

Zurich, 23. July 2012

Dear Colleagues.

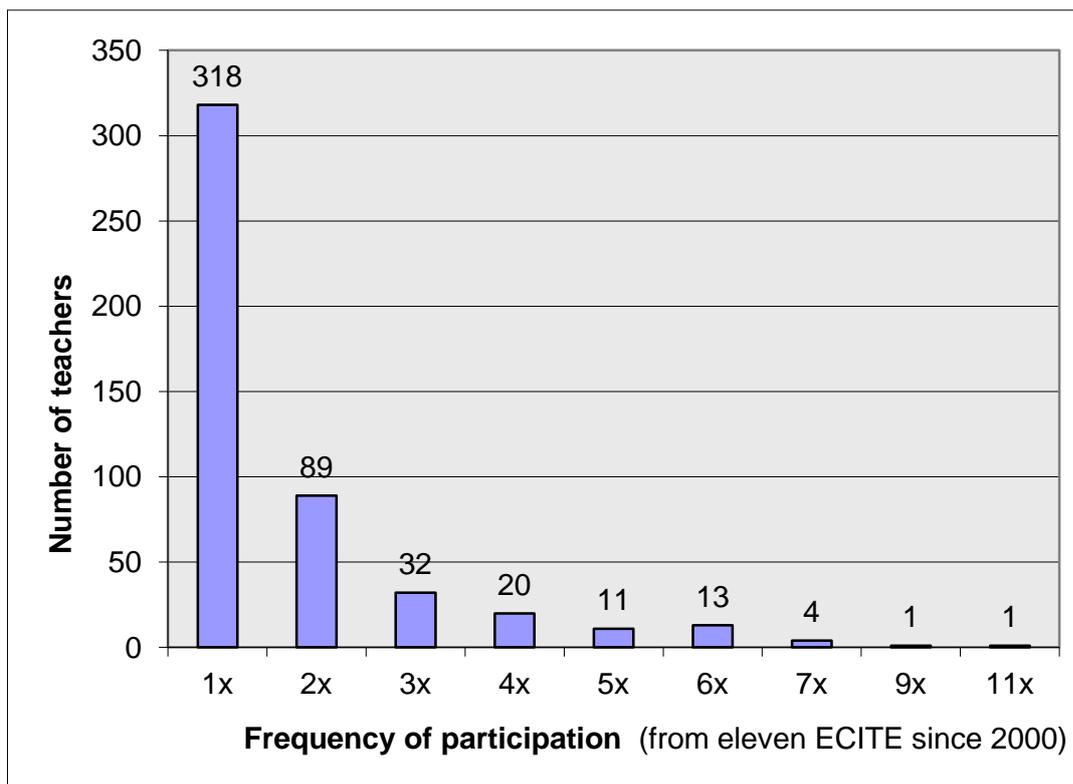
In recent years I have started to publish some statistics about past ECITE, because they can catch and express in some non-ideological way certain structures and dynamics (sometimes also a little brutally honest). This was made possible by the fact that since ECITE 2000 in Budapest the data are available electronically (thanks Ester Gal). The other reason is of course that I have available the list of participants since then, because of my participation. It is also a little for fun or interest.

This year we honour **40 years** Contact Improvisation, as it has been founded in 1972 in the United States (Steve Paxton, Nancy Stark Smith, Lisa Nelson, Daniel Lepkoff, Nita Little and many others). Contact Improvisation has arrived in Europe around 1980. Already in 1982 has been a first international meeting in southern France with 80 participants, organised by Mark Tompkins together with Atelier de Contact Paris. In 1985, the first European Contact Improvisation Teachers Conference has been taken place in Amsterdam, brought to life by Nancy Stark Smith, and since then, with rare exceptions, held each year in another European country. The term "European CI Teacher Exchange" (ECITE) was proposed by Natanja den Boeft und Weijke Koopmans, when they organised the 10th reunion in Amsterdam in 1995, and the term has been maintained.

