

## **2013 Annual report of the board**

### **Objective achieved - long live the SGfB!**

We are proud and grateful to call the 2013 reporting year a successful one.

#### **The board**

Hedi Bretscher SGTA, president

Dr. Irène Kummer OIP, vice-president

Monika Riwar bcb, actuary

Rosmarie Zimmerli IKP, treasurer

Sylvia Baumann OIP, responsible for the website

Hanspeter Fausch m-v, responsible for marketing, chair of the PPC

Philipp Junker IBP (until September 2013), chair QC

Rolando Zobrist IFCoS, responsible for Tessin.

During the reporting year, the board had nine regular meetings in Zurich and the traditional three-day retreat at Cavigliano.

The introduction of the advanced diploma examination, the satisfactory continuing increase of our membership as well as SGfB's multilingualism (German, French, Italian and English) have made extraordinary demands on the board and required trust in the completion of the various tasks, efficient work processes and attentiveness in teamwork.

The members of the board carried out an enormous amount of work in between the meetings at their own workplace and in close contacts among each other by email, Skype and discussions, with people interested in a possible collective membership of the SGfB. Contacts with members have become increasingly important. They contacted the SGfB with questions and increasingly took part in professional policy issues.

In September, the board took leave of the president of the QC, Philipp Junker, who announced his resignation from the quality committee during the next GA. With the support of Christine Stalder and Peter Eichenberger of the QC and the efforts undertaken by the board, we succeeded in creating an efficient and networked cooperation.

#### **The committees**

- The Professional Policy Committee PPC: Hanspeter Fausch, m-v (chair); Gabi Rüttimann, IKP; Pierre Clausen, acp.pca; Daniel Abel, bcb.
- Ethical Committee EC: Ruth Bärtschi, AFI (Chair); Gabriela Feustle-Novak, IKP; Gisela Meinike, OIP
- Quality Committee QC: Philipp Junker, IBP (Chair); Christine Stalder, pca.acp; Peter Eichenberger, IKP; Catherine Ferrara, IFCoS.
- Appeals Committee AP: Dr. Judith Schütz (Chair); Magdalena Fuchs; René Anliker (bis 4/2013), Daniel Tiboldi.

During the summer of the reporting year, the board nominated the members for the newly created examination commission. Their mandate is described in the examination regulations. The following members wishing to be elected during the 2014 GA present their candidacy:

Benno Greter, TAL, Chair of the EC  
Rosmarie Zimmerli, IKP, Secretariat

Peter Eichenberger, IKP  
Liselotte Fassbind, EBI  
Daniela Sonderegger-Dürst, SGTA  
Christine Stalder, pca.acp  
Peter Weber, bcb, Finances

A representative of Webster University in Geneva is still under consideration.

The 2013 performance records of the five committees follow in separate annual reports.

### **The Secretariat**

The cooperation with the secretary Irène Bloch in Rheinfelden turned out to be productive and pleasant just as in the past. We regret that we had to accept the resignation of the secretariat by the Praxis-Brücke Seminare AG at the end of the year. Fortunately, a service contract for the SGfB secretariat could be signed with IT-CleverNet GmbH in Möriken. This company will later also act as the secretariat of the examination commission.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Irène Bloch for her extraordinary and competent commitment as head of the SGfB secretariat. She has been a valued colleague who optimally represented the SGfB both internally and externally. We wish Irène, also on behalf of the SGfB members, lots of success and satisfaction for her future activities.

We also express our gratitude to Hanspeter Fausch, head of the Praxis-Brücke Seminare AG and his team for the agreeable cooperation. During all those years, he has generously granted the SGfB favorable conditions for the secretariat on his institute's premises

### **The database**

In October 2011, the programming work for the new MySQL database started by transferring the existing data from the old Filemaker version. This was done under the supervision of the software experts Urs Müller, Sekom Münchenstein with the support of Philipp Junker.

Until the autumn of 2013, they had not succeeded in making the new MySQL system fully functional and satisfactorily operational. Letters, invoices, everything had to be laboriously done by hand. This caused a lot of work and led to high secretarial costs. After a careful analysis carried out by Rosemarie Zimmerli, the board decided to return to Filemaker in September. The functionality of Filemaker had been improved in the meantime. Thomas Feger, Morsthich Projects GmbH in Zug was asked to assume responsibility for the project.

