

## **Draft Minutes of General Assembly held in Maastricht 21/6/2022**

List of attendees:

Dimitris Anagnostopoulos	Greece
Sara Carvcci	Italy
Ioanna Giannopoulou	Greece
Jean-Phillippe Raynaud	France
Helena Vasic	Serbia
Darja Segan	Serbia
Andreas Karwautz	Austria
Michael Kölch	Germany
Monica Misevice	Lithuania
Anna Paradeisioti	Cyprus
Salima Aarab	Luxembourg
Sofie Crommen	Belgium
Arne Popma	Netherlands
Mouna Al Husni	Belgium
Hojka G Kumpedscak	Slovenia
M.Luisa Lazdro	Spain
Stephan Eliez	Switzerland
Anne-Marie Råberg Christensen	Denmark
Maeve Doyle	Ireland
Dora Simeonova	Turkey
Mihaela Mristova	Bulgaria
Eniko Kiss	Hungary
Jörg Fegert	Germany
Johannes Hebebrand	Germany
Konstantinos Kotsis	Greece

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Opening and welcome by the President (D Anagnostopoulos)**

Dimitris opened the General Assembly by welcoming all participants to the meeting and expressed his pleasure that we were meeting in person for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic of Covid 19. Dimitris thanked all members of the Board for continuing to work in order to further the goals of ESCAP during this difficult period. He welcomed two new candidates to the General Assembly, one from Luxembourg and one from North Macedonia. Dimitris said that due to time constraints, the GA would be conducted in 2 parts. Dimitris himself would cover all the activities of the divisions of the Board and then we would discuss the future of the Board and the next Congress.

#### **2. General Assembly June 2021.**

Approval of the draft minutes from the General Assembly Zoom meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Maeve Doyle)  
These were approved.

### **3. Presidential Report ( D.Anagnostopoulos)**

Summary of ESCAP activities since the last General Assembly in June 2021.

Dimitris said that ESCAP had to deal firstly with the refugee crisis, then with the pandemic of Covid 19 and now with the war in Ukraine. Dimitris complimented Professor Jörg Fegert who is head of ESCAP's policy division on his work which included the policy statements on the effect of Covid 19 on mental health services.

Jörg has also raised the issue of our planet's future and this will continue to be an area of interest for the policy division.

In relation to **the Academic division** headed by Professor Johannes Hebebrand, Dimitris spoke of one of the major achievements which was the establishment of the Research Academy which has been very successful in encouraging research publications These included the publication of the two CovCap surveys on the impact of the pandemic on mental health services.

Dimitris thanked Johannes and his two colleagues Paul Klauser and Alex Revet for all their work for the Research Academy. Dimitris also noted the increased collaboration between ESCAP, UEMS and EFPT and cited the increased impact factor of the ECAP journal as notable achievements of the academic division.

Dimitris welcomed the close relationship between ESCAP and ECAP and said that this was one of the reasons that the ESCAP Congress fee included a 2-year subscription to the ECAP journal at a very low fee.

In relation to ESCAP communications, there is a section which allows National Associations to upload relevant information about their societies. Dimitris mentioned that papers had been accepted from 9 National Societies and all but one had been cited. Dimitris expressed his wish that National Societies would take advantage of this facility.

In relation to **the Clinical Division** Report, Dimitris acknowledged the work of Jean-Philippe Raynaud who was the head of the clinical division until the previous day when he resigned at our ESCAP Board meeting.

He ensured that the clinical division was represented at all our Congresses in the form of clinical case presentations.

He also helped develop the guidelines to be adhered to by authors developing European Guidance documents on child psychiatry topics.

Dimitris was pleased to announce that Eniko Kiss from Hungary and Anne-Marie Råberg Christiansen would co-chair the Clinical Division.

Finally, Dimitris referenced the work of Konstantinos Kotsis and his group of child psychiatrists at an early stage in their career. One initiative undertaken by this group was the organising of a very successful Training day.

Dimitris then summarised **our Communications editor's Laura Kehoe's report.**

Laura was responsible for all the communication concerning the Maastricht Congress.

One of the successes has also been securing registration with the EU health policy platform. This is critical for ESCAP to have a voice on child psychiatry issues. This means that we are in a position to assist our colleagues throughout Europe in working for the benefit of children and adolescents with mental health problems.

Laura managed to negotiate all these political obstacles and now ESCAP has a platform to discuss all issues in relation to child psychiatry.

This puts us in a place where we can assist our colleagues all over Europe in gaining access to grants for funding child psychiatry projects. ESCAP is already part of the Family project and a mood project. This is a win-win situation for ESCAP and all our National Associations.

Dimitris then presented once again a slide outlining the benefits to the National Associations of being a member of ESCAP. He emphasised the initiative of inviting National Associations to be members of the month, using ESCAP to promote all its activities, research and conferences. This should foster more close relationships between National Associations as members of ESCAP. Dimitris also promoted the idea of National Associations hosting an ESCAP Congress.

**Treasurer's Report** (Jean-Phillippe Raynaud)---Discussion on ESCAP's financial situation and policies.

Jean-Phillippe reported that our finances are quite stable. He stated that our main source of income are Congress and fees from the national Associations. Our main expenses are communications and the website. 31 countries paid the fees last year and 9 countries have paid fees already for this year. We have very little funds in reserve.

Jean-Phillippe proposed an increase of 50 cent per member beginning in 2023. This is the first increase in 6 years.

## **ACTION**

All members of the General Assembly voted in favour of this increase.

Stephan Eliez then provided an overview of the previous ESCAP Congresses. He stated that since our last Congress in Vienna in 2019, we had to endure the Covid "storm" which has hugely impacted international organisation of conferences.

