

**Serge GINGER**

# ***F O R G E***

***Fédération internationale  
des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt***

***International Federation  
of Gestalt Training Organizations***

***Internationale Vereinigung  
der Ausbildungsinstitute für Gestalttherapie***



**Archives 1991 - 2008**





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## FOREWORD

**Serge Ginger** (France) founded the **FORGE** in October 1991. He was elected and reelected as president till 2008, when he decided to step down, at the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Gro Skotun** (Norway) has been elected as the new president.

Before retiring, **Serge** decided to print this booklet to keep the minutes of the main philosophy and activities of the **FORGE**. It has been offered to all participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Oslo.

The minutes have been kept in their original format, in "basic English", with some mistakes! 100 % of the members of the Board of Directors are not native English speakers!

### Members

**FORGE** is a **federation** of training schools and **institutes**. It is not an association of **individual** persons. Each school may be represented by its principal staff (directors and permanent trainers): one to four persons **maximum**.

Each country cannot be represented by more than four schools **maximum**. The Board of Directors is composed of representatives from at least four different countries - and not more than two representatives from the same country.

Candidates from new training institutes are accepted by **co-optation** at the time of their second participation at an annual conference.

### General Philosophy

Since its founding in 1991, **FORGE** has distinguished itself from the majority of similar professional associations: we have maintained the **Gestalt philosophy** as closely as possible favoring: freedom, the expression of uniqueness (individual originality), commitment to the here and now, direct contact, satisfying emerging needs, in a « controlled anarchy »...

The majority of participants at our meetings already regularly attends - and profit from - **many national and international conferences** and congresses each year. On these occasions, we present and we exchange about exciting new thinking and new research concerning Gestalt therapy and similar approaches.

However, we often suffer from several difficulties: the impossibility of contacting individually all the participants at a congress because of such large turnouts; debating at length the ideas presented (the time allocated to questions is generally



short); the principles developed concern Gestalt therapy in general rather than its teachings...

We have therefore set out to create a different work atmosphere, more closely resembling a forum of free exchanges, a group of friends aiming for profound exchange, in an atmosphere of trust.

The first rule we have is to avoid all power games: thus, no voting is carried out (except for the election of members of the Board of Directors and the co-optation of new members). Nobody is required to adhere to the majority point of view: no uniform rules, no norms or standards for the schools - coming from very different cultures. Each person listens, participates...and freely chooses what suits him or her in his or her own context. No common decision concerning general policy or teaching content is taken.

Thus, in our 18 years of functioning, we have never had to settle a single conflict!

Each of our participants is a member of one or several national or international Gestalt organizations (EAGT, AAGT, etc.) or Psychotherapy organizations (EAP, WCP), and therefore adheres to the norms voted by these organizations.

FORGE is thus never in competition with any of these organizations and maintains excellent relations with them. Every three years FORGE's annual congress is replaced by a simple two-hour meeting during the European congress of EAGT.

According with the philosophy « small is beautiful », we are committed to keeping the number of participants low - relatively stable - permitting an open discussion, in one or two concentric circles (i.e. 20-40 participants maximum). Of course, this does not rule out work sessions in smaller groups. However, FORGE does not advertize and does not aim to increase its membership: we seek quality rather than quantity.

The annual conferences are free and are organized on the basis of invitation from any one of the institute's. The conferences usually take place from noon on Sunday (beginning with a welcome luncheon) until Tuesday afternoon. The working spaces are provided by the inviting institute, as well as the welcoming luncheon and the closing meal (FORGE contributes to the organizing expenses through an allocation depending on the institute's needs).

The program is decided by common agreement at the beginning of each conference: some participants prepare a presentation about their innovations or present research, or questions about their present concerns (personal difficulties encountered in managing a team or the training program; they are protected by professional ethics and the exchanges remain confidential upon simple request); others share their interests of the moment. Nothing is fixed in advance.

**The working language is English (« basic English ») but any participant can speak in his/her native language and another participant will interpret, as a volunteer. FORGE has no salaried personnel and all positions are carried out by volunteer workers.**

**The budget is deliberately limited to annual fees from the member institutes. The fees are very modest: actually 200 Euros a year for the « large » institutes and 50 Euros a year for the « small » schools, or those from developing countries. These fees are optional for those years when we do not hold our annual congress (i.e., every three years when we attend the EAGT and do not hold our own conference).**

**During the whole year, between conferences, the bilateral relations between members of FORGE remain close: numerous e-mail exchanges, invitations among trainers, student exchanges, exchanges of documents, translations, publication of articles or books...**

**In this way, FORGE clearly distinguishes itself from the majority of professional associations as its usefulness is plainly seen: in addition, the participants are particularly regular and take part in all the events, without hesitating to travel thousands of kilometers, despite very heavy work schedules.**

**Serge Ginger,**  
founder of FORGE,  
honorary president since May 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by the name 'Ginger'.

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# FORGE

Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt  
International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations

E-mail: [groskottun@mac.com](mailto:groskottun@mac.com) Website: [www.gestalt.lv/forge/](http://www.gestalt.lv/forge/)

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May 2009

## SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT "FORGE"

### International Board (elected in May 2008)

President:	Gro Skottun	(Norway)
Vice president:	Sergio Vazquez	(Mexico)
Secretary General:	Natasha Lebedeva	(Russia)
Treasurer:	Gonzague Masquelier	(France)
External relations officer:	Daan van Baalen	(Norway)
Webmaster:	Arthur Dombrovski	(Latvia)
Members of the Board:	Beata Lesniak	(Poland), Lidija Pecotic (Malta)
Honorary President:	Serge Ginger	(France) <a href="http://www.sergeginger.net/">http://www.sergeginger.net/</a>

**FORGE was founded in Paris in 1991** by several Gestalt Training Institutes to promote an international cooperation through sharing of documents, programs, researches, and exchange of trainers and students, in a convivial and confident climate.

FORGE is a nonprofit organization.

FORGE is a Federation - each member Institute remains autonomous - of, actually, **28 institutes from 19 countries.**

FORGE is a Federation - which means that each Institute remains totally autonomous and free.

FORGE doesn't decide any kind of norms imposed to anybody but share experiences and research.

**Every year, FORGE organizes study days for the staff of the Training Institutes**

### FORGE objectives

- To promote an international collaboration and sharing of research in the field of training in Gestalt Therapy
- Theoretical, methodological and clinical sharing of trainers, trainees, books, journals and other writings
- Organization of an annual colloquium and of international advanced training workshops for experienced therapists and trainers
- Organization of bilateral training workshops between different training institutes

FORGE has gathered some 23,000 titles in English, 1,500 in French and several hundred others in German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and other languages. Each country represented by FORGE membership produces a Gestalt Journal one to four times per year.



## Latest meetings

Every year, FORGE organizes study days for the staff of the Training Institutes (directors and permanent trainers) around themes concerning practice and research in the field of Training in Gestalt Therapy, and many bilateral exchanges of trainers from one country to another.

1. 1992, on a yacht on the Atlantic sea
2. 1993, in London, at the invitation of *Metanoia* Institute
3. 1994, in Paris, at the invitation of *Paris Gestalt School* (EPG)
4. 1995, in Guadalajara, Mexico, at the invitation of *Institute Integro*
5. 1996, in Roma, at the invitation of *Institute ASPIC*
6. 1997, in Brussels, at the invitation of *Institute Integration*
7. 1999, in Paris, at the invitation of *Paris Gestalt School* (EPG)
8. 2000, in Oslo, Norway, at the invitation of *Norsk Gestaltinstitutt AS*
- 8 bis. 2001, in Stockholm, during the EAGT conference
9. 2002, in Krakow (Poland), at the invitation of *Instytut Terapii Gestalt* (ITG)
10. 2003, in Malta, at the invitation of *Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute* (GPTI)
- 10 bis. 2004, in PRAGA during the EAGT conference (*Short FORGE Meeting in PRAGUE*)
11. 2005, in St.-Petersburg at the invitation of *St. Petersburg Institute of Gestalt* (SPIG)
12. 2006, in Rome, 7-9 May at the *Institute Gestalt Firenze*
- 12 bis. 2007, in Athens, 7 September 2007, during the EAGT 9th conference
13. 2008, in Guadalajara (Mexico), 11-13 May, at the invitation of *Institute Integro*
14. 2009, May 31st, 2009 - till June 2nd, in Oslo (Norway): invitation of *Norsk Gestaltinstitutt*
- 14 bis. 2010, September 2010: short meeting during the EAGT Congress, in Berlin (Germany)
15. 2011, May 30th, 2011-till June 1st, in Riga (Latvia): invitation of *Riga Gestalt Institute (RGI)*

## Key topics

Here are some of the main topics discussed till now at the different colloquiums:

- Presentation and training programs of each Institute (theory and practice)
- Admission criteria: pre-requisite, selection (academic education, personal therapy, professional experience...)
- Individual and group therapy
- Theoretical training: programs, links with universities, choice of professors
- Practical training, experiential and therapeutic sessions,
- Separation between therapy, training and supervision (ethical problems)
- Ethics and deontology, personal involvement of the trainers, place of couples (pairs)
- Training program for supervisors
- Organization of international workshops
- Permanent assessment and final assessment; thesis, jury
- Detailed criteria for accreditation of a Training Institute
- Follow-up, after the diploma
- Advanced training; research; publications
- Sharing around some researches: dreams, trans-sexuality, psychopathology, neuroscience
- National professional Associations and web site of FORGE
- The responsibility of Gestalt therapists in the society
- International Glossary of technical terms
- Gestalt Psychopathology
- Existentialism and Gestalt Therapy.
- Neurosciences: brain, genetics and Gestalt

## **MEMBERS: actually, 28 institutes members, from 19 countries**

- Belgium** • *Intégration*: BRUXELLES <[info@gestalt-integration.be](mailto:info@gestalt-integration.be)> [www.gestalt-integration.be](http://www.gestalt-integration.be)  
• *Multi-Di-Mens*: GENT <[info@multidimens.be](mailto:info@multidimens.be)> [www.multidimens.be](http://www.multidimens.be)
- Brazil** • *Instituto Sedes Sapientiae*: SAO PAULO <[lilian.frazao@uol.com.br](mailto:lilian.frazao@uol.com.br)>
- Byelorussia** • *Byelorussian Inst. For Gestalt (BIG)* MINSK <[pogodpsy@rambler.ru](mailto:pogodpsy@rambler.ru)>
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- Denmark** • *Gestaltterapeutisk Institut*: KØBENHAVN K. <[gestaltterapi@kursus.dk](mailto:gestaltterapi@kursus.dk)>
- France** • *Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt (EPG)*: PARIS <[epg@gestalt.asso.fr](mailto:epg@gestalt.asso.fr)> [www.gestalt.asso.fr](http://www.gestalt.asso.fr)  
• *Savoir-Psy*: PARIS <[savoirpsy@savoirpsy.com](mailto:savoirpsy@savoirpsy.com)>
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• *Arbeitskreis Kritische GT (AKG)*: RIMBACH <[schumannsorge@freenet.de](mailto:schumannsorge@freenet.de)>
- Great-Britain**  
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• *Istituto Gestalt Firenze (IGF)*: FIRENZE <[igf.roma@iname.com](mailto:igf.roma@iname.com)> [www.igf-gestalt.it](http://www.igf-gestalt.it)  
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mis à jour (updated) le 16/09/07 par Serge GINGER, president.



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## FORGE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	President	Vice-presidents		Secretary general	Treasurer	Extern. Relat. Officer	Webmaster	Members	Hon. Presid
<b>1991</b>	Ginger S.	Giusti E.	Van Pevenage	Delisle G.	Masquelier G.			Ginger A.	
<b>1992</b>	Ginger S.	Giusti E.	Van Pevenage	Delisle G.	Masquelier G.			Ginger A.	
<b>1995</b>	Ginger S.	Delisle G.	Van Pevenage	Giusti E.	Masquelier G.			Ravenna A Vazquez S. Ginger A.	
<b>1997</b>	Ginger S.	Delisle G.	Vazquez S.	Van Pevenage	Masquelier G.			Giusti E. Ravenna A Ginger A.	
<b>1999</b>	Ginger S.	Vazquez S.		Van Pevenage	Masquelier G.		Goodlander M.	Ravenna A	
<b>2002</b>	Ginger S.	Vazquez S.	Skottun G.	Lebedeva N.	Masquelier G.			Ravenna A	
<b>2003</b>	Ginger S.	Vazquez S.	Skottun G.	Lebedeva N.	Masquelier G.		Dombrovsky A.	Ravenna A	
<b>2005</b>	Ginger S.	Vazquez S.	Skottun G.	Lebedeva N.	Masquelier G.		Dombrovsky A.	Ravenna A	
<b>2008</b>	Skottun G.	Vazquez S.		Lebedeva N.	Masquelier G.	Vaan Baalen D.	Dombrovsky A.	Pecotic L. Lesniak B.	Ginger S.



October 4, 1991

## FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISMES DE FORMATION A LA GESTALT (FORGE)

### ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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#### I: GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION

##### Article 1

An Association is hereby founded by the signatories to these Articles of Association, governed by the Law of July 1, 1901, to be known as:

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISMES DE FORMATION  
A LA GESTALT

(International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations)

(FORGE)

##### Article 2

The headquarters of the Association are established in PARIS, at 163, rue de Vaugirard, 75015 PARIS. They may be moved by a simple decision of the Board of Directors, subject to ratification by the subsequent General Assembly.

##### Article 3

The goals of the Association are to promote regular international exchanges between training organizations for the professional practice of Gestalt therapy in its various fields of application, namely psychotherapy, and interventions in the psycho-social or industrial areas. The Association proposes comparisons of research and practices, while respecting the complete autonomy of each training organization.

##### Article 4

The means available to the Association include, in particular:

- the exchange of ideas and programs (training materials and techniques);
- the distribution and translation of documents and publications;
- exchanges among individuals: trainers, teachers, students and possibly the exchange of addresses of former students, now graduated;
- the organization of study days or conferences for professional managers in the training organizations;
- the development of equivalencies for training modules, if applicable, with the possibility of reciprocal recognition.

#### II: MEMBERS AND DUES

##### Article 5

The Association is a Federation of artificial persons, represented by natural persons. The natural persons must be accredited by the member training organizations.

##### Article 6

To become a member of the Association, an applicant training organization must meet certain criteria defined in the By-laws, and have been co-opted by the Board of Directors.

##### Article 7

The amount of dues shall be set each year by the General Assembly.

#### Article 8

Membership may be lost for the following reasons:

- resignation by, or closure of, the training organization;
- revocation approved by the Board of Directors, for:
  - non-payment of dues;
  - serious reasons, with the revocation of membership approved by a two-thirds majority by secret ballot, after the organization in question has been invited, by registered mail, to send a representative to appear in person before the Executive or to provide explanations in writing.

### III: ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

#### Article 9

The Association shall be administered by a Board of Directors (the Board) consisting of five to nine directors, who are natural persons representing at least four countries, and are elected by a simple majority of all the members attending the General Assembly, by secret ballot. No more than two members from a single country shall sit on the Board.

Directors shall serve for a term of four years. They shall not be remunerated. One-half of the Board's membership is to be elected every two years, and members shall be eligible for re-election.

#### Article 10

The Board of Directors shall choose from among its members, by secret ballot:

- one chairman;
- one or two vice-chairmen;
- one secretary general and, if appropriate, an assistant secretary general;
- one treasurer.

#### Article 11

The languages of work of the Association shall be French and English. Procedures governing voting, delegation of authority and quorum are stipulated in the By-laws.

#### Article 12

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once every two years, upon convocation by the chairman or secretary general, or at the request of no less than one-third of its membership. Any member of the Board who has not attended three consecutive meetings, without excuse, shall be considered to have resigned.

#### Article 13

The chairman and the secretary general shall be empowered to make joint decisions in emergencies. Such decisions shall be submitted for ratification by the subsequent meeting of the Board.

#### Article 14

The Ordinary General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years and whenever it is convoked by the Board of Directors.

The secretary general shall convoke members to the meeting at least one month in advance, and shall include an agenda in the convocation. The agenda shall include at least the report of activities, the financial report and the re-election of members of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the procedures defined in the By-laws. Only paid-up members may vote.

#### Article 15

Expenses shall be approved jointly by the treasurer and either the chairman or the secretary general. The treasurer shall keep detailed accounts, accessible to all members of the Association.

#### Article 16

If necessary, or at the request of one-half the membership plus one, the chairman may convoke an Extraordinary General Assembly.

**Article 17**

A set of By-laws, drawn up by the Board of Directors and submitted to the subsequent General Assembly, shall define the various points not covered by the Articles of Association, in particular with respect to the operation of the Association: conditions for the admission of new members, procedures for voting and delegation of authority, the quorum required for the validity of decisions by the various instances, conditions for the submission of applications, the striking and operation of standing or *ad hoc* committees, and so on.

**Article 18**

The Association may be dissolved only by a two-thirds majority of members present or represented at an Extraordinary General Assembly convoked especially for that purpose.

The quorum shall be two-thirds of the paid-up membership. If there is no quorum, a new Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convoked for at least one month later, and a decision on the dissolution may be made by a two-thirds majority of members present or represented; a quorum shall not be required.

The Extraordinary General Assembly shall appoint one or more auditors to oversee the liquidation of property, in accordance with the Law.

*These Articles of Association were approved at the founding General Assembly of the Fédération Internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt (FORGE), held on October 4, 1991, at 163, rue de Vaugirard, 75015 PARIS, attended by seven persons.*

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JOURNAL OFFICIEL DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

22 janvier 1992

transport, nature, environnement; le but de cette association est le rallongement qualitatif de la vie. *Siège social*: 5, rue de Lort, 74200 Thonon-les-Bains. *Date*: 30 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la sous-préfecture de Bonneville. **SANDRINE, NADINE, VALERIE, MANUE (S.N.V.M.)**. *Objet*: pratique de la moto, et plus particulièrement son développement dans la vallée de l'Arve. *Siège social*: immeuble Liberty, avenue de la République, 74800 La Roche-sur-Foron. *Date*: 30 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la sous-préfecture de Thonon-les-Bains. **THOLLON-LES-MEMISES - SUPER EVIAN**. *Objet*: toutes réflexions et actions pouvant contribuer à la promotion et au développement local, régional, national et international de Thollon-les-Mémises. *Siège social*: immeuble Les Effalées, 74500 Thollon-les-Mémises. *Date*: 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1992.

**Modifications**

Déclaration à la sous-préfecture de Thonon-les-Bains. **METIS-SAGE**. *Siège social*: H.L.M. 4, Collonges, 74200 Thonon-les-Bains, transféré; nouvelle adresse: Etoile II, 5, avenue du Général-de-Gaulle, 74200 Thonon-les-Bains. *Date*: 5 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la sous-préfecture de Thonon-les-Bains. **ASSOCIATION POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT TOURISTIQUE DU PAYS COTIER DU LEMAN**. *Siège social*: mairie, 74550 Drailant, transféré; nouvelle adresse: Espace du Lac, rue des Pêcheurs, 74200 Anthy-sur-Léman. *Date*: 6 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de la Haute-Savoie. **Ancien titre: CENTRE D'ENSEIGNEMENT FEMININ RURAL. Nouveau titre: LYCEE PROFESSIONNEL RURAL PRIVE**. *Siège social*: maison d'œuvres, 74320 Sévrier, transféré; nouvelle adresse: place de l'Eglise, 74320 Sévrier. *Date*: 9 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la sous-préfecture de Thonon-les-Bains. **AMICALE DES PECHEURS AMATEURS THONONAIS**. *Siège social*: Le Naviot, 12, quai de Rives, 74200 Thonon-les-Bains, transféré; nouvelle adresse: S.N.L.F., port de Rives, 74200 Thonon-les-Bains. *Date*: 10 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de la Haute-Savoie. **TOURING PEDESTRE ANNECIEN**. *Siège social*: 50, avenue Beauregard, 74000 Cran-Gevrier, transféré; nouvelle adresse: chez Mme Jorsemoz (Marie-Antoinette), 10, rue Général-Pershing, 74000 Annecy. *Date*: 13 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de la Haute-Savoie. **ASSOCIATION DES TROIS-FONTAINES**. *Adjectif à l'objet*: organiser, coordonner et assurer l'accueil, l'écoute, l'orientation, la formation, l'insertion et

**75 - PARIS****Créations**

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **MOI SARAH... JE M'APPELLE MARIE**. *Objet*: aider à la promotion, à la production et à la diffusion du film « Moi Sarah... Je m'appelle Marie », et ultérieurement d'autres réalisations audiovisuelles se proposant d'illustrer et de promouvoir les valeurs chrétiennes. *Siège social*: 21, quai André-Citroën, 75015 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONNELLE DU THEATRE SOUS LE SABLE**. *Objet*: la réalisation et la représentation d'œuvres dramatiques dans le contexte artistique du théâtre professionnel. *Siège social*: 21, rue du Hainaut, 75019 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **LES AMIS DE DESIRÉE**. *Objet*: entretenir le souvenir de Désirée Liévin, écrivain, décédé le 2 octobre 1991; promouvoir la publication d'écrits ou de films consacrés à Désirée. *Siège social*: chez Mme Albouze (Paulette), 59, rue du Faubourg-du-Temple, 75010 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **ASSOCIATION PARISIENNE TRAVAIL EPANOUISSEMENT (A.P.T.E.)**. *Objet*: créer et gérer tous services et établissements destinés à l'épanouissement des personnes handicapées mentales, afin de faciliter et assurer leur droit au travail, notamment au moyen du travail protégé, en centres d'aide par le travail ou ateliers protégés; promouvoir et appliquer la politique de l'U.N.A.P.E.I. de Paris dans le domaine du travail des personnes handicapées mentales; participer à tous organismes ayant le même but et la même politique. *Siège social*: 34, rue de Laborde, 75016 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISMES DE FORMATION A LA GESTALT (F.O.R.G.E.)**. *Objet*: promouvoir des échanges internationaux réguliers entre organismes de formation à la pratique professionnelle de la Gestalt, dans ses divers champs d'application. *Siège social*: 163, rue de Vaugirard, 75015 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

Déclaration à la préfecture de police. **TRIOLE ET C<sup>e</sup>**. *Objet*: développement et promotion de l'art musical, théâtral, audiovisuel et décoratif; organisation de manifestations culturelles en tout genre. *Siège social*: 36, rue des Cordelières, 75013 Paris. *Date*: 18 décembre 1991.

## BY-LAWS

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### Article 1

To apply for membership, a training organization must provide at least 500 hours of specific training in Gestalt, for at least 10 students, including theory and practical sessions and supervised educational training.

### Article 2

The admission of a new organization shall be decided by the Board, following close examination of a detailed application.

### Article 3

Every member organization may be represented at meetings by up to four natural persons.

### Article 4

Every member organization shall have 12 votes, distributed among its various natural representatives as it sees fit.

### Article 5

The amount of annual dues for each calendar year shall be proposed by the Board and voted upon by the Ordinary General Assembly. For each of the first two years of operation, i.e. 1991 and 1992, the dues shall be 1,000 French francs per member organization.

### Article 6

All new members shall receive a copy of the Articles of Association and By-laws, as well as a list of the addresses of the members of the Association.

### Article 7

Any vote concerning one or more natural persons shall always be conducted by secret ballot.

Other votes shall be taken by a show of hands, unless one-third of the membership present requests a secret ballot.

Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes, unless otherwise stipulated in the Articles of Association.

### Article 8

A quorum of one-half the elected membership of the Board plus one must be present for the Board's decisions to be valid.

If a position is vacant, the Board may co-opt a member, whose appointment shall be submitted for approval at the subsequent General Assembly.

### Article 9

Any amendment of the By-laws must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board members present, and shall be submitted for ratification at the subsequent General Assembly.

Any amendment of the Articles of Association must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly.

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## APPENDIX:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, elected at the founding General Assembly

Chairman

Serge GINGER, *Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt*, Paris, FRANCE

Vice-Chairmen

Jean VAN PEVENAGE, *Intégration*, Brussels, BELGIUM

Secretary General

Edoardo GIUSTI, *Gestalt Counseling Training Center*, Rome, ITALY

Treasurer

Gilles DELISLE, *Centre d'Intervention Gestaltiste*, Montreal, CANADA  
Gonzague MASQUELIER, *Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt*, Paris, FRANCE

Additional information on the members of the Board of Directors

Serge GINGER, born February 6, 1928, at 75016 PARIS, FRANCE

Nationality: French

Residing at 3, route de la Marnière, 28320 GALLARDON, tel.: (16) 37.31.45.59; Fax: (16) 37.31.55.74

Profession: Clinical psychologist, Gestalt therapy teacher

Jean VAN PEVENAGE, born September 19, 1929, at SCHIAERVEEK, BELGIUM

Nationality: Belgian

Residing at dreve de Willericken, 50, b.1160 BRUXELLES, BELGIUM, Tel.: 02.673.00.94

Profession: Engineer, Gestalt trainer

Edoardo GIUSTI, born..., at...

Nationality: Italian

Residing at via Divisione Torino, 47, 00143 ROMA, ITALY, Tel.: (06) 59.26.770

Profession: PhD clinical psychologist, Gestalt therapy teacher

Gilles DELISLE, born May 19, 1944, at MONTREAL, CANADA

Nationality: Canadian

Residing at Centre gestaltiste Le Reflet, 5285 Decarie, Suite 300, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, H3W 3C2, CANADA

Profession: Clinical psychologist, Gestalt therapy teacher

Gonzague MASQUELIER, born April 15, 1951, at 59113 SECLIN, FRANCE.

Nationality: French

Residing at 5, rue du Pressoir Coquet, 60000 Beauvais, Tel.: (16) 44.45.27.27; Fax: (16) 44.45.27.44

Profession: Engineer, Gestalt Trainer



## **APPLICATION FORM**

*(please include all pertinent document : advertising material, list of faculty, etc.)*

*Please write all surnames in capital letters*

FULL NAME OF THE TRAINING INSTITUTE:

Acronym or abbreviation:

Mailing address:

Teleph. Number (from abroad):

Fax:

E-mail:

Web site:

Name of officer(s) who will act as liaison with FORGE (one to four names):

- 
- 
- 
- 

Date that the Institute was founded:

Pre-requisite for training:

Is personal psychotherapy (individual or group) a criteria for admission?

How are candidates selected for training?

Average number of trainees per group (per year):

Duration of basic Training (in hours and years):

Organization of Training (pacing and spread of training courses or workshops):

Do you have separate programs for different fields of application of Gestalt Therapy ?  
(for example: clinical, organizational, community, etc.)

**FORGE**

**original minutes  
of the annual meetings  
(1992 – 2008)**

REUNION de la FORGE sur l'ATLANTIQUE,  
en BRETAGNE, du 25 au 27 juillet 1992

(1<sup>st</sup> meeting)

<b>Présents :</b>	<i>EPG (France) :</i>	Ginger Serge Masquelier Gonzague Peyron-Ginger Anne	Président Trésorier
	<i>CIG (Canada) :</i>	Delisle Gilles Girard Line	Secrétaire général
	<i>APSPIC (Italie) :</i>	Giusti Edoardo	Vice-Président
a donné ses pouvoirs de décisions à Serge Ginger			
	<i>Intégration (Belgique)</i>	Van Pevenage Jean	Vice-Président
a été hospitalisé d'urgence. Il se fait donc excuser, ainsi que Dominique Poncin .			

Le *quorum* défini par l'art. 8 du Règlement intérieur est donc atteint (la moitié plus un des membres élus au CA, présents ou représentés)

### Principes généraux

1. La FORGE est un regroupement *d'organismes* de formation représentées par ses directeurs ou par des formateurs mandatés à cet effet. Donc, ce n'est pas un regroupement de *personnes* ou de directeurs.  
Ces réunions se veulent avant tout *conviviales* et sans nécessité absolue de résultat tangible à chaque fois.

2. Elles ont pour but d'être un *enrichissement technique* pour les représentants des instituts - qui pourront ensuite en faire profiter leurs membres. Chaque institut de la Fédération demeure entièrement *libre* de tenir compte ou non des idées de ses collègues.

3. Les personnes ayant participé à un stage sous l'égide de la FORGE recevront dès maintenant une *attestation* de participation sur un papier à en-tête (à créer).

Il est possible qu'un jour ces attestations cumulées mènent à un *diplôme ou certificat international de perfectionnement* - sous l'égide de la FORGE. Les participants à des activités FORGE ont donc intérêt à conserver leur(s) attestation(s) dans cette éventualité.

### Membres

4. L'adhésion de l'Institut *Métanoia* de Londres - avec Petrushka Clarkson - est acceptée par le CA. La cotisation a été reçue au siège de la FORGE.

Serge doit maintenir le contact avec Alberto Melucci et Anna Fabrini de Milan - qui ont demandé d'être tenus au courant, en vue de leur adhésion probable.

Un nouveau contact est envisagé aussi avec l'institut de Barcelone (Alberto Rams et Christina Nadal).

Gilles contactera, de son côté, John Kennedy du Centre Québécois de Gestalt de Québec et il en parlera aussi à Myriam et Erving Polster.

5. Une copie du compte-rendu des réunions de ce regroupement sera envoyée à plusieurs formateurs et directeurs d'institut de formation de Gestalt. Ainsi, ceux qui seront intéressés pourront solliciter leur adhésion.

