

Congress of WACAT 2017

The congress was held in two steps: first a recommending gathering in Sestola/Italy on 28th September (enclosure No 1), and then online voting over the recommendations in the gathering (enclosure No 2).

20 positive votes were received. Abstentions are counted as support of the decisions.

The decisions are as follows:

- 1. Report for the term 2015 – 2017: Approved**
- 2. Financial report for the term 2015-2017: Approved**
- 3. Plan of Action 2017-2019: Approved**
- 4. Financial Budget for 2017-2019: Approved**
- 5. Constitution charter: Approved. One remark taken up for further consideration.**
- 6. Election of Officers:**The following Executive Board for the period 2017 to 2019 was elected:
 - President: Helge Kolstad, Norway
 - Vice President: Zoran Zoricic, Croatia
 - Board members: Irena Chobukova, Russia, Lasse Rossen, Denmark, Nicoletta Regonati, Italy, Aniello Basilice, Italy, Pubudu Sumanasekera, Sri Lanka, Francesco Piani, Italy
 - Substitute member: Soontaree Srikosai, Thailand

The financial operations for WACAT should still be taken care of at the European School of Alcoholology and Social-Ecological Psychiatry. Therefore, the auditing arrangements for the European school is approved also for WACAT

The following Nomination Committee for the next Congress was recommended:

- Marco Orsega, Italy, Christina Aaseth, Norway, Anto Orešković, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 7. Next congress: Congress Assembly in Croatia in April 2019.**

Helge Kolstad

WACAT President

Enclosure No 1

Corrected* Minutes from the WACAT Recommending Congress Session, Sestola, Italy, 28th September 2017

The session was called by the Executive Board with a letter to all members, dated 14th July 2017. The session has a recommending role before the final vote, which will follow on-line, based on these minutes.

The session had participants representing Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia and Norway. All items on the agenda proposed in the calling was handled, and every recommendation was unanimous. Therefore, there was no need to specify the voting powers.

The following representatives were present:

Zoran Zoričić, Helge Kolstad, Francesco Piani, Irina Chubukova, Alexey Baburin, Tatjana BakulaVlaisavljević, NatašaSorko, NermanaMehić-Basara, Gianna Soliani, Marco Orsega, Aniello Baselice, Severe Pler Franco, FlavianaConforto, Cucen Pietro, Lormi Lucia, BocchiaMozia, Abretti Sergio, Nicoletta Regonati, Iris Ohojak, FriderikLapanja, AntoOrešković, Stefano Alberini, Della Giacoma. (* Correction: Della Giacoma was also present)

Item 1: Opening

The WACAT President, Helge Kolstad, wished all welcome. He mentioned the Club movement's history, the Hudolin heritage, the WACAT aims, the financial problems, and reported several more or less successful cooperation activities between National Associations.

Item 2: Approval of Calling and agenda

Helge Kolstad mentioned the regulations in the Constitution of WACAT, that a Congress is going in two parts: this recommending Congress Assembly which aims at putting delegates and associations together, and a second part – on-line voting - where all member organisations can vote. He also referred excuses for not being able to attend which have been sent to the Executive from Serbia, Danmark, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Decision:

- The Congress is lawfully called according to the Constitution
- The agenda as goes forward of these minutes is approved
- As acting chairman of the Assembly was elected Francesco Piani and as secretary Zoran Zoricic. They took over the conduct of the assembly from Item

- The minutes of the recommending Congress Assembly shall be sent to all member organisations (i.e. club associations and single clubs working in countries without association, according to Constitution Charter § 4.) for a final vote. The members can vote yes or no to every decision in the agenda, and can also give comments to decisions with regard to future practices. The time limit for voting is 1st December 2017. No comment will be registered as approval.

Item 3: Report from the Board for the Current Term

A written report for the period 2nd Halfyear 2015 to 1st Halfyear 2017 has been sent out attached to the calling. This was presented by Helge Kolstad.

Decision: Approved. It is enclosed as appendix No. 1

Item 4. Financial Report for the Current Term

Francesco Piani reported about the financial situation of WACAT. During the term only 2000 Euro has been paid in. Of this 400 have been used for travelling expense.

