

Dear Colleagues

Professional
Training
Standards
Committee



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

A warm hello to you all from your new EATA Professional Training and Standards Committee team: Cathy McQuaid (Chair. UK) Simonetta Calderone (Italy) , Eva Acs (Hungary) Bev Gibbons (UK) Alan Jones (UK) Patrick Odendaal (Netherlands) Mara Scoliere (Italy).

As a new committee our primary task at the moment is to form and attach as a working group to make a solid foundation for our important work together.

That work is to ensure that the EATA standards hold integrity, rigour and inclusivity; promote and develop TA as widely as possible; promote and support an approach that works inclusively and with mutual respect, with the many different national level standards and requirements.

As you will all understand this beginning is an intensely busy time for us as we balance forming as a group with getting on with the work – outstanding, ongoing, and impending – of EATA PTSC. We are committed to developing a collaborative way of working with our membership in order to ensure that our standards and policies are ongoingly shaped by up-to-date thinking, understanding and research and that they are inclusive and respectful of all.

At our meeting last week, we considered a number of communications from members and have some responses. Please bear with us as we work through these. We are all volunteers and as such we're also balancing our professional work with our role working as PTSC members for you all.



101 Instructors

The first issue we have considered concerns the TA 101 Instructor:

In December 2022, in a revision to the EATA Handbook the option of the TA 101 Instructor qualification for CTA's was removed. After a number of communications with colleagues we have agreed to restore this option, in line with the previous version of the handbook and review in December 2024. In the meantime we will undertake consultation and collaboration with interested parties.

Written Exam Workshops



2024 sessions are currently being planned. Please let us know where and how you would like to attend and in what languages. Once we know this we can get some dates set up.

The WEW will also be reviewed. Any feedback to improve what is already being done would be welcome.

Handbook

PTSC are aware that there remain some concerns about the revised handbook. Therefore our first task will be to examine the handbook, to identify any areas that require further explanation or clarification. If you have any worries or requests, please do let us know. Again, this will take time. We know that the issue of equivalency regarding the teaching exams between EATA and ITAA is a key issue, and we will prioritise this work.



Communication

The ptsc.chair@eatanews.org email address is working well and anyone who emails will receive an automated response. If there are any members who are awaiting a response to a request, please resend it. We are very much aware that in the past months members have taken time to send emails to PTSC about issues that are extremely important for them, and not had replies. We send you our heartfelt apologies for this. This will be different going forward, and at the same time the system won't be perfect.

If you do not receive the automated response, in the first instance please check you have used the correct email address. If you receive the automated response but have not had an update within 7 days please do resend your email. If you still do not receive a response please contact your country's EATA delegate and ask for your request to be sent to the Chair of PTSC.

A key message from PTSC to you all is that we're looking for ways to collaborate with you, the membership, and we are open to receiving your feedback.

Projects

PTSC is seeking cooperation and collaboration with colleagues to develop our examination systems so that they are fit for the 21st century. Beginning either later this year or early 2024 there will be a series of projects looking at various topics, those currently under consideration are:



How to account for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility within training and examinations systems.

Creating a comprehensive database of training requirements for all fields across all EATA membership organisation/countries.

Developing new/innovative ways of assessment/evaluation of core competencies and linking them with different sections/areas of the CTA exam.

Developing options to the written exam evaluation workshop to account for diversity.

Creating core competencies for CTA TS and TSTA examinations.

Developing training standards for online training for use in countries where this is permitted.

Exploring alternative/contemporary ways of evaluating/examining CTA TS and TSTAs.

Develop a strategy for future use in case of another pandemic or global crisis.

Supporting the development of TA training in countries with little existing provision in a way that supports/embraces the local cultural values and systems.

Exploring options for collaboration/dissemination of information e.g. using social media, email and introducing a newsflash to alert members to significant updates.

The intention is to work alongside our colleagues in COC, so some of these projects will be joint and others more the focus of PTSC. There are numerous project ideas here, some will have areas that overlap with others. Once we have honed our list/plan we will be seeking volunteers, from all fields and across Europe, to work with us.

We invite all association Presidents/Chairs to contact us with any projects that are particularly important for your members. This will enable us to support you with issues that may be country or association specific.

If you have any other ideas, wish to be actively involved in any of the above projects or have other suggestions/comments/observations please do let us know via email to ptsc.chair@eatanews.org