

# Report

Second Meeting Of HORATIO,  
Prague, Czech-Republic  
22nd & 23 rd May 2006

HORATIO, European Psychiatric Nurses  
Tongerlostraat 33  
6845ET, Arnhem  
Netherlands  
[www.horatio-web.eu](http://www.horatio-web.eu)

### **Pre-Congress Meeting etc.**

On Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>. a visit was organised by the Czech representative to the Bohnice Mental Health Institute in Prague. This was a great success and hopefully the start of a tradition i.e. wherever there are meetings a visit to a local or regional Mental Health Service can perhaps be organised.

### **1- Attendance:**

Des Kavanagh,	Ireland, President
Ber Oomen,	Netherlands, Secretary General
Richard Brodd	Sweden, Treasurer
Martin Ward,	UK, Expert Panel
Stephen Demecoli,	Malta. Board Member
Heike Ellilah,	Finland, Board Member
Jan Erik Nilsen,	Norway
Blanca Novotna,	Czech Republic, Board Member
Tunde Tunyi-Zimanyi,	Hungary
Zoltan Zala,	Hungary
Gulsen Terakye,	Turkey
Peter Wodicka,	Austria
Amar Voogt,	Netherlands, Conference Chairman

*See picture page; 6*

### **Apologies**

Ingo Tsinke and Michael Schulz(Germany), Ian Needham (Switzerland), Barbara Mosgan(Slovenia), Jan van Schilt (Netherlands) and Brian Rogers (UK).

### **Day 1**

#### **2- Introduction**

Amar spoke of his role as Chairman and welcomed the new Representatives from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Norway, Austria and Turkey. He went on to describe the strengths of our Profession being our knowledge and expertise in Psychiatric Nursing, of HORTARIO as an instrument for the advancement and development of our Profession and of our differences; Some being Representatives of large National Associations, others from smaller Groups but with a strong vision for the future.

He described our Organisation as based on the Propeller Model from Tack and Huizinga. the Board being the shaft and the propellers (3) representing the 3 "games" conditions, market and business; and advised of the necessity to strengthen the shaft so that we strengthen the Organisation HORATIO.

#### **He then set out the objectives for the two days, to :**

- Build a common understanding re the goals and purposes of the Organisation
- Build a strong Organisation by:
  - a) Setting out arrangements/conditions for Membership
  - b) Establishing the basis for financial independence
  - c) Establishing the structure of our Expert Panel
  - d) Identifying activities
  - e) Maximising means of communication
  - f) Arranging future Board Meetings, General Assemblies and Festival (2008)
  - g) Developing HORATIO's Submission to the E.U. Commission in response to the Green Paper and for the purpose of influencing the development of the Mental Health Strategy for Europe.

### **3- Opening congress**

Des Kavanagh, then formally welcomed all present and spoke of the vision he shared with Ber and Stephen when this Organisation was first mooted two years ago; the sense of isolation felt in the absence of HORATIO as other Groups sought to influence policy in the absence of any representative of Psychiatric Nursing; and of the importance of HORATIO being truly representative of all Countries in Europe. He concluded by asking the Representatives present to ensure that they identify issues important to their own Country for inclusion in our response to the Green Paper.

### **4- Personal introductions**

At this stage all in attendance introduced themselves with some details re their National Associations and the position/status of Psychiatric Nursing in their Country.

### **5- The role of the Association and relations with other Stakeholders**

Ber Oomen gave a general presentation re the history of Horatio, the growth from a network to an Association, our decisions and about the constitution, our relationship to and membership of ESNO and the EFN. Ber also spoke of his work as Secretary General and his meetings / discussions with Psychiatric Nurses throughout Europe. He gave details of the work being completed and our Website. He again set out some targets for the 2 days.

### **6- Presentation re the proposed Expert Panel**

Martin Ward circulated a Report detailing his proposal for the development of the Expert Panel under the Joint Chairmanship of Amar Vought and Martin Ward. After some discussion it was agreed that we would make final decisions re same on Day 2.

### **7- Membership structure**

Des Kavanagh then outlined details re our proposed Membership arrangements which were endorsed by the Committee

- National Associate Membership; €300
- Associate Membership; €150
- Individual Membership; € 50

Following discussion the following was noted:

Each country will have only one vote. If a country has more than one National Association they still have one vote and must decide between themselves who will represent and vote for that country.

It is recognised that some countries are not yet at the same economic level as Northern and Western European countries. Therefore HORATIO will adopt a flexible approach to the application of Fees to those Countries with less resources with the goal to avoid dominance from a certain region. Secretary General, Ber will examine this matter in greater detail and examine how other organisations deal with this challenge and will develop an appropriate proposal.

It has also been proposed that this matter will be addressed in an Internal Regulation document.

### **8- Finances**

Richard spoke of his role/responsibility as Treasurer and in protecting the interests of Horatio and in reflecting policy on financial management. He noted that it is extremely important that a sustainable income structure (e.g. contributions, donations, congresses, EU-funding, merchandising) is developed and cost factors (like membership, administration /

office, board meetings, committee work) can be addressed. It was agreed that the Board will constitute the Finance Committee for the purpose of the ongoing Management of the affairs of HORATIO. Depending on future developments, changes can be effected.