Our first adjustment was to move the Maastricht Congress forward by one year from 2021 to 2022. It was then decided that the Copenhagen Congress should be held in 2023 as normal as to change it would clash with other international conferences.

This meant that there would be 2 Congresses one year apart which poses a risk to the Danish National Association.

We also decided to do an online event on the date of our usual Congress.

This was done in collaboration with UEMS and EFPT and was a first for ESCAP.

This was a very successful event and we should consider more such events in the future.

The normal Congress timetable has resumed with Strasbourg in 2025 and possibly Greece in 2027.

For the future, ESCAP should plan more online training events which gives a great opportunity for top class academics, including those involved in guideline projects to present to a very wide audience. We also want to use the Congresses to relate more to our natural partners. It has been noted that there are certain communities of clinicians that are using our Congresses to gather together, for example consortia of researchers and clinical groups such as the mentalization group, the 22q11 group, the eating disorder community etc. In addition other societies such as UEMS and EFPT held their meetings at our Congress which is very valuable in encouraging dialogue with our National Associations.

Stephan also suggested that ESCAP should reach out to patient communities particularly those looking towards the future and development of child psychiatry services.

Stephan was of the opinion that this action would afford us greater political leverage at a European level. We also want to promote research communication at a European level e.g. the Family Project which is hosted on our website should also take the opportunity to present at our Congresses.

**Presentation on behalf the Hellenic Society on their bid to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP Congress 2027** by Ioanna Giannopoulou, Greece

Ioanna was delighted to present on behalf of the oldest national Society of ESCAP. Established in 1983 and just 2 years later a separate faculty of Child and adolescent psychiatry was established. She made the point that child psychiatry had not developed as fast as adult psychiatry but there had been good progress. She referenced the financial crisis of 2009/2010 which caused horizontal spending cuts across all departments instead of health reforms. The more recent crisis of the Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted once again the deficiencies in the Greek Health service and has provided an opportunity to reorganise the services and be more innovative with our resources and allow more cooperation between public and private services. Ioanna made the point that this is the first time in a long time that the neglected specialty of child and adolescent psychiatry has been made a high priority in the Greek government's health policy and strategy. This has allowed more advocacy on behalf of child mental health.

The Hellenic society has been an active participant in ESCAP, IACAPAP and UEMS since these organisations were established. The Hellenic society has established its own journal.

Ioanna concluded by saying that their society would be honoured to jointly organise the next ESCAP Congress and to devise an excellent scientific programme. This will cover all aspects of child and adolescent psychiatry including the rapid changes this population has been exposed to, such as the Covid 19 pandemic and exposure to war and other adversities.

She then showed a short video which highlighted the attractions of Greece as a possible venue for the ESCAP Congress of 2027. Ioanna stated that Athens was easily accessible by air with transport time of 30 to 50 minutes from the airport to the capital city. The public transport is excellent and many of the underground stations host different exhibitions. Two possible venues were mentioned – one might be the beautiful Bauer House built by the Niarchos foundation, while an alternative might be the Megaron which is in a very

central location in the city of Athens. Ioanna said that there are plenty of hotels and Airbnb's which can accommodate delegates and plenty of venues to host social events. The Hellenic Society will collaborate with a professional congress organisation that has not yet been chosen.

Ioanna concluded her presentation by expressing the hope that the General Assembly would support Greece's bid to hold the Congress.

## **ACTION**

The Members of the General Assembly voted via a show of hands for Greece to host the Congress in 2027. The vote was unanimous.

Ioanna also suggested that the members of the General Assembly might propose a theme for the 2027 Congress. It was agreed to have a discussion about this at a later date.

Anne-Marie Råberg Christensen then proceeded to give a brief slide presentation on the ESCAP Congress to be held in Copenhagen from the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

The theme is "Next Generation Europe—a balancing act between clinical, research and political demands"

The title reflects the constant demand to see patients with waiting lists growing longer, the need to do research so that our treatments are evidence based and the political demands to increase our activity often without financial or other supports. Anne-Marie stated that this is only the third time in ESCAP's history that a Nordic country has been chosen as the venue for the ESCAP Congress. The logo is from a bridge of which there are many in the Viking city of Copenhagen. Anne-Marie provided some interesting facts about Denmark. Four out of ten Danes have a car, nine out of ten Danes have a bicycle and about 45% cycle to work. Copenhagen is a very safe clean city with free day care and shared maternity care

However, Anne-Marie said that Copenhagen has its problems as in a recent survey of young people between the age of 18 and 25, 30% complained of poor mental health with 20% complaining of severe depressive symptoms within the preceding 2 weeks.

Denmark also has experienced a large influx of refugee children entering the country and some very traumatised children from the Middle East, Syria and now Ukraine.

The Danish National Association has been in existence for 20 years and started with no budget and 50 members. There are now 400 members and they are actively pursuing the government by lobbying and having sessions in the parliament to promote child psychiatry.

The programme committee for the Congress has been established with Dimitris, Stephan and Johannes and all the Danish professors. All the Keynote speakers who were invited have accepted on hearing that it was for the ESCAP Congress. The State of the Art speakers have also been confirmed. The Tivoli centre has been chosen as the venue

Anne-Marie ended her presentation by urging all members to attend the Congress and look after their own well being.

Stephan acknowledged how pleasant it had been to work with both the Dutch society and now the Danish society. He made a suggestion which was that if

a National Association plans to host a Congress in the future, that they could assist with the organisation of the previous Congress. This could be very helpful both to the society hosting the Congress who are taking the financial risk and to ESCAP that it is so reliant on the Congress fees.

Dimitris then closed the General Assembly meeting.

Dr Maeve Doyle  
ESCAP Board Secretary