

Dear colleagues

I would like to give you some informations about the EFTA Scientific Symposium, the celebration of the 25th EFTA anniversary and the NFTO Meeting in Leuven/Louvain, february 12th – 15th 2015. It was a great pleasure for me to represent the Swiss systemic associations together with Eric Louis (Board member of the Chamber of Individual Members CIM). Lieven Migerode and his colleagues did a great job as organizers of the whole event.

At the scientific symposium, eight speakers from the universities of Gent, Leuven an Brussels were presenting different fascinating aspects of «Family Therapy Research in Flanders», for example psychological, marital and family outcomes after facial transplantation, couples in distress, family therapy as a process of social sharing of emotions, feedback informed therapy, the therapists inner conversation. «*What is on the therapists mind during a therapeutic session? Processing the clients story, attending to client process, focusing on own experiencing and managing the therapeutic process.*» (Prof. Dr. Peter Rober, Universitiy of Leuven)

We celebrated the 25th EFTA anniversary in the Leuven Institue for Ireland in Europe. Rodolfo de Bernart, director of the «Istituto di Terapia Familiare di Firenze», presented an European Family Therapy Genogram with many fascinating informations about the foundation and the history of the association. Bako Tihamér and his two colleagues expressed various emotions occuring during the event with psychodramatic theater in a fascinating and professional way. Mony Elkaim, first president of EFTA, and Kiriaki Polychroni, president until 2013, developped a rich panopticum of stories and memories. Several colleagues honoured «fathers» and «mothers» of systemic family therapy in Europe, who were their Trainer Pioneers, f.e. Luigi Boscolo, Gianfranco Ceccin, Mara Selvini, Tom Anderson, Peter Lang, George and Vasso Vassiliou. Last but not least the actual presidents of EFTA (Maria Borcsa) and AFTA (Gonzalo Bacigalupe) were discussing about differences and similarities between USA and Europe in the systemic field and about challenges in the field of family therapy and systmis practice in USA.

At the annual NFTO chamber meeting, the open chair reflexion (thanks to Tom Anderson!) about the situation of family therapy and systemic therapy in the different european countries provided deep impressions and insights. The national representatives being so fascinated of this inspiring form of information processing, were practiseing it on friday afternoon and saturday morning with a lot of pleasure and enthusiasm. This was for useful for all of us, fascilitating a better understanding oft the top concerns oft the national family therapy organisations. Many of our colleagues in family therapy are working under difficult political and economic conditions, f.e. in Greece, Hungary or Macedonia. Nevertheless the representatives of these countries impressed me by their optimism, strengt and the attitude of «never give up». The NFTO evening dinner in the former mill oft he Leuven monestary was one more highlight.

On the EFTA Website www.europeanfamilytherapy.eu you will find more informations about these events. Finally i recommend you to preserve the following date:

- 9th Congress of the European Family Therapy Association about „Origins and Originality in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice“ in Amsterdam, from september 28th to october 1th 2016

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27.02.2015 / Daniel Krähenbühl