Both Irène Bloch and Rosemarie Zimmerli report that the newly implemented Filemaker version functions well and has reduced the workload for them.

### **The approach to counselling**

In the spring of 2013, the board could present <<the guidelines for the development of a personal approach to counselling>> developed by Irène Kummer, Monika Riwar, Hanspeter Fausch and Hans Schwerzmann translated into four languages to the members and publish them on the SGfB website. The new document was well received. Its purpose is to provide guidelines for training courses as well as for preparation for the Advanced diploma examination.

### **Objective achieved: the Advanced diploma examination in counselling approved**

On 28 June 2013, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) authorized the SGfB to organize the Advanced Federal Pet diploma for the professional title Counsellor with federal diploma.

With this advanced federal diploma, SGfB has achieved a key objective for the professionalization in counselling and has created something of great importance. This federal advanced diploma will change the counselling landscape in Switzerland.

A federal diploma is an important quality feature in every profession. In the professional counselling field, there is now a possibility to add to the professional title Counsellor SGfB the professional title of counsellor with federal diploma and to provide proof of acquired competencies. This strengthens the counsellor's profile, leads to a more profound work satisfaction, increases public recognition and helps clients when they are looking for a competent counselor.

We are very proud of this achievement; the road to success was long and strenuous.

The project to develop professional examinations was approved by the Federal Office and started in January 2009. Responsible for the project was Gérard Kahn. Partners in the project were BSO, the professional association for coaching, supervision and organizational consultancy, SCA, Swiss Coaching Association, Swiss Managers SMO and the SGfB.

It soon became clear that the partners disagreed because of different interest. SCA and SMO wished to have a professional examination in counselling at the level of Federal Specialist Certificate, whereas BSO and SGfB argued that professional counseling as a complex activity would only be justifiable at the level of the advanced federal diploma. Consequently, SCA and SMO decided to develop the professional examination at the Federal Specialist Certificate level on their own.

BSO then insisted that for the counselling formats at the diploma level a distinction should be made between the fields of application <<workplace related>> and <<non-workplace related>>. For this and other reasons, BSO was not prepared to participate in the SGfB's counselling format. Thus, BSO and SGfB went separate ways and from now on SGfB was solely responsible for the federal diploma examination in counselling.

Prior to submitting the documents, talks with representatives of the Swiss Professional Association for Applied Psychology (SBAP) and the Swiss Federation of Psychologists (FSP) took place. This, however, could not prevent the two professional associations from appealing against the SGfB's examination regulations published in September 2012 in the strongest possible terms.

Daniel Staffelbach, lawyer of Walder Wyss AG Zürich, represented the SGfB and responded to the appeal. In March 2013, SERI decided to dismiss the appeal and to approve the examination regulations for the federal advanced diploma examination in counselling.

And again, strenuous negotiations with the new legal expert at SERI were necessary. With the legal help provided by our lawyer, Staffelbach, further reservations were eliminated and formulations had to be altered. On 28. June 2013, the examination regulations were signed by the competent authority with the support of Armin Schöni of SERI and SGfB received the official mandate. The board could finally breathe a sigh of relief and celebrate this big event accordingly.

Thanks to good planning, the examination commission immediately took up its activities with great commitment. On 11. September 2013, the first information meeting was organized and was a big success.

### **The umbrella organization, an issue still to be resolved**

Measures are to be expected from SERI, which may bring together all professional examinations in one umbrella organization of the participating institutions. The last word has not been spoken on this matter, yet. Because of this possibility the mandate of the SGfB with respect to the organization of the advanced diploma examination is a temporary one and valid until the end of 2016. Until then, it should become clear if an umbrella organization for all counselling professions will be created or whether the SGfB will remain the only organizing body for the advanced diploma examination for counselling.

### **Membership of the EAC**

In March 2011, the SGfB's General Assembly decided to join the European Association for Counselling, EAC and elected Philipp Junker as its delegate.

After submitting the dossiers, SGfB was not accepted as a member. One of the conditions for admission had not been met. For membership as a National Member in the EAC, at least 25 SGfB members must also be member of the EAC. This objective had not been achieved by the end of the reporting year. It must be observed that EAC is strongly focused on the English-speaking world and its cultures. SGfB did not receive any support from EAC for the Advanced Diploma Examination project, which we had hoped for.

