

EALTA Annual General Meeting 2022

Saturday 4 June 2022, 15:30-17.00

Central European University, Budapest

Present: Conference participants; only those 50 who are members of EALTA had voting rights.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the agenda and
Approval of the minutes from the 2021 AGM (Appendix A)
2. Reports on EALTA activities since the last AGM including:
 - a. Activities and events
 - b. SIGs and LaPlace C-Test initiative
 - c. Membership
 - d. Finances (Appendix B)
 - e. Registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
 - f. EALTA website and resources
 - g. Webinars
3. Appointment of the auditor for 2022 (AGM 2023)
4. Election of Trustees (Appendix C)
5. Upcoming EALTA Conferences
 - a. Helsinki
 - b. Format of future conferences; role of video conferencing: discussion
6. Venue and date of the next AGM
7. AOB

1. Approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes from the 2021 AGM

Since no changes were requested, the agenda and minutes from the Annual General Meeting 2021 were approved.

2. Reports on EALTA activities since the last AGM including:

- a. **Activities and events:** EALTA supported the online event on the use of the CEFR in Cuba (Oct. 2020). The previously planned initial event for a Language Assessment Association of the German-speaking countries (and regions) is further postponed but not cancelled.

A Task force in support of Ukraine and the researchers and teachers there was formed on Friday, June 3. Immediate steps: two members of the task force are from UALTA, and three members from the wider community, including an Executive Committee member. Mina Patel should be contacted if someone would like to volunteer. The task force is the coordinating unit. The UALTA workshop originally planned for 2020 will be further dealt with within this task force.

- b. **SIGs and LaPlace C-Test initiative:** All the SIGs were active to differential degrees. CBLA had an online meeting, all the others had F2F meetings in Budapest before the conference, except the Speaking SIG. New SIG: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion had its first meeting (Richard Spiby).

LaPlace C-Test initiative (Claudia Harsch): there is some progress in developing C-tests for a number of languages that can be made available for use in the migration context. More data is needed, so whoever might have access to students and could provide data should step forward. Thanks to Norman Verhelst, who helps with data processing. Further tests for Greek and Croatian will be developed as well as other languages. NGOs show an interest in LaPlace. (laplace.ngo lists all the participants).

Neus Figueras (CEFR SIG) briefly presents two publications relating to the CEFR with important contributions by EALTA members: 1) 'Reflecting on the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" and its "Companion Volume"'; 2) 'Aligning Language Education with the CEFR: a Handbook'. The steering group for the Handbook would welcome case studies of applications of the Handbook.

- c. **Committee for Conference Organization:** This year's is a somewhat smaller conference. Travel restrictions have impacted on attendance. A relatively small number of proposals were received, but the F2F conference is now taking place with quality presentations, 3 PCWs, several SIG meetings, an invited symposium, a special meeting on Ukraine. The conference Vademecum is still being updated. The decision on F2F vs. hybrid vs. online is to be discussed later with regard to future conferences. A call for proposals for future conferences after 2023 will be sent out later in the summer.
- d. **Membership:** the Membership Committee will step down this year. Thanks to Jay Banerjee, Monica Barni, and Dina Tsagari! The new Membership Committee consists of of Nivja de Jong, Tineke Brunfaut and Ari Huhta.

As concerns membership, 90 new individual members joined, 25 associated members, 2 institutional members, and there are 2 new expert members.

- e. **Finances** (Appendix B)

Jamie Dunlea gives special thanks to Gudrun Erickson for her work as auditor in the past couple of years.

EALTA members vote on the approval of the financial report.

Yes: 52

No: 0

Abstain: 0

- f. **Registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO):** the main EALTA bank account will be transformed into a charities account. The trustees can now be based anywhere, unlike previously when the Treasurer had to be from the UK. At the next AGM the annual accounts will be divided in two parts: before and after the acceptance as a CIO. The auditing function will need to change, because the auditor will have to be an outsider to EALTA. They will audit both parts of the accounts.

The current Executive Committee members are CIO Trustees, except for the Upcoming President during the year before they enter office. Once new people are elected to fill in the positions, they will need to be reported (online) to the Charity Commission. The new Constitution regulates fewer details than the former constitution. Therefore accompanying documents were produced to reflect the regulations contained in the former Constitution. The Executive Committee will have the right to change the documents without seeking the approval of the Charity Commission, as the Constitution will not be changed.

There is going to be a training workshop for the Trustees run by the legal executive. This will incur some extra payment.

- g. **EALTA website and resources:** The website has been redesigned. All the materials have been uploaded, however it's not up to date to the degree we would want it to be. The website is still run by Lancaster with Stephanie Strong as administrator. With the new website, we would want more updates and be faster on uploads. We are looking for ways that enable us to do so. We might want to go to private hosting. We hoped to be able to access the website through VPN, but the Lancaster account can only be accessed on-site.

We also have a Youtube channel for our videos (EALTA EALTA).

- h. **Webinars:** Over the last year, this offer has been a little bit quiet, but now things are looking up again. Charalambos Kollias hosted the most recent webinar (on online standard setting), which is available online on the YouTube channel. There is more planned for the future. Further webinars will be advertised online.

3. **Appointment of the auditor for 2022 (AGM 2023):** No decision here, as the Treasurer explained above. The person needs to be external to the association.

4. **Election of Trustees (Appendix C)**

Thanks to Eli Moe and the Nomination Group for their work.

EALTA members vote on trustees by secret ballots:

Upcoming President:

Jamie Dunlea: 50 (all in favour)

Secretary:

Cristina Rodriguez: 49 (1 invalid ballot)

Treasurer:

Voula Kanistra: 48 (2 invalid ballots)

5. Upcoming EALTA Conferences

- a. **2023 Helsinki:** Raili Hilden briefly presents the venue, a central building of the University of Helsinki.
- b. **Format of future conferences; role of video-conferencing:** discussion.
It is suggested that this point should be discussed in tandem with ILTA so that the two associations can cooperate on the issue. Norman Verhelst says that while he approves of online conferences, F2F visitors should enjoy priority. For example, they shouldn't be forced to wait if a technical problem crops up. Neus Figueras emphasizes that EALTA is a European organization, and as such F2F is the natural choice because travel distances are more reasonable. Raili Hilden adds that next year's conference organizers are not financially prepared for a hybrid option. Benjamin Kremmel says that hybrid is an idea worth exploring, but he prefers one-way hybrid. Travelling to Budapest for an online speech would not be worth the trouble. So the recommendation is that the conference could be viewed for instance by streaming. SIGs might take a different route. The Executive Committee will work on a number of options.

6. Venue and date of the next AGM: Helsinki, 17 June 2023.

7. **AOB:** There will be a membership survey to see where EALTA is headed. Peter Lenz asks the membership to participate in this online survey.

Website: Norman Verhelst says that EALTA has grown and developed and it's time we go independent from Lancaster University. He believes we can easily raise the amount of money needed for website management. Jamie Dunlea clarifies that we currently don't pay for hosting, we only pay for web management. Benjamin Kremmel agrees with Norman saying that independence is very much affordable without having to raise conference registration fees.

AGM was closed at 16.53.