

## **Newsletter August 2014**

We present here a short overview of activities undertaken in the first half year of 2014

### **FAPADAG Board**

15<sup>th</sup> of February the new board consisting of Jitze Miedema (economist) and Imke Winkelmann (Lecturer in Occupational Therapy) came together in order to get acquainted with each other and the policy of FAPADAG. The annual report and financial overview of 2013 were approved and the plans for 2014 discussed.

### **Consultancy activities**

#### **Montreal Forum – January 2014**

The Rehabilitation Living Lab project is the first interdisciplinary and multi-sectorial research study to explore the principal obstacles, either physical or psychosocial, to social participation and inclusion for persons with disabilities in a commercial mall environment, referred to as a Living Laboratory.

In January the project organised an inter-sectorial rehabilitation Inclusive Society Forum, in which Hanneke van Bruggen participated as advisory board member of the project. The aim of the Forum was to discuss with stakeholders the results of the project and how to continue.

#### **Cape Town – April 2014**

##### **Conference OTASA**

Together with the South African partners from the SANPAD (South African Netherlands Partnership for Alternatives in Development) project we presented in the South African Conference for Occupational Therapy: “OT lessons from a South-North Research Collaboration”.

The presentation was developed in line with the new UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015-2030. It is based on the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. The eight MDG goals will be updated and the indicators revised. More explicit attention will be given to disability inclusive development. MDG goal eight emphasises global partnerships for development as a strategy to ensure that globalisation works for those directly affected by poverty and injustice. The purpose of partnerships is to shift from global commitment to national implementation. New funding opportunities for south-north, south-south and public-private research partnerships are opening up for occupational therapists as collaborators in multi-agency, multi-country bids. The paper shared lessons learnt from a seven year research partnership in three occupational therapy and disability studies projects funded by SANPAD.

Besides the OTASA conference the outcomes and process of the three year project called “People informing Policy: Power & Progress” in Mpoza were analysed and systematised for a website which will be developed with the aim of knowledge transfer for similar projects.

In **several places like Cape Town University, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caucasus Conference in Yerevan ,the European student conference in Alicante, Spain and Tokyo University** key speeches were held concerning how Occupational Therapy can contribute to social reform and/or address inequalities

A commitment to occupational justice and an appropriate occupational-therapy practice at the community and population level provides direction for occupational therapists in their endeavor for social reform. This is particularly evident in the transitional countries of Europe, such as Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia, where an absolute majority holds social injustice as the main driver of social exclusion processes. In these countries issues of poverty and unemployment of vulnerable groups, like disabled people cannot be resolved by individual solutions. However since the economic crises vulnerable groups all over the world are experiencing occupational deprivation and injustice and the focus should therefore be more on addressing the occupational needs, occupational rights and obligations of **all** citizens.

The development of strategic reasoning and occupation based collective approaches in which **all** individuals find their place is an essential step towards combating poverty and occupational deprivation and developing the concepts and practices necessary for an inclusive, occupational just community. This has considerable consequences for occupational therapy practice, education and research.



2<sup>nd</sup> Caucasus Meeting in Yerevan

### **Workshop on strategic thinking** given in the European student conference for occupational therapy in **Allicante, May 2014**

The aim of the workshop is to provide an intellectual challenge and a space to discuss possible practical engagements for those who want to be involved in (planning) strategic development and innovation.

The workshop enables the participants to develop and deepen their understanding of international and national social and health policies in relation to the development of occupational practice. The workshop is a demanding one, but is bringing considerable benefits to those who participate.

### **Osnabrück Hochschule - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

As already stated above Hanneke van Bruggen gave a lecture on Occupational Therapy addressing inequalities.

Imke Winkelmann (International coordinator for Occupational Therapy in the Hochschule), Andre Fischer, head of the OT department and Hanneke had discussions how students can be involved in FAPADAG projects. Students could make solidarity projects in order to gather equipment or money for the projects. They also could organise seminars to attract attention for community based approaches in the Occupational Therapy and finally they could also work hand in hand with local occupational therapists in FAPADAG projects.

Imke will advertise FAPADAG projects among her students. Furthermore we can try to promote the projects among the ENOTHE members.

### **Visit to Georgia- July 2014**

The Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University had invited Hanneke van Bruggen as an external examiner for the final BA-exams in July 2014. 3 students did their final exam, of which 2 passed and received their BA degree, while one will need an extra semester in order to read more and to get more OT experience in practice.