Another problem are the substantial costs that result from two meetings in Europe and the annual conference with travelling expenses and hotel stays, in addition to the annual membership fee.

In the summer of the reporting year, the annual EAC conference took place in Saint Petersburg. Peter Frävel was commissioned by the SGfB to make a contribution on the topic: differences between counselling and therapy: Cain and Abel or Castor and Pollux? The presentation met with great interest.

### **The collective members of the SGfB**

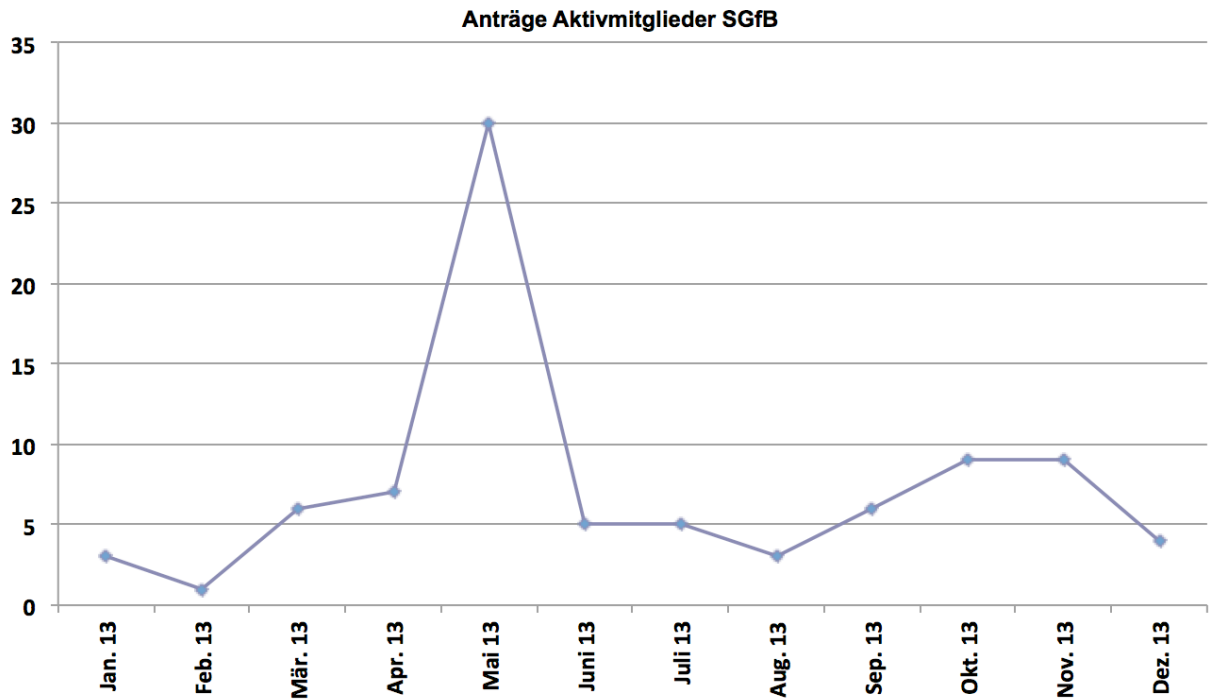
SGfB now consists of 20 collective members that offer a total of 23 counselling training courses in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, in Tessin and in Geneva.

At the collective members conference, CMC in November, 19 institutions were represented by delegates, which is a clear sign of the great interest in the development of the SGfB. The outcomes of the conference have been protocolled by Monika Riwar.

