



European Co-operation  
in Anthroposophical Curative  
Education and Social Therapy

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## Minutes General Meeting ECCE 2013

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 18.00h – May 5<sup>th</sup> 12.00h  
Szimbíózis Foundation, Miskolc, Hungary

*Record of those present and excused: see appendix.*

**Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 at 18.00h**

### 1. Opening and welcome

The president, Mrs Adrienne Thier, opens the General Meeting with a word of welcome.

Mr László Jakubinyi welcomed everybody in the premises of the Szimbiosis Foundation in Miskolc. The house is named after Georg Kühlewind<sup>1</sup>, whom László met in 1996 while studying Anthroposophy and Waldorf Pedagogy in Hungary. He spoke about how he found Anthroposophy and the Camphill impulse in GB and Romania. He was very happy to receive participants from so many different countries of Europe to Miskolc. He also appreciated that the GM is happening simultaneously with the opening ceremony of the new building for the Anthroposophical Social Therapy initiative at the Szimbiosis Foundation, which is the first of its kind in Hungary. This building is financed by the EU. He said that it was only through the support of ECCE that this had been made possible.

Mr Erwin Fenyő gave an introduction on the theme of the GM “The inner source of quality” by referring to personal experiences with Georg Kühlewind whom he met in 1996, who worked with what he called “the schooling of attention”  
How can quality be improved? The main task is to find one’s inner being in order to be able to understand the outer. Creativity is coming out of the presence. It is not necessary to depend on others or the past or on other authors. Meditation is the core. But the most important is how it is practised.

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013**

### 2. Morning session

Mrs Adrienne Thier presented the apologies (see annex), and welcomed the new delegates:

- Mrs Rigmor Skålholt, representative of the Norwegian organisation for Social Therapy (NO);

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<sup>1</sup> **Georg Kühlewind** (1924 – January 15, 2006) was a [Hungarian](#) philosopher, writer, lecturer, and meditation teacher who worked out of [Rudolf Steiner's spiritual science](#). Setting aside his early interest in music and psychology, he pursued a successful professional career as a out of chemist. Meanwhile, he continued to deepen his spiritual practice and insights. A prolific author (most of whose works are still untranslated from German), Kühlewind spent much time traveling the world, lecturing and leading workshops and seminars in [meditation](#), [psychology](#), [epistemology](#), [child development](#), [anthroposophy](#), and [esoteric Christianity](#). He was the author of numerous books. (*Wikipedia*)

- Mrs Elena Nardini, Associazione Pedagogia Curativa per lingua italiana (IT);
- Mrs Gabriela Dragomir, Federatia 'Impreuna', (RO)
- Mr John Benjamin, Edith Maryon College (NL)

She welcomed Mrs. Clarine van Campagne, who was invited to the meeting to guide the process concerning the future of ECCE, which was started the year before in Tenerife. For this process programme points 2 and 5 were taken together.

### **László Jakubinyi then gave an overview about Szimbiosis Foundation:**

During communist times the expression of religion was more or less forbidden. When he was 16, visiting a psychiatric institution he for the first time met people with disabilities. He noticed that it was more important for him personally what these people gave him, rather than what he himself had to offer them. His dream when young was to become a bishop of the Catholic Church, but his destiny showed a different path!

He had the possibility to visit a Camphill initiative in Great Britain (Botton Village). He studied in Budapest and in Great Britain and came in contact with Casa Rozei, Uralati (RO), through John Byrde. He became a Waldorf Teacher and was the first to teach disabled pupils in Hungary in a Waldorf School in Budapest. Later on he worked for Georg Kühlewind and founded Szimbiosis. This name was invented by Mr Kühlewind and refers to the reciprocity in living together with people with special needs.

Parents put the question to him: "What about our disabled children after our death? They need a home." So after 6 years they organised a daycentre with workshops based on work which has real meaning and value for a human being: agriculture and the responsibility for animals and plants in a variety of workshops.

Today Szimbiosis provides work for 120 co-workers, half of them are disabled, paid normal salaries. The workshops provide meaningful work.

"Tourism without boundaries" offers holidays in Szimbiosis for more than 100 poor families. So families come from the whole country. The co-workers like to talk with them about their work. What is the mission of "the person with a disability?" That is one of the leading questions.

