

# **Report: ETC Guilds Special Assembly Vienna, Austria, 16-17 November 2012**

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## **Initiative**

In Dec 2011, the ETC decided to hold an assembly with our guilds' boards to discuss the relationship between the guilds and the educational system, and the role of ETC between these entities. The desire in the community, to develop or reform the existing structures, has been well known for several years. The IWG report and the SRC findings pointed out some of our problems, suggested some changes, but didn't result in any operational change. Most recently, it became clear that Germany, the biggest guild in the ETC and the source of about one-third of our income, is looking for a national-based reorganization of its educational system. We realized that now was the opportunity to follow up on the IWG report and the SRC findings and to facilitate positive change.

## **Pre-meeting**

We sent out a questionnaire to our boards, to find out how involved and knowledgeable they were in the current ETC/ETAB structure, and also to find out the common points of interest/activities of our boards. After processing our boards' responses we decided that the meeting would deal with three topics:

- Becoming a profession
- Quality management
- "Staying international"

We informed our boards about these topics by sending them a lot of information about our current structure, and we followed up to ensure that they would come to the meeting well prepared.

## **Meeting in Vienna, Nov 16-17, 2012**

The list of participants in the meeting is at the end of this report.

## **Summary of the process:**

### 1. Where are we now?

We went into small groups to find out what we have now and what we are looking for in the future regarding each of the above three topics. We then listed the commonalities and differences between the 10 guilds in respect to these topics. Later, we compared our needs and wishes with what the current system provides.

- Most guilds agree that in the long run, becoming a profession is in the interests of their members. The requirements for this, either set from within (the guild) or from outside (the state) are national-specific, and are not fulfilled by our current guidelines and procedures. Even using the basic trainings as they are now together with national-specific add-ons isn't useful, as our trainings don't have a common curriculum, and have no competency-based, quality assessment.
- All the guilds are interested in the continuous learning of the practitioners, and most of them even set such requirements as their membership criteria. This issue is totally separate from our educational system which deals only with the educational staff, i.e. a small percentage of the practitioners in our community.

- All participants want to keep some kind of "staying international", mainly for the sake of being part of a bigger, world-wide community. Our current guidelines do provide this, as we assume that all practitioners world-wide go through a similar training process. On the other hand, the issue of relocation and being able to practice in different countries will not be supported by our current system once guilds develop their national-based profession. We will then need different kinds of agreements between guilds to enable relocation.
- We added a short overview of the current structure: the ETC keeps the system running, and it does initiate and fund important projects for the community, but it is an expensive organization, which is also slow-responsive by definition. Moreover, it's current mode of work doesn't support the guilds' future needs, and might become unaffordable in the future.

## 2. Looking for optional future scenarios

We went into three groups, roughly based on guild size, assuming that smaller guilds have different needs than bigger ones. The task was to look for a workable new structure that will fulfil their needs in the future. We then reviewed the different scenarios and tried to come up with integrative/parallel scenarios for moving forward, based on a common wish for change and development.

## 3. Plans for the future

We want to be able to function with a leaner, more efficient ETC. We want to go through a gradual change that will not stop our functioning, but will enable a flexibility that is missing now.

This can be achieved by the following:

- Guilds that want to take responsibility for trainings' accreditation will be supported by the ETC in this transition. Guilds that don't want/can't take this responsibility will also be supported by the ETC, either through a smaller ETC, or through some of the other guilds. The guidelines for the trainings will be the current ETAB guidelines, and it basically means that some European (including Israel) guilds will manage trainings in a similar way to how FGNA (US) and Australia are doing it.  
We hope that in the long run at least some of the guilds will be able to encourage a change in the guidelines, something that we fail to do on an international level.
- In a second phase, guilds will be able to manage Assistant Trainers' accreditation also on a national basis. This will enable a native-language, cultural-dependent assessment, as is already done in the US and Australia. Here also, the ETC will support the guilds who want to go through this change, as well as those who don't want/can't do it.
- Some kind of a "European Umbrella Organization" might be needed in order to solve intra-national disputes.
- The ETC will encourage additional projects that deal with quality management of our members, e.g. the project suggested by the Israeli guild in the IFF meeting in May 2012. Such projects will hopefully attend to the professional development of practitioners, independent of the educational system (trainings and their staff), and may as well be shared between guilds.
- Trainer-candidacy and Trainer accreditation are the only assessments done on a real international level in our current system, and will continue to be so in the future. This doesn't mean that it is optimal as it is now, only that whatever changes it will go through will need to be internationally coordinated. If any guild will decide to accredit trainers on a national basis, it will need to negotiate with the international community, including US and Australia, as this isn't an internal European/Israel (ETC/ETAB) issue.

### **Action list**

- Each member-guild's board will further investigate the local implications of the above suggestions on its community. This will probably need another round of coordination/adjustments with the other guilds, through the ETC, either by the guilds' representatives in the ETC, or in a follow-up meeting. Each board will then present the suggested changes to their community for approval.
- The ETC will check the legal and financial implications of such changes, and will prepare itself to adapt to whatever decisions the guilds will take. This isn't a simple task, as we'll have to support some guilds in becoming more independent, while at the same time keeping the "old" functionality for those guilds that don't choose this path, all the while operating under shrinking resources.

As a final note, we would like to thank the ETC guild board members who attended the assembly. Their willingness to approach these difficult and pertinent questions of our future with cooperation, an open mind, and readiness to work, made the meeting a success.

## Participants of the ETC Guilds Special Assembly:

	Function 2012
<b>Israel</b>	
Tzipi Maytal	ETC rep for the Israeli Guild, was ETC Chair until Nov 2012
Ramona Dekel	Chair of Israeli Guild
Khen Hershkovitz	Israeli Guild board member
<b>Sweden</b>	
Helena Kahn	President of Swedish Guild (SFAF) ETC rep for SFAF and SFAF board member, ETC Vice-Secretary
Dimiter Perniklijski	
<b>France</b>	
Dorothy Henning	ETC rep of Feldenkrais France and Feldenkrais France board member, ETC Secretary
Vladimir Latocha	President of Feldenkrais France
Marie-Christine McMonmignaut	Secretary of Feldenkrais France
<b>Norway</b>	
Elisabeth Gilbo	ETC rep of Norwegian Guild (NFAFP)
Sara Bergane	Vice-President of NFAFP
<b>Germany</b>	
Sabine Merz	ETC rep of German association (FVD)
Corinna Eickmaier	President of FVD
Joachim Foss	FVD board member
Patrick Gruner	successive ETC rep of FVD 2013
<b>UK</b>	
Karine Egault	ETC rep of UK Guild, UK Guild board member, ETC Chair as of Nov 2012
Ash Haji	President of UK Guild
Rosemarie Morgan-Watson	Secretary of UK Guild
<b>Switzerland</b>	
Dorothea Keist	ETC rep of Swiss association (SFV)
Brigitta Walpert	President of SFV
Tais Mundo	Member of SFV board
<b>Spain</b>	
Mercedes Scharf	ETC rep of Feldenkrais Espana, ETC Vice-Treasurer
Susana Ramon	President of Feldenkrais Espana
<b>Italy</b>	
Francesco Ambrosio	ETC rep of Italian association (AIIMF), ETC Vice-Chair
Marino Meri	President of AIIMF
Antonella Vannoni	Vice-President of AIIMF
<b>Austria</b>	
Barbara Simon	ETC rep of Austrian association (FVÖ), ETC Treasurer
Philipp Ruthner	President of FVÖ
Amalia Coutinho Altenburg	Secretary of FVÖ
<b>EuroTAB Council office</b>	
Carolin Theuring	office and project management