



Fédération Internationale de Thérapie et de Relation d'Aide par la Médiation Animale



A European qualification framework for practice and training in Animal Mediated Assistance and Therapy

1st meeting September 18th and 19th, 2010

Leonardo Da Vinci partnership project, 2010

September 2010 seminar programme

**Fédération Internationale de Thérapie et de Relation d'Aide
par la Médiation Animale**

ONG représentative au CONSEIL de l'EUROPE
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Saturday the 9.9.10

moderator: jawad hajjam (Savoir et compétences)

Welcome : Robert Kohler, old people's home head, Fitram treasurer and host of the seminar

Marguerite Weith, Fitram gal.secr.

They recall the

Final objective → An European qualification framework of good practices and training in animal mediated assistance and therapy (AMAT).

The AMAT could be defined as: "an efficient additional therapy form, which affects body and soul of the clients. The analogue communication with the animals, the relationship to the animal and the working on own problems together with a value-free creature makes the difference for many clients to have a great motivation for personal changes" (IPTH, Gomolla).

Mostly, it is aimed at publics of all age groups, with either a physical, psychological, mental or social disability. However, neither the methods in use nor the training of its practitioners are supervised by any official regulation.

This is the reason why the partners have decided to tackle this issue together and set up a European framework of good practices and training accordingly.

Partnership

Organism carrying the operation : FITRAM

Fédération Internationale de Thérapie et de Relation d'Aide par la Médiation - France

Partners

Handhippo, Union nationale belge des thérapeutes spécialisés en hippothérapie - Belgium

Foerderkreis Therapeutisches Reiten e.V. - Germany

Nederlandse Stichting helpen met paarden - Equitherapie - Netherlands

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Slovenská hippoterapeutická asociácia – Slovakia

Silent Partners because of administrative difficulties :

Stowarzyszenie « Strapate Ranczo »- Poland, on a waiting list

Asociación Española de Equinoterapias – Spain, refused because came too late, but who promised to run for candidate in 2011 again, and work together with Mas Alba

Lianes – member of the FITRAM

Specific partners included in the Fitram:

Handi-chiens

Italy renounced midway.

Reminder of the previsions sent to the European Commission:

Results and outcomes : previsions to be adapted according to circumstances

Summer 2010 Activity: production of the national surveys

March 2011 Result: national inventory

Activity: creation of cross-border thematic groups

Autumn 2011 Result: synthesis of thematic groups

Activity: Quality framework of the practices and of the trainings
accordingly: adaptation to the thematic groups



Spring 2012 Result: programme of the trainings by topics

Activity: make a critical analysis of the training and set up the European meeting

Summer 2012 European information on our work and its results

General schedule: previsions to be adapted according to circumstances

1st meeting → September 2010

2nd meeting → March 2011

3rd meeting → Spring 2011

4th meeting → Autumn 2011

5th meeting → Winter 2011

6th meeting → Spring 2012

Presentation of the partners and their animals

See presentation attached file

Synthesis and introduction of the following reflections: gal secr.

Marguerite Weith tells us that she is very anxious about the results of this seminar:
« We have to go home with something specific to work on ».

« Now we have presented ourselves and told one another the main questions that are important to us: on the whole, we have much work, many qualifications, good results, but no official recognition, so that « anybody can do anything ».

Today, we can be proud of our « big size » meeting, especially as we are mostly volunteers. But what about our young colleagues who want to earn their living through



this profession and have to work very hard for that, using most of their time begging for the money they deserve? How can we help future generations to become a proud profession in mediation by the animal?

We have the chance that the E.U., by agreeing our project, now ask of us a framework of basic training accorded to the competences needed in AMAT. To do so, we first have to know what is done, with which results...by everyone, everywhere.

So where do we stand now? Around which main questions do we have to organize our researches?

My answer would be : »We have to convince «!

We must convince the decision makers, but we must find partners among those who now « do anything » according to the motto of that American General who recommended: « before using force on your enemies, try to make friends among them! »

So, how can we convince?

Our profession works on the affective human side: we have to consider first the animal which is in the brain of each other! The animal linked to our culture, to our education:

To appeal to this animal, we have to follow an emotional way : communication through understanding the partner and his proper difficulties , and for those who are far from the animal, we have to use pictures, stories, events and so on.

Surely we need scientific arguments, and we already have many (we can refer to all the very good reports made by competent colleagues before us!) to sustain our recommendations; we need rational demonstrations according to the actual tradition... But eventually we have to work on the relation which each of our speaker has with the animal, or with the child he has been trusted with.

For example: at the Council of Europe, the Fitram is part of the group of « prevention in health »: this should be a very good argument, because prevention is not so expensive as cure. But politicians don't much care of prevention: so we have to convince them with economic arguments (the price) but also affective ones we intend a « side event » (look at p.14)



.State of the arts: inventory of the existing

- What is done in my country, in my region?
- Who, what, how, with who: resuming the above questions.
- What kind of actors are involved more or less in AMAT: multidisciplinary framework.
- What is the political, economical setting: is there a regulation, which one: concerning the community organisation, political?
- Who would be the "decision makers" we could rally? How? (mass media)

Together, we will have to find the relevant questions that will structure our eventual surveys, and make a synthesis of them.

final objective → A European qualification framework of good practices and training in animal mediated assistance and therapy (AMAT).

