

Letter from the President

It's a great honour to be elected as the new president of EAGT. I thank the members very much for their trust and I look forward to give my contribution to a further development of our association. It's a great and exciting challenge.

Hereafter information about how the Executive Committee (EC) is constituted now: As vice-president the Executive Committee has appointed *Bas Lokerse*. Welcome to this new function, Bas. He will stay also in the role of treasurer. As new Chair of the Training Standards Committee *Gianni Francesetti* was elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and therefore he is also a member of the EC. Welcome to the Committee, Gianni. *Ester Neumanova* (secretary) and *Katia Hatzilakou* (Chair of NOGT's) are completing our Committee.

In my presidency I intend to keep on involving our National Organisations for Gestalt therapy (NOGT's) in the general policy of EAGT. This is important, in the sense of developing our organization, that the delegates of the NOGT's, who are the General Board (GB) of EAGT, understand that EAGT is their organisation and that they lead activities. The EC is just executive, which means that we put into action, what the GB has decided as aims and goals for EAGT. I will be satisfied if in future from the NOGT's not the question will be put to the EC: „What do we get from EAGT, what is it good for, to be a member of the umbrella?“ but that these questions will be replaced by: „What can we, our NOGT, do for EAGT, how can we support the organization to fulfil its aims, as EAGT is our organisation. What do we want



it for?“ This is the meaning of our change of statutes when we changed the Extended Board into the General Board and the Executive Board into the Executive Committee. This change allows a much higher identification of the NOGT's with their European Umbrella organisation.

I am very happy that the AGM of NVAGT and EAGT both have agreed on the experiment of joint membership for the next three years. Joint membership means that all members of the NOGT automatically become EAGT members also. The condition for this is that NOGT's can guarantee that all members meet the standards of EAGT membership. A task group will observe this experiment, to gather and evaluate experiences. I hope this will be a good model also for other NOGT's to find an agreement with EAGT on joint membership.

There is a change of a NOGT, that we also want to inform you about: The new Austrian NOGT is ÖVG (Austrian Association for Gestalttherapy).

Since years the Fachsektion for Integrative Gestalttherapy in the Austrian Association for Group dynamics and group psychotherapy (FSIGT) was interim in the function of NOGT. As this organisation at the same time is a (recently accredited) Training Institute and as there is since several years also another competitive Training Institute in Austria, the EC has decided to finish the duration of this interim representation of Austria now and put the new built ÖVG into the role of a NOGT. ÖVG has the structure of a national umbrella organisation. We thank FSIGT for all the cooperation the last years and welcome ÖVG as a new NOGT and member of the General Board.

The important cooperation with EAP will be continued, representing gestalt therapy as an accredited approach and intending to install Psychotherapy as an independent scientific profession in European and National laws and as an independent science in universities.

I am also very happy about the new activities that came into the Committee for Human Rights and Social Responsibility. It's the first time that this Committee has set up a concrete project in cooperating with a NGO in the field of protecting Human Rights (see report of the new Chair of the Committee, *Guus Klaren*). The preparation of this cooperation was very exciting and I hope it will be put to a successful action soon.

The EC has also appointed another two new Committee: 1) A fundraising committee. Chair of this committee is *Bas Lokerse* and members are *Katia Hatzilakou*, *Dieter Bongers* and *Marga*

Berends. 2) A research Committee. Up till now there are 3 members appointed: *Ivana Vidakovic* (Belgrade), *Gianni Francesetti* (Torino) and me. A first research project will be the accompanying of the cooperation project of the HR&SR-Committee with Peace Brigades International. But the Research Committee will also initialize

and support international projects on psychotherapy research with psychotherapy compatible research designs, which means research in naturalistic field and combining qualitative and empiric methods. And of course we want to support a documentation about all research in gestalt therapy that is available, as a service to our mem-

bers. We are open for other members with research curiosity, ideas for projects and experience as researchers.

As you see: There are several new initiatives set up and all persons involved are enthusiastic to come to action.

With warm regards,
Peter Schulthess

Words from the Vice president

During the Executive committee meeting of Sunday, September 14th, I was asked to take the function of vice-president on me. After some hesitation I said YES to it.

My hesitation concerned for instance my double role in which I'm now, because next to vice-president I'm also treasurer. The space which I experience is mainly seated in the fact that almost all practical tasks of a treasurer are taken over by Marga, our office manager. Only the governmental responsibility and the making

of an estimate and a financial long-range plan lies on my 'treasurer plate'.

I would like to use this space to deepen myself into the tasks which belong to the function of vice-president. I think hereby of expanding my knowledge in the political field of psychotherapy (EAP), to expand my knowledge in general terms of getting certified and accredited. Although I'm involved in EAGT for years, these are issues in which I did not deepen myself into. An important hobbyhorse of me is

EAGT as an organisation with her committees and task groups.

My nomination counts for the time being till 2010. In 2010 I've been a member of the Executive Committee of EAGT and my term will then end.

I thank the members of the Executive Committee for their trust in me and I will do my utmost best to realize their trust in me.

Bas Lokerse
Vice-president

Treasurer's report

During the General Board Meeting in Belgrade I asked attention for possibilities to get extra money. The main and almost only income EAGT has is the membership fee. We have of course other sources of income such as re-registration, accreditation and ECP requests. But these sources are marginal because expenses are almost as high as the income is.

During my first term as treasurer I have asked our members to donate money for a study fund. The fund is still mentioned on the balance and is among other things used during the conference in Stockholm. I am aware of it that I did not keep this path of fund raising warm. This results in the fact the fund was filled with a donation coming out of the Prague Conference and when expenses are done this will be filled by EAGT in the books. Currently there is an amount of € 1.200,= in the fund.

I have mentioned some possibilities to raise extra money during the General Board Meeting such as:

- Organise small conference in between, which by its attractiveness are profitable;
- Active fund raising;
- Inform about Euro-pean subsidies;



- Issuing shares.

Also during the General Board meeting, a task group is established to do some research for fund raising, or will think of other ideas to raise extra money. This group consists of the following persons:

Katia Hatzilakou, Marga Berends, Dieter Bongers and myself as acting chair.

Bas Lokerse
Treasurer EAGT

To know the Way (From the Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff)

To know the Way,
We go the Way;
We do the Way
The way we do
The things we do.
It's all there in front of you,
But if you try too hard to see it,
You'll only become confused.

I am me,
And you are you,
As you can see;
But when you do,
The things you can do,
You will find the Way,
And the Way will follow you.

(The Tao of Pooh)

Bas Lokerse

Letter from the Secretary

Dear colleagues,
I have been working in the function of EAGT secretary more than one year already. Being an EAGT secretary means being in touch with a very living organization. My job is based on frequent mail communication with Marga Berends, office manager and with other board members.

The main part of the job is checking the files of colleagues who want to become individual members of our organization. There are many of them, since the beginning of 2008, who went through the scrutinizing process, became a member and received the EAGT certificate for ordinary membership. I want to express here that a great number of training institutes completed their accreditation, which makes the procedure of becoming an ordinary member much easier. Our official form is available on our website (section downloads) and can be filled in electronically. Therefore the time for getting an EAGT certificate, for those colleagues who finished their training in an accredited institute, is much easier. However, when the file is scrutinized Marga also contacts the NOGT, whether the NOGTs have any objections in accepting the new member. We ask our NOGTs for this information



because they might know some inside information which cannot be found back in the application form for instance there might be an ethical procedure against this person. We give the NOGT 21 days to respond to this e-mail.

Another part of my job is the re-registration procedure for our ordinary members but I also am occupied with the application forms of people who apply for the European Certificate, known as ECP.

What I described before is the work that requires continuity and which is also an essential part of being a secretary.

In the year 2010 we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of our organization. Therefore I also want to inform you about the project of making a booklet devoted to this anniversary. This booklet will bring facts about the history and important moments in the development of EAGT. I invite those who have interesting information, stories and/or photographs from EAGT history, to share them with me (information can be sent to eagtoffice@planet.nl). I will also ask some of you for information per e-mail.

The other project that I am engaged with is the preparing of a scenario for those who organize or will organize conferences. This work will be shared by me and Katia Hatzilakou due to the fact that we both were recently organizers of an EAGT conferences (Prague 2004, Athens 2007). This document will give descriptions what were the main tasks during the preparation of a conference. We will also mention ideas about sharing responsibility between organizers and EAGT and to enlighten other future organisers where to focus on when they will organise a Conference.

I wish you all a prosperous year 2009!

Ester Neumanová
EAGT secretary

Words of inspiration from Katia (Chair of NOGTs and External Relations Officer)



Dear colleagues,
When you will receive the new edition of the newsletter it will be just before Christmas, Hanukkah and the new year..."Holly-days" and "Holidays"...Time for thoughts, blessings, peace, love, joy and unity...Instead of writing anything else, I just want to share with you an inspiring poem by Thich Nhat Hanh. It helps me to continue my work when I feel discouraged and frustrated. It gives me hope and motivation to continue... Imagining that all of you are facing similar moments in your different countries, under different circumstances in your own unique way and from my willingness to be "here and there" for you, I "walk" along with you on steps of sharing, commitment and continuity.

Kiss the Earth
Thich Nhat Hanh

Walk and touch peace every moment.
Walk and touch happiness every moment.
Each step brings a fresh breeze.
Each step makes a flower bloom.
Kiss the Earth with your feet.
Bring the Earth your love and happiness.
The Earth will be safe
when we feel safe in ourselves.

May it help to bring peace, strength and joy to all our hearts and enlighten your path in your professional and personal life...

Katia Hatzilakou
Greece

Letter from the Ethics Committee

In Belgrade we had a very good time. Maybe from a distance the EAGT Ethics Committee and its officers look like people who first of all love to attend meetings and to study documents. I am happy to say that this is not so. We had dinner in lovely restaurants, we danced until 2 o'clock and we could find some time to visit the city.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to *Lynda Osborne* from the United Kingdom who worked very hard in the Ethics Committee for many years. Thank you for your brightness and your lovely sense of humour!



On the other hand we welcomed *Jan Roubal* from Czech Republic in our committee. Good to have you!



Glenn Rolfsen from Norway and myself have worked in this committee for one year now, together with Lynda and Jan. The latter already worked with us for a year so

he is already well informed while starting his work officially.

Indeed we did have a lot of paperwork. It is our job to scrutinize and judge Codes of Ethics and Complaints and Appeal Procedures, designed by various NOGT's and training institutes as a part of the process of EAGT accreditation. We compare them with the EAGT code and procedures and write down our comments and recommendations. We processed about 12 sets of documents last year. We do this by email.

We do not want to do only paperwork though. In February this year the General Board accepted a more extensive job description of our committee. In the Code Of Ethics there was already a description of the main tasks of the committee. On top of that we like to find ways to interact



with our colleagues about ethics and ethical issues. Because they are daily business

For instance: do you think as Gestalt therapists we should do

therapy for little money with people with low income? Recently I got in touch with this question once more. I find it a difficult one.

Jan Roubal wrote the following in reaction to this subject:

"From this September I raised my fee for psychotherapy session. I told all my clients about it in advance – except two. I did not say anything about raising a fee to the two of my clients who are very short of money, they have low invalid psychiatric pension. They pay still the same lower fee for therapy not knowing about the higher price. It was my conscious decision not to say them about it, I did not want them to feel inadequate, ashamed. I am aware of the possible consequences for the therapeutic process, I am taking responsibility for them. I want to do it. But I ask myself also – how can I consider this from the perspective of ethics?"

