

CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR LANGUAGE TESTING AND ASSESSMENT (EALTA)

Adopted 23.04.2004 (revised 04.06.2005; 08.06.2009; 09.09.2013; 05.06.2017; 26.05.2018; 31.05.2019)

- 1. Name:** The European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA).
- 2. Objects:** EALTA is an international, non-political and independent association of professionals which aims to cover and represent the interests of those who work in language testing and assessment or associated areas of language education and applied linguistics in Europe. Its Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives, Activities, Categories of Membership and Terms and Conditions are the subject of separate documents which are posted on the EALTA website at www.ealta.eu.org.
- 3. Administration:**
 - a. The Association year will be the calendar year, from January to December.
 - b. The Governing Body of the Association will be a General Meeting of Members in good standing.
 - c. There will be an Annual General Meeting once every Association year.
 - d. The Annual General Meeting will have the following duties:
 - i To receive a report on the work of the Association in the period since the previous Annual General Meeting.
 - ii To appoint an auditor for the current Association year.
 - iii To receive audited accounts for the preceding Association year.
 - iv To carry out such elections as may be necessary.
 - v To consider any matter referred to it by the Executive Committee, defined in Section e, below.
 - vi To consider any motion submitted by any Member in writing to the Secretary before the meeting.
 - e. The Executive of the Association will be a Committee normally consisting of: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Chair of the Membership Committee, the Chair of the Committee for Conference Organisation, and a Member at Large. The Executive Committee will always include Members from at least two different countries. A single officer may combine two spheres of responsibility. However, the Committee must have no fewer than four members. The Annual General Meeting may appoint one or more Supplementary Members for specific tasks and responsibilities as may arise, and for a specified period of no more than three years.
 - f. The President will serve a three-year term, which is preceded by a one-year term as Upcoming President. There will only be one presidential election, i.e., that as Upcoming President, which takes place at the beginning of the third year of the current Presidency. After the President's three-year term is completed, he or she is not eligible for immediate re-election in the same capacity, but she or he remains available for informal consultation during the first year of the following Presidency. The term of office of any Supplementary Members will be between one and three years as determined by the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Membership Committee, the Chair of the Committee for Conference Organisation and the Member at Large will be elected for a three-year term and may serve no more than two successive terms in the same capacity. The Annual General Meeting may however choose to elect either or all of these five officers for a shorter term of one or two years.

In the event that the officer is elected for a one-year term only, then that officer will remain eligible to serve two further successive terms in that capacity.

- g. The postal address of the Association as well as the responsibility for the maintenance and updating of the website will reside with the Secretary.
- h. The Membership Committee will normally consist of a Chair, elected at the Annual General Meeting, and three specialists proposed for the post by the Chair, from at least two different countries, and approved by the Executive Committee. Each Member of the Membership Committee serves a term of two years. Each Member can be appointed to serve on the Membership Committee for no more than two consecutive terms in the same capacity. The Members can decide to resign from their service on the committee before their term expiration. In such case, the Members must notify the Chair at least 30 calendar days before their resignation date.
- i. The Committee for Conference Organisation will normally consist of a Chair and two members. The Chair will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The two members will be representatives from the two institutions hosting the immediate past and the forthcoming EALTA conferences (one member from each institution).
- j. Candidates for the Executive Committee should be nominated and seconded at the latest two weeks before the Annual General Meeting when the election is to take place. If by then no candidates have been nominated by the membership, the executive committee has the right to find a candidate, and to nominate and second him/her at the latest at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office of the elected candidates commences immediately after the Annual General Meeting at which they have been elected or not later than the beginning of the next calendar year.
- k. The Executive Committee will have the power to replace members who resign and to co-opt up to three additional members. Such decisions must be ratified or changed at the next Annual General Meeting.
- l. The President will chair all Annual General Meetings during his or her term of office. In the absence of the President, the Committee members, or the Annual General Meeting, as the case may be, will elect a chairperson for the occasion.
- m. The Executive Committee will have the following duties:
 - i. To promote and disseminate the content of the Mission Statement.
 - ii. To approve all changes to the content of the Association's website.
 - iii. To organize publications and activities according to the objects of the Association.
 - iv. To ensure that the finances of the Association are in good order and are used only in pursuit of the objects of the Association.
 - v. To respond to the wishes of the Members, consistent with the objects of the Association, as expressed in General Meetings.
 - vi. To provide reports and accounts for the Members and submit them to the Annual General Meeting.
- n. Papers summoning the Annual General Meeting will be e-mailed to reach Members at least twenty-one days before the meeting is due to take place. When possible the Annual General Meeting will be combined with the Annual Conference of the Association.
- o. The Executive Committee may summon a Special General Meeting to deal with urgent business. They will be obliged to summon such a meeting if twenty Members of the Association

