European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL 13 JUNE 2021

Meeting name/purpose	Council meeting		
Date	13 June 2021	**Time**	19.00-21.00 CET
Location	Zoom		
Attendees	Hélène Renoux Ileana Rindasu Hetty Buitelaar Natalia Tzima Dora Pachova Ilse Muchitsch Tiziana Di Giampietro Cristal Skaling-Klopstock Margaret Wyllie Jean Pierre Jansen	**Apologies**	
Minutes written by	Ileana Rindasu	**Moderator**	Hélène Renoux
Distribution		**Enclosures**	

AGENDA

Item	Time	Agenda topic	Presenter
1	Opening of the zoom session	Hélène	18:00 – 18:05
2	Welcome – approval of the	Hélène	18:05- 18:10

	agenda		
3	Decision making process- expectation from the board members	Margaret/all	18:10- 18:40
4	Decision making process- expectation from the coordinators	Ileana/all	18:40 – 19.10
5	Define top priorities - communications	Cristal/all	19.10-19:20
6	Define top priorities - availability of HMP's	Jean Pierre/all	19:20- 19:40
7	Top priorities - omeopathic training how to promote and protect	Dora/all	19.40- 20:00
8	Top priorities - homeopathic research	Tiziana/ all	20.00-20.20
9	External strategy- cooperation with other stakeholders in the field of homeopathy (LMHI, Industry, non-medical practitioners, patients)	~~Hélène~~ Hetty/all	20.20- 20.40
10	External strategy - relationships with regulators	~~Hélène~~ Ilse/all	20.40- 20.55
11	Closure of the meeting	Hélène	20:55-21:00

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

2	Welcome – approval of the agenda	Hélène	18:05- 18:10

Discussion summary	
The agenda was approved unanimously	

3	Decision making process- expectation from the board members	Margaret/all	18:10- 18:40
Discussion summary			

Margaret: The decision-making process should be simplified. After everybody speaks and makes his point, then we make a proposal and once this is done and agreed, we have the duty to support the decision that is being taken.

We need to decide about our goals and priorities. As we have a limited amount of resources and people and there is a huge amount of work, we should establish where we want ECH to be in 1 year or in 5 years and maybe select about two projects

which benefit our main goal and if we can afford we have to get external expertise if we have to.

Helene would like to know more specifically what are the expectations from the board.

Margaret: we need the decision to be more transparent and for this we need more often and perhaps shorter meetings and more goal focussed. Maybe we need small focussed groups to work on communication, IT, narrative strategy and it should be not only the coordinators or officers involved in that.

One example is the IT group that is dealing with the site, we need to solve this and then to see how we can make the website more informative and attractive.

Cristal: we need groups and people to be accountable and be very clear what we expect from a meeting.

Margaret: another issue concerns finances.

Helene: we need someone to replace Arlette because she is not attending Council meetings, we have not information about how the finances are.

Hetty: we need to find somebody else from Belgium.

Jean Pierre: Arlette can be still the treasurer, but somebody else might help her and do the work.

Hetty: we need a Belgian person in the Council, it is not mandatory that the person is the treasurer.

Helene: will first speak to Arlette on the phone and then we will start looking for another Belgian person in the subcommittees.

Conclusions and actions	We need subgroups to stand by the council and work upon agreed aims and objectives, one subgroup is needed for the website, another one about Arlette and finding a Belgian person for the Council and if there will be something else, we can have other subgroups. Helene, Hetty and Cristal will solve the problem with the Belgian person for the Council and another group with Helene, Margaret, Jean Pierre, Martin, Rienk and Andrea will go forward with the IT and browser issues. Dora will be also involved the IT group if necessary.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
To speak with Arlette about the treasurer position	Helene	asap

4	Decision making process- expectation from the coordinators	Ileana/all	18:40 – 19.10
Discussion summary			
	Ileana: as it was said before we need meetings more often and shorter with coordinators. The documents to be voted when we meet must be sent from before. In H2020 it is written about communication: the SC's must send working plans to the board and the officers can delegate tasks to appointed people. Concerning media communication, we can involve volunteers to do this, in a team of people, the team can cooperate with the general secretary and the President; also, small articles could be written and could be more active on Facebook, we can make small videos and post them. In the H2020 document Board members were supposed to meet weekly, but Council meetings could be more often better. The meetings should be recorded to be sure we are		

	correct in editing the minutes. Hetty: there are too many emails, it is not possible to read them properly or to store them under one topic. We might miss important things. Helene, Tiziana, Margaret, Cristal agree with this. Ileana: in order to send less mails, we can meet monthly, on a certain day, last Thursday is proposed, at 19.00 CET and discuss more about main topics. Margaret proposes to choose less topics for each meeting, to cover all the subject. Hetty: it is good to begin with monthly meetings and maybe later on we can meet more seldom, once things are sorted. Concerning communication, we need somebody to take care about the narrative project. We have people who volunteered to help and somebody has to coordinate.
Conclusions and actions	We agreed to meet every month, on last Thursday and send less mails. On emails we should write if it is a mail only about information or about decision.