And this was Glenn Rolfsen's response:

"In these times of universal financial crises, I think this is an interesting subject to explore.

In my definition there are different approaches in dealing etc. with ethical issues in common. In one hand we have what I would like to call:

The moral approach, and by a moral approach to an ethical question we attend to use the terms of right or wrong.

On the other hand there is :

The dilemma approach. Then it's not the question of right or wrong; it is more or less what it is, no solution is better than the other. It is the dilemma at work: trying to find the perspective of ethics.

And when Jan asks "How can I consider this from the perspectives of ethics?", I don't have the answer, but I think you are in the right direction, just asking yourself

this question, and still keep the focus on the different perspectives. If we are to discuss ethical questions in general I think we ought to be aware of several different perspectives we have a propensity to forget.

Another area in this discussion is how or even should we make a guiding principle after coming to a conclusion?

We can also explore the therapist's responsibility with the intention that all parties can experience a fair treatment. In this case it may be the client who gets the fixed price, the clients who do not get the fixed priced and the therapist himself and he's professional well being. And of course it is various additional perspectives to explore in this issue, isn't it? "

Personally I am very glad that Glenn brings up the difference between a moral approach and an ethical dilemma. It is my impression that ethics often are not very popular because they seem to deal mainly with issues of right or wrong. And these can be introjects that we do not want to conduct our behaviour and our thinking. So when I state that sometimes I do therapy for half my fee, this is not about drawing a conclusion or finding a guideline, but about exploring a dilemma.

Writing this article with the three of us was an interesting experiment. I hope we find a lot of ways to discuss ethics in our committee and with our colleagues all over Europe. We welcome your reaction very much and look forward to publish them in the next Newsletter. Please mail to eagtoffice@planet.nl and we will be happy to read your thoughts.

Warmly,

Glenn Rolfsen, Norway,

Jan Roubal, Czech Republic,

Joppie Bakker, The Netherlands

Message from the First Honorary Fellow of EAGT

Dear Colleagues,
The Board of EAGT has decided to award me with Honorary Fellowship, the first one actually.

I feel touched and excited. I feel the happiness of being deeply seen: being president of the EAGT has been a meaningful commitment in my life. I was president in a time when a re-birth was needed. The Executive Board worked hard for that purpose and – after 6 years – we were happy of the results. A climate of mutual respect and curiosity inside our European community, of dignity and well-grounded status in the larger field of psychotherapy was reached. I feel still thankful towards my colleagues of the Executive Board of that time for their dedication to our shared goals: *Daan van Baalen, Bas Lokerse, Nura Paul, Udi-Jutta Schneewind, Veronique Vermeir, Nancy Amendt-Lyon, Dick Lompa*, and our beloved *Daan van Praag*. We have put together our competences, made a lot of sacrifices, and had a lot of good time together. We were like inspired survivors from a planet in danger trying to save it from death. And we made it!

Many new activities were started in those years: the Conferences of Gestalt Therapy Writers, which, following the tradition started by *Ed Nevis* in the US, were supported by the genius of *Malcolm Parlett*; the first one was held in my town, Siracuse, the second in Alicante, Spain (organized by *Carmen Vazquez Bandin*), the third in Bordeaux, France (organized by *Jean Marie Robine*). Other activities were the application of training standards for different kinds of membership, the creation of the EAGT Code of Ethics, the creation of the web site and of the Archives, with all the literature from various European countries. A scientific dialogue with colleagues from US supported a clearer definition of our European identity, as it came out in the 6th Conference which I organized in Palermo in 1998, the first European one which used the ground support of process groups.

Organization and administrative competences as well as a shift in style were needed when I left: I addressed to the British traditional organizational culture



and to the heart and head of *Ken Evans*. It was not easy to have his “yes”, and I feel thankful to him for having accepted the task of making “my child” growing in a time of complexity, and of giving “him” proper rules and procedures. Under the presidency of Ken Evans the EAGT has become a real well standing association. The Board has worked hard to establish the many different branches of interest in the Association: training standards for individuals and training institutes, Code of Ethics, finance, relations among members and among countries, conferences, and so on. The professional work of *Marga Berends* has been the right support in the right moment. We all know that to convince Gestalt psychotherapists to use procedures and submit forms with hours and descriptions of contents was more difficult than to have a camel go through a needle’s eye.. my compliments to the board and to all members of EAGT for having accepted to develop into a modern, structured, still supporting and loving association.

I like to give my best wishes to the new President, *Peter Schulthess*, who has followed the changes of EAGT since the years when the hard work on training standards was set by Daan van Praag. He will lead our Association into the new post-post-modern era, characterized by a need for group competences, and his start is just right: a warm and solid support to the many group activities which are the multi-coloured life of present EAGT. Ad Majora, Peter and EAGT Board! I’m already proud of your work.

To you All a warm hug from a Past-President now honorary member who feels proud to be part of EAGT, a live association where you can serve as you want and you can be creative!

My best wishes,

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
Istituto di Gestalt HCC Italy
Siracuse

Report from the Human Rights & Social Responsibility (HRSR) Committee

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2008, EAGT supported the initiative and stated that EAGT is willing to combine the strengths of *Peace Brigades International* (PBI) and EAGT to help the human rights work forward.

PBI is an international grassroots Non Governmental Organisation that has promoted non violence and protects human rights. PBI has 27 years of experience in the field of sending volunteers to crises and conflict zones, where they observe, report, lobby and build on peace and human rights.

At the present there are voluntary teams in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Indonesia and Nepal. There are around 150 volunteers yearly in the field for a period of 1-1,5 year.

These people need coaching and support in pre-deployment training, in field coaching with regards to dealing with traumatized people, working in isolated context, full of tension, intercultural conflicts. Back home they need support with



the re-integration in their own situation after the voluntary time. *Michela Gecele, Guus Klaren, Ivana Vidakovic and Peter Schulthess* members of HR&SR Committee met *Sabine Ziegler*, President of PBI Switzerland and *Nadia Graber*, ex volunteer in Guatemala and now involved in training of volunteers, in Zurich on October 31th. We explored the mission, activities and services needed for PBI. We also tried to define the needed interventions. Several possible actions were suggested on the level of individuals and teams. EAGT could provide initial training and coaching to the group of ex-volunteers who are interested to stay involved with PBI, providing coaching and support for new volunteers. We could explore the availability and willingness of EAGT therapists to be involved

in Skype and in-field coaching for volunteers but also possibilities for debriefing or coaching, if needed.

It was an inspiring meeting with people that are greatly involved in human rights and peace activities. After the meeting with PBI on November 1st we worked on a proposal for cooperation between PBI and EAGT. In order to ensure that our cooperation would be in both ways a learning process we proposed to build a joint project team.

The request of PBI to support them in their important work for human rights and peace building is a big challenge for EAGT. To devote our professional baggage outside our therapy room into a wider social field. It will be a challenge for volunteer Gestalt therapists who will be selected to give support on human rights activities. It is exciting to see the progress we already made after the AGM in Belgrade. We will keep you informed about next steps.

Guus Klaren
Chair HR&SR Committee

Report from the Chair of TSC (Training Standards Committee)

This is my first report as Chair of the TSC: I was elected to this position in September in Belgrade, after *Peter Schulthess* stepped down because he became President of the EAGT.

In these months I am orienting in this new role with the support of Peter and of the members of the committee, composed of *Nurith Levi, Faye Page, Lidija Pecotic* and *Ken Evans* (also elected in Belgrade). My heartfelt thanks to them!

In the last months our Committee has worked hard in accrediting many institutes and in revising our papers for accreditations. In September the TSC accredited:

- FS IGT of ÖAGG (*Fachsektion Integrative Gestalttherapie im Österreichischen Arbeitskreis für Gruppendynamik und Gruppentherapie*), Vienna, Austria;
- *Gestalt Institute Skopje*, Macedonia;
- *Riga Gestalt Institute*, Latvia;
- IIPG (*Institute for Integral Gestalt Psychotherapy*), Krakow, Poland;

- CTP (*Centro Terapia y Psicología*), Madrid, Spain;
 - *Gestalt Studio*, Belgrade, Serbia;
 - *Gestaltakademin i Skandinavien*, Stockholm, Sweden;
 - GIS (*Gestalt Institute of Scandinavia*), Denmark;
- In June we did accredit:
- FMS (*Faculteit voor Mens en Samenleving*), Turnhout, Belgium;

Congratulations! The Committee also proposed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) a new version of the accreditation papers for Training Institutes, on the bases of the experience derived from all the accreditation processes delivered. You can download it from our web site.

After a discussion during the TSC Panel in Athens and in our previous newsletter, an important change in our accreditation criteria was voted in Belgrade on the issue of individual supervision: the AGM voted on the following proposal which has

been accepted with a majority of votes:

To delete the sentence in the Training Standards paper describing the proportion of individual supervision hours and leave it as a self regulation in the Training Institute and do it accordingly to the needs of Training Institute and students. According to this decision, trainees have to do 150 hours of supervision in individual or group setting.

I invite all Training Institutes to consider the TSC available for any kind of support in order to enter in the process of accreditation: please, address all future correspondence and/or all other matters concerning the accreditation and the fulfilling of conditions directly to my e-mail address: gianni.francesetti@gestalt.it

Thank you!
Gianni Francesetti
Chair of TSC



Psychotherapy includes social responsibility and human rights

Presentation at the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) congress 2008 in Beijing, October 15th.

What is the aim of psychotherapy? Recovering from mental illnesses you might say. Or: Personal growth. Or: Supporting the abilities to adjust to circumstances in life that allow a living in autonomy, social integration and that prevents from mental illness. To enable patients to live in a self responsible way, to live a life style that they can identify with, to be able to work, to be able to express feelings, emotions, needs and to find satisfaction and fulfilment in intimate relations, social environment and work.

Do you agree so far?

Already this short list of aims for psychotherapy shows that we implicitly share human rights in psychotherapy and try to support respecting them in our professional acting.

Let me quote some of the human rights:

- *All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.*
- *Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*
- *No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*
- *Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.*
- *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.*
- *Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security.*
- *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.*
- *Everyone has the right to education.*
- *Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*

These rights, formulated and adopted 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, are meant to be independent from any Nation, sex, race and culture. They are understood as universal rights for any human being. They were a reaction to the cruelties in World War II all over the continents.

Well, so far the theory and the declared human rights. We all know that in all cultures and nations, these rights still are getting violated. There are several NGO's watching if human rights are followed or not. In War-times unfortunately human rights are usually not respected. And: The more totalitarian a political system is, the more human rights are getting limited for persons opposing to the system. Because it is not given, that human rights are respected, the United Nations have installed also courts, where violators will be punished.

We psychotherapists are one of the professions that deal with the consequences of violated human rights. We cure psychic effects of suffering on torture, discrimination, violence, depression caused by oppression, panic disorders caused by persecuting etc. Refugees, traumatized victims of wars and displaced persons create various psychic disorders that we and of course other social and medical professions deal with. I have read recently a book with the title *Living in Post-war Communities*¹, published by the International Aid Network. It shows research projects about the effects of the wars in Ex-Yugoslavia and about the living experience, how the population in these countries feel protected in their human rights. It shows the effects of the immense changes of the ethnical structure and displacements. The aim of the book is not to blame, but to show the real dimensions of violation and its consequences. This gives an idea, how much professional help is needed there.

