



IFSW World Conference

30th July to 3rd August 2006 – Munich

"A World out of Balance: Working for a New Social Equilibrium"

Our Symposium was called:

Systemic Competence - Key Qualification for Professional Social Work

The Conference had around 1800 participants with about 60% coming from outside Germany. The systemic symposium was organized by Tom Hegemann for the German Systemic Society and the Society for Family Therapy and Systemic Therapy. It was extremely well attended with over 300 participants. It succeeded in giving an excellent overview of the contributions, both potential and actual, of systemic family therapy to the practice and theory of social work in Europe. Audience feedback was very positive.

Peter Stratton presented the position of EFTA as follows:

The European Family Therapy Association (EFTA)

Systemic family therapy (SFT) aims to develop our understanding of families in their varied forms and social contexts, and create effective ways of supporting and helping them.

EFTA exists to support the development and availability of SFT throughout Europe. We approach this objective in various ways.

- Through contact with European wide organisations that influence social policy and mental health practice.
- Promoting the practice of family therapists across EU member state boundaries. This issue is especially relevant for social workers as many European states restrict the profession of family therapist to psychiatrists and psychologists. We are actively campaigning to change these laws.
- By setting criteria both for fully qualified family therapists who can undertake supervision and training; and for professionals such as social workers who wish to acquire a set of specialist systemic skills within their core profession.

Please go to our website for further detail: <http://www.efta-europeanfamilytherapy.com/>

And to www.efta2007.com for information about our European congress in October 2007.

The other contributors to the Symposium:

Maria Borcsa: Training and education in colleges and universities

Helian Schnelle: building up services in east Germany with a systemic profile

Klaus Osthoff: Training in private Institutes and the role of the national associations

Jerzy Szmagalski: the role of systemic training in Eastern Europe

Tom Hegemann: Systemic approaches in social work