Welcome to our 50th Anniversary Special Edition

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European Association for Transactional Analysis



Memories of EATA

Stories of Belonging

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eata newsletter

Mailing address:
EATA c/o Marianne Rauter
Silvanerweg 8
78464 Konstanz, Germany

+49 - 7531 -955 190

office@eatanews.org

http://www.eatanews.org



Special Edition Editorial Team:
Eva van de Randen
eata.editor@eatanews.org
Marianne Rauter, Robin Hobbes

Additional editorial members:
Ana-Marija Vidjak and **Deniz Güney**



Newsletter Design:
Javier Cormenzana
webmaster@eatanews.org

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eata 50 years european association for transactional analysis

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A note to our readers



By **Eva van de Randen**
EATA Newsletter Editor

As EATA celebrates its 50th anniversary, we wanted this special edition to be shaped by the voices of the community itself.

The articles, memories, reflections, and photographs collected in these pages are contributions generously shared by members and friends of EATA. Together, they offer a rich and personal glimpse into our collective history.

At the same time, this publication is not intended to be a comprehensive history of EATA. Rather, it is a mosaic of individual experiences, memories, and perspectives. We are very aware that many people who have contributed significantly to EATA over the past fifty years are not mentioned here. This is not a reflection of their importance, but simply of the contributions we received.

EATA has been built by countless individuals whose commitment, passion, and generosity have shaped our community over the years.

Readers may also notice gaps in the timeline. As with any collection based on voluntary contributions, some periods are more richly represented than others.

We hope these stories will nevertheless help to illuminate the spirit, growth, and evolution of EATA across the decades.
Many of the photographs included in this edition come from personal archives.

While we have done our best to identify people, places, and dates, complete information was not always available. For that reason, not every photograph has a full caption.

What follows is therefore not a history book, but something perhaps equally valuable: a collection of memories.

Together, these memories tell the story not only of an association, but of a community of people connected through Transactional Analysis across generations, cultures, and countries.



Happy 50th Anniversary, EATA

Celebrating 50 years



By **Deniz Güney**
EATA Vice-President
50th Anniversary Coordinator

This special edition is one of several ways in which EATA's 50th anniversary is being marked throughout 2026.

Throughout the year, each edition of the EATA Newsletter has focused on the anniversary, exploring different aspects of EATA's history, development, and community. This special issue brings together personal memories, historical reflections, photographs, and contributions from across the EATA network. As a result, there will be no regular autumn edition of the newsletter this year.

The anniversary year has also seen the introduction of EATA's renewed visual identity, including a new logo and corporate style, reflecting both the organisation's heritage and its ongoing evolution.

On 15 July, members and friends of EATA gathered online for a special event marking the official anniversary of EATA's foundation. The celebration offered an opportunity to reflect on five decades of growth, cooperation, professional development, and community.

Another anniversary initiative is a series of video interviews with former EATA Presidents. Through their recollections and reflections, these conversations offer valuable insights into different periods of EATA's history. While many former Presidents were able to contribute, some are sadly no longer with us, making these recorded memories especially meaningful.
The stories collected in this publication are complemented by these interviews and by many informal acts of remembering, reconnecting, and celebrating taking place throughout the year within affiliated associations and the wider EATA community.

The year will conclude with the EATA Research Conference in Rome in December. Although the conference is not formally part of the 50th Anniversary programme, it provides a fitting opportunity for members to gather during this milestone year. Alongside its focus on research, learning, and professional exchange, EATA's anniversary will no doubt be celebrated there as well.

As we mark fifty years of EATA, we celebrate not only the achievements of the past, but also the people, relationships, and shared vision that continue to shape our association and community today.

EATA at 50
Connection, Courage and Community



By **Sylvia Schachner**
EATA President

Fifty years ago, EATA was founded as a place where people from different countries, cultures and professional backgrounds could come together through a shared interest in Transactional Analysis.

Today, as we celebrate EATA's 50th anniversary, I find myself reflecting not only on where we have come from, but also on what continues to connect us across generations.

When I became President, I had a vision. I wanted EATA to become more accessible, more visible and more connected. I wanted members to feel closer to EATA, but also closer to one another.

One thing I had realised during my years of involvement was that there can be a considerable difference between how EATA is perceived from the outside and how it is experienced from within. From the outside, people sometimes see structure, procedures and distance. From the inside, I have experienced something different: a welcoming, friendly and deeply connected community.

One of the most rewarding developments has been seeing new opportunities for connection emerge. Over recent years, webinars, online meetings and digital communication have made it possible for people to participate, contribute and connect in ways that were not available before. These developments have helped make EATA more accessible and have brought members, committees and Council closer together.

My presidency coincided with extraordinary circumstances. I was elected during an online Council in the middle of the COVID pandemic. Suddenly we had to find entirely new ways to continue our work, maintain quality and stay connected. Soon afterwards, Europe faced another challenge with the outbreak of war. These events tested not only our organisational structures but also our values.