Psychic disorders are also culturally and socially defined. In one culture a certain suffering can be experienced as normal in another one it is seen as a disorder. We have to be aware about the values in a certain society that are behind such different judgements and what they serve for.

Psychotherapy and psychiatry have often also been politically abused. We know about the dangers of giving people a psychopathological diagnosis and treating them with methods they never wanted, just because they were rebellious; or demonstrated political resistance; or said

unpopular things; or because a certain diagnosis was preferred at certain times from psychologists and psychiatrists that were politically biased. It is known that psychologists have sometimes, after political change, changed their theories of personality, or of the development of mental diseases, or their methods of treatment, just to keep their jobs and status in universities and clinics. Whilst this process is not always as obvious as it was in Nazi and communist regimes, it also occurs in democratic systems.

Psychotherapists have to be aware of this cultural and social dimension and of the danger of abuse. In a systemic and field theoretical perspective psychic illness as individual suffering always expresses also something about the general suffering in a social system or a society and culture. We have to include and reflect the social, political and cultural background, when we practice psychotherapy.

Psychotherapy enables patients to get more self-responsibility for themselves, for the way they are living and structuring social relations. We raise their potential to influence their environment. In a field theoretical perspective gestalt therapists see the individual interdependently connected with the environmental field, as part of this field. The system will have effects on the individual and the individuals will influence their environment.

As we support our patients' growth, we also support their ability in changing the environment, their living conditions. We support that they are more aware of their needs; we support how they can raise their voice for it and to get more influence. To influence social systems is always a political action. In this way the capacity of political acting is an aim of psychotherapy. And in this way all psychotherapy has also a political impact. Mature persons will not so easily be manipulated. They will engage themselves for their own needs, but they will also grow in their ability of feeling responsible for others, for their social and ecological environment. This is all done in accordance with Human Rights.

But: In totalitarian systems this might expose them to danger of abuse of power by the regime. Because they are getting more mature and able to express their needs and participating in a political way, mobilizing also forms of resistance, using their human rights, they risk to get persecuted for this and violated in their human rights. Psychotherapy with the aim of the growth of the persons here comes into a dilemma. If the therapist avoids supporting personal growth, he or she might stabilize a system that creates suffering, depression etc. If he or she supports the personal growth, he or she helps to endanger his or her clients. It would be interesting, how those of us, who have experience in practicing psychotherapy in rigid social and political conditions, deal with this dilemma. However: This shows that therapy always has a political aspect that needs to be reflected. The art of therapy in this aspect is, to use psychotherapy with care and responsibility, to help our clients (individuals, groups, social movements) to find the balance between creative adjustment to circumstances that cannot be changed and activating their potential to go into action to change things that can be changed.

Psychic health means also to be able to participate more in society and feel co-responsible for social reality. Psychotherapy is always connected to human rights and implicitly defends them.

As we are part of the society psychotherapists have to contribute to the understanding of cultural, social and political phenomena. Psychotherapy without awareness of political, social, social psychological, sociological and ecological impacts tries just to cure individual suffering and eliminating symptoms. It fails to contribute to the change of social and cultural living conditions, in changing the system to growth. Individuals need a development and so do societies.

I see it as a duty of psychotherapists that we do not keep all what we now about reasons for suffering in our clinical practice, but share it with a wider public. As psychotherapists we have good concepts and tools to help solving social crises. We should not keep our wisdom to ourselves; we should also speak out about political events and try to influence political leaders to make responsible decisions to support human growth. For example, we should be publishing not only in psychotherapy journals but also speaking to other professional and non-professional audiences and

using terms and language that can be well understood outside the psychotherapy fellow community.

Do you know about „*medicins sans frontière*“? This is a movement of volunteering physicians, giving medical aid in parts of the world, where there is no functioning help system. This is a model how a profession engages itself to support human rights.

I think psychotherapists also can contribute to the growth of society in a similar way. Psychotherapists are specialists to feed back to society what they hear about individual suffering in a society.

EAGT, the European Association for Gestalt therapy, has installed a Committee for Human Rights and Social Responsibility.

The Mission of this group is to be the group of gestalt professionals committed to contribute to the improvement of mental health, quality of life and psychological growth for all, especially for vulnerable groups, strengthen their capacities for the adjustment to the rapidly changing society.

As Vision the HRSR Committee wants to contribute to the European Society and other places where EAGT is active, where human rights and well being of all are respected.

It shares the following values: equal rights for all, non violence, personal growth, free decision making, free access to education and programs for better quality of life and so on.

The target populations are: vulnerable groups (mentally ill, homeless, children, people with handicaps, victims of violence, war victims, refugees,...); non-professionals and professionals working with vulnerable groups and so on..

The aims are:

To establish and promote good practice in work with vulnerable groups; To advocate in front of stakeholders and decision makers.

The Committee plans actions as:

Direct work with vulnerable groups or indirect through trainings, supervision, coaching sessions with people working with them etc.

Two specific projects are in process right now:

Cooperating with *Peace Brigades International* in supporting volunteers in their activities in places of crisis.

Conference for supporting the Dialogue between Palestinians and Israeli as a

little contribution to those who are working for steps to coexisting in peace.

One of the aims of the WCP is to cooperate with national and international organizations in peace keeping and conflict management measures. WCP is registered as an NGO in a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Members of the WCP-Working group for Human Rights have presented yesterday at this congress their activities:

Participating at UN-conferences, developing an own project in *disaster risk reduction*. It is planned to establish a list of gate keepers in all countries that UN can use in any need after a disaster. Gate keepers will give information about well educated therapists for psychotherapeutic treatment after disasters. Psychotherapy is not the first need after disasters. Medical and social help has priority. But after the surviving is solved, the need for psychotherapy is big.

WCP members can participate on this project. Ask at the desk of WCP to put your name on the list for further information.

Conclusion:

I tried to show in this presentation how psychotherapy shares values that are written down in the Declaration of Human Rights. I showed how psychotherapy in this aspect always has a political aspect end effect. I also illustrated how psychotherapists have a social responsibility besides their work with patients, to contribute to the growth of society. I showed an example, how in EAGT we start to make this real through a Committee for Human Rights and Social Responsibility. And I showed how WCP is also engaged in this issue.

I hope this will encourage others to start similar projects.

Peter Schulthess, MSc
Psychotherapist EAP, EAGT

¹ <http://www.ian.org.rs/publikacije/posleratnezajednice/bookstruggle.htm>

About the author:

Peter Schulthess is living and practicing as Psychotherapist in Zürich, Switzerland. He is currently the president of EAGT (European Association for Gestalt therapy) and the Swiss Charter für Psychotherapy. He is a Board member of EAP (European Association of Psychotherapy), WCP (World Council for Psychotherapy) and a member of the Council of the IFP (International Federation for Psychotherapy). He is teaching Gestalt therapy in several European countries.

Reports from European Countries

Germany

Commemoration Ceremony for Amalie and Elisabeth Perls.

In 1996 the Cologne based artist *Günter Demigk* launched a private initiative called “Stolpersteine” – stumbling blocks. Stones covered by a shining metal plate with names and dates engraved thus making permanently aware from which very houses Jewish citizens were deported. In the meantime Demigk has personally laid close to 18.000 “Stolpersteine” in 330 German communities.

Considering the Jewish roots of Gestalt Therapy in Berlin, hometown of *Fritz Perls* and his family for a number of years (from here he in 1933 emigrated together with his wife *Laura* and daughter *Renate* to Johannesburg, later on in 1947 to New York), DVG – *German Association for Gestalt Therapy* – decided to lay two stumbling blocks, in particular to honour the tragic destiny of Fritz Perls’s mother *Amalie* and his sister *Elisabeth*. Two “Stolpersteine” were laid in front of the house Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Prinzregentenstrasse 77, in which mother and sister lived. On September 7, 1942 they were deported to Theresienstadt together with 99 other Jewish citizens. His mother died at the age of 88, his sister was murdered in Auschwitz

– Mother Amalie, daughter of a tailor did not have higher school education. She was more interested in arts and culture, saving money to attend opera performances together with Fritz or to visit the National art-gallery. – Fritz’s sister Elisabeth was born in 1891 in Berlin as the first child. Partially sighted she lived all her life in her mother’s home. During the years of deportation she worked as an assistant secretary in the Jewish Community. – Fritz’s beloved sister *Grete (Margarete)* survived the holocaust in Shanghai, fled together with her husband in the 1950ties via Israel to New York where she died in the 1970ties.



a month later. Likewise the three brothers and the sister of Fritz Perls’s mother lost their life in Theresienstadt.

Mother Amalie was born in 1858 in Silesia, today Polish territory. Together with her husband *Nathan* she moved to Berlin in the 1880ties where they lived at different places joining other family members. Fritz and Laura moved to Berlin in the 1930ties.

To mark the laying of the “Stolpersteine”, DVG jointly with the *Gestalt Therapeutic Practice Berlin*, Prinzregentenstrasse 85, decided to arrange a small ceremony on June 27, 2008. Around 30 people

were laid down and candles lit at each of the stones. To the sounds of music Simon J. Dress the persons present moved on to the practice nearby in silence. Walls were decorated with photographs of mother Amalie and sister Elisabeth and those of other family members, with passages to the history of Gestalt Therapy and quotations of *Martin Buber* – inviting people at 6:00 p.m. for the ceremony at the stumbling blocks in front of Prinzregentenstrasse 77, starting with a musical improvisation by Gestalt music therapist *Simon Jakob Dress*. I myself made some biographical notes to life and destiny of the two persons to pay tribute. Flowers



ple to get in contact with each other and to reflect about this cruel phase of history.

The choir "Bruellianten" (grown from a Gestalt music therapeutic working group) sang three songs: a German, a South African and the American "You never walk alone" composed in 1945 by two American Jews. – After the first song *Maria Deitermann* and I, members of the practice, read an interview by *Dan Rosenblatt* with *Laura Perls* dating back to 1972 in which *Laura* spoke about the time of fascism, her escape and the fate her family suffered.

For all of us who participating it was a dignified and moving ceremony. We were happy to hear that our initiative was received with comfort by *Fritz's* daughter *Renate* and granddaughter *Leslie* as well as our colleagues at the *New York Gestalt Institute*.

Christof Weber,
Vice President of the DVG
weberchristof@aol.com

The Netherlands

News from the Netherlands and Flemish Belgium

In September we had our tree year congress about appreciation of differences with 220 participants. It was an exciting congress. It turned out that besides differences between clients and therapists, the differences between members of NVAGT came forward. A group of young members stood up to renew some forms and traditions in our organisation and how we present ourselves to the public. We as a board encourage the initiative.

There is also a group Gestaltists who are engaged in work in education, care and organisations, but not as therapist. They want to give more attention to the fact that they use Gestalt based ideas in their work. The use of Gestalt approach is in the Netherlands and Flemish Belgium somehow beneath the surface. NVAGT members want to organise themselves and like to have support of NVAGT to make them more visible.

At the congress *Guus Klaren* told about the EAGT initiatives in the *Human and Social Rights Committee*. The initiative touched our hearts, and spontaneously there were about 20 members that liked to contribute to the initiative in one way or another.

During a meeting in November of the important chambers, working groups

and boards we elaborated the vision and need of our organisation for the next years. After having years invested in quality, assurance and professionalisation we sense a need and an urge to give more attention to development of Gestalt and promote the place Gestalt deserves in our society: we have a story to tell about health care and welfare.