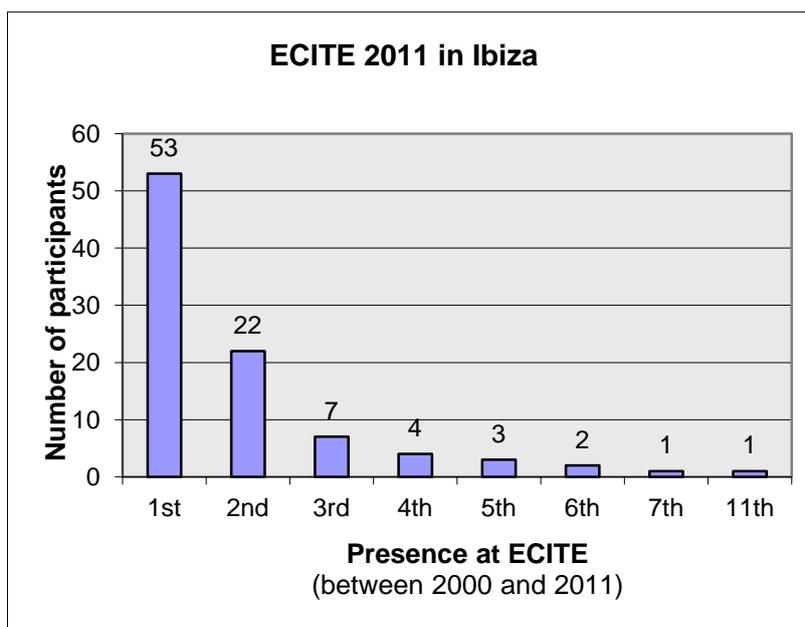
I think the gatherings were important for the spread and development of CI in Europe. Particularly in the pioneer phase, from 1980 until maybe 2000, this annual, in some degree professional reunion has laid the functional, cultural and flourish base. In the first conferences, it was more about coming out from the isolation as contact teachers in the different European countries and to develop a common understanding of the dance form and the teaching. It was an act of joining together and of incorporation, including a degree of independence and autonomy from the US. Then, to dance with advanced peers was an important experience, which was rare at that time. I believe the further diffusion and development of CI in Europe to not only an artistic but also a social phenomenon, with all the festivals and international jams, would not run as strong without the meetings, exchanges, discussions and inspirations on the European conferences.

After 2000, a generation change has taken place in ECITE. The pioneers and older teachers have come less. Probably because of other engagements and events, but also because the development of the professional exchange at ECITE is remained perhaps under the expectations of the oldies. Instead, many new and young joined each year, which is good and important. ECITE is still the unique offer for CI teacher training. But the continuity to come back every year has dropped. Many are coming to see what it is and less for a continuous engagement in the context of ECITE. Repeated participation is the exception.

Here is the diagram that shows **all participants at ECITE** added up **from 2000 - 2011**. Altogether, 489 different teachers have participated in 11 ECITE. Therefrom, 65% or $\frac{2}{3}$ came only once (318 teachers) and 83% once or twice (407 teachers). According to this, only 17% came three or more times (82 teachers):



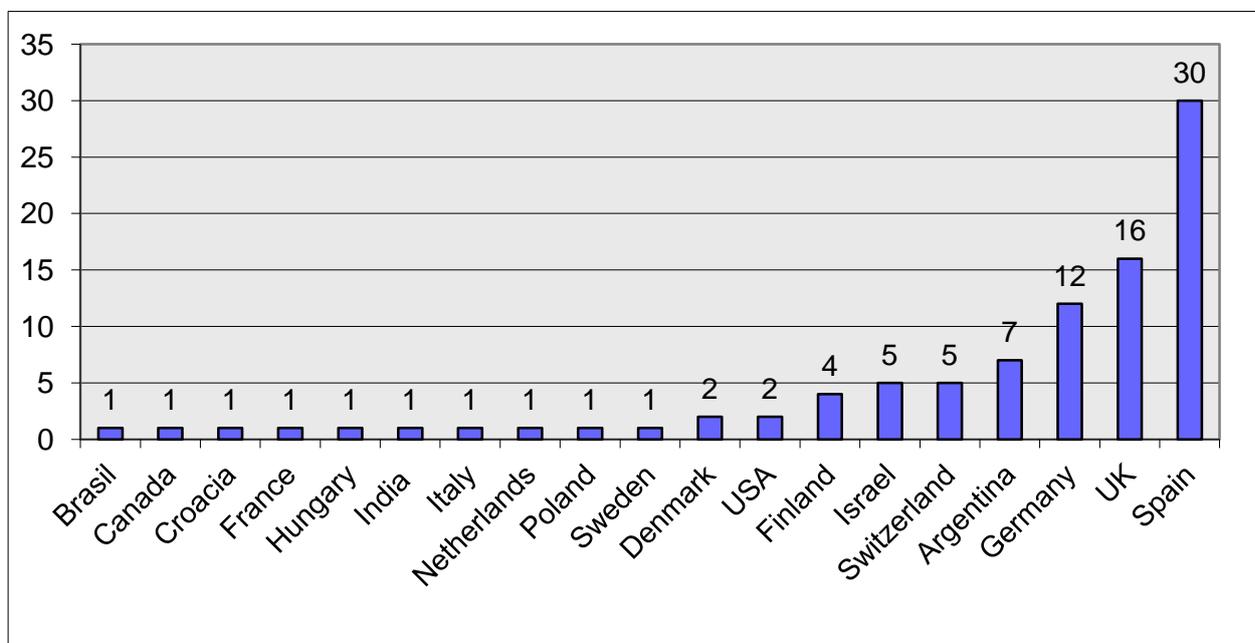
Last year the conference was taking place in **Ibiza** (Spain) at a beautiful location. It was the **25th ECITE**, but was not mentioned officially. Of the total **93 teachers** who participated were **57%** coming for the first time (53 teachers) and **81%** did participate for the first or second time (75 teachers). Means **19%** of the teachers there did attend three or more gatherings during the last eleven years (18 teachers)¹:



