

XIIth UEP Congress, Poznań 1985



Cvejić
Seidner

Hanson

Kruse

Frank

Vilkman

Pahn

Flach

This is how European Phoniatrians praised their association a quarter of a century ago.

- Among them Duško Cvejić from Belgrade, one of the founders.

Jürgen Wendler

XXVIth UEP-Congress,
Lund, May 12-14, 2011

UEP from Yesterday up until To-Day

Looking Back at 40 Years
between Crisis and Success

JUERGEN WENDLER, Berlin

XXVIth UEP-Congress, Lund, May 12-14, 2011

To-day, we will look back at a history of 40 years.



P. Biesalski



G. Kittel

The primary idea came from Gerhard Kittel from Erlangen.
and it was

- Peter Biesalski from Mainz who took over and started campaigning untirelingly to make this idea a reality.

Looking for likewise enthusiastic allies, he was, in particular, out
for polyglot talents as well as
for colleagues with useful connections to East-Bloc countries,
mainly to the Soviet Union, strongly controlling all of them.



O. Schindler



D. Cvejić

Thus, he arrived at Oskar Schindler from Torino
- and Dušan Cvejić from Belgrade,



and here we have the four ones who are, in fact, the founders of the UEP.

- Cvejić invited to a first come together to Belgrade in 1971,
- and 48 phoniatrians from 14 countries attended.

After long lasting and rather controversial discussion, finally, a first approximation to the formation of a new international association was achieved.

- they called themselves Union of the European Phoniatrians.
- A great success.



I am going to follow their way according to the data of the Annual Bulletin which I edited from 1983 through 1992 during my turns as Secretary General.

- The data comprise basic information about the congresses from 1971 to 1991
- statistic numbers as well as results and decisions
- and strategic activities of Board and General Secretary Office.

The next important meeting took place in Prague, the post war phoniatic Mekka, in 1973



1973



- under the honorary presidency of Miloslav Seeman and with Eva Sedláčková as president. Nearly hopeless controversial discussion broke out.

Controversies

- Profile
 - professional
 - scientific
- Target
 - independent specialty
 - subspecialty (to ENT)
- East – West
 - socio-political conditions
 - currency problems

These were the main controversies,
hot issues having continued to be subjects to heated debate
over the years, in parts, up until to-day:

- The profile of the organization: professional or scientific or both?
- The target: independent specialty of its own standing as the only option or subspecialty, under special conditions, as a temporary or permanent alternative?

- East - West:

Fundamental socio-political differences between the East and the West were reflected in their corresponding medical care systems and caused a lot of controversies just by lack of knowledge and mutual information. All of us had to learn many lessons. It was a painful process, but, we made it.

- And a crucial issue: currency problems.

Strategic Groupings

Fundis, hawks

Realos, doves



As it is true for many societies and parties,
there were, at least, two strategic groupings.

- The fundamentalists, Biesalski called them the hawks,

- and the realos, the doves.

Anyway, high emotions dominated all the contributions,

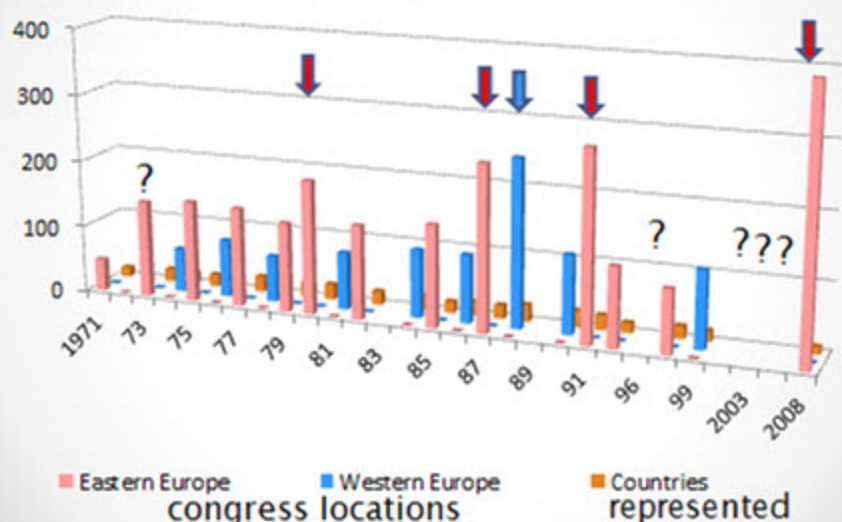
- exemplified by a series of shots of Lucio Croatto from Padova.

- Crisis!

The total crash seemed to be inevitable.

But, you remember, crisis in ancient Greek medicine is that turning point at which it is decided whether agony or recovery is coming up. A crisis without an alternative is not a crisis.

Congress Locations Nrs. of participants, countries



This graph shows the distribution of attendance in relation
- to congress locations:

red columns Eastern Europe (Roubles),
blue columns Western Europe (Dollars).