This is most important, and have to apply to:

- practices
- trainers and trainees
- decision makers
- clients and their families

In which model can we collect the information ?



Work of the group on the items to consider in a survey, on the basis of Ulrike Thiel's propositions

1. The Organisation

Name

Legal statute

Connecting local, national, European or international organizations

Aims

Financing

« Clients »

Code of Ethics yes/no

2. The activities

2.1 Training programmes for AMAT

Name of the training programme

Target group

Duration of training (days/hours)

Period (years/months)

Basic profession

Animal qualification



Therapeutic assistance during therapy

Animal assistance during therapy

Supervision yes/no

Group process yes/no

Practical project yes/no

Theory exam yes/no

Practical exam yes/no

Code of ethics yes/no

2.2 Animal Mediated Assistance and Therapy

2.2.1 Mediation

Name of the mediation programme

Aims

Target group

Duration of mediation programme

Period (years/months)

Necessary skills

Necessary qualification/certification

Human resources

Technical resources

Animal resources

Description of the activity

Function of the animal within the activity



Selection of the animal

Training of the animal

Supervision yes/no

Code of ethics yes/no

Other

2.2.2 Research

Name of the programme

Aims

Kind of research

Target group concerned by the research

Partnership

Period

Human resources

Technical resources

Animal resources

Supervision yes/no

Code of ethics yes/no

Other



3. Resources

Publication

Client documentation

Internal documentation

Animal resources

Human resources

Pedagogical tools

Structures

Therapists or mediator certified or formed

Technical and material resources

4. Communication plan (tools, conferences, media...)

5. Political, institutional, private contact or support (administration, company, personnel)

Existing

Projected

6. Other

Personal relationship between therapist and animal yes/no

Personal development, feedback yes/no

Supervised work placement

Preparatory seminar

Qualification of the main lector



Self-awareness yes/no

Therapeutic, activity concept

Therapy, activity model

Selection of the therapy or activity with animal

Schooling of the therapy or activity with animal

Which of the animal's abilities are used

Animal's function in the process

Animal's role in the relationship triangle

Is the relationship triangle used as the basis of work?

Therapy or activity structure

Therapy or activity settings

Transfer model from therapy or activity to everyday life

Information

7. Suggestion or difficulties

To end the afternoon, announcement is made of what is to come after the meeting: Report within a month, after which can start the collection of the state of the arts (the existing data).

In the evening: presentation of a few specific experiments:

These presentations are not included in the report: to be more accurate, we invite the presenters to send their presentation to the Fitram who will despatch it to the partners.



Sunday

coordinator: Laurianne Giguet (savoir et compétences)

The aim is: **Management**

Sharing of tasks and expenses : (role of each partner, role of the coordinator)

Planning : individual and common time of work

Questions arise of -the scientific report

-the communication plan,

to get to the professionals but also to the users and decision makers.

Public Relations are very important, but Ulrike Thiel states that it would be preferable to work on the facts in everyone's country.

Dr Holly (psychiatrist), for Slovakia, observes that we need to have powerful arguments ready, though it will be useless if politicians do not take interest in them. He insists on the fact that the only arguments which « have a weight » in a debate are affective ones.

Ulrike Thiel, for Netherlands, then points out that we are not engaged far enough in the project to start with Public Relations but no arguments would lead nowhere.

About Public Relations with the deciders, Marguerite Weith proposes to organize next meeting around a « side-event¹» that will probably take place next spring at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg: so Germany proposes to welcome the next reunion of the partners not too far from the Alsatian border: they are applauded by everybody!

1 A side-event is an event parallel to the works of the Council of Europe parliamentary sessions; the Fitram has offered (it is not accepted yet) to organize one : disabled persons would drive members of parliament in horse-drawn carriages in the park near the Council of Europe, and Robert Kohler would present his dogs in the members of parliament amphitheatre, as the Fitram would explain its actions. So it would be important that the partners were there, to answer the members of parliament questions.



Lorenzo Lucarelli, for Spain, agrees, stating that we will have to be ready with proofs and arguments.

Eva Holla, for Slovakia, adds that by then we will have enough material, that we will have to put together to have arguments.

Ulrike Thiel precises we will have to get a bit further on how we would like to present the work with horses; we are not far enough in our work now. She proposes to form a document that could serve as an introduction to the different persons we will have to deal with and present them with the items of our questionnaire.

Eva Holla remarks that we have first to collect information before presenting anything.

So the question is : do we work on already collected information or do we establish a questionnaire?

Besides, are we to collect information on a national or a regional basis?