## **9- Objectives**

Stephen led a debate on objectives number-1

- a) It was agreed that our core documents should be translated for publication in each country.
- b) Communication was seen as essential to the Work of HORATIO and will provide the reasons why Nurses will want to be part of HORATIO.
- c) It was agreed that HORATIO should be in a position to issue Press Releases to Media Outlets in each country. We should identify e-mail address for Journalists and Media outlets. We should identify local spokesperson in each Country.
- d) We should prepare printed material which can be circulated at Conferences for Delegates to take away.
- e) Martin is preparing a 2000 word article for publication in Magazines e.g. USA and Ireland.
- f) Some thoughts were exchanged about structure and strategy of communications being guided by a committee so that our voice will be appropriate and representative; and will decide what is appropriate for public , internal or confined publication. The vehicles for expression will include website, press releases, bulletins etc.

## **10- Festival 2008**

Martin then circulated a proposal for an International Nursing Festival in Malta, November 2008. This document was taken away for consideration when Martin had explained its content. Final decisions will be made on Day 2.

## **Closing remarks day – 1 and agenda day 2**

Amar then summed up the days discussions and prepared for tomorrows (Wednesday's) Agenda.

In the evening the Czech Representative, Blanca, gave a tour through the city and the group had a dinner in a local restaurant and sampled the national atmosphere.

## **Day 2**

### **11-Expert Panel**

There was discussion re Martin's Presentation and it was agreed that Martin will establish the Expert Panel with Heikki and Amar as Co-chairs and HORATIO will own the database developed. Delegates were asked to submit details of potential members of the Expert Panel. Letter of appointment agreed, and completed by Des.

Members are invited to come forward with persons who would be invited to join the panel.

### **12-Committees/Organisations**

a) It was noted that the Finance Committee is the Board

b) Board

- Noted that the current arrangement is an interim one until our General Assembly 2007.
- Blanca Novotna was invited to become a new Board Member, and accepted. She spoke of her honour in accepting the position and the importance of representing another part of Europe with its differences and current position on the developmental "ladder".
- It is noted that we are currently dependant on the extensive work ( and for the near future) of the secretary general. However a role of executive director must be considered.

- The present number of board members is seven (see point 15) and will be extended by 2, with a maximum of 9 with representatives of all regions of Europe.
- For the future it desirable that there are two annual meetings with board and the committees , with an extra board meeting in between.

c) The General Assembly March 2007 will take place as part of Congress and should retain flexibility in establishing Committees to respond to issues as they arise. A Database of contact addresses should be established. It is in the role of the Secretary General to design a structure of meetings for the coming years in consultation with the Board and committee; In addition Jan, Ber and Stephen added will constitute a program committee. The organisation, Nico Oud Consultancy [www.oudconsultancy.nl](http://www.oudconsultancy.nl) will be consulted to play a role in the organisation.

#### d) Festival Committee

There was a lengthy discussion re the planning of Festival 2008. A number of points emerged:

- It was noted that we need to make the festival accessible, attractive and reasonably priced.
- That even if the Festival was based in Prague or Budapest the numbers coming from countries like Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia etc would still be small.
  - That the venue should be attractive to all Nurses and we should offer incentives to those "less well paid" Countries e.g.
  - Lower Conference fee
  - bursaries etc. to cover travel and other costs.
  - It would be great to have Nurses from every Country attend
  - Agreement reached to have Conference in Malta with Martin Ward managing it with the support of the Festival Committee, chaired by Richard Broth (Treasurer) and including Blanca Novotina, Jon Erik Nilsen, Peter Wodicka. Other names may be added. Following the recording of this decision Des set out a letter of appointment to Martin on behalf of HORATIO.

### **13- Green Paper**

Throughout the two days a number of points emerged for inclusion in our submission to the EU Commission. Martin recorded these together with notes from Des and agreed to set it out in document form for presentation to the E.U. Commission in the context and format of our business plan. A final document was then worked on at the conclusion of the meeting.

### **14- Survey on Education**

Horatio has been asked to be the co-organiser for an extended survey on education designed by Peter Nolan and Neil Brimblecomb. It has been decided that we welcome and commit to this initiative and co-operate in any way possible. Ber is nominated to join this group on behalf of Horatio.

### **15- Summary of decisions.**

Within the board;

- finance committee; Richard added with others
- Boardmembers, Des (pr), Ber (Sg) Richard (tr), Blanca, Stephen, Heikkie and Jan.
- Constitution and internal regulation; Ber, Jan and Martin
- Communication Committee to be developed to develop the PR strategy .

Next board meeting;

- Place; Gotenborg Sweden
- Date; early October 2006
- Board members and if possible with committee members.

END

Picture group during Prague meeting.



*Front row fltr: Amar Voogt, Netherlands; Gulsen Terakye, Turkey; Blanca Novotna, Czech Republic; Peter Wodicka, Austria; Tunde Tunyi-Zimanyi, Hungary; Ber Oomen, Netherlands; back row: Martin Ward, UK; Zoltan Zala, Hungary; Des Kavanagh, Ireland; Heike Ellilah, Finland; Jan Erik Nilsen, Norway; Richard Brodd Sweden; Stephen Demicoli, Malta.*