- The number of the countries represented was undulating
around 20.

Generally, congresses in the East attracted considerably
more people, outstanding among them

- the Gutzmann anniversary in Berlin 1980,
- the Dresden congress in 1987,
- Kiev 1991 and, extremely,
- Poznań 2008. In the West,

- Gerhard Kittel in Erlangen, 1988, managed to realize a big
number of invitations resulting, along with many colleagues
from the West, in the highest number of participants in this
area.

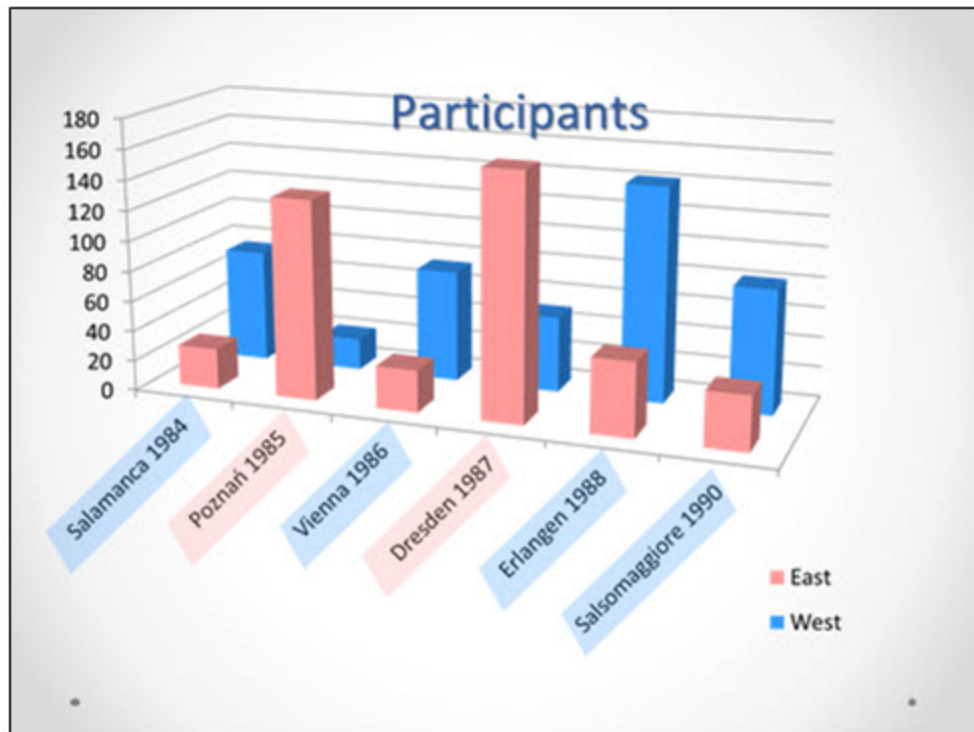


And, indeed, the miracle happened, not least at all due to Lucio Croatto's talent as an excellent mediator.

The implementation of two treasuries, one in the West in Dollars and one in the East in Roubles, proved to be an ingenious political trick to create a solid essential basis for practical cooperation by making possible mutual guest invitations to keep people in touch from both sides of the iron curtain.

- success!

By the way: this was a very strong motivation behind the professional and scientific ideas. In fact, UEP was a political organization. And, even with most of the problems unsolved and the association officially not existing (no by-laws!), it was decided to have annual congresses to search for a common sense, and to have alternating locations regarding the Dollar and the Rouble area for optimal conditions of attendance.



Participants from the corresponding area have always been dominating as you can see here for the congresses from 1984 to 1990.

- Congresses in the West

- Congresses in the East

Thus, the Union was, by no means, only some kind of travelling club just for fun. Many people attended the meetings in their own area to meet their colleagues from the other world.

But there was, in addition, another urgent need for contact, as Oskar Schindler stressed.



H. Gutzmann
Berlin



E. Froeschels
Vienna



M. Seeman
Prague



R. Luchsinger
Zurich



G. Arnold
Vienna

German-speaking group



K. W. Weinberg
Stockholm



R. Hammar
Helsinki



W. Oftuszevski
Warszaw

On the one hand, there was the German-speaking group, all of them related

- to Hermann Gutzmann: Froeschels, Seeman, Luchsinger, Arnold
- spreading out to Scandinavia with Weinberg in Sweden and Rauha Hammar in Finland and to slawic countries
 - with Oftuszevski in Poland.
- On the other hand



H. Gutzmann
Berlin



E. Froeschels
Vienna



M. Seeman
Prague



R. Luchsinger
Zurich



G. Arnold
Vienna

Francophone group



J. Tarneaud
Paris



J.-C. Lafon
Besançon



J. Perelló
Barcelona



A. Muller
Lausanne



L. Croatto
Padova

The francophone group

- with Tarneaud, Lafon, Perelló, Muller, and Croatto, to name just a few.