Decision: Approved as satisfactory report. An expansion of the financial activity must be done in the next period.

Item 5. Plan of Action for the Following Term

A written Plan of Action has been distributed attached to the calling. It was presented by Helge Kolstad. Several comments were made:

- Lack of money is an essential problem for WACAT activity. There is a need to make more efforts to solve these problem, specially for long distance travels
- Helge Kolstad informed the Assembly about the status of a new version of the „Hudolin book“
- IOGT has promised to adopt and support some of our training programs . IOGT can also support establishment of club networks in some countries where IOGT has a strong role (India).
- Plans for a next Congress in Croatia is supported by IOGT
- The adendum to the Plan of Action on a policy for training is of the greatest importance
- The participation of the Russian clubs in WACAT is very important, for Russians as well as for WACAT
- Zoran Zoričić, in the name of HSKLA, offered to help president Kolstad with secretariat activities
- The establishment of International standards for training programmes for club workers was strongly recommended. A minimum standard for training of servant-teachers should be achieved.
- The role of „The European School of Alcoholology and Social-ecological Psychiatry“ was highlighted, especially with regard to the training programme.
- Training should be organised both in English and in National languages

- Fabiana Conforto highlighted that financial resources is required to achieve the proclaimed aims
- Marco Orsega said that the new WACAT is mostly dependent on its European resources, and several of the European associations are in a relatively stable position. We need to solve the problems of clubs in other continents, especially concerning their connections and networks
- AICAT want us to jointly aim at EU sources.
- Aniello Baselice highlighted the need to improve our influence on political level. Helge Kolstad agreed with that, stressed, however, that WACAT has a long way to go to achieve this position.

Decision: Approved. The Plan of Action is enclosed as appendix No. 2

Item 6. Financial Budget

Decision: The WACAT Executive Board is given authority to work out a budget for the next term.

Item 7: Constitution Charter

The WACAT constitution was accepted at the last congress as a temporary arrangement until this time. At this Assembly the voting will be by simple majority over a durable version.

Helge Kolstad proposed that § 7 The Executive Board should be simplified with the following amendment: "it is composed of

1. President
2. Vice President
3. 5 to 7 Executive Board members
4. Two substitute members

Decision: Constitution Charter approved including Helge Kolstad's suggestion. New Constitution is enclosed as appendix No 3

Item 8: Election of Officers

A number of proposals were made. They are all included in the final composition of the Board.

Decision:

The following Executive Board for the period 2017 to 2019 was elected:

- President: Helge Kolstad, Norway
- Vice President: Zoran Zoricic, Croatia
- Board members: Irena Chobukova, Russia, Lasse Rossen, Denmark, Nicoletta Regonati, Italy, Aniello Basilice, Italy, Pubudu Sumanasekera, Sri Lanka, Francesco Piani, Italy
- Substitute member: Soontaree Srikosai, Thailand

The financial operations for WACAT should still be taken care of at the European School of Alcoholology and Social-Ecological Psychiatry. Therefore, the auditing arrangements for the European school is approved also for WACAT

The following Nomination Committee for the next Congress was recommended:

- Marco Orsega, Italy
- Christina Aaseth, Norway
- Anto Orešković, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Item 9: Next Congress

Zoran Zoricic invited WACAT to hold its next Congress Assembly in Croatia in April 2019.

Decision: Approved

Item 10. Closing

The conduct of the Assembly was given to the reelected President Helge Kolstad.

He thanked the president and secretary and the participants, and declared the Congress session for concluded.