5	Define top priorities - communications	Cristal/all	19.10-19:20
About the narrative project, there are some difficulties, it is about how we engage people. Cristal wants to know what should we prioritise, wants to hear other's opinions. Dora: someone should check what information is good for ECH and then we send this info to the leaders we identify, and so this would be more effective. Many messages are connected with integrative medicine. Helene asked volunteers to select informations and send them to Andrea. Natalia: thinks that not all informations are of good quality. We also need to have a feedback to see the impact we have. Dora: we need to motivate people from our associations, to find people from their countries. She tries already to motivate people from Bulgaria. We need also to see which are the channels to be used. It was said we should use bloggers.			

Ilse: there is a huge attack from skeptics in Austria concerning the last paper on cancer, in the last week. She is also attacked and Michael Frass. Petra is also under the attention of skeptics. Cristal: we need an action group, so if somebody is attacked we say to people to comment and defend. If we want to share messages, we need to have somebody to do this quickly; she is happy to help with that. Besides the narrative strategy, there are also things on which we want to focus. Helene: Andrea is a student, she is not so much available. Her contract ends in the end of the year. Hetty: Tomasz Kokoszczynski wants to help, he should be asked first, he could select the info each 2 weeks. Helene: she can get in contact with Tomasz again. Dora: will this be the PR group which sees all the communication groups, sees what is going on, sends regularly information? Cristal: we should appoint someone if we have some budget to use. We can wait for a while, but we need a communication network. Tiziana: the same message should be spread in the same time in all countries. Helene: the SC Politics can coordinate this. Natalia: she needs a clear message for the SC Politics. Dora: we need other people to be used, young people. We can ask all the schools and associations if they have such persons. These people would receive directly the messages from Tomasz and Cristal. Hetty asks if we can hire for ECH the person about whom Cristal was speaking, if she is very good in social media. Cristal: Narjis ? could get involved, she is available if we offer her guidance. Communication is a key point. We are volunteers, very busy. We need somebody to do this promotion for us. Margaret: Ian's messages are about patients choice and not only about homeopathy. Helene: the narrative strategy project is about to finish and we have also to decide about it, if we want to go on, in a milder way. Dora: for this we need younger people from the associations. Helene: we need more time to think. Dora propses that Cristal writes a message to be sent to SC's about communication.	
Conclusions and actions	We need a communications network for ECH. We can start working to

	supply messag es and Cristal will help with this. Also, in the next ECHAM P meeting, we need an answer if we want to continue and to know what to commun icate

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Tomasz will be contacted	Helene	asap

6	Define top priorities - availability of HMP's	Jean Pierre/all	19:20- 19:40
Discussion summary		Jean Pierre presents the summary of the availability report from 2015: We cannot make ourselves dependent on political structures, our strategic point would be to count on people who need homeopathy, the patients. We must find systems for mutual recognition in EU. If we first find 3-4 EU countries where availability of remedies is well regulated, we have to see if we can	

	use mutual recognition systems, we can then convince authorities from other countries, There are also pharmacopeas outside EU, the issue was discussed in Vienna and Goa, we have to see how this can be used. Then we have to agree on bottom up targets, we have to see what we can make in the countries and then see what countries can make in the EU. About other important remedies, we depend on magistral preparations, we have to see what our plan B can be. We have to prepare our informal/parallel databases, which diagnosis we can treat. Maybe after covid times we will have more possibilities. Nosodes status seems urgent (we see there are difficulties, it takes more than a year for instance to register the covid nosode, in India). Then we have to demonstrate the relevance of homeopathy to the general public and we need to support a good theory formation for homeopathy. We need to have an update about EU availability status, at regular times from SC Pharmacy. How we deal with the recommendations from 2015, what is the planning for next steps? We have to prepare and then decide for a few basic principles: - how to integrate homeopathy into society, without being dependent only on the political factors - we have to cooperate with patients organisations - bottom up approach is important - we have to develop material for the good willing political officials, so that they can feel safe and feel they serve a good and defendable cause when speaking about homeopathy. Another point: we need a summary status, to see where we stand since 2015 and what are now our choices, for instance to make a database to make more visible what we make with homeopathy, this being an ongoing process now. We have to see if we are well under way with different proposals from 2015, if we have the same priorities,