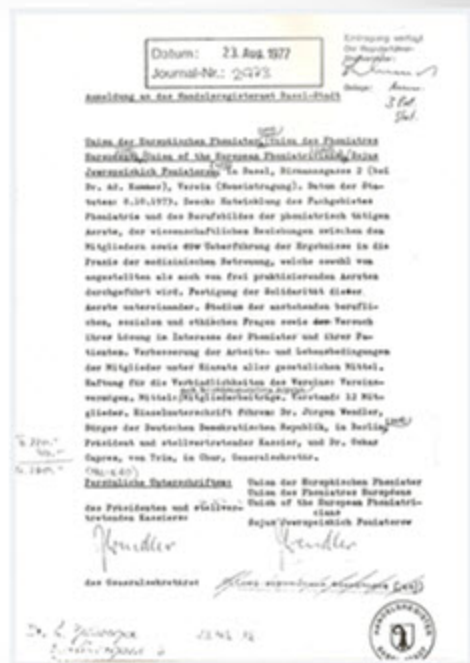
They and their successors barely knew each other, and there were, most probably, some mutual reservations to be overcome.

The Union offered a floor with their next congresses in Padova, Wrocław, and Paris with many basic discussions. But, still, there were no by-laws and now legal status.



Oskar Caprez

By-Laws



Finally, in 1977, a commission was invited by the Secretary General, Oskar Caprez, to Muttenz, Switzerland, to hammer out

- the by-laws

- and have them officially registered in Basel

By-laws of the Union of European Phoniaticians

Art. 1

The association of the phoniaticians (medical doctors) of Europe adopts the name of:

Union of the European Phoniaticians	(UEP)
Union des Phoniatries Européens	(UPE)
Union der Europäischen Phoniater	(UEP)
Sojus Jewropeiskich Foniatorow	(SEF)

The Union exists as an **association** according to the articles 60 and following of the **Swiss Civil Code** with its own juridical personality and will be registered in the Trade Register of the city of Basel. For any obligations of the society only the property of the Union can be liable.

- according to the Swiss Civil Code.

Art. 4

The purposes of the Union are:

Purposes

- The promotion of the speciality of phoniatics and the professional conditions of the phoniaticians, the scientific relations between the members and putting them into practice for the benefit of the medical care by medical doctors working in public health service as well as in private practice.
- The consolidation of solidarity among these medical doctors.
- The study of professional, social and ethic problems to be considered by the Union and the search for their solutions, in the interest of the phoniaticians and their patients.
- And, in general, the improvement of the conditions of living and work for its members by all legal means.

Professional

- „conditions“ and scientific

- „relations“ seemed to be an acceptable compromise between
the two areas,
and with the aspect of

- practice both of them could be usefully applied at the
following meetings.

BY-LAWS	
of the	
Union of European Phoniatrists (UEP)	
with the site in	
Basel	
I. Name and Site, General	
Art. 1	
Name and Site	Under the name of
	"Union of the European Phoniatrists (UEP)
	with the site in Basel, an association exists according to art. 60 of
	the Swiss Civil Code.
Art. 2	



Phoniatrics is that specialty of medicine that deals with diseases and disorders of voice, speech, language, hearing and the swallowing apparatus.

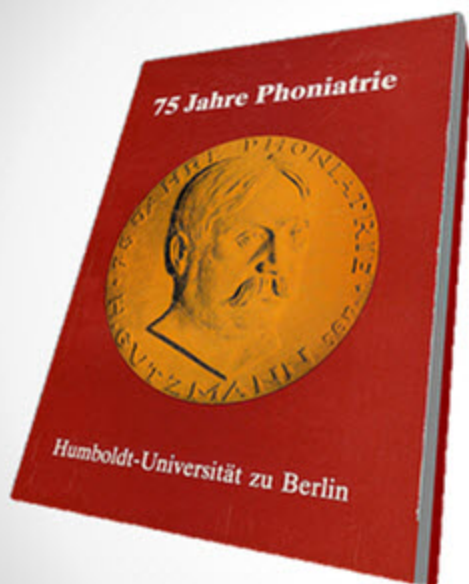
At the Lucerne-Congress in 1999

- a revised version of the by-laws was accepted

- with Ulrich Eysholdt from Erlangen setting the tone. Now,

- a clear definition of the specialty was incorporated.

A special highlight: the Gutzmann Anniversary in Berlin in 1980.



1980

Anniversary
in the honor of
Hermann
Gutzmann sen.

In a Festschrift, the history and the present state of phoniatrics
from 21 countries could be presented,



and the Gutzmann-Medal was awarded to internationally leading personalities for the first time.

During the following congresses, regrettably, professional aspects were fading into the background more and more, and, due to the annually changing presidents, there was a lack of continuity regarding the strategic profile. Many people were disappointed, and as a consequence,



1982



Crisis!

at the Prague congress in 1982, Peter Biesalski as one of the
founders,
- did not show up.
Crisis, alarm!

