

EAGT newsletter

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY · ISSUE NUMBER 3 · DEC 2000

Editorial

EAGT is growing and it's exciting to feel all the new energy from Eastern Europe, as it shines through the words of Ester Neumanová.

This heightened contact with our colleagues in countries with tough economic situations, makes it important to spread the word about the Scholarship Fund, raised by EAGT. Please find the ad for this fund on page 8 (the last page) in this issue.

I'm much involved in the planning of the 7th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy, in Stockholm 2001, and I believe we can look forward to a very interesting and different conference – this is the first time the Gestalt Application Fields of Society, Organizations and Research will have their own focus, in addition to Psychotherapy.

Hopefully, dialogues will be nurtured over boundaries like different application fields, approaches, institutes and organizations, cultures, nations, scientific perspectives and – not the least – individual personalities.

I have many times stressed the wealth of different cultures we have in Europe and here is another occasion: in this issue, I have consciously attempted to preserve the cultural tone of language in every contribution, refraining from correcting them into "proper" English.

Enjoy the richness of our differences in this way and welcome to issue # 3.

Lars Berg, Editor

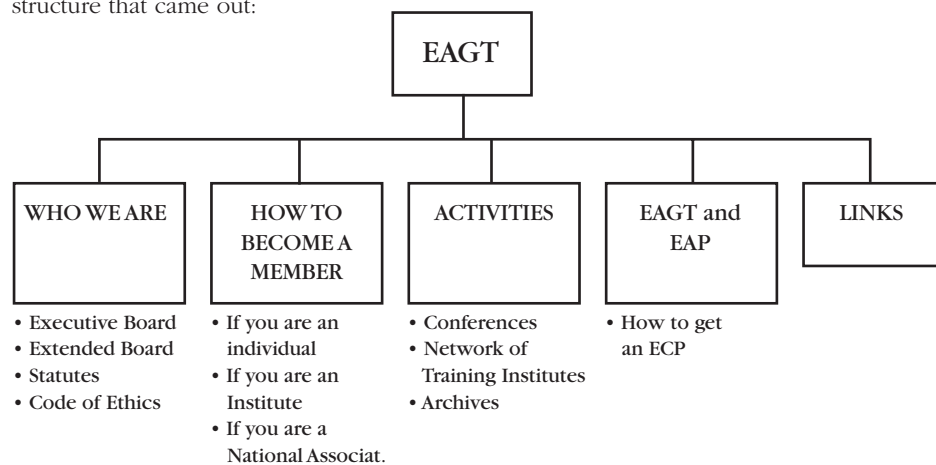
P.S. As you might have noticed, I have changed the typeface for all text, in this issue. I noticed that the former typeface made the newsletter a bit hard to read. I hope this change will be for the better.

The President's Column

Dear EAGT Members,

An interesting thing, which came up spontaneously in our last Meeting of Members in Rome, was the idea to set up a web page of our Association. When you have to build a web page, the nice thing is that you have to interrogate yourself in who you are, what you do, what you offer to people and how you want to communicate with them. So from this idea-or-need to have our own web page come the question who are we now? What have we become and what do we want to be in the future?

This is the drawing of the web site structure that came out:



Now, where would you click? I cannot answer to all your curiosities now, but you can ask us through e.mail for the moment and in a relatively short time you will also be able to click in the EAGT web site.

For the moment I want to bring your attention to the activities window. It come out that it's not only the 3-yearly big Conference that is going on now, but also other smaller conferences (like the Conference of Gestalt Therapy Writers; besides other two kind of activities are coming out: the archives of European writings which need to be available to all our

members, and a Network of Gestalt therapy training institutes leaders who are invited to start to work on a mutual recognition of Gestalt therapy training programs. If you want to know more about the European archives, get in touch with *Nancy Amendt-Lyon*, who is working of the bibliography of Gestalt therapy from every country.

If you are Training Institute leader and are interested in the Network, get in touch with me.

You will find in this newsletter, here and there, some information about the other issues of the drawing.

