



# EGATIN

## European Group Analytic Training Institutions Network

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### To the Institute Delegates and the Individual Members of EGATIN

Dear All

It has been too long since you have heard from me and the Committee, but I hope this letter can give you some of the information that you might have been missing.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 the study days with the theme "The process of putting group analytic work into writing" was held in Copenhagen, arranged by IGA Copenhagen. There were 60 people attending, among them quite many delegates and newcomers.

It was the committees' impression that it turned out very well both socially and scientifically. The interest for the subject was large among the present participants and there were vivid discussions on how and when training is finalized in the different institutes. There was a span from extensive demands on a diploma paper, which should be approved of by the training committee and to no definite criteria as to how the candidate should be finally accepted as a diplomaed or certificated group analytic psychotherapist or group analyst. In the group discussions it became evident how differently the candidates are qualified in the different countries.

The large group was very inspired by the theme and had the quality of a discussion group with visits to the primordial level. Although some members were absent there was a sense of optimism and evident enjoyment among the participants.

Five memberships of EGATIN were accepted by the AGM. There were both new member organizations and approvals of a higher level of memberships: Group Analysis South West from Bristol, Estonian IGA from Tallinn, Portugal Society for Group Analysis Lisbon, the new Institute from Greece (Hellenic Organization of Psychotherapy and education - HOPE) and Center for Education in Group Analysis in Novi Sad.

A warm welcome to all of you.

The board brought to discussion the idea to have a fixed date for study days, once or twice a year and also proclaimed the decision to arrange a meeting of EGATIN delegates and members in the environment of other group analytic events like the European Symposium or the IAGP. This year (2006) the largest event has been the IAGP congress in San Paulo, Brazil, which Thor Kristian Island from the board attended.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May a meeting between the committee of GAS and the committee of EGATIN was held in London at the Institute of Group Analysis. The meeting was initiated by the GAS chairman and the board, who wanted to discuss differences and mutual interests in the field by the two organizations.

All though not much time was found to discuss these important matters, the undersigned, Thor Kristian Island, Herbert Knott and Zoe Voyatzaki participated in the meeting, where Zoe gave a short view of EGATIN's history, and we all talked about how best to develop the organisations to achieve the objects of the society and meet the members interest in the future. I had the impression that GAS was in a process of looking into what originally had been describes as the objects and aims of that old organization and that a kind of modern shapening was needed. GAS expressed the wish shared by EGATIN that the two institutions in the future could make scientific and social arrangements and share information and members to the benefit for both. There was a declaration of willingness to accept and respect both organizations and the idea to bring EGATIN under the hat of GAS doesn't seem realistic nor wanted now or in the near future. It is important to notice, that EGATIN first concern is 'training' and the members are primarily institutions.

There is no doubt that EGATIN had played a major role in giving identity to the training institutions in Europe; that is especially the younger institutions. There had been several requests that we can give members of EGATIN a certificate of this membership. I understand that it has been important in some countries as a kind of legitimation of the practising of group psychotherapy. The committee will make such a declaration available to every institute, saying that such a membership is in effect.

The EU certificate is still pending in the environment of EFPP. Please read Thor Kristian's minutes from our last policy meeting, which gives a overall impression of the content of the certificate. I expect to hear more and to reach a more final decision on the criteria at the EFPP three section conference 'Play and Power' in Copenhagen, 4-6. May 2007.

It is the intension that the authority of issuing certificates should be given from a central authority in EU to the training institutions fulfilling the criteria in the different countries.

Any news will be given on the web-site of EGATIN.

According to the decision taken in Copenhagen a new EGATIN web-site has been developed for the extensive use of the members in the future. It has all modern facilities, for example the ability to on-line registration of names, addresses and so on. It has a special admittance to sites containing material from the study days and other materials for 'members only' (name: 'egatinmedlem', password: '3g471n) or committee members only. It has the option of sending out mails to all interested registered on a mail list at any frequency and it will be possible to enrol for Study Days through the web-site. Hopefully the EGATIN web-site will also function as a well of useful training material and information such as guidelines on training issues and presentations given on former Study days. Also research references and research tools should in the future be found and used from the web-site.

I will say again that considering the wide geographic area covered by EGATIN, the expenses of sending out newsletters, the non-existence of a secretariat and the rapid change of delegates (and their addresses), an active and often visited web-site is by far the best solution. Look at [www.egatin.net](http://www.egatin.net) or [www.egatin.com](http://www.egatin.com)

The new web site can be managed from any computer and of any board member, so it is not bound to one specific country or person. We have had one problem though, that it has been difficult to find the administrator of the domain name 'EGATIN.net', in order to have it pointing to the new site. But this is only an administrative problem to be solved soon. In the meanwhile the web site constructor has offered us the possibility of using the name 'EGATIN.com'.

There is still a need for the committee to meet and discuss more often issues of interest and executive functions, a wish that was also discussed at the committee meeting in Copenhagen. With some success all though not working sufficiently, we have tried to connect through PC-phones and the free programme Skype. This way of having telephone meetings, we will explore further.

The chairman was determined that we in good time should be able to arrange and announce the study days for the members. Unfortunately it has again turned out quite opposite.

In the spring we had several suggestions as to hosting institutes, but that was mainly from 2007 or later. Vienna was able to host the study days in June, but it was not found to be a good solution. We also for some months had an agreement with the institute in Slovenia for an autumn Study day in 2007 about group therapy with psychosis. Recently I was informed that it could not work out, so we are still working on the idea of a autumn study day in 2007 and are looking for a host (maybe Vienna).

We have now decided that the next Study days and AGM will be in

**Budapest the 27<sup>th</sup>. to 29<sup>th</sup>. of April 2007**

The theme has not been finally decided, but will contract the challenges in applied Group Analysis already introduced in Molde. The idea is to present examples of how group analytic theory can be used and applied to other subjects and cultures. We also have in mind to present some examples of how training can be conducted to develop the necessary knowledge and education to professionals who work in those adherent areas.

I hope that all of you can come to Budapest to discuss these matters and to participate in the AGM which will include an election of two new members. Individual members new and old are also welcome. Please notice that a favourable senior membership fee has been decided. If you have questions of the study days organization or maybe would like to give a presentation on the theme please contact the chairman of the local committee Piroska Komlosi or connecting member of the EGATIN committee Heribert Knott.

The board will meet the last weekend in January in Stuttgart for the intermediate committee meeting and there we will have a discussion and a decision about how to proceed in the future as to the development of EGATIN task, the development of the web site and communication among members. We will also evaluate the executive functions of the committee.

I am looking forward to see very many of you again in the New year and wish you all a nice and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2007.

Kristian Valbak

President of EGATIN