In the Netherlands and Flemish Belgium there is a Gestalt network organisation, VNGN. Lots of people are as well member of NVAGT as VNGN. The VNGN organises valuable study and inspiration days and publishes a Gestalt magazine three times a year. We have started to discuss the cooperation between NVAGT and VNGN, with the aim to give a place to the members and activities of VNGN in NVAGT.

Jack van Liesdonk
President of NVAGT

Norway

Finally, after all those years...

First of all – we would like to congratulate *Peter Schulthess* who became the new President of EAGT and we wish *Ken Evans* a happy retirement.

As a NOGT, I guess we all get our share of requests from the media. Yesterday I got a request from a Norwegian magazine which asked NGF to give 10 tips how to decrease stress and 10 tips how to avoid stress. I did get the request at 22.00 hours Monday night, and the deadline was 10.00 hours on Tuesday. My first client was at 09.00 the same morning, and we had an executive board meeting the same day (someday I think I would like to do some philosophy around the word "deadline").

That is stressful, if you ask me. So I was trapped in a dilemma. My answer was that I could not do it, because I need to be aware of how I can reduce my stress each day. She did not respond....

But being a NOGT is also awarding from time to time. From time to time is actually now and truly at the same day as the before mentioned request, we received information from the secretary of the *National Health Department* (HOD) in Norway, that the Norwegian gestalt therapist are VAT exempt from January 2009. This is now a ten (10) year consisting battle finishing.

In other words this means that 300 ge-

stalt therapists in Norway will make 25% more money the next year, or maybe the clients will pay 25% less next year. And of course the gap or equivalents to make similar starting points is less, and the chance of making a living as for example the psychologists are tremendously increased.

But now becoming VAT exempt is so much more than just 25% less to pay for gestalt therapist to the national tax system. It is not only recognition to all gestalt therapists in Norway but also in Scandinavia and perhaps other countries in Europe.

And for sure this is not an overnight kind of recognition, this is consistency from a broad front with the same vision. It started with enthusiasm which led to education, and then we needed organization and communication with other psychotherapy professions. And more or less the cooperation with EAGT made a difference in this outcome, alongside many others. But I would like to thank *Daan Van Baalen* and *Elisabeth Eie* for their long lasting stubbornness. This is a conquest Norwegian gestalt therapist would like to allocate with all of you, from all of us.

I need to finish this newsletter now, because I got a new deadline on my e-mail just now that I maybe....

Glenn D Rolfsen
Chair NGF

Slovenia

In 2008 the number of members of SLOGES (*the Slovene Association for Gestalt Therapy*) has risen from 25 to 40, and we expect some new members to join us in the months to come (so, if I may joke, approximately 0.00002 % of Slovene population are gestalt therapists). In October 2008 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the training which started within SLOGES and was afterwards, as SLOGES became a NOGT, transferred to GITA - the Institute for Gestalt Therapy, Ljubljana. The cooperation of the representatives of two 'generations' of trainees in organizing the celebration and making it a memorable event showed that the growing number of members allows for a new quality in the life of the Association. More people, more energy, more ideas.

SLOGES is a member of *the Slovene Umbrella Organization for Psychotherapy* (SKZP). The Ministry of Health has formed a committee to prepare a bill for the law of psychotherapy. In this commit-

tee there are the representatives of SKZP and the representatives of 'the other side' – *the Association of Psychotherapists of Slovenia* (ZPS, mainly clinical psychologists and psychiatrists)). The establishment of such committee was a step forward in the SKZP's fight to have an influence in creating the law. There is a discussion going on in the SKZP at the moment whether the bill, as it has been formulated so far, favours the interests of SKZP, or to be more precise, the interests of the modalities united within SKZP. According to my understanding I would summarize the main points of the discussion into one question – does the bill, such as it is now, enable psychotherapy as an autonomous profession? Members of SLOGES are taking an active part in this discussion.

Tomaz Flajs
SLOGES

United Kingdom

This is my last contribution as UK representative to the General Board. *The British Gestalt Society* (formally GAUK) has now been dissolved and UKAGP is established. I have enjoyed my time on the board and hope I have contributed something to EAGT. I will continue to contribute to EAGT as a member of the Training standards committee. I wish all of you continued success.

Lynda Osborne will now represent the UK from UKAGP. She has contributed much to EAGT with her work on the Ethics committee helping to write the Code of Ethics and Complaints Procedure. She has also been one of the founding members of UKAGP.

The new NOGT (*United Kingdom Association for Gestalt Practitioners*), was launched last February. A one day conference held in London and was a great success with all the delegate places filled. The keynote speakers were *Malcolm Parlett* and *Gaie Houston* and there was a selection of workshops. The General Board of EAGT kindly agreed to meet in London instead of Amsterdam and this made it possible for some of the executive and board members to participate in a panel at the conference. All of the gestalt training institutes are represented in the interim committee and participated in the conference. At present these are the paid up members: 28 full members, 5 associate members, 1 training institute member, and 23 trainee

members. We are hoping to increase our membership in the next few months. I think some people have just forgotten to send in their money.

We are well on our way organizing a National Gestalt Conference to be held June 26-28, 2009 in High Wycombe. The title is Gestalt in the UK: Forward Together. All are invited to attend and/or participate. Our website is: www.ukagp.org.uk. Have a look.

If anyone is interested in offering a workshop then please contact Andrea at andracampbellx@yahoo.co.uk

Information from some of our institutes:

The Welsh Psychotherapy Partnership (WPP)

Bore Da!! Croeso yn Gymraeg!

The Welsh Gestalt Psychotherapy Diploma is up and running in partnership with Scarborough PTI. We are very excited to be doing this training locally as it helps support the development of the Welsh Gestalt community (we are a bit thin on the ground at present!)

Especially exciting is that *Welsh Psychotherapy Partnership* is starting the first ever Supervision Diploma in Singapore on 28th November for ECTA counsellors. A key theme running through all our trainings is *Laura Perls'* notion of support. WPP believes a Gestalt perspective on support is integral to effective therapy, training and supervision.

In other news from WPP - we are having our Seasonal Festivities on 9th December from 6-8pm. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Instead of sending out cards at this time, we are supporting *The Age Concern Counselling Service* to develop their *Elder Abuse Response Service*. We are also supporting the *Teenage Cancer Trust* who is building a special ward at a Cardiff Hospital. Our guests on the 9th will be invited to contribute if they so wish and also to visit our new training suite and the ever-developing library. We were very grateful for a recent generous donation of books which were made as a gift in memoriam. WPP welcomes books, articles etc as these are not just for the use of our members and students but are provided as a resource for all counsellors and psychotherapists working and training in this area.

Metanoia institute

Following a first successful completion, the second Organisational Gestalt programme is underway with a full group

of participants. We are very pleased to be contributing towards the growing global community of Organisation Gestaltists..

Here is information from Edin, York and Mancs training centres.

GPTI

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Gestalt Institute is in the middle of a reorganisation as several people have either retired or moved on.

Edinburgh Gestalt Institute is a charitable trust based in Edinburgh, which provides training, supervision, psychotherapy and organisational consultancy in Scotland. At present EGI has two training groups and we will be taking both student groups to Cortijo Romero for a residential in Spain in May and are looking for a couple of people who would like to be client models. We have several supervision groups; a men's group; an ongoing personal and professional development group (6-weekly, weekends); an ongoing personal development group (5 times per year, weekends), and a men's therapy group (weekends) as well as individual therapy and supervision. There will be a weekly therapy group starting in the New Year, and our next psychotherapy training will begin in October 2009. We are planning to offer a short Introduction to Gestalt course prior to this, in spring/summer 2009. Please contact us about any of the above, or refer to our website for further details.

Tel. 44 131 228 3841 • E-mail: admin@edinburgh-gestalt-institute.co.uk
Website: edinburgh-gestalt-institute.moonfruit.com

York

York Psychotherapy Training Institute began a new Gestalt training course leading towards GPTI accreditation in October 2009, is the first for a few years.

Website: www.yorkpsychotherapy.co.uk
E-mail: enquiries@yorkpsychotherapy.co.uk

Manchester

Manchester Gestalt Centre will begin a new training leading towards GPTI accreditation in September 2009. They are also offering a workshop with Michael Clemmens 16/17 May 2009 'Working with the Body Relationally.'

Website: www.mgestalt.force9.co.uk
E-mail: mgc@mgc.org.uk

And finally, GPTI website has just been overhauled and updated and the address is www.gpti.org.uk

Scarborough Psychotherapy Training Institute

During the past year ScPTI has been an Associate Member of EAGT and plans to apply for full membership in 2009.

Scarborough continues to run a successful roll on roll off programme. Our yearly residential in Normandy, France provides particular opportunities for creativity and encourages a deep sense of connection within the training group.

Joanna Hewitt Evans, Course Leader
Gestalt Psychotherapy, SCPTI

Information on regulation of psychotherapy in the UK:

In the UK the process of statutory regulation of psychotherapy continues and the Humanistic and Integrative section of UKCP (HIPS) is working very hard for an equitable outcome, which is inclusive and which recognises the range of humanistic and integrative modalities, including Gestalt.

There is anxiety that evidence based research may be used to exclude some schools because the focus is on narrow randomised clinical trials. This kind of research works with medicine and drugs but falls far short when addressing the breadth and depth of human experience. HIPS are therefore seeking to broaden the basis of what constitutes research evidence.

Two Gestaltists, who are members of UKAGP, are playing leading roles in the HIPS political group. These are *Celia McNab*, GPTI and *Ken Evans*, ScPTI. The role of this group is to monitor the progress of regulation and to put forward policy and strategic recommendations to

HIPS. (Thanks to *Joanna Hewitt Evans* for this.)

UKAGP looks forward to being an active member in EAGT.

Faye Page

United Kingdom

Italy

The Italian Association for Gestalt Therapy (SIPG, *Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt*) is going through a fruitful exchange and openness among various currents of our approach in Italy.

A new climate of curiosity toward the "other" school is starting and scientific exchange is now possible. This new trend in the Italian community of Gestalt therapists was evident during the Second Conference of SIPG, which was held in Turin, from October 10 to 12, this year.

Under the coordination of *Gianni Francesetti* and of the organizing committee (made of *Mariano Pizzimenti*, *Michela Gecele*, *Franco Gnudi*, *Carla Valente* and *Jessica Ghioni*) 350 Gestalt therapists and counsellors from all over Italy have exchanged their ideas on creativity as a helping task in our present society.

The theme was inspired by the book "Creative License. The Art of Gestalt Therapy", edited by *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb* and *Nancy Amendt-Lyon*. How the concept of creative adjustment can be seen today? What does it mean to be creative in a "liquid" society?

The whole conference was a tribute to creativity in human relationships and

to the concept of creative adjustment as healing task. Aspects of our present society were discussed in dialogue among clinical, political and artistic representatives. Almost all the leaders of different Gestalt therapy schools in Italy gave their contribution in various panels and many young psychotherapists and counsellors offered creative workshops.

The conference was greatly supported by process groups, who expressed their creative forms at the end. The idea of the conference itself was born by the trustful dialogue between two institute leaders in Italy: *Mariano Pizzimenti* and myself. *Gianni Francesetti* has developed the idea in a very inspired way. To see the development of this conference was like seeing flowers blossoming in a desert.. and the desert is now ready to generate flowers.

Beyond this conference, other Italian events which show a more cooperative climate are the gatherings of FISIG, the *Federation of Training Institutes*, where, under the leadership of *Maria Menditto*, there is now a clear interest for exchange and dialogue. An example is the publication of a book edited by *Antonio Ferrara* and *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb* where every Italian Institute has written a chapter on the development of their work in theory and practise. The book is very useful for students who want to know what's hap in the various schools in Italy. Other publications of this kind are in preparation.