Finally, as you will read in the Treasurer's communication, we need a fixed office! It seems that we cannot avoid any longer this bureaucratic necessity. Certificates, membership applications, questions to answer, etc. are realities which are growing more and more and we can no longer give a good service if we don't have a phisical office and an employed person.

God (or whoever) save us from the danger of well structured and defined procedures and keep us humanly fresh and able to see each other!

My best wishes to all of you,
Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
President of the EAGT

Treasurer's Financial Report

During the general Meeting in Rome, September 16th, as well the Financial Report 1999 as the Estimate 2000 are approved and the treasurer is discharged from responsibility.

You have that Financial Report, I sent it by post, so I don't see the sense to repeat the figures or the numbers in this article.

The EAGT is a fast growing organization. The last year we have welcomed a lot of new members. New members makes new energy and money is a part of that energy.

How more members we have, how more membership fee and we need that money to make from the EAGT a real professional organization with the matching tasks.

Through the money we can spend, it's possible to give the Extended Board more capacity and responsibility. Now it's possible that the Extended Board has once a year their own meeting and the EAGT will pay the costs.

A growing organization takes a lot of work. Till now the members of the Executive Committee and the members of the Extended Board do the whole job by themselves. Also the simple but mostly the time consuming tasks like mailings.

I think it's time to have, as EAGT, our own place to work. What I will call a permanent whereabouts. A place for members with their questions. A place from where the working can be done by a white-collar worker, perhaps one or two days weekly. We will investigate

what the costs are to run such an office. I think there are a lot of costs like: renting, salary, furnishing, energy etc.

Of course the Board will inform you if we have that information.

The Board has decided provide facilities for a website. I think a website is very important for presenting and characterizing the EAGT.

During the meeting we have decided not to raise the membership fee for the year 2000. Are we talking about membership fee, the relation between Organizations and individual members are almost equal.

Bas Lokerse

Treasurer

Connecting the Differences

Since there are already other boardmembers who wrote about the important issues that are going on in EAGT, I just would express some thoughts I had during and after our meetings in Rome.

It's always a confronting, strange and nourishing experience that EAGT is not only existing on papers, documents, mails and letters, but also consists of people of flesh and blood with their own needs, talents and interests. It's not always easy to take them all into account.

Since there is so much movement about psychotherapy on the European level, there is also moving a lot on the national level in the different countries. In regard of their difficulties and desires, Gestalttherapists attend to EAGT for support in their striving for recognition as a professional psychotherapy-method in their country.

I think it is of greatest importance that in every country Gestalttherapists engage in working on uniting their power and connecting their differences. Different associations and different institutes should dialogue and try to create in their own country a common ground, to be stronger and more convincing in

their search for quality and recognition.

Only by learning from each other, the world shall be willing to learn from us.

As the secretary of the EAGT board, I would like to support any attempt of individuals, associations and institutes to unify their actions to improve quality and consolidate their position in the field of psychotherapy. If so, combining and unifying their creative energy, it's more attainable for EAGT to support these actions in a creative way.

Veronique Vermeir

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Public Relations

The EAGT grows relatively well and seems to serve the development of Gestalt therapy in Europe, according to her purpose.

The growth shows in precise amounts of individual and organisational members which you can see in the report of the treasurer.

As public relation officer, I am surprised that the amount of individual members comes mostly from a small part of Europe. Fifty percent of the members are namely Dutch speaking from the Netherlands and the Flemish part of Belgium.

Think of Germany, with 80 million inhabitants alone, and other big European countries like England and France. What about Italy and Spain? While Finland and Portugal are not on the EAGT map at all.

What could explain the situation, is that the Dutch speaking colleagues have found a way to co-operate in an um-

rella organisation, which contains all Gestalt therapists in the area. They have been able to create, in spite of many differences, a container. Their anarchy has become creative.

Could the formation of such umbrella organisations in other countries create a comparable effect? I think the answer is yes!

The development of the EAGT and of such organisations can have a mutual positive influence on the place of Gestalt Therapy in Europe and the local areas.

Therefor am I as public relation officer interested in such developments and willing to support in other countries comparable possibilities.

The lessons learned in the Dutch speaking part of Europe can be used in other countries.

