

## EMTC NEWSLETTER

### November 2019

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#### Dear EMTC-Delegates,

It was good to see and to work with all of you in Aalborg at the end of June this year.

The Core Board and Board were very impressed by the constructive and collaborative work at the GA in Aalborg, and we feel that the foundation upon which the EMTC stands has become more solid. We found the time together very fruitful, and we appreciate very much your efforts to support the EMTC and the profession of music therapy in your respective countries. Without this work on your part, music therapy would be less present at the European level.



Group picture EMTC-Delegates in Aalborg

We would now like to reflect shortly on the GA and to bring you up to date on what has been happening since the GA.

## ♪ Aalborg: Round Table, Forum, EMTC-Awards, Poster Awards

In Aalborg, the EMTC was represented with a poster and with two presentations.

Our **Round Table** with the title *Music Therapy Training – Is there only one answer?* was very well-attended. In our presentation before the discussion started, we explained the situation of music therapy from the European viewpoint and explained the background of our decision to try to formulate minimal standards and the role of the survey in this. Along with Esa as a representative of the University of Jyväskylä and the Eino Roiha Foundation (private training programme), the following colleagues from training courses in Europe served as the panel of the round-table: Dorothee von Moreau from the SRH Heidelberg, Germany; Gro Trondalen from the Norwegian Academy of Music; Stine Lindahl Jacobsen from the Aalborg University and Elena Fitzthum from Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Vienna. In the discussion, there were interesting comments and experiences with regulation/no regulation. Having academic standards for music therapy studies in Europe would potentially help gaining legal recognition and supporting EU mobility of music therapists. Defining common competencies of a professional music therapist would be inevitable in that case. On the other hand, if we stay at the same level we are today we keep cultural/theoretical etc variety, I kind of richness in music therapy training. There was a suggestion to create a quality control system for private training courses so that every private training course would have a mentor university to give their academic support to guarantee the quality of the training. There was also a suggestion about differing music therapy and music psychotherapy training. Another opinion has been that the specialization should take place after the MA-studies. There general idea through the round table has been that we should keep sustainability and flexibility in the music therapy training in Europe.

**The EMTC Forum:** Music Therapy as a Profession – on the Paths of Development, which took place right before the closing ceremony, was very interesting. Esa chaired this presentation. The topics that were discussed were Clinical Practice: Anne Sloboda, UK; Training: Thomas Stegemann, Austria; Research: Hanne Mette Ridder, Denmark; Societal Impact: Brynjulf Stige, Norway. The development of the profession was reflected from multiple (and also personal) viewpoints. The overall impression was that at the same time as the profession and its practices are further developed, the new challenges are met, for example in terms of regulation of training and clinical practices. The societal impact was seen on high level, but still the whole potential of the profession is not in use yet. Collaboration between different forms of professionals in the field is valued high, and this is also the point where the impact of the EMTC is highly recognised. The forum was recorded and the aim is to pick up some statements of the forumists, and publish those on the EMTC website. Forum will be held next time in the EMTC 2022 Edinburgh.

As you all know, two people were nominated for the EMTC-Award. In the discussion during the GA, it was decided to make two awards – the EMTC-Award, which went to Hanne Mette Ridder – and an award for “Lifetime Achievement”. This award went to Heidi Fausch. Hanne Mette was present and was very touched by the award. Heidi Fausch was not present, but expressed her delight and appreciation in an e-mail after she was notified.

The Core Board had been asked to judge the posters and to determine which poster in paper form and which animated poster should receive special recognition. We were very impressed with all posters, and the decision was not easy. After careful consideration, we chose the following poster in paper form for the prize: , Authors were Diandra Russo, Friederike Haslbeck and Sandra Lutz-Hochreutener from Switzerland. The poster was informative and gave a complete picture of the information that was explained. There was not too much text; rather, it was reduced to its core content without being sketchy and the layout was very clear, making it easy to read. The second award went to the animated poster, Linger in the moment - Intergenerational music therapy sessions and their impact on the person with advanced dementia presented by Maria Gabriela Nicolau and Catarina Ramalho from Portugal. The way in which the animation of the poster, the use of visual effects such as color and the restriction of sound to a narrative was used enabled the authors to present the complexity of the information in a way not possible on paper alone.

Last, not least, we said good-bye to Vilmante from Lithuania, who has stepped down from her position as country representative. She thanked the EMTC for its support and the GA expressed its appreciation for her contributions. She will be replaced by a new CR. We are looking forward to meeting her.