So, good news from Italy!

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
Italy

Annual General Meeting, Athens

September 6th, 2007. Minutes made by Marga Berends (office manager EAGT)

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

<i>Nurith Levi</i>	Israel
<i>Gudrun Wyss</i>	Switzerland
<i>Harm Siemens</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Gianni Francesetti</i>	Italy
<i>Dieter Bongers</i>	Switzerland
<i>Ulla Diltsch</i>	Austria
<i>Gro Skottun</i>	Norway
<i>Joanna Hewitt Taylor</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Jean van Pevenage</i>	Belgium
<i>Arthur Dombrovsky</i>	Latvia
<i>Maria Lekoreva</i>	Russia
<i>Inna Didkovska</i>	Ukraine
<i>Jiri Drabota</i>	Czech Republic
<i>Ernst Knijff</i>	Belgium
<i>Jan Roubal</i>	Czech Republic
<i>Oleg Nemirinskiy</i>	Russia
<i>Greet Cassiers</i>	Belgium
<i>Knut Moskaug</i>	Norway
<i>Svein Johansen</i>	Norway
<i>Tomaz Flajs</i>	Slovenia
<i>Jolanda de Leeuwerc</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Jolande Merlijn</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Chris Berardi</i>	Sweden
<i>Anna Maria Nore'n</i>	Sweden
<i>Nancy Amendt Lyon</i>	Austria
<i>Heidi Anger</i>	Austria
<i>Kathleen Höll</i>	Austria
<i>Marina Pješčić</i>	Srbija
<i>Marija Krivačić</i>	Srbija
<i>Dusanka Jovanović</i>	Srbija
<i>Natasa Ognjanović</i>	Srbija
<i>Lidija Pecotic</i>	Malta
<i>Marija Stefanovic</i>	Srbija
<i>Emilija Stoimenova Canevska</i>	Macedonia
<i>Sanja Bratina</i>	Srbija
<i>Dragana Ilic</i>	Srbija

<i>Faye Page</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Tanja Kimova</i>	Macedonia
<i>Katarina Milenkovska</i>	Macedonia
<i>Serge Ginger</i>	France
<i>Biljana Popovic</i>	Novi Beograd
<i>Ljiljana Bozovic</i>	Novi Beograd
<i>Frank van Mierlo</i>	Belgium
<i>Lukas Declercq</i>	Belgium
<i>Riane Malfait</i>	Belgium
<i>Jan Stanbaert</i>	Belgium
<i>Christine de Muynck</i>	Belgium
<i>Maria Andriopoulou</i>	Greece
<i>Sina Triantafyllou</i>	Greece
<i>Maria Farmaki</i>	Greece
<i>Valerija Čabrić Acimović</i>	Srbija
<i>Ivana Vidakovic</i>	Srbija
<i>Ewa Canert Laka</i>	Poland
<i>Carmen Vazquez Bandin</i>	Spain
<i>Belén Espinosa-Rabanal</i>	Spain
<i>Maria Cruz Garcia de Enterría</i>	Spain
<i>Claire Asherson Bertram</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Judy Graham</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Natalia Lebedeva</i>	Russia
<i>Ivanova Ivanova</i>	Russia
<i>Christof Weber</i>	Germany
<i>Olaf Zielke</i>	Germany
<i>Glenn Rolfsen</i>	Norway
<i>Guus Klaren</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Biljana Koprova</i>	Macedonia
<i>David Kirk Campbell</i>	Denmark
<i>Bente Kirk Campbell</i>	Denmark
<i>Marten Bos</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Riek van Haeringen</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Fotini Maroglou</i>	Greece
<i>Lynda Osborne</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Lia Aarsbergen</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Rytis Stelingis</i>	Lithuania
<i>Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb</i>	Italy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

<i>Ken Evans</i>	United Kingdom	President
<i>Peter Schulthess</i>	Switzerland	Vice president & Chair TSC
<i>Katia Hatzilakou</i>	Greece	Chair Extended Board
<i>Ester Neumanova</i>	Czech Republic	Eastern European Counties
<i>Joppie Bakker</i>	The Netherlands	Secretary
<i>Daan van Baalen</i>	Norway	External Relations
<i>Bas Lokerse</i>	The Netherlands	Treasurer
<i>Dick Lompa</i>	The Netherlands	Chair Ethics Code
<i>Marga Berends</i>	The Netherlands	Office manager

APOLOGIES:

Detlef Hoffman
Karin Groet
Lies Geertsen

Personal note of office manager:

It came to my knowledge that not all persons had the chance to write their names on the attendance list and therefore, unfortunately, not all the names are listed.....

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Reports of:
 - President
 - Chair Extended Board
 - External Relations Officer
 - Vice President & Chair of Training Standards
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Chair of Ethics
- Reports from Special Committees:
 - Organisations,
 - Education and Children,
 - Social Responsibility
- Change in statutes for officers to work 3 times 3 years for EAGT
- Voting on 'experiment' on:
 - That the executive board and extended board unite to become a single general board
 - That the executive board becomes the executive committee and continues to be responsible for oversight of the day to day management of EAGT in accordance with policy determined by the annual general meeting
 - The executive committee is directly accountable to the general board in the exercise of its responsibilities and will continue to participate in and report to meetings of the general board
- Nominating and voting officers and/or re-elections
- Matters arising from write reports of news from countries
- Date next AGM (2008)
- AOB



1 WELCOME

Ken Evans welcomes all those present.

2 OPENING

- Katia Hatzilakou is welcoming us all and is glad everyone is here at the Annual General Meeting in Athens.
- Daan van Baalen explains the voting.

There are 85 votes in total.

- Preamble of Ken Evans:

Ken Evans finds it is encouraging to see this many people, and is thanking all of them for coming!

- Ken Evans briefly explains about the new General Board and the meetings this new Board as well as the Executive Committee were having for the past 2 days.

- EAGT is a professional association.

- You as a member decide how we – EAGT – proceed and that is why the voting cards are important.

EAGT is changed a lot by growth. We are trying to be a more democratic organisation. And therefore the EAGT board had an experiment for one General Board (for details see agenda item 5) . Ken Evans is happy to see it is working. Every country should finally be represented in this board.

- Also a limit for how many years an officer can stay in post is introduced. The limit is proposed for 3 x 3 years, this way new blood will come into the organisation.

- Appreciation is shared for all officers working in good cooperation in the General Board (extended and executive board) and Ken Evans is sad some officers will step down. Ken Evans is mentioning that there are vacancies for:

Secretary;

Chair of ethics;

External Relations;

Extra member for ethics committee.

- Ken Evans completed the application form for the EAGT re-accreditation by the European association for Psychotherapy and this was successful. Re-accreditation is for a further 5 years.

- Ken Evans is thanking Serge Ginger for his work as a registrar and for the work on the TAC (Training Accreditation Committee).

- 75 persons are present

3 MINUTES OF LAST AGM KRAKOW SEPTEMBER 2006

Minutes were correct and unanimously approved.

3A MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nancy Amendt Lyon would like to have full names in the minutes. This is agreed.

4 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Ken Evans)

The presidents report has been presented during the opening and welcoming.

5 CHAIR OF EXTENDED BOARD FOR THE LAST TIME (Katia Hatzilakou)

Katia Hatzilakou does not have to express something specific because she mainly worked on the conference. Thinking of the conference team Katia Hatzilakou explains how much work there has been involved and that the Greek people are very proud of their work. Ken Evans expresses his appreciation. Applause is following.

6 EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER (Daan van Baalen)

- Daan van Baalen has been on the board for 9 years. He started in Palermo. He liked it very much. One of Daan van Baalen's responsibilities is the making of a grandparenting procedure for Gestalt Practitioners in Organisation (GPO). He is proud in letting know that already 12 GPO people became Full members of our organisation. Thanks to this grandparenting procedure our treasurer is now a full member.

- Daan van Baalen explains very briefly the procedure. The draft of the grandparenting procedure can be found on our website (header downloads)

- Daan van Baalen states he made good friends in this board and he will miss them.

- As well a present was given to Daan van Baalen by Ken Evans as a word of thanks.

- Anna Maria Noren asked how to start this grandparenting procedure. Daan van Baalen explains that if one is interested to organise more people to have a peer group meeting in one's country.

7 TSC AND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT (Peter Schulthess)

- Peter Schulthess states that in his role as vice president he participated in 2 EAP meetings to represent EAGT.

- Psychotherapy is based on the Strassbourg declaration and Peter Schulthess gives a brief explanation on this subject because he finds this very important.

- Peter Schulthess will also participate in a group on the Sigmund Freud University.

- Peter chaired the meetings in Amsterdam in February 2007 in his role as vice president, in the absence of Ken Evans.

7A NOGTs

As a Chair of the Training Standard Committee (TSC) Peter had to deal with accreditation and re-accreditation.

Peter Schulthess explains a NOGT (National Organization for Gestalt Therapy).

Some NOGTs had to be built. EAGT has 12 NOGTs and 2 Institutes that function as a NOGT. Two of the 12 NOGTs are Associate Member (AM) and in process of becoming Full Members (FM). At this moment 2 requests for becoming a NOGT are in process namely in Latvia and Poland. Macedonia and United Kingdom are pending. Three other countries are also in process of building NOGTs. All in all we will finally have 18 NOGTs.

7B TRAINING STANDARD COMMITTEE (TSC)

- Nurith Levi, Lidija Pecotic, Faye Page, Gianni Francesetti and Peter Schulthess are members of the TSC. Since April of this year Pedro de Casso announced he wanted to step back because of age and feeling tired of travelling.

- Several Training Institutes used the way to get a double accreditation, as well by EAP as by EAGT. This year 6 new Training Institutes became accredited, namely:

Norway - Norske Gestaltinstitutt AS

Czech Republic - Institut pro výcvik v Gestalt terapii (IVGT) o.p.s.

Denmark - GI - Gestaltterapeutisk Institut ApS

UK - The Metanoia Trust

Slovene - Institute for Gestalt Therapy, Ljubljana (GITA, Ljubljana)

Russia - Gestalt Institute of St. Petersburg

Peter is asking the representatives of the Institutes to come forward and hands them out the certificates.

Congratulations follow but also a huge applause.

All representatives of the accredited Institutes are thanking Peter Schulthess .

- Peter Schulthess continues by telling that EAGT counts at the moment 10 accredited Gestalt Institutes and 7 requests are in process. Peter Schulthess points out those Institutes who did not yet apply for accreditation that there is a time limit which will end at the end of November (2007). The questionnaire can still be send in before the end of November.

Ken is telling about a challenging experience because of the changing of EAGT. NOGTs is a new phenomenon in EAGT and especially to have this much NOGTs. Yesterday the General Board appointed a task force to consider consequences for joint memberships. To work in an effective way all together. There is value in a joint membership because the NOGT will do the registration and there are also important issues of finance.

8 REPORT SECRETARY (Joppie Bakker)

This is Joppie's final report. One part of her regrets this but the other part is saying it is time to change.

She briefly informs us about her work as a secretary:

- A lot of e-mail correspondence.

This last half year she was mainly working on individual registrations (more than 40 in total for this year).

Processing ECP forms.

She explains the relationship with EAP is not easy because there are so many procedures.

Re-registration procedure started in 2006 and already 75 were reregistered.