Let me know if and how the EAGT can contribute in your situation, in your country!

Further, are members of the Executive Committee active in different ways, to promote Gestalt therapy in and outside Europe, examples are:

- The never ending and demanding relation with the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), where Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb and myself participate in the Board of the EAP. Margherita, as the president of the EAGT and I, as representative for all psychotherapists in Norway. Both of us can let the voice of the EAGT sound in the EAP. One result is that the EAGT is the official European Wide Awarding Organisation for Gestalt Therapy in the process of awarding the European Certificate for Psychotherapy;
 - The just officially founded International Gestalt Therapy Association (IGTA) where I am invited in the first Board.
- Lobby work whenever possible.

Daan van Baalen

Public relations officer

Extended Board's Report

Dear EAGT Members,

As the Chairperson of the *Extended Board* I am pleased to report that most of our institutional members have returned the *completed questionnaires* and I have begun the evaluation. The results will be published as soon as possible, however I am waiting for several questionnaires so that the evaluation can be representative. As you know, the purpose of the questionnaire is to facilitate the networking of our training institutes so that there can be effective exchanges of students and trainers, theoretical and clinical developments, and inspiring new ideas and information.

Slowly but surely, the first steps toward compiling a *bibliography of European Gestalt publications* have been taken. The national representatives will be collecting names and titles of publications in each country and I hope to have the rest of the completed questionnaires as well as the preliminary bibliographies in the near future. If you ha-

ven't had the opportunity to contribute to our collective effort, then please take the time to do it now. We depend on your cooperation!

Our Extended Board is growing! **New Members** include *Jean Van Pevenage* as a replacement for Brigitte Couder (SFG), *Peter Schultbess* (Switzerland), *Eleanor O'Leary* (Ireland), *Graddy Kosse* (Netherlands and Flemish-speaking Belgium), and *Nurith Levi* (Israel).

Our next Extended Board meeting will be at the **EAGT Conference in Stockholm on September 13th, 2001, from 9 AM to 1 PM**. We certainly hope to see many of the members nations of the Gestalt community there. At the Conference, we intend to participate in panel discussions on such topics as the new ethical guidelines and the cooperation between the Extended Board and NAOs.

At our last meeting it was once again made clear that the Nationals Representatives must take an active role in the

ECP-awarding process and work closely with the NAOs. As it is a *European-Wide-Awarding-Organisation (EWAO)*, certification from the EAGT must be obtained by the National Awarding Organisation (NAO) in order for an applicant to be granted the ECP.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

I am

Yours truly,

Nancy Amendt-Lyon

Eastern European Countries

Dear friends and colleagues,

I turn to you as a newly elected member of EAGT Executive Board where I represent colleagues from East European countries. I am very happy that I can contribute to EAGT work and support my colleagues from East European region so that they can make connection to the community of European Gestalt therapists.

I was welcomed to the board during the February meeting in Brussels.

My first task was to collect addresses and send letters to my colleagues from East Europe where I expressed in behalf of the EAGT board the aim to support them so that they can give their contribution to EAGT life. I also explained that the EAGT board agreed on reduc-

ing the membership fee for the candidates from East Europe.

I was very pleased that I received some answers from the Russian, Ukraine and Polish colleagues. The information about the Gestalt life in Russia was very impressive for me and all the EAGT board. Our Russian colleagues publish their annual Gestalt Journal and organize already the 10th Gestalt Conference in Moscow in February 2001, there are four Gestalt Institutes working in Russia.

An important step in connecting colleagues from the East and West seems to be the next EAGT board meeting in January 2001 that will be held in Prague.

The EAGT board members will use this opportunity to meet Gestalt trainers and other colleagues from Czech Gestalt

community. One representative of Russian Gestalt Institutes will be invited to join this meeting too.

Participation on the Stockholm Gestalt Conference is financially very demanding for East European colleagues. The EAGT board decided to support them by establishing a scholarship fund and ask EAGT members to sponsor their participation in this way.

Connection to the countries where EAGT has no members is a very important task. It means enlarging the Gestalt Community and making the dialogue between cultures possible.

