

- Should candidates as part of their group analytic training acquire knowledge about, for example, group analytic psychotherapy with psychotic patients?
- What kind of therapy groups should be approved for supervision?
- Should EGATIN try to promote experiences and training approaches in fields like organization, families and school work?

It became clear that these are matters of general interest and concern in almost all institutes. Therefore it seems very appropriate to continue this discussion in the future by taking up different aspects of these training matters.

In Budapest we talked about an 'orthodox group analysis' and an 'applied group analysis'.

Let me be a little provocative and state, that there is no such thing as orthodox group analysis (i.e. a pure twice a week group analysis for 3 years with 'neurotic' patients).

When you consider the working of Foulkes and Bion with soldiers suffering from PTSD, and Foulkes' heterogeneous groups including sometimes people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, the orthodoxy does not stem from the origins of group analysis. I therefore suggest, that all group analysis is applied or better: There is only group analytic psychotherapy when working with patients.

The challenge is to develop training that can be applied to a variety of groups and to a variety of patients and clients; to train therapists in a variety of group work; and also to consider how supervisors get enough knowledge to guide group-analytic therapists in their clinical work.

We have had some initiatives to begin a new survey among delegates and institutes about what kind of training they provide in applied group analyses and what kind of groups are accepted as training groups. Such a survey will enable us to know what part we can have in these matters, and how to plan study days to meet this interest.

Another big issue in many training institutes (and in the society in general) is the issue of generational change. It seems at the moment that quite a number of members of the society are about 60 years or older which must imply a need for dealing with generational issues and of handing over authority and knowledge.

Talking about age, it is 20 years since the constitution of EGATIN was signed at the meeting in Heidelberg in 1988. Therefore the next study days in Oslo, April 25th - 27th 2008, with the theme 'Transmitting Knowledge and Engendering Enthusiasm - EGATIN in the past, present and future', is also EGATIN's 20th Anniversary. In Oslo you will meet several former committee members (chairmen) of EGATIN, who have promised to let us have some knowledge about the development and history of EGATIN. They will also from their position in a fish bowl, present their ideas and thoughts about future development of EGATIN and training in general. It is of course also the committee's interest that there will be a vivid exchange between good, old experiences and 'new' ideas.

In regard to generational change (handing over and taking authority), I am very pleased that a grand old man Bryan Boswood, will talk about this in his presentation: 'Handing over'.

But there will be several interesting presentations. A full programme will be sent to you late December or early in January.

Your chairman has spent some time with developing and upgrading the web-site where you now can find newsletters, minutes, programmes, invitations for Study Days, e-mail lists and much more. If you can't find it on your desk, find it on the web-site!

In the future we will be much more focused on the web-site for distribution of information and material, so we want you so much to catch up with this idea.

The e-mail addresses are still not open because of confidentiality, but we will probably in the near future use this option and send out EGATIN e-mail addresses to the delegates. So please prepare and update names and addresses of delegates from your institutes. The name / password for the 'members only' site is: egatinmedlem / 3g471n

In 2008 the committee will meet in January at the Turvey Monastery for the intermediate meeting, then in April in Oslo for the study days. Also, I think that most of us will see each other in Dublin, where EGATIN will have a workshop and a social group (EGATIN AGORA).

In Budapest IGA-Heidelberg offered to host the Study-days in 2009. The Institutes of GRAS and Heidelberg would contact Münster in order to liaise and organise the Study Days together. The committee would like to hear more about this arrangement. Dublin was interested to host the Study Days in 2010. Another possibility was one of the Greek Institutes.

I believe that you all are busy in your social as well as in your professional lives, but I hope Christmas and New Year will give you some free and good time with friends and families.

All the best from

Kristian Valbak
Chairman of EGATIN