



EUROPEAN
FEDERATION OF
ART THERAPY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: 11/05/2019

Time: 17:30 – 19:30

Location: Vienna, Austria

Attendees: EFAT's Steering Board (Maria d'Elia (LU) - President, Dominik Havsteen-Franklin (UK) - Vice President, Natacha Pirotte (BE) - Secretary-General, Tanaïs Verbist (BE) - Treasurer, Nada Ivanovic (HR) - Board Member, Irina Katz-Mazilu (FR) - Board Member), EFAT members and interested parties

Chairperson: Maria d'Elia (LU)

Minutes' recorder: Elza Strazdina (Communications Committee) (LV)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

EFAT's president Maria d'Elia declares the General Assembly open and introduces the agenda of the meeting.

Agenda points:

- Introduction of EFAT's current Board;
- EFAT's Activity Report April 2018 - May 2019;
- Yearly Financial Report;
- EFAT Objectives May 2019 – May 2020;
- EFAT Conference 2020 (announcement of location, etc.);
- Vote on adoption of the Rules of Internal Order (RIO);
- Election of the Steering Board for the period of 2019 – 2020;
- Election of an Auditing council for the Financial Report;
- Vote on conferring of Honorary Memberships to Paola Luzzatto (IT) and Judy Rubin (USA);
- Open time for discussions;
- Motion from EFAT's Ethics Committee.

TOPICS

- Maria d'Elia presents EFAT's Activity Report of April 2018 - May 2019. Topics mentioned:
 - Signing of the Notarial deed in Brussels, Belgium on April 12th, 2018;
 - NEAT meeting in Brussels, Belgium accompanied by the launch of EFAT's website, creation of EFAT's organisational structure – 6 committees (Communication, Conference, Research, Ethics, Professional Development and Application Review Committees);
 - July 5th – First Board meeting on Skype;
 - July 15th – Royal Decree signed by the Belgian King;
 - August 2nd – EFAT Committee chairs/coordinators appointed;

- October 24th – First EFAT's Council meeting chaired by Natacha Pirotte (BE) who serves as the liaison between the Steering Board and the Committee chairs;
- February 2019 - publication of EFAT's logo after competition & member vote;
- March 2019 – launch of EFAT's Facebook page by Tanaïs Verbist (BE).

Other daily operations & projects realized:

Board:

- Regular Board meetings;
- Management of EFAT's mail (Maria d'Elia) / website / bank account (Tanaïs Verbist);
- Follow up with other organizations, e.g., ECARTE (Dominik Havsteen-Franklin);
- Elaboration of Rules of Internal Order.

EFAT's Committees:

- Logo contest (Communications Committee);
- Tender for host for conference (Conference Committee);
- Test run for membership intake with founding members of EFAT (Application Review Committee);
- European AT Survey (Research Committee);
- Training Components Questionnaire (TCQ);
- Code of Ethics (Ethics Committee).

- Tanaïs Verbist delivers the Financial Report for April 2018 - May 2019. Statement of Revenue and Expenditure indicates that EFAT's account has a positive balance. Expenses mostly include: payment for the Notarial deed, website upkeep, Vienna meeting 2019; income – vouchers, donations / funding for the Notarial deed, establishment of EFAT.

Estimate of Finances for 2019 - 2020:

- Hope for increase in income through membership fees;
- Investment in EFAT's promotional work (e.g., flyers);
- Hope for a larger budget for the website upkeep – hiring a programmer that creates a platform that is easy to maintain;
- Expected income: approx. 12.500 EUR to cover all planned future expenses;
- Donations still possible and open.

- Maria d'Elia declares the main objectives of EFAT for 2019 – 2020:
 - Adoption of RIO;
 - A final version of the Code of Ethics to be voted on by the end of June 2019;
 - General member intake to be started by the beginning of July 2019;
 - Decision on TCQ – have it mandatory or voluntary for application;
 - Development of website features and added content (incl., GDPR policy – a draft already on its way by Dominik Havsteen-Franklin). Further additions to the information on the state of Art therapy in all European countries, GA Report to be made and ready for download online, all relevant info for member intake to be published as soon as possible;
 - Translations of statutes, RIO, the Code of Ethics in all languages relevant to EFAT's members;

- Creation of EFAT Newsletter (layout & content provided by Communication Committee);
- AT Survey to be translated in all languages relevant to EFAT's members.
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- Thijs de Moor (NL; Conference Committee) gives account on proceedings with the EFAT Conference in 2020. 4 applications for hosting the conference have been made: 1 from Latvia, 2 – Lithuania and 1 – Slovakia. After considering all of the criteria the decision has been made to grant Riga, Latvia the role of hosting the first EFAT conference. The probable conference time – the beginning of May 2020.¹
- Vote for the adoption of RIO is carried out by colour leaflets (green (yes), red (no), yellow (abstaining)) given to EFAT members who are eligible to vote. Beatrix Busse von Colbe (GE) raises the question of membership fees for organizations of tier 3, pointing out that they are too high. A decision is made to reduce the fees for organizations of tier 3, at least for the first member intake, to guarantee more applications and accessibility for organizations interested in joining EFAT. Final vote is made for the following EFAT 3-tiered membership fee scheme (see table below):

YEARLY MEMBER FEES	TIER 1 countries	TIER 2 countries	TIER 3 countries
Full members			
Individual	12 €	24 €	48 €
Pioneer	12 €	24 €	48 €
Organisational	1 € / member Min : 20 € Max : 100€	2 € / member Min : 40 € Max : 200€	4 € / member Min : 200 € Max : 400€
Associate members			
Affiliate (organization)	50 €	100 €	200 €
Affiliate (individual)	6 €	12 €	24 €
Student	6 €	12 €	24 €
Honorary	FREE	FREE	FREE

RIO is adopted with a clear majority vote (against – 0, abstaining - 1).

