



Special issue

**Music therapy in Europe:
Paths of professional development**

in partnership with the
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Country report on professional recognition of music therapy

Marianne Wiltgen-Sanavia^{1,2},
Laurence Reuter^{2,3} & Cathy Schmartz²

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Music therapy was introduced in Luxembourg in the 1970s by pioneers working mostly with children who were defined then as mentally handicapped. In 1973 the first association was founded, the Association Luxembourgeoise de Musico-Thérapie. Its goal was not only the promotion of music therapy in Luxembourg but also the creation of a network on a European level. The founding members were mostly trained in Austria, France and the UK. Unfortunately, little is known about this first Music Therapy Association in Luxembourg. The few sources proving its existence became less prominent in the late 1980s. The reasons which led to the disbanding of the first association are unknown today.

In the year 2000, a new generation of music therapists who trained in Germany intended to connect with the professional community in Luxembourg. Their failed attempts to get in contact with the former association and their need to reunite music therapists from Luxembourg led in 2004 to the foundation of the Gesellschaft für Musiktherapie zu Lëtzebuerg (GML).

The Luxembourg Association of Music Therapy comprises 19 music therapists from various backgrounds, and two music therapy students. Moreover it includes about 60 members from other professional backgrounds. The main objective of the GML is the promotion and recognition of music therapy in Luxembourg. The GML provides information about music therapy, training courses and related developments, promotes communication between music therapists, facilitates exchange on an interdisciplinary level, organises scientific conferences, supports music therapy

projects, promotes research and collaborates with international organisations.

Since 2006 the GML has been a member of the European Music Therapy Confederation (EMTC). In 2014, the GML hosted the EMTC General Assembly. This was one of the highlights of its 10-year anniversary.

RECOGNITION AND APPROVAL

Currently 10 music therapists are working in environments for people with mental or physical disabilities, and in special education. Three music therapists work in psychiatric institutions in Germany and Austria and six members offer music therapy sessions in private practice.

There is no music therapy training programme in Luxembourg. Therefore, students study music therapy abroad, mostly in Germany, France, in the UK or in the Netherlands. A small but growing professional community gets together regularly for workshops, public conferences and supervision groups, organised by the GML. These events facilitate the promotion of theoretical and practical knowledge as well as intercollegiate and interdisciplinary exchange.

There has been no research on music therapy in Luxembourg. However, the GML publishes a biannual journal which reports on the main activities of the GML and also on current issues pertaining to music therapy.

There is currently no statutory recognition and regulation of music therapy. Fees for a private music therapy session are not covered by health insurance.

The GML has defined a code of ethics and minimal standards for a music therapy qualification. In 2012 a music therapy register, the GMLR was implemented. Candidates for a GMLR registration are examined once a year by an independent commission composed by two music therapists and a psychiatrist. The GMLR commission has a consultative function. Decisions about registrations are taken by the GML board.

The registration of music therapists according to the GML standards is an important step towards public and governmental recognition of music therapy and the profession of music therapy in Luxembourg.

IMPORTANT STEPS IN THE RECOGNITION PROCESS

The main objective is the professional recognition of music therapists by the healthcare ministry. A commission of experts are currently producing a paper which focuses particularly on professional legal regulation.

A further important issue is an increasing awareness of the GML and the GMLR for the general public, for people in the healthcare field and for political authorities.

¹ Sana Via Institut/Private practice for Integrative Music Therapy, Schwebach, Luxembourg.

² Gesellschaft für Musiktherapie zu Lëtzebuerg (GML), Luxembourg.

³ Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapie, Sächsisches Krankenhaus Altscherbitz, Leipzig, Germany.

gmlinfo@musiktherapie.lu

SELECTED LINKS

- ❑ EMTC country information:
<http://emtc-eu.com/country-reports/luxembourg/>
- ❑ Gesellschaft fir Musiktherapie zu Lëtzebuerg:
www.musiktherapie.lu
- ❑ Gesellschaft fir Musiktherapie zu Lëtzebuerg on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/GesellschaftMusiktherapieLetzebuerg
- ❑ Register GMLR:
www.musiktherapie.lu/registre/registre.html

SELECTED REFERENCES

- ❑ Articles about music therapy in Luxembourg published in Luxembourg newspapers are available at:
www.musiktherapie.lu/page3/contact.html
- ❑ Articles from the bulletin, the biannual journal of the GML can be downloaded at:
www.musiktherapie.lu/downloads/downloads.html
- ❑ For information about past and upcoming events, see:
www.musiktherapie.lu/Archive/archive.html