She is thanking Marga Berends for her assistance.

- Joppie explains that the registration and re-registration procedures are based and done by the principle of equality. But it seems sometimes some persons are more equal than others. Sometimes it is hard to get the correct information. Joppie stresses she does her work as a secretary and as a colleague but how she sometimes felt bullied and that did not feel well.

- Joppie recommends that those who did not yet fill in their re-registration form to fill it in and to take one owns responsibility to send it in properly. If you do not agree please let us now know, so we know!

- Joppie is thanking all members for their confidence and she is also thanking her colleagues.

- Ken states it is though there are officers retiring. As well a present was given to Joppie Bakker by Ken Evans as a word of thanks.

COFFEE BREAK

More members entered the room and attended the meeting.

9 REPORT CHAIR OF ETHICS COMMITTEE (Dick Lompa)

Dick expresses what a pleasure it is to see so many faces. The feeling of stepping down is a bittersweet and therefore it is good to see so many faces.

Dick was elected in Palermo.

Dick refused to believe he has done it for already 9 years and this indicates how much joy there was for his work.

Dick explains that Ethics collaborated with Training Standard Committee because of the fact an institute needs ethics to become accredited.

Dicks regrets it is coming to an end. He recommends to expand the committee

with 1 or 2 members more. He also thinks it might be a good idea to have for instance an individual complaints procedures.

Dick is saying goodbye and is thanking the committee for their friendship.

And again as well a present was given to Dick Lompa by Ken Evans as a word of thanks.

10 REPORT OFFICE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (Ester Neumanova)

Ester explains why there is no need anymore for an Eastern European officer and therefore she is stepping down today. She was appointed to make contact with Eastern European countries and during the first 3 years it was really useful and helpful to have someone on that post. Later on there was less need for an officer like that. Ester feels her job is done because it is working on its own now and therefore she is not needed anymore. She is thanking the colleagues on the board and also her Czech colleagues for their work during the conference.

And once again as well a present was given to Ester Neumanove by Ken Evans as a word of thanks.

11 REPORT TREASURER

(Bas Lokerse)

Bas explains finances and how it works both ways. Since yesterday a new re-balance is established in finances and he feels satisfied.

Finances are more explained and presented by a PowerPoint presentation. Afterwards one can ask questions.

Questions:

Faye Page is asking about American memberships because the number has been increased. Bas explains this mainly concerns therapists working in America and Europe.

Nancy Amendt Lyon asks why the costs for the newsletter has grown. Answer: This was due to the fact we make and send now 2 Newsletter per year.

Guus Klaren asks what EAGT does with unpaid memberships? Answer: They will be deleted from our members list.

Serge Ginger asks why it is not possible to pay membership fee per credit card. An-



swer: we have Paypal linked to our website and therefore one can pay per credit card (header payments).

- Since there were no more questions Ken Evans asks whether the members accept Bas Lokerse's budget.

- Voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

12 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (Ken Evans)

Ken stated that there was a dialogue in Israel, though the conference was cancelled several members still made the visit and had a very fruitful meeting with Israeli Arabs, Jews and Palestinians. The members making the trip included Ken Evans, Daan van Baalen, Peter Schulthess and Joanna Hewitt Taylor.

Ken is happy with the theme of this conference - human conflict. There is a panel of the human rights committee and you can express there what you would like this committee to do.

Katia Hatzilakou could interest UNESCO in collaborating with the Conference and explains there will be a guest speaker of UNESCO on this panel.

13 EDUCATION AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE (Ester Neumanova)

Ester explains that there is not very much to say because Ester is the only member and also the chair of this committee. Nurith Levi offered her help and Ester will get assistance on this task.

14 CHANGE OF STATUTES & ELECTIONS (voting time lead by Ken Evans)

Ken gives a brief introduction on the parts which need to be voted on.

Overall general reactions to the brief introduction of Ken on the financing of the General Board:

Lynda Osborne asks how we will we finance this. Answer: Yesterday the General Board spent a lot of time on this subject

and we do it as an experiment for 1 year.
The General Board agreed on 2 meetings per year. The represent gets for each meeting € 150,= per visit and at the end of the experimental year we will review this. Anna Maria Noren wants to discuss this all with persons in her own language. Claire Asherson Bartram states the funding is limited though the idea is good. Ken Evans: when budgeting works out there will be a possibility to open up for more people
Someone (Jenny) thinks there is only room for institutes and she asks where there is room for the individual. Ken answers he represents the task force as an individual.
Someone (.....) finds 9 years too long for an officer's task and she is not in favour for this subject. She would appreciate 6 years more.
Serge would like to have a register on the website. Peter states it is there.
Knut Moskaug: more people on the General Board and expenses will be paid with € 150,= per attending meeting. It is more equal and democratic but he doubts to vote for his because with less people attending the Annual General Meeting for members, this could not be evaluated to the members. Ken states we have a General Board for 2 years now and this way more people are coming
Peter explains a NOGT. Because only NOGT representatives are seated in the General Board and therefore there is more feedback to the members because the NOGTs are very big.
Nancy Amend Lyon thinks hotel costs could be limited.
Maria Farmaki thinks it is a good idea.
Dieter Bongers says we agreed with the model because there is a level less and this might improve the communication. His concern is the maximum of 9 years for officers
Ken Evans states the constitution needs to reflect and therefore there is a need to have something in writing.
Natalia Lebedeva comment is that it is a wonderful idea to share but there are very different prices. She suggest to divide as following 1 half for NOGT and 1 half for EAGT.
- Discussion follows on but eventually it comes to voting.

a) Proposal – executive and extended board will end and a new general board comes to being
voting:

Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

b) Proposal – create a smaller executive committee

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

c) Proposal – 3 x 3 years officers job voting:

Against: 0 Abstention: 17
In favour: 86

d) Changes in statutes to make it legitimate – section 7

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

e) Changes in statutes to make it legitimate – section 8

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

f) Changes in statutes to make it legitimate – section 9 item 5

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

g) Changes in statutes to make it legitimate – section 8 item 7

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 17
In favour: 86

h) Changes in statutes to make it legitimate – section 8 item 4

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 17
In favour: 86

i) Proposal – executive committee shall consist of 5 persons instead of 8

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 17
In favour: 86

j) Changes in statutes TSC as an organ is not mentioned in section 7

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 1
In favour: 102

k) Changes in statutes – section 10 voting:

Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

- Ken Evans is thanking all for the voting and applause is followed.

- Hereafter follows the voting concerning elections for a new Chair of ethics, for a

new secretary, for PR and a new member for the ethics committee.

A) Chair of ethics – Nancy Amendt Lyon nominates Joppie Bakker, this is seconded by Lidija Pecotic.

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

B) Secretary – Daan van Baalen nominates Ester Neumanova, this is seconded by Lidija Pecotic

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

C) PR / NOGTs officer – Maria Farmaki nominates Katia Hatzilakou, this is seconded by Lidija Pecotic

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

- Nancy Amendt Lyon missed the EAGT in the media (TV etc.) she suggest this could be a job for the new PR officer.

D) Member ethics committee – Dick Lompa nominates Glenn Rolfsen, this is seconded by Daan van Baalen

voting:
Against: 0 Abstention: 0
In favour: unanimous

- Ken Evans refers to the Newsletter, there is a report from different countries: are there matters arising from the written reports? Nothing is arising from the written reports.

- Faye Page states in February a new NOGT will be launched in the U.K. with a day seminar and she is inviting all.

- Nancy Amendt Lyon mentions there is a new association named OVG Österreichische Vereinigung fuer Gestalttherapie in Austria.

15 AOB

Nancy Amendt Lyon appeals to the General Board in favour of actions EAGT needs to take to be more supportive in broadcasting to further development of Gestalt Therapy, a more promoting independent approach based on Gestalt Therapy.

It is a challenge anything can be integrated and could be too narrow according to Ken Evans.

16 DATE NEXT AGM

The next date for the AGM will be September 13, 2008 and the AGM will be held in Belgrade.

ABBREVIATIONS LIST**EC** – Executive Committee**GB** – General Board**DVG** – Deutsche Vereinigung für Gestalttherapie
DVG e.V.**SVG** – Schweizer Verein für Gestalttherapie und
Integrative Therapie**SFG** – La Société Française de Gestalt**NVAGT** – Nederlands Vlaamse Associatie voor
Gestalttherapie en Gestalttheorie**SIPG** – Societa Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt**BGS** – British Gestalt Society**GAGT** – Greek Association of Gestalt Therapists**ÖAGG/IG** – Österreichischer Arbeitskreis für
Gruppentherapie und Gruppendynamik / Inte-
grative Gestalttherapie**AETG** – Asociación Española de Terapia Gestalt**ISGTA** – Israeli Gestalt Therapy Association**IVGT** – Institut pro výcvik v Gestalt terapii**SLOGES** – Slovene Association for Gestalt
Therapy**ARGI** – Association of Russian-language Gestalt
Institutes**GPTIM** – Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute
Malta**MAGT** – Macedonian Association for Gestalt
Therapy**NGF** – Norsk Gestaltterapeut Forening**EPG** – Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt**TSC** – Training Standard Committee**EAP** – European Association for Psychotherapy**ECP** – European Certificate of Psychotherapy**NAO** – National Awarding Organization**NUO** – National Umbrella Organization**NOGT** – National Organization for Gestalt
Therapy**EWAO** – European Wide Accrediting Organiza-
tion**AGM** – Annual General Meeting**AOB** – All other business**GPO** – Gestalt Practitioner in Organization**AM** – Associate member**CM** – Cooperative member**OM** – Ordinary member

EAGT Membership

New Members 2008

<i>Augustina Rahmanović-Koning</i>	Bosnia & Herzegovina	OM
<i>Teufka Ibrahimfendić</i>	Bosnia & Herzegovina	OM
<i>Besima Catić</i>	Bosnia & Herzegovina	OM
<i>Brid Keenan</i>	Ireland	OM
<i>Stelio Sikiarides</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Olivier Bequin</i>	France	OM
<i>Antigone Orfanou</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Aleksandra Replin</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Hanne Kirsebom Pettersen</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Baiba Pumpina</i>	Latvia	OM
<i>Daiga Auzina</i>	Latvia	OM
<i>Konstantina Gkioni</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Irena Bezić</i>	Croatia	OM
<i>Katerina Siampani</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Nataša Ognjanović</i>	Serbia	OM
<i>Jelena Želeskov Dorić</i>	Serbia	OM
<i>Majda Mramor</i>	Slovenia	OM
<i>Sandra Hendriks</i>	The Netherlands	OM
<i>Mirjana Redzić</i>	Serbia	OM
<i>Paul Formosa</i>	Malta	OM
<i>Argyro Lionaki</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Knut H. Kloster Bjørge</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Elżbieta Meliszek</i>	Poland	AM
<i>Zofia Pierzchala</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Dorota Węgrzyn</i>	Poland	AM
<i>Andrzej Wroński</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Bogusław Korzeń</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Sari Koppens</i>	The Netherlands	OM

Altered membership status 2008

<i>María Cruz García de Enterría</i>	Spain	from AM to OM
<i>Belén Espinosa-Rabanal</i>	Spain	from AM to OM
<i>Rosa Venturini Ragno</i>	Spain	from AM to OM

Cooperative membership Training Institutes 2008

European Institute for Psychotherapeutic Studies (EUROIPS)

Accredited Training Institutes 2008

*FMS – Faculteit voor Mens en Samenleving - Belgium**CTP - Center of Therapy and Psychology – Spain**GA - The Gestalt Akademy in Skandinavia – Sweden**Ö.A.G.G - Fachsektion für Integrative Gestalttherapie – Austria**GIS-International ApS - The Gestalt Institute of Scandinavia
– Denmark**RGI - RIGA Gestalt Institute – Latvia**Gestalt Institute Skopje - Macedonia**IIPG - Instytut Integralnej Psychoterapii Gestalt - Poland**GS-B - Gestalt Studio - Beograd - Serbia*

Abbreviations explained:

OM = Ordinary Membership (formerly called full membership)

AM = Associate Membership

GPO = Gestalt Practitioner in Organisations

THE EAGT WRITERS CONFERENCE

The EAGT Writers Conference will be held in Budapest on March 16 – 19 2009.

