

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

(Submitted by Hejo Feuerstein, Marine de Fréminville and Sergio Lara Cisternas)

The workgroup on new Structure of TFI and a worldwide Focusing organization reflected some essential features of the future Focusing organization:

- Also in the new bylaws of The Focusing Institute (TFI), Co-ordinators, Trainers and other “members” are not mentioned. There is still until now no formal right for coordinators and trainers to be part of the decision-making and voting of TFI. This might be due to restrictions of the US American laws for non-profit organizations: legally, TFI is owned by the board members, who are personally responsible for TFI. (This owner-model has its historic roots by Gene Gendlin and Mary Hendricks Gendlin, where it made sense to look at the founders of Focusing as owners of TFI.)
- For some time now, we have a growing worldwide Focusing community with individuals from different cultures, local Focusing centers, national Focusing organizations and continental networks. For a future Focusing organization, it would be a chance to include all in a bigger Focusing organization, to organize mutual support on their local, national and continental level to spread Focusing, by facilitating communication and exchange, developing and sharing concepts and applications. For that, a kind of self-organization would be appropriate where the organization is elected and managed by the members. Example: The World Association for Person Centered & Experiential Psychotherapy & Counseling WAPCEPC, a world association for PCA (Person Centered Approach) with worldwide, continental level and national members (individuals and organizations). We can look and see if some concepts of these organizations might be useful for Focusing and the Institute – and which are not.
- The challenge now: to keep TFI functioning in its tasks which are well accomplished (Website, Folio, etc.) and at the same time making space for new organizational structures which include the worldwide Focusing community as “real members”.
Options:
 - to change the bylaws of the institute to formally include all members – which might become difficult for legal reasons.
 - to found a new Focusing self-organization with a defined relationship to TFI: maybe TFI could be mandated to manage the administration of the Self-Organization; the Self-Organization sends elected members to the board, etc.
 - Maybe there are other models that would fit the needs.