## Activités

6. Les rencontres pourraient concerner une dizaine d'instituts ; sur la base de 2 représentants par institut, cela donne 20 participants au maximum (avec les conjoints) pour une prochaine rencontre.

Il est souhaité que les réunions se tiennent dans des *pays différents* à chaque fois :

Pour celle de l'an prochain (comprenant une Assemblée générale statutaire), nous demandons à *Edoardo Giusti* de l'organiser à *Rome* ou à proximité.

Les *dates* suggérées seraient : **3 jours entre le 16 et le 23 juillet 1993** (seule période qui conviendrait à l'ensemble des présents de ce CA).

S'il ne pouvait pas, nous solliciterons Petrushka Clarkson pour l'organiser à Londres.

7. Pour la réunion de l'an prochain, nous souhaitons que chaque institut assure une *préparation écrite* diffusée à l'avance et portant sur plusieurs points :

7.1. souligner les *points originaux* qu'il développe dans sa formation et dont il est *satisfait* : recrutement et sélection, programme, intervenants, mémoire de fin d'études, suivi et échanges, publications, etc...

7.2. évoquer les *points d'interrogation* qu'il se pose : tant pour son programme de *formation* (forme et contenu, durée, certificat, travaux écrits, etc...) qu'en ce qui concerne la *FORGE* (notre intérêt à ce projet, activités à prévoir : échanges, stages, certifications, publications, etc...)

8. Restent à préciser les *critères* pour qu'une activité soit considérée - à l'avenir - comme "patronnée" par la *FORGE* : par exemple, elle devrait d'une part, s'adresser à des praticiens possédant déjà une formation de base et, d'autre part, avoir été *programmée comme telle* par l'un des instituts membres et *annoncée un an à l'avance* à tous les membres de la *FORGE*, en vue d'une *diffusion internationale*, après accord du CA.

Elle devrait pour cela être organisée par un institut membre adhérent et :

- soit être animée par un intervenant étranger qualifié (sous la responsabilité de l'institut),
- soit rassembler des praticiens *déjà qualifiés* en Gestalt et originaires de plusieurs pays non géographiquement voisins (ainsi, par exemple, il ne suffirait pas qu'il y ait des Gestaltistes Belges et Français, par exemple).

9. A titre transitoire, pour 1992, première année de "rodage", on peut considérer comme organisées sous l'égide de la *FORGE* les *quelques activités suivantes* :

9.1 : *stage* de perfectionnement (3<sup>e</sup> cycle) pour une vingtaine de thérapeutes Gestaltistes, organisé par le *CIG de Montréal*, à Magog (Québec), du 1<sup>er</sup> au 3 mai, animé par Anne et Serge Ginger ;

9.2 : *conférence* donnée à Montréal le 8 mai, dans le cadre de l'Association *Québécoise de Gestalt*, par Anne Ginger, sur les apports du psychodrame à la Gestalt ;

9.3 : *conférence* donnée à Rome, en juillet, dans le cadre de l'*ASPIC*, par Gilles Delisle ;

9.4 : *réunion* du CA de la *FORGE*, sur un voilier dans l'Atlantique, du 25 au 27 juillet ;

9.4 : *stage* de perfectionnement (3<sup>e</sup> cycle) pour une vingtaine de thérapeutes Gestaltistes français et québécois, organisé par le *CIG de Montréal*, à Magog, du 7 au 12 août, animé par Gilles Delisle ;

9.5 : *stage* international de perfectionnement (3<sup>e</sup> cycle) pour une trentaine de thérapeutes Gestaltistes de cinq pays, organisé par l'*EPG de Paris*, du 17 au 21 août, près de Montpellier (France), animé par Anne et Serge Ginger ;

9.6 : plusieurs autres activités sont programmées encore au cours du 4<sup>e</sup> trimestre : stages internationaux animés par Gilles Delisle et Jean Van Pévenage, notamment.

Notes prises par Line Girard, pendant les réunions, sur le voilier remises en forme par Serge Ginger, le 7 août 1992.

C.R. diffusé par Fax le 8.08.92 à tous les membres du CA.

## 1992 - on the Atlantic sea



**Breakfast on the boat**

Gilles Delisle, Serge et Anne Ginger,  
Chantal et Gonzague Masquelier, Line Delisle



**Anne Ginger at the harbor**

# Fédération internationale des Organismes de formation à la Gestalt

## International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations

163, rue de Vaugirard. 75015 PARIS Fax (33) 37.31.55.74

Paris: July 31, 1993

**Minutes of the**  
**General Assembly and Seminar**  
**London, July 29, 30, 1993**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> meeting)*

**Present:**

EPG. Paris: Serge GINGER (President); Anne PEYRON-GINGER  
CIG. Montreal: Gilles DELISLE (Secretary-general)  
ASPIC. Rome: Edoardo GIUSTI (Vice-President); Claudia MONTANARI.  
Integration: Brussels: Jean VANPÉVENAGE (Vice-President); Dominique PONCIN.  
Metanoia London: Petrúška CLARKSON

**Absent:**

Gonzague MASQUELIER (EPG, PARIS) Treasurer

A number of institutes currently considering joining FORGE could not be present this year.

United States: Gestalt Therapy Institute of Los Angeles  
Brazil: Instituto Sodes Sapientiae, Sao Paulo  
Canada: Centre de formation en Gestalt-thérapie, Québec  
Italy: Centre Alia, Milan  
Mexico: Instituto Mexicano de Psicoterapia Guestart, Mexico.

### 1. OPENING STATEMENTS AND ORDER OF THE DAY

Serge GINGER, President, opens the meeting and thanks Petrúška CLARKSON for her hospitality at Metanoia Institute. He points out that all official members of FORGE to this day are present. Then Gilles DELISLE, Secretary-General, informs the meeting that a number of institutes that have been recently contacted and who have confirmed their wish to join FORGE have not been able to attend (see list above).

It is decided that the meeting will work in English, the order of the day of this general assembly is drawn out.

- ordinary general assembly (activities, fees, members) and extraordinary (modification of by-laws)
- detailed technical presentation of each institute and discussion of its specifications.
- current research and research interests of the faculty of the institutes.
- publications (articles, books, international lexicon)
- Post-graduate international training (possibility of patronage, projects)

## 2. STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 2.1 Activities

A brief report of activities has been sent with the invitation. It outlines the objectives of FORGE and activities since its founding at the end of 1991:

- setting up of many international workshops by the member institutes
- exchange of faculty
- student exchange
- exchange, translation and publication of documents by faculty
- meeting of July 19, 1992

### 2.2 Fees

For 1993, the treasurer will send a receipt to those institutes who have just paid their fees (ASPIC) and a reminder to those who have not yet done so (Integration) as well as to the new members. The only costs thus far are for translating the by-laws, postage, fax, telephone. All travel and hotel accommodation has been financed by each member institutes so that an initial working fund can be maintained. A general assembly decides to maintain the fee for 1993 at its present level, namely \$1,000 French francs or (170 American dollars, 100 British pounds).

### 2.3 Members

Gilles DELISLE and Serge GINGER give a detailed report of their discussions with many training institutes. All members of the general assembly state that they are favorable to their becoming full members of FORGE. However, this full membership can only be granted upon receiving the detailed information of those Institutes.

A questionnaire will be drafted, submitted by fax for modification and then for approval and will be sent to all members of the Board of Directors. Finally, this questionnaire will be sent to institutes who want to join FORGE. FORGE also looks forward to having German and Spanish institutes join.

The discussion then moves on to an amendment to a by-law considering the membership criteria (that at least ten trainees must have graduated from the Institute) The assembly then agrees to create two new membership categories, associate members and individual participants. The idea is to enrich the contacts that we have through new institutes (ie:

Gestalt Institute of Moscow) or through the participation of individual trainers for instance Irving and Miriam POLSTER, J. ZINKER, J. CORBEIL, N. SALATHE, M. PETIT, etc.)

## 2.4 Amendment to By-Law

### *Article 1.*

In order to become a full member, the training Institute must have graduated at least 10 students. It must have a specific Gestalt training of at least 500 hours, including theoretical and practical teaching as well as a supervised didactic training.

An associated member is an institute which does not meet the minimum criteria for full membership or which has not passed on the required information so that the Board of Directors can make a decision. Moreover, the Board of Directors of FORGE can invite on consulting basis international trainers to be individual participants in FORGE.

### *Article 4.*

Full member institutes have 12 votes which can be distributed among the representatives of the Institute at their discretion. Associate member's individual participants can take part in all discussions but they do not have voting rights.

## 2.4 Letterheads

Full members may use the FORGE logo on their letterheads and advertising material.

## 2.5. Next general assembly and Seminar

Considering the individual agendas of the directors, it is decided that the next meeting will be held in Paris, France and will be spread over three full work days., from Saturday, July 2nd, 1994 at 10:00 - Monday, July 4th, 1994 (4:00 PM)

Gilles DELISLE will get in touch with the Gestalt Therapy Institute of Los Angeles to see if these dates are acceptable to them in consideration of their annual training work shop in Europe. If not, two other dates can be considered although they are not unanimous. 2,3,4, September and 15, 16, 17 July.

## 3. TECHNICAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE INSTITUTES

Each institute makes a detailed presentation of its program, its general orientation and all those present ask questions and make comments on each presentation. It is again stated that FORGE is a free and open gathering of trainers having different cultural, technical backgrounds and that FORGE in no way is considering the establishment of international norms but rather that FORGE leaves every member institute free to orient their training programs as they wish. It is not possible in the context of the minutes of the meeting to do justice to the high quality of this exchange. Here is a very brief outline of the main highlights of each institute:

### 3.1 Metanoia (London)

Introductory weekend open to all roughly every other month (theory, exercise but no therapy). 12 to 20 participants on the average. Those who want to follow up must fill out a questionnaire. Four to five times per year an assessment workshop of one day.



Candidates outline their CV's and are invited to choose a particular track, be it counselling or psychotherapy training. On admission, previous psychotherapy is not compulsory, however it is compulsory for the total length of training and so is supervision with at least 2 different supervisors. The Institute requires a ratio of one hour of supervision for six hours of psychotherapy with individual clients. Trainees are encouraged to take clients starting at the beginning of their second year. The trainees' personal psychotherapy must be of a type and of a duration which are comparable to the kind of professional practice that the trainee wants to engage in after graduation. Psychotherapy is totally separate and independent from the training. For instance, two hours per week in a group during forty weeks of a year. Training a la carte respecting everyone's personal rhythm and is set up in independent modules, each of a five day durations 30 hours. Number of these modules are compulsory. In each of them, the group can therefore be different (roughly 1/3 of new participants). There are two programs (sharing a few common modules). Clinical training for psychotherapists and psycho-social intervention in organizations.

The average duration of training is four years at the rate of 120 years per year. But many trainees actually are in training for a longer period (between 5 - 10 years). An internship in psychiatry is required for instance, 1/2 a day per week for a period of six months.

Most participants spread their training over many years in order to increase their competence but do not want certification. There are three written term papers per year. A trainee can only take the exam if his two supervisors agree. (10 - 15% of students). The exam has a written part (a detailed case study with theoretical comments) and an oral part (a jury of 4 professionals who do not work with the candidate, one of the members of the jury must be a non-Gestalt psychotherapist. There is also a practical exam (supervision in Vivo or more often on the basis of an audio cassette). There are roughly 30

former trainees who have been certified. There is also a specific training for supervisors spread out over two years.

### 3.2 ASPIC

The new Italian law requires all psychotherapists to be either doctors or psychologists and to have a minimum of four years of specific training including 1,200 hours of practice plus 400 hours of supervision or of internship for a total of 1,600 hours. Institutes must be state approved and the approval process is extremely selective. Thus far, 70 Institutes have applied and it appears that 75 % of them will be turned down. At present, ASPIC has a 600 hour training program for medical doctors and psychologists and a 380 hour training program for counselors. The program is spread out over 11 months at the rate of 1 weekend per month. The program includes 40 hours of individual psychotherapy and 50 hours of group therapy per year. In order to comply with the new regulation, the program will be increased to 2 weekends per month and a number of video cassettes to be analyzed and commented in writing, will be added as well as compulsory courses at the University. Most candidates have previously participated in group psychotherapy at the Institute (on the average of three hours per week) over three years. Selection is based on personality testing (MMPI, Rorschach or TAT).

Interviews, exercise in groups etc. To this day ASPIC has graduated 55 therapists, 35% of them practice officially.

### 3.3 CIG (Centre d'Intervention Gestaltiste, Montreal)

Gestalt therapy is very well known in Quebec. It is an important school of therapy which is which is taught in most Universities over the past five years. The fourth year interns in

psychiatry from the University of Montreal have had to go through an experimental workshop in Gestalt therapy at CIG. Among the psychologists of Quebec, it is estimated that 1/3 are of the existential humanistic school and that a majority of them know of and use Gestalt therapy. CIG has two separate training programs, a clinical program and the psycho-social intervention program. Both programs are built around the same general framework. A first cycle of one year (on the basis of one weekend per month from September to June). A second cycle spread out over two years and using the same general formula. Theory represents roughly 25% of the program while practical and experimental groups represent from 25 to 50% of the programs. CIG does not provide workshops for the general public however it has a psychological clinic and five therapists are involved in individual psychotherapy. In Quebec there is very little demand for group psychotherapy which leads to a well-known problem for Gestalt Institute.

Training is done in groups whereas future therapists will almost invariably work in the individual format. Each candidate must submit together with their application, two confidential letters of reference, the next step is personality testing using Catell's 16 PF and other tests. Finally, selection interview is carried out and a final decision is made. Psychologists represent 53% of trainees and social workers 10%. During the first five months of the first cycle there is no practicum, we work mainly in groups and focus on the narcissistic issues of each trainee with regards to his professional and personal development. For the rest of the first cycle there are practicum supervised by a member of faculty. There are no thematic workshops, the total program represents 490 hours, however, the Quebec Corporation of Psychologists recognizes a certain ratio based on the following formula. Number of hours of training multiplied by a number of trainers divided by a number of trainees. On the average each clinical group has 16 trainees and the psycho-social group has 12. A diploma is issued on the basis of a paper or a clinical case study. 54% of graduates are in private practice, 26% in hospitals, and state run clinics, 11% in institutions, 8% in the education network. Advanced workshops (3rd cycle) are set up and involve trainers from abroad.

#### 3.4 EPG École Parisienne de Gestalt, Paris)

EPG was founded in 1981 it is an affiliate of IFEPP (Institute de Formation et d'Études Psychosociologiques et Pédagogiques), which was founded in 1965. It is currently the most important Gestalt training institute in the French language. EPG offers therapy groups either open ended or thematic which are open to the professional public, social workers, psychologists, doctors, nurses, teachers, trainers, etc. On the other hand, a professional training for psychotherapists and Gestalt practitioners (in institutions is also on the market). These two programs are matched for the first two cycles. It is only at the level of the third cycle that the specialty comes up following a basic training of 600 hours.

The 1st cycle has a minimum of 20 days of training in a group therapy setting. There are also two intensive residential workshops of a duration of three days which ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> mainly focused on the selection process and five days of theoretical training. The total is 200 hours. This first cycle is done a-la-carte, over the course of one year on the average and following each candidate's personal rhythm. It is held in Paris, or in the province (Toulouse, Lille, Grenoble, Montpellier etc., )

Then comes the selection process on the average 40 - 60% of the candidates are accepted. For a total of roughly 80 new students per year. They are spread over four different groups in Paris or the province.

The 2nd cycle is set up in fixed groups of 16 - 24 trainees who work in the same group for two years over 400 hours. Theory, method and supervised practicum are involved. The

approach uses body work and current research <sup>about</sup> the brain and psychoneuro immunology. Also, reference is regularly made to psychoanalytical theory. A diploma of Gestalt practitioner is delivered after 600 hours of basic training and upon submission of a clinical dissertation.

The 3rd cycle is optional; it is 300 hours over a minimum of two years. Again, it is a-la-carte with many options and a possibility for specialization (children, institutions etc.) it has a minimum of 150 hours of supervision and 80 hours of complimentary clinical psychopathology. It may lead to a 3rd cycle diploma. To this day EPG has delivered 220 diplomas of 2nd cycle and 40 for the 3rd cycle.

### 3.5 Integration (Brussels)

The integration gives a first cycle training on the basis of therapy groups that are spread out over a number of weekends and which last for two to three years in general. The final selection is made following a residential workshop. The 2nd cycle is done in collaboration with EPG of Paris and has a program which is very similar to that of EPG and which is based on the participation of training faculty of EPG. However, each workshop has in addition, a full day which is devoted to experimental work in a group based on the Cleveland style of group process. The 3rd cycle is optional and is actually done within EPG.

## 4. CURRENT INTERESTS OF THE TRAINING FACULTY OF EACH INSTITUTE.

### 4.1 Montreal

The faculty is made up of 5 full time therapists/trainers.

Main interests of each:

Marta Manikowska has done her doctoral dissertation on the attachment process (Bowlby) is currently involved in psychiatric psychotherapy. Paul Loubier, sexual abuse. Lynn Girard, supervision. Gilles Delisle, personality disorders. The therapeutic relationship Gilles outlines in detail the 5 axis of the therapeutic relationship, intimacy, integrity, creative risk taking, focus-fascination.

### 4.2 Paris

The faculty has six full time members and many parttime trainers. /Gonzague: video, Gestalt therapy and organizations, ethical issues

Brigitte: bodywork, sexuality

Anne: dream work, Gestalt therapy and psychodrama.

Serge: the brain, psychopathology, the awareness cycle

Anne works with dream as projection, retroflection, and unfinished Gestalts. She considers it as a "foreign language" (and mentions her work with strangers in their own language). Serge outlines his five-stage cycle, two of which are essential, engagement and disengagement, and his pentagram, five dimensions of man: physical, affective, intellectual, social, spiritual.

## 4.2 Rome

Two full time trainers plus many occasional trainers. Claudia : transactional analysis and Gestalt therapy. Eduardo has been very busy lately with the new Italian law on psychotherapy. He has been involved in translating many book and articles on Gestalt therapy from French, Canadian and British trainers. He is currently involved in research on supervision, and the first meeting of a psychotherapy. Involved in expectation clarification and working on the therapeutic alliance. He has a large collection of international video cassettes showing prominent therapists in action.

## 4.3 London

Metanoia gives various training programs, Gestalt, Rogers, transactional analysis , integrative psychotherapy, etc. Therefore, Petrúška speaks many languages, so to speak, but never speaks them together in one statement. Her interests illustrated by a great number of publications Gestalt therapy and its ancient roots (Heraclites and quantum physics). Petrúška outlines the five modes of the therapeutic relationship, the work alliance, transference and counter-transference, reparation of early trauma, the real relationship and the transpersonal relationship. These five modes are always potentially present, either figural or in the graph.

## 4.4 Brussels

Team building in organizations and ethical issues on the personal life of managers. Jean outlines his work on group Gestalt therapy and is focused on the group rather than on individuals. Petrúška mentions some research done on that issue by Zinker, E. Kepner and G. Ribeiro, of Brazil.

# 5. PUBLICATIONS

## 5.1 International Lexicon

It is decided to start work on an International Lexicon of Gestalt therapy in eight languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese and Russian.

It will have two parts:

1. Definitions: Between 100 and 200 terms or expressions used in Gestalt therapy . ~~The~~ ~~this effect~~, Serge Ginger has prepared a first list of roughly 100 such terms. It has been drawn from his book, La Gestalt, une thérapie du contact, with a brief definition for each of the terms. Members of FORGE will complete the list and submit modifications of certain definitions. After which the list and its definitions will be translated ~~in~~ <sup>into</sup> the different languages. Serge will find translators for German and Spanish. Gilles will find translators for English and Portuguese. Petrúška will do a quality control on English and will have it translated into Russian. Edoardo will take care of the Italian translation and Jean will translate it in Dutch.
2. The second part will have synopsis charts in eight columns. The first one contains the alphabetical listing of the words or expressions in a language and the other columns outline the translation of that work in the other languages. Serge has prepared a sample of the chart starting from French and English.

## 5.2 Planning.

September 93: Serge will send everyone a Macintosh diskette (on ~~4~~ Word) with the definitions and the charts on Excel 4.

January 94: All members will submit suggestions for corrections after translation and these will faxed to everyone for approval.

February 94: Serge will work on a synthesis and a coming together of the corrections.

April 94: Translation of the definitions are submitted on Macintosh diskette.

May 94: The material is handed over to a printer (in France).

June 94: Proofreading by members of the board.

Beginning July 94: printing between 1,000 and 1,500 copies so that it can be presented at the next meeting of FORGE.

The planning is very tight so that we can have a first concrete production from FORGE as early as next year. All present are committed to working fast and to using the fax as one would use a telegram.

## 5.4 Distribution

It is decided not to use a formal distributor since the distribution of this document will concern mainly Gestalt Training Institutes and universities. We will therefore proceed through subscriptions and all concerned will be advised that such a document is forthcoming.

Special prices will be agreed upon for group orders. We must therefore set the price of publication at a level which allows for translation fees, printing and distribution.

## 6. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The basic policy of FORGE is restated, which is to stimulate and inspire local and national initiatives and not to compete with them or substitute FORGE for them. FORGE does not have as one of its aims, the setting up of workshops or seminars, but rather FORGE is involved in promoting exchanges, symposium in meetings for example, a symposium for the faculty of all member institutes.

With regards to workshops and training seminars, all institutes are free to set these up as they wish and in accordance with their usual practice and local circumstances. All institutes can therefore set up international workshops and can mention on their letterhead that they are members of FORGE, which constitutes in and of itself an adequate reference.

It seems premature to want to sanction or recognize certain training programs or training workshops. That would imply the setting up of norms, therefore of controls, therefore of rivalries. It may be that this will be a development at a later stage in FORGE when FORGE becomes more representative and has established itself as a valid body for the stimulation of Gestalt training world wide.

For the time being, the intrinsic quality of each training is its best advertising value and it is not useful nor adequate to mobilize FORGE.

## 7. CONCLUSION

In closing this first formal meeting, members express their immense satisfaction. This meeting has gone way beyond their initial expectations. The exchange and the information were of a very high quality which cannot be adequately illustrated in the minutes of this meeting. The high competence of the participating members has made the exchange of very stimulating level and has avoided any waste of time. The small number of people who were present has facilitated deep and warm contact in an informal atmosphere where confidence was easy to establish. Each felt free to speak and felt that the occasions was rather solemn to make a presentation of their own institute in front of a group of respected peers. All are looking forward to next year meeting in Paris, and of course, to many one on one exchanges until then. We will all get to work immediately on our first tangible production: The International Lexicon.

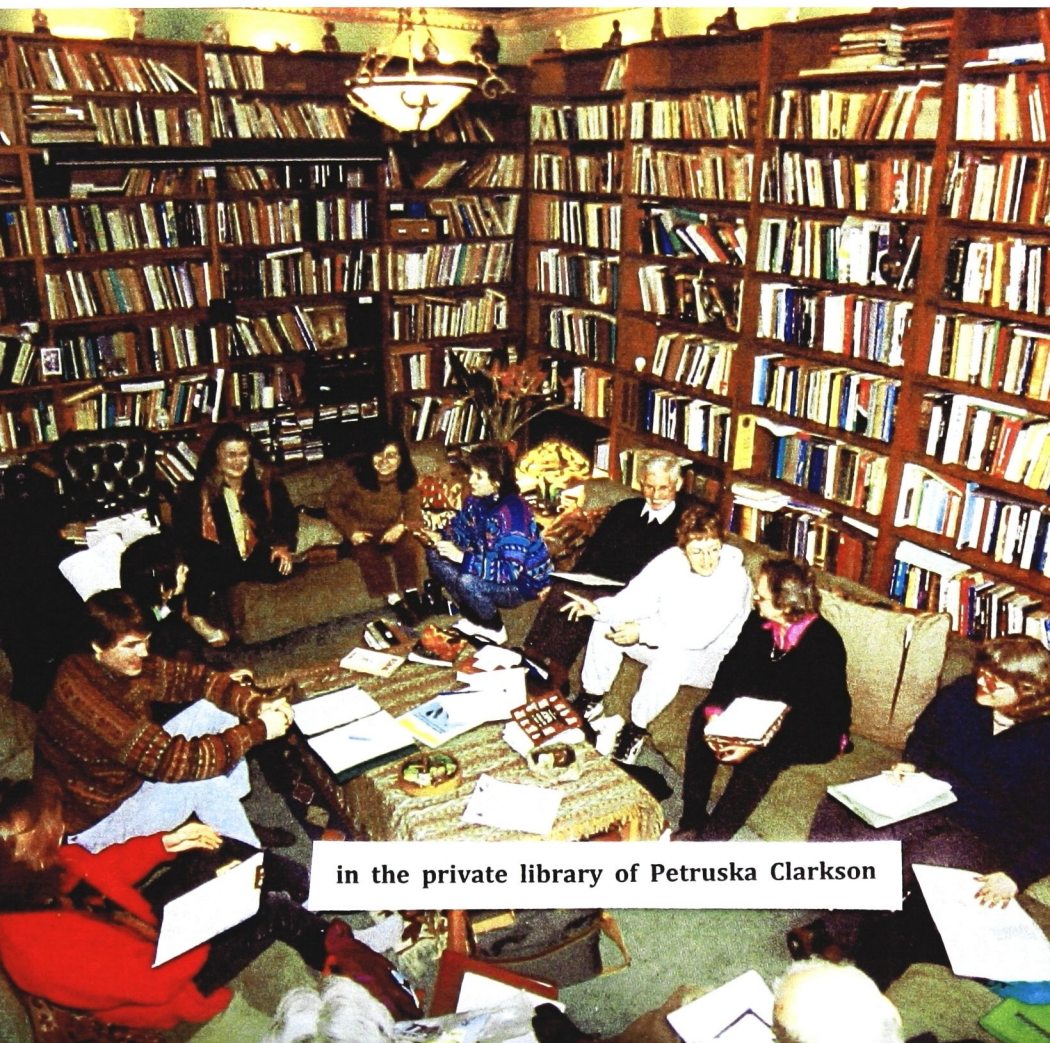
All thank Petrúška again for the warmth of her welcome and for the rich documentation that she has distributed to all of us.



Claudia    Serge    Petrúška    Anne    Jean    Dominique  
Montanari    Ginger    Clarkson    Ginger    Van Pevenage    Poncin

Eduardo  
Giusti





in the private library of Petruska Clarkson

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING AND STUDY DAYS

(3<sup>d</sup>)

PARIS : 2, 3, 4 July 1994

Present : 15 members of the management teams of 7 training institutes (from 6 countries).

- \* BELGIUM *Intégration*, Brussels : Jan VanPevenage and Dominique Poncin
- \* FRANCE *EPG*, Paris : Gonzague Masquelier, Serge and Anne Ginger ;  
and, part-time : Brigitte Martel and Xavier Bonnet-Eymard
- \* FRANCE *Idée-Psy*, Paris : Pierre Coret
- \* GREAT BRITAIN *Metanola*, London : Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph
- \* ITALY *ASPIC*, Rome : Edoardo Giusti and Claudia Montanari
- \* MEXICO *Integro*, Guadalajara : Sergio Vazquez and Cecilia Alvarez
- \* USA *GTILA*, Los Angeles : Robert and Rita Resnick

Apologies : 7 directors of 6 institutes (from 4 countries)

- \* BRAZIL *Instituto Sedes Sapientiae*, Sao Paulo : Myriam Bove Fernandes
- \* CANADA *Institut John Kennedy*, Montreal.
- \* CANADA *CIG*, Montreal : Gilles Delisle.
- \* ITALY *Alia*, Milan : Alberto Melucci.
- \* RUSSIA *Centre de Gestalt*, Saint Petersburg : Georges Platonov.
- \* RUSSIA *Institut de Gestalt*, Moscow : Daniel Khlomov and N. Dolgoplov.

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Serge Ginger, chairman of FORGE, and Gonzague Masquelier, director of the *Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt* - who are our hosts this year, welcomed all the participants.  
Like last year, we agreed to work mainly in English.

All participants introduced themselves and briefly described their institute :

\* Talia Levine Bar-Yosef, director of the Gestalt programme at *Metanola*, told of the recent sale of the institute and the retirement of Petrushka Clarkson. She mentioned the psychotherapists' coordination organizations which have obtained the reglementation of the profession. The code of ethics is of great importance. Several universities now award master's degrees in GT.

\* Pierre Coret, director of the recent *Idée-Psy* Institute gave a brief description of the institute : several programmes are taught. A first year of 13 Gestalt students (associated with a Jungian approach) started up last January. The course is in 3 cycles : practitioner's cycle (512 h in 2 years) followed by an in-depth study and supervision period of 2 years.



Jean Van Pevenage, director of the *Intégration* Institute, summed up his personal itinerary (T.A., Cleveland, EPG) and his interest in *group GT* - of which more will be said later.

Dominique Poncin mentioned his particular interest in the applications of Gestalt with children.

\* Sergio Vazquez and Cecilia Alvarez, directors of *Integro* pointed out that theirs is the biggest institute in Mexico (22 courses run with 13-20 students per course). Today, they have 200 students studying at different levels. Official Ministry approval was obtained on Dec 23 1993. They are now qualified to award master's degrees in GT. The teaching covers 1,300 h (including personal therapy and supervised work with clients). They have an applications clinic (dispensary). They encourage group therapy rather than individual therapy (which can be used as a defence system and hinder implication).