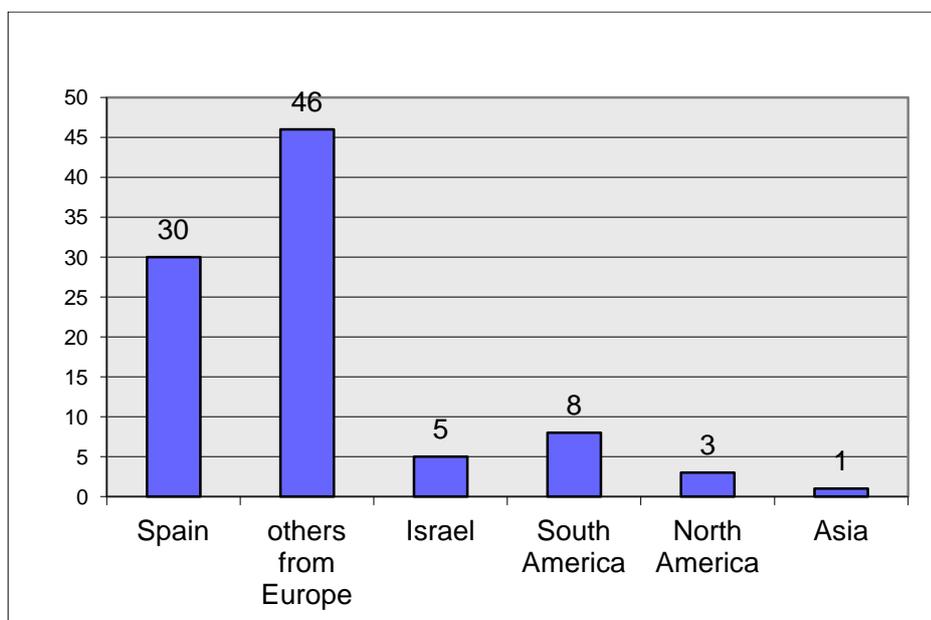
¹ For ECITE 2009 in Liverpool, these values were 44% (1st time), 63% (1st or 2nd time) and 37% (3rd or more).

24% of the participants in Ibiza were also in the previous gathering in Finland (22 teachers), means 76% fluctuation, which is rather considerable, compared with other gatherings².

The 93 participants in **Ibiza** have come from **19 countries**. The numbers of UK, Germany and Argentina are considerable, while relatively few from the other European countries:

