

## **Minutes of Online-Meeting – Workshop Charter of HOPE**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 8.00 PM Central European Time (CET)

The meeting has been called by Jan Haverkate, introducing possible new members to the Workshop. The 'old' and 'new' members are hospital teachers who are committed to bringing the Charter of HOPE – as an important document of HOPE – to the attention of as many people as possible who deal with children and adolescents with medical or mental health needs.

### **Invited by Jan Haverkate to this Meeting:**

Monika Almássy (Hungary), Szilvia Golyán (Hungary), Karolina Szemraj (Poland), Dorota Szamrej (Poland), Maria Rosa Maggioni (Italy), Pierre Burny (Belgium), Theodora Armenkova (Bulgaria), Gerd Falk (Sweden), Tess Bekkers (The Netherlands), Addie Sierksma (The Netherlands), Jan Haverkate (The Netherlands)

### **Present at meeting:**

Monika, Szilvia, Karolina, Maria Rosa, Pierre, Tess, Addie, Jan

### **Absent from meeting:**

Gerd (with notice), Dorota (with notice), Theodora (no message received)

Jan Haverkate will chair the meeting.

Addie Sierksma will take notes and write the minutes.

### **1) Opening of the meeting – introduction to each other**

### **2) Minutes of the last meeting – at HOPE-Congress in Poznan in 2018**

approved by all present, with thanks to Theodora, for writing the minutes

### **3) The state of affairs so far**

- Jan shows us a short overview of the history of this Workshop of the Charter, how the Charter - as a document of HOPE - came into being in 2000, how we have worked on getting the translations of the Charter in all European languages and even more. We are still looking for more languages, now that the cultures and languages of the whole globe are mixing more and more, also in Europe. So if someone knows a friend or relative, who is able to translate the Charter, please, feel welcome to present this to the Workshop.
- The Standard as a document has been voted on and has been approved by the General Assembly (May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021) as a document 'approved pending (a) linguistic revision'; apart from this possible 'linguistic revision', our Workshop of the Charter does not have the intention to have the Standard been translated in different languages, and been placed on the website. Every country who wants to translate them for its own use, is welcome to do so.

### **4) Plans for the near future**

- In the period prior to and during the General Assembly (May 2021) there has been some discussion about the use of the words: 'sick children and adolescents' in both documents: in the English (original) version of the Charter and in the Standard. The suggestion has been made, that they should be replaced by other terminology, more in use of today and scientifically validated. The plan for the near future – proposed by the Board of HOPE – is to set up a workgroup for 'glossary', with members from different English speaking countries, such as from the United Kingdom/ Ireland/Australia/New Zealand/North America.

- Also in the period prior to the General Assembly (2021), some suggestions have been made in extending the text of the Charter/Standard with valuable additional aspects around 'inclusion': especially on supporting peer connectedness and preparing the mainstream class for the pupil's return when necessary.

These aspects will need time to be talked over carefully by our Workshop, whether they should be fitted in and, if so, where they can be integrated into the whole of the Standard. Most likely it isn't such a good idea to add an 11th article to the Charter itself, since that would really give a lot of extra work in getting the translations done, now we have reached this point with all translations so far. But it certainly would be a nice addition to the Standard's list of more detailed points, supporting the 10 articles of the Charter.

## 5) Plans for the long term

- The question is: how are we going to spread the Charter throughout Europe? How are we going to get the Charter to the persons who are important for endorsing and validating this document of the Charter of HOPE? Jan suggests to go to the highest level of the government of each country, to go to the Ministers of Education, to ask for their support and approval for the Charter. And if they are willing to do so, ask them to sign the document of the Charter and then go to the European Commission to ask for support from the Commission also. However Pierre thinks it is better to do it the other way around: first go to the European Commission and ask for approval of the Charter and then go to the Ministers of Education of each country, with this approval. If the European Commission is willing to endorse, the Minister of each country cannot 'escape' from this anymore. We can also do both at the same time and see what succeeds.
- Then suggestions are made of how we can reach the people who are participating in the European Commission (e-mail-addresses are to be found on the website of the European Commission) or the government of a country. Or even the local government, as Karolina suggests, that might work the best in Poland's political organization. Do we know people working in a part of the government or do we know someone who knows someone working in ....etc.? How can we find a way in? The name of Mrs. Maria Coleva is mentioned; she is a deputy in Bulgaria, Head of Cabinet of the Commission of Education.
- When e-mail-addresses are available of the participants of the European Commission, we can send them the Charter of HOPE and ask them to support it and bring it on the agenda of the European Commission of Education. Or we can even ask them to meet with some of us in Brussels to talk things over?
- We can also approach the ombudspersons of different countries – to ask for their support – through the ENOC (The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children). There is a list of Ombudspersons on the website of HOPE somewhere, Jan says, but you can find this list also on the website of ENOC: <http://enoc.eu/>
- On the long run we will continue to collect more translations of the Charter of HOPE in other – still missing – languages. Till now, Addie has done the job of gathering the translations and will continue to do so, putting them in a certain format and then sending them to Fabrizio, the IT-man of HOPE; he is placing them on the website, in the same lay-out and appearance. Monika suggests we should refresh the Charter and its content somehow, because this document is already 20 years of age. However, making changes in the Charter would be a lot of extra work for over 40 translations, not having the original translators close to hand. The Charter consists of ten general articles, which are in a sense universal and timeless. It would be easier to add to the more detailed list of points in the Standard, to modernize and update its content. Szilvia mentions, that she has connections with a lot of students of different countries, speaking different languages. She might be able to collect new translations through them.
- Tess suggests to invite students – who have been ill themselves – to think with us about new terms (Glossary) and contents for the Standard. After all, they know how it feels!