\* Edoardo Giusti and Claudia Montanari announced that their institute *ASPIC* has just received approval from the Italian government. It is one of the 15 approved psychotherapy institutes today (out of around a hundred applicants - among almost 1,000 existing in Italy !): 4 of these institutes teach Gestalt (that's 25% !). The course is accessible only to qualified *doctors and psychologists* and involves *four* additional years of training (or 1,600 h), in liaison with universities. In total this comes to 10 years of training. Mention was made of their publications and extensive video library.

\* Serge and Anne Ginger, along with Gonzague Masquelier talked about the *EPG's* training course: certificate of Gestalt Practitioner (personal therapy of 2 years + 600 h of studies over 2 years) followed by the diploma of further studies (900 h in a minimum of 5 years + personal therapy + 1,000 h of supervised practice). They insisted on the importance of *selection* (around one applicant in two selected to continue after the probatory year). There have now run 23 courses (500 students in the last 14 years, of which 250 obtained the diploma - and as many again still studying). On average, 80 % of students obtain the diploma.

## 2. Some themes which the participants wished to develop :

- \* International glossary
- \* Code of ethics and deontology
- \* Individual Gestalt *in groups* and *group Gestalt*
- \* Selection and evaluation (on admission, during and after studies)
- \* Attitudes towards couples (pre-existing or formed during studies)
- \* Course contents (main themes)
- \* Areas of application (clinic or dispensary attached to the institute)

## 3. News of the international glossary

Following last year's decisions, Serge Ginger had prepared a *synoptic table* with around 100 technical Gestalt terms translated into 8 languages : French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Russian. A copy was submitted to each participant for comments and corrections.

Serge had also been able to have a brief *definition of these terms* translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. This work was done free of charge, mainly thanks to the help of former EPG students. But there is still no translation of the glossary in English - which explains why it was not possible to have it printed ! Talia hopes to find a student capable of doing this (a French teacher studying Gestalt). Otherwise Serge will pay to have it translated.

Finally, it was decided to add a *bibliography* of the main books on Gestalt (excluding chapters or articles) in each of the selected languages. Serge submitted a draft to be completed. In any event, the main part of the work being completed, it is intended that a first edition should be printed during the course of the year.

#### 4. Code of ethics and deontology : the "therapeutic "distance".

A discussion took place around the theme of therapeutic *distance* and a suggested *setting*, particularly during the initial therapy sessions. Each participant summarized and justified his or her practice. Although all avoid proposing "models", it is obvious that our personal attitudes - and their presuppositions - have an impact on our students.

Thus some people use a *desk*, either between the client and themselves, or beside them. Others have abandoned this technique. Some take notes during the first interview, others do it at the end of the session with the client, others do this alone after the session.

*Personal involvement* also varies a lot from one colleague to another : some avoid any rapid engagement, while others think it best to give a Gestaltist nature to proceedings right from the first interview (implying moments of sharing of feelings and references to the relationship underway). The rules are not "right" in themselves, but they remain necessary to protect the client, the therapist and the group. Thus some institutes forbid any sexual relations, not only between *trainers* and students, but also between the latter - either permanently or for a period of two years. Others believe a degree of tolerance is preferable among *students* - who are responsible adults (too many rules hinder relationships) ; in this case, the important thing is that the relationships that do begin can be analysed if necessary.

For the admission of couples, the same divergences of opinion are found : strong reservations for some and a more flexible position for others. The EPG organizes specific courses reserved for couples only and suggests that students should take part in them with their partners.

#### 5. Personal psychotherapy, group processes.

Some institutes demand that personal therapy be done *before* starting the course (EPG, Idée-Psy) ; others (Metanoia, etc.) require *parallel* therapy (throughout the *entire* course, but not included in it). The time devoted to analysing *group processes* (group dynamics and group therapy) varies greatly. At *Intégration*, the first day of each session is generally devoted to therapy (that is 25% of course time). At *Idée-Psy*, 1 to 2 hours are spent on therapy each morning. At the EPG, group phenomena are explicitly analysed only when problems emerge ; it is thought that students have not enrolled on the course for this purpose. Therefore only the minimum necessary for students to be able to participate fully in the coursework is done. However, during the long residential summer courses (3 consecutive weeks in internship) this question has greater priority.

#### 6. News from the USA.

Bob and Rita Resnik joined us on the second day and gave the group news from America :

6.1. *Isadore From* has just died from a heart attack. His personality and career were rapidly discussed - as well as the landmark they will represent in the history of Gestalt therapy.

6.2. The setting up of an *Association for the development of GI*, with a deliberately "more democratic" organization than that of the *Gestalt Journal*. There is a plan for an *International Review and Congress*. (New Orleans in '95 ?). Joe Wysong has cancelled his, due to be held next year, so as to avoid any competition. Bob answered many questions about this project.

6.3 Bob pointed out that some American universities offer **doctorates in Gestalt** (one of them has already awarded 40 !). The standard of the PhD's varies considerably.

## 7. Criteria for admission to **FORGE**

Before examining several new applications for membership of **FORGE**, further discussions took place concerning admission criteria.

The objective is not to be great in number, quite the contrary : we wish to remain a small, high level group, allowing simple and informal discussions, in depth and without judgement.

It is more a reflexion and research group between trainers, enriched by their experience, each member being able to make his own choices according to his own views. We refuse to impose any norms, the cultural contexts and ideological choices being very varied.

Bob questions the quantitative criteria (duration of studies, numbers of students, etc.) ; as far as qualitative criteria are concerned, how can they be evaluated at an international level ? In fact, the concrete question this raises is : does the new institute provide us with worthwhile material for reflexion ? We are therefore looking for a consensus, not on the content in terms of ideas, but on the quality of the discussions (after having made quite sure that the institute works within the field of Gestalt !).

After a long debate, the general assembly decided to revise last year's decision on the *internal rules of procedure*, concerning *associate members*.

Any new membership will take place in *two phases* : a quasi-unanimous vote (co-option or consensus) for admission as a *provisional member* (whatever the references and age of the applicant institute), then another vote for permanent admission (*regular member*) *after effectively taking part* in study days - during which the group will have been able to judge *from facts* whether the presence of the new member is of any value.

Thus the voting produced the following results :

Accepted as **new regular members** (representatives *present*) :

- \* *The Gestalt Institute of Los Angeles* (USA)
- \* *Idée-Psy*, Paris (France)
- \* *Integro*, Guadalajara (Mexico)

Accepted as **provisional members** (representatives *absent*) :

- \* *Centre Alia*, Milan (Italy)
- \* *Gestalt Institute*, Florence (Italy)
- \* *Instituto Sedes Sapientiae*, Sao Paulo (Brazil)
- \* *Centre de Gestalt*, St Petersburg (Russia)
- \* *Gestalt Institute*, Moscow (Russia)

These decisions will come into effect as of reception of the duly completed *membership form* and the *subscription fee* (which, for 1994, is 1,000 FF or 200 US \$ - taking inflation into account). This fee will be reduced for countries in serious financial difficulty (Russia).

Thus, provided that this administrative regularization is completed, the following is the list of **FORGE members** :

<b>Belgium</b>	<i>Integration, Brussels</i>
<b>Brazil</b>	<i>Instituto Sedes Sapientiae, Sao Paulo</i>
<b>Canada</b>	<i>CIG, Montreal</i>
<b>France</b>	<i>EPG, Paris</i>
<b>France</b>	<i>Idée-Psy, Paris</i>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<i>Metanoia, London</i>
<b>Italy</b>	<i>Gestalt Institute, Florence</i>
<b>Italy</b>	<i>Centre Alia, Milan</i>
<b>Italy</b>	<i>ASPIC, Rome</i>
<b>Mexico</b>	<i>Integro, Guadalajara</i>
<b>Russia</b>	<i>Gestalt Institute, Moscow</i>
<b>Russia</b>	<i>Centre de Gestalt, St Petersburg</i>
<b>USA</b>	<i>The Gestalt Institute of Los Angeles</i>

\* 13 institutes from 9 countries.

We still hope to receive application for membership from, in particular, *German and Spanish* Institutes.

**Dominique** thinks the meetings should, above all, remain convivial : personal discussions are just as important as exchanging ideas. We are not here to try to convince others, nor to seek some illusory consensus ; we are here to reflect and share with friends, in a trusting and relaxed atmosphere.

**Jean** comes to meet people and their philosophies, their methodological models. He is less interested in technical and quantitative details. He suggested a regulator for the discussions for each half-day session ; that we structure the process, not the contents.

**Edoardo** suggested that we develop a Gestalt test in the form of a questionnaire : aptitude for commencing studies ? Personality profile ? etc. (cf. the *alpha* tests of Alberto Rams). He believes that this group is only at the pre-contact stage. It is still being constituted : half the participants are new ! He is happy with the initial discussions and leaves with food for thought.

**Claudia** would like to pursue the discussions throughout the year : three days of meetings a year are not enough.

**Serge** summed up the concrete suggestions retained for next year :

\* some more precise questions on the agenda, in order to structure the discussions more, while leaving periods of discussion open for participants' current preoccupations.

\* a person in charge of animation (a regulator of group processes) for each half-day session (in rotation).

## **11. The next meeting.**

Much debate about the most suitable dates : only **late June-early July** seemed to suit the majority of people present.

Debate on the frequency of study days : 2 year intervals seem too long for the initial functioning of FORGE. Somebody who was absent would have to wait 4 years before meeting the other members again ! It was therefore decided to maintain a meeting every year for the time being.

Integro (Guadalajara, Mexico) is inviting us for next year's meeting and this seems a suitable time for a meeting on the American continent after two successive General Meetings in Europe.

The subsequent meetings could be held in Rome or in St. Petersburg (?).

The host institute is responsible, in liaison with the FORGE office, for preparing the meeting : accommodation, location, invitations, general agenda, etc.

1. Minutes drawn up by Serge Ginger on 14.07.94., submitted or faxed - for possible corrections - to : A. Ginger, E. Giusti, J. Van Pevenage and G. Masquelier on 14.07.94.
2. following the comments of the latter, general dissemination in French on 23.07.94.
3. approximative translation into English by Stuart Walker on 12.05.95.
4. general dissemination in English on 20.05.95..

## INTERNATIONAL MEETING FORGE

PARIS : July, 2, 3, 4 . 1994

*Here are some items around which we could discuss freely :*

### 1. INSTITUTE

- date of fondation
- various départements
- buildings and material equipment : rooms, tables, chairs or armchairs, pillows, mattresses, parc, etc
- video, retroprojectors, paperboard, etc.
- brochures about Institute, photo-album
- open-door policy, lectures, etc.
- financial conditions
  - price per year ? to compare with :
  - average price of one hour of therapy
  - average salary of a psychologist

### 2. TRAINEES

#### 2.1. prerequisites

- education and university level
- professional diploms
- professional practice
- personal psychotherapy : Gestalt Therapy or any else ? minimal duration ? individual and/or group therapy ?
- % of exceptions
  - (artist without any diploma, student without professional practice,...)

#### 2. 2. selection (or screening) at entry

- selection upon file : C.V., motivations, recommandations
- interviews
- workshops
- written examination
- constitution of Jury
- % of admission
  - main reasons of referring or refusal
- % of foreign students
- acceptance of couples
- policy concerning person infected with the HIV virus
- physical or sensorial handicaps (deaf, blind,...)

### 3. TRAINING

#### 3.1. "format" of the Training

- frequency and duration of sessions (hours, days, weeks/year)
- residential sessions ? self service opr restaurant ?
- long term intensive sessions ? summer sessions ?
- optional sessions ?
- workshops outside the Institute ? in a foreign country ?
- policy concerning husbands and wives : invitations, lectures, specific workshops

#### 3.2. program

##### 3.2.1. theoretical training

- cooperation with Universities
- anthropology, epistemology, genetic psychology, etc.
- philosophical roots : phenomenology, existentialism, etc
- importance of the *Theory of self* (Goodman-From)
- place of Perls ? Mains authors studied ?
- therapeutical relationship : controlled involvement, transference, counter-transference
- psychopathology and references (DSM 3R, etc)
- neuropsychology (research about brain)
- sexuality, death,...
- other approaches : psychoanalysis, TA, NLP, hypnosis, rebirth, bioenergy, psychosynthesis, system approach, etc.
- bibliography

##### 3.2.2. importance of experiential work

- therapeutical groups within the frame of the training
- demonstrations and "didactical therapies" (commented)
- body-work : physical contacts, exercises, mobilisation of the aggressivity, massages, work in swimming pool, nudity
- art-therapy : drawing, painting, sculpture, music, danse,
- "games and exercises"
- video
- "workshops" organized by the trainees

##### 3.2.3. practical training

- *practicums* (by groups of 3, in larger group, supervised or not)
- self organized groups (without any staff of the Institute)
- fieldwork (within psychiatric clinics, etc)
- supervised work with clients from outside (during basic training)
- co-therapy

##### 3.2.4. place of written work

- written exercises
- case study
- thesis
- defence of one's thesis
- % of refusal
- publications by the Institute

### **3.2.5. ethics and deontology**

- specific deontological code
- sexual discipline (principles, limits, sanctions)

### **3.3. trainers**

- the staff
- the professors (regular trainers)
- ponctual trainers or invited (visiting) professors or experts
- links with other Institutes, twinnings
- participation foreign specialists
- participation of non gestaltical therapists

### **3.4. fields of work (during and after the training)**

- psychotherapy (individual, couples, family-therapy, group-therapy)
- spécific clients : children, psychotics, prisonners, dying persons, etc
- work within institutions
- work within organizations (training, counselling, coaching)
- specific options ?
- % of each "branches" ?

### **3.5. certification, diploma, accreditation**

- criterias for diploma
- local accreditation, regional, national, international
- jury (from the Institute and from outside)
- % of trainees who don't get the diploma

### **3.6. evaluation (assessment) of the training**

- pedagogical Council
- enquires with previous trainees

## **4. PROFESSIONNALISATION**

### **4.1. supervision**

- when ?
- by whom ? One or different supervizors ? How they are choosen ?
- quantitative norms : how many hours for how many clients ?
- individual or/and group supervision
- avarage duration of supervision

### **4.2. career opening**

- help for beginners ? directory ?
- % which work as individual therapists
- with couples or families
- as group therapists
- within institutions
- within organizations

### **4.3. advanced training**

- themes
- number of sessions (or hours) per year
- % of participation

#### 4.4. national associations, trade unions, working groups

- research groups
- congresse
- meetings of ancient trainees : newsletter, meetings,
- publications : documents, magazine, revue, journal

#### 5. SOME FIGURES AND STATISTICS

- date of founding of the Institute
- total duration of the basic training (hours)
- average number of trainees in each group
- total number of ancient trainees ? and number of people who got a diploma ?
- % actually working as therapists ?



Bob Resnik, Jean Van Pevenage, Sergio Vazquez,  
Dominique Poncin, Cecilia Alvarez, Rita Resnik,  
Claudia Montanari, Xavier Bonnet-Eymard, Brigitte Martel,  
Edoardo Giusti, Serge et Anne Ginger, Pierre Coret,  
Gonzague Masquelier, Talia Levine-Bar-Yoseph



Bob et Rita Resnik



## MINUTES OF THE OF THE IVth GENERAL MEETING AND STUDY DAYS

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO): 26, 27, 28 June 1995

**Present** : 17 members of the management teams of 8 training institutes (from 5 countries):

- BELGIUM *Integration*, Brussels: Dominique Poncin
- CANADA *CIG*, Montreal: Gilles Delisle.
- FRANCE *EPG*, Paris: Gonzague Masquelier, Serge et Anne Ginger, Brigitte Martel.
- FRANCE *Savoir-Psy*, Paris: Michèle Combeau.
- ITALY *ASPIC*, Rome: Claudia Montanari, Carmine Pirolli
- ITALY *Istituto Gestalt* (IGF), Florence: Anna Ravenna
- MEXICO *Integro*, Guadalajara: Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez, Miguel Jarquin, Blanca Herrera, Eva Zermeño, Yolanda Larios
- MEXICO
- MEXICO *Centro de Estudios e Investigacion Gestalticos* (CEIG), Xalapa  
Guadalupe Amescua, Alberto Allen.

**Apologies for absence**: 8 Directors of 8 institutes (from 6 countries):

- BELGIUM *Multi-Di-Mens*, Gand: Pieter Detürk, Dan Van Baalen.
- BRAZIL *Instituto Sedes Sapientiae*, Sao Paulo : Myriam Bove Fernandes
- ITALY *Alla*, Milan : Alberto Melucci, Anna Fabrini.
- GREAT BRITAIN *Metanota*, London : Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph
- GREAT BRITAIN *Physys*, London : Petruska Clarkson.
- RUSSIA *Centre de Gestalt*, Saint Petersburg : Georges Platonov
- RUSSIA *Institut de Gestalt*, Moscow : Daniel Khlomov and N. Dolgoplov
- USA *GTILA*, Los Angeles : Robert and Rita Resnick.

**Total members concerned**: 25 trainers from 16 institutes and from 9 different countries.

### 1. Welcoming speeches

Sergio Vazquez, Director of the *Integro* Institute, our hosts for this year, welcomes all the participants, in this magnificent work location on the banks of a lake, in the suburbs of Guadalajara.. Those who wish to can sleep on-site, with meals taken together in the conference room. Work is to be done mainly in Spanish and French, as everybody understands one or other language. Sergio has also planned some time for relaxation and tourism, as well as an official reception for the inauguration of new premises.

Serge Ginger, Chairman of FORGE, gives a brief reminder of the objectives of FORGE: very "open" discussion, in an atmosphere of trust and freedom, with no attempt to establish compulsory norms for all, *respect* for local and national differences, avoidance of any power struggle (personal, institutional, or ideological); this is a convivial *research* group, where each member can debate about his work

habits, plans and difficulties in teaching Gestalt Therapy in his or her establishment, and without being locked into a rigid, preconceived program: exchange of ideas, of documents, of teachers, of students. Serge rapidly mentions the three previous international conferences: on a yacht in the Atlantic, in London, then in Paris.

He transmits the apologies of the institutes unable to be present - either for reasons to do with traveling expenses (the conference is free and the meals are paid for by Integro), or for reasons of timing.

He welcomes a new institute to FORGE : *the Centro de Estudios e Investigacion Gestalticos* (CEIG), de Xalapa, represented by Guadalupe Amescua and Alberto Allen.

**Miguel Jarquin**, rector of the *Integro* Institute, reads a magnificent poetic and symbolic text, written by himself, about eternal Mexico, Gestalt and life.

## **2. Proposed agenda**

Each member suggests, "as they come", the points he or she would like to see discussed (these are the classified in logical order of priority, the put into groups and possible choices are suggested):

- \* Presentation of each institute and of its members present (full-time and associate)
- \* International development and certification program for Gestaltist teachers and supervisors
- \* Joint master's programs and reciprocal validation between institutes
- \* Doctorate Gestalt Therapy program (in Mexico and elsewhere)
- \* International workshops for therapists and certification project
- \* International exchange strategies
- \* Social context: Health systems and the status of psychotherapists in different countries
- \* The specific research of each institute (in addition to the basic teaching program)
- \* International bibliography and data bank
- \* International glossary of technical Gestalt Therapy terms.
- \* Translation of various documents
- \* Election of the FORGE Committee (replacement of outgoing members and election of the executive committee)

In all, these questions can be put into 3 main groups:

- \* Information exchange: the status of psychotherapists, reimbursement (Social Security), Teaching styles and programs, research in progress...
- \* Plans/projects: Master's degree, Doctorate, international workshops and certificates, data bank...
- \* The functioning of FORGE: exchanges, translations, elections, the next conference...

Each work session will be led, in turn, by various participants: Gilles Delisle, Gonzague Masquelier, Sergio Vazquez, Anna Ravenna, Michèle Combeau, Guadalupe Amescua, etc...

## **3. Presentation of the participants**

The second part of the morning is dedicated to a detailed presentation of *specificities* of each institute represented here and the functions of the *participants present*.

To keep the minutes light and readable, we will only present here a *few brief* extracts (leaving out comments and debate altogether):

- **Institut Integro (Guadalajara, Mexico)** mainly teaches Gestalt Therapy but also Rebirth and NLP. Sergio Vazquez is the founder and Managing Director. Cecilia Alvarez, his wife, is Director of the application clinic, a sort of dispensary which provides Gestalt Psychotherapy for 250 adults and

children from poor areas. The clinic has 17 offices which are made available to students or rented at very cheap rates to beginner therapists. Miguel Jarquin is the Rector and is in charge of coordinating all the academic programs. He is assisted by Yolanda Larios. Blanca Herrera Ortiz runs the Mazatlan branch (in NW Mexico). Fernando is in charge of liaison with universities Fernando de Barra coordinates the advanced training program. Eva Zermeno, ex-student and Gestaltist doctor helps with translations into French.

- **the CEIG (Xalapa, Mexico)** has been functioning since 1991? Today it has 110 students. It offers two parallel master's courses in Gestalt Therapy : applied to children or to adults. The program involves 1,200 hours in two years, including personal therapy (individual and in group) and supervised practice. Guadalupe Amescua is Managing Director and Alberto Allen handles the administrative and financial side and development projects.

- **IGF (Florence, Italy)** offers a program of 1,600 hours in 4 years (of which 400 compulsory in a health institution, in keeping with new Italian legislation - which reserves the training exclusively for psychologists and doctors. Because of this, there are only a dozen students this year. Anna Ravenna is Director of the theory and clinical program, and is also technical advisor to the ASPIC school in Rome. The institute also trains around 20 counsellors (not all doctors or psychologists), in 260 hours, spread over two years + one year of supervision.

- **ASPIC (Rome, Italy)** is subject to the same Italian legal program and also trains two levels of Gestaltists. Claudia Montanari is Co-Director (with Edoardo Giusti). Carmine Pirolli, her partner, does mainly body work and teaches video.

- **EPG (Paris, France)** offers basic training of 600 h in 3 years, completed by advanced training of 400 h in 2 years, making a total of 1,000 hours of theory, methodology and clinical practice. With the compulsory personal therapy (minimum 120 h) and supervised clinical practice (600 h), the total reaches over 2,000 h in 5 years. The 3rd cycle offers the choice between psychotherapy and work in organizations and business. There are 600 former students and students since 1981 - 320 of whom have obtained the diploma. Serge and Anne Ginger are the founders, Gonzague Masquelier is the current Director and Brigitte Martel is in charge of coordinating the staff (6 full-time) and the program.

- **SAVOIR-Psy (Paris, France)** has been running for 2 years. The first year (around a dozen students, has just begun its final year). The course is about to start for the second time in Jan '96. Michèle Combeau is Assistant to the director (Pierre Coret).

- **Intégration (Brussels, Belgium)** works in close collaboration with the EPG. The course is currently running for the third time, total number of students since start-up is 45. The institute trains psychotherapists but also business specialists. It trains students in team-building and coaching. Not only Gestalt in groups is practiced there, but also Group Gestalt., according to the Cleveland (USA) methods . Dominique Poncin collaborates with her husband, the Director (Jean Van Pevenage).

- **The CIG (Montreal, Canada)** has been running since 1981 and has trained around 250 students. Currently only trains clinical practitioners. Admission criteria imply advanced studies in psychology, general psychotherapy or social sciences. 10 trainer/supervisors intervene on the Gestalt program, over 4 years. The current orientation is towards Gestalt Therapy of object relation, developed by the Director, Gilles Delisle, who is present at the conference.

#### **4 The status of psychotherapy in different countries.**

*In Mexico, 5 years of university studies are required for entry to *Integro* or the CEIG in Xalapa.*

In Canada, the title psychologist is protected, but not yet that of psychotherapist. The same is true in most European countries, except Italy (where this training is reserved for qualified doctors and psychologists) and Austria and Great Britain - where the profession comes under regulation and implies specific training of long duration and registration on a national, government-approved register.

The Strasbourg Declaration (1990), signed by the representatives of 24 European countries, stipulates that Psychotherapy is an autonomous profession, distinct from medicine and psychology ("3rd path"). It requires scientific training of a high level including: personal therapy, theory, clinical practice and supervision, as well as an ethical commitment. The European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP) is trying to establish official European norms.

### **5. Reimbursement by social security.**

*In Canada*, doctors are reimbursed by the State, psychologists via private insurance schemes.

*In Italy*, psychotherapy is reimbursed if it is prescribed by a doctor.

*In France*, psychotherapies are not reimbursed (except brief psychotherapies carried out by doctors themselves). Some private insurers accept to reimburse partially. In Belgium the situation is the same, but insurers only reimburse if the psychotherapy is prescribed by a doctor.

*In Austria*, those psychotherapists (non doctors) appearing on the government-approved list are reimbursed. The Secretary of State for Psychotherapy is not attached to the Ministry of Health, but to that of consumers (protection of consumers against charlatans and gurus).

*In Mexico*, cover is mediocre and psychotherapists can only hoped to be reimbursed if they work under medical control.

**To sum up**, with the exception of Austria, reimbursements are generally still subject to medical opinion or control.

### **6. Research in progress in the various institutes represented.**

Jean VAN Pevenage, from the Intégration institute in Brussels, Belgium, is conducting research into Group Gestalt and its applications in organizations. Group Gestalt works solely on group dynamics, here and now, developed in a deliberately Gestaltist manner, with emotional, or even physical participation.

Anna Ravenna (Italy) is working on gender identity and trans-sexuality, in collaboration with a hospital department which performs operations for patients requesting a sex change. The psychotherapeutic accompaniment can last several years, and is conducted with respect for each individual's responsibility, without prejudice: "Who am I ?", "Who will I become ?"

*In Mexico*, experiments are being conducted on the accompaniment of cancer patients, with a scientific epistemology of research in a phenomenological spirit.

*In Xalapa*, longitudinal research into the psychotherapy of several children (10 to 12 yrs), and notably into *gender identity* (free choice of hetero and homosexual games and orientation). Other, more theoretical research into *suppressed polarities*. There is a need to gain recognition for qualitative research, as the statistical, experimental method is often considered as the *only* "scientific" method : we must fight the "left brain dictatorship."

Therefore, research into research (hermeneutic meta-research). A book is being prepared on student's essays.

Gilles Delisle (Canada) is setting up a psychotherapy research clinic: all interviews will be recorded then analyzed by the students with specific frames of reference and very close supervision. The aim is to ascertain which theoretical references (Goodman, Fairbairn, Sullivan, etc) are actually used by therapists - who often import outside elements into Classic Gestalt, borrowing things in particular from the psychoanalysis of the object relationship. This system suits the patients (who don't pay), the students

(who practice and are supervised free of charge) and the Institute (which pursues its theoretical research).

Gonzague Masquelier (France) talks of the development of methods of applying Gestalt therapy to companies (transport, insurance, banks, etc.), with the adaptation of various concepts and techniques such as : awareness, polarities, contact cycle, non-verbal expression, personal involvement, pentagram, etc. Vocabulary adjustment often proves necessary.

Anna Ravenna (Italy) talks of the various specializations offered in the 4th year at ASPIC (Rome) : individual therapy, group therapy, therapy in the community - but the first three years are common core, before any specialization.

## **7. Different training "rhythms"**

### **7.1 Basic training (1st or 2nd cycle) and advanced training (3rd cycle):**

**CIG, in Montreal:** 1 week-end of 15 hrs per month, for three years.

For the 3rd cycle: 3 h per week (all live near the institute).

Planned: an intensive 2nd cycle with ten days blocked each summer for 4 years.

**EPG, in Paris:** several formulae to chose from:

1st cycle (total 200h): one week-end per month, or three days every 6 weeks, or 3h every two weeks.

2nd cycle (total 400h): 5 four-day sessions per year for two years (FEV), or 3 weeks blocked for two summers and 2 four-day sessions (FIG).

3rd cycle (400h in minimum 2 yrs): either 3 to 5-day sessions, "à la carte" + 100h additional psychopathology + 150h supervision, or in the same group over a fixed period, with a structured program (planned for the near future).

**ASPIC in Rome and IGF in Florence :** 3h40 per week (university type lectures) + 2 residential week-ends per year.

**Integro in Guadalajara:** 1 w-e per month or 3h, 3 times per week. In Mexico, there are hardly any prolonged holiday periods, which makes it difficult to be absent from work for a whole month.

**Intégration, in Brussels:** it's the opposite: everything stops for two months in the summer.

### **7.2. Some current practices for supervision:**

at **CIG** in Montreal: individual supervision for 50 min, once or twice a week.

at **Integro** in Guadalajara: either 1h a week individually, or 2h per week in small group. Possibility for "on the spot", in situ supervision in the application clinic.

at the **EPG** in Paris: 1h every 2 weeks, individually, or 4h every two weeks in small group, or 1 day (8h), once a month in group.

## **8. Training and improvement for supervisors and teachers.**

G. Delisle would like us to study a training program for young supervisors (future teachers), leading to a certificate of ability which would act as a reference - as young Gestaltists will no longer be able to boast that they were trained by the founders (F. and L. Perls, I. From, the Polsters, etc...). But such a project is perhaps premature, given the disparity of systems and standards.

