

**Seventh EALTA Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday, 29 May 2010 – 15:45**  
**NH Atlantic Hotel, The Hague, the Netherlands**

**Present:** Conference participants who are Individual and Associate members of EALTA – European Association for Language Testing and Assessment.

**Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from the 2009 AGM
3. President's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2009
4. Membership Committee report
5. Presentation of EALTA accounts for 2009
6. Appointment of the auditor for 2010
7. Election of officers
  - (a) Election of EALTA President
  - (b) Election of EALTA Chair of the Membership Committee
8. 2011 Conference venue and dates
9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting
10. Membership issues
11. AOB

The meeting was called to order by Sauli Takala (President of EALTA)

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The suggested agenda for the Meeting was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes from the 2009 AGM**

Since no changes or clarifications were requested, the minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2009 were approved.

**3-5. President's and Executive Committee's report on EALTA activities and progress in 2009**

- ST commented on the 2010 conference and thanked José Noijons and his team at Cito, Janny Harmsen and Evelyn Reichard, for excellent preparation and hosting of the event. He also expressed EALTA's gratitude to the sponsors for their support (Cito; ETS; ReLANpro; Pearson; University of Michigan, ELI; Trinity College London). Moreover, ST acknowledged the generous contributions of the pre-conference workshop leaders (Norman Verhelst, Cito; Rita Green and Graham Hyatt) and of the three invited keynote speakers (Gordon Stobart, Jan Hulstijn and Jan-Eric Gustafsson).
- Following decisions in the Executive Committee, ST acted as pro term Chair of the Membership Committee after the untimely passing away of Felianka Kaftandjieva in September 2009. Moreover, Neus Figueras (NF) was invited to coordinate the planning of EALTA's first Summer School 2010.
- Following a discussion on the EALTA membership list, EALTA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the European Centre of Modern Languages (ECML) in Graz. The Memorandum is valid until the end of ECML's current medium term programme (2011).
- ST further informed about a Professional Network set up by the ECML and gave an account of the first meeting in this group, held in Graz in January 2010. The meeting

focused on different forms of possible cooperation within the language field, with participants representing AILA, ALTE, CercleS, EALTA, EAQUALS, CEL/ELC, FIPLV, ICC, OLBI (University of Ottawa), European Commission Multilingualism Policy Unit, CoE, LPD and ECML.

- Gudrun Erickson (GE) and NF reported on the continuing work on disseminating the EALTA Guidelines for Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment (GGP), adopted at the third AGM in Krakow in May 2006. At present, 35 language versions are available, with two more underway. A report on dissemination activities in Sweden and the Basque Country, has been published on the EALTA website (Erickson, G. & Figueras, N., *EALTA Guidelines for Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment: Large scale dissemination days*).

Dissemination and use of the GGP continue in various ways, nationally and internationally. The AGM participants were encouraged to share their experiences with the membership and to submit reports for publication on the website.

- NF gave a brief report on EALTA's first Summer School, to be held at York University, the Norwegian Study Centre, 28 June to 2 July, with the theme *Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment: An educational perspective*. The activities are coordinated by Angela Hasselgreen and NF. At the time of the AGM there were 18 registered participants, with a maximum number of 20.
- NF also reported on a joint IATEFL/EALTA conference in Barcelona 29-30 October 2010 with the theme *Putting the CEFR to Good Use*. More information to be posted on the EALTA website in June.
- ST reported that two new Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been launched, one focusing on Writing (coordinated by Claudia Harsch at Warwick University, UK), one on Classroom-based Language Assessment (coordinated by Dina Tsagari at the University of Cyprus). The two coordinators gave short accounts of introductory meetings in their groups, held in connection with the EALTA conference.

ST further reported that the activity in the other five groups is very low and that two of the present coordinators have stepped down (*Assessing language(s) at university* and *Assessing language(s) for specific purposes*). The situation regarding these and the other groups will be further investigated during the year to come. The Executive Committee welcomes proposals for new SIGs as well as SIG leaders.

As soon as the situation for the now seven SIGs has been clarified, a link for Special Interest Groups will be included on the EALTA website.

- ST introduced the translation and publication of Felianka Kaftandjieva's second dissertation with the title *Methods for Setting Cut Scores in Criterion-referenced Achievement Tests – A comparative analysis of six recent methods with an application to tests of reading in EFL*, defended in the autumn of 2008 at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria. The dissertation has been translated by Plamen Mirazchiyski, a former graduate student of Felianka Kaftandjieva's, and revised by Charles Alderson and Jamie Dunlea. The volume, which has been edited by Sauli Takala and Norman Verhelst and published by Cito, was distributed to the participants at the AGM and will also be made available in electronic format on the EALTA website (Resources).

