

COC REPORT

During last year, the Commission of Certification ran its activities as usual: we had exams in Rome (Italy), Belgrade (Serbia), London (UK), Bad Aibling (Germany), Paris (France), and Keele (UK), and a meeting in Hamburg (Germany) last march. We have now a new language coordinator for the German and the Scandinavian countries, and we are processing three other changes (English, French, and “other languages”).

About our special projects, the “COC Observers” program follows well: we have sent observers to all the venues, and we are learning a lot about how the exams are developing.

As was reported last year, COC started a program for training examiners. A task force (Barbara Classen, TSTA-P and chair of EATA Ethic Committee, Sabine Klingenberg, TSTA-O, chair of EATA PTSC and EATA President elect, Trudi Newton, TSTA-E and chair of ITAA T&CC and former co-chair of BOC, Charlotte Sills, TSTA-P and former chair of EATA PTSC, Stefan Sandström, TSTA-P and myself, as chair of EATA COC) met in September 2009 to reflect about the theoretical assumptions of our certification system: the report became an article published on the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (“Transactional Analysis Certification Exams: An Opportunity to Learn”, TAJ, 39, 4, Oct 2009, p. 270-275). The task force identified also the goals of a training for examiners and projected the format and the techniques to reach them.

Since then, the task force ran examiners’ training - usually a whole day before the exams - in Turin (Italy), London (UK), Paris (France) and Prague (Czech Republic). Feedbacks were usually very favourable. New trainings are scheduled for the future and a new meeting will evaluate these experiences; during the meeting the task force will discuss also issues related to the evaluation of the written CTA exam: suggestions are welcome!

COC started an educational program with the European Connections Committee, to help the TA communities of some countries to develop competencies in running successful exams. We kept workshops with this goal in 2007 in Kraniska Gora (Slovenia), in 2008 in Skopje (Macedonia), in 2009 in Zenica (Bosnia Herzegovina) and Belgrade (Serbia). New COC activities are scheduled for 2011.

A very sensitive matter is the need to deal with new rules in different countries: new national laws sometime require adjustments of our certification system, and our challenge is to keep high as usual our standards and, at the same time, to be flexible enough to understand and answer to the needs of national organizations. For these reasons COC negotiated a specific contract with the British association of TA (ITA) to agree special rules useful for them and for the growth of TA: as a matter of fact, the new rules (between others, the double marker for CTA exam) can be useful experience for the whole TA community.

The great success of TA in Europe is making a strong pressure on our certification system: COC is happy for this, and at the same time we recognize the need of update our system and our rules. We need to put under control the costs for the exams, that are quite higher than the income coming from the exam fees. EATA and COC agreed that this is an investment on our future, and accept to “loose” money at every exam; at the same time they decided to have this loss under control, to have a healthy administration. In order to achieve this goal, COC is preparing a new contract with the local association about how to run the exams, that will be published in the next months.

Prague, July 2010

Marco Mazzetti

Chairperson of the Commission of Certification