D. Poncin wishes that we do not fall into an over-rigid hierarchic system, of the T.A. kind.

A. Ravenna says that a similar project is being prepared within the FISIG (Italian GT Federation): 2 years to become either a clinical supervisor, or a teacher, and 4 years to become a "supervisor-teacher". All of this must be accompanied by several years of practice. They make a distinction between "supervisors" in general (not in the clinical field), "clinical supervisors" (supervision of therapists) and "supervisor-teachers" (trainers). With the application of the new Italian law, the training is becoming longer: 5 years at university + 4 years in an institute + 1 year placement in a health institution + 2 to 4 years training as a supervisor. In fact, great difficulty applying this law in practice, voted in 1989...and still not applied everywhere! In all there are 35 recognized institutes (of which 5 Gestalt institutes). The IGF in Florence is not recognized.

## **9. International workshop certificates for therapists**

Serge Ginger submits a preliminary plan for the organization of international workshops *reserved for psychotherapists* with a qualification from an institute *recognized by FORGE*. This type of session should encourage travel and international exchanges, as well as enriching each participant's style of working. This project is discussed at length with a view to reaching a general agreement - which would make it possible to provide undisputed international validation.

There would be *several criteria* for defining a workshop as "international": criteria concerning the *trainer*, criteria concerning the *participants* (all therapists), criteria concerning the *location*.

In any case, for a workshop to be considered valid, the leader must be an approved "**international trainer**" - which implies that:

- \* he must be a *teacher* in an institute recognized by FORGE
- \* he must have experience of *teaching* in at least 3 foreign countries
- \* he must have *published* articles or a book on GT
- \* he must be *namely approved by FORGE's general meeting* (on his own request, or on the initiative of the FORGE committee).

The following appear to meet these criteria, for example: Petrushka Clarkson, Janine Corbeil, Gilles Delisle, Anne Ginger, Serge Ginger, Edoardo Giusti, Gonzague Masquelier, Jean Van Pevenage, Paolo Quattrini, Bob and Rita Reznick, Sergio Vazquez (from FORGE)... but also: Caledonio Castanedo, Caudio Naranjo, Penarubia, Erv and Miriam Polster, Alberto Rams, Joseph Zinker, etc.; as well as Jean-Marie Delacroix, Marie Petit, Jean-Marie Robine...(who did not ask us).

**1st possibility:** the workshop is led by an international trainer living *who normally lives in a country other than the one in which he is intervening*. This workshop can be validated *for all participants*. Thus, if Edoardo Giusti intervenes in France, *in an advanced workshop reserved for therapists*: all participants, French or not, will have taken part in an international workshop. The same goes for a workshop led by Serge Ginger in Mexico or Russia; or for a workshop led in France by Gilles Delisle, etc.

**2nd possibility:** the international trainer intervenes *in his own country*.

• Either, the workshop includes a minimum of 25% of participants (therapists) living *in other countries* and coming from at least *two different countries*. This criterion would no doubt need to be modified depending on whether the workshop takes place in Europe - where the countries are small and close together - or in America: what would be necessary, in any case, would be a sufficient cultural diversity. In this way, 2 Belgians and someone from French-speaking Switzerland, would only partially be submerged in a foreign culture...

Thus, for example, if Gilles Delisle organizes an advanced international workshop for therapists *in Canada* with 9 Canadian participants, 2 French, and 1 Belgian, the workshop is recognized as being "international" for *all* the participants (3 foreigners, and two different foreign countries, out of 12 participants = 25%), the idea being that even the Canadian participants will have been exposed to the style of their European colleagues.

- Or, the *participant concerned* usually lives in another country than that where the workshop is being held: thus, for example, one French participant coming to Canada for an *advanced workshop* with Gilles Delisle will be considered as having taken part in an *international workshop* (but *not* his Canadian colleagues - if there are not 25% of total participants from at least two different foreign countries).

If we look at these criteria **from the point of view of the workshop participant**, a session can be validated for him in three cases:

- if he takes part in a workshop abroad,
- if he takes part in a workshop led by a foreign leader
- if he does a workshop in his own country where there are at least 25% of foreign participants,

In any case, two conditions *must* always be met:

- it must be an advanced workshop, for already trained therapists
- the leader must be an approved "international trainer".

An *International Advanced Training* certificate would be awarded by FORGE, based on certificates signed by the workshop leaders and totaling **200h** of sessions (or 25 days of workshops), attended in at least **2 years**, with **three different international trainers**.

We consider that it is possible to count sessions that meet these criteria, backdated to the setting up of FORGE in 1991.

A first analysis will be studied at the next FORGE conference in Rome.

## **10. Doctorate in Gestalt Therapy**

Sergio Vazquez provides details of the Doctorate course in Gestalt Therapy set up in cooperation with the university, in a very holistic, philosophical and anthropological cultural perspective. The work is directed towards research, with integration of cultural, personal, social and spiritual dimensions. The program plans 3 days per month, with teachers from all over the world, and much personal work. All of this is planned to last two and a half years, after a master's degree in existential humanistic psychology.

## **11. The FORGE AGM**

### **11.1 New members:**

The *Gestalt Institute of Florence* (Italy), *IGF*, a candidate last year, is accepted as a regular member. The *Tri-Dimens Institute* in Belgium and the *Centro de Estudios e Investigacion Gestalticos (CEIG)* in Xalapa (Mexico) are accepted as associate members, on the condition that the latter complete its application.

### **11.2 Activity report:**

See the detailed minutes of the conferences.

FORGE takes part in the *political* debates currently going on over the official recognition of the specific profession of *psychotherapist*. The first *World Council for Psychotherapy* or *WCP* will be held in Vienna, in early July 1996. Several thousand psychotherapists of all approaches will be attending.

*The International Gestalt Therapy Glossary*, conceived at the London conference, was published in June, directed by Serge Ginger and with the financial and technical support of the EPG (Ecole parisienne de Gestalt). It includes 172 pages in 8 languages: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Russian.

It can be ordered from FORGE at a cost of 100 FF or 20 USD, carriage paid.

### **11.3 Financial Report:**

The financial report is presented by Gonzague Masquelier, the treasurer.

Expenditure is reduced to a minimum: each participant finances his own traveling costs - or is helped by his own institute; the institutes pay for postage costs (telephone and Fax); the host institute offers meeting rooms and some of the meals, while also organizing accommodation solutions... There remain some administrative costs (translations, photocopies and dissemination of documents), help for the host institute, etc.

Subscription Fees are maintained at 1,000 FF, or 200 US \$ per member institute (regular or associate).

Reduced subscription for developing countries or East European countries.

### **11.4 Elections to the Board:**

*Outgoing members* (drawn from hat): Gilles Delisle (Canada), Gonzague Masquelier (France), Jean Van Pevenage (Belgium). All stand again.

*New candidates*: Sergio Vazquez and Anna Ravenna. The board suggests adding the candidature of Rita Reznick (USA) - on the condition that she agrees (Gilles Delisle will request her agreement).

Secret ballot: all candidates are unanimously voted in.

### **11.5 Distribution of functions:**

Chairman:	Serge Ginger (France)
Vice-Chairmen	Jean Van Pevenage (Belgium)
	Gilles Delisle (in charge of coordination for the Americas)
General Secretary	Edoardo Giusti (Italy)
Treasurer	Gonzague Masquelier (France)
Members	Anna Ravenna
	Rita Reznick (subject to her agreement)
	Sergio Vazquez

### **11.6. Next International Conference**

It will take place in **Rome (Italy)**, from **Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 July, 1996** (before the World Congress in Vienna and before the European seminar held by GTILA, the Los Angeles Institute), under the responsibility of Edoardo Giusti, the new General Secretary, and Anna Ravenna, newly elected member of the board.

In particular, we will be able to further develop the themes of the international training certificate and specific training for teachers and supervisors.



For 1997 (and for subsequent conferences) we envisage 3 *weekdays* (Tuesday to Thursday), during the *first week in July*, either in Brussels (Belgium), or in St. Petersburg (Russia). This will be discussed in Rome.

### 11.7 Communication:

The preferred means of communication - apart from travel and meetings in sub-groups - is the *Fax*. We wish it to be considered as a "telegram", with an answer within a week, at the most.

Serge Ginger will write detailed minutes in French and have them translated into English by a professional. Miguel Jarquin will have the minutes translated into Spanish.

### 12. International exchanges

We wish to develop these exchanges, in spite of to major obstacles: language and the cost of travel.

As far as **teachers** are concerned, these exchanges have been going on for several years and are totally satisfactory. Fees can be modified according to the economic situation of the host country. Some workshops are even given free of charge, in a spirit of international fraternity.

As for **students** or beginner and independent **therapists**, we would like some international workshops to be planned *with interpreters*: this will be the case, for example, as of summer 1996, for Serge Ginger's international workshop for therapists, led by Serge and Anne Ginger, in France (in French and English). The interpreters can be paid in the form of free workshops.

Similarly, we would like to see awarded *grants or special prices* for sessions or for accommodation (on site or at colleagues' homes). To facilitate things financially, students could pay their *own institutes in local currency*, their institute would then pay the host institute directly. This kind of "sponsorship" by the home institute would also provide a degree of guarantee, but we do not wish to make this compulsory in order to leave therapists free to decide for themselves.

FORGE could publish a periodical or occasional *newsletter*, with offers of international sessions. Institutes could *disseminate this information* and collect money for those who wish.

This *newsletter* could also inform about **publications** (reviews, books, interesting students' theses, etc.). A first, brief bibliography appears in 8 languages in the *International Glossary* (see §11.2).

Exchanges can also be set up via *computer networks* (Internet, etc).

### 13 Inauguration. Press conference. Reception.

The conference ends with a splendid reception in the new premises of *Integro Institute*, with inauguration of workrooms in the application clinic, press conference, photos, conferences and speeches, presentation and sale of books, souvenir gifts and buffet.

This was Mexican hospitality at its very best ! ... And our best conference yet !

*Minutes drawn up by Serge Ginger late July...and completed in Dec. 1995.  
Approximate English translation by Stuart Walker in April 1996.*

## Guadalajara (Mexico) 1995



Serge is signing his book about Gestalt Therapy, translated into Spanish



Luncheon on the beach of a nice lake



**Students preparing a PhD in Gestalt Therapy  
(some courses have been given at the occasion of the FORGE meeting)**

**Cecilia  
Alvarez**



Paris, March 31, 1996

**an INVITATION to the 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
ROME : JULY 10, 11 and 12, 1996**

*To all FORGE member Institutes*

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 • GERMANY         | <i>Institut für Integrative Gestalttherapie, Würzburg : Hans Jörg Süß, Bernadette Valentin-Mousli</i>        |
| 2 • GERMANY         | <i>Igor, Frankfurt : Eva Röttgers-Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland</i>  |
| 3 • BELGIUM         | <i>Intégration, Bruxelles : Jean Van Pevenage, Dominique Poncin</i>  |
| 4 • BELGIUM         | <i>Mult-Di-Mens, Gand : Pieter Detürk, Dan Van Baalen</i>  |
| 5 • BRAZIL          | <i>Instituto Sedes Sapientiae, Sao Paulo : Myriam Bove Fernandes</i>   |
| 6 • CANADA          | <i>CIG, Montréal : Gilles Delisle</i>  |
| 7 • FRANCE          | <i>EPG, Paris : Gonzague Masquelier, Serge et Anne Ginger, Brigitte Martel</i>                               |
| 8 • FRANCE          | <i>SAVOIR-Psy, Paris : Pierre Coret, Michèle Combeau</i>   |
| 9 • UNITED KINGDOM  | <i>Metanoia, Londres : Talia Levine Bar Yoseph</i>   |
| 10 • UNITED KINGDOM | <i>Physis, Londres : Petruska Clarkson</i>   |
| 11 • ITALY          | <i>ASPIC, Rome : Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari</i>   |
| 12 • ITALY          | <i>Istituto Gestalt (IGF), Florence : Paolo Quattrini, Anna Ravenna</i>                                      |
| 13 • ITALY          | <i>Alia, Milan : Alberto Melucci, Anna Fabbri</i>  |
| 14 • MEXICO         | <i>Integro, Guadalajara : Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez, Miguel Jarquin, Blanca Herrera, Eva Zermeno</i>   |
| 15 • MEXICO         | <i>Centro de Estudios e Investigacion Gestalticos (CEIG), Xalapa : Guadalupe Amescua, Alberto Allen</i>      |
| 16 • NORWAY         | <i>Norsk Gestaltinstitut, Oslo : Daan Van Baalen</i>   |
| 17 • RUSSIA         | <i>Centre de Gestalt, Saint Petersburg : Georges Platonov, Dima Ovechkin, Lena Ivanova, Natacha Lebedeva</i> |
| 18 • RUSSIA         | <i>Institut de Gestalt, Moscou : Daniel Khlomov et N. Dolgoplov</i>  |
| 19 • SERBIA         | <i>Gestalt-Studio, Belgrade : Lidija Pecotic, Dina Krstic, Slavko Popovic</i>                                |
| 20 • U.S.A.         | <i>GTLA, Los Angeles : Bob et Rita Resnick</i>   |

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

- in 1992, we met in "international waters", on a yacht, off the coast of Brittany, in the Atlantic Ocean;
- in 1993, we were hosted by the *Metanoia* Institute in London;
- in 1994, it was the turn of the *Paris Gestalt School (Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt)* to welcome us;
- in 1995, our annual meeting took place in Guadalajara, Mexico, on the invitation of Institute *Petrolo*.

**Date and place :**

As planned during this last meeting, our next conference will be taking place this summer, at the invitation of *ASPIC Institute (Associazione per lo Sviluppo Psicologico dell'Individuo e della Comunità)* :

**in Rome (Italy) :  
from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1996**

You have probably received already, directly from Edoardo Giusti, Secretary General of FORGE and in charge of the organization of the next meeting, a first announcement. Now, Edoardo needs to know *how many of you will participate*, to prepare everything.

He invites those of you who are interested to lead, for his students, a *4 hour workshop* about *Supervision*, before, during or after the FORGE session. This workshop will be paid US \$ 400, which can help some of you to pay for travel. I remind you that our Conference is a friendly informal gathering of professional trainers, *free of charge*.

Edoardo has kindly offered accommodation in the homes of some of his Institute's teachers and students, but it is also possible, of course, to choose hotel accommodation, if you prefer. Please contact Edoardo directly about this.

Our Italian hosts will also plan some touristic and cultural activities.

### **Program :**

As far as the *program* of our annual study days is concerned, we have opted for the principle of *free and open discussion of all problems* encountered by each of the training institute directors. This covers their theoretical research as much as the structuring of methodological and clinical teaching and the development strategy for Gestalt Therapy in a *wide range of cultural and political contexts*.

FORGE is and wishes to remain a *Federation of autonomous* training institutes and is careful *not* to define nor impose any *general standards* to its member institutes. Our aim is to facilitate the pooling and the *exchange of ideas and experience* and to let everyone set their own course of action, in view of their specific context.

### **Themes that have been discussed in previous meetings :**

By way of information, here is a brief overview of the main topics dealt with during the last four international meetings :

- *presentation* of the functioning and programs of *each of the institutes* represented at the meeting ;
- *theoretical teaching* (duration, breakdown and contents), links with universities, optional subjects and specializations, the choice of trainers and supervisors, ...
- *practical training* and supervision, possible therapeutic and experiential sessions, fieldwork and applied community clinic, ...
- *ethics and deontology*, personal and interpersonal involvement of trainers, attitudes towards couples, ...
- *admission criteria* : different types of *prerequisites and selection* (level of education and qualifications, personal therapy, professional experience, previous Gestalt experience, ...)
- *continuous and final assessment*, end of training course, *dissertation* or thesis, jury modalities, orientations and openings for students after the training, ...
- *advanced training sessions*, specific research themes underway, publications and translations, *international bibliography*, data bank, ...
- *international workshops* organized by member institutes and their international assessment, ...
- publication of an *International Glossary of Gestalt Therapy* technical terms (published in 95) ;
- *individual and group Gestalt Therapy*, ...
- *status of the psychotherapy* in different countries, Social Security standards, existing and planned *national associations*, ...
- *structure and functioning of FORGE* : coopting for different member categories, financial report, election of the Board, ...

The list of questions to be debated on the *agenda for this summer* will be decided upon at the start of the Conference with all the participants.

**Language :**

Our main working language will be *English* and the second language will be French. Of course, everyone remains free to express him or herself in his or her own language, with the help of "volunteer" translator.

**The detailed minutes** of the last conference (9 pages) was sent out in French at the beginning of the year to French speaking participants ; unfortunately, the English version has not yet been forthcoming. It will be sent as soon as I receive it.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Very warmly,

*Serge GINGER*  
Chairman

✂ ----- ✂

**REGISTRATION FORM**

to send — **as soon as possible** — directly to **Edoardo GIUSTI**, at **ASPIC** :

via Vittore Carpaccio 32. 00147 **ROMA** (Italy). **Tel.** (39) 6.54.13.513 **Fax** : (39) 6.592.67.70

**NAME :**

**First name :**

**Gestalt Training Institute :**

**Address :**

**Phone :**

**Fax :**

**will attend the annual Conference of FORGE (ROME, July 10 to 12, 96)**

**I plan to arrive :**      ☐ **by car**      ☐ **by train**      ☐ **by plane**

**I should prefer, if possible, to be accommodated :**

☐ **in a hotel**      ☐ **in a Gestaltist's home**

**I'm interested in leading a 4 hour workshop on Supervision, if possible :**

☐ **before the Conference**    ☐ **during the Conference**    ☐ **after the Conference**

**Free comments :**

**date :**

**place:**

**signature :**



# FORGE

Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt  
International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations  
163, rue de Vaugirard / 75015 Paris Fax 33 (0)1 37 31 55 74

## SUMMARY OF NOTES FROM THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ROME (ITALY) JULY 8, 9, 10, 1996

### Present: 24 directors of 16 institutes from 12 countries

Belgium	Brussels	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage, Dominique Poncin
Brazil	Sao Paolo	SEDES	Myriam Bove-Fernandez
England	London	Physis	Petrushka Clarkson
France	Paris	EPG	Serge Ginger, Anne Peyron-Ginger, Xavier Bonnet-Eymard
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
	Würzburg	IGW	Bernadette Valentin-Mousli
Italy	Florence	IGF	Paolo Quattrini, Anna Ravenna
	Milano	Alia	Anna Fabbrini
	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari, Maria Grazia
Malta	Sliema	GPTO	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Van Baalen
Poland	Krakow	ITG	Magda Zaleska
Russia	Moscow	IGM	Daniil Khomov
		GIP	Nifont Dolgopopolov
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Lidija Pecotic

### Excused: 9 institutes from 9 countries

Belgium	Ghent	Multi-Di-Mens	Pieter Detürk
Canada	Montreal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
England	London	Metanoia	Tania Levine Bar Yoseph
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Pierre Coret, Michèle Combeau
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland
Mexico	Xalapa	CEIG	Guadalupe Amescua
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Georgy Platonov, Natacha Lebedeva
Spain	Barcelona	ETGB	Alberto Rams
USA	Los Angeles	GILA	Bob Reznik, Rita Reznik

## 1. OPENING of the COLLOQUIUM

*Welcome* by Edoardo GIUSTI, director of the ASPIC institute in Rome and secretary general of FORGE:  
Delighted to welcome us in the new offices of his institute.  
Spoke about certain logistical problems (faxes being sent late, problems with room reservations)

We set the *hours* together:

first day: 10AM to 1PM, then 2PM to 4:30PM. Reception beginning at 8PM at Anna Ravenna's home.  
second day: 10AM to 1PM, then 3PM to 7PM  
third day: 10AM to 2:30PM

Then Serge Ginger, president of FORGE, briefly reviewed the *goals and history* of FORGE Association for *exchanges and research with conviviality* playing an important part, open only to *permanent directors of Gestalt training institutes* (therapy and organisations). Federation respecting the *independence* of each institute: *no imposed standards*. Each institute adapts the information shared to its own specific context.

*Previous colloquia* (attendance generally between 10 and 30 participants): Summer 92 on a yacht in the Atlantic; Summer 93 - London; Summer 94 - Paris; Summer 95 - Guadalajara (Mexico); Summer 96 - Rome.

## **2. PRESENTATION of the INSTITUTES**

Everyone briefly *presented* some of the specificities of their institute and answered *questions* from the group. Following, some *brief summaries*:

### **2.1 Oslo (Norway): the NGY, presented by Daan van Baalen**

Opened in 1986. The director is a doctor of Dutch origin, trained in *Multi-Di-Mens* (in Gestalt and Psychosynthesis). Located in Oslo for the last 10 years. The Institute is independent, although it has a privileged relationship with *Multi-Di-Mens* (Flemish Belgium). This is the only GT institute in Norway (though there are several sub-branches throughout the country). About 100 Gestaltists trained to this day and 200 students currently in training.

4 year Program (600 hours):

- 1st year      Focus on personal Gestalt work
- 2nd year      Initiation to dialogic Gestalt, learn techniques  
At the end of the 2nd year, public individual evaluation (decision made by staff)
- 3rd year      Each student must find at least 2 clients (individuals or in an institution);  
Student is supervised by one of the 6 permanent staff members
- 4th year      Develop personal style. Work on thesis (for example, case studies) with  
public defense (open to friends and guests)
- then,          advanced « post-graduate » training possible.

*Multi-Di-Mens* is directed by the Dutch, located in *Flemish Belgium*. 70% of the students are Dutch and 30% Flemish from Belgium. There is also a branch in the *Czech Republic* - with a commitment to supervise it until the year 2000 (110 students in Summer University for the last 3 years).

### **2.2 Würzburg (Germany): the IGW, presented by Bernadette Valentin-Mousli**

Bernadette has been working in the institute for the last 14 years. This is the biggest institute in Germany: about 40 trainers.

4 year Training:

- 1st year: practitioner training
- 2nd year: counsellor training

At this point, there is usually an interruption of 1 or 2 years during which the students must find clients. This allows for supervision work in the 3rd and 4th years. Each student must work with at least 4 cases of which 2 are supervised by one trainer, and 2 others by another trainer. In addition, each student must take 2 hours of individual supervision each week, outside of the institute.

3rd year: training of clinical practitioners with different specializations: teaching, theology, creative media ...

4th year: specialization: (optional seminars: family therapy, working in institutions, art therapy, etc.)

Strict separation between therapy, training and supervision (different teachers, or at least 6 months interruption minimum if same teacher carries out two different roles with the same student).

Personal psychotherapy work is required during the training (not required before beginning training).



The training is scheduled over 7 weekends (18 hours each of which 3 are dedicated to theory) each year and a 15-day intensive summer seminar. In addition, students work together in study groups (3 to 5 students in each group).

For the clinical degree, students are required to do an internship in a psychiatric ward.

### **2. 3 München (Germany): the AKG, presented by Inga Schumann-Sorge**

This is the smallest institute in Germany. Recruiting is done locally, limited to Bavaria. This allows for much personal contact. About 220 people have been trained over the last 13 years.

The institute developed out of a « critical Gestalt community » which is *self-managed* (former and current students, staff) with a connotation of political, ecological and social involvement.

The training is held over 5 years: 6 weekends per year and an intensive seminar in Italy. Each class is comprised of 14 to 16 students; 2 trainers are present at each session (as well as additional teachers for specific themes).

3rd year students give one hour weekly of free therapy (under supervision) to 1st year students.

### **2. 4 Moscow (Russia): the GIP, presented by Nifont Dolgoplov**

This is a new institute for GT and psychodrama, recently created in Moscow. Its public consists largely of teachers, institutions and organizations. Nifont worked previously for 5 years as the assistant director of the Moscow GT Institute (with D. Khlomov). The institute has 5 branches in different cities in Russia and Siberia. It prepares students for two independent degrees: *GT or Psychodrama*.

Students are mostly teachers: since the fall of the Communist regime, teachers are free to practice the methods of their choice. There are also managers and consultants. Emphasis is put on learning about responsibility - which is a new notion in Russia.

### **2. 5 Guadalajara (Mexico): Integro, presented by Sergio Vazquez**

The Institute has been in existence for 20 years. It has been awarding degrees for the last 10 years and was officially recognized by the university 3 years ago. There are currently 10 branches in different cities of Mexico (Sergio travelled 120,000 kilometers in the country this year!). There are 250 degree-holding students and the same number currently in training.

The program is oriented toward *existential psychotherapy*. There are both a masters and a doctoral program (the first group of students to be recognized by the university is currently in training), and special programs: GT and music or dance therapy, GT and children, sexology, etc. (and also NLP and Rebirthing training). Personal psychotherapy in a group setting is part of the training. There are 20 teachers and team meetings. A project for a scientific journal is underway.

A *psychotherapeutic clinic* is associated to the institute - receives 350 clients per week, sent by different community services. Each week, a radio or television show is aired. « Hot-line » staffed between midnight and 3AM.

### **2. 6 Sao Paulo (Brazil): the ISS, presented by Myriam Bove Fernandez**

GT is taught in a special department of a big catholic university institute (directed by a French nun). The program began in 1980. Only doctors and psychologists are admitted.

There are 15 to 20 students in each class.

Entrance requirements include: an interview, group dynamic experience, a written exam, English test (must be able to read an article).

The program is oriented toward objects relation psychology (Yontef, Kohut, etc.). It includes 3 weeks of clinical work in a psychiatric ward. There are *specialized options*: GT and children, GT and art, etc.

The certificate awarded at the end of studies authorizes students only to work in their original field of expertise (GT is considered to be a complementary methodological tool).

### **2.7 Florence (Italy): the IGF, presented by Anna Ravenna**

The political situation in Italy in the field of psychotherapy remains unclear: in principle, the training is reserved for psychologists and doctors, but the institute is not yet recognized by the government - without precise reasons being given! In the meantime, the counselling program is open and working well. The masters is awarded after a preparatory year and 3 years of training.

The director is P. Quattrini, but he is seldom in Florence: he teaches all over the world (Poland, Brazil, etc.). The program is clearly influenced by Claudio Naranjo with importance given to the transpersonal and oriental dimensions (yoga, meditation, etc.) as well as to dreams (P. Quattrini). The institute also carries out research on trans-sexuality (A. Ravenna).

## **2.8 Paris (France): the EPG, presented by Serge Ginger**

The program was set up in 1981. Today there are 400 graduates and 300 students currently in training. One-third of the students are men, and two-thirds are women. 30 to 40% have previously undergone psychoanalysis (French cultural context).

There are several branches in France (Lille and Montpellier, West Indies) and work is carried out in close collaboration with several foreign countries (Belgium, Switzerland, Russia, etc.). The teaching staff includes about 10 trainers for the 2nd cycle (basic didactic curriculum); about 20 other trainers teach in the 1st and 3rd cycles (Advanced Training).

*Selection* is important: it happens at the end of the 1st year (which is largely experiential - GT in group and 5 days of theoretical training in basic concepts). Currently, about two-thirds of the candidates are accepted. Those who are rejected are allowed to present themselves again the following year after additional work in psychotherapy.

The program includes courses in *neurophysiology and psychopathology*. Internship in psychiatric ward is not required. Sessions held in *residential* setting with intensive theoretical work, methodological experimentation and supervised *practicums*. The practitioner certificate can be delivered at the end of the first three years (600 hours of training), following the defense of an end-of-studies thesis.

The Psychotherapist degree is delivered at the end of the *Advanced Training*, including 2000 total hours of work (personal therapy, training and supervised practice) over a minimum period of 5 years. There is also an option for GT in institutions and business (organizational development).

## **2.9 Brussels (Belgium): Intégration, presented by Jean Van Pevenage**

The program is conducted in tight collaboration with the EPG, but it has its own important *specificities*: above all, it is group process oriented, in other words, the client is the group, taken as a whole. In addition, work is *exclusively centered on the here and now of the group*. This group-centered work occupies 25% of the 2nd cycle training.

Jean Van Pevenage himself no longer practices individual therapy (this is also true for Sergio Vazquez of *Integro* and Gonzague Masquelier of the *EPG*). In addition, Jean is the director of advanced training in Organizational GT at the EPG, following a model largely inspired by the Cleveland School.

## **2.10 Moscow (Russia): the GIM, presented by Daniil Khlomov**

In Russia, all forms of psychotherapy began at the same time, in 1988. Today, the two main orientations seem to be Gestalt and psychoanalysis. Gestalt is developing more rapidly.

To enroll in the studies, one must hold a degree in medicine, psychology or teaching (in Russia there is no training in social work).

The program includes:

- a first year of group GT, open to all
- 2 years of basic training
- one year of specialization (children, adolescents, group therapy, GT and drug-addiction, creativity, etc.)

Much work done with video; the institute has a large video library.

This was the first GT institute in Russia. It began with the help of Gestaltists from Frankfurt (Germany).

Today, there are several branches in cities as far away as 1000 kilometers. In addition, Nifont just created a new institute in Moscow (see above). There is also an independent institute in existence in St. Petersburg which has its own branches.

The institute publishes a yearly journal and organizes a national congress each year. It participates in national television shows designed to make the public familiar with Gestalt.

Presentation of 5 case studies required to obtain the diploma.

## **2.11 Rome (Italy): the ASPIC, presented by Edoardo Giusti**

Two levels:

-40 students in the counsellor training program, with a very *integrative* approach (GT, Rogers, Jung, etc.)

-16 students in the official GT *psychotherapist* training, 4 year program (with 2 modules taught in the university), *open only to psychologists and doctors*, and recognized by the government. The training takes place on weekends. The thesis must include two clinical case studies. There is also *specialized* training: family mediation, sports psychotherapy, etc., as well as advanced *supervisor* training (two levels - in 2 or 4 years).