Another project is the "Green school". Pupils from schools all over the country have the opportunity to stay one week in nature. Szimbiosis offers its premises. They pay for the week and join the different workshops. So the disabled people teach the pupils. In one year Szimbiosis received 600 pupils. The feedback was that the pupils learned social skills. People with special needs have the task to teach others to be more attentive and open. The fundraising was successful with the world of business, not from government or the church.

### **How do we experience the quality of anthroposophical curative education and social therapy?**

Mrs Adrienne Thier gave a short introduction.

In the invitation letter to this General Meeting, the following points were mentioned:

- to experience our inner source of quality; and the sense of being connected to the wider Movement of Curative Education and Social Therapy and how to strengthen this impulse in our own organisations;
- to learn from each other;
- to get a clear view of the future of ECCE;
- to take the decisions necessary for ECCE as an Association (the organisational part of the meeting).

It was stated that out of the intention of the Committee to work together on the future of ECCE, to look in different ways at the work of ECCE and at the methods of collaborating together, the Committee invited Mrs Clarine Campagne to guide a process with the members to find out what they sensed and thought about the future. The programme was designed to be free and open. The content would be filled in by the members themselves.

Clarine Campagne then guided the process on the future of ECCE by using **Otto Scharmer's Theory U** based on the 3 fold human being (open mind, open heart, open will). [Clarine is a member of the board of the IONA Foundation in Amsterdam, Holland. The IONA Foundation is interested in the relationship between anthroposophy and society and organises courses for personnel of large companies. Georg Kühlewind was also for some years a board member of the IONA Foundation]. She explained:

Theory U is about opening and deepening your attention. This relates immediately to the theme 'the inner source of quality in relationships and communication'

We first exchanged concrete situations where we experienced this quality and practiced listening to each other with open mind, heart and will. We experienced that the quality of the conversation between us changed, that open will moments often have to do with a moment of 'not knowing', that it is important to speak about situations that touched you deeply and to suspend your judgement and established or old patterns of thought.

***Inauguration ceremony of the new workshop centre St. Francis, with short introductory contributions from a priest of the Orthodox Church, Mr Ádám Kósa - Hungarian member of the European Parliament, Mr Gábor Kiss - deputy mayor of the city of Miskolc, Mr László Szőke – head of the ministry unit Disability and Mrs Adrienne Thier - president of ECCE. An orchestra of Miskolc residents made beautiful music, a childrens' choir sang. At the end of the ceremony the foundation stone was laid in the ground in front of the workshops and houses.***

***Each nationality representative then planted a tree in the gardens at the "Avenue of Europe" and the workshops were open to the public in the afternoon.***

In the afternoon the process of working on the theme of the future of ECCE was continued. We spoke in smaller groups about what is fading away or dying in our institutions and what is new or wanting to be born. A good understanding of the situation in our institutions is of great importance for the work of the ECCE.

After small workgroup sessions about the old patterns and the new seeds that are coming up, we used images of great artists (on postcards) to find and express the most important elements for our future. This was quite impressive.

**3. After supper there was a free space for exchange.** Parents and professionals met in their groups.

**Saturday, 4th May**

#### **4. Morning programme**

This morning there were more future elements represented by artworks and we made a summary of the most important future tasks of ECCE and we had some conversation on some of the challenges we will have to face.

What will be important for the future of ECCE?

What came out of its work over the visite years:

- the support of ECCE for the construction of the workshop centre St Francis, opened yesterday.
- the Federation of Spain and Portugal was founded with the help of ECCE (Adrienne visited Portugal to explain the importance of setting up a federation in order to send one representative to ECCE. Also the importance of being part of the European Movement to make the disabled person visible). Fidel Ortega explained how he has made ECCE visible in all his documents. It should be made visible that ECCE is defending the rights of the target group. That means the person with complex dependency needs. That is what ECCE gives and also needs from the national organizations as a support. He mentioned the image given earlier by Leonardo Fulgosi that ECCE is like a constellation of stars. "All together we are this constellation and the light which guides us towards the future." (Fidel Ortega from Tenerife)
- the founding of parents' associations in Austria and France.
- Plans for activities in Romania are beginning to be visible and may take place since ECCE visited in recent years.
- the co-founding of The European Disability Forum in 1996.
- the co-founding of ELIANT, which makes possible the activity in the field of bio dynamic agriculture and nutrition and anthroposophic medicine as freedom of choice.

For further results: see the document 'ECCE 1992 – 2012, Objectives and results'.

Further exchange in small groups about situations where ECCE helped a member in the past.