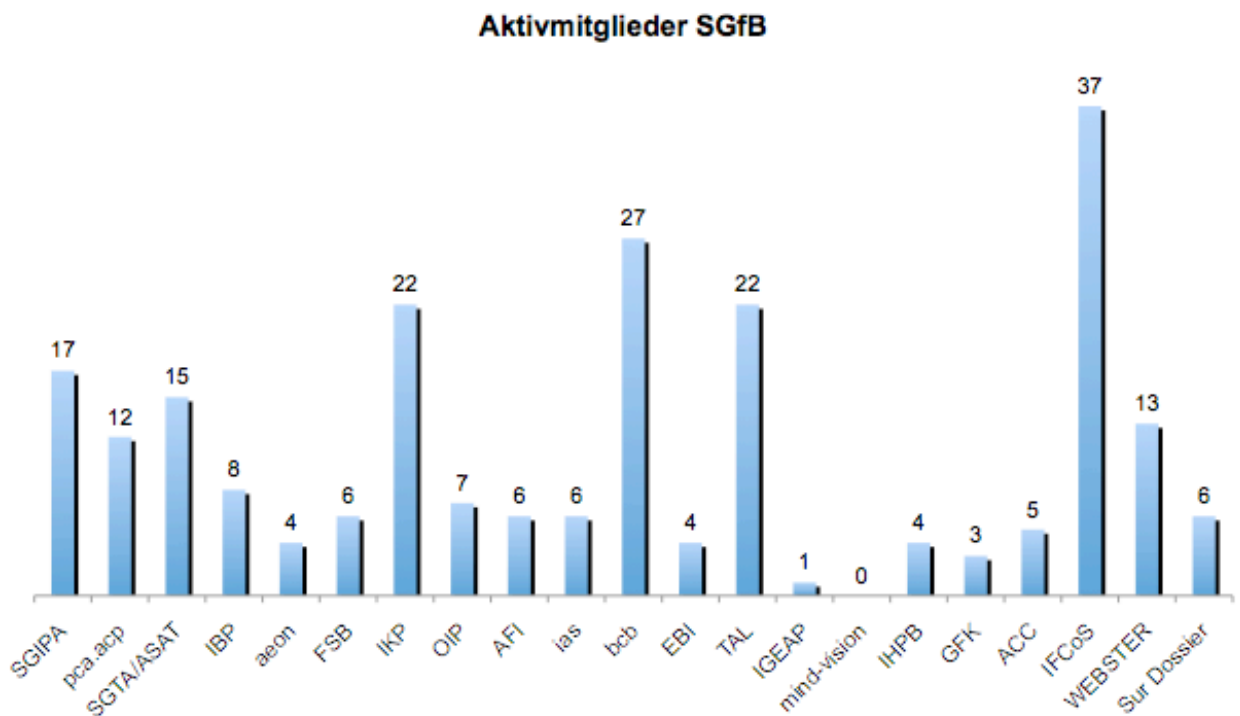
A well-established form of member recruitment is the visit to the training courses offered by our collective members by representatives of the various boards. These events are organized by Hanspeter Fausch. We kindly ask the delegates to contact him for a visit in 2014.

### **The active members of the SGfB**

The number of counsellors, accepted as **active members** and the number of **members in training** has increased again in 2013.



1.1. – 31.12.2013: 88 applications (12 changes member in training – active member), 2012: 60 applications)