Zoran Zoricic

Helge Kolstad

Report for the period 2nd halfyear 2015 to 1st halfyear 2017 from the Executive Committee

Congress

The congress took place in Sicily, Italy in early October 2015. It decided to re-establish WACAT on a provisional basis, and give it a pro tempore constitution, which will be taken up for final approval at the next congress. The following officers were elected:

President: Helge Kolstad, Norway

Vice President: : Zoran Zoricic, Croatia

Vice President for Europe: Aniello Basilice, Italy,

Vice President for Asia: Pubudu Sumanasekera, Sri Lanka

Vice President for Latin America: Manuel Ortega, Chile

Board Members: Lasse Rossen, Denmark, Francesco Piani, European School for Alcoholology and Ecological Psychiatry

Substitute member: Soontaree Srikosai, Thailand

Board meetings

The board has had the following meetings:

- October 2015: Sicily (connected to Congress)
- February 2016: Venice, Italy
- June 2016: Losinj, Croatia (connected to the Summer School of the Croat Club Association)
- October 2016: Tronto, Italy (connected to the AICAT Congress)
- May 2017: Moscow, Russia (connected to seminar by the Russian Club Association)

Establishment of membership directory

WACAT was re-established after a period where international club work was administered by a task force only. WACAT took over the original membership list, dating from 2007. It turned out to be largely outdated. A considerable work has been put into finding the newest addresses and revitalize connections with member organisations and clubs working outside organised associations. A functional system is now in operation. However, contacts are knit to several branches of the movement, and a complete list of members and clubs has not been finalised. The Board has made several decisions on membership and participation in collaborative operations, which has established the following practice:

- National Associations of clubs working according to the Hudolin methodology are accepted as WACAT members. The constitution directs how many votes each association has at the WACAT congress, according to number of clubs.
- Clubs working in countries without national association is recognised as members, with minimal voting rights.
- WACAT does not support splits of associations. Clubs outside existing associations can participate in meetings and discussions, but not vote.
- A specific exception is made for Slovenia, which has two associations independent from each other, one from the times of Former Yugoslavia, and one inspired by contacts with Italy. Here, both associations are accepted as members until a merger can be done.

Overhaul of Constitution

The Congress in Sicily in 2015 decided to work according to the proposed Constitution, instituting a compromise between a proper Congress, now in the form of an advisory Congress Gathering, and a final postal vote on the recommendations of this Gathering, open to all members. The WACAT Board has had extensive discussions about several options and tried to make appropriate consideration of all opinions. The conclusion is that we do not have resources for fully operational international congresses, and therefore must live with a compromise. The proposal is to make the provisional Constitution permanent.

Hudolin book

Considerable effort has been done collating texts on the Hudolin methodology and relevant practical and scientific material, including evaluations and other studies made on the club work. The intention is to present this as an electronic file, with the same content as a book. Decisions on contents have been made, and much of the material is on file. A first version should be available at the Congress Gathering 2017.

Contact work

Highest priority has been given to contact work towards clubs and club associations. Some success can be noted in former Yugoslavia. Vice President Zoran Zoricic, with the help of the Croatian Club Association, has maintained and re-established contacts with clubs and club associations in many ex-Yugoslav countries, like Bosnia, Slovenia and Macedonia, where clubs are operating, as well as in other countries where club work may be re-established. Contact has been re-established with clubs in Russia, where there are 40 clubs operating. The Russian Club Association is now the official WACAT member of Russia. There were hosts of our WACAT Board meeting in May 2017, where WACAT officers presented our work at a nation-wide Russian conference. Important efforts have also been done in several Asian countries. Club work has been well established in Thailand and Sri Lanka, where WACAT officers have made visits and made presentations. Further effort has been made in Malaysia, Bangladesh and India.

The board has discussed how we may stimulate club work in Latin America. The contacts have been difficult, and several clubs are not in active operations. New contacts via Italian regional club

associations with close contacts in Latin America are being tested. The highest priority is to arrange for proper education of servant-teachers.

WACAT officers have been participating and have given lectures at the summer school of the Croat Club Association in Losinj in 2016, in IOGT sessions in Germany (2016), Thailand (2015) and Sri Lanka (2016), at European School seminar in Udine, Italy (2016), and at the Italian Spirituality Congress in Assisi (2017).

European School of Alcoholology and Social Psychiatry

The European School of Alcoholology and Ecological Psychiatry is closely connected to WACAT. During this period finances have been scarce. However, the board is operating and the magazine comes out regularly. WACAT officers have participated actively in this work.