Marguerite Weith suggests that we can start on a regional basis, whereas Lorenzo Lucarelli objects that in Spain the production of arguments will be better on a national basis, because on a regional basis there would only be 3 or 4 partners,

Natascha Horsdmanshoff, for Germany, remarks that there are already a lot of information about the associations in Germany, but that it will not be possible to fill in the whole list of the points proposed above for the questionnaire for each little association, so there must be a selection.

Fabienne Schoonheydt, for Belgium, observes that collecting information about everything existing now is

a big job; what's more there is a problem with the existing information: is it still accurate? What do they do now?

Eric Trivellin and Robert Kohler, for France, have to deal with what is done with dogs currently:



-Which associations

-which trainings : academic, from federations, private (with the difficulty for the latter to identify them)

About the silent partners, arises the question of Poland, which is on a waiting list and still has no money to travel, so as Spain which is refused by its national agency : Lorenzo Lucarelli asks of this group to help him make their partners in Spain understand that this programme is important: there are 35 associations in Catalonia, but he works with only 3, less than 10%, the rest not answering because there is no money to be gained.

To this Fabienne Schoonheydt replies that he will have to work with the ones already convinced, and collect information from the others.

So the first step will be the collection of the existing data, convincing can come in a second time, when the product is achieved.

But Marguerite Weith insists on the fact that she does not think we have to dissociate the collect of the data from the publicity granted to the project, since anyway this needs multilateral and interdisciplinary contacts, the best publicity being obtained through direct communication.

She reminds that it is officially asked by the European Commission that students be included in this approach, and suggests that we offer them to write their thesis about it

Planing and tasks for the first step of the project: collecting datas

1st task : Presentation of project + questionnaire / until november the 1st
FITRAM send by e mail this report

Partners can make propositions before **October the 15th** (send the propositions to FITRAM)

FITRAM send to Ulrike a synthesis of all this, so as to build a "nice paper" of



introduction

Ulrike will send it back to FITRAM , for signature

FITRAM send the documents to all partners by **November the 1st**

Note of the Fitram: You will easily understand that if the Fitram launched this project and accepted its coordination, it is also officially responsible for it: so we insist that any document or any communication implying the coordination between partners goes through the Fitram, and this in everyone's interest.

2nd task: Collecting data / until February 2011

November to February

Each partner in his country collect the data until February

FITRAM collect all the informations and suggestions as and when they arrive from the partners, and sends them back to all.

Way of communication:

to exchange on the progress of the steps engaged in each country, their joys and troubles:

- Skype conference organized by Ulrike Thiel on December 16, 20h (8 pm)
- Forum on the website fitram.eu

These two types of communication are reserved to informal contacts: The Fitram insists on the fact that any formal information , needing an official decision , is to be sent to the Fitram by e-mail or postal mail. E-mail can of course too be used for informal contacts.

3rd task: organization of the 2nd meeting in Germany / spring 2011

Dates to be precised according to the date of the side event.

- Discussion on difficulties for the survey
- Identify the thematics to be worked indeed
- Build transversal thematic groups

Creation of a transversal thematic group in Research:

Slovakia, following Marguerite Weith's suggestion, offered to take its coordination.

Mission: collecting, and analyzing scientific data

Each partner can send scientific element or questions to the FITRAM who will communicate to Slovakia

If a partner has a question or an information, he can send it to FITRAM and FITRAM will transmit it to Slovakia



Expenses

Natascha Horsdmanshoff resumes : Every partner who has been told they would receive money for their mobilities agree to give some to the Fitram for its global fexpenses (for instance the secretary's salary); Robert Kohler, as Fitram treasurer, proposes to share the common expenses.

So the question is : do we agree that the silent partners continue to work with us? In this case we will give them a sum of money they will have to justify.

Everybody agrees to contribute to the silent partners expenses , who will have to send their bills to the Fitram and which will be divided by 5.

Ulrike Thiel says that she is OK with the principle but that she can't decide now: she has to discuss it with her board first. She proposes that the journey of only one member of each silent partner will be paid.

Marguerite Weith replies that everybody has to take a risk.

Robert Kohler proposes that an amount of 750 euros per year and per country **which became money for mobilities** will be asked for general coordination costs.

Fabienne Schoonheydt remarks that the belgian National Agency gave them less money, and consequently asks if they can benefit from a percentage of reduction.

So Marguerite Weith proposes that once a year, each partner having received a grant (or a promise of a grant, (80% at the beginning, 20% at the end of work), give the worth of a mobility to a common fund run by the Fitram for the coordination and communication common expenses. This fund is run by the Fitram's treasurer, who will justify it at each meeting: it will be refunded by all partners as needs go along (at first sight, the treasurer thinks there would only need the worth of 2 mobilities during the 2 years of functioning and coordination).

NB: The Fitram has no grant for coordination but only for mobilities, as all the others.

Counterproposals are admissible until November 1st, after which each solvent partner will get its bill.

Robert Kohler states that about 100 000 euros for two years should be enough.



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End of the seminar

Marguerite Weith, in the name of everybody, thanks from the heart Josiane and Robert Kohler for their splendid welcome

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