

LETTER

The European Association for Counselling (EAC) is proud to be the main sponsor for this valuable and unique journal dedicated to the growth and development of counselling. We congratulate Dr Stephen Palmer and his co-editors for all their hard work in bringing the Journal from a concept to reality.

On 4-6 December 1992, individuals from European countries gathered in Montecatini, Italy to set the foundation of a new European Association. There were 53 participants from countries such as Belgium; Denmark; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Ireland; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Spain and Switzerland signed up to make the Association happen.

These founding members set some challenging objectives out of this gathering which included:

- I. To help give counselling a voice in talking to governments
- II. To take steps in establishing an Association for Counsellors who do not qualify for existing Associations.
- III. To clarify a definition of counselling
- IV. To establish accepted training standards for both basic and accredited counsellors.
- V. To establish a common standard of high level training and competency that will be recognised by a European Certificate which will be accepted by all member countries of the EAC as a licence to practice.
- VI. Enhance credibility of the counselling profession & to help establish counselling as the leading profession in mental health.

It was recognised that once a person reached the minimum standard of theory and practice, many would want to continue their education beyond this level. From this, the level of theory and practice was set and the award of the European Certificate of Counsellor Accreditation established. This certificate is of growing importance as the EAC truly reflects the voice of counselling throughout Europe. Full details can be obtained in the Professional Training Standards and Accreditation booklet available from the EAC website at <http://eac.eu.com>.

Membership of the EAC is open to all individuals and organisations who support and endorse the objectives of the EAC and meet the criteria for the level of membership they apply for as set by the EAC Governing board. Membership details can be found on the EAC Website in the Membership section.

The EAC holds conferences in different parts of Europe, details of our next conference can be found elsewhere in the Journal and on the EAC Website.

As the EAC approaches its 25th anniversary I invite anyone who is interested in either individual or organisational membership to contact us at info@eac.eu.com. We also wish this Journal many happy and successful years in the future.

Regards

Yvonne Kruijff

EAC President

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