Newsletters

WACAT has the intention to send out newsletters regularly. In this period that has been restricted to news about WACAT itself. One letter was sent out after the last Congress, one after the Board meeting in May 2016, and one before the Congress 2017.

Other correspondence

WACAT officers have done considerable work with contacts within their own regions. The board has gathered information at meetings, and have given impulses to the work. Correspondence has been done via mail.

Clubs in the World

The WACAT Board has good indications that club associations are working in Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Byelorussia, Russia, Romania, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Further club work is going on in Bosnia, Albania, Germany, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Congo, Cameroon, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. There are also hot contacts or previous work in countries like Tanzania, Kenya, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Iceland, New Zealand and Mauritius.

At the WACAT Board meeting in May 2017 approximately 3000 clubs were reported.

Plan of Action 2017-2019

During this period, the WACAT should arrange and promote the following:

- Issuing a comprehensive text on the Hudolin methodology, including texts from the original set-up, updated articles on club practice and concepts, as well as a survey of studies, evaluations etc of club work and its results. The contents should be available in digital form and should be comparable to a standard book on Hudolin and Club Methodology. The book, or parts of it, may even be used by IOGT International.
- Developing training guidelines, with a policy for how the training should be organised, and recommendations for contents. The material should be made in close collaboration with Club Associations which have experience with such training, and give advice to how such skills can be extended to further Associations. Advisory programme follows as a separate text at the end of this plan.
- Requesting frequent organisers of Training Programmes to include WACAT as a co-organiser (mostly a sleeping partner). Seek to implement club methodology in IOGT training sessions.
- Developing a programme for distant education based on experience from the Russian Club Association. The condition for this is that such a programme only should be used when large distance and high costs prevent the ordinary training sessions. It is also a condition that proper observation of club work is included in the programme.
- Gathering educated trainers who are active in training programmes for club workers (servant-teachers) in Member Associations at convenient times. The first to be organised related to AICAT Congress 2017.
- Performing contact work with club associations and single clubs as broadly as possible, and improve the quality of reporting and means of communication.
- Improving contacts with Associations which are struggling or are relatively new in the WACAT collaboration, particularly with
 - Russia
 - Former Yugoslav republics
 - India
 - Thailand

- Sri Lanka
- Latin America
- Associations connected with IOGT International
- Collecting and collating of evaluations and other fair reports of club work, and make such material available in condensed form in English. A first report be published with the comprehensive Hudolin compendium, and later updated regularly.
- Developing an international instrument for WACAT collaboration and promotion, including
 - Further developing the International Executive Board
 - Making and publishing a list of members and maintaining a communication system
 - See to it that member Associations and clubs add the agreed addition to their names, namely: “Working according to the Hudolin methodology”
- Furthering secretarial capacity connected to the acting President for preparing and executing WACAT decisions.
- Composing an International Leadership which is representative of the most active regions. The core will be the elected Executive Board. In case other clusters of clubs should pop up during the period, a spokesperson should be invited to board meetings.
- Holding at least two board meetings per year, connected with seminars and congresses.
- Continuing collaboration with the European School of Alcoholology and Ecological Psychiatry. Participate in annual international training seminars.
- Continuing collaboration with IOGT International and make use of IOGT gatherings to educate club workers and promote club work.
- Expanding newsletters, firstly on club news, but even on more general substance abuse issues.
- Preparing the next congress to take place in Croatia. IOGT International may be invited as a co-organiser.

Advisory Programme for training of club workers and otherspecialists (bullet No 2 of the Plan of Action)

1. A definition of how to become a qualified trainer of trainers should be developed
2. Regularly, trainers should go through a career from assisting group leader at a training course for servant teachers, to group leader, to assisting course leader and finally to a responsible arranger of training courses
3. Experience in club work and/or formal qualifications in relevant subjects should be expected
4. Club associations should maintain a list of people who have such qualifications, and make use of them in their training.
5. Participants from countries where they have no qualified trainers should be invited to trainings in other countries.
6. WACAT, by means of the European School, should provide courses for servant-teachers in English at regular intervals.
7. Club Associations and/or WACAT should arrange gatherings of qualified trainers at convenient occasions.
8. WACAT should propose agendas for trainers' meetings, and seek collaboration with major club associations to keep up a common standard
9. WACAT should provide a list of available training personnel at International level
10. Highest priority is to maintain a standard for servant-teacher training. Programmes for more advanced training etc. may come later.

