Tali (CR Israel) emphasized the importance of representing the community of music therapists and how we present ourselves.

Plenary

The board wanted to thank Marusa (CR Slovenia) and Petra (Substitute Slovenia) deeply for their work and welcome, and gave them beautiful gifts. Marusa and Petra gave thankful and appreciative speeches.

Elisabeth (CR Austria) encouraged others to think about arranging a GA and shared that there was a budget.

A document was circulated with the short minutes noted for financial and organizational reasons. Each CR has to sign this. Online participants were asked to print and sign and then return.

Jessica Harris (CR substitute from Ireland) asked for a secure section on the EMTC for members as this could serve a variety of purposes. This could be a place for documents and other information to be shared. This issue was raised previously and Elide asked us to think about how this could be completed.

Elide and Elisabeth revisited fundraising for EMTC. Elisabeth thought this could be linked to European Music Therapy Day as this is the structure that is working. The media and PR could be widened across all of Europe. There could be social media, TV, radio and a celebrity endorsement. Thought was given to the organizational issues. There are 30+ countries in the EMTC which is positive. Experts in communication and PR and other professionals could be involved too. Low income countries need to be considered, as well as countries outside of Europe. It would need a very good song with professional recording etc and promotion and this may require a full new team. Success metrics - how many countries participated, public feedback. The deadline for the next COST Action related to this is October 23rd and there is a tight deadline. Elisabeth suggested a core group to lead this.

Elide added that the experience of creating the cost action in Belgium would be helpful. The professionals involved there and the resources used are still available to EMTC.

The CRs from Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Spain and Greece offered to be part of the group with Elisabeth and Elide.

Financial issues - EMTC has 5000 euros to spend and CRs have offered ways to spend this. The money has to be used by January 2026. Some suggestions were made:

- Support colleagues to attend the GA
- Use of Tech
- PR
- Student support
- Training
- Supervision
- Legal advisors
- Social media
- Project funding
- Documentary

A google document will be made for voting with short descriptions for each theme suggested. The CRs will vote during the next months.

Catherine reminded everyone that if the COST action is granted, this may impact the use of the monies.

Mitsi (CR Greece) represents Europe in the WFMT. For the European music therapy day, there will be an event called “Rebuilding Communities with Music Therapy”. If anyone would like to be involved, CRs can contact Mitsi.

Mitsi continued that it might be helpful for there to be a guidance document for organizations to join the EMTC. Nele said there are guidelines and the EMTC received a lot of applications to join. There is an interview and a statute involving the CR and the

core board. It is important for EMTC to remain objective. Mitsi suggested the process being the CR is contacted and also the President, or core board member. Catherine said that the application will go to the coreboard and they will send it over to the Regional Coordinator and the CR. Elide affirmed that the board trusts the CRs as representatives of the country, which have an important role in this process. Nele thought it was a good suggestion that CRs are reminded of the process. Angelica shared a similar experience from Romania. A discussion followed about the boundaries of active and associate and that these procedures need to be updated.

Rachel (CR UK) offered to be the coordinator of the CPD group. The group will change to organizing events quarterly, using the therapists in EMTC to share work and free training. The event will be organized through social media and online. It will be free and open to anyone connected with EMTC. The group voted and agreed. The group is now Rachel Swanick, Danielle and Agnieska.

AOB

Daniela (CR Portugal) - asked about the ethical code and how it will be separated. Nele is working on two versions. This will be a working document. Ann asked if they could contribute directly and Nele confirmed.

Ozgur (CR Türkiye) asked for documents that are being changed if amendments could be added in different colors so that CRs can see changes. Nele agreed this was a good idea and will take it forward.

Rita Karpati (CR Hungary) remembered in the last GA the team talked about how countries are focusing on developments in music therapy. Angelica (CR Romania) is arranging a round table for EMTC in Hamburg to answer this.

Irini (CR Cyprus) shared an article that was published in Approaches on the process of legislation and regulation of MT in Cyprus. https://doi.org/10.56883/aijmt.2024.35

SUMMARY

In the end of the GA, a summary was made of the tasks for the next year:

- COST Action deadline 23rd October
- Choose the investment for 5000 euros
- To prepare clarification for EMTC membership
- To work on Bylaws and the ethical code of renewal
- To think about voting
- Katie will make a google drive for EMTCs photos.

A group picture has been made with the participants at the EMTC GA 24. (Yulia, the CR from Ukraine, could not be present this morning due to a missile attack in Kiev, which compromised the electrical web).

The GA was then closed.

Minutes made by: Catherine Clancy, Rachel Swanick and Rita Maia.