

Task Force Report on Training Standards Review – 18th Oct. 2023

Valerie O'Brien – Chair

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Development of Training Standards for Family Therapy

The key questions driving the work of the Task Force remain and include .

- How best to meet the specific developmental and contextual features of family therapy training and people calling themselves family therapists and associated names in individual countries?
- How does EFTA stay relevant and inclusive?
- How do we update standards while keeping the key principles of Flexibility, Generality, Specificity, Subsidiarity central?
- What are the implications arising from 'psychotherapy' and 'family therapy' developments – at professional and modality level for the EFTA community?
- How does difference in EAP training hours impact on EFTA training standards?

Mapping Family Therapy in Individual European Countries

The main work of the Task Force to date has focused on mapping training across Europe. It is essential that we understand how the family therapy landscape in individual countries may impact on the review of training standards .

A questionnaire was developed, one person in each country was asked to fill in an online questionnaire and the aim was to obtain a snapshot of what was happening in each country. We wish to thank everyone who contributed, and we have now obtained information on 33 countries. We are currently working on the analysis, and it is planned to upload some findings on the web site in 2024.

Pathways Approach

Currently EFTA minimum training standards (700 - 900 hours) and EAP training standards are standards 1400 hours)

a pathways approach has been considered by the TF as a way to ensure that EFTA's work in this area remain both relevant and inclusive. The proposal is to consider if two pathway approach may meet this objective.

- a. Pathway One - Move to EAP standards – EAP 1400 hours.
- b. Pathway Two - EFTA minimum standards (700 - 900 hours)

The advantages, disadvantages and unforeseen consequences of this proposal is currently being reviewed. As part of the consideration, a number of key issues are noted.

The landscape will be different country to country and EFTA needs to take account of

- Differences and similarities in and across countries
- EU direction and occurrences in non-EU European countries
- The direction of flow within individual training elements
- Be current and future orientated

Training Standards for Supervision

Currently there are no Supervision Training Standards in EFTA. Once we have completed the review of Family Therapy Training Standards, the Task Force plans to move to develop training standards for Systemic Supervisors. EAP is currently developing work in the area of Supervisor Training Across all Modalities. We plan to work alongside EAP in this development of this work.

Directory of Systemic Supervisors – Exploring the Options

The Task Force is currently developing a link to each Countries list or Directory of Supervisors where such a list exists. The term 'Directory' is used as EFTA is not in a position to register or accredit supervisors.

The directory – comprising of the links to individual countries will be published on the EFTA Web site.

We have obtained some information through our recent survey, and we will be following up with NFTO's/Professional Associations to provide us with further information.

This development is important to ensure Supervision developments within EFTA is captured in one place.

The Possibility for a 'Systemic Supervision Summer School (SSSS)' to be held in Prague in 2024

The option of organising a 'Systemic Supervision Summer School' based on a collaboration of all three chambers and within the Task Force on Training Standards is currently under exploration. The tentative date is Aug 2024, and it is geared towards between 30-40 participants.