



EFS
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
SEXOLOGY



June 2011

EFS Newsletter No 7



Greetings from EFS President

Dear colleagues and friends of the European Federation of Sexology!

A transitional period has passed after the election of a new Executive Committee in Oporto (Portugal) during the 10th Congress of the Federation.

As President, it is my pleasure to introduce the new officers: President Chiara Simonelli, (Italy), Vice-President Kevan Wylie, (UK), Secretary General Osmo Kontula, (Finland), Treasurer Moshe Mock, (Israel), and Past-President Antonio Palha, (Portugal). Members of the Executive Committee are: Elsa Almås, (Norway), Mireille Bonierbale, (France), Audrey Gorin-Lazard, (France), Birgitta Hulter, (Sweden), Miren Larrazabal Murillo, (Spain), Ursula Pasini, (Switzerland), Alfons Vansteenwegen, (Belgium).

EC and TEC meeting in Tallinn, October 2011



Greetings from EFS President continues...

By Chiara Simonelli

The new Executive Committee met in London-Heathrow at the end of January 2011 to get acquainted and to discuss important issues for the future. Key issues were the future of our journal, *Sexologies*, updating our homepage, and planning for the next Congress.

During a meeting in Tallinn in October 2010, an important goal was reached: the creation of a Training and Educational Committee (TEC) took place. The purpose is to recognize and identify the differences and similarities in the European training systems in order to promote equal training of sexual therapists and counselors. This project hopefully will help increase and reinforce our network in Europe, promoting the central role of sexual health in the context of general health. The TEC will arrange a special meeting on education and training in Glasgow before the WAS Congress, where many European experts in the field are invited.

In a meeting in Paris in October 2010 with Elsevier, it was concluded that promotion and marketing are needed in order to finance the development of our official Journal, *Sexologies*.

I am sure that our experience in the clinical and research fields of sexology, the enthusiasm of our profession and the incredible efforts of the member societies of our Federation, will contribute to increase the scientific dignity of the European Sexology.

I am looking forward to seeing a national and international development of this field, thanks also to the creation and the consolidation of new and old partnerships with other important scientific societies. Members of the EC, Moshe Mock and Birgitta Hulter, will take part in a symposium "Cancer survivorship and sexual health", organized by the International Society for Sexual Medicine and the Sexual Medicine Society of North America, in June 2011, in Washington DC, USA. Furthermore, officers of EC, Simonelli and Wylie, will hold a joint symposium with the FLASSES (Federacion Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Sexologia y Educacion Sexual) at the World Psychiatric Association, WPA, Congress in September 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I hope that the Federation will be strong as a multidisciplinary group dealing with clinical work, research and education.

Best wishes for all our members!

Chiara Simonelli



EFS founded in 2010 a Training and Education Committee (TEC).

TEC Committee has eight members from different European countries. The aim of the TEC is to promote and organize collaboration between European institutes and other organizations that provide training in sexology. Nowadays there are very different practices in European countries concerning the admission criteria and training in sexology. In the opinion of TEC, it would make sense to have some common requirements and teaching modules to the local or national training programs in sexology.

TEC decided to organize a **first European meeting in training sexology** and to invite activists in that training around Europe. The meeting will be held in **Glasgow**, a day before the openings of WAS congress, in **June 11, 2011**. In this meeting there is an opportunity to discuss sexological training and education in a wider context with the invited participants from all across Europe. Main topics in the discussion will be mapping, networking and models for training programs. It will be good to compare models in live situation, and to have some spontaneous feedback especially from those activists who haven't had that possibility previously. The aim is also to discuss how the trained professionals can implement their knowledge into their professional work.

If you are interested in participating in the meeting you can contact:

Osmo.Kontula@vaestoliitto.fi



Training and Education Committee (TEC)

A working meeting was organized in Glasgow, on Saturday 11th of June 2011. This was the first European meeting of training institutes in sexology.

Sixteen countries were represented by 28 active participants. A network willing to collaborate in sexological training includes 50 persons from 25 countries. This will be of importance for the coming generations of European sexologists, and for enhancing the quality of education, counseling and care in sexual issues in Europe.

Discussions in the meeting were lively, and participants were willing to collaborate to meet the aims (see next page).

Two subcommittees were founded: One for European Master in Sexology, and one for European Training in Sex Therapy. Communication will proceed via email, and later TEC will organize more meetings.





Are you also interested
in this work?

