
EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

It has been some time already since our last Annual Meeting, in Pravetz, Bulgaria. Unfortunately, the summer has been marked by the tragedies of the wildfires in Greece and Sweden as well as the collapse of the bridge in Genova, Italy. We express our support and sympathy to everyone affected by those unfortunate events.

With these thoughts in our minds, we return to the FEPTO event. Firstly, we would like to thank the Local Organizational Committee for the excellent work they did regarding both the Conference and the Annual Meeting. We also want to thank all the participants, for their active engagement that contributed significantly to the success of both events.

The title of the 13th FEPTO Conference was “The Tree of Life”. Our Bulgarian colleagues from the LOC delivered a beautifully planned conference in which they succeeded to make us revisit our roots, wonder about where we stand at the present and contemplate on which direction to take in the future. The dimension of time was the important one, but there were also other interesting levels and issues that were addressed by the various workshops and activities of the conference.

The main theme of the Conference had considerable contiguity with the title of the 26th Annual Meeting of FEPTO: “From Today, Tomorrow: Revisiting the Core Functions of our Organization”. As it has been announced in the previous newsletters, our aim was to think about and redefine our function, our procedures, our identity. We worked in small groups, all of which are related to the FEPTO committees. One more small group, that focused on the issue of psychodrama theory and its interconnectedness with other theoretical approaches, was added. We hope that this particular group work will be continued and will bear fruit in the future.

In the current newsletter, you can find the results and outcomes of the small groups’ work, as well as the participant assessment of the meeting obtained by means of the VOICES questionnaire.

There are two significant developments that need to be mentioned here. The first is the online platform that has been proposed and introduced by the Chairman of the Development and Network Committee, Fred Dorn, in order to facilitate and enhance the communication and various exchanges among us throughout the year. The second one is the proposal presented by the former president and chairman of the Research Committee, Hannes Krall, for an International Psychodrama Journal. It was decided at the General Assembly that FEPTO will support financially this excellent initiative.

We are also thankful to Dimo Stantchev and Galabina Tarashoeva, for their very interesting presentations. Dimo, as a keynote speaker, invited us in a journey in Psychodrama theory, shed light on its connection to other approaches and showed us the richness and breadth of Moreno’s thinking.

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Galabina, as a representative of the Research Committee, presented her very interesting well-controlled pioneer research on the effectiveness of psychodrama in the treatment of panic disorder.

Very helpful in the process of self-exploration and self-awareness of the present resources and the future potential of our organization were the large groups creatively conducted by Inci Doganer, Zoli Figush and Sofia Symeonidou. Furthermore, Leandra Perotta and Oded Nave have organized and led for one more year, an experiential group on sexuality related issues.

It seems that FEPTO is growing and developing in multiple layers. Along with the act hunger that Moreno had described, which characterizes us, psychodramatists, there seems to be also a hunger for development and expansion, in the levels of theory, research and psychodramatic practice. Psychodrama, Sociodrama and Sociometry, our basic tools, are proven to be very effective in handling problems and difficulties in human relationships on an individual and collective level. Within the times of challenge that we are currently facing, they can be very helpful in the management of the conflicts and the tension that may arise. This became evident with the utilization of our techniques in projects focusing on the psychosocial support and integration of the immigrants and refugees in various European countries.

The psychodrama method offers the appropriate techniques and tools to respond effectively to those challenges and also to comfort individuals who suffer the consequences of unfortunate situations and tragedies. Let's use and spread them!

It would be an omission not to mention the FEPTO community's farewell to the colleagues Anne Ancelin Schützenberger, Nifont Dolgoplov, Luis de Nicolás y Martínez and Jana Segula who left the "psychodramatic stage of life". We are all grateful to them for their contribution!

Lastly, we would like to thank all our colleagues in the Council for their devotion and work the last year, that we have been collaborating, and especially Ina Ilieva, Chair of Communication and also member of the 2018 LOC, for her excellent work in the preparation of the Newsletter of our community.

Nikos Takis
President

Krzysztof Ciepliński
Vice President

