



from left to right:
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Angelika Monteux,
Hans Egli,
Ruediger Grimm,
Natalia Savina,
Ekkehard Fiedler



Meeting of the Training Council

The Training Council, newly elected in Kassel in 2002, had its first, constituting meeting in Dornach on 6 – 8 October 2002.

Important subjects on the agenda were:

The Council's modus operandi

internal and external communications

ways of maintaining awareness of training initiatives around the world

dealing with a wide range of enquiries

dividing up the work among us, taking the definition of our work given in Kassel as our basis.

Preparations for the annual training conferences in Kassel are a major aspect of our work. At the next conference, which will be on 7 – 10 May 2003, we will concentrate on the subject of «training methods» in short talks, courses/practice courses, and examples of good practice.

It is evident there has not been enough time to make a new Leonardo application to the EU within the year. We will continue to work on this and intend to put in an application for 2004.

For the time being, the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council in Dornach will be the coordination centre, with *Ruediger Grimm* and *Hans Egli* as contacts and coordinators. Newsletters will be produced as required. Our next meeting will be on 20 – 23 February in Prague.

Petter Holm

Editors of this Newsletter: *Senta Stein, Ruediger Grimm*

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Newsletter Training

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November 2002

International Training Conference 2003 Conditions of Life for the Creative Idea – methods in training Kassel, 7 – 10 May 2003

	Wednesday 7 May	Thursday 8 May	Friday 9 May	Saturday 10 May
9.00 a.m.		Talk by Ha Vinh Tho	Talk by Ha Vinh Tho	Talk by Ha Vinh Tho
9.30 a.m.	Practice courses			
10.45 a.m.	Break			
11.15 a.m.	Examples of good practice	Examples of good practice	Examples of good practice	Final plenum Retrospect, resolutions, planning
12.30 p.m.	Midday break			
2.00 p.m.	Arrival, registration	Independent initiatives		
3.00 p.m.	Welcome, introduction	The role of the Training Group		
4.00 p.m.	Talk by Ha Vinh Tho	The role of the Training Group		
4.30 p.m.		Break		
5.00 p.m.	Practice courses	The role of the Training Group		
6.15 p.m.	Evening break			
7.30 p.m.	At your disposal	Learning about each other	Social evening	



2003 Training Conference

Looking forward to working with you!

The subject of this Conference will be «Conditions of Life for the Creative Idea». The aim is to develop further training with special reference to training methods. We intend to approach the subject in three ways—from the study-of-man point of view, in practice courses, where new ways of teaching can be learned, and with examples of good practice that will show us how colleagues approach a particular issue.

1) Talks by Ha Vinh Tho, St Prex

Going more deeply into the subject in the light of the study of man and inner training.

2) Practice courses for further training as course tutor

A maximum of 6 groups on different subjects.

The potential spectrum is wide, e.g. teaching the study of man, working with the Curative Education Course, teaching in the sphere of the arts, forms of learning and teaching, individual methodological questions, social learning, practical work instruction, etc.

Each group will work on one subject for the whole Conference.

Call for papers—we hope to receive your offers!

3) Examples of good practice

Remit: to present or offer practice in individual aspects of training.

Again the potential spectrum is wide; essentially it will be important to have aspects of training that are new. The method may be by simple presentation, and/or also selected aspects developed in collaboration with Conference members. Every example will be presented once.

The examples will be organized in groups, with one group per time slot (2 or 3 examples per group).

Call for papers—We hope to receive your offers!

As far as possible, we hope to take up all offers.

Final date for receipt of offers of both practice courses and examples will be 31 January 2003. This will enable the Training Council to finalize the programme at its February meeting.

Work for the afternoons

1) Possibility to have independent initiatives in small groups; these may be freely offered and taken up.

2) Considering the role of the Training Group: questions of recognition, Leonardo-da-Vinci Programme, report from Training Council, handbook, etc.

Programme and booking forms

These will be sent to all training centres in March 2003.