#### **EMTC-Board:**

The Core Board has met three times by Skype since the GA. At our first meeting, the following topics were discussed: Planning the meeting with the EMTS-Commission, discussing the withdrawal of the French bid for the GA 2020 and setting the deadline for the next set of bids (October 31, 2019), determining the status of elected CR's when a new set of officers is elected within the country's association is elected. Concerning the last topic (status of CR) – the by-laws define this clearly – a CR is elected for a 3-year term and may be re-elected.

At the EMTC-GA, it was decided to rename the working groups “Action Teams” in order to stress the active work and collaboration that is absolutely necessary in order to bring music therapy in Europe forward. A topic that was discussed in our Core Board meetings was the necessity to broaden the European Music Therapy Day Action Team to also encompass public relations work in general. An e-mail has been sent to all coordinators of Action Teams asking for a status report by October 31.

At the second meeting pressing matters such as the change of the official address of the EMTC, communication strategies within the EMTC and to the public, dealing with action points from the minutes of the GA, and further steps for EMTS were discussed. For additional information to these topics, please see below.

The Core Board has decided to meet regularly once a month beginning in November. We feel this is absolutely necessary in order to bring the work of the EMTC forward.

The Board will be meeting on November 25, 2019. The topics discussed in the Core Board will also be discussed at the Board meeting as well as issues of interest for the different regions.

## 🎵 Statutes, By-Laws and Guidelines

Before we can officially register our changed statutes and by-laws, we have to have a change in the official address. We are trying to find a solution that is feasible, but as inexpensive as possible. We will keep you updated on this.

We would like to thank you for your constructive work and the good suggestions that were made, also at the GA!

## 🎵 GA 2020

As you know, a bid was sent in to host the GA in 2020. Because some information regarding costs in that country was received by the association after the bid was sent, they saw the need to withdraw their bid. We have extended the deadline for bids until October 31, 2019. Until today (November 21), no bids have been received. We are now working on an alternative and will be contacting you as soon as possible with information of a possible venue.

## 🎵 EMTS:

The EMTS-Commission met by Skype on September 10, 2019. The lists of the competencies are proving to be more difficult to systematize than we thought at the beginning. For this reason, we have lengthened the deadline has been extended until October 25. We met on November 19, reflected on the procedures until now and set the next steps. You will be informed here after the next deadline for task completion, January 31, 2020.

A draft of a paper, EMTC guidance for professional associations assessing training courses from other countries, has been formulated and sent to the EMTS-Commission with the request that it be commented. What we have tried to do in this paper is to give countries where music therapy is not regulated by law suggestions in order to help them compare qualifications thoroughly and fairly, including official sources they can consult. When these guidelines have been approved, they will be sent to all CR's for distribution among the associations.

## 🎵 EMTC and collaboration with the ECArTE:

The State of the Arts Therapies Training in Europe, a SATTIE-project, has now appointed a researcher, Dr. Raluca Popa, for collecting, analysing and reporting on the landscape of structural, epistemological and pedagogic aspects of Arts Therapies Education and Research in Europe. The report will present these findings, which in turn will generate an initial set of guidelines for training. The overall objective is to maintain and enhance the standing, profiling and resourcing of programmes in Universities and training programmes, and to support sharing information between professional associations and ECArTE on European level.



### **The professional associations and representatives:**

European Association of Dance Movement Psychotherapy (EADMT)

**Vincenzo Puxeddo**

European Association of Dramatherapy (EFD)

**Salvo Pitruzzella**

European Federation of Art therapy (EFAT)

**Dominik Havsteen-Franklin**

European Music Therapy Confederation (EMTC)

**Esa Ala-Ruona**

European Consortium of Arts Therapies Education ECArTE

**Richard Hougham/Marian Cao**

### **♪ EMTC and other events:**

[Melanie](#) was asked to bring greetings from the EMTC at the 6th anniversary of the Viennese training program on October 4, 2019. These greetings were warmly received.

[Esa](#) has been asked to speak at Bolzano in March 2020 to represent the EMTC at the CESFOR conference “Music Therapy: a Lifelong Experience”.

[Alice](#) has been asked by the Latvian Music Therapy Association to talk about the EMTC and Latvia’s role in it on the association’s 15th anniversary celebration conference in Liepāja, Latvia on August, 27th-29th 2020.

Wishing all of you a productive and pleasant autumn!



**Esa, Alice and Melanie**