## Results, summarised on a flip-over:

- Waking up on different levels: being aware of the others, of one's own identity.
- Connection, meetings, interesting exchanges (Internet, physically).
- Helping new initiatives like Hungary and Tenerife, especially in new countries where they need recognition.
- Three fold organisations are needed and we can show examples.
- ECCE is a label for good practice on a European level. This should be made visible for example in documents or on the Internet.
- Ethics should be made visible on the political level.
- Implementing the UN Convention from the point of view of anthroposophy. The core of a human being cannot be ill, image of human being, dignity.
- Self determination on 3 levels (economic, legal, cultural)
- Support *Living-in-the-encounter* projects.
- Help the parents to become aware of curative education and social therapy, of its importance in Europe, of the need to feel responsible, conscious and connected with the initiatives especially younger parents.
- Co-creation of new forms.
- Make spiritual science visible as a part of life.

## 5. Afternoon: Symposium – ‘The inner source of quality’

*Quality can be achieved or neglected in many different areas within the work of Curative Education and Social Therapy. One of the most important issues of quality lives in the relationships between people. Realising this brings us to important questions. The most important bridge between two people in which quality can be realised is in inter-communication (of whatever form is most appropriate), in the process of dialogue and in the direct relationship between people. A good dialogue and caring relationship may be conducted in many different ways and is based on individual consciousness and mutual awareness. How may a conscious, aware, and caring frame of mind be cultivated? Rudolf Steiner presents answers to these questions in his book “How to gain knowledge of higher worlds”. We shall focus our attention on these ideas and on others.*

### Meditation introduced by Michael Mullan:

Imagine a dark view and the sunrise in the morning. Observe what happens when the light appears. All depends on the light which is taken for granted. The light itself is not visible, it only illuminates the material world. It reveals inner and outer world. Every human being has it at its disposal. Meditation means to strengthen the inner light that man needs every moment of daily life. Rudolf Steiner, Thomas Aquinas and Georg Kühlewind spoke about this. Intuition is part of everyday life. Intuition is needed in the daily process of work and is the direct connection to the Logos. The good, the beautiful and the true are the essential foundations of human behaviour. It's a good habit to start the day with a contemplative moment to open the mind to intuition. If people with special needs are involved they will mirror this for sure. Their behaviour will change but also the whole mood of their surroundings. The higher entity in the co-worker will erase any negative mentality. It is the challenge of those in the surrounding to place their activities on a higher level. A 2<sup>nd</sup> meditation is about discovering the inner light: the Not I in Buddhism, Christ in Me in Christianity, the spirit itself as an eternity (Literature: Arthur Zajonc, Meditation as contemplative inquiry)

### László Jakubinyi: practices of quality in Szimbiosis:

Once the first living house with only single rooms finished these were not really used because the residents preferred common rooms. The lesson learnt was to involve them and to enable them to express their wishes. It is important to put them in the centre of the decision making. Some like to travel and to meet other people. There are not really language barriers.

Szimbiosis offered its premises to be visited by youngsters and pupils in the programmes of the so-called “Green Schools”. The people with special needs become a teacher for the visitors.

In Hungary There we have the problem that skilled people leave the poorer regions because of the current economic situation. People in need of special care or elderly people stay. Who

will support them? Therefore it is very urgent to develop new ideas and impulses. There is much strength gained by a community by celebrating festivals. This is one of the most important methods to keep rhythm. There is a prophecy: "Something bad will come from the East to Europe but communities like Camphill will survive".

László told us about his meeting with a monk. This monk said:

"Serving the Logos is your task in life.

In order to serve (open will) you need to really understand the other/the situation (open mind),

If you do so you start to love the other/the situation (open heart) and it is not difficult to serve the one you love".

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

### **6. Organisational points:**

The **draft Minutes** of the GM in Tenerife were approved, the next should be sent as soon as possible.

### **7. Financial report 2012**

was sent by post mail in advance by Bernard Heldt. He asked to pay the contributions as soon as possible. The annual report 2012 and the draft budget for 2013 were approved. In 2014 the contribution will be the same as in 2013. The new key will be implemented in

2015.

### **8. Committee and office issues:**

- Committee of ECCE: Secret vote for the coming 3 years for board members is held:  
Beatrice Cussac: 56 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions,  
Adrienne Thier: 53 yes, 1 no, 6 abstentions,  
Bernard Heldt: 48 yes, 3 no, 9 abstentions.

All will continue their voluntary work for ECCE for the next 3 years.

