

EGATIN, the European Group Analytic Training Institutes Network has its own Essential Training Standards in group analytic psychotherapy. These include:

- Essential general aims for training organisations
- Essential basic assumptions and underlying philosophy of GA training
- Essential theory and core concepts in GA
- Core skills essential to the practice of GA
- Training structures and requirements
- Essential structures and procedures for delivery of training and maintenance of standards

EGATIN essential basic assumptions in regard to training are:

- Emphasis on communication and the social nature of man and the defining features of the socio-cultural environment (Social origins)
- The assumption of the primacy of the relational matrix (the individual acquires definition in relation to the group) (Gestalt origins).
- The assumption of a personal and collective (social) unconscious (Psycho-Analytic origins).
- The assumption of open systems (persons, groups, organizations) in dynamic equilibrium, constantly adapting (Systemic origins).

We can say that EGATIN intends to contribute to the construction of a group analytic matrix, facilitating and promoting the building of a GA training culture, maintaining a sense of identity and respecting inevitable and desirable specificities from each country and from each organization. A matrix is a living, dynamic structure, more or less creative and more or less destructive.

To acquire and build a matrix - in the group analytic sense - we need people and relationships. If we want to learn, question, discuss, grow and discover, we need to be together in group. In a group we share opinions and knowledge, but also combine emotions, feelings, desires, fears, curiosity, spontaneity, doubts and errors – sharing our humanity. It is an attempt to contain instead of controlling; to be instead of pretending; to learn and to think instead of colonizing.

So we invite you all to come to Lisbon, to the EGATIN Study Days, and be in a group.

This year our theme is “Love, Passion and Intimacy. In Group Analysis and in Training”. How do we deal with these kinds of issues, in our personal group analytic process, in the groups we run, in supervision, in our training institutes and in our training programs? What kind of conscious and unconscious prejudices, defences and taboos do we hold? What can we learn with and from each others, from our differences, in culture, gender and generation?

We are looking forward to meet with you in the 27th and 28th of April, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal.

PAULA CARVALHO

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