Extended discussion regarding the basic character of the Union
and the organization and contents of the congresses
resulted in the formation of a program commission

Nijmegen



1983

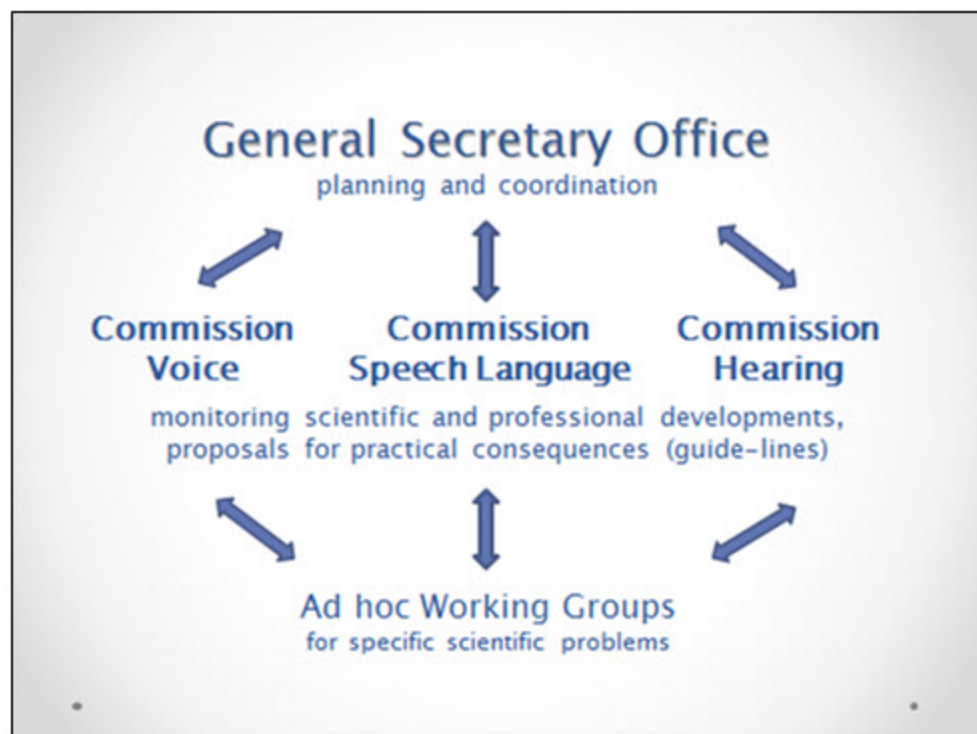
Program Commission

- administration
- training program

which met in Nijmegen half a year later
on invitation of Carel Jansen
to elaborate proposals for
- an effective administration in terms of continuity

- a truncus communis for the training of phoniaticians in the frame of UEMS, to which I will return in a moment.

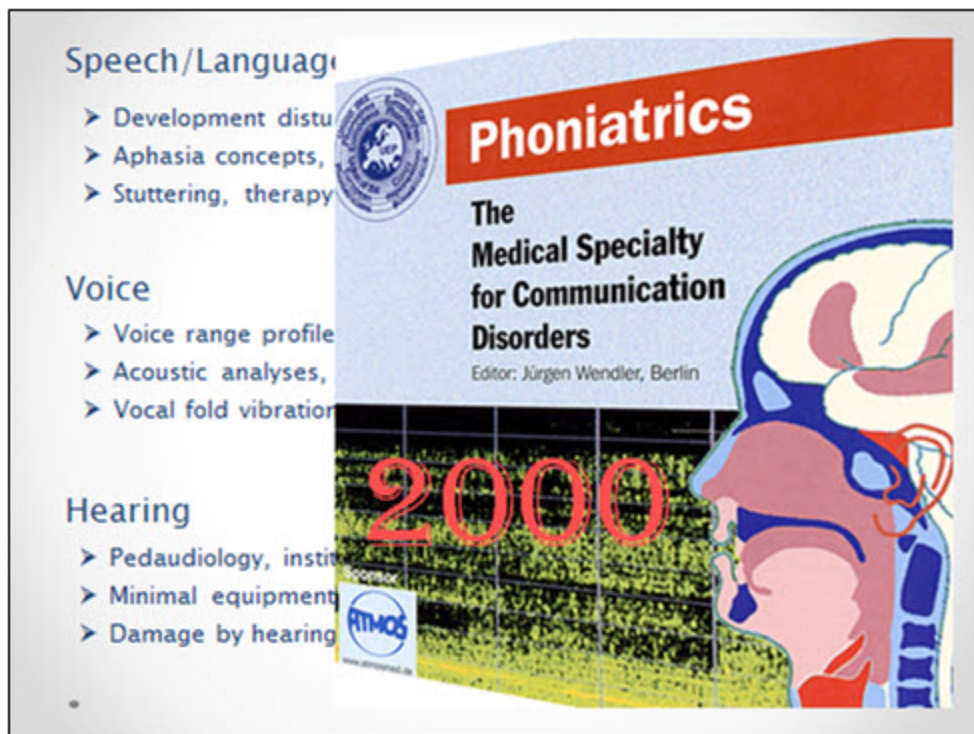
At first to the administration:



The Board elects a General Secretary Office for a period of 4 years.