At follow-up meetings in Sestola September 2017 two more items were highlighted:

- Issuing WACAT certificates to persons who are qualified as trainers in club programmes
- See to it that servant-teachers and other club workers are connected in networks, and that they continue in-service training and have regular up-dating.

These items may be rephrased and eventually added to the programme by the Board at the next occasion.

CONSTITUTION CHARTER

1. Name:

The name of the organization is ***World Association of Clubs on Alcohol Treatment (W.A.C.A.T.)***, working according to the *Hudolin Social-Ecological Approach*. This approach was developed by prof. Vladimir Hudolin, who was the initiator of the club movement.

2. Mission:

The association works to improve the quality of life, by promoting and protecting the health of individuals, families and communities, through the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of alcohol- and drug-related problems and other addictive behaviours by promoting the Clubs' development and dissemination around the world. WACAT is a non profit social organization.

3. Objectives:

To protect the basic identity, the principles and methods of the Club work according to the social-ecological approach developed by prof. Vladimir Hudolin

To ensure the quality of club work

To harmonize the various versions of the Hudolin methodology.

To train the next generation of Club workers (with respect to the different names they have in various countries: Servant Teachers (ST), Club Assistant, etc.)

To develop the club method further with due respect for the basic identity.

4. Membership:

The National associations of Clubs on Alcohol Treatment (CAT) and the differently organized Clubs at the national level working according to the social-ecological approach are members of WACAT.

5. Leadership and Terms of Office

WACAT works in terms of two years. Officers are elected for four years. For every term there shall be a Plan of Action and a budget for international activity.

6. Organizational Structure

1) General Assembly:

The WACAT General Assembly is composed of members and arrange a congress procedure every two years with two elements, first a Congress Gathering organized by one or more members which debate the whole agenda and make recommendations, which as step two is sent out to all members for a postal vote.

The congress conference shall if possible be organized with videoconferencing and streaming in order to allow those who are physically absent to participate with the right to interact and vote directly or by proxy.

The working language is English.

In preparation of the assembly all the documents must be carefully prepared and distributed to the members by e-mail at least two months prior to the voting deadline.

Suggestions for amendments or additions should be distributed by the suggesting party by e-mail to all the members who are called, at least one month prior to the deadline (e.g. by email response to all addresses called to the Congress)

The Congress is convened by the President in accordance with the Executive Board of WACAT. If necessary the Congress may be convened extraordinarily at the request of at least half of its members.

The Executive Board of WACAT is responsible for calling of the Congress and preparing all items on the agenda. At least one month before the assembly the Executive Board shall send out a draft agenda for prior consent. The same mail should also request suggestions for changes or additions to the agenda.

The General Assembly shall have the following items:

1. Approval of calling and agenda (conducted by acting president)
2. Election of Congress President and Secretary (conducted by acting

president)

3. Reports from the board for the current term
4. Financial report for the current term with the report from the auditors
5. Plan of Action for the following term
6. Financial Budget for the following term
7. Other proposals from the Board or members
8. Election of officers
 - 8.1. President
 - 8.2. Vice President for Asia
 - 8.3. Vice President for Latin America
 - 8.4. Vice President for Europe
 - 8.5. Vice President for general purposes
 - 8.6. Two substitute members of the Board
 - 8.7. Two Auditors
 - 8.8. Election Committee of three members for Next Congress.
9. Time for next Congress, time and place for advisory gathering.
10. Closing.

2) The Advisory Congress Gathering

The Congress Gathering, which assemble over the congress agenda to decide on proposals for the final postal vote, should be called and conducted by the governing executive board of WACAT.

3) The president and secretary of the General Assembly

The president and secretary of the Congress Gathering should be appointed by the congress itself, upon proposal from the board.

These designated persons are responsible for conducting the voting, and for the minutes to be distributed to the members, as well as initiating the first meeting of the new board.