## **2.12 London (England): Physis, presented by Petrushka Clarkson**

The political situation remains unclear: many trained psychotherapists are unable to find clients, and reimbursement by the National Health System is still a problem. There are power struggles between psychologists, doctors and psychotherapists.

Petrushka reviews her *personal background* since 1968: psychology studies, psychoanalysis, creation of the *Metanoia* institute in 1976 (700 former students in all), 70 articles and several books on GT and other approaches (TA, etc.). She thinks that today, training should be done on an *individual* basis rather than in structured classes in institutes. She is currently accompanying about 50 students in individual training.

## **2.13 Krakow (Poland): the ITG, presented by Magdalena Zaleska**

From 1966 to 1991, the activity was carried out *informally* among groups of psychologists, in the university, because psychotherapy was not allowed.

In 1991, the *Polish Society for Psychotherapy* was created, including a sub-group of 5 Gestaltists. They received funds from the government to fight drug-addiction.

In 1995, the ITG was set up independently with very meager financial resources but with technical support from P. Quattrini (Italy). A team of 5 people works full-time with frequent meetings for development and supervision.

The first cycle includes 350 hours in one year. It begins with group therapy in integrative GT. Then the training lasts 2 years (600 hours): each student must have 5 clients under supervision.

The certificate awarded is provisional and must be renewed every two years (with an exam).

## **2.14 Malta : the GPTI, presented by Lidija Pecotic**

Lidija directs an institute in Belgrade with 150 students. She has been a refugee in Malta for the last 3 years because of the war. Currently there are two parallel institutes: in Malta and in Yugoslavia with a basic program and a post-graduate program with supervision.

She brings in foreign experts such as Bertram Muller and Joseph Zinker.

The degree is recognized by the university.

## **2.15 Italy: Alia, presented by Anna Fabbrini**

« Alia » = « l'altra via, la via del corpo ». The school is recognized by the Government, but it cherishes its freedom and its specificity. Research and publications underway, notably on adolescence, borderline cases, and the differences between men and women.

The school is currently in crisis: there were about 15 collaborators, but some of these have founded their own competitor school with former students.

Occasional collaboration with the EPG (Paris) and with the Krakow school (Poland).

## **3. LIST of PRINCIPAL THEMES for POSSIBLE FUTURE DEBATE**

We voted on *different themes mentioned* spontaneously and briefly in the different presentations in order to determine which ones might be opened to further exchange:

- 8 votes for a reflection on
- 4 votes for
- 1 vote for each of the following themes
- diagnosis in gestaltist psychopathology (and the Enneagram)
- men/women sex ratio
- group therapy and individual therapy
- combined roles: therapist, trainer, supervisor

- other themes mentioned

- political and socio-economic aspects
- the place of research in GT
- training structured in group classes vs. individual training
- psychodrama and GT
- dreams in GT

#### **4. DIAGNOSIS in GESTALT**

GT is more interested in *process* than in content. The process changes at every moment. This brings up the question of the well-foundedness of a fixed *psychopathological diagnosis*: should it be intra- or inter-psychic? In this case, it depends on the conditions of the environment: who sent the patient? What is his life setting? Diagnosis varies according to cultural context (is a silent Chinese person « depressive »?).

Anna Ravenna considers that we could do without nosological categorizations in GT and gives priority to the phenomenological experience of the moment and to context. However, diagnosis remains necessary for « exporting » beyond the field of Gestalt. We have to be « translators ».

The first question that comes up is: « Am I going to take this client in therapy? » It's not about diagnosing but about feeling, intuitively and subjectively, whether this client « fits me ».

Different questions for different therapists:

- Anna Ravenna considers that 80% of the work is centered around *pathological confluence*
- Bernadette Valentin: we must be able to respond to the client's fundamental *insecurity*, his basic anguish.
- Edoardo Giusti: communication is *mutual*; thus if I want *him/her* to change, then I must change *myself*.
- Jean Van Pevenage avoids all regressive work and exclusively focuses on the relationship *here and now*. He refuses psychotic patients, alcoholics, drug addicts ...
- Myriam Bove and Nifont Dolgoplov are favorable to a *provisional, phenomenological diagnosis*.
- Serge Ginger considers it important to detect *rigidity* as well as *introjections*, and to stay vigilant about the problems of *transference, counter-transference or « resonances »*. He presents his multifocal diagnostic « wheel » with personal profiles.
- Anna Ravenna warns us against an overly-medicalized vocabulary. She insists on finding the positive *resources* in each person; then she briefly presents the *Enneagram*, of Sufi origin, revised by Claudio Naranjo, referring to the « nine capital sins » of the Tradition.
- Petrushka Clarkson enumerates 7 levels of diagnosis:
  - the physical level, the body
  - the emotional level, the heart
  - the rational level, « denomination », cultural and linguistic
  - the « normative » level: irrational ideological values or social beliefs
  - the rational level of provisional conventional consensus (ex.: the weather)
  - history, theory
  - the vital transcendental or transpersonal impulse

#### **4. MEN/WOMEN « RATIO »**

Is the strong majority of women found in Gestalt specific to the field?

Don't we see the same phenomenon in all the teaching, social and medical trades?

This is not the case in Norway where women have much power.

Are Men (M) more closed-in on themselves (« autistic ») whereas Women (W) are more open (« hysterical »)? Anne Ginger underlines the worldwide function of W who give life (give birth) and demonstrate for peace, while M kill life (war).

How to attract M to GT? Possible applications of GT in organizations and in power struggles? M also go into therapy when they go through personal psychological crisis.

Cultivate complementarity and the « feminine side » of M as well as their creative potential.

The problem may also be economics: salaries and social status.

## **5. EVALUATION of the PROCESS UNFOLDING for the LAST TWO DAYS**

Rapid evaluation half-way through the colloquium:

Many appreciate the freedom to speak and the warm conviviality - especially the previous evening, on the rooftops of Rome, in Anna Ravenna's home, with the meal, the drink and the songs.

We are also pleased with Edoardo Giusti and Claudia Montaniri's hospitality: comfortable working conditions and an atmosphere of exchange in good-hearted trust, once the necessary pre-contact time was over.

Everyone expresses feeling very nourished by informal sharing of experience and questioning. We are pleased to note both similarities and differences, with each person maintaining their freedom.

Jean Van Pevenage questions the FORGE, its goals and the depth of our commitment and our *community life*. The big number of *new participants* this year brings up a problem of implication and continuity. We have to grow, but we must also know how to limit the growth, if need be. He suggests a moratorium: that we don't let in too many new members next year in order to get know each other and to take the time to *build a more deeply unified identity and community*, and not to « start all over again » each year with a « new » group! We have to protect ourselves without becoming « defensive ». He expresses the need for a feeling of belonging which implies a *stable and structured group* that he would feel proud of.

We point out however that the FORGE is a Federation of *organisations and not of people* and that there will forcibly be certain variations among the representatives of different institutes.

Several people prefer not to close the door to the « club » but to « screen the entrances ». We could accept, perhaps, 2 or 3 new institutes, but we shouldn't *get any bigger than 40 participants*. See, for example, the countries not yet represented or currently in negotiation (i.e. Spain).

We could also envision time for *small group work* on themes.

Edoardo wants to belong to a « known and recognized » Federation, proud of its own identity: « to be, to become, to belong ». To meet colleagues on a personal, professional and institutional level. The *goal is not the group* in itself, but the *ideas* exchanged and the interpersonal *ties* created, two by two, or by three.

Several « new » members expressed their satisfaction about having been *welcomed without hesitation*, and are happy to go back with many new ideas to share with their colleagues.

Lastly, we voted with a strong majority (17 votes for, 4 abstentions) for a « moderate opening » of *two new institutes* for next year.

Bernadette Valentin asks for a few minutes to evoke the memory of *Heik Portele*, recently deceased. She talks about what he brought to Gestalt and to the university, about his articles and his spiritual commitment.

## **6. MULTIPLE ROLES, CHANGING « HATS »** (therapist, teacher, supervisor)

Is it reasonable to mix different roles?

In the Netherlands, it is forbidden to combine more than one role.

Bernadette avoids taking a former client as a student without an interruption of *at least six months*: as teacher, I must *evaluate*, whereas as therapist - or as supervisor - I must *accompany*.

Sergio and Myriam: it is easier to combine therapy and supervision than to combine teaching.

Jean and Serge: we've often had the same person in these different roles, but *successively*. Aside from few exceptions, this has hardly ever been problematic. In supervision, we work on 3 principal points: the « blind spots », technique and personal style: this all seems to be compatible with a former therapeutic relationship. In Russia and in several other countries, *there's hardly any other choice* for the moment! To remain vigilant, but without imposing strict rules. It all depends on the specific case.

Inga: as soon as possible, it should be avoided. We should *at least observe a period of latency* of six months.

Stay vigilant about sexual relationships: temptation is strong between trainers and students (like in the university). Can we become friends, or must we respect total abstinence, out of caution?

### 7. WORK with DREAMS in GESTALT

Presentation by Paolo Quattrini based on a case study. The dream is closer to *metaphor* than it is to symbol. What counts, for him, is the *phenomenological feeling* at the end of the « film », much more than the content of the latter. What interests him is the *tonality of the emotion upon awakening* or at the moment when the sleeper tells his dream, the *confluence* between the dreamer and his emotions. Feelings are more important than the images.

Serge: when someone tells their dream, it's because there's *unfinished work*, otherwise the dream is forgotten, or, in any case, the dreamer doesn't feel the need to tell it. Thus, there are several approaches to dreams:

Freud	dream as introjection	(repression and super-ego)
Perls	dream as projection	(different parts of the dreamer)
Fromm	dream as retroflexion	(what the client doesn't dare say to the therapist)
Ginger	dream as unfinished experience	(what the dream was unable to finish)
Quattrini	dream as confluence	(with the emotions of the dreamer)

Summary written in French in March 1997, translated into English in April 1997



Bernadette Valentin Germany	Daniel Khlomov Russia	Daan Van Baalen Norway	Sergio Vazquez Mexico	Magda Zaleska Poland	Jean Van Pevénage Belgium	Dominique Poncin Belgium	Xavier Bonnet-Eymard France	22 persons from 10 countries	
		Lidija Pecotic Malta	Claudia Montanari Italy	Gro Skottun Norway					
Edoardo Giusti Italy	Myriam Bove Brazil	Inga Schuman-Sorge Germany	Cecilia Alvarez Mexico	Serge Ginger France		Anna Fabbrini Italy	Anna Ravenna Italy	Paolo Quattrini Italy	
	Nifont Dolgoplov Russia								

Brussels, May 16, 1997

**an INVITATION to the 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
BRUSSELS : JULY 3, 4 and 5, 1997**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

- in 1992, we met in "international waters", on a yacht, off the coast of Brittany, in the Atlantic Ocean ;
- in 1993, we were hosted by the *Metanoia* Institute in London ;
- in 1994, it was the turn of the *Paris Gestalt School (Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt)* to welcome us ;
- in 1995, our annual meeting took place in Guadalajara, Mexico, on the invitation of Institute *Integro*.
- in 1996, we met in Roma, kindly invited by *ASPIC*

**Date and place :**

As planned during this last meeting, our next conference will be taking place this summer, at the invitation of *INTEGRATION Institute* :

**in Brussels (Belgium) :  
from Thursday 3<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1997**

Now, we need to know *how many of you will participate*, to prepare everything.

**Practical organisation**

We will start our work on Thursday with a lunch at 12h00 in our office : Drève de Willericken n° 27 - 1160 Bruxelles (Phone 00/32/2.657.39.61). We will be there from 10h00 a.m. to help you to get to the hotel (LE PANORAMA) which is very close to our office.

This hotel has comfortable rooms with TV and telephone.

We have been able to obtain very good prices :

- with shower 1 person : 1 470 FB per night
- with shower 2 persons : 1 910 FB per night
- with shower and terrace 1 person : 1 975 FB per night
- with shower and terrace 2 persons : 2 260 FB per night
- with bath and terrace 1 person : 2 275 FB per night
- with bath and terrace 2 persons : 2 580 FB per night

One complementary bed may be added in each room for a cost of 755 FB per night.

Note : 1 US \$ = +/- 36 FB

1 FF = 6 FB

Breakfasts are not included in the above mentioned prices as they will be taken together each day on our premises.



To make things easy for you, I suggest to centralize all reservations by phoning or faxing me as soon as possible :  
Phone : 00 / 32 / 2.673.00.94  
Fax : 00 / 32 / 2.675.49.94

We also have three rooms in our own Center which will be reserved for participants coming from low economically countries.

The very short travellings between hotel and Center will be organized with the help of participants who come by car. All breakfasts and meals will be taken on the premises.

The total costs for the 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners will be of 5 000 FB per person ; this includes the solidarity account for the participants coming from low economically countries who will not be able to pay that full amount.

On the second day (July 4th), after dinner, we will propose some touristic activities.

Please find enclosed various informations to get to our Center by car, train or plane.

### **Program :**

As far as the *program* of our annual study days is concerned, we have opted for the principle of *free and open discussion of all problems* encountered by each of the training institute directors. This covers their theoretical research as much as the structuring of methodological and clinical teaching and the development strategy for Gestalt Therapy in a *wide range of cultural and political contexts*.

FORGE is and wishes to remain a *Federation of autonomous* training institutes and is careful *not* to define nor impose any *general standards* to its member institutes. Our aim is to *facilitate* the pooling and the *exchange of ideas and experience* and to let everyone set their own course of action, in view of their specific context.

Anna Ravenna offers to present her research about sex reassignment for gender.

Serge Ginger will relate the european congress for psychotherapy and the situation concerning european certificate for psychotherapist.

### **Themes that have been discussed in previous meetings :**

By way of information, here is a brief overview of the main topics dealt with during the last five international meetings :

- *presentation of the functioning and programs of each of the institutes represented at the meeting ;*
- *theoretical teaching* (duration, breakdown and contents), links with universities, optional subjects and specializations, the choice of trainers and supervisors, ...
- *practical training* and supervision, possible therapeutic and experiential sessions, fieldwork and applied community clinic, ...
- *ethics and deontology*, personal and interpersonal involvement of trainers, attitudes towards couples, ...
- *diagnose* in gestalt-psychotherapy
- *work as therapist, teacher and supervisor with a same client*
- *admission criteria* : different types of *prerequisites and selection* (level of education and qualifications, personal therapy, professional experience, previous Gestalt experience, ...)
- *dream* in gestalt therapy
- *continuous and final assessment*, end of training course, *dissertation* or thesis, jury modalities, orientations and openings for students after the training, ...
- *advanced training sessions*, specific research themes underway, publications and translations, international bibliography, data bank, ...
- *international workshops* organized by member institutes and their international assessment, ...
- publication of an *International Glossary of Gestalt Therapy* technical terms (published in 95) ;



- *individual and group Gestalt Therapy*, ...
- *status of the psychotherapy* in different countries, Social Security standards, existing and planned *national associations*, ...
- *structure and functioning of FORGE* : coopting for different member categories, financial report, election of the Board, ...

The list of questions to be debated on the *agenda for this summer* will be decided upon at the start of the Conference with all the participants.

### **Language :**

Our main working language will be *English* and the second language will be French. Of course, everyone remains free to express him or herself in his or her own language, with the help of "volunteer" translator.

**The detailed minutes** of the last conference (8 pages) has been sent out in French and in English in April.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Very warmly,

*Dominique Poncin*

"-----"

## REGISTRATION FORM

to send — **as soon as possible** — directly to **Dominique Poncin**, at **INTEGRATION :**

Drève de Willeriken 50  
Phone : 00 / 32 / 2.673.00.94

B - 1160 Brussels (Belgium)  
Fax : 00 / 32 / 2.675.49.94

NAME :

First name :

Gestalt Training Institute :

Address :

Phone :

Fax :

will attend the annual Conference of FORGE (Brussels, July 3 to 5 ,1997)

I plan to arrive :

☐ by car

☐ by train

☐ by plane

I should prefer, if possible, to be accommodated :

☐ in a hotel

☐ in the Center

Free comments :

date :

place:

signature :

## Meeting of 3, 4 and 5 july 1997 in Brussels

We welcome you in Brussels and in INTEGRATION !

### Thursday 3 july1997

- Until 10 h 00 : Welcome of members
- 12 h 00 Drink
- 13 h 00 Buffet lunch
- 15 h 00 Start of the meeting
  - Welcome and présentation of program, center, activities of the three days by Jean van Pevenage
  - Welcome and présentation of FORGE by Serge Ginger Président
  - Présentation of new members
    - Barcelona par A. Rams
    - St Petersburg par
- 16 h 00 : Coffe break
- 16 h 30 : Common decision about the program
- 18 h 30 : Dinner
- 20 h 00 - Start by car for Brussels and, if you want, "Ommegang show" (935 BF)
  - Walk in the little streets around the "grand-place"

### Fryday 4 july 1997

- 9 h 00 : Breakfast at Intégration
- 9 h 30 : Start of work
- 11 h 00 : Coffe break
- 11 h 30 : Meeting
- 13 h 00 : Lunch
- 15 h 00 : Meeting
- 16 h 30 : Coffe break
- 17 h 00 : Meeting
- 18 h 30 : Drink at Jean and Dominique's home
- 20 h 30 : Dinner
- +/- 22 h 00 : Start by car for Brussels by night

### Saturday 5 july 1997

- 9 h 00 : Breakfast at Intégration
- 9 h 30 : Work session
- 11 h 00 : Coffe break
- 11 h 30 - 13 h 00: Synthesis, closure, projects
- 13 h 30 : Lunch
- 15 h 30 : Good byes !

# FORGE

Fédération Internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt  
*International Federation of Gestalt Training Organisations*

183 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Tél : 33 1 53 68 64 58 Fax : 33 1 53 68 64 59

E-mail : [ginger@club-internet.fr](mailto:ginger@club-internet.fr)

## Brussels Symposium Report *July 3, 4, 5 ; 1997.*

### Present : 22 heads of 14 organisations from 10 countries

Belgium	Brussels	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage, Dominique Poncin
Belgium	Gent	Multi-Di-Mens	Dan Van Baalen
Brazil	Sao Paolo	SEDES	Lilian Meyer-Frazao
France	Paris	EPG	Serge and Anne Ginger, Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Pierre Coret, Michèle Combeau
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Germany	Wurzburg		Bernadette Valentin-Mousli
Italy	Florence	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Italy	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Daan Van Baalen, Gro Van Baalen
Poland	Cracovie	ITG	Magda Zaleska
Russia	St Petersburg	IGSP	Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine
Spain	Barcelona	ETGB	Alberto Rams

### Excused : 11 organisations from 9 countries

Canada	Montreal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
England	London	Metanoia	Tania Levine, Bar Yoseph
England	London	Physis	Petruska Ckarkson
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jurgen Ferchland
Italy	Milan	Alia	Anna Fabbrini
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Xalapa	CEIG	Guadalupe Amescua
Russia	Moscow	IGM	Daniil Khlomov
Russia	Moscow	GIP	Nifont Dolgopolov
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Lidija Pecotic
USA	Los Angeles	GILA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick

Total number of organisations (accredited or associated) : 25 training  
organisations from 15 countries.

## **1. Welcome**

The conference was held at *Intégration*, which was set up specially thanks to Jean Van Pevenage and Dominique Poncin.

Lodging was assured at *Integration* or in a near-by hotel. All meals were on site, except the welcome meal the evening before (in a Brussels restaurant) and the sumptuous aperitif at Jean and Dominique's home.

Each participant was given a file including :

- The time table
- Theme suggestions
- List of participants
- Information file on *Intégration*, our host organisation
- Information regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> EAP (*European Association of Psychotherapy*) Conference
- Map and guide to Brussels.

Jean Van Pevenage made a welcome speech, and gave details regarding places and times.

Serge Ginger welcomed the participants, excused those absent, and briefly went over the aims of *FORGE*, its history and the spirit in which it was founded. He went on to suggest that each person consider which themes were of current personal importance. Also mentioned were :

- Ethical problems in training and in society
- Inter-organisation trainer exchange
- Information regarding EAP and the CEP (European Certificate of Psychotherapy)
- Transsexuality
- Gestalt in public and private sectors
- Diagnosis and psychopathology in Gestalt
- Gestalt and community life
- Associations and clubs of ex-students

## **2. Detailed presentation of new member organisations**

### **2.1 Gestalt Institute of St Petersburg, presented by Natacha Lebedeva.**

Founded in 1995.

140 students at present, from 5 towns all over Russia.

Each year, 5x 40-hour sessions, with two trainers who alternate.

15 graduates in 1996 (Serge Ginger was present for the dissertations).

Each graduate undertook prior personal therapy, and followed at least 10 cases.

In 1997, 20 new graduates, with original papers, and demonstrations.

30% of the graduates practise private psychotherapy.

### **2.2 Barcelona Gestalt Atelier, presented by Alberto Rams**

Officially founded in 1988, according to Spanish legislation (active since 1982).

Operating on an original model since 1990 : 4 years of core training (800 hours), in small groups, in a « makeshift » and artistic spirit, with a transpersonal orientation (inspired by C. Naranjo).

The first year consists of an overview of therapeutic approaches.

The fourth year is centered around supervision.

16-18 students at intake ; around 12 at graduation.

Most students are previous clients ; their own personal development is thus a useful working reference.

Individual pathology as a therapeutic device. Much work on hidden individual « shadow zones ».

Community and social repercussions (Gestalt therapy-kibbutz).

*Each talk was followed by numerous questions and remarks.*

### **3. A few words on the EAP (European Association of Psychotherapy)**

The EAP was created in 1990, after the *Strasbourg Declaration*, which states that psychotherapy is an independent profession, and requires specific advanced training (including personal therapy, theory, practice and supervision). The EAP regroups 180 institutions from 34 European countries, and 18 European associations representing renowned « proven » methods. It organises a European conference in the last weekend of June, each year.

In Rome, June 1997, the EAP signed the papers instituting the CEP (*European Certificate of Psychotherapy*). The CEP requires 3,200 hours of training over 7 years, including 4 years training in a recognised psychotherapeutic method. The first CEP certifications were conferred in June 1998, at the 8<sup>th</sup> EAP Conference, in Paris

### **4. Ethics (summary of an animated general exchange)**

The challenge of different modes of interaction in the following situations :

- Therapist – client : neither judgement nor role modelling.
- Trainer – student : teaching, role modelling, evaluation.
- Supervisor – young therapist : sharing with colleagues.

In Italy, at the University, trainers may not take on students as clients ; but the contrary does happen- provided that therapy and training are separated in time. The therapists usually work outside the institute, but the supervisors are faculty members and have an evaluative role.

In Germany, after several years of experience, training and therapy have been firmly separated, due to problems of influence and confidentiality. The difference between personal therapy and didactic (training) therapy is made clear.

In Brazil, students are never taken in therapy. If an ex-client becomes a student, his ex-therapist is excluded from his evaluation ; he is present but remains silent, respecting bilateral confidentiality.

In general, even though changing roles is indeed a *complex* affair, it is frequently *inevitable in practice*. This is particularly the case in those countries where Gestalt is not yet well-developed, and there is not a wide choice of therapists. This is manageable if care is taken, and there are certain advantages in knowing students on another level. In any case, the training always includes therapy time, and therapy itself can also be formative. The main problems remain *confidentiality* and *evaluation*; *teamwork* is particularly helpful when faced with such issues.

## **5. Transsexuality**

Detailed presentation of her research, by Anna Ravenna.

It is a problem of gender rather than sex (disrupted gender identity). No biological element is implicated.

The person feels imprisoned in his own body, and trapped in an unacceptable role.

Transsexuality affects 1 in 200,000. Each year, 300 undergo surgery in Italy, and 500 in France. Two years of prior psychotherapy (especially Gestalt) are required, as are a favorable psychiatric opinion and a real-life test in the opposite gender.

Nevertheless, at five years after operation, 2/3 committed suicide !

Anna gave details regarding the prolonged series of interviews and tests before decision and intervention.

## **6. Free interventions at closure**

**Magda (Poland)** was delighted with the exchanges, and with Bernadette's arrival in Poland, and later Serge and Anne. Their visits stimulated their team, which had felt a bit isolated. She would appreciate written information and photos from the various institutions, for publication in the GT Journal.

She was thrilled to participate in the international therapist course, held near Montpellier and organised by the EPG.

**Bernadette (Germany)** was very interested in her first trip to Poland, and by the openness of the people.

**Sergio (Mexico)** hosted Serge and Anne, then J. Marie Robine, J. Marie Delacroix and Paco Penarrubia (Spain). They all participated in tertiary teaching towards a Gestalt doctorate delivered by the University. Sergio is a journal editor and would gladly publish international articles.

In Mexico, students' personal development is always considered to be an important part of training.

International exchange students pay what they would have paid in their own country, plus the trip over and other fees. They may live with colleagues during their stay.

**Serge (France)** states that the EPG offers special tariffs, up to 80 % reduction for participants from countries in economic difficulty.

**Anna (Italy)** can provide lodging for trainers and students in Rome.

**Inga (Germany)** can also provide lodging, during her country seminar. She dislikes the excessive number of courses offered in Germany; neither J. Zinker nor the Polsters manage to fill their seminars. In Hamburg alone, there are 20-odd training institutes: and hundreds over the country.

**Natacha (Russia)** had just finished training the second group of students. She thanked Serge and Anne and the EPG team for their teaching. Now they have « two sets of grandchildren » in St Petersburg ! She appreciated the warm and informal nature of contacts within FORGE.

**Liliane (Brazil)** thanked Anne and Serge for their visit, and for the seminars and conferences they led while in Brazil. She enjoyed the sharing and the working style characteristic of FORGE, especially that no decisions were made here (which would have been difficult for the participants).

**Daan (Norway)** repeated that he would be happy to host a FORGE Conference at a later date. Gestalt therapy is rapidly developing in Norway, with student numbers on the increase.

**Alberto (Spain)** stated that the national Spanish association is one of the largest and most active European groups, with 350 members.

**Edoardo (Italy)** noted that Gestalt is one of the most popular therapies in Italy, second only to family therapy. Unfortunately, the university programs are very expensive and include neither personal development nor practice !

**Jean (Belgium)** proposes seminars where « the group is the client », open to international students and especially to those working in institutions. He also offers Gestalt coaching for managers and management teams. Unfortunately, many participants are looking for « quick fix » solutions.

**Dima (Russia)** also runs courses with managers. In Russia, the notion of responsibility is still lacking (since the communist period). Typical management plans are long-term (15 years !), in a very theoretical future.

**Gonzague (France)** contributed a chapter to a French book on Gestalt in training and in the corporate sector. He can send it to those interested.

**Bernadette (Germany)** wanted to thank the whole team for having welcomed her individually, with no difficulty, as she does not officially represent an organisation.

*For more news and exchanges...see you at the next conference, in Paris.*

*Brief summary written in December 1998  
by Serge Ginger, FORGE President.*



# FORGE

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E-mail : [ginger@club-internet.fr](mailto:ginger@club-internet.fr)

## FORGE Board Report

*Brussels, 4.7.97*

### Present

Serge GINGER	(France)	President
Sergio VAZQUEZ	(Mexico)	Vice-President
Jean VAN PEVENAGE	(Belgium)	Secretary
Gonzague MASQUELIER	(France)	Treasurer
Edoardo GIUSTI	(Italy)	Board Member
Anna Ravenna	(Italy)	Board Member

### Excused

Gilles DELISLE	(Canada)	Vice-President
----------------	----------	----------------

### 1. Next Annual Conference

The invitation from Gonzague Masquelier, Director of the EPG, to host the next conference was accepted. The meeting will be next Summer in Paris, June 28-30, following the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP European Conference. The meeting could begin from the Sunday night.

There is the possibility of international workshops, which could allow French colleagues to benefit from of a wide variety of expertise, and also help reduce travel costs for representatives from economically disadvantaged countries.

Current plans include Norway as a future Conference host. Political and socio-economic difficulties in Russia prevents medium-term projects.

### 2. Acceptance of New Member Institutes

FORGE is more and more united, which facilitates quality exchange in a confident atmosphere, without rivalry. As the aim is to maintain this, conference participants are limited to less than 30. Informal direct exchanges can thus continue.

Steady opening of FORGE is to continue, without propaganda. Progressive acceptance of organisations from countries such as Argentina, Austria, Chili, Denmark, Lithuania, Holland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and even Australia is desirable ; no more that 3 organisations from one country.



### **3. FORGE's Commitment to International Organisations**

In accordance with the decision made at the Rome Symposium (4.7.96), FORGE joined the EAP (European Association for Psychotherapy) and the WCP (World Council for Psychotherapy). On the other hand, FORGE did not apply to the EAGT (European Association for Gestalt Therapy) as it operates on a similar level and also as it includes several non-European members. However, FORGE suggests that its European organisations do apply.

### **4. Individual Expert Invitations**

The Board decided that individual experts who do not represent organisations may be invited.

For instance :

Janine CORBEIL (Canada),

Joseph ZINKER (USA),

And also Bernadette VALENTIN-MOULI who does not overtly represent an organisation.

### **5. The Next Conference Program**

The basis of programming will remain free and open, which allows members to express current preoccupations which are hard to predict.

Nevertheless, several people would like two or three general themes to be prepared (if possible with an accompanying text), to explore in depth. This work could lead to publication.

Those concerned are invited to advise others sufficiently in advance to allow preparation.