- It is responsible for proposals regarding the planning and coordination of all kinds of activities of the Union to be confirmed by the General Assembly.
- Three commissions, appointed by the president, are monitoring the scientific as well as the professional developments in their areas of reference and draw conclusions for practical applications in terms of guide-lines.
- The board may establish ad hoc Working Groups to evaluate specific scientific problems.

All of the commissions were quite busy and effective. Just a few examples:



Speech/Language: development, aphasia, stuttering

- Voice: voice range profile, acoustics, vocal fold vibration

- Hearing: pedaudiology, equipment, hearing aids

Stimulated by Oskar Schindler and Peter Biesalski, a close cooperation between the commissions resulted in a cumulation of their individual areas of reference to an integrative scope of

- phoniatriks as the medical specialty for communication disorders, to be based on evidence and not on opinion, heading for a systematic nosologic canon.

An essential effort in this direction, inaugurated and coordinated by myself, was, but finally, to no avail,

WHO

Detailed Proposals
for the
10th Revision of the
International Classification of Diseases and Injuries

1988

Confirmation by the
Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen

no further processing
at the WHO headquarters in Geneva:
Lack of money!

a detailed elaboration for the 10th revision of the ICD following strictly the extensive guidelines published in the corresponding circulars of WHO.

- After confirmation by the European Regional Office,
the procedure was interrupted by the WHO headquarters in
Geneve
due to lack of money.

Not a crisis, but a severe disappointment
after a lot of work carried out with great enthusiasm.

Now: to UEMS:



The “European Union of Medical Specialists” (UEMS) as the **official permanent committee** to represent the medical specialists at the **Advisory Committee** of the European Union is, among others, responsible for a harmonization of training programs to be outlined

- by the **“Advisory Committee on Medical Training”**.

Within the EU, this **harmonization** has been continuously **advancing**, including phoniatics since **1983**.

- And it was Willy **Wellens** who, for the first time, drew the attention of the UEP to this essential topic.

In Nijmegen, a **paper for the admission of phoniatics as a subspecialty in otorhinolaryngology was elaborated**, with regard to those countries in which phoniatics was, then, not yet and, presumably would not be, in the near future, recognized as a specialty of its own standing. This paper, including a **common trunk for training**, was forwarded to UEMS.

Paper for the Admission of Phoniatics
as a Subspecialty in Otorhinolaryngology

Dokument zur Anerkennung der Phoniatrie
als Subspezialgebiet der HNO-Heilkunde

Document concernant la Reconnaissance de la Phoniatrie
en tant que Sous-Spécialité de la Médecine O.R.L.

Документ о признании фониатрии
областью субспециализации оториноларингологии

The common trunk, published in the four official languages of
the UEP, referred to

Truncus Communis for training

- definiton
- theoretical, practical and medico-technical elements
- specific knowledge, competence, and skill
- conditions as to training centers and supervisors
- number of phoniaticians needed