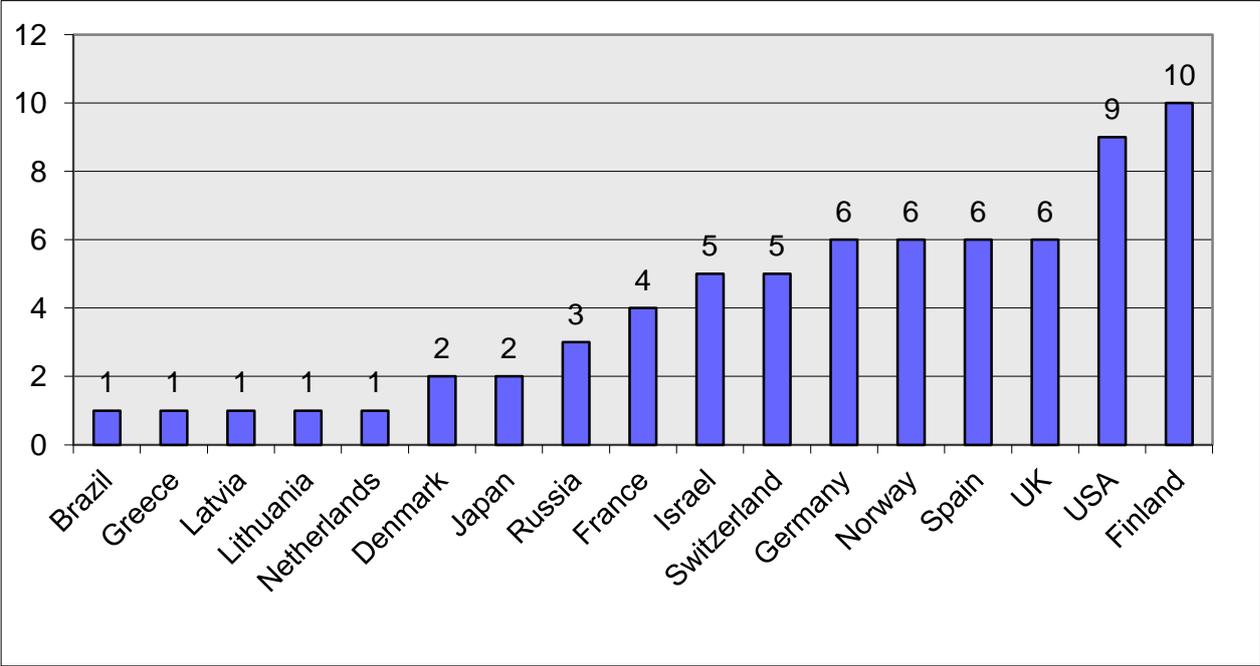


In clusters:

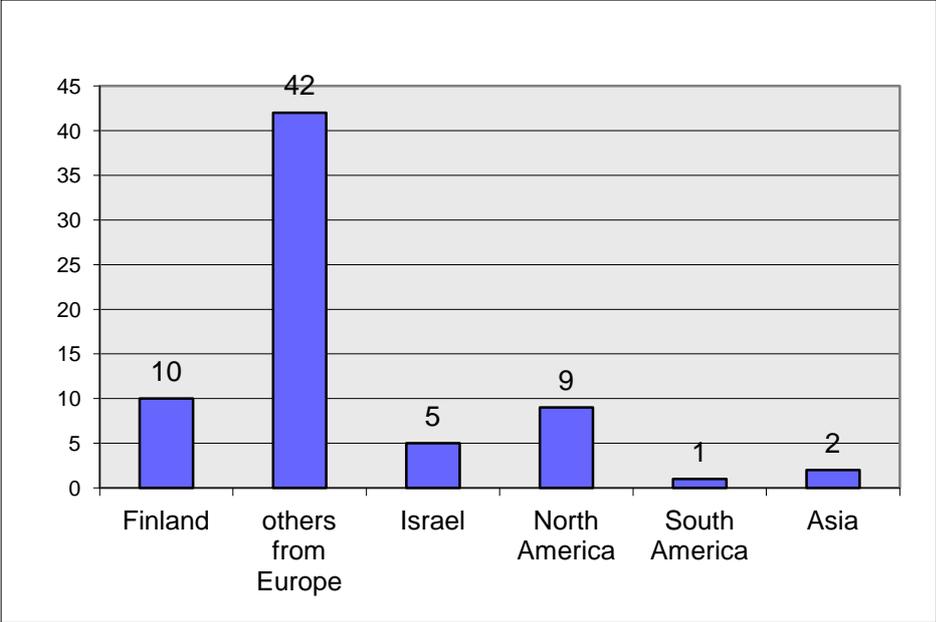


² For example in Liverpool, only 11 teachers were in the previous ECITE, that was 14% (86% fluctuation).

And here are the diagrams for ECITE 2010 in **Finland**, two years ago, where **69 participants** attended from **17 countries**, with the considerable number of USA:



In clusters:



This was more about frames. Maybe another time more about content.
I wish you all good summer dances.
Walter Weiler