### **6. Election of Executive and Board Members, and Administrative Matters**

The board, elected in Rome in July 1996, are re-elected. Constituents are :

President	Serge GINGER	France	Paris	EPG
Vice-Presidents	Gilles DELISLE	Canada	Montreal	CIG
	Sergio VAZQUEZ	Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro
Secretary	Jean VAN PEVENAGE	Belgium	Brussels	Integration
Treasurer	Gonzague MASQUELIER	France	Paris	EPG
Board Members	Edoardo GIUSTI	Italy	Rome	ASPIC
	Anna RAVENNA	Italy	Florence	IGF

Gilles Delisle and Edoardo Giusti, very busy this year, let us know that they were unable to maintain close involvement with FORGE at present, but remain very interested in its work.

The yearly fee, kept to a minimum, is unchanged. It goes towards administrative costs (circulars, translations, etc), as most postal and telephone bills are paid directly by each organisation, and as the Conference preparation is largely assured by the host institute.

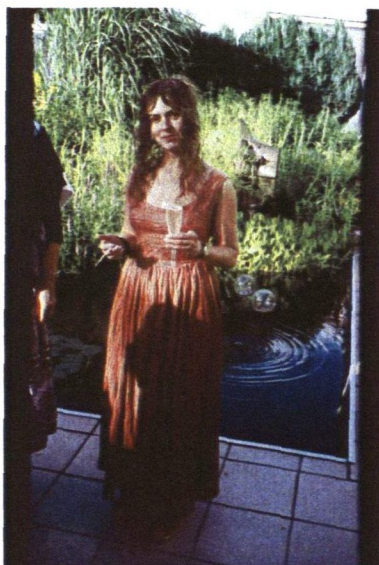
*Résumé by Serge GINGER, President  
December 1998*



## 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: Brussels, 1997



Anna Ravenna	Gonzague Masquelier	Alberto Rams	Bernadette Valentin	Daan Van Baalen	Serge Ginger	Brigitte Martel		
	Lilian Frazao	Magda Zaleska	Inga Schuman	Anne Ginger		Jean Van Pevenage	Dominique Poncin	
Sergio Vazquez	Dima Ovechkine	Natasha Lebedeva	Pierre Coret	Michèle Combeau	Lena Ivanova	Edoardo Giusti	Gro Skottun	
			Cecilia Alvarez					



Lena Ivanova (St. Petersburg)

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT**  
**7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM**  
**PARIS (FRANCE). JUNE 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup> 1999**

**Presents: 21 leaders of 11 Institutes from 10 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
France	Paris	EPG	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger, Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel, Xavier Bonnet-Eymard
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Michèle Combeau
Italy	Florence	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Italy	Roma	ASPIC	Claudia Montanari et Carmine.
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun
Poland	Cracovia	ITG	Magda Zaleska
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Oveshkine
Sweden	Stockholm	GT-Academy	Barbro Curman, Assar Hansson, Ami Norén
USA	San Francisco	& Esalen	Morgan Goodlander

**Absent (with apologies) : 17 leaders of 16 Institutes from 12 countries**

Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Myriam Bove-Fernandez
Canada	Montreal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Pierre Coret
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Germany	Würzburg	IGW	Bernadette Valentin-Mousli
Italy	Milano	Alia	Anna Fabbri
Italy	Roma	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Xalapa	CEIG	Guadalupe Amescua
Russia	Moscow	GIP	Nifont Dolgoplov
Russia	Moscow	IGM	Daniil Khlomov
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Lidija Pecotic
Spain	Barcelona	ETGB	Alberto Rams
UK	London	Physis	Petrushka Clarkson
USA	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick

**Total (full members or associate): 26 Training Institutes from 16 countries**

**1. COLLOQUIUM OPENING**

**1.1 Welcome** by Gonzague Masquelier, Director of the Paris Gestalt School (École Parisienne de Gestalt, EPG) and Treasurer of the FORGE, glad to greet us in the Institute's new premises, warm and multi-colored.

*Work schedules* are determined:

For the first day: 10 AM to 1 PM; then 2 PM to 7 PM; then a visit of Paris in small groups

Second day: 10 AM to 1 PM; then 3 PM to 7 PM and evening party starting at 8 PM at the Ginger's private home (*buffet, folk dances and folk songs on the terrace roof*)

Third day: 10 AM to 2 PM; then lunch together (optional)

1.2 Then, Serge GINGER, FORGE's President, briefly recalls the FORGE's *objectives* and *history* :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (therapy and organization).
- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standard is imposed to anyone; each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context.
- Brief reminder of the previous colloquia, since 8 years, in different countries.

## **2. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION OF THE NEW PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES**

The new participants introduce themselves :

Barbro, Amy (Anne-Marie) and Assar (from Sweden) and Morgan (from the US).

Each of them briefly explains some of the specificities of their institute and answers to some varied *questions* from the group.

Hereafter are a few *sumarized extracts*:

### **2.1 Stockholm (Sweden) : Gestalt Academy, presented by Barbro Curman**

Founded in 1976. The institute was involved with trainers from Cleveland, San Diego, New York and Toronto, with various approaches. Important *social role* (Scandinavian style). An autonomous GT branch in *organizations*, since the past 12 years : same overall training and group psychotherapy duration (160 h).

Barbro has been running the Institute since the beginning and she is progressively withdrawing.

Amy is going to replace her in the therapy department: she lives in a small village with 400 inhabitants, with old XIVth century houses.

In Sweden, a new law has strictly « regulated » psychotherapy: even psychoanalysis remains controversial.

### **2.2 The CAPCI (Guadalajara, Mexico), presented by Cecilia Alvarez**

Clinic of application attached to the *Integro* Training Center. Has been functioning since 1989.

Welcomes some 700 underprivileged children and families from the region, every week.

They only pay *one dollar* per work session.

They are taken in charge by trainees, under the direct supervision (*in vivo*) of the trainers.

Each of the 45 trainees thus practice around 300 hours a year, in small rooms, put at their disposal by the Institute. This work makes it possible to carry out research in the social field and gives supporting information for many study dissertations. This system has now spread to 9 towns or cities in Mexico.

*Integro* photocopies about a hundred books for each student (110 000 photocopies a month !)

## **3. « BURN-OUT »**

How can one prevent from becoming burnt out, or exhausted in this « all-consuming » profession ?

Several participants share their « tricks of the trade » or their passions:

- Anne sets out some colored and irremovable days or periods in her diary;
- Serge and Anne go away from home regularly, by themselves, on « honeymoons », without any children, without any responsibilities.
- Gro does sports: ski, jogging, etc.
- Natasha travels a lot;
- Barbro sets herself out a week of « sick leave », once a year...

## **4. GESTALT IN ORGANIZATIONS (COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS)**

Barbro emphasizes complementarity and sometimes the contradictions of work in small groups and large group. They have at their disposal more than twenty specialized consultants. The specialized training for GT organization practitioners lasts 4 years in Sweden, by increments of five weeks a year. Each training has found its own specific identity, but there are a few meetings where all the trainees gather together (160, the majority of which — around 90 — in the « organization » department). The two departments require 160 h of experiential groupwork. Therapists go through 120 h of individual therapy, 70 h for practitioners. There is a real separation between both categories, but the process is similar and sometimes some people switch from the clinical field to the organizational field; the other way around is much less frequent.

Jean Van Pevenage considers that in a company, we go from two partners to *three* : practitioner, clients and organization, which implies right from the start a clear, deliberately “ triangular ” contract. Work is done both on a vertical (hierarchical) and a horizontal (relationship) axis.

Gonzague mentions the importance of inter-session periods of return to the field, implying a direct contact with colleagues and superiors.

Certain employees are sent right from the start to a workshop, without even having requested it. How can they be really involved and how can these resistances be overcome?

But Daan remarks that the more resistances there are in an organization, the more energy!

## **5. LIST OF A FEW THEMES ABOUT WHICH DEBATES ARE DESIRED**

- Exchanges between students (trainees) and professionals from various Institutes
- The political situation in Sweden and in other countries
- A specific FORGE website
- References to Perls and to Goodman
- Publications and research (not treated this time around)
- Transference processes on the Director (not treated this time around)

## **6. TRAINEES EXCHANGES**

**6.1** Many are interested, but two problems persist: language and prices.

As far as prices are concerned, it is agreed that each foreign student would have to pay the same price which he normally would have to pay in his or her own country of origin (except for accommodation, which is often sub-contracted with organizations independent from FORGE). Accommodation can however often be offered by students from the welcoming country.

Possibilities can be communicated on the FORGE website.

**6.2** Exchanges between *trainers* have taken place or are planned between several countries, notably:

- between France, Norway, Italy, the US, Mexico, Poland, Russia.
- between Germany, Poland and Russia

## **7. THE POLITICAL SITUATION**

**7.1 In Sweden**, for the past 20 years, legislation is not opposed to the practice of psychotherapy by therapists coming from various other professions; however, it only recognizes a few methods:

- the cognitive-behavioral approach
- family therapy
- and, to a certain extent, the psycho-dynamic approach.

Other methods must produce conclusive scientific research.

The new law gives regulative powers to the Ministry of Education, rather than to the Ministry of Health, as in the past. It requires University diplomas (medicine, psychology, social work) and all private training organizations must meet these new criteria. About ten programs have been studied last year and *GT Academy* has signed an agreement with the Sherwood University (UK)... but all ten programs have been refused for the moment, even those who had previously been accredited ! Three of them have six months to comply, and three have been irreversibly refused.

**7.2 In Germany**, since January 1999, double limitation:

- 1) One must be a physician (medical doctor) or a psychologist;
- 2) One must practice one of three recognized methods (psychoanalysis, behaviorism, family therapy).
- 3) Furthermore, Social Security reimbursements have been diminished almost by half.

**7.3 In France**, the Government is preparing regulations, notably to fight against sects.

Rivalries are important between psychiatrists, psychologists and psychotherapists and we do not know yet what decisions will be taken.

## 8. A FORGE WEBSITE ON THE INTERNET

Morgan Goodlander offers to open up a specific FORGE *website*, which could be run by one of his assistants, and he hopes to establish *links* with existing sites.

## 9. REFERENCES TO PERLS AND TO GOODMAN

The various Institutes refer themselves more or less to these both main founders of Gestalt Therapy.

Several Gestaltists from New York, even Cleveland, say that they are practising a « pure », *academic* and *dialogical* type of Gestalt, close to psychoanalysis and recognized by Universities, and they consider with some condescension certain more *experiential* trends from California.

It seems important to remain tolerant towards *various styles*, without exclusiveness and to know how to resist to changing fashions. FORGE wishes to retain as a founding value *forbearance for differences*, healthy emulation and not contemptuous or destructive rivalry.

But the problem is that each party only sees or hears what they want to hear or see: refer to the famous metaphor of the elephant discovered by blind people... Thus, for example, Laura Perls often referred herself to Buber, but Bud Feder — who worked with her for 7 years — never « heard » her even mention Buber !

Bob Resnick tends towards an *integrative* approach and thinks that in 20 years, « pure » Gestalt Therapy will have disappeared.

In the Netherlands, there were ten different Gestalt Institutes that did not communicate one with another at all. This led to a collapse of the Gestalt movement.

And yet internal conflicts or confrontations can be stimulating for research.

« Progress goes from burial to burial »

and « Women give birth straddling tumbs »

*(Shakespeare, but re-translated from the French, probably not his original words, T's.N.)*

## 10. NEXT MEETINGS

**10.1. In 2000 :** Next annual meeting will be held in Oslo (Norway), at the invitation of Daan Van Baalen and Gro Skottun from the *Norsk Gestaltinstitutt (NGI)*, from Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> to Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup>

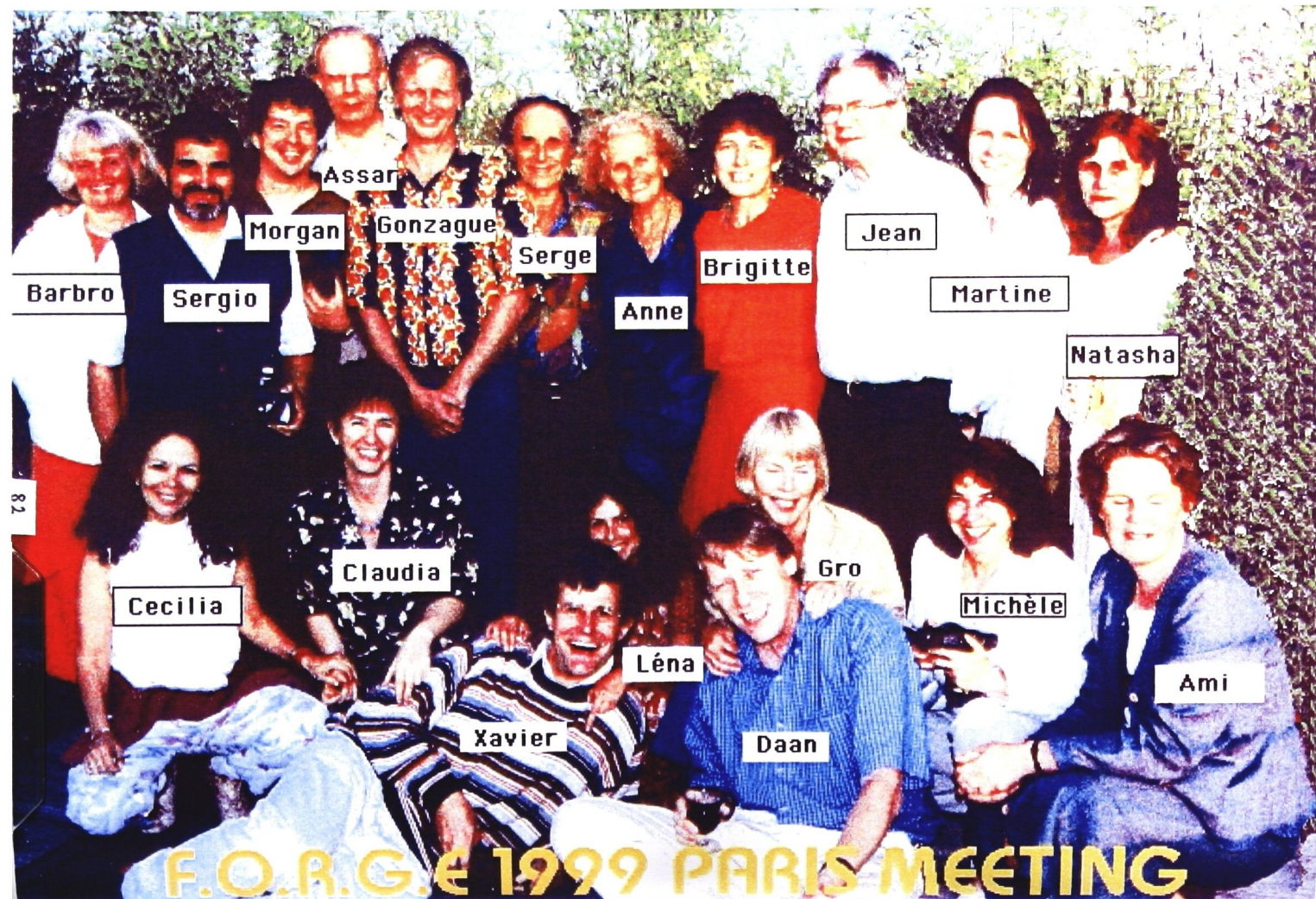
**10.2. In 2001 :** FORGE doesn't organise meeting, due to 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the *European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT)*, in Stockholm (Sweden), from September 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

**10.3. In 2002 :** it's planned to meet in Krakow (Poland) at the invitation of Magda Zaleska, from the *Instytut Terapii Gestalt (ITG)*. The exact dates are not yet decided.

*Summarized by Serge Ginger, in French, in March 2000.  
Translated into English by Jean-Marc Jacot, in April 2000.*







F.O.R.G.E. 1999 PARIS MEETING



## 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: Paris, 1999



On the roof of the Ginger's apartment



The meeting room of the *Paris School of Gestalt* (EPG) is waiting for the international guests





**ORGE**

Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt

International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations

183 rue Lecourbe 75015 PARIS Tél. : + 33 1 53 68 64 58 Fax : + 33 1 53 68 64 59

E-mail: ginger@club-internet.fr

Paris, June 29th, 1999

## REPORT FOR 1998-99

by Serge Ginger, President

This report covers a two years period, since the last meeting in Brussels, in June 97.

Last summer, in 98, for the first time, we finally decided to postpone the traditional annual meeting — to avoid a concurrence with two important conferences, which were programmed during the same period:

- the 8th Congress of *European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP)*, in Paris and Dourdan,, from June 25 to 28 (300 therapists from 35 European countries).
- the 6th Congress of *European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT)*, which gathered 400 participants from 20 countries, in Palermo (Sicily), October 1 to 4.

The same situation will occur in 2001, with the 9th Congress of EAP in Dublin (Ireland) in June, and the 7th Congress of EAGT in Stockholm, in September.

So, we'll have normally our 8th FORGE meeting in summer 2000, and then our 9th in 2002. We'll decide together the exact dates and places during this meeting.

What happened since our Brussel meeting, two years ago ?

### **1. Numerous individual exchanges between Trainers and between some Institutes :**

- Several interventions of Serge and Anne Ginger in Poland, Norway, Italy, Malta, Mexico and Russia,
- Interventions in Poland and Russia by Bernadette Valentin and Aline Dagut (EPG),
- Interventions by Petrushka Clarkson in Italy
- Interventions in France by Gilles Delisle, Alberto Rams and Edoardo Giusti
- Advanced Training intensive workshops for therapists (in France), with our Russian colleagues (Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine), with Polish ones (Magda Zaleska and all the staff of the Cracovian Institute, next month), and also with one of the trainers from Oslo Institute.

### **2. Intensive international Political activity for the official recognition of the profession of Psychotherapist and Gestalt Therapist :**

As we had decided at our Governing Board meeting in Roma (96), we subscribed to EAP and to WCP, and also to FFdP. So, Serge Ginger and Daan Van Baalen participated to several international meetings of EAP to establish the *European Certificate of Psychotherapy (ECP)*.

But recently, the Governing Board of EAP decided that the members should be *exclusively* European to be allowed to participate in votations, so FORGE has to decide if it's still interesting to send our fees or not !

S. G.

August 2001

<p align="center"><b>SHORT REMINDER REPORT</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM</b>  <b>OSLO (NORWAY). JULY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup> 2000</b></p>
---

**Present: 13 leaders of 6 Institutes from 6 countries**

Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell,
France	Paris	EPG	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger,
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun, Svein Johansen
Poland	Cracovie	ITG	Magda Zaleska
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natacha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine

**Absent (with apologies): 23 leaders of 16 Institutes from 12 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Canada	Montréal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Pierre Coret, Michèle Combeau
France	Paris	EPG	Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel, Xavier Bonnet-Eymard
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Germany	Würzburg	IGW	Bernadette Valentin-Mousli
Italy	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari
Italy	Florence	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Lidija Pecotic
Spain	Barcelone	ETGB	Alberto Rams
Sweden	Stockholm	GT-Academy	Barbro Curman, Assar Hansson, Ami Norèn
USA	San Francisco	& Esalen	Morgan Goodlander
USA	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick

**Total (full members or associate): 28 Training Institutes from 17 countries.**

**1. COLLOQUIUM OPENING**

**1.1** *Welcome* by Daan Van Baalen and Gro Skottun, Directors of the Norsk Gestaltinstitut.  
*As it is usual in our meetings, work schedule and agenda are determined together, to follow the needs of everybody.*

**1.2** Then, Serge Ginger, FORGE's President, briefly recalls the FORGE's *objectives* and *history* :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (psychotherapy and organizations).
- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context.
- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 9 years, in different countries.
- Many bilateral or trilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year: USA/France, Poland/France, Poland/Germany, Russia/Germany, France/Russia, Canada/France, France/Malta, Norway/Malta, Norway/Denmark, etc.
- "FORGE" has a *polysemic* meaning: initials of the French denomination; but also: heat, transformation and combination of different metals, to "forge" something new (friendship) and also "forge ahead", progress.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES**

The participants introduce themselves:

### **2.1. Norway**

8 persons from the Norwegian team are present: Daan, Gro, Svein, Knut, Synøve, Marina, Mette.

Each of them briefly explains some of the specificities of their institute and answers to some varied *questions* from the group.

The National Norwegian Gestalt (GT) Association gathers 230 members.

Hereafter are a few *sumarized extracts*:

### **2.2 Russia**

Natasha explain that their institute, opened 7 years ago, gathers now 60 students in St. Petersburg and 80 in different towns of Russia, Siberia, Ukraine, etc. The rapid development of GT can be explained by a deep need for freedom and expression of emotions.

### **2.3. Poland**

Magda explains that they have presently 144 students (and 94 certified Gestaltists).

They teach therapy, pedagogy (GT for children and adolescents) and GT within organizations.

### **2.4. Denmark**

Bente and David participate for the first time. They lead a small training institute in Copenhagen ("small is beautiful") since 1982. 10 students per year (during 4 years). Bente is Danish and David is American, specialized in bodywork (rolfing, etc). He wrote a book ("Touching Dialogue"). There are about 8 to 10 small training institutes of GT in Denmark.

They have a house in the South of France (Aix-en-Provence).

Previously, David was a photographer.

### **2.5. Germany**

Eva and Jürgen participate for the first time, but they were members of FORGE since some years. Their institute is specialized in GT within Organizations. Founded in 1992. They have been trained in Germany and in Cleveland (USA) and worked with Ed Nevis. Their program gathers 36 trainees from different countries, every 2 years. Their program includes 5 meetings of 6 days, in many countries, all over the world. They travel a lot. About 50 % of the participants pay themselves, 50 % are paid by their companies.

Previously, Jürgen was an economist.

### **2.6. France**

Serge and Anne created the Paris School of GT (EPG) in 1981. They are practicing GT since 1971 and they are preparing their retirement, by steps. They had just their golden wedding this year.

### 3. LIST OF SOME THEMES ABOUT WHICH DEBATES ARE DESIRED

- Exchanges between students (trainees) and professionals from various Institutes
- Gestalt within Organizations
- Supervision
- Co-therapy and co-leading
- GT with children and adolescents
- GT faced to other approaches
- The political situation (laws, EAP, ECP, etc.) in Europe (Germany, France, etc.)

*Two main topics will be discussed this time:*

- *GT within Organizations*
- *The training of Supervisors*

### 4. GESTALT WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS (OSD) (some short notes)

The central topic is *contact making* and not *competition* and fight!

The *process* is central

- within myself
- within the group, here and now
- within the organization as a whole

And also the importance of different *fields* and *contact boundaries*.

*Specificities* of the GT approach compared to *Group dynamics* and *Group therapy* and *Problem solving*.

*Work on Now and Then*.

In therapy, there is an *open contract* and an *open end*; not in a Company.

The Boss asks for a problem (symptom) but the real problem is usually elsewhere.

In the field of business the *change* is *much more rapid* than in a psychotherapy (therapists are used to work during years).

In the business, people are *trained by doing*; in therapy, they are trained by thinking.

Importance of the *ideological* dimension, not always conscious (for ex. the *logo* of the Company).

The rate of men is much higher than in a group of therapy : for instance, 20 men for 1 woman!

An individual therapy is not asked from everybody (but proposed).

Fieldwork and visits within some international companies are organized (by small groups of three) and also, of course, regular days of supervision. This program is unique in the world.

Eva, Jürgen and Daan relate their experience together in Norway.

A project of cooperation with EPG (France) is evoked.

### 5. SUPERVISION (some short notes)

A specific training seems necessary.

• In Oslo, the applicants must have at least two years of advanced practice under supervision, and then they have two years of specific training and an article to write. They observe 6 sessions of supervision done by Daan or Gro and then they discuss them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they supervise under supervision 6 sessions of 3 hours ("life supervision").

• In Paris, they must have worked at least 5 years under supervision, after having obtained the advanced Diploma (5 years of training). Then, they have 18 months of specific training, with a lot of role playing and supervision practicum. They must supervise during one year under supervision, and write an article as supervisee or supervisor.

- In St. Petersburg, the training seems, to date, to be limited to Balint Groups, with long sessions (2 hours or more for one case).  
In Oslo, within a small group of supervision, they spend in average half an hour on each case, and in Paris, in average 50 minutes.

- In Copenhagen, it seems to be a specific profession, but not limited to Gestalt Therapy.

- Jürgen asks the question to train Gestalt Therapists as supervisors, or supervisors as Gestalt therapists? They follow a protocol with 6 phases:

1. The therapist presents the case
2. The group asks different questions
3. The presenter keeps silent and the members of the group discuss the case
4. The therapist picks up what has an echo in him and comment it
5. Everybody gives his/her suggestions
6. The therapist chooses what fits him.
- 7.

- Serge likes to ask the therapist to give a short title, summarizing the situation or the case.

- Problems of confidentiality in Oslo which is a small town (it's easy to recognize a client).  
When it's possible, a supervision in another town is more easy.

In some cases like sexual abuse, *individual* sessions are easier to carry on than group sessions.

- The supervisor feels responsible of his/her supervisee if there is a clear mistake.  
If h/she don't answer but only listen, h/she is often considered by the client (therapist) as giving an agreement.

- A therapist is supposed to be generally supportive, but a supervisor is allowed to criticize.

## **6. SOCIAL PROGRAM**

- Children Art Museum
- Dinner at Gro and Daan's home, with choirs and singing.
- Dinner in a restaurant on the sea side
- Taking pictures (photos)
- Closing lunch with toasts, speeches and gifts.

## **7. NEXT MEETINGS**

### **7.1. In 2001**

FORGE doesn't organise its annual meeting, due to 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the *European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT)*, in Stockholm (Sweden), from September 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. But a local meeting will take place.

### **7.2. In 2002**

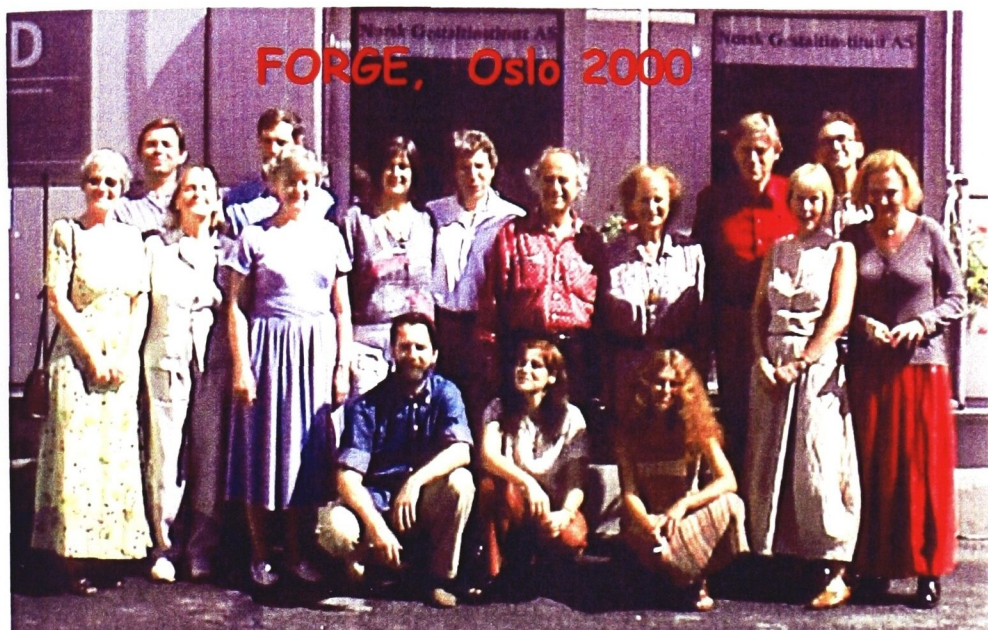
It's planned to meet in Krakow (Poland) at the invitation of Magda Zaleska, from the *Instytut Terapii Gestalt (ITG)*. The exact dates are not yet decided: around the 1<sup>st</sup> of July (or the Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of June, because of special airplane fares for Saturday night).

### **7.3. New members**

- No more than 3 institutes by country.
- Unanimous acceptance by every member (secret ballot).
- No more than 2 or 3 new members the same year, with a priority for new countries.
- Contacts : Latvia, Spain, Austria, Holland, Slovakia, Tchekia, Israël, Greece.

*Summarized by Serge Ginger in August 2001.*

## 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: Oslo, 2000



Official Picture from FORGE Conference in Oslo June 2000.



Farewell dinner at Gro and Daan's home



June 2003

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT**  
**9<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM**  
**CRACOW (POLAND). JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> – JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002**

**Present: 22 leaders and trainers of 11 Institutes from 9 countries**

France	Paris	EPG	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger, Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Germany	Würzburg		Bernadette Valentin-Mousli
Latvia	Riga		Arthur Dombrovski
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez + Gonzales ("Memo")
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun, Synøve Jørstad, Helga.
Poland	Cracovie	ITG	Magda Zaleska, Tomek
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natacha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkin
	Moscow	GIP	Nifont Dolgopolov, Masha Lekareva-Bozenenkova
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Maria Stefanowic

**Absent (with apologies) : 18 leaders or trainers of 13 Institutes from 10 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
	Gand	MdM	Ernst Knijff
Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Canada	Montréal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell,
France	Paris	SA VOIR-Psy	Michèle Combeau
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland
Italy	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari
Italy	Florence	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Spain	Barcelone	ETGB	Alberto Rams
Sweden	Stockholm	GT-Academy	Ami Norén, Assar Hansson
USA	San Francisco	& Esalen	Morgan Goodlander
USA	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick

**Total (full members or associate): 24 Training Institutes from 17 countries.**



*The FORGE group in the University of Cracow (June 2002)*

## 1. COLLOQUIUM OPENING

### **1.1 Welcome by Magda Zaleska .**

*As it is usual in our meetings, work schedule and agenda are determined together, to follow the needs of everybody.*

**1.2** Then, Serge Ginger, FORGE's President, briefly recalls the FORGE's *objectives and history* :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (psychotherapy and organizations).

- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context.

- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 10 years, in different countries.

- Many bilateral or trilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year between institutes from: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, Russia, USA.

- "FORGE" has a *polysemic* meaning: initials of the French denomination; but also: heat, transformation and combination of different metals, to "forge" something new (friendship) and also "forge ahead", progress.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES

The participants introduce themselves: hereafter are a few *sumarized extracts*:

### **2.1. Norway**

4 persons from the Norwegian team are present: Daan, Gro, Synøve, Helga.

Gro express her deep pain for the lost of her daughter, some weeks ago.

The whole group participates in her grief.

Each member of the faculty briefly explains some of the specificities of their institute and answers to some varied *questions* from the group.

The National Norwegian Gestalt (GT) Association gathers 230 members.

### **2.2 Russia**

Natasha explain that their institute, opened 8 years ago, gathers now 60 students in St. Petersburg and more than 100 in different towns of Russia, Siberia, Ukraine, etc. 14 groups of therapy and training. 8 trainers. The rapid development of GT can be explained by a deep need for freedom and expression of emotions.

Nifont appreciates the climate of freedom of FORGE, open to all kinds of questions. He has been attacked by some students for ethical reasons and is tired by conflicts.

### **2.3. Poland**

Magda explains that they have presently 144 students (and 94 certified Gestaltists).

The Institute teaches therapy, pedagogy (GT for children and adolescents) and GT within organizations. They are interested in a training for supervisors.

The director died last year and there are some splits within the staff.

### **2.4. Mexico**

Sergio and Ceci run one of the most important Gestalt institute in the world: 1 000 trainees in 25 towns, in all the country. They prepare a PhD. They have a new building of 5 stores.

### **2.5. Germany**

Bernadette will retire. It's her last FORGE meeting. She has some health problems.

Inga works in the smallest institute in the country: 4 trainers, 3 training groups of 16 trainees.

### **2.6. France**

Serge and Anne created the Paris School of GT (EPG) in 1981. They are practicing GT since 1971 and they are now retired, but still actives in France and many other countries. EPG trained more than 1000 students since the beginning. The actual director (since 1992) is Gonzague Masquelier. He is giving workshop about Gestalt and Sexuality, with Brigitte, in many countries.



*Three newcomers participate for the first time:*

#### **2.7. Malta**

Lidija comes from Serbia. She opened a training institute in Malta.

#### **2.8. Serbia**

Maria is working (with Lidija) in Belgrade (Yugoslavia: Serbia and Montenegro).

#### **2.9. Latvia**

Arthur leads a small institute in Riga. He studied with Russian and French leaders. He is passionate by creativity and by technology (computers, internet, video).

*Now, detailed minutes by Synøve (readjusted by Serge):*

### **3. LIST OF SOME TOPICS ABOUT WHICH DEBATES ARE DESIRED**

- Peace in the world
- Website for FORGE
- Our responsibility on this planet (social, political, ethical)
- Exchange of students
- Accreditation of Gestalt training / national recognition
- International contact as Gestaltists on political events
- Supervision
- Training supervisors
- Code of ethics
- Evaluation of students
- International student exchange
- Individual suffering and suffering in a wider field
- Postprofessional relationship between teachers and students
- Psychotherapy and politics
- Training of students
- Popularization of gestalt therapy

The following topics were suggested for the next day:

- **Accreditation**
- **Supervision**
- **Place of Gestalt therapy in society**

### **4. ACCREDITATION**

A discussion about **accreditation as a topic** follows. Bernadette and Inga are against inclusion of the topic. Bernadette, who had been in the EAGT accreditation committee, asks who are we to impose all these standards on new countries? Structure and formality vs freedom. What happened in Germany, National Health Service being reimbursed.

Some of the views that were expressed, follow below:

- *Daan:* Accreditation to protect our clients and students from misuse. Regulation of ourselves. The founders of Gestalt made a lot of mistakes. Create comparable standards within our communities. Helpful to develop our own programme and be in dialogue with the university, helps us clarify our programme.
- *EAGT statutes:* Comparable standards, doesn't mean identical, but what you do in Germany must be compared to what you do in Russia. The aim of having comparable standards is to support our group. The EAGT has no intention of making the standards higher.
- *Masha:* The founders would lose clients if they were not good enough. Different when we are accepted. Standards are important. Even if I didn't have the standards, I want to have standards for the next generation.
- *Gonzague:* According to the field theory we can't be separated from the rest of society. Universities have standards. We will be strong together when we make links, e.g. with universities. The political field is also important. And we can work on popularizing Gestalt. We have more power than 15 years ago.

- *Helga*: For our clients: It would be easier to communicate with e.g. doctors.
- *Serge*: A social responsibility: To protect *both clients and therapists*. Accreditation is mostly a matter of clarification. Must have a “grandparent clause”.
- *Nifont*: In Russia the state believes in bureaucratic rules. A mutual trust between the state and the individual is difficult there, but I’m interested in the wider field.
- *Daan*: Boundary processes (us – clients, us – government, us – other helping professions, etc.) Boundary processes are not always pleasant. Do we get stuck, or can we see them as possibilities? In Norway we are applying for an officially recognized exam. The process has helped us clarify our aims. We have now added literature on e.g. the legal system, social science, more views on humanistic and other branches of psychology etc. All this means more context. The goals give direction. We will evaluate the students according to these goals at the end of the study, with an official exam in three parts:
  - A public presentation
  - A written paper, external examiners will be brought in for the assessment
  - An oral exam, including a therapy session with the student and a client. An internal and an external examiner will be present. After the demonstration the student will reflect together with the examiners on the session.

All this has been sparked off by our application for an officially recognized exam.

- *Sergio*: We do the same thing. Actually, we **are** the university. We have to teach our students methodology. All notes are sent to the ministry.
  - *Arthur*: The free spirit of Gestalt is in contradiction with the question of accreditation. Today the motivation is different, there are hundreds of institutes.
  - *Bernadette*: Against exams, rules.
  - *Sergio*: Perls *had* theory. We must give some guarantee of quality and stop those who don’t fulfil them.
  - *Inga*: We let everybody present his/her paper - who you are, how you work - for the final. Written feedback. This is part of the certificate.
  - *Daan*: We do the same for our exam.
- Perls *had* all his accreditations before. Moreover, he was a genius, now we need more structure. (Perls would probably be diagnosed as a borderline today!)
- *Serge*: Everything begins with enthusiasm and die by bureaucratization and organization. After a while there can be too much organization. Is Gestalt therapist a profession? This is different from when we “old” started. When we train young people today, it is for a profession, to earn money.
  - *Natasha*: At our institute a written paper is presented and discussed (1 – 2 hours).
- Accreditation will help the institutes. Better chances to get recognized in Russia. The European ECP: Accreditation helps them to be recognized. Facilitates exchange of teachers and students.
- *Nifont*: Accreditation can mean
    - Recognition by the state
    - Recognition or trust in the different institutes, an “inner” accreditation.

Perls was discredited by Freud, is there some emotional stuff here?

- *Serge*: The young people need to be recognized by the state. Osteopaths have been officially recognized this year in France, depending on which institute they come from. In France a law was being prepared to the same effect as in Germany, but it was stopped.
- *Daan*: We examine the relation – the relation between the student and the examiner. Instead of counting hours, the important question is: What are you doing?

## **5. ECP (European Certificate of Psychotherapy, created by EAP) AND EAGT NORMS**

**Serge** gives an overview of the situation. Until now, the ECP has been given individually to “grandparents” (trained psychotherapists having more than 5 years of practice). In the future, the standards will apply for institutes (*TAC = Training Accreditation Committee*). If the institute is trusted, it gets a right to prepare for ECP. This means a much faster procedure than today. Important to ensure that the institute is good enough.. It’s Important to have rules and to accept some exceptions.

Discussion about “250 hours of personal therapy” for each psychotherapist: a compromise could be to accept 250 hours, but to change the *content*: including some of the experiential training To allow for flexibility and exceptions. Boundary problems:

- *Daan*: The EAGT doesn’t want to give all the power to the EAP!
- *Serge*: The EAP doesn’t want to give all the responsibility to the EAGT!

## 6. VIDEOTAPE FROM EPG

Video from *École Parisienne de Gestalt* (short version, in English), followed by a discussion.

## 7. GESTALT / SOCIETY / PEACE: OUR SOCIAL ROLE

- **Bernadette:** Introduced the theme of suffering. Turbulence and cruelty are increasing. Lost her belief in “good Gestalt”.
- **Lidija:** How can I resolve the issue of responsibility? When I become aware of my limits, where can I influence, within my framework? There is a limit beyond which it is dangerous to get involved.
- **Daan:** Our theory is based on individual work. However, it's also possible to use the theory in a wider field, e.g. organizations. “Easier” to focus on a personal level, more understandable. How can we give *meaning* to an accident, which in itself has no meaning?
- **Serge:** How can we invent a new Gestalt approach to society? We could make an impact, but how to reach *many* people?
- **Masha:** Gestalt can deal with these processes, like we do in families and organizations.
- **Nifont:** In some fields I can be aware and active, in others I can't. The bombing terrifies me, and I can't be aware and active to stop it. I can only support some people on the personal level.
- **Gro:** What I learnt from my daughter's accident: It is possible to go on living. Also: I know what to do. Not only to listen – also to act.
- **Daan:** Our personal experience after the accident: From chaos to gathering of data, building up awareness and energy, leading to action. We learnt a lot from this experience. I believe it's possible to do it in the same way, in organizations, to use our knowledge in a much wider field.
- **Inga:** 20 years ago we went out, took part in demonstrations etc.
- **Serge:** Surprised and glad we're not helpless. We have much more power than we think. Direct work with *one* person isn't enough. We must meet the Deputies and the Government, write in the newspapers and speak in the radio and TV.
- **Lidija:** The question is how to interfere – without interfering too much.
- **Masha:** Popularization will increase the influence.
- **Gonzague:** Important to allow *emotion*, to share emotion. See the same in organizations, to avoid retrospection. When we work in groups with expressing emotion, we work for peace.
- **Natasha:** Some of our students went without being paid to support the relatives of the Kursk victims.

## 8. FORGE AGM

**8.1. Serge** summarizes the main activities of FORGE:

9 annual Colloquiums, translation of articles and books, many exchanges of trainers, etc.

One of the questions: ***Do we want to grow?*** The group would prefer:

- Not more than 2 new members per year
- Not more than 3 institutes from each country
- Not more than 4 people from the same institute (except for the *inviting* institute)

**8.2. Internet site:** Arthur knows how to do *an internet site*. He will find out about time and cost.

**8.3. Financial report.** Fee: **200 Euros per year**. (and **30 € for Eastern Europe** or developing countries). Each Institute member must pay **every year**, even if they don't come to the meeting.

**8.4. Next meeting:** Germany ? Italy ? Canada ? Russia ? Malta ? Discussion and vote: **Malta**.

**8.5. Elections for new Board members:**

- Gro: Vice-President ;
- Natasha: General secretary.

## 9. EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS

Some of the views that were expressed, follow below.

• **Gonzague:** The students pay what it costs in *their own country*, for the same kind of workshop. Accommodation with students? Find translators, etc. This also applies to the organizational programme.

- *Gro*: We had one student one year at Malta and then back to Norway. Good that it's possible to do this. (Malta then had the responsibility of the evaluation, etc.)
- *Arthur*: Important with planning, information about the schedule. In Russia there's some co-operation to recognize each other.
- *Daan*: The problem is that our programme should fit into the programme of the other country. And what do the students do the rest of the time? Important that this isn't our responsibility. Exchange takes a lot of effort. We can *promote* the possibility, help our students contact other institutes.
- *Sergio*: The possibility of exchange without necessarily getting a formal recognition. To meet another culture is fundamental.
- *Arthur*: Possible to adjust to different conditions. Important to see and know different styles. Language and different styles are resources.
- *Serge*: Best to do this towards the end of the study. Language? Could have courses for e.g. a group coming for a longer or shorter period, with a translator, or led in e.g. English.
- *Daan*: Easier with exchange in the *organizational* programme, where there's a limited amount of teaching.
- *Bernadette*: Exchange students do themselves a favour, for the enrichment of the individual – which is more important than recognition.
- *Masha*: How will the groups react to having a visitor (with translator) just for a short period?
- *Gro*: At any rate, exchanging students would be better in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year. For us it's important to know where there are institutes that can accept our students so that we can support them in finding an institute.
- *Serge*: There are specific international workshops each summer, and that is much easier to organize.
- *Inga*: You could have a *guest* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year, you take it for granted that they will do good work then.
- *Bernadette*: It depends on the institute, there are different styles, how easily the student will be accepted.
- *Sergio*: The experience of exchange is important, to be in the atmosphere. The institute may of course give some diploma. Our institute can offer an accommodation to foreign students.
- *Nifont*: The problem of different schools. Exchange of teachers is connected to this theme. It's difficult to exchange students without knowing the teachers.
- *Daan*: Brings in the question of getting a Master. Any of *you* who can offer that?
- *Sergio*: We think we can do that. We have connection with a university in the US, I will find out. (Newport University, Cal.) I know it's possible with a PhD, and I think it will be possible with an M.A. Send me an e-mail!

## 10. SUPERVISION

Some of the views that were expressed, follow below.

- *Magda*: Therapists in different parts of our country need supervision. What kind of control is there for their supervision? (Cf. The Code of Ethics and the demand to have supervision.)
- *Sergio*: In Mexico, Canada, and the US there is a network.
- *Serge*: In Paris, they must have worked at least 5 years under supervision, after having obtained the advanced Diploma (5 years of training). Then, they have 18 months of specific training, with a lot of role playing and supervision practicum. They must supervise during one year under supervision, and write an article as supervisee and as supervisor. The exam: an open day offering free supervision to therapists. Supervision (or intervention) is life long! (*see attached detailed program of training*).
- *Gro*: In Oslo, the applicants must have at least two years of advanced practice under supervision, and then they have two years of specific training and an article to write. They observe 6 sessions of supervision done by Daan or Gro and then they discuss them. The 2<sup>d</sup> year, they supervise under supervision 6 sessions of 3 hours ("life supervision"). So, they have theory and practice, including co-training in supervision groups for the students in the 4<sup>th</sup> year training programme. A paper and an exam, giving supervision to a therapist/student. After having completed the training and passed the exam, the supervisor can be officially *recognized* as such (get a certificate) by our national Gestalt organization.
- *Inga*: Our umbrella organization gives such certificate. We can exchange supervisors.
- *Bernadette*: It's necessary for the training to have supervised the trainees for the evaluation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year.

- *Cecilia*: We have video supervision, inviting people to therapy without having to pay for it, then we can see how the students work.
- *Daan*: We have *Gestalt supervision* and *supervision for Gestalt therapists*. As a supervisor you easily get in a topdog position. How can we teach our students to find out, to discover themselves? It's important that they base their interventions on their own awareness. The challenge is how to do this.
- *Gro*:  
Our National organization for Gestalt therapists gives the certificate/diploma. This is based on:
  - Grandparent criteria
  - Accepted supervisors in their profession
  - The education programme for supervisors.
- *Bernadette*: As supervisors our narcissistic need is activated. When giving supervision it's important to facilitate their own wisdom.
- *Natasha*: We are worried about the training in 14 towns of Russia. So we give supervision when going there. Moreover, there are specific sessions offered in St Petersburg. We also invite supervisors from abroad to give supervision to the staff.
- *Serge*: The EAGT paper suggests *separating* training, therapy and supervision. There is not a specific training programme for trainers/teachers. What could be the content of such a specific training programme?
- *Daan*: A specific programme will be created. As therapist, I'm supportive; as trainer, I'm involved in evaluation; as supervisor, I must combine both which can create a problem.
- *Arthur*: I have to train and supervise. I agree that it's better to specialize. In my country there are very few people who can supervise. Possible to have *days* of supervision.
- *Masha*: I want to do all the jobs, but to separate with *whom* I do what.
- *Daan*: The therapist – client role is the most difficult one to combine with the others. Necessary to separate the roles.
- *Natasha*: We try to separate the roles, but it isn't always feasible, at the beginning.
- *Serge*: When Gestalt supervision is not possible, there are several possibilities:
  - Intersession
  - Supervision by people from other institutes, even when there is a conflict between the institutes
  - Supervision by somebody who is *not* a Gestalt therapist
  - International supervision ; intensive workshops of supervision
  - Supervision by telephone, e-mail, video

## **11. NEXT MEETINGS**

- **Malta**: June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003;
- **Prague**: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> ), 2004 (one meeting during the Congress of EAGT)

### **New members of FORGE**

- No more than 2 or 3 new members the same year, with a priority for new countries.
- If possible, no more than 3 institutes by country.
- Unanimous acceptance by every member (secret ballot).
- Contacts : Latvia, Spain, Austria, Holland, Romania, Slovakia, Israël, Greece.

*Summarized by Serge Ginger and Synøve Jørstad in Nov. 2002 and June 2003.*



## 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: Krakow (Poland), 2002



Memo, Artur, Magda, Brigitte, Dima, Inga, Masha, Anne, Gonzague, Daan, Serge

Sergio, Nifont, Lidija, Bernadette, Helga, Synøve, Gro

Maria, Lena, Natasha, Ceci

**The new elected Board**  
 Gonzague - Sergio  
 Gro - Serge - Natasha



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Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt  
**FORGE** International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations

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Sept. 2004

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT**  
**10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM**  
**MALTA - JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003**

**Present: 18 leaders and trainers of 10 Institutes from 9 countries**

France	Paris	FORGE	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger,
	Paris	EPG	Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Italy	Florence-Rome	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic, Charles Cassar
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun
Poland	Cracovie	ITG	Magda Zaleska
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkin
	Moscow	GIP	Masha Lckarcva-Boznenkova
Serbia	Belgrade	GT-Studio	Maria Stefanowic

**Absent (with apologies) : 15 leaders or trainers of 11 Institutes from 9 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
	Gand	MdM	Ernst Knijff
Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Canada	Montréal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell,
France	Paris	SA VOIR-Psy	Michèle Combeau
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland, Jürgen Ferchland
Italy	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari
Latvia	Riga		Arthur Dombrovski
USA	San Francisco	& Esalen	Morgan Goodlander
	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick





## 1. COLLOQUIUM OPENING

### **1.1 Welcome by Lidija Pecotic.**

*As it is usual in our meetings, work schedule and agenda are determined together, to follow the needs of everybody.*

### **1.2 Then, Serge Ginger, FORGE's President,** gives a list of **apologies** and briefly recalls the **FORGE's objectives and history** :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (psychotherapy and organizations).
- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context.
- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 11 years, in different countries.
- Many bilateral or trilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year between institutes from: France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, USA
- "FORGE" has a *polysemic* meaning: initials of the French denomination; but also: heat, transformation and combination of different metals, to "forge" something new (friendship) and also "forge ahead", progress.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES

The participants introduce themselves and give the latest news of their institutes.



*Sergio (Mexico), Brigitte, Serge, Anne (France), Gonzague (France), Gro, Daan (Norway)  
Charles (Malta), Ceci (Mexico), Inga (Germany), Masha (Russia), Magda (Poland),  
Dima (Russia), Maria (Macedonia), Lidija (Malta), Natasha (Russia), Lena (Russia).*



### **3. TRAINING OF SUPERVISORS**

Serge has prepared a paper explaining the program and the modalities of selection , training and assessment of supervisors in EPG (France) : workshops, supervised practice, examination (paper and demonstration).

### **4. PSYCHODIAGNOSIS**

Daan introduces a Gestalt oriented approach to psychopathology centred on the process and environment.. The program, the amount of hours and the moment of teaching this topic are very different in each of the institute.

### **5. EXISTENTIALISM**

Gonzague summarizes the Paris program about Existentialism, Sartre, existential central questions of Life, importance of subjectivity and meaningfulness.

### **6. ECP**

Inga initiate a sharing around the meaning and the aim of ECP (*European Certificate of Psychotherapy*). It is shown that it brings a stimulation for individual and social improvement. For instance, now 92 % of Austrian psychiatrists have followed a specific psychotherapeutic training.

### **7. NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND GENETICS**

Serge give a lecture about brain structure and its impact on psychotherapy.  
He distinguish three different phases of personality structure : genetic heredity, fetal development, and education and he shows their complementarity.

### **8. EVOLUTION OF OUR NEWS STUDENTS**

Are they the same as some years ago? Psychotherapy and personal growth.  
Too many women? Not enough medical doctors? More social workers? and pedagogues?  
In Mexico, a large number of priests and nones. Not enough new students in Germany.

### **9. BOARD MEETING**

Arthur has initiated a FORGE site with articles in different languages. He's ready to complete it if he receives some material. Serge will send him the updated addresses of all members and associated members.

We try to avoid to have more than three institutes of the same country.

If somebody don't hive any news during three years he or she is considered as resigning.

Gonzague gives the financial report.

There are three annual fees : 200 € for normal institutes of Western countries.

50 € for small institutes

30 € for developing countries.

There are two vacant places in the Board.

#### **New members of FORGE**

- No more than 2 or 3 new members the same year, with a priority for new countries.
- If possible, no more than 3 institutes by country.
- Unanimous acceptance by every member (secret ballot).
- Contact : United Kingdom (Ken Evans), Latvia, Spain, Austria, Holland, Romania, Slovakia, Israël, Greece.

### **11. NEXT MEETINGS**

- Prague: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (short meeting during the First day of the Congress of EAGT)
- St. Petersburg: May 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

## Summary of the Training as *Gestalt supervisor* by Serge and Anne Ginger

1. The training organized by EPG (*Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt*) since 1999 lasts **18 months**.

2. The prerequisites are :

- A Diploma of Gestalt therapists (*advanced training, after 5 years of training in GT*)
- Minimum of *5 years of practice* with individuals and groups
- A regular on-going *supervision*
- An interview with the staff.

3. The training has two main parts:

- **Five three-days workshops** with theory, methodology and a large amount of *practicums* (supervised supervisions helped by videotapes) exercises and readings.
- A free **practice as supervisor** (individual or in small groups of supervision or within organizations (institutions or companies). This practice must be regularly *supervised*.

4. The Program:

Distinction between psychotherapy, training and supervision.

Counter-transference and parallelism

Different settings and types of therapy: individual, couple; family; group, organization...

Different interdependent aspects of work:

- the *client* (his/her pathology)
- the *therapist* (his/her blind spots, counter-transference)
- the *relation* therapist-client (therapeutic alliance)
- the *modality* (theory and practice of Gestalt therapy)
- the *field* (social, family and group environment; group dynamics, etc.)
- the relation *here and now* between the supervisor and the therapist
- the *parallelism* between different levels:  
(the life of the client, the psychotherapy, the supervision)

The end of a therapy; interruptions

Ethics and Deontology

5. The assessment includes:

- Two papers:
  - one description of a case where the practitioner was **supervised**, showing what s/he gained from the supervision
  - one description of a case where the practitioner was **supervisor**, with commentaries about his work.
- A practical **examination**:
  - **demonstration** of a real supervision ( 40 minutes) with an unknown psychotherapist as client
  - this supervision **publicly discussed by the trainers**, the members of the training group of supervisors, in front of the client psychotherapist.

6. Short bibliography

- GILBERT M. & EVANS K.: *Psychotherapy Supervision*, Open University Press, London, 2000, 208 p.
- GIUSTI E., MONTANARI C., SPALETTA E.: *La Supervisione clinica integrata*, Masson, Roma, 00, 554 p
- HAWKINS P. & SHOHEIT R.: *Supervision in helping professions*, Open University Press, London, 256 p.
- JACOBS M.: *In search of Supervision*, Open University Press, London, 190 p.
- MALAREWICZ J.A. : *Supervision en thérapie systémique*, ESF, 1999, 220 p.
- TSELIKAS-PORTMANN E.: *Supervision & Dramatherapy*, J. Kingsley, London & Philadelphia, 99, 240 p
- and many *articles* in French, English, Italian and Spanish.

**10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: Malta, 2003**



**The Minister of Health awarding ECPs  
before promulgating a law about Psychotherapy**



**Yes! Malta is an island!  
... and the climate is quite hot!...**

Prague, September 9th, 2004

## Short FORGE Meeting in PRAGUE

*(written directly in English by a French native speaker: please don't hesitate to correct the wording. Thank you)*

- 1) **32 participants** at this meeting, held before the official opening of the 8th European Congress of EAGT. The meeting lasts two hours (5 to 7 PM).

In attachment you'll find the list of present with their e-mails and some mobile phones. Please check the names, the addresses, the phones: control and complete them and send the list back to Serge Ginger [ginger@noos.fr](mailto:ginger@noos.fr)

Then I'll send them to everybody and Arthur Dombrowski will enter them in the FORGE's site: <http://www.gestalt.lv/forge/index.html> and update the whole site (there's already a photo)

- 2) **Serge Ginger (president, France) reminds the philosophy of FORGE:**

free meetings for directors and full time trainers of training organizations, *without decisions*, without hierarchy, and without money problems (the meetings are free of charge).

*Free sharing* of problems, solutions, ideas ; *sharing of documents*, of trainers and students (each one pay the same amount as in his/her own country).

No rigid organization, no fixed *topics* but a large possibility to improvise according to the needs and wishes of the moment.

Not more than *three institutes per country*, not more than three trainers of each institute.

A new institute can be accepted as *associated* member the first year and elected as full member at the end of the meeting.

The official *language* is English but it is a second language for almost everybody. And each person is also allowed to speak in his/her native language.

- 2) **Gonzague Masquelier (treasurer, France) reminds the fees** : 100 euros for Western countries, 50 euros for small institutes and 30 euros for Eastern countries or Latin America. No fees and no meeting (except a short one) every three years — when there is an EAGT Conference.

- 4) **Lena Ivanova (Russia) invites everybody to the next FORGE meeting in St Petersburg from Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at noon, till Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM.**

They will probably find a middle class hotel for participants from Western Europe and USA with a meeting room for about 30 participants, and a second cheap hotel for people from developing countries. Some of them will be accommodated in Russian private homes of Russian Gestalt therapists or students.

There will be a social program for visiting St Petersburg (during and after the colloquium).

Some ideas of *possible topics* are listed: terrorism ; working with couples ; our personal motivations and organization of personal life ; our errors or mistakes ; the image of Gestalt therapy in the society ; different styles or trends within the Gestalt approach ; spirituality, etc.

Serge Ginger, president of FORGE

**PRESENT at the FORGE Meeting in PRAGUE (9.IX.04)**

	<b>NAMES (to be checked)</b>	<b>First Names</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>e-mail (to be checked)</b>	<b>perso. mobile phone</b>
1	BAIOCCHI	Paolo	Appl.	Italy	gestalts@tin.it	
2	BALLIOU	Despina	Obs.	Greece	gestyd@hol.gr	
3	BURLEY	Todd	Obs.	USA	T1burley@sc.com	
4	CASSIERS	Greet	Ass. M	Belgium	berg@club.innet.be	
5	COMBEAU	Michèle	FM	France	michele.combeau.x@wanadoo.fr	+ 336 8066 9862
6	DOLGOPOLOV	Nifont	FM	Russia	nifont@online.ru	+ 7 903 741 0635
7	DOMBROVSKY	Arthur	FM	Latvia	artur.d@inbox.lv	+ 371 924 7763
8	EVANS	Ken	Appl.	UK/EAGT	ken@kenevans.fsnet.co.uk	
9	FERCHLAND	Jürgend	FM	Germany	igor_gestalt@compuserve.com	
10	GIAMARCLOV	Gianna	Obs.	Greece	gestyd@hol.gr	
11	GINGER	Serge	FM	France/FORGE	ginger@noos.fr	+ 336 09 762 651
12	GOODLANDER	Morgan	FM	USA	morgan@gestaltinstitute.com	
13	IVANOVA	Elena (Lena)	FM	Russia	etain@yandex.ru ; etain@list.ru	+ 792 1751 5668
14	KHLOMOV	Daniel	FM	Russia	greathlo@rambler.ru	+ 7 902 688 6769
15	KNYFF	Ernst	Ass. M	Belgium	berg@club.innet.be	
16	LEKAREVA	Maria (Masha)	FM	Russia	bozenenkova@mtu-net.ru	
17	LEŚNIAK	Beata	Obs.	Poland	lesniak.beata@pro.onet.pl	
18	MASQUELIER	Gonzague	FM	France	gonzague.masquelier@wanadoo.fr	+ 336 6038 4041
19	NEMIRINSKIJ	Oleg	Obs.	Russia	migtikon@mtu-net.ru	
20	NOREN	Anna-Maria (Ami)	FM	Sweden	ami.noren@gestaltakademin.se	
21	PECOTIC	Lidija	FM	Malta	pecotic@waldonet.net.mt	+ 356 9926 1557
22	POGODIN	Igor	Appl.	Bielorussia	igor_gestalt@compuserve.com	
23	RAVENNA	Anna-Rita	FM	Italy	igf.roma@iname.com	
24	REBETA	Tomek	Obs.	Poland	trebeta@interia.pl	
25	RESNICK	Robert (Bob)	FM	USA	BobResnick@aol.com	
26	RESNICK	Rita	FM	USA	ritaresnick@gatla.org	
27	RÖTTGERS-FERCHLAND	Eva	FM	Germany	igor_gestalt@compuserve.com	
28	SKOTTUN	Gro	FM	Norway	gro@gestalt.no	
29	VAN BAALEN	Daan	FM	Norway	daanbaalen@c2i.net	+ 47 9203 7569
30	VEKTERE	Solvita	Obs.	Latvia	solvek@fp.lv	
31	WĘGLORZ-MAKUCH	Katarzyna	FM	Poland	katarzynamakuch@interia.pl	
32	ZALESKA-STOLZMAN	Magda	FM	Poland	m.zaleska.gestalt@post.pl	+ 486 0364 9335
	<b>32 participants</b>		<b>20 FM present</b>	<b>14 countries</b>		

FM = Full Member

Ass. M = Associated member

Appl. = Applicant

Obs. = Observer

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# FORGE

Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt

International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations

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Paris, April 22nd, 2005

## **11<sup>th</sup> FORGE meeting** **St Petersburg. May 29-31, 2005**

*Hotel Matisov Domik: 3/1 Pryazhka River Emb. (St Peter. 190121)*

### **Main lines of the program** *(last news on Friday April 22nd)*

#### **Sunday May 29th**

- at 13:00 (1 PM): Welcome Lunch at the Café-Restaurant of the Hotel Matisov Domik
- from 14 to 18 h: Opening: Program, Presentations, topics...
- from 19 to 23 h: Welcome cruising on a boat through the canals  
with a banquet (open to accompanying persons)

#### **Monday May 30th**

- from 10 to 17 h: Discussions, sharing of experiences, projects, questions...
- at 18:30 h: Folkdances and Folksongs (open to accompanying persons)

#### **Tuesday May 31st**

- from 10 to 14 h: Sharing, questions, elections of the Board, next meeting.
- at 14 h: Last lunch together
- at 15 h: Closing of the meeting.