	depending on our resources and if we have to look for finances for certain projects; some proposals can become of less priority for middle and long term, so we have to check all these items. We need at least a few months to come to some conclusions and present a working plan for ECH on November or so. Overarching groups parallel to SC's might be needed. External expertise might be also needed and financed. Hetty asks Jean Pierre how we can proceed with the proposals he made, if he wants to come to a final proposal to be presented in November, in the G.A? Jean Pierre agrees with the idea of a final proposal to be made for November. Helene asks if a working group would be needed. Jean Pierre: there are common decisions to be done, with SC Pharmacy, Politics, Provings etc; we should change our focus from thinking only about the official EU decisions policy, we have to think more about the bottom up strategy. Ilse: our philosophy has to remain close to the reality of the market, otherwise we can have situations like that with the bank remedies that costed 1 million euros with no benefits. Jean Pierre: we have to find other ways and see how we can solve the existing problems. Hetty: the reality is that we have less and less remedies and we could use magistral preparations not to loose what we have, as a bottom up strategy. It is very good to start from the bottom, with patients, this goes together well with the PR and the narrative project, the community has to become more interested and more aware. Remedy bank is not the solution, this is the end of the process. Helene asks Jean Pierre what is the outcome he expects for this item. Jean Pierre: he would like to know if the Council is interested to have more in depth discussions about the availability of remedies and he could prepare some proposals for a next meeting, then we can decide and

	vote what we want to do. Ilse: we have to follow the rules that we already have, it has no sense to develop a parallel vision. There was an attempt about a bottom up approach by Christian Moll and there were discussions (in Vienna and India) in the last 5 years, but nothing was made. So, her question is how Jean Pierre thinks this can be done in reality; if this is a dream, what is the outcome of this dream. Jean Pierre: we have to start from citizens and then get to the political decisions. Availability of remedies is a real problem in the present, sometimes we have to look for one remedy in more pharmacies from different countries till we can get it, Helene asks if the Council agrees to appoint Jean Pierre to organise the next step concerning the availability of the remedies. The Council agrees. Jean Pierre will organise the next step, but he explains that he needs a few months till he will be ready with the proposals.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Next steps and proposals for a new availability report will be made.	Jean Pierre	till November meeting of ECH

7	Top priorities - homeopathic training how to promote and protect	Dora/all	19.40-20:00

Discussion summary

Dora: the first thing we have to discuss is where we would like to go concerning homeopathic training. Since 1997, ECH Council adopted the document- ECH Broadening its Basis, with the goal to include all EU homeopathic associations and schools, so that ECH represents all homeopathic medical practitioners in the EU.

There were also recent discussions on email between Council members about integrating homeopathy with mainstream medicine and also with other homeopathic medicines (pluralism and homotoxicology). Natalia has recently explained that for political and lobbying reasons all homeopathic tendencies should be considered together, so we have to educate people to have broader thinking. Margaret pointed out that we should stay united. And finally, it is important what

Ileana said, we should remain true to classical homeopathy, but in the same time work together with our colleagues who practice in a different way.

These discussions are important because they show us where we should focus as goals and directions, for the SC Education and for the whole Council.

At the last meeting of SC Education it was established that priority no 1 would be the introductory courses in homeopathy for all health professionals, because there are no students for the courses of homeopathy in the recent years.It is important to think how we can bring people to homeopathy,using all communication channels, through all associations tools, to present new ways and explaining in a new way what homeopathy is and we should invest time and energy in presenting introductory pieces ECH labelled, to be used by schools, associations, media channels and so on.

The second priority are the e-learning modules or smaller projects of good quality informations to spread the right knowledge about homeopathy across Europe. First e-learning module is almost ready and the next one will focus on introductory courses.

Another item is new quality of teaching for medical doctors, including new scientific discoveries, provings etc.This can be done I cooperation with Research SC and Pharmacy SC, we have a lot of new informations that can be implemented, to show why homeopathy must be considered a modern science that has a lot to offer to the health of the patients.

