

Curative Education and Social Therapy Council
International Training Group
Medical Section
School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum

Basis and mode of operation

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A. Basis and functions

International Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council, Medical Section at the Goetheanum

The Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council, Medical Section at the Goetheanum was established at an international meeting of centres for training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields with anthroposophical orientation held in Kassel in 2002. The training centres represented at the meeting in Kassel became founder members. These guidelines were agreed on by them and have been further developed since then.

Basis

The Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council in the Medical Section at the Goetheanum represents the union of training centres for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professions, and of the national associations responsible for training issues.

Membership

The Training Center informs the office of the Council in Dornach in writing of its interest in membership of the Training Group and designates a contact person. Membership is applied for by a written declaration and the name of an appointed delegate which are sent to the secretariat in Dornach and confirmed by the Training Council. Members are expected to attend the annual meetings regularly and participate actively. Members are also expected to take interest in the internal recognition process.

Functions

Further development of the basis and methods of anthroposophical curative education, social pedagogy and social therapy with reference to training

- Working together on relevant issues
- Exploring the bases for training
- Encouraging research, especially in practice
- Comparability and recognition of training courses
- Recognition for training centres within the Medical Section
- Recognition at international and national level
- Establishing qualitative criteria for comparability and recognition

Quality development at training centres

- Developing and implementing up-to-date training methods based on the trinal approach given in the Training Handbook for Curative Education and Social Therapy and the Charter on Professional Education
- Mutual consultation and support also in establishing new training centres
- Further and additional training of teaching staff and mentors
- Developing opportunities for student exchanges

Representing the professional profile of the anthroposophical curative educator, social pedagogue and social therapist

Collaboration with other training and professional associations
Representing the professional profile at international and national level
Collaboration within the specialist field

Development, maintenance and updating of relevant international networks

Cultivation of comprehensive awareness
Offering opportunities for concerted action
Financing work of common interest
Developing shared projects

B. Organization and mode of operation

Professional Exchange and Plenary meeting

The annual meeting of the Training Group is primarily dedicated to professional exchange related to the tasks listed above. To that end, anyone is invited who is involved with a training centre for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy or related fields of work. Membership in the Training Group is not a requirement for participation. Several members of the same training centre may also participate.

The conference includes a plenary meeting of the Training Group at the same time. For decisions in the plenary meeting, every member organization has one vote.

The Training Group appoints the members of the Training Council and the Recognition Group, and establishes their organization and mode of operation. Only representatives or delegates of member organizations can be appointed.

Training Council

Basis

The Training Council coordinates the international Training Group, represents it within and outside the Council and is responsible for implementing the functions of the Training Group. It has seven to nine members.

Functions

The functions of the Training Council are above all

- Preparing and following up the meetings of the Training Group
- Implementing and monitoring initiatives of the Training Group
- Coordination of training centres
- Supporting the Council's secretariat in the field of training
- Observing, taking up and dealing with current issues

The Training Council regularly reports to the Training Council.

Mode of operation

The Training Council meets two or three times a year as well as at the international meetings for trainers. Specific functions can with the agreement of the Training Group also be delegated to smaller groups which are then accountable to the Training Council.

Requirements

Members of the Training Council are expected to

- have representative awareness of the international situation as a whole
- show initiative in their awareness of the whole
- be committed when it comes to greater issues in the field of training
- collaborate in planning and implementing work and projects.

The members of the Training Council must be able to sustain the extensive and varied rhythm of work and awareness between Training Group and Training Council. Expenses connected with their meetings are normally paid by the training centres where the members work.

Composition

Regional and professional aspects are considered for the composition of the Training Council. The official languages are German and English. The Curative Education and Social Therapy Council's secretariat is an ex officio member of the Training Council.

Term of office

The members of the Training Council are elected by the Training Group to serve for four years; re-election is possible.

Election procedure

The members of the Training Group can put forward candidates for the Training Council. These proposals are submitted to the secretariat in Dornach. The Training Council have pre-election talks with possible members and also have the right to take action themselves.

On the basis of the proposals, the secretariat consults with the Training Council to make a list which is presented to the Training Group as a whole. Election of individuals is possible if applied for by 2/3 of the representatives with voting rights present; the members of the Training Council themselves abstain. For the election of individual members a simple majority of representatives with voting rights present suffices. The election of individuals is in writing and secret.

