

Dear friends and others,

Mr. Kallert, Chair of the WPA-organizing committee for the Dresden conference, visited me in Berlin on April 21, 2006. I appreciated his 250 km trip from Dresden to Berlin to my desk. We discussed several topics. The information below is examined by him to prevent misunderstandings. As I did not want to create misunderstandings or false hope, I had asked him to change my proposed sentences, in case he does not agree. So he changed some things, and there is absolutely no critic from my side about the fact of changes. The meaning of the changes - this is a very different matter - I explain at the end of the report. Mr. Kallert's mail arrived at 10.20, 40 minutes ago. I did not compare his file word by word, but I did not see any unexplained change on the first view. Read my proposal, that Gábor Gombos could become member of the Scientific Board, as proposal. His name can be replaced of course, if he or others wants this. No problem at all.

XX

General information

6. - 8. June 2007. Congress of World Psychiatric Organisation in Dresden. The congress will last nearly 3 days, located in the Congress Centre in Dresden. About 600 - 700 participants are estimated. First announcement see <http://www.wpa2007dresden.org/download/files/flyer.pdf> The second announcement will welcome us too.

Scholarships

Scholarships require active participation. We discussed numbers of scholarships, but it is hard to estimate without names, origins and costs, for example flight costs. It will not be possible that few hundred people from across the Atlantic will be supported. I told for ENUSP, that we would know within 1 - 2 months, who should be our active participating representatives, who require scholarships. I told, that WNUSP will need more time. I agreed: The earlier active participation is announced, the better the chances are for receipts of scholarships. To be realistic, it might become ca. 10. (See foot-note 1).

Funding sources

Sponsoring by drug companies is one financial resource. I told, that many people do not like to ask drug companies for funding, that some reject money that comes from drug companies at all, that some take scholarships and do not ask where the money comes from. Mr. Kallert told, that the drug companies at this conference with the topic "forced treatment" are not keen to sponsor, because they do not see a direct link to a diagnosis like "depression" (and then promote antidepressants).

Germany has the half-year-leadership in the European Union then, which means, they might give a little more money then for international topics. Together with Mr. Kallert/WPA we can try to ask the German Government for co-funding of users/survivors' participation. Other possible money resources are Hamlet Trust for East-European Users/Survivors and the German Welfare Organisation DPW. If users/survivors who want to participate get funding from their own (rich) organisations, this would enable the participation of people, who represent poorer organisations.

Active forms of participation

Symposia, Workshops, Courses, Posters, Keynote-speeches.

Key-note-Speeches: One is held by Judi Chamberlin. There is only a very small chance for one more key-note-speech by a user/survivor of critical person we propose. (See foot-note 2).

All other forms: people have to announce it via internet.

Passive forms of participation

There will be a reduced registration-fee for users/survivors who do not offer an own contribution, about 100 Euro. (See foot-note 3). An even more reduced fee for passive participation by members of German BPE was discussed. Board of German BPE should decide quickly about their idea to hold their membership conference in Dresden at the same time and tell how many members might come to WPA conference. The earlier this information comes, the more easy it is to calculate the costs and possibilities for Mr. Kallert/WPA.

Public relation

We discussed the wish of MindFreedom/WNUSP/ENUSP/BPE for getting integrated into PR-matters. For example having a common statement in the media folder. Participating in press conference. Having a podium discussion with WPA-members which is filmed and to be seen within the internet.

Language

It is an international congress, so the language is English. There will be no translation. Because the congress is in Germany, a very limited number (See foot-note 4) of German-language events (Symposia, Workshops, Courses, Posters) will be possible.

Special topics

We agreed that I organise a congress book-shop with user/survivor-orientated literature.

Meeting room

There will be a meeting room for users/survivors only, good for recovery and retreat.

Second announcement

The second announcement will be finished May 15, 2006. End of May 2006 the WPA website will be open for registration and offers for participation-forms. It is free for everybody to offer any kind of participation-form. On the website there will be information about accommodation in Dresden, too. The draft of the second announcement will sent to me before print and publication to read it over.

Mentioning users/survivors, I referred to the ENUSP practise in international connections (see for example on <http://www.enusp.org/documents/harassment/recommendations.htm>) using the term "users and survivors of psychiatry" and making a foot-note like <http://www.enusp.org/documents/harassment/recommendations.htm#1> :

(1) The term "user of psychiatry" refers to people who have mainly experienced psychiatric treatment as helpful. The term "survivor of psychiatry" in turn refers to those who have mainly experienced psychiatric treatment as being a danger to their health. These definitions are often misunderstood: to "survive psychiatry" does not mean that psychiatrists are being accused of trying to intentionally kill people. But it does mean that diagnoses such as "schizophrenia" or "psychosis" very often have a depressing and stigmatising effect, leading to resignation and chronic hospitalisation. And it means that drug-effects such as neuroleptic malignant syndrome or tardive dyskinesia or dystonic or epileptic attacks can be a danger to health and life, which have to be survived.

Organisation and Scientific Committee

We agreed that I join the Organisation Committee. Mr. Kallert meant, the required time for me would be not so extensive. This calmed down my fear from being not able to do this work. The Organisation Committee is the committee with bigger influence.

Task of the Scientific Committee is to value proposals for offered participation forms. I made the proposal, that Gábor Gombos should be the responsible representative for user/survivor-proposals. Would it be wise to have one more representative, especially a woman because of gender balance? Then please make an announcement as soon as possible within our WPA-preparation-discussion group.

Foot-note. What Mr. Kallert had changed:

1. Mr. Kallert said, that it would be difficult enough to find scholarships for 10 persons, what at the present time not can be guaranteed. No false hope should be created. If there is more money, then this could be announced easily by e-mail. My draft had spoken from scholarships for 20 persons.
2. My proposal was: "I would appreciate one more key-note speaker from our side. This proposal should come at once to have a chance to get accepted." Mr. Kallert deleted this from the same reason like foot-note 1. He says, especially when a second key-note speaker, proposed by us, comes from far away, then there is a money problem. Further on, the time-schedule has to be planned and coordinated, and this process is still going on, having no final result.
3. My proposal was: "100 Euro or less". Mr. Kallert says, at the current state of planning no fee less than 100 EUR can be announced. But if possible at a later date, it could be announced via email and internet.
4. The term "a very limited number" was added by Mr. Kallert.

Kind regards
Peter