Another item: how to motivate more schools to become ECH members. It was already discussed in a previous meeting about the new category of affiliated schools, besides the accredited schools and that they have to fulfil a minimum amount of hours to be covered. If we want to include all other schools, this has to be discussed and will arise some questions which are more political.

About One Health Movement: it is WHO initiative, it is about the health of humans, animals and plants and why we should heal them altogether. This movement is very important for homeopathy and it should be used on all channels.

About LMHI- ECH cooperation in education, because LMHI wants to respect the classical approach, if we want to include all schools we must be very careful on how we communicate about this issue.

The issue of homeopathy and integrative medicine is also important, for programmes in universities, to regain some lost positions.

About integrating non-classical schools in ECH, we are opened to communication, but where are they? Are they ready to accept that classical homeopathy is the best? Alain Pitel from CEDH was invited in the SC Education and was present for 2-3 years, then he disappeared, being not allowed to come more. So the question is: do the others really want to become a part of ECH?

It is better just to establish a good diplomatic communication with the other systems, so as they are organised and work together at the EU level. Also, we can cooperate with ECHAMP and other industry organisations if we need, they have

their well established industry courses. An example of cooperation is the Bulgarian model of cooperation between classical homeopathy and DHU. It is a way of opening the door for classical homeopathy messages.

Helene asks Dora what does she expect from this meeting of today.

Dora: she wants to know if ECH wants to integrate all schools because in this case we need new rules and this has to be decided by the Council.

Helene: there are issues that would put us in a difficult position with LMHI.

Hetty: the guidelines for accredited schools are very clear and this is something different from the acceptance of associated members.

Dora: so we will have accredited schools according to the ECH-LMHI standards, affiliated schools with standards similar to CEN and all the other schools which teach homeopathy to be included as associated members, with no voting rights and no rights to participate in the SC meetings.

Helene and Hetty: we already have representatives from associated members schools who take part in the SC meetings.

Helene: but we need a way to protect ourselves to be not overwhelmed by other schools. This is the problem with the Trojan horse strategy, with the clinical schools or industry courses.

Hetty: this did not happen until now and if it happens we can discuss this at that time. The idea is to for ECH to be the umbrella organisation for all forms of homeopathy, to be able to communicate with one voice with the outside world. But accreditation of schools is a completely different thing, we have our guidelines for accreditation.

Helene: this topic should be first discussed in the SC Education and Politics because we have to be sure that our members agree with our ideas.

Hetty: it is not necessary now to have this discussion, we have just to be the umbrella organisation, but the schools are a different thing, with the rules established already in the guidelines.

Dora: do we have to prepare a subaccreditation paper with criteria similar to CEN standard for the affiliated schools?

Helene: it is necessary, especially because the question is raised already the second time in the Council and there are university programmes with less than 600 hours, so it would be good that

ECH is involved in these programmes.

Dora: the standard will be no lower than CEN.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
A subaccreditation paper with criteria similar, but	Dora	in the

not lower than CEN will be prepared		next months

8	Top priorities - homeopathic research	Tiziana/ all	20.00-20.20
Discussion summary			

Tiziana wants the opinion and approval of the Council for organising an ECH Research Conference about basic research of half day or one day, it could be programmed for the spring meeting. The Research SC members would like also a round table to be organised to discuss with specialists in molecular and energetic biology and other domains. They want her to ask the Council to organise this meeting. She asks the Council if they agree and are interested in such a topic for a conference. She proposes to invite also researchers from outside of Europe. We can have also a section about clinical research, Clificol project and the project of Robert van Haselen.

Helene: we have to do something different from the HRI meeting, maybe connect the conference with the narrative strategy.

Tiziana: will talk about this in the SC Research on 18 and then organise a group to take care of the programme.

Dora proposes that the speakers of the conference focus on the idea of changing the language, which will be very good for educational purposes.

Ilse: proposes to send us the material from the Vienna congress and that the new conference makes an update to the previous material, focussing now on the change of language and maybe other points too.

Tiziana wants also to inform us about a project made in Italy by Alberto Magnetti, it is a network with all CAM doctors and this network can spread very quickly messages to CAM doctors in all Italy. This type of network should be organised in all countries in Europe to be able to spread messages.

Helene proposes that we invite Magnetti to the November meeting and present his network in a workshop,together with his colleagues who are part of the project.

Margaret: this issue has more to do with communication, it should be included there.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

Research SC will be informed about the approval of the Council about organising the Research conference	Tiziana	asap