- Leonardo Fulgosi, one of the founders of ECCE and vice president, withdraws from the Committee after 21 years. The members are grateful for his work. During the supper, Saturday night, Adrienne Thier gave an address for him.
- Adrienne Thier steps back from the function of president which she fulfilled for 12 years. During the supper, Saturday night, Bernard Heldt made a speech for her. The vice-president will substitute temporarily the tasks of the president.
- Pim Blomaard withdraws his nomination as a candidate of the Committee because of too many professional duties and the changes in the governmental rules concerning the financing of care in the Netherlands. He will continue to support the work of ECCE and remains a member. He will also work with Michael Mullan and Bernard Heldt to draw up the shadow report on the implementation of the UN Convention.
- Béatrice Cussac and Bernard Heldt addressed an appeal to the members to become a candidate for the Committee. The longest serving committee members will resign one by one in order to renew ECCE.

### **9. Membership issues**

- Sabine von der Recke reported about a letter from the German Associations, professionals and parents, about the effectiveness and targets of ECCE. They do not see results and they suggest the GM should join the International Council meetings in Dornach. In 2014 they will reduce their contribution. She added that if the German Associations withdraw their membership she will have to withdraw from the board.
- Christian Gaegauf wondered at what he thought the rude style of the letter. Instead of supporting the efforts and work of the movement, ECCE, he saw indications of blackmail and power play and that this was not a fair situation. Moreover the new contribution-key was after all worked out with the help of the German organisational members!

- Bernard Heldt asked whether ECCE can still count on the experience and help of the Germans. The examples of Hungary and Tenerife show how important it is to continue the work of ECCE. Maybe this was an indication that communication has been defective.
- Michael Mullan suggested we start a prize competition for members of ECCE. It would be about implementing the UN Convention in each country. Everybody would send in their application and experiences. The members would learn more about the work of ECCE. ECCE is the political arm of the International Council of Curative Education and Social Therapy.
- After discussing the suggestions of the transfer of the task of ECCE to the International Council and ELIANT, neither of these proved willing or able to take over the work of ECCE as was suggested in the above mentioned letter.
- Beatrice Cussac remarked that there were several meetings with the Germans to inform them about the actual tasks and activities of ECCE. The document 'Objectives and results' was drawn up. The participants regret that none of the German professionals was attending the GM to find out for themselves.
- Pim Blomaard reported that the Dutch national organisation lost its biggest member Zonnehuizen because of bankruptcy. Zonnehuizen has been taken over by 2 other organisations which probably will not continue the memberships of international organisations. Therefore the Dutch membership is not secured in the future. He tries to get ongoing financial support.
- Paulamaria Blaxland describes the latest news about the situation of the Camphill initiatives in GB. The situation is still serious but things are turning for the better. Unwise letters were sent to the outside world which had a bad impact on the whole movement. There were also rumours of fraud but these were found to be without foundation by the authorities. There was no fraud; there was only a question whether money may not have been spent on the intended purposes. But the mood was very bad. Now however there is a process of reconciliation and a better attitude to work together.

In the South of England 60% of people in prison are people in need of special care. There are still some differences between the independent anthroposophical initiatives and Camphill places and some institutions are not represented in the Association (Acesta)

#### **She offers to host the next GM in England.**

- Fidel Ortega was suggested as taking over from Leonardo Fulgosi as representative of the southern and Latin countries. He will discuss this with his association.
- Adrienne Thier communicated that many things are changing at the Flemish parent- and users- association GOVAG.

#### **10. Information**

- Thomas Kraus informed the members about the next International Congresses for People with special needs: in 2014 there will be congresses in Vietnam, Thailand, Argentina and probably in Russia.
- The 6th European Congress "Living in the encounter" will be held in 2015, May 6-9<sup>th</sup> in Brussels. Maybe the GM in 2015 could coincide with this congress in Brussels.
- The GM confirmed the paying of a professional to take care of the website of ECCE and instructed the treasurer accordingly.
- The issue of the participation of people with special needs in the GM should be discussed. One of the future tasks of ECCE should be to find the appropriated forms.

- Paulamaria Blaxland expressed her thanks to the idea of the Committee to invite Clarine Campagne to this GM in order to guide the process of working with the theme of the future of ECCE. She suggested two meetings with a small group in between this GM and the next and Clarine Campagne to continue the process which was started, but left unfinished.

**This proposal is accepted by the members unanimously with enthusiasm.** Béatrice Cussac and Ann Naeyaert of the Christoforus initiative near Gent in Belgium could host this group.