The Conference will be lead by *Daan van Baalen* and *Seán Gaffney*.

Drafts for articles can be send to the organizers daanbaalen@mac.com and to seangaff@gmail.com.

Venue: The organisers have found a beautiful, island-like hotel. For more information visit:

<http://www.szigetkozhotel.hu/?lang=en>

The prices are very fair:

€ 50,= per night per person, no matter whether you need a single or double room;

buffet lunch & dinner at € 10,80;

coffee break at € 4,50;

free use of conference rooms

Daan and Seán look forward to receiving your article(s) and to meet you in Budapest!

Invitation from the Chair of the EAGT Committee for Education

Dear Friends, colleagues and those to be, This is an invitation letter to all those of you who are interested and in some way involved in various applications of Gestalt in the field of education and teaching.

Last month, during the General Board Meeting in Belgrade, I was offered to chair the EAGT committee for education and I willingly accepted the task. Ester, who chaired the committee from the first day has meanwhile undertaken the role of the EAGT secretary and felt she could not keep the double role to give this committee the time and energy that it needs and demands. As I was also keenly involved from the beginning – I dare to try and offer my faculties to this mission.

I thank the board and all the members that were present for their trust and support, and I promised myself and all of you to make a serious effort to bring Gestalt's contribution to education to the foreground of many people in many places.

In a non-naïve and un-pretentious way I would like to state my belief, that under the current cultural, social, and ethical circumstances of our lives, amidst the fast changes and stress that we have to endure,



easy to apply yet sophisticated and smart and with a lot of potential..

EAGT has long ago recognized the need and the possibility to raise the subject. The first spontaneous gathering of interested colleagues took place during the Prague conference (2003) and a committee was formed. In the last conference in Athens (2007) a panel took place, with some most interesting presentations and a debate that left the participants with a taste for more.

Now it's time to gather all those of us who are actually practicing Gestalt in the education of all ages, in teaching of young children and adolescents, in teachers' training and curricula planning, in working with retarded and handicapped or with gifted children, in schools of all sorts, in residential centers, in-formal and

in the mental and emotional environment which typify our existence – Gestalt has something unique to offer that is basic, simple and

non-formal education settings, in youth movements, etc.

All those of you who are either experienced or just curious and interested – please join us.

Our committee members so far are:

Maria Ioannidou from Greece

Dieter Bongers from Switzerland

Joanna Evans from England

We would like to have delegates from more countries so that we can reach as many colleagues as possible.

Our aim in the near future is to gather information and knowledge and to exchange it among EAGT members. We need to know more about the state of the art to see what the needs of the field are and try to answer them. We have a lot to learn from each other and to contribute to society – so let's start by identifying who we are and what we actually do in this sphere.

Please write to me via eagtoffice@planet.nl and join us!

Yours, *Nurith*

General Board Meeting, London

February 9th, 2008. Minutes made by Marga Berends (office manager EAGT)

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

<i>Ken Evans</i>	United Kingdom	President
<i>Peter Schulthess</i>	Switzerland	Vice president & Chair TSC
<i>Katia Hatzilakou</i>	Greece	External Relations/NOGTs officer
<i>Ester Neumanova</i>	Czech Republic	Secretary
<i>Marga Berends</i>	The Netherlands	Office manager
<i>Lidija Pecotic</i>	Malta	Representative GPTIM
<i>Joppie Bakker</i>	The Netherlands	Chair of Ethics committee
<i>Jean van Pevenage</i>	Belgium	Representative SFG
<i>Christof Weber</i>	Germany	Representative DVG
<i>Olaf Zielke</i>	Germany	Representative DVG
<i>Gudrun Wyss</i>	Switzerland	Representative SVG
<i>Guus Klaren</i>	The Netherlands	Representative NVAGT
<i>Gianni Francesetti</i>	Italy	Representative SIPG
<i>Sina Triantafyllou</i>	Greece	Representative GAGT
<i>Ulla Diltsch</i>	Austria	Representative ÖAGG
<i>Tomaz Flajs</i>	Slovene	Representative SLOGES
<i>Chris Berardi</i>	Sweden	Representative SAG
<i>Carmen Vázquez Bandin</i>	Spain	Representative AETG

code of Ethics

2 LAST MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Joppie would like to hear how far the EAP money flow with regards to ECP's is. Marga explains it seems to be starting at the moment. The German signed ECP's were discussed with help of Olaf and this is in process. In the Netherlands an invoice has been sent too but because not all applicants have paid their fee yet. After that we will get paid. So, money flow is coming together slowly now and *Joppie* is pleased to hear about this.

- Minor changes were amended in the minutes.

Approved unanimously

3 REPORT FROM OFFICERS

3a Ken – President

Ken is thanking the Greek organisers for their good work on the Conference.

Ken's roles as president

- There is a state regulation across Europe about psychotherapy going on.

- Ken was impressed when he was in Malta, how people mobilised themselves – in Malta – and invites Lidija to tell more about it. Lidija is explaining and informing us about the work that has been done and what still needs to be done with regards to this matter (state regulation).

- A UK matter about the name *psychotherapy* into *psychological therapy* was introduced and Ken explained why this is. The actual job will be regulated but it is not all clear yet. They're still in the middle of a battle here.

3b Peter – Vice president report & Chair of TSC

- Below the news since Athens with regards to accreditation:

4 more Training Institutes were accredited, namely:

AGENDA:

- Matters arising;
- Minutes of last meeting;
- Apologies for absence;
- Members present;
- Report from officers;
- Discussion of the need for an *Equal Opportunities Policy* within EAGT and it's member organisations, to be drafted by *Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee*;
- Time for a discussion in the *General Board* on the challenging regulation of psychotherapy in Europe. I would like to give a short introduction with a view to developing a long term perspective/strategy that will protect and advance EAGT in this crucial area;
- Discussion to record prior learning for Bachelor equivalence, both certificated and experiential;
- Discussion to consider and decide on the important issue of whether the *Ethics Chair* should be in the General Board;
- Conflicting roles general board members seated in the Ethics and/or Complaints committee;

- EAGT – NVAGT project;
- How to apply for an ECP and/or EAP membership;
- How to apply to become an EAPTI;
- Open for further items arising from members of General Board;
- Open for further items arising from the prior meeting of the *Executive Committee*;

1 WELCOME

- *Ken* welcomes all of us and suggests we first introduce ourselves.

- Apologies were received from *Nurith Levi* (travelling in India), *Oleg Nemirinskiy*, *Faye Page* (launching UKAGT) and *Glenn Rolfsen* (family member is marrying today), *Gudrun* apologized for *Dieter Bongers* because he was not able to come and therefore she was asked to replace him and our treasurer *Bas Lokerse* needed some balance in his life.

1A PRE-MEETING ITEMS:

Ken informs us about the UKAGT panel, the collective responsibility of EC towards GB and the review of the

HIGW, Germany
IVC, Belgium
MultidiMens, Belgium

Gestalt foundation, Greece

Currently 9 TIs are in process of becoming accredited.

In total there are now 14 accredited Training Institutes.

Result of 13 former FM TIs are as followed:

3 are accredited, 5 in process and 5 decided to become CM

At the moment there are 7 CM members and 10 AM and of these 10 AM 1 will become CM.

- Peter explains the several membership:

FM organisational membership:

Institutes, which meet the EAGT training standards and code of ethics and work in the field of training or clinical applications of Gestalt therapy;

AM organisation membership:

Every training institute, which commits itself to reaching EAGT training standards and is in the process of fulfilling the requirements of the EAGT in its training curriculum;

CM organisational membership:

May be held by Institutes who feel themselves to be connected to the professional, health policy and pedagogical aims of the EAGT.

Supervision setting:

In Athens there was a panel about this item with regards to individual and group setting. Individual is an one to one setting. The question was in Athens: "what is the value of individual supervision?" Therefore 1 expert defending individual setting and 1 expert defending group setting were invited to write and publish their pro's and contra's in the Newsletter.

With regards to this item *Tomaz Flajs* sent in a proposal that the decision could be left at the concerning TI.

The accreditation paper:

The TSC will overview the training standards paper after 5 year. There might be more changes than only the before mentioned item and it is in process.

Experts of EAGT in TAC:

EAGT has 2 experts in the TAC of EAP. In case of double accreditation of TIs (by EAGT & EAP) Peter and Daan are the experts for EAGT. Daan stepped back from the board. Gianni is proposed to become the expert on behalf of EAGT.

Peter's work as vice president:

There has been an EAP meeting in Albania. Next week Peter will go to Vienna for a meeting.

5 Universities (psycho therapy education) will emerge.

- Ken states and thanks Peter to take this (meetings EAP) part over of him and to work so consciously.

- Guus is asking about the CM-ship and is wondering why TIs share the aims of EAGT and feel connected to EAGT do not go for accreditation? Peter explains this is mostly a money and bureaucracy issue why TIs do not wish to become accredited.

- Guus also asks Peter how many TIs there are in Europe and Peter answers he guesses there might be about 300 TIs all over Europe.

3c Katia – External Relations officer and Chair NOGT's

Katia shares with us she felt a very big denial and even thought about resigning but, since she is here again meeting everyone, she will now go back to her EAGT job as soon as possible. She states how tired she was after the Conference. The flow seems to be streaming again. She hopes to work her pile of work away this month.

Furthermore she invites all board members she would like to hear and invites the board members to think about ideas how to promote EAGT.

Also some details will have to be changed in document(s) and this will be done together with Marga.

3d Ester – Secretary

Being a secretary is a day to day job and consumes a lot of time. There is a lot of cooperation between Ester, Marga and Peter on re-registrations and registration. Since she started with this job there were already 15 new mem-

bers and 24 re-registrations.

4 CHAIR OF ETHICS – JOPPIE

- The ethics committee started her work. There are 4 members (*Joppie Bakker, Glenn Rolfsen, Jan Roubal, Lynda Osborne*) and they are working on the code. Jan is already involved in the work, because Lynda will step down coming September.

- A first draft has been sent to Dick Lompa and he has been asked to give his comments.

- The ethics committee gives comments to ethical code's of TIs and Joppie is wondering whether this is the only task: "doing this paperwork? Checking on Ethical codes of TIs only?"

- Furthermore she asks whether she will be a part of the GB as a chair of the ethics committee?

- The ethical code has to be reviewed each 5 year. A job description has to be made. Joppie is also a member of NVAGT ethical committee and there are more tasks to do then for EAGT.

- NOGT's ethics codes need to be checked by the EAGT ethics committee.

- Ken would like to have the following to be discussed: "we like to have your decision on whether the ethics chair has to become a part of GB and whether someone of the complaints committee should be a part of the GB?"

