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Vienna, July 14, 2013

**BETREFF: Accreditation of Institutes and Therapists/Counsellors**

Dear friends, dear colleagues,

In March of last year, the Viktor Frankl Institute of Vienna invited you to the international conference “The Future of Logotherapy. Conference of the Training and Research Institutes for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis”. The intent of the conference was to provide a space for an open international dialogue on the future of Logotherapy. We thank the more than two hundred participants who have seized this opportunity and helped make the conference a unique meeting of Logotherapists from around the world, an event with diverse content and intellectual openness and curiosity. We are also thankful for the amount of positive feedback on the conference. Visit [this link](#) for some impressions of the first “Future of Logotherapy” Conference, including a video of the [welcome address](#) by our honorary president, Dr. h.c. Eleonore Frankl.

We are gladly taking the suggestion made by many, to biennially continue the tradition of an open and friendly and intellectually stimulating exchange that was so successfully begun in 2012. We look forward to an on-going dialogue, progress, and cooperation with you in connection with a successful future for Logotherapy. The next conference will take place May 15-18, 2014 (see [www.viktorfrankl.info](http://www.viktorfrankl.info) for more information).

As a follow-up to the 2012 conference in Vienna, the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna sent out comprehensive questionnaires to logotherapy institutes and colleagues worldwide. This was the first world-wide survey of the concerns and desires of Logotherapists and Logotherapy institutions. This initiative was extraordinarily well accepted: over 80 institutes and initiatives (of the 110 listed at the Vienna Institute at the time) and several hundred Logotherapists in private practice have made use of the opportunity to express themselves openly and confidentially about their assessment of the present state of Logotherapy. The trust that you have placed in us with your responses to the questionnaires and the concerns that you have voiced show that the open climate established at the conference in Vienna continues today in these beautiful and inspiring days of March, 2012.

With this information letter, we would like to address both of the core concerns that were brought up during the conference and in the questionnaires: Firstly, the impartial and scientifically reliable

**accreditation of Logotherapy educational institutes and initiatives** by the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna and secondly, the **certification of practising Logotherapists and Existential Analysts** (psychiatrists, psychotherapists, psychologists, counsellors, ministers, coaches, etc.).

Following the request by the vast majority of respondents (94%), the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna will from now on become actively involved in both areas and will offer a collective roof for accredited logotherapy institutes and certified individual logotherapists, thus adding to the process of professionalisation and outer visibility so sorely needed in our field. The remainder of this letter will inform you about the details of these processes.

## **I. Accreditation of Institutes and Initiatives as Members of the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis**

The most central topic raised in the questionnaire was the Accreditation of Training Institutes in logotherapy and existential analysis. As an analysis of the survey clearly shows, this is a serious concern to the majority of respondents, as only proper training will ensure that our field can count on a continuous stream of qualified logotherapists both in practice, therapy, counselling, research, teaching, publishing, lecturing and therapy training.

This is an important concern, especially in view of the fact that only an appropriate education can guarantee a continuous flow of qualified Logotherapists in the areas of treatment, therapy, counselling, research, teaching, publication, and lecture activity, as well as in therapeutic education in the future.

In the questionnaires, we noticed occasional complaints that some institutes and initiatives, which possibly do not fulfil the requisite standards for accredited educational institutions, nevertheless offer diplomas or certificates in Logotherapy. At the same time, we also received complaints about other initiatives that, without a clear corresponding authorisation or mandate from other institutes, attempt to deny certain unquestionably legitimate educators or therapists from a professional viewpoint as independent entities.

Thus, the questionnaires show a multifaceted picture of the present situation and the outwardly visible structure of logotherapy. This is another reason to push forward with an impartial and transparent accreditation process of Logotherapy institutes and initiatives.

As you know, the Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna has managed a directory of Logotherapy institutes and initiatives on its website ([www.viktorfrankl.org](http://www.viktorfrankl.org)) for almost 25 years. Up until now, a listing in this directory meant that an institution was accredited by the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna for training, therapy, counselling and/or other activities in the field of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis as it was developed by Viktor E. Frankl and further evolved by logotherapists, friends and colleagues. The directory serves worldwide as *the* established information centre for anyone on a quest for extensive information on classical Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. It is also regularly consulted by institutions of other professional schools, universities, and representatives of the media when they intend to establish contact with practitioners of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis.