- Maria d'Elia follows with the election procedure of EFAT's Steering Board for 2019 – 2020. Current Board is discharged with a clear majority (0 – against, 0 – abstaining) and the candidates are introduced: Maria d'Elia (LU) as President, Dominik Havsteen-Franklin (UK) as Vice President, Natacha Pirotte (BE) as Secretary-General, Tanaïs Verbist (BE) as Treasurer, Nada Ivanovic (HR) as a Board Member, Irina Katz-Mazilu (FR) as a Board Member.

The election of the Steering Board is carried out by ballots – Thijs de Moor (NL) collects the ballots, Giuki Caël (an impartial third-party) counts and announces the results:

¹ At the time of publishing the GA report a set date for the EFAT Conference has been chosen - April 30th - May 2nd, 2020.

40 votes – Tanaïs Verbist, Maria d’Elia;
39 – Dominik Havsteen-Franklin, Natacha Pirotte;
38 – Nada Ivanovic, Irina Katz-Mazilu.

All candidates are elected in the Board in the respective positions.

- Vote on granting Honorary Membership to Paola Luzzatto and Judy Rubin for their outstanding merits in bringing European art therapists together and making the creation of EFAT possible is carried out by hand count, both elected with a clear majority. Paola Luzzatto is present and gives a speech.
- Maria d’Elia invites volunteers for audit of the yearly Financial Report. Avgustina Stanoeva (BU) and Frédérique Degand (LU) agree to take up the task.
- Open time for discussion:
 - Celine Schweizer (NL) asks for clarification on the roles of each of the Board members. Maria d’Elia answers that the description of the functions can be found in the RIO.
 - Iwona Bugajska-Bigos (PL) suggests that a clearer communication should be applied in ascertaining how the presenters/speakers for the conference are chosen and evaluated. Maria d’Elia addresses the question – a blind review for submission is undertaken where the quality of the presentation and conformity with the conference topic are evaluated. This policy will be undertaken also for future conferences.
 - Beate Albrich (CZ) asks if the EFAT flyer samples could be available also for the Art Therapy conference in Prague, Czech Republic, in June 28/29th.
- Elizabeth Stone Matho (FR) follows with the motion from the Ethics Committee. A decision should be made whether to adopt a long or shortened version of the Code of Ethics in the Application procedure for EFAT membership. Dominik Havsteen–Franklin explains the necessity to have a shorter version, mainly it being more „user friendly” – easy to access, done fairly quickly. Irina Katz–Mazilu adds that the Code of Ethics needs to be accessible to the general public, not only art therapists, a longer version might not prove useful for that. Maria d’Elia also points out that ethics first and foremost starts in each member’s country of practice, where national associations of art therapy are responsible for controlling compliance with the local legislation. Moreover, a lot of future members might not be English speakers, in which case the longer version might prove difficult to use.

Attending members are given the opportunity to express their opinion:

- Simone Donnari (IT) thinks that a „golden standard” of Code of Ethics for all national associations should be created, so a more complex version (e.g., long version) should be applied.
- Carmith Shai is of the opinion that the main matter is in the way how the Code of Ethics is written, ergo the document should be read by all interested parties before a vote can be made.
- Nicola Shaw (GE/UK) argues that the long version is relevant for the situation of art therapy today, and it is the responsibility of each art

therapist to read the whole document. No “user friendly” version should be adopted.

- Igor Burganov (RU) explains that in Russia professionals are expected to read a Code of Ethics that consists of 48 pages, but it is because of Russia's history and serves the purpose for studying ethics. The same might not be necessary for EFAT's purposes.
- Beate Albrich is also of the opinion that the document should be read first.
- Sally Shofield (ES) argues that the Code of Ethics is a priority for members that want to be EFAT members now.

Elizabeth Stone Matho proposes to vote for postponing the motion until everyone has had a chance to get acquainted with the document. Maria d'Elia and Natacha Pirotte agree that the motion should be carried out later when all interested parties have had time to read the document. They propose to send the relevant documentation via EFAT email with a given time for feedback until the middle of June 2019 after which an online vote for adoption of a long or shortened version of Code of Ethics will be made. Everyone is in favour, 0 – against, 0 - abstaining.

- Jane Hawes (SE) informs that from 11 – 14th June, 2020 in Sweden the Nordic Art Therapy Conference with the theme „*Compassion and Inclusion in Art therapy*” will take place.
- **CLOSURE:** Maria d'Elia thanks everyone for attending the meeting and declares it closed.



Maria d'Elia
President of EFAT



Elza Strazdina
Minutes' recorder