- Discussion follows:

Ken: in my experience the ethics officer is mostly always a part of the GB. Complaints officers is another issue and therefore might not be a part of the GB.

Katia: complaints committee should be an isolated task.

Gro, Nurith and Margherita (=Chair) are the complaints committee. For Nurith there are double roles because she is also seated in the TSC.

Chair of Ethics will become a part of GB is proposed by Gudrun, seconded by Guus. All in favour. Unanimously approved.

Complaints no person in the GB, proposed by Gudrun, seconded Guus. All in favour. Unanimously approved.

Peter's point of view is this chair of Ethics taking part in GB is listed as an

organ in the statutes, a fundament of our (EAGT) policy.

We decide Joppie will make a draft job description. She will and/or specify the draft which has been made by the executive committee already and send it per e-mail.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE FOR THERAPISTS AND REGULATIONS

- EAP is completely behind on state regulation.

- New life for European Wide Schools.

- Smaller conferences between the tri-annual conference for students.

- The need to develop a journal instead of a Newsletter.

- What will EAGT look like not being occupied with regulations in about 2 or 3 years?

- While Peter, Ken, Ester and Katia are going off to the UKAGT panel all other GB members discuss to before mentioned matter(s).

6 PANEL UKAGT

Ken: Malcolm Parlett was there and it helped to have faces with the names.

7 FUTURE EAGT

Christof was chairman of the discussion and will point out the main topics, namely:

- Focus is mainly on psychotherapy and should widen (policy statement). Take care of professional boundaries in certain branches.

- Think of and for people this way it looks like we do something to be empathetic for many kinds.

- Regulation is not only coming from abroad, we do it to ourselves and it is needed.

Discussion is followed and many ideas come up:

- Joppie would appreciate to continue this discussion, to find a way to discuss it in between the meetings. To create a document because between meetings there is too less contact.

- A chat room on the website for GB members could be an idea. Password protected. Ask for details with webmaster, price etc. each GB member

needs a password. Marga will take this to our webmaster.

- Make AGM more interesting for TI's to have an open space discussion. Half day business like and the other half a day for discussions. Smaller conference could be a good idea.

Possible title: *is there life after accreditation?*

Possible title: *equal possibilities.*

- Election of a new president. What kind of pre-preparation is going to be done on this topic.

8 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (draft is at the end of this minutes)

EAGT does not have a policy about equal opportunities. During the pause the draft has been copied for all. Equal opportunities are described by Ken. The word equal refers to race, gender and sexuality.

Equal opportunities could for instance be a stand alone policy next to ethics, statutes and the TSC paper.

This should be more concrete worked out according to Joppie and that is why she is hesitating.

Ken suggests to reflect on it and is leaving this on the table for the next meeting. Therefore it will be on the agenda for next time!

9 DISCUSSION TO RECORD PRIOR LEARNING FOR BACHELOR EQUIVALENCE, BOTH CERTIFICATED AND EXPERIENTIAL

Included are hours in first degree or equivalent into total hours of the training programme. Some countries took this too serious and searched for an outcome.

If somebody has a first degree therefore they have the intellectual capacity.

Equivalent to a bachelor degree. Below what is written in TSC paper:

There are huge differences between the many countries of the EAGT about what is exactly post-graduate level. We adapt to the level of the first three years of the EAP regulations. This means at least a bachelors degree or equivalent (no less than 2000 hrs) in the field of the helping professions or the social sciences. Psychologists or Social Work-

ers are good examples of the group of persons who are eligible to become a gestalt therapist. Equivalence must be evaluated through published procedures for the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL).

Equivalent is standard education, not measure it.

Ulla explains the Austrian system to us.

Peters gets an opinion for EAP meetings.

Huge differences in how to deal with this in the several countries.

Peter would be interested to be backed up what you as a NOGT require.

10 PRESIDENCY

Ken is stepping down in September. A nomination paper / form will be send out in the Newsletter, someone needs to be proposed and someone who seconds the proposal. The candidates can make a presentation.

Peter has been asked and he came to the decision he would be ready for this job as president.

It has to be constitutional and therefore it has to be sent in the Newsletter.

Joppie asks whether he will step down as TSC chair so we will need a new chair of TSC.

11 EAGT-NVAGT PROJECT

At the last annual meeting we decided as a task group to work on a proposal for joint membership between NVAGT and EAGT, because NVAGT has been asking for it for years.

Peter has been for a meeting at NVAGT to speak with the chamber of accreditation to discuss the differences.

There was agreed Peter would write a draft to discuss it with the chamber of accreditation. Afterwards Guus wrote a side letter because it seemed there where more differences then discussed before.

Bas and Guus sat also together to discuss finances to get a complete draft.

April 19, 2008 NVAGT has an annual meeting for members and if their members accept it, it will go EAGT members at the annual meeting to ask for an OK. The intention is to start in February of 2009 for a 3 years project.

Guus thanks Peter for his visit and work and Peter completes.

Let's discuss it on the GB and Peter suggest: What do you think of this proposal and ask questions.

Ken states this will raise implications for other NOGT's to go for it as well. The experiment is for the moment for 1 NOGT.

The idea is to make an offer to the NOGT of EAGT.

The financial risk is after the 3 years, with regards to the donation of NAVGT, when EAGT does not get more NOGT's involved.

The word donation is not a preferable word, contribution seems to be a better chosen word.

Discussion is followed about the money issue. Perhaps the donation could be lowered and the contribution higher.

Guus thinks he will have problems with the board with the number of € 26,-. Ken suggest that € 25,- might to the trick.

All are in favour that the contract has to be changed into € 25,- per FM and € 20,- per AM and the final amount remains the same.

Financial situation will be negotiated again.

The draft will be further precised.

Aim is that the future membership fee will not be higher if the experiment is a success.

Side letter and its problems because not all items are in the contract, Guus and Peter will find a solution.

12 COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The idea it to think about this item and bring it back to the GB for further discussion in September.

13 JOB DESCRIPTION

Few alterations were discussed in the EC. Ken suggest to vote on it, send it per e-mail to GB, to think it over and discuss it the next meeting. Can we agree them in principle?

14 NEXT MEETING

Suggested is to have the February meeting in a other month in for instance March or April.

Preferred is to fix the date (to always have the same days in these weeks):

Week 9 (28 February, dinner is February 27 in Amsterdam);

Week 37 (September 11 starting with joint diner, September 12 at 9.30 the GB meeting and September 13 at 10.00 the AGM)

15 AOB

Christof announces that the 2010 Conference will be from 10–12 September, 2010 in Berlin.

16 CLOSING OF MEETING

The meeting is closed by Ken.

ABBREVIATIONS LIST

See page 17.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY DRAFT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- *The European Association for Gestalt Therapy* (EAGT) recognises and values diversity and difference and, as a result, is working actively to ensure that its responsibilities, functions and duties are non discriminatory.
- EAGT recognises that it exists within a European wide community that is rich in diversity and difference, and recognises that direct and indirect discrimination against these differences exists in every society and can impact adversely on individuals and groups. An obligation is therefore accepted by EAGT to ensure that in the exercise of its responsibilities, functions and duties, it does not exclude or discriminate against individuals or groups.

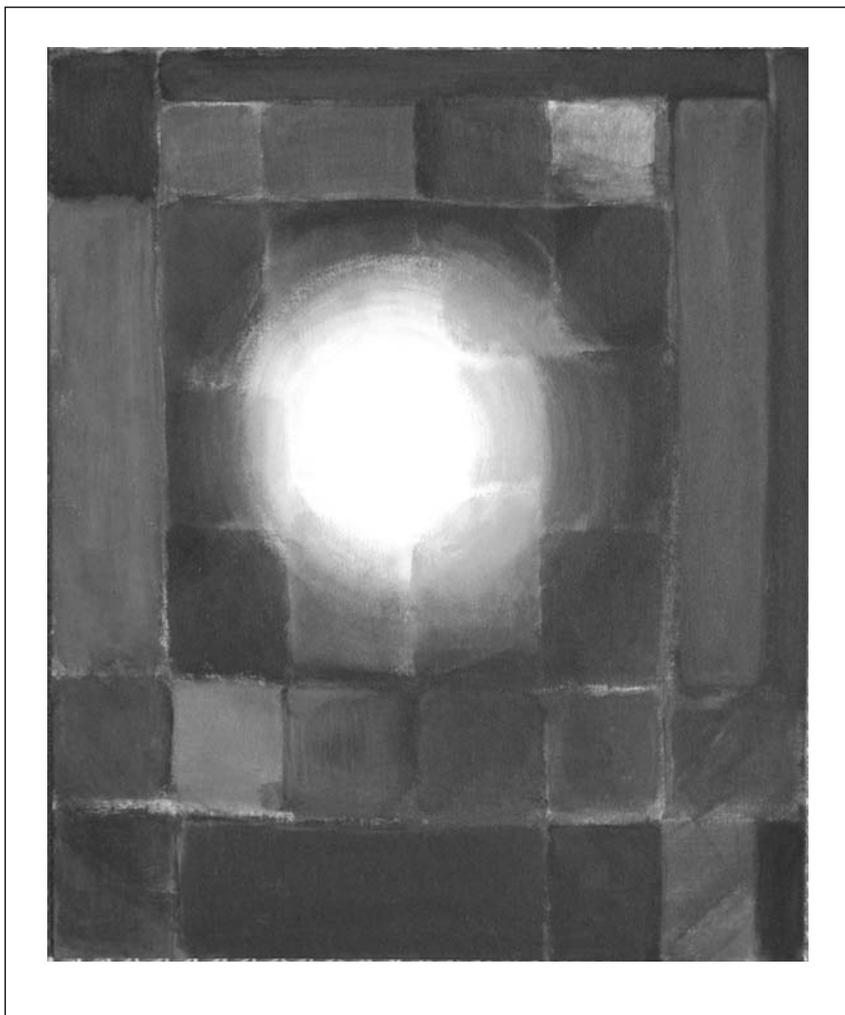
Policy Statement

- The term therapy is used to encompass both psychotherapy, but to also include the application of Gestalt therapy in other related fields, e.g. organisations and education.
- EAGT is actively committed, within the resources at its disposal, to pursue a positive strategy that goes beyond an undertaking not to discriminate or oppress. EAGT recognises its sphere of influence and seeks to offer a positive contribution to the debate on therapy and equality.
- In order to combat discrimination

and oppression EAGT is working, e.g. through it's Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee, towards an increased awareness of the needs of oppressed and disadvantaged groups.

- EAGT is opposed to any display of prejudice, either by word or conduct, by any member of EAGT. EAGT intends always to address oppressive behaviour through the use of sensitive intervention, except in those cases where behaviour is deemed to be totally unacceptable and likely to bring the profession into disrepute.
- No EAGT member in standing for election or appointment to an office, or any post of responsibility, within EAGT shall receive less favourable treatment on grounds that cannot be shown to be justified.
- EAGT seeks to develop its research role and encourages the awareness of knowledge on equal opportunities issues.
- This policy is subject to monitoring and periodic review by the Human Rights & Social responsibility Committee.
- As an ethical requirement all EAGT member organisations are invited to publish an Equal Opportunities Policy compatible with that of EAGT.

*A simple wish for JOY,
A heartfelt wish for LOVE,
A lasting wish for PEACE,
A special wish for YOU.*



Acrylic painting by Lars Berg (may be seen in color at www.egenart.info/konst)

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
Marga Berends (EAGT office)*

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