- definition

- elements of training

- knowledge, competence, and skill

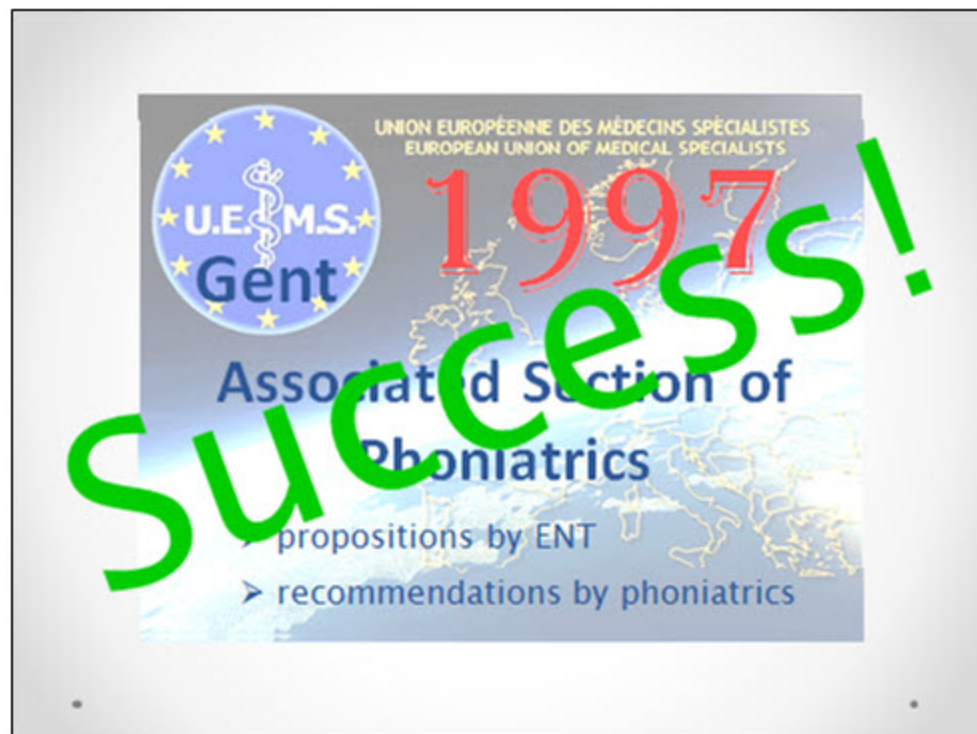
- training centers and supervisors

- manpower



In the same year, the ENT Section invited two delegates from UEP to their meeting in **Heraclion**, to present and defend the paper. Willy **Wellens** and **myself**, we were the delegates.

- To say the truth, it was **not** an extremely **satisfying** event. Most of the time, we were locked out and only called in for short, say, petitions. Finally, a **recommendation** was formulated by the Section saying that phoniatic education is **anyhow part of the training program for ENT**,
- and that a post-ORL training program **may be necessary** to achieve special competence in phoniatics – luckily enough, no final decisions.



It is mainly due to the untiring efforts of Willy **Wellens** that 14 years later, in **1997**, an

“Associated Section of Phoniatics” was installed to the ENT Section,

dedicated to the study, the promotion and defence of phoniatics in the member states of the EU

- as to **propositions by the ENT Section**
and **recommendations by the Associated Section of Phoniatics.**

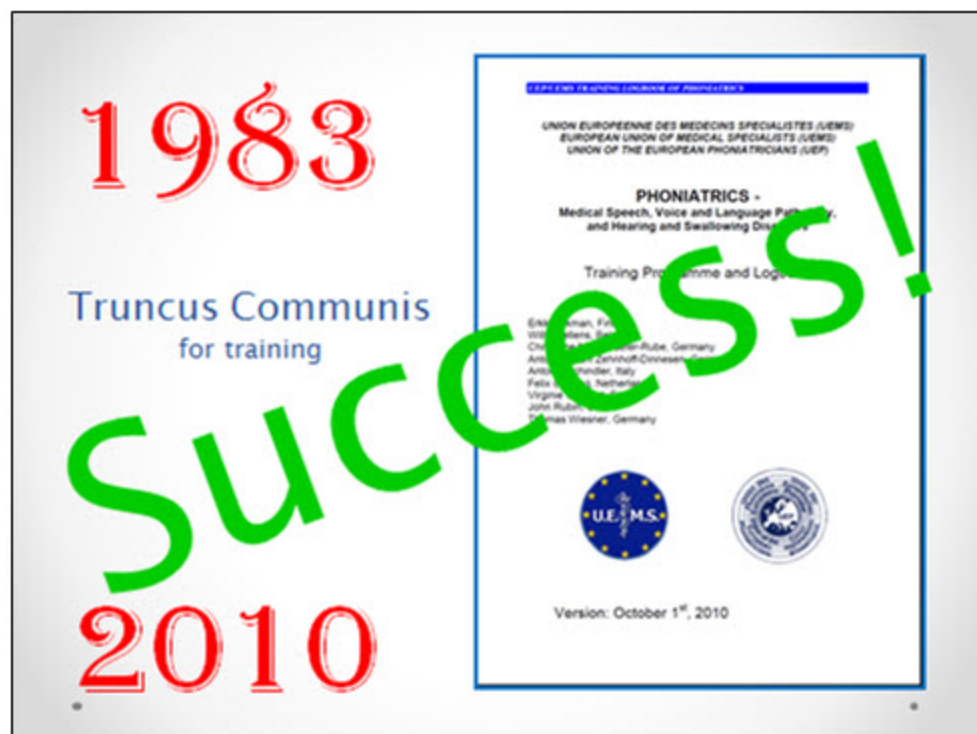
This was the **first implementation** of our field in the framework of an official professional profile on medical specialization in Europe.

- Success!



Further differentiation including phoniatics was outlined in
2004 including

- special training programs as well as
- recognition and certification,



and recently, after quite a series of updates and rewritings by a number of enthusiastic young colleagues around Christiane Neuschaefer-Rube,

- this primary truncus communis has matured into a veritable logbook, not generally obligatory, but obviously, a strong recommendation which can be considered a great chance in the frame of increasing tendencies to partitioning and modularization of the traditional medical specialties.

- Success again!

Now, let me mention just one success and one crisis more.

Kiev

1991



An unbelievable success, a most spectacular event: In Kiev, 1991 still belonging to the Soviet Union, the opening ceremony took place in a monastery

- organized by Juri Wasilenko

- and guided by monks – overwhelming, but, also with strong indications of a severe crisis coming up, so that Harm Schutte called

- that Board meeting “The last supper of UEP”.