Recognition Group

Basis

A Recognition Group is established to implement the recognition procedure for schools and training centres. It has three or four members.

Functions

Its organization and mode of operation are laid down in the paper 'Guiding principles for recognition procedures'.

Requirements

Members of the Recognition Group will as a rule have held responsible positions in training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields for several years and be representatives or delegates of members of the Training Group. They will also be prepared to attend the annual intervision meetings in Kassel.

Competencies

The Recognition Group in consultation with the Training Council appoint recognition mentors. On the basis of the report from the recognition mentors they decide whether to recognize training centres, refuse recognition, or grant conditional recognition with requirements and recommendations. The Recognition Group ultimately also decide on the extent and type of recertification.

Election procedure

The members of the Training Group can put forward candidates for election to the Recognition Group. The proposals are submitted to the secretariat in Dornach. On the basis of the proposals and in consultation with the Training Council the secretariat make a list which is submitted to the Training Group for election as a whole. Apart from this the modalities for Training Council elections also apply.

Finances

The work of members of the Recognition Group is as a rule supported by their own training centres. Exceptions require prior consultation with the Training Council.

Accountability

The Recognition Group make regular reports to the Training Group concerning their work and that of the Recognition Mentors Group. The documents are archived at the office in Dornach.

Term of office

Members of the Recognition Group are elected for four years. A simple majority of representatives with voting rights present suffices. Re-election after four years is possible.

Recognition Mentors Group

Basis

The Recognition Mentors Group is made up of recognition mentors and the Recognition Group. It includes the individuals who have done evaluations for the Recognition Group or are appointed to do this work.

Functions

The function of the Recognition Mentors Group is to do evaluations and further develop the recognition procedure qualitatively by means of regular intervision and further training in the sphere of its functions. Attendance at intervision meetings is obligatory.

Requirements

Recognition mentors will as a rule have held responsible positions in training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields training for some years. They are also prepared to attend the annual intervision meeting in Kassel.

Competencies

The Recognition Mentors Group can submit proposals for improving the recognition procedure to the Training Council and formulate criteria for the appointment of recognition mentors.

Appointment

Recognition mentors are appointed by the Recognition Group in consultation with the Training Council. This automatically makes them members of the Recognition Mentors Group.

Finances

The expenses for regular intervision and further training work in the Group are agreed on in advance with the Training Council. The cost of travel, meals and accommodation is as a rule borne by the training centre concerned. Exceptions must be agreed on in advance with the Recognition Group.

Term of office

Recognition mentors should perform their function for a period of at least five years. Confirmation is by the Recognition Group.

Arbitration Group

Function

The Arbitration Group will on request deal with conflicts and disputes arising with the recognition procedures if these cannot be resolved in another way.

Procedure

The Arbitration Group is appealed to in writing, giving details, via the Dornach secretariat. The latter pass the complaint on to the Training Council who decide on how to deal with it, appointing the Arbitration Group if required.

Composition

The Arbitration Group is newly convened in every case of conflict. It includes two delegated members of the Training Council and a representative or delegate from the Training Group proposed by the training or educational centre making the complaint.

Any member of the Training Council who is personally involved in the case will withdraw from the Council for the whole period of the procedure.

Powers

The Arbitration Group makes the final decision. Simple majority applies. A written report on the result is sent to all involved. When the arbitration is completed the Arbitration Group reports to the Training Council and is then officially dissolved.

Mode of operation

The members of the Arbitration Group are autonomous in organizing their collaboration; it is not absolutely necessary to have meetings of the whole group.

Expenses

Travel expenses for any member of the Arbitration Group must be borne by the complainant if the complaint is not upheld by the Arbitration Group. If the Arbitration Group accepts the complaint, the expenses will be borne by the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council.

Transparency

The members of the Training Group receive an annual report on the work of the Arbitration Group.

C. Recognition within the network of training centres

I. Fundamental aspects

With their international collaboration the professional education and training centres in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related fields of work form a network which is characterized on the one hand by each organization having its own, distinct profile, and on the other by a culture of mutual perception, learning and development which makes the whole training system a cohesive whole with its own identity.