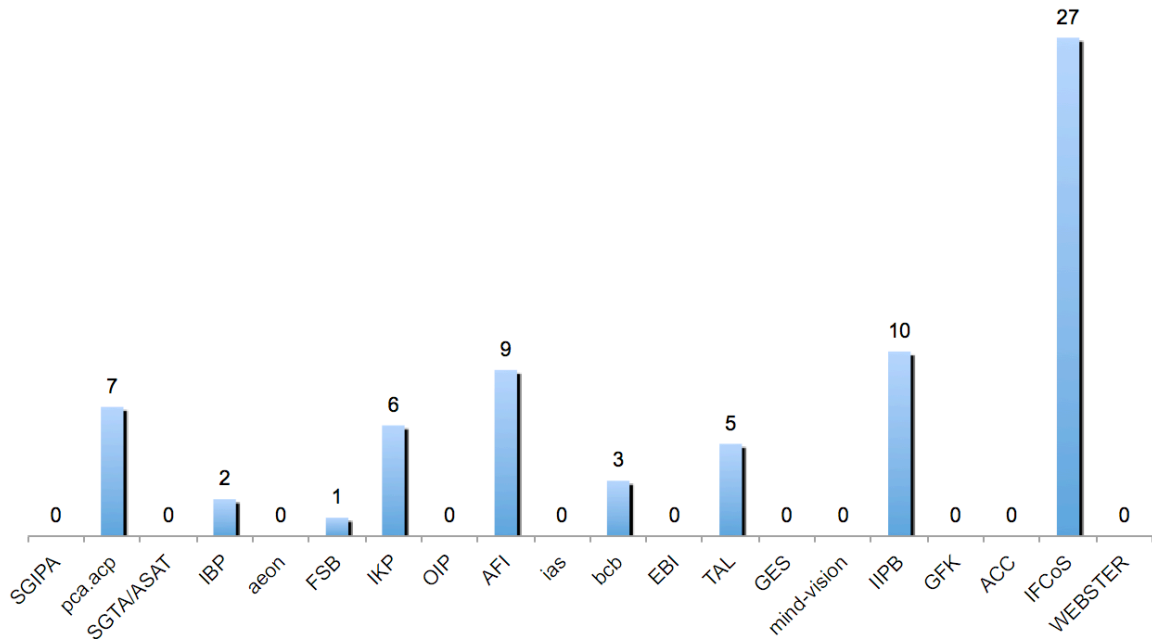


Situation 31.12.2013: 295 active members (2012: 225 Active members)

#### Members in training

In this membership category, a small increase could be noticed in the reporting year.

## Mitglieder in Ausbildung SGfB



Situation 31.12.2013: 70 Members in training ( 2012: 47 MiT)

### Financial planning

The General Assembly decided to raise the annual fee for collective members for 2014 from CHF 1000 to CHF 1250.

This made a better compensation possible for the work in the board in 2014. In a further step, members of the committees should receive higher allowances.

The financial reports show that the general operating costs have significantly increased as a result of the enormous development and professionalization of the SGfB.

For these reasons, the board recommends the General Assembly to raise the membership fee for active members from CHF 150,- to CHF 180,-

### New: membership of the Swiss Network for Mental Health (Netzwerk Gesundheit NPG)

In the 2013 reporting year, SGfB has been accepted as a member in the Swiss Network for Mental Health (NPG). With this membership all active members of the SGfB receive a login and unrestricted access to the network's website.

### Website

The many innovations have had an impact on the SGfB website. The sections *Advanced certification* and *history of the SGfB* were created. Numerous additions and major and minor changes in the four languages were also made.

### Farewell of the president

During the last GA, I already announced that after two terms of office the time has come to hand over the presidency of the SGfB and to let go.

On 2. May 2006, the presidency was handed over to me and therewith the responsibility for the then newly founded Swiss Association for Counselling SGfB. I took up this mandate with enthusiasm and carried it through, trusting to succeed through all the highs and lows until the present day, at which I take leave, grateful for everything that could be achieved. I was fortunate that competent and loving colleagues joined me in our efforts to professionalize counselling in Switzerland. The work has challenged and supported me both professionally and privately, it has given me both pleasure and energy.

### The succession

It was an ambitious goal to find a successor for the presidency. The search for suitable talents had several stages, until the choice became clear.

With extensive support, the board is pleased to nominate Rosemarie Zimmerli as president of the SGfB. Since 2007, Rosemarie has done a great job as a member of the board and as treasurer for the promotion of the objectives of the SGfB.

### **Long live the SGfB!**

During the reporting year, the board and the committees have cooperated with great commitment, much creativity and numerous working hours to write the success story of the SGfB. The delegates have helped to activate the link between the delegates' assembly, the board, the committees and the collective members. We could admit an unexpectedly high number of new members. With the advanced diploma examination, we have achieved a great goal.

We have succeeded in establishing the SGfB as a professional, well-functioning and credible professional organization.

Many raise the question as to whether there is a further need for the SGfB, now that the Advanced Diploma Examination has been created.

The answer is: an ADE does not make a profession.

If counselling really wants to be considered a serious profession, we cannot do without a professional association.

Professionals working together in a professional association are necessary for our profession. The SGfB does not only regulate the quality standards and ethical principles of its members, but also defends the interests of the members of the profession in public, with the authorities and other professional associations. SGfB membership promotes community, sense of belonging and so the professional identity of the counsellors.

Who asks the question: *what is the advantage of SGfB membership for me*, is standing on one leg only. The second question is: *what can I do for the SGfB?* What can I contribute in order for the professional association to flourish and for counselling to be established.

It is only with the commitment of its members, which begins by paying the membership fee and which can be extended to active participation in the committees, that the SGfB can profile itself as a strong, respected professional organization to the benefit of its clients and the general public.

That is my appeal as a farewell to you counsellors!

For me remains the good memory of the great work we created together as a joyful gift and resource forever.

And may these be my words of farewell: THANK YOU!

Hedi Maria Bretscher-Zeier  
President SGfB

February 2014