Send a message

to:

Osmo Kontula

osmo.kontula@vaestoliitto.fi



Aims of the TEC Committee and this European collaboration include:

1. To promote collaboration and to create a network between training institutes around Europe
2. To map different interests for the collaboration, and the main goals in different training programs around Europe
3. To recognize and identify the differences and similarities that exist in Europe in training for sexologists in Europe
4. To survey basic knowledge of training models and practices that will help to build more harmonized training models
5. To activate training in sexology, also in sexological counselling and therapy
6. To build a European training programme containing minimum core standards and requirements
7. To study future possibilities for European certificate in sexology



Kevan Wylie and Antonio Palha visited Tirana, Albania in December 2010:

We visited Albania as part of our schedule to contact the eastern countries of Europe. The Western Balkans has been relatively isolated from mainstream medicine until recent years. Initial attempts to secure access to clinicians proved difficult. With the assistance of the WHO office, Kevan was able to establish some links with Dr. Evi Dani - an andrologist in the city. Meetings were established with Professor Flamur Tartari from the University hospital and Chairman of the Albanian Society of Urology alongside his Vice-chairman – Kim Drasa who assisted in securing a two hour symposium. Until one week before the meeting it was still likely that the meeting would be postponed. However, when I wrote confirming that advanced tickets both air and hotel rooms had been made to secure the most expeditious use of funding, attendance at a ‘get together’ between clinicians was finalised.

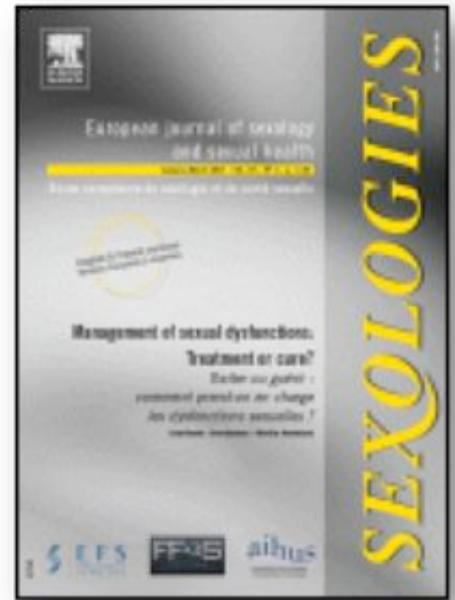
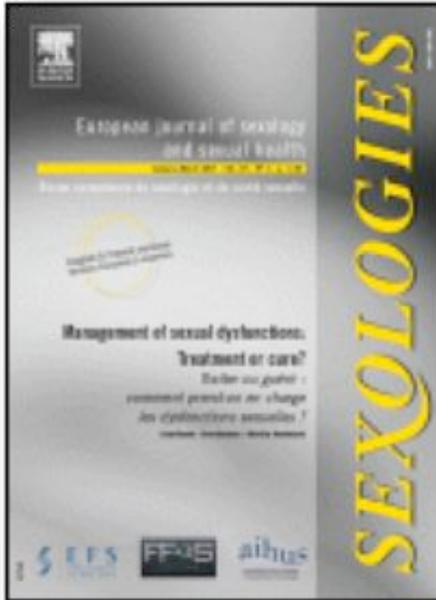
Much to the surprise of Antonio and myself, on the Thursday evening at the first dinner event, I was asked to deliver a lecture the following day as was Antonio who was already in transit in Germany. An audience of 60 to 70 clinicians were expected to attend the 2 hour symposium on sexology and relationship therapy after which they received a certificate. We were also able to extol the virtues of establishing a local society of sexologists and then becoming a member society of the EFS. Information about the WAS meeting in Glasgow next year was presented. The local media were interested in having an interview with us, but this focused primarily about the legality and biology of homosexuality. The sexologists were keen for us to run workshops for them at a later date to be established.



All in all, this was a successful meeting and once again showed the value of our trips to Eastern European countries. To date we have now visited Budapest, Bucharest, Kiev and Moscow. With Tirana now secured we move onto Pristina and Sofia and hope to combine these. There have also been requests that we make visits to Dubrovnik and Belgrade, which will be subject to funding being agreed at the next Executive away day.

Kevan Wylie. December 2010.





Revue européenne de sexologie et de santé sexuelle European Journal of Sexology and Sexual Health

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Sexologies is the official organ of expression of the European Federation of Sexology (EFS). Created in 1992, Sexologies quarterly publishes original, synthetic articles on human sexuality, its dysfunctions and its management.

Sexologies offers a large panel of information to all health professionals working in the field of sexuality: anatomophysiological and basic research; psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioural and relational evaluations of sexual difficulties; epidemiological, sociological, forensic data; information on new sexoactive molecules; research on sexual physiology, reports on specialized congresses; press and books reviews; ethical aspects; calendar of major events of sexology around the world.

Major international experts in their field joined the editorial committee, confirming and enhancing the will for scientific excellence of the journal.

Rédacteurs en Chef / Editors in chief:

[Mireille Bonierbale](#)
[Robert Porto](#)



Commentary on the EU-Directive on child pornography.

Issued by the Executive Committee of EFS on 21th February 2011

www.europeansexology.com

The European Federation for Sexology (EFS) appreciates that the European Parliament takes action on sexual abuse and exploitation of children. We add critical comment on these problems from a sexological perspective, and suggest possible action that will add important knowledge into a field that has been difficult to control by pure legislative measures.