Together we explored new ways of supporting one another, including online examinations, support networks and initiatives that continue to provide assistance to colleagues today. Looking back, I am proud of the speed, commitment and solidarity with which members across Europe responded.

Yet when I think about fifty years of EATA, it is not the challenges alone that come to mind.

What stands out most strongly is the atmosphere that exists whenever people meet. There is something special about the connections formed through EATA.

No matter how much time has passed, there is often an immediate sense of familiarity, friendship and shared purpose. We can discuss serious professional questions, share personal experiences and laugh together. For me, this spirit of connection is one of EATA's greatest strengths.

It is also what I am most grateful for. Over many years and in many different roles, EATA has become an important part of my life. Through EATA I have widened my frame of reference far beyond what I imagined when I first started my TA training. I have built friendships and professional networks across Europe and met people from different countries, cultures, ages and professions. We are diverse in many ways, yet connected through shared values and a common commitment to learning and development.

A s we celebrate fifty years of EATA, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this community: members, volunteers, trainers, examiners, delegates, committee members and leaders across generations.

The story of EATA has always been a story of people. And thanks to all of you, that story continues.

Sylvia Schachner
EATA President



50 Years of Connection, Learning and Growth

From 1975 to 2026

What started as a gathering of TA enthusiasts in Villars became a European community of learning, professional excellence and human connection.

For 50 years, EATA has been built by its members.


The International Transactional Analysis Association
Certificate of Teaching Membership
Is presented To
Eric Berne, M.D.
Having fulfilled all the requirements of the Association for this advanced class of membership,
on March 25, 1960 at San Francisco, Calif.

1976 – 16 July
EATA is founded.

The new EATA Council members present at Chamonix. Left to right, back row: Pascal Cottenier, Jose Frazao Duarte, Ian Pizer, Julie Hay, Jürgen Schlaegel-Prochaska, Janne Blarke (observer), Lise Small, Oddmund Teigen. Front row: Gudrun Hennig, Martine Bussat (executive secretary), Nicole Duhamel, Marjatta Andersson, Pia Utria.



1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987

1975 – First European TA Conference in Villars.

The European network that would become EATA begins to take shape.



FIRST "TRAINING ENDORSEMENT WORKSHOP" HELD AT VILLARS
The three days immediately following the Villars Conference saw the first-ever Training Endorsement Workshop to be organised by BoC. This new workshop replaced the "PTM Contract Workshops" which had existed under the previous accreditation system. As you can see from this cheerful photograph taken at the close of the T.E.W., both staff and participants found it a challenging, enjoyable and successful event. Workshop co-ordinator Marilyn Zalcman is at the far left of the photo.



1984, The new Council members and officers are pictured immediately after their election at Villars.

What members remember most



2000 EATA Council meeting: from left to right: Jan Hennig, President; Roland Johnsson, Chair of PTSC; Adrienne Lee, UK delegate; Isabelle Crespelle, Vice-president,Chair of COC; George Escribano, Chair of Ethics; Jeanne Laurent, Chair of Translation Task Force.



1999. Some Council members during the General Assembly. From left : Adrienne Lee, UK; Roberta Gajauskiene, Lithuania; Lila Tuisku, Finland; Oddmund Teigen, Norway; Georges Escribano, France; Milena Lepierova, Czech Republic; María] Nabradi, Hungary; Nada Zanko, Croatia.





1999 Rome General Assembly. From left: Houdji Wilwertz, Belgium; Sally Cuénin, Switzerland, Maria Tosi, Italy; Martine Huon, France, Ingrid Schweiger, Austria; Jeanne Laurent, Switzerland; Maryke Wusten, Netherlands; Isabelle Crespelle, France; Jan Hennig, Germany.

1989 – First EATA Conference in an Eastern European country: Zagreb.

1988 **1989** **1990** 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 **1996** 1997 1998 1999 2000

1990 – Joint ITAA-EATA Conference in Brussels.

1996 – EATA becomes an independent European association while maintaining collaboration and mutual recognition with ITAA.



Joint Meeting of ITAA and EATA boards. Front row from left to right: Barbara Classen (Switzerland, EATA), Claude Steiner (USA, ITAA), Adrienne Lee (England, EATA), Charlotte Sills (England, EATA), Jim Allen (USA, ITAA), Isabelle Crespelle (France, EATA), Felipe Garcia (USA, ITAA) second row from left to right: Jan Hennig (Germany, EATA and ITAA), Martine Huon (France, EATA), Roland Johnsson (Sweden, EATA), Vern Masse (USA, ITAA), Servaas van Beekum (Australia, ITAA), Ingrid Schweiger (Austria, EATA), Marian Weisfeld (USA, ITAA), Günter Mohr (Germany, ITAA), Gordon Hewitt (New Zealand, ITAA), Linda Gregory (Australia, ITAA).

