

The end of an experiment

The idea of a new TSTA qualification process called "*The revolution in TSTA qualification*" in the Newsletter (June 2004), was born with a German speaking group some years ago, aroused interest in Malmoë at the first trainers meeting in 2002, and gave rise to debates between members of a TACC committee.

The proposal was presented by Ute Hagelhülsmann and Werner Vogelauer at the Trainers Meeting in Edinburgh, in 2005.

In 2006-2007, Resi Tosi, PTSC chair, organised the Pilot project and associated research studies. In June 07 in the EATA Newsletter an article presented "*The Pilot of a new route to TSTA training and qualification and the Research project.*"

The 'new route' of the Pilot project consisted in:

- a permanent training which should have resulted in "credit points" allocated to the activities aimed at becoming CTAs Trainers and TSTAs, (Teaching, Supervision, conferences, lectures, publications of articles and so on).
- international yearly workshops (similar to the TEW) to assess the competences of the trainers in training and to get a continuous evaluation.

After three years, the participants would have been accredited through interviews and colloquia, without examination, as they had been regularly assessed.

For the research three, randomly selected, different groups of 8 participants each, were planned:

Group 1 (5 from UK, 2 from Italy, 1 from Germany) had to train according to "the new route" and to answer questionnaires (at the start and end of training) and take part in research interviews throughout training. Seven of them belonged to the psychotherapy field, one of them to the organisational field.

Group 2 (3 from UK, 1 from Italy, 1 from Germany, 1 from Switzerland, 1 from Netherlands, 1 from France) had to train in the "old" way and to answer questionnaires (at the start and end of training) and take part in research interviews throughout training. Five of them belonged to the psychotherapy field, one of them to the organisational field, one of them to the counselling field, one of them to the educational field.

A third group followed the 'old' route and only had to answer the 'before and after' questionnaires.

The researchers were Charlotte Sills and Trudi Newton for the qualitative research (based on both individual and group inquiry interviews), Pio Scilligo for the quantitative research (based on questionnaires), and the German speaking group, who had prepared the work and had created a questionnaire on the competences.

At the beginning of the year 2008, 4 out of 8 people in group 1 dropped out of the new route because they found it to be restrictive in a number of ways, and the first international continuous evaluation workshop (CEW), which was due to take place in July 2008, was cancelled.

Numbers continued to decrease and, PTSC decided, in March 2009, to stop the experiment and to start another project having learned from this unsuccessful attempt. At the moment, PTSC is preparing, for experienced PTSTA's, a first Training Evaluation Workshop to become CTA trainers. This will have to be agreed at TACC.

Very many thanks to everyone : the researchers, the participants and all the people involved for the time and interest they devoted to the project.

Nicole Pierre, member of PTSC, coordinator of the Pilot study.