4) Voting Power

Member associations have voting power in the congress according to their size. Votes are distributed according to the following rules:

- Basic voting rights: one vote, ranging from a single club in a country up to 10 clubs
- Extra vote: One vote extra for sizes from 10 to 50 clubs
- Additional votes: Extra votes for every 100 clubs, up to totally 12 votes
E.g: Countries with one or very few clubs: One vote
Associations with 11 – 49 clubs: 2 votes
Associations with 50 – 150 clubs: 3 votes
- Extra vote in reaching 250, another at 350 and so on until a total of 12 votes.

The number of votes for each Association is determined by the Executive Board of WACAT based on the latest reports from the Associations. The Associations themselves decide if the votes should be distributed to different persons, or if the association's votes can be cast by a single representative of the association.

The counting of votes should be done by the Congress President and Secretary.

7. The Executive Board of WACAT

The Executive Board of WACAT have full responsibility for the operations of WACAT during its term.

It is composed of:

1. President
2. Vice presidents.
3. Five to seven Executive Board members
4. Up to two Substitute members.

The executive board members are elected by the General Assembly and hold office for four years. For each term there will be an action plan and a budget plan for the international activities.

The substitute members shall have full access to all documents, but shall only be called to meetings if there is vacancy, in which case they have full membership rights. Substitute members may participate as observers in Board Meetings at their own expense.

In addition to the members, the European School of Alcoholology and Ecological Psychiatry

has the right to appoint an observer to the board, who shall have access to all documents and come to board meetings with the right to participate in all discussions with opinions and suggestion, but without voting power.

Minutes of the Board considerations, including financial reports should be delivered in the shortest possible time to board members, substitute members and observers to the board, as well as the auditors and the members of the Nomination Committee.

The Information about WACAT activities will be sent to all members at regular intervals.

8. Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee is a technical body composed of at least three people and is responsible for vetting the proposal candidates for the new Executive Board. They must be neutral, not being in any formal position in the WACAT or in the national associations.

9. Principal Office

The office will be located at Udine, Italy at the premises of the European School of Alcoholology and Ecological Psychiatry. A second office will be the premises of the elected President. The Executive Board of WACAT can establish branch offices at any place where is required to conduct WACAT activities.

10. Assets and Financial Means:

The WACAT task is irrevocably dedicated to meeting the above mission and goals. No part of it shall be used to the benefit of any private person, any member, director or officer of the Organization. In case of liquidation, all properties and assets remaining after paying all debts and obligations, shall be distributed to non-profit organizations that share similar mission and objectives.”

Since there are few funds available for international work, the International Association shall work in close collaboration with its more resourceful member organisations.

In the event of liquidation, all the property and the remaining assets – after paying all debts and obligations- will be distributed to non-profit organizations that share the similar mission and goals.

Enclosure No 2

WACAT Congress 2017

The WACAT congress 2017 is completed by online voting. The votes are based on the recommendations from the congress gathering which took place in Sestola in Italy on 28th September 2017. The minutes and a corresponding voting form were sent to member organisations during the first weeks of October. The time limit for voting was set at 1st December 2017. One response came after the limit, but is still included in the summary.

We have only positive votes for the associations mentioned below. One remark about the name of the association will be taken up in the board for further consideration.

The following votes are registered:

AICAT Italy: 12 votes, 11 voting yes, on response missing, one remark for further consideration

Macedonia Club Association: one vote yes

Bosnia and Herzegovina Club Association: one vote yes

Croatia Club Association: two votes yes

Serbia Club Association: one vote yes

Slovenia, Traditional Association: one vote yes

Slovenia, newer Association: one vote yes

Russia Club Association: two votes yeas

No votes received from Scandinavia, Asia or from Latin America. If all associations had voted, that may have counted for up to ten votes. It was stated in the announcement that abstention from voting would be counted as support of the decisions.

The positive votes are 20. All decisions are valid from 1st December 2017

The remark from one of the Italian delegates is to a translation of the WACAT name into Italian, and may be the result of insufficient interpretation. It will be presented to the Board in its original wording, and may be followed up by discussion with the delegate, and possibly at the next congress.