Ester Neumanová

Representing the Eastern European countries

The Role of EAGT in the ECP Awarding Procedure

An important step has been made in the EAP to connect the work of National Awarding Organizations (the local umbrella organizations which are in charge to award European certificates of psychotherapy, under the name of the EAP) with psychotherapy modalities, which guarantee the scientific and clinical part of our work.

As you know there are a few modalities which have been approved by the EWOC (European wide Organizations Committee) and voted by the EAP Board as Awarding Organizations. This means that these organizations have been evaluated as scientifically valid and legally eligible to award (or accredit, this is not clear yet) the certification of completion of psychotherapy training in a certain modality. The EAGT is one of these EWAOs.

What in reality happens in different countries where ECP awarding procedures have been started, is that there is a sort of disconnection between the umbrella organizations and the modalities. Sometimes the umbrella organization it-

self, after evaluating that there is a lack of training in applicants, provides an extra training in a missing subject (psychopathology, for instance) but without caring about how that particular subject has to be taught, according to the specific modality where the applicant has been trained.

Now the important step is that the chair of the EWOC, Mony Elkaim, has asked every EWAO to send a list of representatives of the method organization in every country where a NAO is active. The request is aimed to give modalities a checking role in the ECP awarding. I have sent already the list of EAGT representatives in every country: they are obviously the representatives who make the Extended Board of EAGT.

Now it's our turn to use our positive aggression and stay with the local NAO awarding procedure and check that the ECP is given only to colleagues who fulfill EAGT training standards and, second, that, in case that an extra training is requested, ask that this extra training

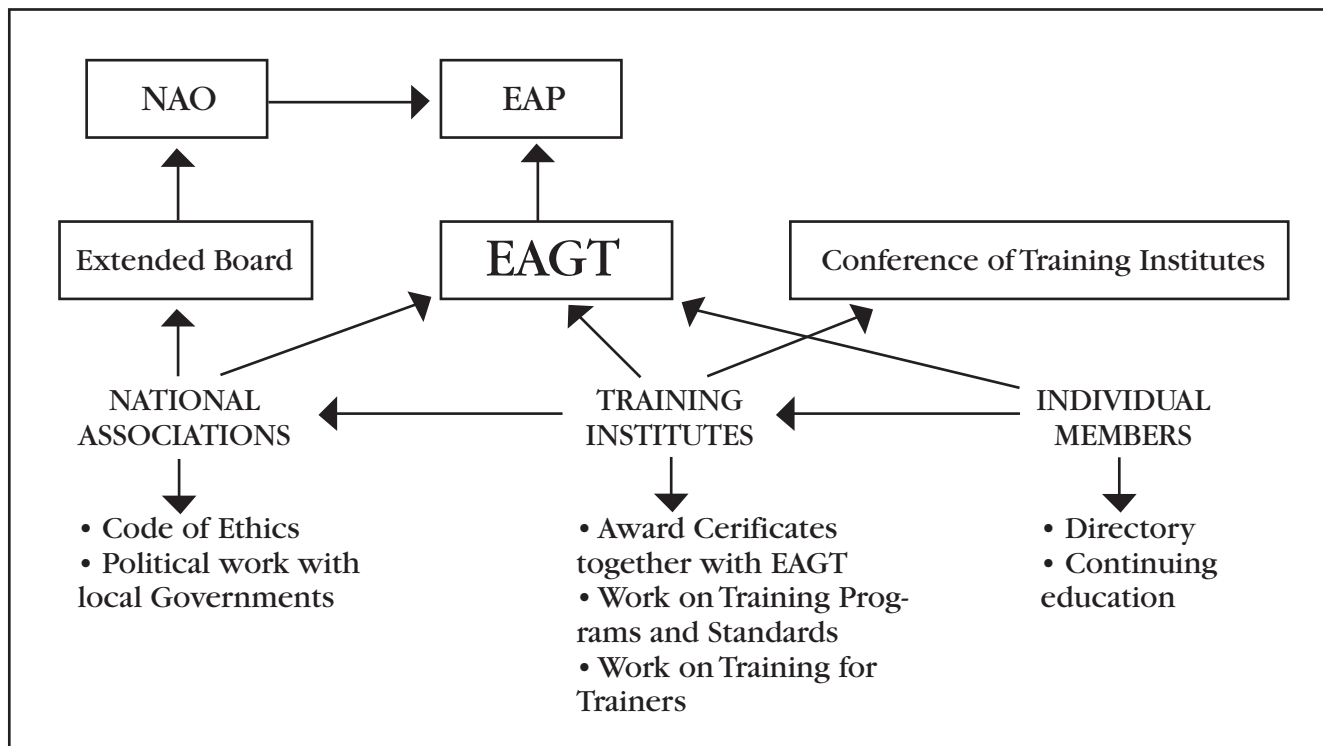
is in line with Gestalt therapy epistemology.