## 6) Choosing a Workshop Leader

- This evening Jan is chairing the online meeting; he has also sent the invitations. Addie has been the Workshop coordinator for a number of years and when she asked if someone would replace her, Theodora took over in May 2020. Unfortunately, we haven't heard from Theodora since then and she isn't joining us at this meeting; maybe she doesn't have enough time left for this task. We hope she's doing well!  
That is why we are looking for a coordinator for the Workshop again. It means organising these online-meetings on a regular basis (2 or 3 times a year), chairing the meetings and keeping an overview of all activities of our Workshop. You will also be the contact person at the HOPE Congress, giving short presentations about our Workshop – when asked for – and chairing the meetings of the Workshop during the HOPE Congress as well. A summary of the Presentations and the Minutes of Meetings will be placed on the website of HOPE, for which you (being the coordinator) will be in contact with Fabrizio, our IT-man, to get this done. Please contact Jan if you would like to take on this task, so that the Workshop can be revived.

## 7) Any other business

- Jan tells us about an article he read in the local newspaper about a refugee from Syria, who lives in The Netherlands. This man had made a translation of the Charter of HOPE in the Arabic language for us. This is to give us also an example of how one can find a person by incident sometimes, who is willing to translate the Charter in another language.  
So, if you know someone – who might be willing to translate the Charter into a language we don't already have on the website – please, contact Addie. The translations of the Charter should be made in a certain format, with a certain lay-out, font style, etc. Addie will send some documents by e-mail with information for a new translator.

## 8) Closure of the meeting

- We make a round to see who still has something to say or ask:  
Szilvia will look for someone from the European Commission; their support would be good for Hungary (and other countries of course). In her opinion, it would be a shorter way and it would make a bigger step forward if the European Commission would support the Charter and the Standard, instead of first approaching the governments of different countries. Karolina will get the Standard translated in Polish for the members of HOPE in Poland and she will ask students for their ideas for the Standard: what is missing and what should be added, to the Standard list of points in their opinion.  
Pierre will find out who the national representative is in the European Commission, who might be interested in the topic, so we can get access to the Commission and the Deputies. Pierre makes the suggestion, that we can all share our information via google.doc .  
He also mentions that – when the Standard is finalised – we can bring the document out in the open and have it signed, with the press present at that occasion.
- Then Jan finishes with: if you have any other ideas or suggestions for our Workshop, please send an e-mail to Jan.  
He thanks everyone for being present at the meeting and wishes everyone well: stay healthy!

### **Actions to be taken:**

1. When you are willing to take up the task of being the coordinator of this Workshop of the Charter of HOPE, please contact Jan: [jan.haverkate@ijsselgroep.nl](mailto:jan.haverkate@ijsselgroep.nl) ;
2. if you have any other ideas or suggestions for our Workshop, please send an e-mail to Jan;
3. Jan will start a 'glossary'-group, to work on the best terms to replace 'sick children and adolescents' in the English version of the Charter;
4. start thinking about how we can finalise the document of the Standard, what needs to be done to make it more complete – in the context of 'inclusion and peer connectedness' – and where should it be integrated in the document;
5. think about how we can invite young students to think along with us about this subject;
6. when finalised, make a Proposal so the document of the Standard can be approved definitively by the General Assembly at the next HOPE Congress in 2023 – possibly in Milan;
7. start finding and approaching people who work in 'higher' circles, in the European Commission or the Government on national or local level, with the goal to have them endorse and validate the Charter, as an important document;
8. make contact with the Ombudsperson of your country and present the Charter to him/her;
9. whenever you find someone who can translate the Charter into a 'still missing' language, please contact Addie: [addie.sierksma@ijsselgroep.nl](mailto:addie.sierksma@ijsselgroep.nl)

### **Additional information (of a later date):**

In the meantime the Board of HOPE has had a Meeting in which the idea of starting a 'glossary'-workgroup has been discussed. In the end, the members of the Board came to the conclusion, that the list of terms (used in the Charter and Standard), that has to be changed into terminology – which would be more in use of today's English language – is quite short. Therefore, starting a 'glossary'-workgroup seems a bit overdone. So the suggestion was made by some native speaking Board members to replace the term of 'sick children and adolescents' and 'sick pupils' by 'children and adolescents with medical or mental health needs'.

The Charter of HOPE has already been amended with the new target group description. This revised version of the Charter of HOPE will be presented to HOPE members for approval at the online General Assembly in May 2022. See attachments.

The Standard of HOPE will also have to be revised in the future. This concerns both the new description of the target group and an addition to the content of the Standard.

We can put these matters on the agenda at a next online meeting of the Workshop Charter of HOPE, sometime in the autumn of 2022.