#### **11. Evaluation:**

There is a general feeling among the members that the future of ECCE is becoming more clear. After 21 years there was felt to be a shining summer ahead of ECCE. The quality of the mood is very special and should be continued. It will be important to bring this light to the different organisations.

Adrienne Thier closed the GM at noon and thanks László Jakubinyi, Mónika Szakács and all involved co-workers of Szimbiosis to have hosted the GM with so much warmth and attention.
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*Thomas Kraus*

## Appendix

### Overview of members present and apologies General Meeting ECCE, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2013, Symbiosis Foundation, Miskolc, Hungary

#### Present

##### Austria

- Renate Chwatal, Sprachrohr für Menschen in anthroposophisch orientierten Lebens-Lernstätten (PO)  
(IC / CM)
- Michael Mullan PlatO (IC / CM)

##### Belgium

- Ann Naeyaert Michaëlis vzw (IC)
- Adrienne Thier GOVAG vzw (PO / CM / EC)

##### Denmark

- Helle Hansen Dansk Forbund for Helsepaedagogik og Socialterapi (IC)

##### France

- Béatrice Cussac 'Les Ravis'; Association française de parents d'hand.ment. (PO/CM)

##### Germany

- Thomas Kraus (CM / EC / S)
- Sabine von der Recke BundesElternVereinigung für Anthroposophische Heilpädagogik  
und Sozialtherapie e.V. (PO)

##### Hungary

- László Jakubinyi Szimbíózis a Hamonikus Együtt-létért Alapítvány (IC)

##### Italy

- Elena Nardini Associazione di Lingua Italiana per la Pedagogia Curativa e Socioterapia
- Elisabetta Zorn Antroposofica (PO / IC)
- Leonardo Fulgosi (CM / S)

##### Netherlands

- Pim Blomaard Ned. Ver. Antroposofische Zorgaanbieders, sector IZ (IC)
- John Benjamin Edith Maryon College (TC)
- Jan Vogelij Landelijk Ouder Verbond – LOV (PO)
- Ineke Vogelij (S)
- Bernard Heldt (CM / EC / S)
- Clarine van Lookeren Campagne guest

##### Norway

- Rigmor Skålholt Sosialterapeutisk Forbund (IC)

##### Romania

- Gabriela Dragomir Federatia 'Impreuna' Pentru Promovarea Socioterapiei in Romania (IC)

##### Spain / Portugal

- Paun Ionut
- Fidel Ortega Dueñas Federaçao de pedagogia curativa e sócio-terapia em Espanha e Portugal (IC):
- Saga Katarina Grönberg -- ,, --

##### Switzerland

- Christian Gaegauf Parentela CH (PO)
- Susanne Frey Parentela CH (PO / S)
- Jorgos Kalyvas Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie (IC)

##### United Kingdom

- Paulamaria Blaxland de Lange: ACESTA (IC)



## **Apologies**

### Belgium

- Geert Freyhoff Inclusion Europe (AM)

### Czech Republic

- Anežka Janátová Spolek pro Léčebnou pedagogiku a sociální terapie v České republice (IC)

### Finland

- Hannu Outakivi Camphill Community Sylvia-koti / Suomen hoito-ja sosiaalipedagoginen yhdistys ry (IC)

### France

- Bernadette Bernier Mouvement de Pédagogie Curative et de Sociothérapie (IC) (notified)

### Germany

- no representative Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. (IC)

### Italy

- Margaretha Fulgosi Fondazione per la Scuola 'Bruno Marchesin' (TC) (notified)

### Netherlands

- Walter Bosch (notified) (S)
- Alexandra Buijsman (S)  
(notified)

### Romania

- Adrian Pinteá (notified) Federatia de Pedagogie Curativa din Romania (IC)

### Romania/Ireland

- John Byrde (notified) Federatia 'Impreuna' Pentru Promovarea Socioterapiei in Romania (IC)
- Roxana Byrde (notified) (S)

### Sweden

- Katharina Karlsson (S)
- Deborah Ingves (notified) Individuellt Liv I Gemenskap (PO)
- Marianne Lindström (notified) Värna (IC)

### Switzerland

- Rüdiger Grimm International Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy (notified)

### United Kingdom

- Elaine Bradley The Association of Camphill Communities for Great Britain and Ireland (IC)
- Martin Sturm The Association of Camphill Communities for Great Britain and Ireland (IC)