Up until now, inclusion in this directory was organised with a relatively low threshold – this was strategically necessary, particularly in the early period of Logotherapy professionalisation after Frankl’s death in 1997.

However, in view of general professionalisation and increasing state regulation of the training in, and practice of, psychotherapy and counselling, as well as considering the fortunately strong increase in the dissemination of, and demand for, Logotherapy in training and treatment, it has become necessary to make accreditation criteria more stringent and clearly defined for Logotherapy institutes and initiatives.

Furthermore, a vast majority of the individual institutes have expressed their desire for a closer connection to the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna and its international Logotherapy network, especially since the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna (founded under the auspices of Viktor Frankl and his family, colleagues and with his widow, Dr. Eleonore Frankl, serving as Honorary President of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna) is recognised beyond the bounds of the world of logotherapy by the outside public, media, universities and other academic bodies, professional psychological associations, etc. as an institution representing Logotherapy with a high scientific standard. At the same time, within the world of logotherapy, the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna is well established as an impartial institution that has friendly and often supporting relationships with the individual institutes and initiatives throughout the world.

Against this backdrop, confidence was expressed in about >85% of the questionnaires that the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna should assume the responsibility of accrediting institutes and certifying therapists. After careful reflection, we decided to respond to this call. At a recent meeting

of the Board of Directors and Viktor Frankl's family in March, 2013, a membership association, the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, was established at the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna to handle the accreditation of institutes and certification of logotherapists.

In brief, we accept the responsibility of accreditation and certification and, at the same time, gladly make our resources and international network contacts available to our new affiliated members – after all, our common goal is the successful dissemination and application of Logotherapy while, at the same time, preserving the independence and self-sufficiency of individual institutes in relation to the international Logotherapy scene, both collegially and with regards to content.

In light of this, the International Association of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis will be open to participation as a membership organisation and special interest group for institutes as well as for individual persons insofar as these have qualified through accreditation (for institutes) or certification (for individual logotherapists, see Point 2).

This step should represent a decisive change in direction toward professionalisation and the assurance of quality in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. It will make us visible and strong to have a global association, headquartered at in Vienna, the historical heart of Logotherapy (and psychotherapy in general).

As already pointed out, the intention of this step is that all members (institutes and therapists, counsellors, etc.) preserve (and promote) their independence while, at the same time, through their accreditation by the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna and membership in the International Association, the affiliated institutes are quickly recognisable to interested outsiders as regularly accepted institutions working in the original sense of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis.

### **Which institutes can apply for accreditation or admission to the Membership Section of the Viktor Frankl Institute?**

All institutes and initiatives can apply. There are four different types of logotherapy initiatives (i.e. Training Institution, Therapy and Counselling Institution, Research and Propagation Institution, and Study Group/Other).

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### **Who can apply for accreditation and admission into the Membership Section of the Viktor Frankl Institute?**

The institutes presently listed by the Viktor Frankl Institute, as well as institutes from anywhere in the world that have not yet been accepted and included on our list, can apply for accreditation and admission into the Membership Section. Part 2 of this informational letter provides information concerning the membership for individuals.

### **How do I apply for accreditation and admission into the Membership Section of the VFI?**

Please follow [this link](#). Someone at the VFI will guide you personally through the process. It is easy and swift.

### **Are there costs associated with accreditation and membership in the Membership Section of the VFI?**

Yes. The decision to levy fees for accreditation and membership was not be taken lightly. Still, the objectification and professionalisation of the accreditation process and the membership list of the institutions affiliated with the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna result in administrative costs. In addition, further costs arise from the additional services rendered to members (see below).

Therefore, we were forced to charge fees for accreditation, inclusion as a member institute in the Membership Section of the VFI, and inclusion in the directory.

### **How high are the fees?**

We have tried to keep the fees low and, at the same time, by levying biennial fees to keep administrative costs, yours and ours, as low as possible. The fees amount to 125 US\$ (or 100 Euro) per year, i.e. 250 US\$ (or 200 Euro) for the two-year period. In order to support younger institutes, the accreditation and membership fees for institutes younger than two years old, the fee is 65 US\$ or 50 Euro per year, i.e. 125 US\$ (or 100 Euro) for the two-year period.

