

EFTA-TIC Report for EFTA Newsletter No. 11

1. 7th Trainers' Meeting, 2012

The highlight of the year for EFTA-TIC was the successful Trainers' Meeting held in Ohrid, FYROMacedonia on September 21st and 22nd. The local host, Dr Slavica Gajdadzis-Knezevik, and her team organised all elements of the event to a very high standard and made the participants very welcome. A rich scientific programme involving 11 workshops and 6 oral presentations took place.

There were 62 participants representing 29 Institutes (or national associations) from 17 countries. The Scientific Programme and Book of Abstracts are available on the EFTA-TIC website at <http://www.efta-tic.eu/content.php?id=45&idl=eng>

A collation of the feedback is attached in a separate document.

Pictures from the Sunday Boat trip in Ohrid



2. General Assembly

The Annual EFTA-TIC General Assembly (GA) was held during the Trainers' Meeting. The minutes of the GA will be sent to all member Institutes in the near future. They will also be available on the EFTA-TIC website.

Some of the key issues from the GA include:

a) Membership

Membership currently stands at 130 Institutes in 29 countries

- Full members - 115
- Associate members - 15

Since 2008 nine new institutes have acquired full membership, and 14 institutes have been granted associate membership status. During the same period 13 members were expelled for non-payment of membership fees (some have been re-admitted), and currently 16 are “in danger” due to their failure to pay fees in two consecutive years.

b) Finance

The Treasurer reported that the financial situation has improved due to Institutes paying outstanding fees. The outstanding debt to EFTA General has been paid. There is a current (Dec. 2012) balance of €15,709.71 in the EFTA-TIC account in Lille.

- 4 institutes have not paid membership fees in 2010, 2011, 2012
- 8 institutes in 2011, 2012
- 11 institutes in 2012

A significant development is the decision by the Board of EFTA to adopt the World Bank list of low-income countries as the standard by which liability for full or reduced fees will be determined. This will result in recategorisation for some countries. It will be applied from the beginning of 2013. This list is available online and is updated regularly.

(http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups#Lower_middle_income)

c) By-laws.

A sub-committee was established across all three chambers to explore the development of by-laws for EFTA. The EFTA statutes require that each board '*create by-laws that will ensure appropriate continuity and renewal of its board members*'. The EFTA-TIC Board discussed this requirement and decided on the following by-law:

- A maximum of three consecutive terms may be served as an EFTA-TIC board member.
- After three terms a board member must stand down for at least one term of three years before seeking re-election.
- At each election at least two board members must stand down to allow for new candidates to stand.
- Only one person per country will be permitted to serve on the EFTA-TIC board in any term.
- To ensure continuity at least three sitting board members should remain at each election.

TIC is recommending this formula to the other Chamber boards.

d) Honorary board members

The option of electing honorary board members was also discussed. One way of doing this might be to create some form of EFTA 'senate'. The possibility of creating a multi-generational board including younger therapists/trainers was also proposed. No formula was found for implementing this proposal but it met with considerable support.

e) Future Trainers' Meetings

At the General Assembly proposals were invited for the hosting of the next two Trainers' Meetings in 2014 and 2015. Three possible locations have been identified - Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. These centres have been asked to submit detailed proposals which will be considered by the EFTA-TIC board at its next meeting in January in Paris. Other proposals are welcomed.

It has been agreed that as far as possible future Trainers' Meetings will be held on the last weekend in September to assist those wishing to participate to plan ahead.

3. Trainers' exchange

As reported in the last newsletter there have been visits made in the last couple of years by various trainers to assist emerging training programmes - e.g. the Cardiff team has been to Malta and Mauro Mariotti from Modena has been to Lithuania. This

has been done on a pro bono basis. There is now a proposal to develop this initiative further and give it some structure. If there are trainers wishing to offer their services to assist in the development of training elsewhere please make it known.

Update (Dec 2012) on these developments from Billy Hardy in Cardiff:

'We are collaborating with the Lithuanian folks. They came here for a week in Feb 2012. Malta is going well - running a supervisors course there. Kieran and I have been three times and they are coming out to us in June 2013 for a week. It is 'cooking' very nicely, good development work going on.'

4. Training Standards

The Minimum Training Standards were agreed by the EFTA Board at its meeting in Lisbon in 2010. There was a subsequent revision to the number of hours required agreed in 2011. Please note that the Revised 2011 version is the correct and current version. See pdf here: http://www.efta-tic.eu/Training_Standards.pdf. The number of years of specialised family therapy training has been increased from three to four and the required hours of training must be between 700 and 900.

These requirements now exceed the criteria for eligibility to join EFTA-CIM as an individual member. There has to be a grand-parenting period to allow those currently in training to be granted membership under the existing EFTA-CIM criteria but eventually all members will be bound by the Revised Minimum Training Standards. The extent of the period for transition is currently under discussion.

A Training Standards and Quality Assurance sub-committee is being reconvened to address this issue and keep the standards under review.

5. EFTA Congress, Istanbul, Oct 24th - 27th, 2013. www.efta2013.org

At the Congress the board of EFTA-TIC will present a symposium entitled: '*Crisis in the Training Group*'.

This will take the form of a video of interviews with trainers re crises they have encountered in their work. A way to involve trainees in this process will also be explored.

6. Election of the next EFTA-TIC board

N.B. Elections to the new board of EFTA-TIC will take place at the Istanbul Congress. Information on the nomination and voting procedures will be circulated early in 2013.

Philip Kearney,
Secretary,
EFTA-TIC Board.