Plamen Mirazchiyski gave a short address and ST thanked warmly him and everybody else who made it possible to publish this highly important volume in honour of very much appreciated friend, colleague and expert within our field.

- The EALTA *membership numbers* at the time of the conference were the following (with the corresponding numbers for the previous year in parentheses):

Individual members: 1 068 / 41 countries (833/41)

Associate members: 120 / 29 countries (85/27)

Expert members: 16 / 7 countries (16/7)

Institutional members: 52 /18 countries (52/20)

Consequently, as compared to last year's numbers, this means an increase of 235 Individual and 35 Associate members.

- Since the handover to the new EALTA Treasurer Nigel Downey (ND) was not made until the turn of the year, GE reported on the EALTA accounts for 2009 (balance sheet included in the AGM papers, verified by the 2009 EALTA Auditor, Dorte Velling Pedersen). GE commented briefly on incomes and expenditures and the balance in the EALTA bank account on 31 December 2009: 27,031.15 SEK and 21,190.67 Euros, in total, approximately 23,900 Euros. The accounts were approved by the AGM.

ND commented on expenses foreseen for 2010, including The EALTA Summer School in York.

#### **6. Appointment of the auditor for 2010**

The meeting approved the appointment of Ildikó Csépes as the auditor for 2010. ST thanked IC for accepting the task.

#### **7. Election of officers**

Following a suggestion by the Executive Committee, approved by the 2009 AGM, a Nomination Group was appointed to prepare for the 2010 elections. The group had three members, namely Alan Davies (Chair), Jo Lewkowicz and Carol Spoettl (CS). CS gave a short account of the work done by the group, including the call for nominations, first issued in April 2010.

##### ***Election of EALTA President***

Two proposals for President for the period of 2009-2012 had been submitted, one by Dina Tsagari, seconded by Pavlos Pavlou, the other by Heini-Marja Järvinen, seconded by Ari Huhta. Both suggestions were for Professor John de Jong, VU University Amsterdam. The proposal was approved by the AGM participants. Thanking for the confidence, John de Jong accepted the appointment. He further stated his ambition to keep up the good work of EALTA, for example by offering continued and intensified support for the alignment of examinations to the CEFR,

##### ***Election of EALTA Chair of the Membership Committee***

One proposal for Chair of the Membership Committee had been made, namely for Professor Angela Hasselgreen, Bergen University College (submitted by Cecilia Nihlén, seconded by April Ginther). The proposal was approved by the AGM participants. Thanking for the confidence, Angela Hasselgreen accepted the appointment.

Between the 2010 and 2011 AGMs, the EALTA Executive Committee will have the following members:

John de Jong – *President*  
Gudrun Erickson – *Secretary*  
Nigel Downey – *Treasurer*  
Angela Hasselgreen – *Chair of the Membership Committee*  
Evelyn Reichard – *2010 Conference organiser representative*  
Claudia Becceroni – *2011 Conference organiser representative*

**8. 2011 Conference venue and dates**

The 2011 EALTA Conference will take place on 6-8 May in Siena, Italy, with pre-conference activities scheduled for 3-5 May and a welcome reception for the evening of Thursday 5 May. The conference will be organised in cooperation between Trinity College, London and Università per Stranieri di Siena, Italy. Carla Bagna and Laura Sprugnoli gave a short welcome address. Further information about the conference will be given in due course, via the EALTA website and electronic membership list.

ST encouraged proposals to the Executive Committee for future conference venues and organisation.

**9. Date of the next Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held at the 2011 EALTA conference at Università per Stranieri di Siena, Italy, on Saturday 7 May.

**10. Membership Issues**

ST pointed out that various issues concerning EALTA membership will be looked into and discussed during the year to come and that this may lead to suggested modifications of the Constitution.

**11. Any Other Business**

A recommendation was made that meetings of the EALTA Special Interest Groups should be part of the planning for future conferences, preferably allocated time in the afternoon of the Thursday, preceding the welcoming reception. The participants at the AGM, including the Executive Committee members, approved of this suggestion.

**12. Closing of the AGM and warmest thanks**

Before the closing of the AGM, the Executive Committee and the participants at the meeting expressed their warmest thanks to Professor Sauli Takala for his strong commitment and excellent work as President of EALTA between 2007 and 2010. ST thanked all colleagues in EALTA for good support and declared his continued strong support for the association.