### **My institute is already a member of a regional or international association of logotherapy institutes. Does being a member in such an association affect my application for membership in the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna?**

No. Being a member of another regional or international association of logotherapy institutes does not affect being accredited by the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna, nor does it automatically entail eligibility to become a member of the International Association. The International Association, as part of the original Vienna Viktor Frankl Institute, is the only worldwide, non-partisan body of accredited training, therapy, and research institutes and initiatives in logotherapy and existential analysis.

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**What advantages does accreditation and membership in the International Association give me and my institute?**

Through accreditation with the Viktor Frankl Institute your initiative will be publically certified as either optionally or exclusively offering Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. In light of the relatively large grey market in the field of psychotherapy and counselling provision (which also exists in the domain of Logotherapy), this is an important step in the professionalization of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis. In addition, member institutes and practices of the International Association for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis with the Viktor Frankl Institute who so desire will be registered in a publically-available directory that will be published both on the website of the Viktor Frankl Institute ([www.viktorfrankl.org](http://www.viktorfrankl.org)) and in print form as an appendix to the *International Directory for Logotherapy and Existential Analysis*, publishing 2014 onwards).

Regarding the formalities associated with the accreditation of Logotherapists, we have paid great care to align the accreditation process of individual concerns and the professional practice domains of individual Logotherapists.

This is on account of the fact that, as happens also in other schools of psychotherapy, not everyone that has completed a conventional training program in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis is recognized as a certificated psychotherapist or professionally-active health care provider, as should be in accordance with the regulations of national or regional legislation.

**Furthermore, accredited member institutes receive the following advantages with their membership:**

(1) **Entry in the institute directory**, i.e., within the appropriate section (education, therapy, and/or research and public relations work, etc.). This directory will appear annually as its own publication and can be seen in institutes, at conventions, and continuing-education events, or as a continually updated database list on the Institute website or the websites of accredited member institutes. In addition, the list will be published as an appendix to the yearbook of the Vienna Viktor Frankl Institute that will appear from 2014 on.

(2) **An official certificate from the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna** which certifies and specifies your accreditation as one or more of the aforementioned institute types. Also, only accredited institutes will be sent and entitled to use a **banner/seal** of membership on their documents, incl.

advertisements, signifying that into which category the institution falls, and stating that it is accredited by the Viktor Frankl Institute as a member of the International Membership Section. Certificates are dated and will be valid for a period of two years, after which a renewal of membership is due.

**(3) Advertising Space in the ANNUAL REVIEW OF LOGOTHERAPY AND EXISTENTIAL ANALYSIS – PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIKTOR FRANKL INSTITUTE VIENNA.** Members will be invited to report their local initiatives, news, conferences (past and future), and other reportable initiatives or projects. Furthermore, invited articles on logotherapy and existential analysis, recent developments, and the like, will be included in the Yearbook, along with book announcements and book reviews on recent international titles of relevance and interest to logotherapists. The Yearbook will be multi-lingual and will carry articles in English, Spanish, and German (for more information, follow [this link](#)).

**(4) News Announcements on the Viktor Frankl Institute's website.** Member institutes will be given appropriate space on the website of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna to announce conferences, new book titles, or other noteworthy events.

**(5) Student and Patient referrals** to membership institutes. The Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna regularly receives inquiries about logotherapists in other countries. As of the summer 2013, we will solely refer these patients to members who adhere to the accreditation process described here (completed membership form and paid membership fee).

**(6) Help in setting up local Initiatives,** such as a local logotherapy archive, research groups, etc. As a clearinghouse for the international logotherapy community, we will be happy to assist member institutions in their individual initiatives and projects through mentoring, networking and facilitating your work.

**(7) Significantly discounted fees for attending the Biannual Future of Logotherapy Conference in Vienna (2014)** and the continuing education training courses taking place annually both in Vienna and at the newly established Viktor Frankl Professorship and Viktor Frankl Chair for Philosophy and Psychology at the International Academy of Philosophy in the Principality of Liechtenstein (University), ([www.abatthyany.li](http://www.abatthyany.li)).

## **II. Certification of Therapists and Logotherapy Practitioners**

The second concern repeatedly mentioned in our survey overlaps with the first, yet it applies to a different group, namely individual persons who have already received logotherapy training or are currently receiving training in logotherapy.

The Vienna Viktor Frankl Institute receives inquiries for referrals to logotherapists almost daily. Yet, currently, no official directory of (internationally) accredited logotherapists exists, although such a list would greatly serve all parties concerned: potential patients would be certain to receive the kind of quality counselling or therapy they are looking for; and logotherapists /counsellors would profit from being part of a professional network/ association.

