

## The European Reiki Group

Five years ago, the European Reiki Group (ERG) was founded (Reiki Magazine reported\*). At that time, 16 representatives from eight European countries met in Geneva and laid the foundation for the first Europe-wide Reiki association. Where does the ERG stand today?



The European Reiki Group is a federation of national European Reiki associations that support each other by sharing resources to help their Reiki practitioner and teacher members overcome the challenges in their respective countries.

Currently, the ERG represents around 5,000 members from a total of nine Reiki Federations from nine European countries(1):

- UK Reiki Federation, United Kingdom
- Associação Portuguesa de Reiki, Portugal
- ProReiki - the professional association, Germany
- Förenade Reikiförbundet i Sverige, Sweden
- Reiki Vereniging CIRKEL, Netherlands
- Asociația Reiki Usui, Romania
- La Fédération de Reiki Usui, France
- Austrian Professional Association of Certified Reiki Therapists, Austria
- Рейки федерация - България, Bulgaria.

At the moment, in some European countries - as well as worldwide - challenging situations for Reiki practitioners and teachers due to governmental situations for Reiki practitioners and teachers, due to governmental regulatory efforts. Many Reiki practitioners see this as the most important reason why it makes sense to now have a supranational interest group for professional Reiki practitioners and teachers. In this way, the ERG can "meet the

responsible authorities at eye level" in any future regulatory efforts emanating from the EU with regard to the practice and teaching of the Reiki method, against the background that it represents many thousands of people working professionally with the Reiki method.

## **Membership of EUROCAM**

The ERG has recently become a member of EUROCAM(2), a Europe-wide organisation for the field of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM).(3) It is a non-governmental organisation, an umbrella organisation that promotes this field at European level and is also in contact with the European Commission(4) in this regard.

A few years ago, the European Commission had a survey carried out which showed that more than 70 percent of the citizens of the countries belonging to the EU use offers from the field of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine. The ERG believes that a dialogue between EUROCAM and the EU Commission can be beneficial for professional Reiki practitioners and teachers - especially for Reiki practitioners in those European countries where governmental regulatory efforts have set developments in motion.

Regulatory efforts have set in motion developments that can lead to challenging situations.

## **Internal structure of the ERG**

At the General Assembly in September 2022, the ERG's original statutes were amended with the aim of better distributing roles, functions and responsibilities within the ERG. The General Assembly - also called the Conference - is the decision-making and administrative body of the ERG, the supreme body of the association. The way of working is democratically oriented, every member, i.e. every national association, is involved to fulfil essential functions of the ERG.

Each member federation is represented within the ERG by two delegates from the respective federation. The office of the chairperson of the ERG is no longer held by an individual, but by one of the member associations, on a temporary basis. This year Pro Reiki - the professional association is responsible for the external communication, the organisation and the image of the ERG. Since for administrative reasons the ERG needs a natural person as president whose signature is binding for the association, such a person was appointed. This is currently Chinta Strubin.

The position for internal communication (secretariat) is currently held by the Austrian Professional Association of Certified Reiki Therapists, with its president Erna Janisch. The responsibility for finances currently lies with the Asociația Reiki Usui, the Romanian Reiki Association, whose president is Eniko Simon. The creation of the new website, an elaborate undertaking, is being undertaken jointly by the French Reiki Federation LFRU and the Associação Portuguesa de Reiki from Portugal. The Reiki Federation - Bulgaria is organising this year, together with the ÖBRT, the first major congress of the ERG, to be held in Samokov, near Sofia, from 22-24 September 2023. And the UK Federation from Great Britain offers support and experience in embedding the Reiki method in the broad field of integrative medicine.

## **Aims of the ERG**

In addition to the goals pursued by the ERG since its foundation, such as the creation of general guidelines for a 'Reiki Core Training Level 1 and 2', the support of a 'Science & Reiki Database' with over 300

contributions to scientific studies on Reiki(5) and the creation of a platform for cross-association exchange across Europe, the fundamental reorientation of the ERG since September 2022 also includes the following goals in particular:

- As faithful a representation as possible of Reiki practitioners and
- Reiki practitioners and teachers who practice in Europe in compliance with the respective national ethics and legislation - regardless of whether the focus is more on the touch techniques or on the psychological or spiritual aspects of Reiki; and regardless of whether they practice privately, professionally or in institutions of the respective national health system.
- or aspire to do so.
  
- On the basis of a broad survey among the members of the individual member associations and beyond, the aim is to determine which standards for the practice and teaching of Reiki can apply that would allow the Reiki method to be recognised as a 'Traditional Medicine' by the European Commission.
  
- The members of the member associations of the ERG are to be more directly involved in joint projects in the future, which aim to make the Reiki method better known as a means of crisis management throughout Europe.
  
- The ERG wants the Reiki method to be seen as a valuable contribution to overcoming the health, economic and political crises that humanity is currently experiencing.
  
- The ERG wants to bring together all people and organisations of good will who want to use the Reiki method to bring more happiness and good health into the everyday lives of all people - preventing this vision, which has been at the heart of the Reiki method since it was founded by Mikao Usui, from being thwarted by power struggles.
  
- The aim is to build up a network of friends capable of generating a huge vibrational field of light consciousness and love - which includes building up as influential a network as possible of doctors, politicians, scholars and academics who are committed to the Reiki method.

## **The ERG website**

The following content is freely available to everyone on the ERG website:

- Basic information about the ERG and the individual member associations and their activities
- List of topics and projects of individual working groups
- ERG video talks
- Calendar of ERG events
- Statutes

- Extensive database with publications on various aspects of the Reiki method
  - Newsletter
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\* In the article "European Reiki Meeting in Geneva", in Reiki Magazine issue 1/2019, from p. 24.

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- (1) Listed here in order by number of members, descending. (2) See: <https://cam-europe.eu/>
- (3) In English: Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine / abbreviated: TCIM.
- (4) The European Commission is a supranational body of the EU. In the political system of the EU, it primarily performs executive tasks and thus corresponds to the government in state systems.
- (5) This is made available by the Swiss Reiki Association SwissReiki on its website

[www.reiki.swiss/science](http://www.reiki.swiss/science) / See also the article

"Scientific studies on Reiki" in: Reiki Magazine issue 1/21, p. 41.

>>>> PAGE 3 bottom flush:

Text written by Oliver Klatt, with the involvement & support of Chinta Strubin, the second ERG delegate of ProReiki - der Berufsverband e.V. and current president of the ERG.