The OT education in Tbilisi is now 8 years old. Unfortunately several of the first Occupational Therapists, who even finished the EU masters in Occupational Therapy left the OT education. The BA course is very vulnerable, due to too less teachers and secondly due to too less students. The dean promised to work together with the OT programme leader to lower the entry requirements for OT students (which are now the same as for medical students) in the hope that the OT study will be more attractive for new students.

Until now students can easily find work. OTs are asked by nearly all NGO's which are involved with persons with disabilities and rehabilitation as well as by daycentre's. Also psychiatric departments of hospitals start getting interested in OT as centres which have the intention to start social enterprises.

The university has right from the beginning an intensive relationship with 'AISI' is a day care centre where young persons with learning and physical disabilities receive support in developing skills for their daily life. The aim of the centre is to socialize and prepare disabled young adults for a future independent life. At the moment there are 47 young disabled people involved in the programme.

The centre is since last summer (2013) located in Avtchala and well equipped to develop towards psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training and social enterprise. There is an enormous potential among all parties, stakeholders etc.

During this visit the owner of the centre, the occupational therapist and Hanneke van Bruggen have oriented themselves on opportunities for developing social enterprises. The EURASIA Foundation is giving annual opportunities to business students to develop a social enterprise. We have suggested to make the competition for multi-disciplinary groups (including occupational therapists).

The EURASIA foundation advised us to make use of the training courses and consultancy of the Centre for Strategic research and development of Georgia (CSR DG.GE) on establishing social enterprises.



Meeting with the parents organisation of Aisi

A full report on recommendations for the organisation , aims and approaches has been written by HvB for Aisi.

### **Developments around the Shammah Inclusive Centre in Kibera, Nairobi**

The Shammah Centre offers educational activities according to the Kenyan curriculum system. It is currently offering primary education and day care which takes care of the young children aged from as young as four months to 3 years to enable their mothers to go and work so as to get money to provide for basic needs.

Educational activities have been this year seriously affected by the ongoing railway development.

## Building of the Old Shammah inclusive Centre



## Experience of Shammah children



The Shammah Centre in Kibera is now fully destroyed by Kenyan Railway Company, without any compensation. FAPADAG bought two years ago a piece of land and since January (2014) we have donated four times a substantial amount of money to contribute in building an inclusive school. FAPADAG and the Shammah centre (see also annex letter from Jemmimah) are very thankful for the donations received. The centre has a total of 240 vulnerable children where they are taking care of.

The new building is attracting new learners but they are not able to accommodate them because the centre has at the moment already hit their target.

Jemmimah Mweu the director of Shammah Centre has now successfully completed three semesters of her BA study in Education (Early Childhood).

Besides her study she is managing the project of the new building and the daily educational work with all the children.

The Shammah centre managed to get a grant from the Kenyan government for books and another one from a private organisation for food.

FAPADAG is still looking for financial support to build the roof. At the moment it is rainy season and the children get wet or cannot go to school. You can support us by money transfer to our bank account: in the name of "Stichting FAPADAG"

IBAN: NL28RABO0394017528; BIC: RABONL2U at "Apeldoorn"

For more information you can go to the website [www.fapadag.com](http://www.fapadag.com)

The new building waiting for more funding



Imaginary building as the children like to see it



Shammah Children's Centre

P.O. BOX 38670,

Nairobi.

17th March 2014.

The Director of FAPADAG,

P.O.BOX 8/7312 CE

Apeldoorn,

The Netherlands.

Re : progress report

On behalf of Shammah Children's Centre I take this opportunity as the director to thank FAPADAG members and the friends who made it possible for us to obtain a land by financing us to buy it. We have been able to set a foundation for a four storey house for the project which will have a total of 40 rooms once it is complete. Currently is helping us to construct the on going ten classes, four toilets, social hall for income generating purposes and an office so as to be able to move from the railway premises which we have been given a notice which is expiring on 30th April and there after we will be building the remaining rooms later.

The finances you have granted to us has been able to lay the foundation, construct a basement which consists of three rooms, a social hall, one toilet and a urinal which are not yet complete because there is need for plastering the walls and doing the floor and fixing the toilets and ground floor walling which consists of seven rooms and three toilets but not slabbed on the top still not complete.

On behalf of Shammah am therefore still requesting for more funds in your office to be able to complete the already set rooms for us to be able to move the children before being evicted from the railway premises

Looking forward for a positive results.

Yours Faithfully

J.K.

Shammah director

Jemimah Mweu