In fact, it is for these reasons that literally all other psychotherapeutic/counselling schools have such an international directory (and professional association); furthermore, such directories are especially crucial in countries where logotherapy (or the respective other schools of psychotherapy) is not covered by health insurance and the practice of logotherapy is therefore not controlled by regulatory bodies.

The Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna will therefore, from now on, maintain an international list of accredited logotherapists and existential analysts, in whatever capacity they are working.

As in other therapeutic schools, not everyone who received a training in logotherapy is a certified psychotherapist or mental health professional according to national or regional laws. Some logotherapists work as clinical psychologists or psychiatrists, others as counsellors, others work in ministry, and yet others are social workers, etc. In order to account for the different needs of these different groups of helping professionals in our field, the International Directory will include several chapters according to the professional background of the applicant; as well as information if the practitioner happens to be specialising in certain clinical disorders (e.g., anxiety or affective disorders), or conditions (e.g., the existential vacuum), or special populations (e.g., counselling for the elderly, for the bereaved, etc.).

### **Who can apply for certification and membership in the Individual Members Section of the Viktor Frankl Institute?**

Depending on the type and amount of training in logotherapy and further credentials, logotherapists can apply for professional membership of the International Association of Logotherapists and Existential Analysts. From 2013 on, the practitioner directory will have different chapters for four different types of logotherapists:

Psychiatrists and neurologists

MDs applying logotherapy / existential analysis (other than psychiatrists and neurologists)



psychotherapists / clinical psychologists  
counsellors / social workers / pastoral psychologists  
RN / Coach / other  
Paedagogues/Youth counsellors  
Coaches / Management advisors/ consultants  
Others (will be specified on certificate)

### **How do I apply for accreditation and admission into the Membership Section of the VFI?**

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### **Are there costs associated with accreditation and membership in the Membership Section of the VFI?**

Yes. The decision to levy fees for accreditation and membership was not taken lightly. Still, the objectification and professionalisation of the accreditation process and the membership list of the institutions affiliated with the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna result in high administrative costs. In addition, further costs arise from the additional services rendered to members (see below).

Therefore, we were forced to charge fees for accreditation, inclusion as a member institute in the Membership Section of the VFI, and inclusion in the directory.

### **How high are the fees?**

We have tried to keep the fees low and, at the same time, by levying biennial fees to keep administrative costs, yours and ours, as low as possible. The fees amount to 70 US\$ or 50 Euro per year, i.e. 140 US\$ or 100 Euro for the two-year period.

In order to support younger institutes, the accreditation and membership fees for institutes younger than two years old, the fee is 35 US\$ or 25 Euro per year, i.e. 70 US\$ or 50 Euro for the two-year period.

### **What advantages does certification and membership give me and my institute?**

With certification, everyone recognises that you offer Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, and are part of the international community of accredited logotherapists. Considering the relatively large grey market in the field of psychotherapy and counselling providers (even within Logotherapy), certification by and membership as an affiliated member in the Professional Membership Section of the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna will confer the following benefits:

**(1) Listing in the new Directory of Logotherapy Practitioners, available online and in print.**

(2) An **official certificate** from the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna which certifies and specifies your accreditation by and membership in the International Association (to be renewed every two years). Also, certified logotherapists will be sent and exclusively entitled to use a **banner/seal** of membership on their documents, incl. advertisements, signifying and stating that you are certified by the Viktor Frankl Institute Vienna as an affiliate member of its Professional Membership Section.

(3) **Patient referrals.** The Viktor Frankl Institute in Vienna regularly receives inquiries about logotherapists in other countries. As of 2013, we will solely refer these clients to members who adhere to the accreditation process described here (completed membership form and paid membership fee).

(4) Significantly **discounted fees** for attending the Biannual Future of Logotherapy Conference in Vienna (2014) and continued education courses in logotherapy in Vienna and at the newly established Viktor Frankl Chair for Philosophy and Psychology at the International Academy of Philosophy (University) in Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein.

We wish to use this opportunity to thank the survey participants for their assistance and encouragement; we also wish to express our hope that with the initiatives listed in this circular a new impetus will be given to Logotherapy and Existential Analysis with the ongoing development of professionalisation and visibility. We are glad to receive comments, questions and suggestions at: [registration@viktorfrankl.info](mailto:registration@viktorfrankl.info)

Vienna, July 2013

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