- The Directive on one hand defines “child” as “any person below 18”, and on the other hand refers to a child as someone “who has not reached the age of consent under national law”. This is an obvious inconsistency that must cause difficulties in the interpretation of the Directive.
- The Directive targets all erotic content that depicts persons “appearing to be” under 18. “Appearing to be” is a subjective criterion. We understand why it is introduced, but we believe that more exact criteria must be used.
- Art and drawings showing underage persons, nude or in positions that are interpreted to be as “sexual” are targeted as well, thereby banning all sexual expressions in persons under the age of 18. There must be freedom for young people to legally depict their own sexuality on their own premises and in art and professional literature.
- Legislation must be ethically justifiable. If it is not, it is arbitrary. In criminalizing all depictions of sexuality if the person is under 18, the Directive erases sexuality in children and young people. The proposed directive creates a legislative grey zone, where it is very difficult to know what is legal and what is not. From an ethical point of view there is nothing wrong with erotic drawings or art, where there is no harm done to any person. The problematic part is that people may be abused and harmed in the production of pornographic depictions. It is a more constructive approach to address the actual harm. There are two areas where action has to be taken:
 - a. Action must be taken to hinder abuse of people, in particular children, in the production of sexual depictions.
 - b. Action must be taken to prevent development of problematic sexual turn-on patterns, and help people who have developed problematic sexual turn-on patterns to handle these in a way that does not harm others.
- Finally, we need to comment on the need to protect victims of sexual abuse. Assistance and support of victims is an important and difficult issue to put into practice. Often actions are taken on behalf of the child, where the child has no voice in the matter. Children, but also adult victims, often experience that there is no professional help when they need it. Investigation and trials take too long, and unnecessary burdens are put upon the victim. The Directive gives good guidelines that may be of significant help in the matter, but they may be of no use if the necessary help is unavailable. In many countries in Europe, the sexological professional competence is growing, but this competence must be made more readily available for people who need it. This requires priorities in the creation of jobs in public health care for professionals with sexological competence.

EFS recommend that the European Parliament advises member countries to take responsibility to develop sex positive politics in order to secure the necessary sexual education, socialization of sexual conduct, and development of sex safety skills within each country population.

Igor Kon died 27.4.2011, 83 years old.



He was born in 1928 in Leningrad and took his PhD (Kandidat nauki) in Leningrad in 1950 in history and philosophy and received a very rare Doctor nauki title in 1959. He started publishing in the sixties with the first golden period of Soviet sociology. His first themes were sexuality, youth and alienation and history of sociology. Gradually he became the foremost Soviet expert on sexology, a subject much frowned upon and with the Brezhnevian stagnation, also a forbidden subject in social sciences. Exceptionally for Soviet sociologists, Kon published early in international journals and books. Other important themes for Kon were childhood, friendship and lately men and masculinity. The roots of Russian sexology are found in Soviet sexopathology established in the 1960s. Sexopathology views sexual problems as mainly a result of organic innate or acquired pathologies. Medical education in sexology was also under strong institutional and ideological control. Only with the perestroika could a broader scientific view of sexuality emerge. Kon was the first to introduce and popularize scientific views on subjects that were taboo in the Soviet Union, such as young people's sexuality and homosexuality.

Igor Kon's pioneering work "Introduction to Sexology" was published in 1989, in a staggering edition of 250,000 copies, indicating the craving for reliable information of people in the perestroika era. His most influential books in English include "Sex and Russian Society" (edited with James Riordan in 1993) and "The Sexual Revolution in Russia" from 1995. Kon also wrote a thorough overview of Soviet sexology, published in the International Encyclopedia of Sexuality and accessible on the Internet. He actively wrote on his website (<http://sexology.narod.ru>) updates on domestic and foreign developments in the field. While pessimistic about the current state of sexual education and sexual culture in his homeland, Igor Kon did more than anyone else to improve it through his prolific scientific output and his charming public persona.

Anna Rotkirch, J.P. Roos and Elina Haavio-Mannila,
University of Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Juan Jose Borrás-Valls
July 15, 1954 – December 31, 2010

We grieve the premature loss of an outstanding European sexologist and friend: Dr. Juan Jose Borrás-Valls.

In 1983, Dr. Borrás Valls with Dr. Maria Perez-Conchillos, his beloved wife and colleague, founded the well-known Instituto de Psicología, Sexología y Medicina Espill (Instituto Espill) as a center for research and training, as well as for the treatment of sexual dysfunctions, and advocacy for sex education.

He played a central role in delineating the Valencia Declaration on Sexual Rights, approved by the 13th World Congress of Sexology and has been an active member of the WAS Advisory Board, always fighting for universal human rights in our field.



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eleventh

congress of the
european federation
of sexology

madrid, september 20-22
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Welcome to our next EFS congress
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