make a request for a meeting in writing. For Special General Meetings, twenty-eight days notice will be given unless, in the opinion of the Committee, the business is so urgent that shorter notice is required.

- p. There will be no quorum for General Meetings.
- q. A Committee meeting will be quorate if the President and two Committee members are present.
- r. At all meetings, the President will have the casting vote.
- s. The Association's annual accounts, prepared by the Treasurer under the authority of the Committee, will be presented for audit, within two months of the Association year, to an auditor, who is not a member of the Committee, and who has been appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

4. Membership categories and eligibility

- a. The Membership Committee shall admit to Membership any person who, or institution which, submits a Membership application, who meets the stipulated conditions for Membership, and pays the appropriate subscription, where applicable.
- b. The rates of subscription, including the subscription period and the different subscriptions to be paid by different categories of Membership, will be determined by the Annual General Meeting, and made public on the website of the Association.
- c. An existing Member who fails to pay the appropriate subscription will be deemed to have resigned and will lose the rights of Membership.
- d. An existing Member who fails to accept changes to the Terms and Conditions of Membership will be deemed to have resigned.
- e. Other than as provided in Sections 4c and 4d, no Member will lose Membership and no applicant will be denied admission, other than by a decision of the Membership Committee. In such cases there will be a right of appeal to the President. Entitlements of the various categories of Membership can be varied by proposal of the Executive Committee approved by an Annual General Meeting.

4.1. Individual Membership

Individual Membership is free and open to all those individuals working or living in Member States of the European Union or of the Council of Europe with an interest and preferably an involvement in language testing and / or assessment.

4.2. Associate Membership

Associate Membership is free and open to anybody involved in language testing and assessment who is not otherwise eligible to join EALTA. Associate Members can attend EALTA conferences, including the Annual General Meeting, and have voting rights. Associate Members are not eligible as Members of the Executive Committee.

4.3. Institutional Membership

Institutional Membership incurs a fee, and is open to those organisations/institutions engaged in language testing or assessment, related materials development, or teaching or research in language testing and / or assessment who have a European presence (i.e. are based in one of the

47 member states of the Council of Europe or have branches in these countries). If there are several such branches, these would be required to apply individually for membership.

4.4. Expert Membership

Expert Membership is an extension of Individual and Associate Membership, but is restricted to those who qualify as experts. **Expert Membership is free.** "Expert" signifies a person who can make informed professional judgements on various aspects related to language testing and assessment. Each candidate must normally fulfil the following requirements to qualify for Expert Membership of EALTA:

Essential

- Existing Membership of EALTA
- Higher degree in language testing or in a related field
- Documented participation in test design, development and validation of significant tests or public examinations
- Documented participation in research on some aspect of language testing and assessment
- Consultancies to organisations, institutions or projects
- Presentation of papers at professional conferences.

Preferred

- A doctorate in language testing or in a related field
- Teaching experience in language testing or a related field
- Articles on language testing - published in internationally recognised journals
- Books on language testing and assessment or a related field.

4.5. Affiliate Sister Association

The membership category of Affiliate Sister Associations refers to associations in the field of language education and research, including language learning, language teaching and language assessment that wish to be affiliated with EALTA, in order to explore ways of cooperation, such as exchanging ideas and expertise, or organising joint events.

5. Voting rights

Only Individual and Associate Members present at the Annual General Meeting have the right to vote. Votes can only be cast *in presentia*.

6. Interpretation

- a. The provisions of this Constitution can be amended, deleted or added to only by an Annual General Meeting and only if a precise motion to that effect is included in the papers summoning the meeting and is approved by two thirds of those voting.
- b. Any function properly deriving from the objects of this Association will be the responsibility of the Committee acting under the provisions of the Constitution.