

Minutes of General Assembly EFA 10 October 2021

(Present: Dietmar Steinbach, Ria van Hage, Amona Buechler, Cornelius Gehrig, Sari Pekki, Heidrun Essler, Sarah Hopkins, Fiona Parr, Michael Callifronas, Greg Madison, Hejo Feuerstein, Ruth Hirsch, Patricia Foster, Judy Moore. Apologies: Lucy Van Praag)

[The Agenda was re-ordered to give more space for discussions about membership of the Steering Group as 3 members (Pat, Lucy, Judy) are leaving.]

Fiona led an attunement and the meeting was facilitated by Cornelius.

1. Judy gave a short presentation on the book *Senses of Focusing* (2 vols., Eurasia Publications, Athens) that she and Nikos Kypriotakis have been working on since the EFA conference in Loutraki. The book should be available very soon. Much appreciation was shown and Nikos and Judy were thanked for all their work to realise these volumes.
2. Fiona gave an update on the past year's EFA activities coordinated by the Steering Group:
 - General meetings for EFA members have been held on the 1st of the month on Zoom. These have generally been facilitated by Fiona and she expressed appreciation for the support of Pat, Amona and Judy in doing this. Numbers have fluctuated, but the meetings have been appreciated by those present.
 - The email discussion list: there has been a little participation in the email discussion list, but some frustration was expressed by those who had posted and not been responded to.
 - Bassano del Grappa was booked for the Annual Gathering from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th October but had to be cancelled because of Covid. Lucy has liaised with Bassano and they are willing to take another booking for next year.
 - The website project. Sari, Michael Callifronas, Hejo and Gilbert have been involved in this, but Gilbert has not been generally available. It was suggested that more funding is needed to develop the website.
 - Interest Groups: the Teachers' group has been meeting monthly with 4 regular attenders.
3. Website and legal basis for EFA:

There is a need to raise money rather than be reliant on goodwill for ongoing work on the website. Making EFA a legal entity was discussed and opinion on this was divided. It would require a lot of work and much time. It is better that money be gathered by an organisation (e.g. in relation to organising a gathering/event).

The Steering Group:

- Some discussion about how the Steering Group operates. The SG has taken responsibility for organising yearly meetings and conferences. It holds the space for initiatives of the task groups, though over the years only a few task groups have developed.

Points raised in the discussion were:

Fund-raising is necessary. Maybe the SG could organise another conference or fair.

How could we encourage wider participation across Europe to invite a broader section of voices. Could we invite representatives from every European country?

The need for an in-person meeting, including getting together in France at the International Focusing Conference next year. We should make space for an AGM there or possibly later in the year in Bassano del Grappa (possibly at around the same time as this year's AGM, i.e. early October).

4. Going Forward:

Dietmar Steinbach will join the Steering Group.

Amona will sense into whether she might join; Ruth will join for a trial period first and Michael for targeted (action) participation concerning 1. The organisation of two or three Zoom presentations (annually) and 2. The development and structure of the EFA website. Sarah will give it consideration for the future.

Ria and Ruth both expressed interest in working to prepare for France. One goal for the International Focusing Conference in France 2022 is to introduce the EFA to more European Focusers.

It was agreed by all that we will meet as an EFA group at the International Conference and that we invite specifically representatives from other European countries to be as inclusive as possible. Greg agreed to draft an invitation to other Coordinators and to the Members' list to promote this inclusivity.

It was agreed that the Zoom meetings on the 1st of the month will continue. Fiona will continue to facilitate when possible but some meetings will be facilitated by Amona, Dietmar, Ruth or Michael. The possibility of changing the meeting times was discussed but no conclusion reached (to be discussed by those involved and the decision to be made by them).

5. Ending:

A minute was taken for silent reflection.

Pat, Lucy and Judy were thanked for their contribution to the Steering Group over the years.

Cornelius was thanked for his facilitation and Fiona for her introductory attunement.

Judy Moore

16 October 2021