



WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons

OCTOBER 2017



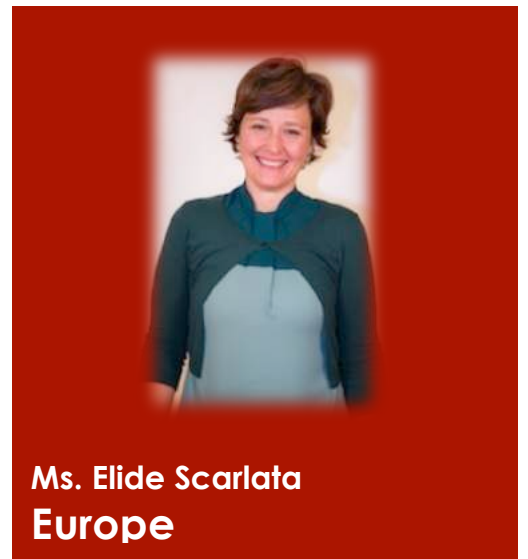
World Federation of Music Therapy
Federación Mundial de Musicoterapia

Music therapy is a diverse and growing field, even though there are many commonalities across the 8 regions of the globe. It is always enriching to learn about the intricacies and challenges that music therapists face in other countries while striving for the development of music therapy and its recognition as a health profession.

In this monthly buzz you will find information on the characteristics and complexities of music therapy in the Southern Countries of Europe, the work that is being done and the objectives that are pursued by the representative associations of each of the countries. We hope that this will help to broaden the view of music therapy and provide some ideas and inspiration for us to continue advocating for our beautiful music therapy profession.

I am happy to present the October Monthly Buzz which features the European region of the World Federation of Music Therapy, represented by its new Regional Liaison **Ms. Elide Scarlata**

Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, PhD, MT-BC, SMTAE
President WFMT



In the Buzz for October, the month that starts the transitional Autumn season, it is time to consider ongoing development regarding the recognition process of professional music therapists in South Europe.



For South Europe I allude to the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Turkey.

In each country there is a professional association (in some countries more than one) founded with an appropriate organizational structure with observation of professional ethics and a qualified scientific committee. These associations foster and monitor their members' continuing professional developments (CPD). They play an important role in establishing these particular standards, because in this way they protect clients, the professional and the title "music therapist".

I am describing the endless and arduous work of approximately 1,526 professional music therapists, who fight to enhance their profession by clinical practice with constant supervision, research projects and publications.

Generally, in South Europe there is not a clear recognition of professional music therapy yet, but there are some types of recognition in response to the growing need of the population on one hand and to governments that answer in some way to this need on the other hand. The professional associations are actively involved in contacting and communicating with their governmental institutions to promote and/or improve the recognition process of music therapy in their countries.

In some countries the professional music therapist is recognized in the field of Special Education, but with lower standards in comparison with international standards requiring an academic degree approved by countries' professional associations.

In other countries, music therapy is considered a professional medical service by healthcare funders, but is not yet included in the national health classification as an associated medical profession.



Within others, music therapists are recognized by non-specific laws as a professional organized in a professional body and/or certified by a technical regulation. It is really a strong desire for all these countries to share new regarding recognition process and development of the profession, because the knowledge of strong points and weak links in every national situation contributes towards a common path. For these reasons the international symposiums organized in South Europe become an opportunity of common development for professional music therapists (AIM-[www.aiemme](http://www.aiemme.it)).

The International Symposium entitled “*Music in music therapy: Theory, clinical practice, research*” will be enriched by the contribution of the WFMT President Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons and many other European colleagues, who have gained long-standing experience in clinical practice, research, training and professional identity. For further information, refer to <http://www.aiemme.it/ConferenceMTrapani2018>

Stay in touch with us!

Elide Scarlata

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