Report on the 6th International Training Conference for Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy in Kassel, 17 – 20 April 2002

The theme of the Conference was «How far does our training meet the needs of our time?» After a brief round of introductions and words in remembrance of Siegfried Pickert, Lisbet Kolmos (Marjatta) gave an introduction to the subject. This formed the basis for our work in groups, with short reports of this given in the final plenum. Elisabeth Wirsching's Saturday morning lecture gave the subject an even greater dimension.

Another issue we considered, again in groups, was the comparability of our training courses and the questions of recognition connected with this. The Handbook, which had just appeared that year, provided a basis for the thoughts shared in group work. In spite of a few critical comments on the size of the groups and the method used in them, this work was generally felt to have been good. The summaries of the group work which are given below can give some impression of the work on both subjects.

A third subject we considered was the new form of international collaboration that had been proposed in the Conference invitation. We were thus able to establish the new International Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council, and a new body, the Training Council. The function of the latter will be to coordinate the work of the Training Group.

Jean-Claude Hucher cheered us at the beginning of every morning and afternoon with an artistic prelude in eurythmy. The response to this was extremely positive, and it contributed much to the hygienic life of the gathering.

The actual Conference had been preceded by a meeting with training initiatives, mainly from countries to the East. This was felt to be a great help to them in moving on ahead.

We were able to have the whole Conference in English and German again, with the help of Anna Meuss' skills and inexhaustible patience. Simultaneous interpretation into other languages was also possible thanks to helpful conference members providing this for small groups.



Nor did we miss out on humour. Johannes Denger gave us fascinating glimpses of his «CabaRetorte» on the Thursday evening. So now we do have a bit more of an idea of how things go ...

The social on Friday evening was delightful, with beautiful Russian songs, poems and much else.

The annual training conferences in Kassel will continue in form of the annual plenary conference of the International Training Group; the subjects will reflect this. Many more steps will need to be taken for the bases of our training courses, the Handbook having been one important step.

Senta Stein

Themes from Elisabeth Wirsching's lecture

At the International Training Conference held in Kassel on 17 – 20 April 2002 we had the pleasure of having Elisabeth Wirsching, Leader of the Youth Section, as a guest who followed all proceedings with close attention and interest. The subject of training to meet the needs of our time had been considered in different ways over the three days—in the introduction, in group work, contributions by individual members, etc. Elisabeth Wirsching's lecture on the last morning was like a keystone to crown the work that had been done.

Some of her themes were the following:

Peeling an onion, removing skin after skin, Peer Gynt was reflecting on the many events in his life, things he had done and people he had met. The question he put, which is truly in accord with our time, was: What remains when we take away all the layers? In his case, the core proved to be empty, which cast him into despair, and at that point he heard Solveigh's voice. He realized that she had been thinking of him whilst he had forgotten her. In his walk through the charred forest he met

- thoughts unthought,
- riddles unsolved,
- songs unsung,
- tears unwept, and
- works that «you should have done».

We hope to create a sense organ with the Training Newsletter that will enable us to maintain an inner connection across borders and oceans. More than 50 training centres exist in more than 20 countries today, and they are at many different levels. We can all learn from each other by sharing experiences, assisting one another in perceiving our strengths and weaknesses, and creating an organ for communicating the current developments that concern us all.

E. Wirsching took this existential encounter for her starting point. Every day we need to reflect again on what our encounters with children and young people tell us. A 3-year-olds words: «God has nothing to do with clothes, mum» shows as much of a feeling for the essential background to existence as do upper school students categorizing their teachers as 1) «they know their stuff», 2) «those who act as if», and 3) «real ones, i.e. teachers who are able to change».

In the spiritual endeavours of youth, which is what the Youth Section stands for, we see the search for the «unknown name» of the human being and of things, for the light that seeks to come to earth and is then condensed and hardened too quickly. Today we see this in major trends such as the antiglobalization movement after Seattle 1999: «I want to serve something that is greater than myself.» It is called the search for the new impulse «in the spaces in between», the discovery of what has not yet been discovered, a search for the open future. To make the encounter with these deep will impulses in the young, usually unspoken and unconscious, bear fruit and allow for further development in training calls for a high degree of openness, sensitivity in listening and expert knowledge in what we do. We were able to follow her words not only in our thoughts but through direct experience.

A. Gaech