Prague

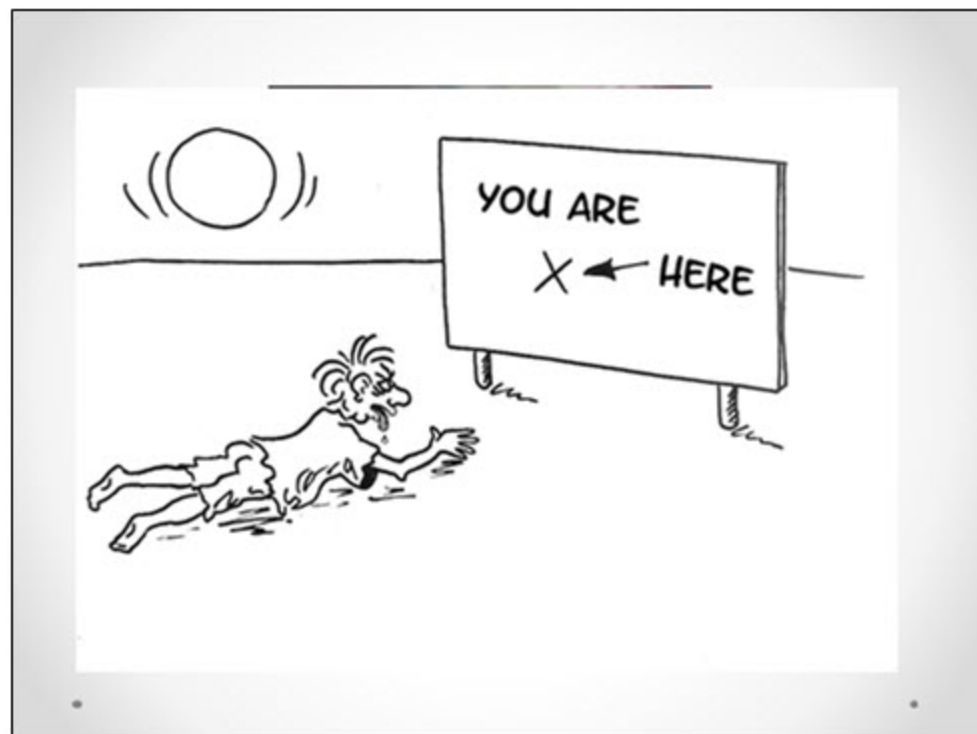
1993



And, indeed, in Prague 1993, in spite of a well prepared program,
many of us felt
that the profile of the old UEP
seemed to be not adequate anymore to the new political
situation.

With the iron curtain vanished and after the high emotions of
1989/90,
uncertainty was spreading out increasingly.

- UEP fallen to the ground?



I found myself well portrayed as Don Quichotte, and I was, for the moment,

- rather helpless when I was called for this lecture.

So, what to do when you are got lost in the middle of nowhere?

Yes, ask friends for help. And that's what I did.

Questionnaire

Change of state since 2000

from ... to

no specialization

inofficial specialization

competence

official subspecialization, partial field (to ...)

independent specialty

Number of phoniatriicians

in 2000

in 2011

Number of University Departments

in 2000

in 2011

independent

attached to

Impact of UEP

positive

irrelevant

negative

I sent out a questionnaire on changes from the beginning of the new millenium, regarding

- The status of phoniatics
- The number of phoniatriicians
- The number of university departments
- And the impact of UEP.

And here are the answers from many cooperative colleagues, most hearty thanks to all of them.

All in all, the whole situation turned out to be better than expected.













State of Phoniatics

		2000	2011	trend
AU	Zorowka	subsp.	subsp.	→
B	de Jong	subsp.	comp.	→
CH	Oppermann	subsp.	subsp.	→
CZ	Dlouhá	subsp. (sp. 04-09)	subsp.	→
D	am Zehnhoff-D.	indep. sp.	indep. sp.	→
E	Perelló	ind. sp./subsp.	indep. sp./subsp.	→
F	Woisard	?	Subs.	→
H	Hirschberg	subsp.	subsp.	→
I	A. Schindler	indep. sp.	indep. sp.	→
NL	de Jong	inoff. sp.	no sp.	↘
PL	Obrębowski	subsp.	indep. sp.	↗
S	Schalén	indep. sp.	subsp.	↘
SE	Qvarnström	indep. sp.	indep. sp.	→

The official status looks quite stable,
except in The Netherlands and in Sweden with considerable
deterioration,
in contrast to a most welcome improvement in Poland.

- At present, phoniatics is independent in 4 European countries.