### **Confirmed participants** *(last news on Friday April 22nd)*

- **Byelorussia:** Igor Pogodin (?)
- **France:** Anne & Serge Ginger, Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
- **Germany:** Eva Röttgers-Ferchland
- **Italy:** Anna-Rita Ravenna, Paolo Baiocchi, Alex Lommatzsch
- **Latvia:** Arthur Dombrovski, Solvita Vektere
- **Macedonia:** Ema Stoimenova
- **Malta:** Lidija Pecotic
- **Mexico:** Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez, Guillermo Gonzales
- **Norway:** Gro Skottun, Daan Van Baalen
- **Poland:** Katarzyna Makuch, Magda Zaleska, Tomek Rebeta, Zofia Pierzchala + transl.
- **Serbia:** Maria Stefanowic (?)
- **UK:** Lynda Osborne, Christine Stevens
- **Russia:** Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine, Nifont Dolgopolov, Daniil Khlomov (?), Masha Lekareva, and other members of the St Peter's Institute...

*I hope you have obtained your visa and booked a room. Serge*

# FORGE. MEETING ST PETERSBURG

May 29th-31st, 2005

Name	First Name	Country		Arr. on	Depart. on	Matiss.Domik	Observat.
ALVAREZ	Cecilia	Mexico	YES	Sat. May 28	Friday May 6	cheap apart	with Vazquez
BAJOCCHI +	Paolo	Italy	YES	Fri. May 27	Tue May 31	double	with Giusy Carciati
DOLGOPOLOV	Nifont	Russia	?	Russia		-	
DOMBROVSKI	Arthur	Latvia	YES	Sun. May 29	Tue May 31	double	with Solvita Vektere
GINGER	Serge	France	YES	Sat. May 28	Thur. June 2	double	then Moscow>8.06
GINGER	Anne	France	YES	Sat. May 28	Thur. June 2	(double)	
GONZALEZ +	Guillermo	Mexico	?	??	??	cheap apart.	
IVANOVA	Lena	Russia	YES	Russia		-	
KHLOMOV	Daniil	Russia	?	Russia		-	
LEBEDEVA	Natasha	Russia	YES	Russia		-	
LEKAREVA	Masha	Russia	YES	Russia		-	
LOMMATZSCH +	Alex	Italy	YES	Fri. May 27	Tue May 31	double	with Caterina Terzi
MARTEL	Brigitte	France	YES	Sat. May 28	Thur. June 2	(double)	with Masquelier
MASQUELIER	Gonzague	France	YES	Sat. May 28	Thur. June 2	double	with B. Martel
OSBORNE +	Lynda	UK	YES	Sun. May 29	Tue. May 31	double	with her husband
OVECHKIN	Dima	Russia	YES	Russia		-	
PECOTIC	Lidija	Malta	YES	Sat. May 28	Tue. May 31	double	with her husband ?
PIERZCHALA +	Zofia	Poland	YES	Sat. May 28		cheap apart.	
POGODIN +	Igor	Bielorussia	?			-	
RAVENNA	Anna-Rita	Italy	YES	Fri. May 27	Tue May 31	double	with Aldo Felici
REBETA	Tomek	Poland	YES	Sun. May 29	Tue. May 31	cheap apart.	comes alone
RÖTTGERS-FERCHLAND	Eva	Germany	YES	Frid. May 27	Wed. June 1	single	comes alone
SKOTTUN	Gro	Norway	YES	Fri. May 27	Wed. June 1	(double)	with Van Baalen
STEFANOWIC	Maria	Serbia	?			cheap apart.	
STEVENS	Christine	UK	YES	Sat. May 28	Tue. May 31	double	cancelled (illness)
STOIMENOVA	Ema	Macedonia	YES	Sat. May 28	Tue. May 31	cheap apart. ?	
VAN BAALEN	Daan	Norway	YES	Fri. May 27	Wed. June 1	double	with Skottun
VAZQUEZ	Sergio	Mexico	YES	Sat. May 28	Friday May 6	cheap apart.	with Alvarez
VEKTERE +	Solvita	Latvia	YES	Sun. May 29	Tue May 31	(double)	with Artur Dombr.
WĘGLORZ-MAKUCH +	Katarzyna	Poland	YES	Sun. May 29	Tue. May 31	cheap apart.	comes alone
ZALESKA-STOLZMAN	Magda	Poland	YES	??	??	cheap apart.	comes alone
TOTAL = 30 possible (8 new)	confirmed	18 institutes 13 countries	25 +	from 27th	till June 6	9 D + 1 S	and 6 partners

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**Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt**  
**FORGE**    **International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations**

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Site: [www.gestalt.lv/forge/](http://www.gestalt.lv/forge/)

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May 2006

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT** *(version without pictures)*

**11<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

**ST. PETERSBURG - MAY 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**

**Present: 33 leaders and trainers of 17 Institutes from 12 countries**

Byelorussia	Minsk	BIG	Pogodin Igor, Natasha Olifirovitch
France	Paris	FORGE	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger,
	Paris	EPG	Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
Germany	Munich	AKG	Eva Ferchland
Great-Britain	London	Metanoia	Linda Osborne
Italy	Florence-Rome	IGF	Anna Ravenna,
	Trieste	FEIG	Paolo Baiocchi, Alex Lommatzsch
Latvia	Riga	RGI	Arthur Dombrovski, Solvita Vektere
Macedonia	Skopje	...	Emilija Stoimenova
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun
Poland	Cracow	ITG	Magda Zaleska, Tomek Rebeta, Kasha Makuch, Agnieszka Kaflińska
		...	Zofia Pierzchala,
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natasha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine, Anton
	Moscow	GIP	Tkatchenko, Masha Golberg
	Moscow	GIM	Masha Lekareva, Nifont Dolgopolov
			Daniil Khlomov

**Absent (with apologies) : 14 leaders or trainers of 10 Institutes from 8 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
	Gand	MdM	Ernst Knijff
Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Canada	Montreal	CIG	Gilles Delisle
Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell,
France	Paris	SAVOIR-Psy	Michèle Combeau
Germany	Frankfurt	IGOR	Inga Schumann-Sorge, Jürgen Ferchland
Italy	Rome	ASPIC	Edoardo Giusti, Claudia Montanari
USA	San Francisco	GISF	Morgan Goodlander
	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick

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# *Short Summary of the detailed minutes, published in Russian by Natasha Lebedeva*

## 1. COLLOQUIUM OPENING

1.1 *Welcome by Natasha Lebedeva.*

1.2 Then, Serge Ginger, FORGE's President, gives a list of **apologies** and briefly recalls the **FORGE's objectives and history** :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (psychotherapy and organizations).
- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context.
- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 14 years, in different countries.
- Many bilateral or trilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year between institutes from: France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, USA
- "FORGE" has a *polysemic* meaning: initials of the French denomination; but also: heat, transformation and combination of different metals, to "forge" something new (friendship) and also "forge ahead", progress.
- The annual meetings are free of charge.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES

The participants introduce themselves and give the latest news of their institutes.

First of all, the **new participants** from Trieste (Italy), Cracow (Poland), Minsk (Bielorus) and London (United Kingdom).

Then, the **other ones**.

**Program:** we share some of **our actual interests and problems:**

in Politics, Methodology, Research.

**As it is usual in our meetings, work schedule and agenda** are determined together, to follow the needs of everybody:

The political recognition of the profession in different countries, ECP from EAP, EAGT (new training standards, accreditation, next congress in Greece), Ethical Codes, Research (Gro), Individual styles of work (Arthur), National publications, Training and Quota of trainers and supervisors, Gestalt Psychology and Gestalt Therapy, Gestalt Coaching within organizations...

## 3. RESEARCH OF GRO SKOTTUN (Norway)

Interview of every participant: what are the main points and topics during a Gestalt training?

## 4. RESEARCH OF ARTHUR DOMBROVSKI (Latvia)

How can we distinguish the individual styles of therapists and trainers?

## 5. RESEARCH OF ANNA LEBEDEVA (Russia)

The main personal qualities to become a good Gestalt Therapist?

## 6. BOARD MEETING

**Sharing of responsibilities :**

President : Serge Ginger (France)

Vice presidents : Gro Skottun (Norway) and Sergio Vazques (Mexico)

Secretary general : Natasha Lebedeva (Russia)  
Treasurer : Gonzague Masquelier (France)  
Member of the Board : Anna-Rita Ravenna (Italy)

We try to avoid to have more than three institutes of the same country and more than two participants of the same institute. The other ones will remain as observers, out of the inner circle.

If somebody don't give any news during four years, he or she is considered as resigning.

Gonzague gives the *financial report*.

There are three annual fees : 200 € for normal institutes of Western countries.  
50 € for "small" institutes  
30 € for some developing countries.

The next FORGE congress will take place in Roma May 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### New members of FORGE

- No more than 2 or 3 new members the same year, with a priority for new countries.
- If possible, no more than 3 institutes by country.
- Unanimous acceptance by every member (secret ballot).
- Are accepted as new full members : the Institutes of Malta, Riga, Minsk, Trieste.

Magda Zaleska (Poland) announces that she will probably stop participating in the FORGE meetings, as she is now retiring.

### 7. NEXT MEETINGS

- Roma: May 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.
- Athenes (EAGT): September 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



## 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting: St Petersburg, 2005



A boat trip  
on the canals,  
reaching the cold Finland



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May 2006

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT)**  
**12<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**  
**ROME - MAY 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Present: 35 leaders and trainers of 20 Institutes from 13 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
	Gand	MdM	Ernst Knijff, Greet Cassiers
Byelorussia	Minsk	BIG	Pogodin Igor, Natasha Olifirovitch
France	Paris	FORGE	Serge Ginger, Anne Ginger,
	Paris	EPG	Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
	Frankfurt	IGOR	Eva Ferchland
Italy	Florence-Rome	IGF	Anna Ravenna, Paolo Quattrini
	Rome	ASPIC	Antonio Iannazzo
	Trieste	FEIG	Alex Lommatzsch
Latvia	Riga	RGI	Arthur Dombrovski, Solvita Vektere
Macedonia	Skopje	SGC	Emilija Stoimenova
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez, Guillermo Hernandez
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun
Poland	Cracow	ITG	Kasha Makuch, Agnieszka Kafinska, Beata Lesniak
	Cracow	IIPG	Zofia Pierzchala, Dorota Wegryzn
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natacha Lebedeva, Dima Ovehkine
	Moscow	MGI	Nifont Dolgopolov, Masha Lekareva, Nadia Lubyanskaya
Serbia	Belgrade	GS	Marija Stefanovic

**Absent (with apologies) : 7 leaders or trainers of 5 Institutes from 4 countries**

Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell,
Great-Britain	London	Metanoia	Linda Osborne
USA	San Francisco	GISF	Morgan Goodlander
	Los Angeles	GATLA	Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick



# *Short Summary of the meeting*

## 1. OPENING

1.1 *Welcome Lunch in Taverna Roma*, organized by Anna Ravenna.

Welcome speech by Anna Ravenna: organization.

1.2 Then, **Serge Ginger, FORGE's President**

gives a list of **apologies** and briefly recalls the **FORGE's objectives and history** :

- an association for *exchanges and research*, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the *permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes* (psychotherapy and organizations) ;
- a *Federation*, respecting the *independence* of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context ;
- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 15 years, in different countries ; Anne Ginger had prepared an exhibition of photos ;
- Many bilateral or trilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year between institutes from: France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, Byelorussia ;
- The annual meetings are free of charge.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES

The participants introduce themselves and give the latest news of their institutes.

First of all, the **new participants** from Belgium (Greet and Ernst, from *MultiDimens*) ; then, some **other ones** give the last news of their institutes, their travels, their personal life...

## 3. ELABORATION OF THE PROGRAM

We share some of **our actual interests and problems**:

*As it is usual in our meetings, work schedule and agenda* of the topics are determined together, to follow the needs of everybody, and followed by a vote:

- Renouncements: 20 voices
- Ethics: 17
- Training of Supervisors: 15
- New approaches and fashions (Constellations, EMDR, etc.): 12
- Minorities (males, homosexuals, North-Africans, etc.): 10
- Scientific research in Gestalt Therapy: 7
- Neurosciences: 7
- Trainers and supervisors: 5
- Functions of the self: 4
- How to find psychotherapists of neighbor approaches: 3
- Psychopathology: 2

## 4. WELCOME DINNER

On Sunday evening, everybody is invited in the apartment of Rita and Aldo and on the splendid terrace - from where one can see all Rome.

Aldo has cooked himself all kinds of Italian food and selected delicious wines.

## 5. WORKING GROUPS

On Monday morning, we work divided into two groups.

After 1,5 hour, we meet to share some of the main ideas and questions which emerged.

- One group discusses about **new approaches or new fashions**, and their combination with Gestalt therapy, such as Constellations (Bert Hellinger), EMDR (Francine Shapiro), Schema-therapy, Meditation, NLP, Enneagram, etc., their interest and their limits or danger...

- Another group discusses around **Ethics and Deontology** .

*In the afternoon, we share into three groups:*

- **Training of supervisors**, with demonstrations and discussion ;

- **Minorities** ;

- **Neurosciences** : neurotransmitters, pheromones, memory, etc.

Then, we meet *all together* to share our ideas around the philosophical theme of **renouncement**: freedom, choice, buddhism, Existentialism, Gestalt Therapy, etc.

## **6. BOARD MEETING**

*At the end of the afternoon, meeting of the International Board*

*Actual responsibilities :*

President : Serge Ginger (France)

Vice presidents : Gro Skottun (Norway) and Sergio Vazques (Mexico)

Secretary general : Natasha Lebedeva (Russia)

Treasurer : Gonzague Masquelier (France)

Member of the Board : Anna-Rita Ravenna (Italy)

*We vote for the approval of some new institutes as **full members**:*

*Byelorussia, FEIG (Italy), Macedonia, Serbia, IIPG from Poland are accepted as full members.*

*Only MultiDimens (Belgium) remains as **associated** member till the end of the next FORGE Congress in Mexico (May 2008), if they attend it.*

*We try not to grow too rapidly to keep the atmosphere of freedom and warmth of a small group of friends, confident in each other.*

*A new Board will be elected in May 2008.*

*We discuss in details the place and moment of the next Congress: at the invitation of Sergio Vazquez (Integro) it's finally decided to have our next meeting on*

### **May 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in Guadalajara (Mexico)**

*The travel is expensive for European countries, but Integro can offer free accommodation, cheap food, meet the members at the airport, etc. and it's important that FORGE have activities outside Europe as it is an *international* organization with members from *North and South America* (Brazil, Mexico, Canada and USA).*

*On **September 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, we'll have a short evening meeting during the EAGT Congress in *Athenes (Greece)*.*

## **7. REPORT OF THE BOARD MEETING**

*Serge gives a report about the meeting.*

*Gonzague reminds the *financial situation*:*

*There are two annual fees : 200 € for normal institutes of Western countries.*

*50 € for "small" institutes or developing countries.*

*Arthur gives some information about the FORGE's Website : [www.gestalt.lv/forge/](http://www.gestalt.lv/forge/)*

*There are addresses, link s with different institutes and a lot of splendid photos.*

## **8. ON TUESDAY MORNING, TWO GROUPS ARE WORKING:**

- **Scientific research on Gestalt therapy**: efficiency f different approaches, theory of the self, psychological profile of the Gestalt therapist, etc;

• **Neurosciences** (second part): neurophysiology of dreams, Vomero-Nasal Organ (VNO), Hypothalamus, etc.

### 9. FINAL FAREWELL LUNCH in Taverna Roma

The meeting end on Tuesday, around 3 PM.

P. S. On Tuesday evening, takes place a presentation of the Italian translation of the second Book of Serge Ginger: *Gestalt Therapy, the Art of Contact*, in the Bookshop of the publisher: *Edizione Mediterranee*. About 60 persons attend. Lectures, questions and signatures.



	Alexandra X	Brigitte Martel	Ernst Knijff	Natasha Olinivitch	Solvita Vektere	Masha Lekareva	Beata ? Lesniak	Kasha Makuch
	Gonzague Masquelier		Jean Van Pevenage	Igor Pogodin	Daan Van Baalen			
Anna Ravenna	Inga Schumann	Zofia Pierzchala	Marija Sterfanovic	Anne Ginger	Serge Ginger	Gro Skottun	Eva Ferchland	Sergio Vazquez
	Ema Stoimenova			Lidija Pecotic	Dima Oveshkin		Marielle X	Guillermo Hernandez
Paolo Quattrini	Natasha Lebedeva	Greet Cassiers	Cecilia Alvarez	Dorota ? Wegrzyn			Alex Lommatzsch	
			Arthur Dombrovski					

**35 participants, of 20 institutes, from 13 countries:**









Meeting FORGE in ATHENS . Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (36 people)

**F O R G E** Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt  
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May 2008

**SHORT REMINDER REPORT**  
**13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**  
**GUADALAJARA (MEXICO) - MAY 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Present: 20 leaders and trainers of 8 Institutes from 7 countries**

France	Paris	FORGE	Serge Ginger
Latvia	Riga	RGI	Arthur Dombrovski, Daiga Auzina
Mexico	Guadalajara	Integro	Sergio Vazquez, Cecilia Alvarez, Beatriz Serrano, Marco Pacheco
Norway	Oslo	NGY	Dan Van Baalen, Gro Skottun
Poland	Cracow	ITG	Kasia Makuch, Beata Lesniak, Joanna Waplenik
Russia	St. Petersburg	IGSP	Natacha Lebedeva, Lena Ivanova, Dima Ovechkine
	Moscow	MGI	Nifont Dolgoplov, Masha Lekareva
Ukraine	Kiev	NIKA	Inna Didkovska

**Absent (with apologies): 18 leaders or trainers of 12 Institutes from 11 countries**

Belgium	Bruxelles	Intégration	Jean Van Pevenage
	Gand	MdM	Ernst Knijff, Greet Cassiers
Brazil	Sao Paulo	SEDES	Lilian Frazao
Byelorussia	Minsk	BIG	Pogodin Igor, Natasha Olifirovitch
Denmark	Copenhagen	GTI	David & Bente Kirk-Campbell
France	Paris	EPG	Gonzague Masquelier, Brigitte Martel, Anne Ginger
Germany	Munich	AKG	Inga Schumann-Sorge
Italy	Roma	IGF	Anna Ravenna
Macedonia	Skopje	SGC	Emilija Stoimenova
Malta	Sliema	GPTI	Lidija Pecotic
Poland	Cracow	IIPG	Dorota Wegrzyn, Aleksandra Sekowska
USA	San Francisco	GISF	Morgan Goodlander



## General schedule. Guadalajara, May 2008

Hours	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>
8:00-9:00	Breakfast at Integro	Breakfast at Integro	Breakfast at Integro
9:00-11:00	Introduction: welcome speeches <b>Presentations; news</b>	Topic 2: <b>different styles of Gestalt Therapy</b>	Topic 5: <b>EMDR &amp; GT</b>
11:00-12:00	<b>Choice of topics to discuss and vote; schedule</b>	Topic 3: <b>individual GT versus GT in group setting</b>	Topic 6 : <b>Research</b> (qualitative and quantitative)
12:00-14:15	Topic 1: <b>supervision</b>	<b>AGM FORGE: report of activities, financial report; annual fees; reelection of the Board</b> (through secret ballot): 11 candidates for 9 places.	Topic 7: <b>Training of trainers</b>  Topic 8 : <b>exchanges of students and trainers</b>
			<b>Closure of the meeting:</b> each person expresses him/herself
14:30-17:00	<b>Lunch party in a large country restaurant</b> with horse show and music	Lunch at Integro: <b>meeting of the new elected Board</b> , during lunch time: election of the new president; place & date of the next meetings : Oslo, Riga	<b>Farewell lunch at Integro</b>
		rest: siesta or nap (temperature: 40° C or 100° F)	
17:00+19:30	<b>visit to Tlaquepaque:</b> <b>village of artisans;</b> free shopping	Topic 4: <b>models of reference:</b> postmodern paradigm; constructivism ; philosophy	
19:30	free evening and rest	<b>Welcome ritual</b> for new students and FORGE	
		<b>Magnificent Indian traditional folk dances</b> with drums	
20:30-23:15		<b>Succulent Dinner offered by Sergio &amp; Ceci</b> <b>at Hotal Mission: music and gifts</b>	

# Short Summary of the meeting

## 1. OPENING

**1.1 Welcome Breakfast at Integro**, organized by Sergio Vazquez and Ceci Alvarez.

**Welcome speech** by Sergio: organization, general schedule, accommodation.

**1.2 Serge Ginger, FORGE's President**

gives a list of **apologies** and briefly recalls the **FORGE's objectives and history**:

- an association for exchanges and research, in a very friendly and convivial atmosphere, reserved for the permanent executive officers in charge of Gestalt Training Institutes (psychotherapy and organizations);
- a Federation, respecting the independence of each institute: no standards or rules are imposed to anyone ("structured anarchy"); each member adapts the information shared, to his or her own specific context;
- The annual meetings are free of charge.
- Serge reminds briefly the previous colloquia and main topics discussed, since 18 years, in different countries;
- Many bilateral meetings and training workshops have been organized last year between institutes from: France, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine;
- A short meeting has taken place during the EAGT Congress in Athens, with the attendance of 32 members of FORGE;

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTITUTES

The participants introduce themselves and give the latest news of their institutes:

first of all, the **new participant** from Ukraine (Inna Didkovska);

then, the **other ones** give the last news of their institutes, their new buildings, their travels, their writings, their personal life...

## 3. ELABORATION OF THE PROGRAM

We share some of **our actual interests and problems**:

As it is usual in our meetings, **work schedule and agenda of the topics** are determined together, in accordance with the present real needs of everybody, and the discussion is followed by a vote:

- Supervision (training, individual and group supervision)
- Different styles of Gestalt Therapy and ideology
- GT and other models: medical model, psychoanalysis, EMDR, Ginger's Pentagram
- Research
- Training of trainers
- Exchange of students and of trainers

## 4. Topic 1: SUPERVISION

There are two kinds of supervision: a didactic one, during the training; a professional one, life long. This one is confidential: not only the content, but even the name of the supervisor is not public (and not known by the clients).

Usually, the supervisors are trained during about one or two years, after a long psychotherapeutic practice (5 to 7 years).

## 5. Topic 2: DIFFERENT STYLES OF GESTALT THERAPY

Different invited trainers from various countries present a large variety of Gestalt approaches: some are very centered on the past (like in psychoanalysis); others are mostly phenomenological and interested in what is happening here and now.

But what is interesting is also the emergence of the past, "here and now" !



## 6. Topic 3: INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP GT

Gestalt-therapy (GT) can be applied in individual setting, individually in a group setting, individually exploiting the presence of the group, or taking into account the group process itself.

Most of the existential concerns can be easily treated within a group (which can help and dedramatize); but individual sessions are more easy to organize and many clients feel not ready to begin with a group. However, it can help some of them for more emotional implication.

## 7. AGM MEETING

Serge gives a short report about the main **activities** of FORGE, and distributes the **financial** report, prepared by the treasurer Gonzague Masquelier. As usually, FORGE have given 1 000 euros to Integro to help the organization of the Colloquium, and there is no more money left (which is normal in our policy).

It is voted to increase the amount of the **fees** of the small or Eastern institutes, from 50 to **100 euros** per year (2 years out of 3) and to maintain 200 € for the main Western institutes.

Serge announces that he decided to step down from the presidency, after 18 years of this function. The AGM decides to name him Honorary President (which supposes an amendment to our statutes during an EGM in Oslo).

For the **election of the new Board**, it's decided to open the candidatures to the participants **present** and each person can also propose somebody **absent**. So, there are **11 candidates** for the Board. Our statutes allow from 4 to 9 persons in the Board, coming from at least 4 countries, and no more than two from the same country.

The names are written on a paper board, and the vote is done in written by a **secret ballot**.

According to our statutes, each full member **institute** has 12 votes - which it can share between one, two, three or four persons. The seven institutes members have  $7 \times 12 = 84$  votes. Inna, from NIKA (Ukraine) is an associate member and don't take part in the vote.

**Here are the results:**

Gro Skottun	84
Sergio Vazquez	81
Arthur Dombrovski	71
Daan van Baalen	68
Anna Ravenna	67
Gonzague Masquelier	66
Natasha Lebedeva	60
Beata Lesniak	41
Lidija Pecotic	40
Masha Lekareva	34
Nifont Dolgoplov	26

The 9 first persons are elected in the new Board.

## 8. A BOARD MEETING takes place during the lunch time.

The different **functions within the new elected Board** are shared:

President	Gro Skottun	(Norway)
Vice presidents	Sergio Vazquez	(Mexico)
	Anna Ravenna	(Italy)
Secretary General	Natasha Lebedeva	(Russia)
Treasurer	Gonzague Masquelier	(France)
External relations officer	Daan van Baalen	(Norway)
Webmaster	Arthur Dombrovski	(Latvia)
Members of the Board	Beata Lesniak	(Poland)
	Lidija Pecotic	(Malta)

The **next meetings** are discussed and decided (in advance, to prepare the schedules):  
Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 - till Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Whitsun or Pentecost), in Oslo (Norway)  
September 2010: short meeting during the EAGT Congress, in Berlin (Germany)  
Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - till Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, in Riga (Latvia)

#### **9. Topic 4: MODELS OF REFERENCE**

Medical scientific model vs. postmodern paradigm: everything is subjective and relative.  
Common parts and opposition between postmodernism and constructivism.  
Philosophical emotional discussion. What is the reasonable place of objectivity?  
Is there a Truth?  
Discussion about the relational aspects of Ginger's Pentagram.

#### **10. Topic 5: EMDR AND GT**

Some explanations and hypothesis about EMDR.  
Examples of rapid treatments.  
Links with Gestalt Therapy.  
Research.

#### **11. Topic 6: RESEARCH**

Classical quantitative research (with statistics) and qualitative research, around specific cases.  
Treatment of sterile (infertile) women: some paths and experiments.

#### **12. Topic 7: TRAINING OF TRAINERS**

Very few institutes organize a structured training of trainers without limitation (as for supervisors).  
Most of them choose their trainers according to their needs, in a limited number, and the training consists then mostly in a period of work as assistant, and in several meetings during the work (discussions and intervention).  
There are trainers of different level: first level (group leaders for therapy); second level: teachers for theory; third level: specialization in some specific topics. The criteria and length of experience are different.  
The exams (evaluation and assessment) are usually not only written (dissertation, case study and/or multiple choice questionnaires), but also clinical with a demonstration of therapy in front of a jury. The ethical problem is solved generally by choosing young students of the institute as clients. In some institutes, the last examination can take place some years later, after a practical experience.

#### **13. Topic 8: EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS**

Some individual placements have been realized in different institutes, but mainly, some study travels in groups, visiting other countries and other institutes. It is always a very enriching experience, not only in a technical way (Gestalt), but mostly a sociological and cultural new experience. It's important that it must be planned and organized many months in advance.

#### **14. FAREWELL SESSION**

Each participant expresses him/herself about this meeting, and about his/her interest in FORGE, in general. Different absent friends and colleagues are evoked.

#### **15. FAREWELL LUNCH at Integro**

The meeting ends on Tuesday, around 3 PM, after three days of very hot weather (40° C) and very hot hospitality.

S. G.