The members of the International Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council see recognition as a process which is mutual. In terms of quality development it depends on equality and commitment in collaboration, which leads to a shared learning process and new opportunities.

The basis for the questions relating to recognition is given in the Handbook published by the Council Charter on Professional Education, which contains the fundamental principles for training quality and collaboration in the international network as a basis for further development.

The need for recognized training courses exists at different levels for

- students or applicants considering the available options
- centres employing trained staff, with reference to the quality and competence of individuals
- training centres in their collaboration in a network with the same aims and interests
- the Training Group itself and the international network when it comes to representing the professional profile of anthroposophical curative teachers and social therapists internally and externally.

Recognition within the Curative Education and Social Therapy network does not take the place of recognition given to training centres under the legislation pertaining in their region. There they are subject to national regulations and conditions applying to training, which are the basis for training given in the region where government recognition and the professional legal status of graduates are concerned.

Recognition by the Medical Section / Curative Education and Social Therapy Council implies that the curriculum and methods of a training course are in accord with training in anthroposophical curative education and social therapy. It can be given for training courses of different length, levels (see EU training levels, for instance) and specialist areas within the professional spectrum.

II Conditions

The basis for recognition given to a training centre in the International Training Group's network are

Active collaboration in the Training Group

Recognition can be given to training centres which are regularly participating in the work as members of the international and national network of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council's Training Group. This includes attending meetings and conferences and shared training events, and providing information about developments at one's own centre.

Transparency / Information concerning course design and the current situation at the training centre

Once the application is running, the centre produces a portfolio with detailed information on course design, training methods and the current situation. A self-evaluation report must also be included.

Colleagues to follow developments

Centres have partners for the recognition process. These visit, sit in and have talks for the purpose of peer- evaluation.

III Procedure

Responsibility for the recognition procedure lies with the Recognition Group as owner of the process. It is assisted by recognition mentors who visit the centres.

1. Application

The centre wishing to gain recognition informs the Recognition Group, submitting a portfolio containing full details of the training work (see Self-Evaluation Report and Portfolio questionnaire). Recognition can be requested by programs leading to first professional qualifications, post-graduate qualifications, further education programs, foundation studies programs and for training course that are only offered one time.

2. Method

The Recognition Group initiate the process, coming to an agreement with the centre on the choice of mentors.

3. Implementation

The basic elements for recognition criteria are given in the Charter on Professional Education, the centre's self-evaluation, evaluation of the portfolio with attachments and the perceptions of the recognition mentors.

The mentors visit the centre and send a report to the Recognition Group in which they state if they support the application.

The Group makes the decision concerning recognition.

Recognition is granted for five years, after which it may be renewed. Renewal will also be necessary if there have been fundamental changes.

Possible decisions are

- Recognition
- recognition after meeting further requirements
- recognition not granted

In the last two cases, the centre will be able to appeal to the Arbitration Group via the secretariat in Dornach and the Training Council. Recognition may be withdrawn when the conditions for it no longer apply.

The decision will be in the hands of the Recognition Group and must be confirmed by the Training Council.

The degree and period of recertification after 5 years will be established by the Recognition Group in consultation with the school or training centre concerned.

4. Certificate

A certificate of recognition will be issued by the Medical Section / Curative Education and Social Therapy Council. Centres may refer to this in their documents and in certificates/diplomas (e.g. using the formula 'Recognized by the Medical Section at the Goetheanum, Curative Education and Social Therapy Council').

5. Costs

The Recognition Group and its mentors charge no fees. Their expenses are reimbursed as required. The centre which has applied for recognition pays the necessary expenses of the mentors involved in the process. The issue of costs must be clarified in advance.

6. Regulations

All matters concerning procedure are laid down in the Guidelines for the Recognition Process, which is put into force by the Training Council on application from the Recognition Group.

The first version of the 'Basis and mode of operation' paper of the International Training Group of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council was adopted at the plenary meeting in 2002 and revised in May 2007. The present, extended version was passed and adopted by the Training Group on 13th May 2011. Reviewed and readopted April 2015 by International Training Circle, Kassel and again on 4th May 2017.