Numbers of Phoniaticians

	2000	2011	trend
AU Zorowka	30	35	
B de Jong	15-20	?	?
CH Oppermann	16	24	
CZ Dlouhá	80 (30)	96 (50)	
D am Zehnhoff-D.	200	290	
E Perelló	110	110	
F Woisard	240	50 (100)	
H Hirschberg	34	45	
I A. Schindler	300	300 (?)	
NL de Jong	30	30	
PL Obrębowski	170	210	
S Schalén	15	17	
SF Qvarnström	15	25	

In the majority of the countries,
the number of phoniaticians has been increasing,
exceptionally so in Germany and in Poland.
In France, regrettably, we notice a clear decrease.

		Numbers of Univ.-Depts.				trend
		2000		2011		
		all	indep.	all	indep.	
AU	Zorowka	3		2	1	↗
B	de Jong	8		6		↓
CH	Oppermann	4		4		→
CZ	Dlouhá	8	1	9	1	↗
D	am Zehnhoff-D.	26	?	30	9	↗
E	Perelló		few		few	→
F	Woisard	10		10		→
H	Hirschberg	1		1		→
I	A. Schindler	10		16		↗
NL	de Jong	8		none		↓
PL	Obrębowski	2	2	5	3	↗
S	Schalén	6	2	6		↓
SF	Qvarnström		5		5	→

University departments are reflected in rather differing figures.
 Ups and downs are roughly equal, but,
 it should not be neglected,
 that quite a number of units have lost their independence.

		Impact of UEP		
		until 2000	after 2000	trend
AU	Zorowka		-	
B	de Jong		+	
CH	Oppermann		+	
CZ	Dlouhá		-	
D	am Zehnhoff-D.		+	
E	Perelló		(+)	
F	Woisard		-	
H	Hirschberg	+	-	↓
I	A. Schindler		+	
NL	de Jong		-	
PL	Obrębowski		-	↓
S	Schalén		-	
SF	Qvarnström		+	.

And now, to the impact of UEP:

In most of the responses, the impact was marked as „irrelevant“
after 2000,
in contrast to the time before.

Our past president, Andrzej Obrębowski put it that way:
“Too many years I have observed only stagnation and lack of
activity.

I still think, that the glory days of UEP have passed.
Nevertheless the Union has fulfilled its task to unite all
phoniatrists.”

Now, let us try a vague look into the future in terms of
perspectives.

What I am going to present are not recommendations,
but simply plain considerations, thoughts that came to my mind.
You may like to incorporate some of them into your program –
or not. It is just an offer.

Controversies

- Profile
 - professional
 - scientific
- Target
 - independent specialty
 - subspecialty (to ENT)
- East – West
 - sociopolitical conditions
 - currency problems

As to the basic controversies, the old East-West conflicts can be,
on principle,

- sorted out.

Remain profile and target.

The profile should, now as before, encompass professional as
well as scientific elements.

Perspectives

Profile

- Professional
 - ✓ UEP: platform for UEMS
- Scientific
 - ✓ Reactivation and extension of Commissions
 - scientific monitoring
 - transformation to medical care
 - general guide-lines
 - Associated academy?
 - ✓ Floor for young colleagues

The professional profile should be determined by closest cooperation with UEMS, with UEP forming a basic democratic platform for the strategy of their delegates to the corresponding commission of UEMS.

- Scientificly:

Reactivation of the Commissions Speech/Language, Voice, Hearing, extended by Swallowing.

Duties: Systematic monitoring of the corresponding scientific developments,

transformation to practical measures in medical care, proposals for general guide-lines

to be discussed at congresses and voted on by the General Assembly.

- (Could also be realized by an associated academy.)

- Chances for individual papers for young colleagues to present themselves and get financial support from their institutions.

Perspectives

Target

independent specialty
versus
subspecialty (to ENT)

- Pragmatism beats formalism
 - ✓ Special training
 - ✓ Separate budget
 - ✓ Sovereignty over personal
- Watch and shape trends

Rules and regulations for medical specialization regarding professional profiles and official recognition are continuously **under discussion**.

- My philosophy: Flexible pragmatism beats dogmatic formalism.

In spite of differing formal professional formats and independently from systematic orders, the **medical challenges of the information age** require the adoption of a **recognized medical field** – be it a **specialty** on its own or a **subspecialty** - with **encompassing and distinct competence** for communication disorders, with

- a special **training program**, with **separate budgets**,
- and **sovereignty** over personal, and that is phoniatics.

By the way: We have to realize that an independent specialty per se does, by no means, guarantee those conditions (c.f. Germany), and a subspecialty does not, necessarily, exclude them (c.f. Austria).

- To achieve this goal: watch carefully and shape trends with strong determination.

Of course, it is not enough to claim this competence. It has to be **proved** again and again by **specialized offers** for the care of patients with communication problems, offers that other specialties cannot provide.

Further prosperity requires untiring and continuous **efforts** from all of us. Otherwise, our beloved specialty may disappear from the face of the earth, more sooner than later.



Phoniatriicians
of all lands,
unite!

Thus, let's stay together, all in the same boat:
United we conquer, divided we fall.
Or, as our late friend Aatto Sonninen used to put it:

- Phoniatriicians of all lands, unite!