On page 5 you can see a drawing which explains both the relationship between EAGT and EAP and the roles of different kind of EAGT members. This is a proposal which was presented in our last Meeting of Members in Rome and aims to clarify different roles and working connections. I present it here aware that it doesn't represent a few local situations, where the training certification is not a matter of institutes, but of associations. The aim is to open dialogue among us on different themes here implied. Here is the list of national representatives, which has been sent to EAP head office:

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Toula Vlachoutsikou, Tim Vassou Str. 16 11521 Athens - fax: 0030-1-6429794

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New Members – as of September 30, 2000

ORGANIZATIONS

- Gestalt Association of Lithuania, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Gestalt Studies Center of Kaunas, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Nederlands Vlaamse Associatie voor Gestalttherapie en Gestalttheorie (N.V.A.G.T.) Amsterdam The Netherlands
- Nederlandse Academie voor Psychotherapie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Slovene Association for Gestalt Therapy, Cepovan, Slovenija
- Swedish Association of Authorized Gestalt Therapists (SAG), Sandsjöfors, Sweden

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- Iet Boon-Zwering, Netherlands
- Juul van den Berg, Netherlands
- Anna van den Boogaard-Driessen, Netherlands
- Piet van den Boogaard, Netherlands
- Joppie Bakker, Netherlands
- Marten Bos, Netherlands
- Maria Bouma-Kempe, Netherlands
- Marian Chrasta CZECH Republic
- Pieter Dekkers, Netherlands
- Jan van Dusschoten, Netherlands
- Christine Endsjo, Norway
- Gera Freriks, Netherlands
- Katerina Fidrhelova, CZECH Republic
- Annelies Galle-van Lutikholt, Netherlands
- Lies Geertsen, Netherlands
- Karin Groet, Netherlands
- Judith de Jonge, Netherlands
- Conny ten Klooster, Netherlands
- Nurith Levi, Israël
- Angèle Nederhof, Netherlands
- Irene van den Ouweelen, Netherlands
- Jan Roubal, CZECH Republic
- Sybille Rooseboom, Netherlands
- Ron Roozendaal, Netherlands
- M.Premysl Suchomel, CZECH Republic
- Rytis. A. Stelingis, Lithuania
- Berni Thomassen, Netherlands
- Lieve Talloen, Belgium
- Ineke van Zuylen, Netherlands

The Ethical Committee

The Ethical Committee will produce a proposal of the EAGT Code of Ethics, to be put to vote on September 13, 2001 – in Stockholm, during the next EAGT Meeting of Members.

The version to be put to vote will be mailed to you at least six weeks in advance.



*Dick Lompa, chair
Synnøve Jørstad
Udi-Jutta Schneewind
Anna Ravenna*

NEXT MEETING OF MEMBERS



Our next *big* meeting will be

on September 13, 2001,

from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.,

just before the beginning of the

7th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy.



Location:

The Conference Centre Solliden,
at Skansen in Stockholm.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The EAGT has raised a fund for scholarships, addressed to support participation of East European Gestalt therapists in EAGT meetings.

The EAGT invites you to send Your money (not all of it!) to the account number of the association:

**ABN/AMRO
P.O. Box 18,
9500 AA STADSKANAAL
NETHERLANDS**

60 38 68 053

(please specify "scholarship" as reason for your contribution)