

Dear all,

## ECArTE Newsletter 2021

Last year I began with an image of starlings, this year it's a Godwit.



### Here are a few reflections on the work of ECArTE over 2021.

It has been another year of many online meetings – our GA in Paris moved on-line and of course, the conference in Lithuania postponed.

However, the work has continued and the GA offered us an opportunity to meet and connect with the projects and collaborations at the heart of ECArTE's work. We said au revoir to Jan Vandromme, thanking him once again for all his work for ECArTE over the years as treasurer and to Nicki Wentholt as a long standing and active member of the consortium. We discussed how arts therapy education and practice can move on line and shared ideas and challenges. Thanks to Drew Bird for facilitating a great workshop on autoethnography.

### Vilnius conference

Meetings have continued with the local organising committee and representatives from: the University of Vilnius, Vilnius Academy of fine Arts and Vilnius Academy of Music and Theatre. We are pleased to

announce that Nisha Sajnani will now be offering the keynote address at the conference.

### Half-day online conference 24<sup>th</sup> September

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend the 'virtual' half-day conference in September. There was a great turnout of around 140 participants and Janek Dubowski treated us to a thought provoking keynote. Janek's experience of ECArTE and the questions he brought to the table about currency and communication were dynamic and relevant to how we progress our disciplines and work together.

Thanks to the respondents – Uwe, Margaret and Sigita Lesinskiene, who contributed to the dialogue and progressed our thinking about important questions of identity, regulation and manualisation.

Thanks too, to all involved in the book launch for '*Arts Therapies and the Mental Health of Children and Young People*', with selected presentations. Thanks to Sarah for updating us on the important work on these research publications and to Salvo Pitruzzella, Margaret Hills de Zarate and Uwe Herrmann, as well as the chapter authors who offered an introduction to their work.

We were delighted to welcome Alenka Vidrih to the board as coordinator during the members meeting in the afternoon.

### Mutual Recognition Project

Work has continued with several meetings involving arts therapies trainers from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Thanks to Eha Ruutel for her contributions to this initiative.

### SATTIE (State of the Arts Therapies Training in Europe) project

We have completed the first phase of the SATTIE project and you should all now have received a hard copy of the report. Please do let me know if you have not and I will arrange

for a copy to be sent to you. We are now immersed in the planning of stage 2, which involves focus groups addressing the question of 'indicators of good practice in arts therapy education and practice.' Our thanks to Daniel Stolfi for continuing to work on this project. Please do look out for a communique in January outlining this next phase and inviting expressions of interest. More at the GA.

### Website

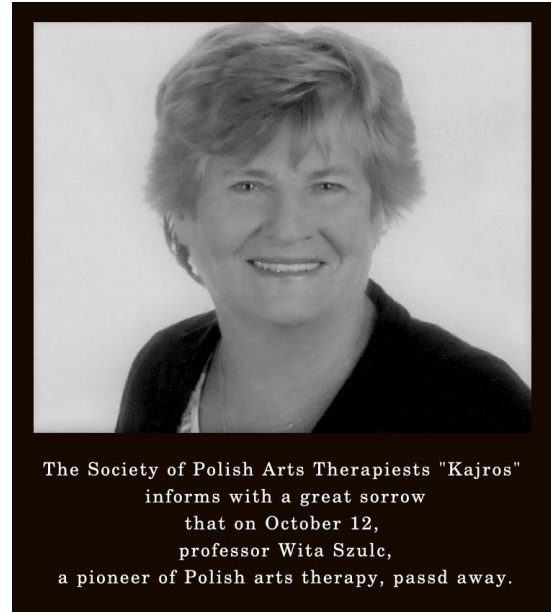
We have been continuing to work on website material. Do please continue to send through items for the news section of the website.

### GA Paris 2022

We still hope to be able to meet in person in Paris for the GA but this is of course contingent on the pandemic and different Government guidelines. It may be that some people feel able to travel and meet and others access the GA remotely. We will keep you updated on this over the first months of 2022. Thanks again to Todd for arrangements and preparations. Please do not book any flights or travel yet.

### Publications

The conference publication from Alcala is an international collection of chapters, with authors tackling the question of *'Imagining Windmills'* in unique ways. The publication date for this is January 2022.



I would like to spend a moment to remember Wita Szulc, who died in October. Wita was actively teaching until her sudden death and will, I'm sure be remembered by those of us who knew her as warm hearted colleague and a passionate and committed advocate of the development of arts therapies in Poland. She was a passionate and engaged member of ECArTE for many years. Indeed, it was only earlier this year that we welcomed Wita and Zielona Gora University once again as an associate member at the online GA. Our thoughts and memories are with Wita's family and we will have the opportunity to remember her as a community at the next conference as a community.

**I would like to extend special thanks to Marian Cao and Robert van den Broek for your work over 2021.**

**I wish you all a restful break and I do hope we can get together in person next year!**

**Richard, Chair**

**Dates of GA: 30<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**

**Date of conference: 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022**