Participants in the first Ukrainian TA 101, including organiser Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko (front row, second from left). To her left is Margarita Aleksandrovna Zvyagina, whose efforts to publicise the workshop were largely responsible for its success; Thomas Ohlsson, 101 teacher, is in the second row, (with the striped shirt and beard).





The new EATA Executive Committee second row from left: Treasurer Dr. Jan Hennig, Chair of PTSC Carla de Nitto, Past President Maria Teresa Tosi, General Secretary Elect Roos Ikelaar, Vice President Magdalena Sekowska first row from left: Vice-President Nicoleta Gheorghe, New President Sabine Klingenberg, General Secretary Jenny Bridge. 2010



Council 2017 in Berlin
President Krispijn Plettenberg.



EATA Council in Edinburgh

2007-2010 – Research and professional development expand significantly.

2001 2002 **2003** 2004 2005 2006 **2007** **2008** **2009** **2010** 2011 **2012** 2013

2003 – First two-day European TA Trainers Meeting in Malmö with more than 100 participants.

2012 – Major structural reform and new statutes. TDRC established and Ethics Advisor role moved outside Council.



Group work of the trainers. 1999



Vienna Council



Council 2022 Belgrade



EATA 40th Anniversary





Council 2024 Varna

2016 – Ethical Review Panel approved by Council.

2025 – Second presidential term of Sylvia Schachner begins. Strategy Group launched.

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

2023 – EATA and ITAA publish a Joint Statement on Mutual Recognition.

50 years

2026 – EATA celebrates 50 years and looks toward the next 50.



EATA Council Bucharest 2012



March meeting Chairs and EC in Florence

Council 2025 Varna



The gifts of EATA

Generosity	Connection	Learning
Respect	Excellence	Diversity
Growth	Belonging	

EATA in numbers

50	8,9k	28	44	700+	∞
years	members	countries	associations	trainers	countless connections

The anniversary memories reveal recurring themes that have shaped EATA throughout its history.

Connection

- Friendships across borders
- Annual conferences
- Meeting again and again through the years
- A sense of belonging

Learning

- TA 101 experiences
- Professional development
- CTA and TSTA journeys
- Sharing knowledge across Europe

Leadership & Service

- Delegates and committees
- Ethics and standards
- Voluntary contribution
- Building a professional community

Crossing Borders

- Different languages
- Different cultures
- Shared values
- European cooperation

Personal Growth

- Career development
- Life transitions
- Professional identity
- Confidence and autonomy

1975–1976: An Idea Takes Shape



By **Marijke Arendsen Hein**
TSTA Psychotherapy and Counselling

"Your Adult can listen and participate properly only when your Child feels comfortable. Therefore, I would like you to pause for a moment and consider whether you would enjoy having the person sitting behind you gently massage your shoulders. Likewise, you may offer the same to the person sitting in front of you."

I had never experienced anything like that at a scientific conference.

After some hesitation, I joined in and experienced a warmhearted sense of connection. The ice was immediately broken and, indeed, my Child felt accepted and welcomed.



It was the summer of 1976 and I was attending an international TA conference in Villars, Switzerland, for the first time. In my memory, it was also the conference where EATA was founded. Mary Goulding was one of the initiators, and one of her students was my trainer, Arnold van Westering.

The atmosphere was hopeful, innovative, and perhaps a little overenthusiastic.
With TA, we truly believed we could make a difference.

Our clients were our equals, people who had experienced many traumas during their childhood. In order to survive, they had developed their Script by making decisions that were functional at the time. But the good news was that they could now make new decisions and give their lives a different direction. It sounded like music to my ears, a joyful message: *You do not have a disease. You can do something about it yourself.*

I feel grateful that TA came into my life, that I completed the examinations, and that I was able to contribute to the development of TA in Europe. The structure that EATA continues to provide still guarantees the quality of professionals working with TA. I have learned so much from TA, both professionally in my field of psychotherapy and personally in my own life.

There in Villars, together with five other. women, I helped to establish a peer supervision group. We became a stable group: women from six different EATA countries. What one of us did not know, the others could add.

Even after completing our TA examinations, we continued working on ourselves within that group. Three times a year we met for two days. We discussed literature, difficult cases, personal successes, setbacks, and how to deal with them.

We spoke Danish, English, Dutch and French, yet we shared the same language: TA.
We respected one another, challenged one another, supported one another. But above all, we learned from one another.

The life position I'm OK, You're OK has become a lasting attitude in my life, something I continue to strive for every day.

Thank you, Eric Berne. Thank you, EATA. Thank you, NVTA.

A story (and a bit of history) of EATA



By **Jan Hennig**
EATA President 1999 - 2001

This article – in addition to the cited facts – expresses my personal view of EATA, personal impressions, memories and opinions. I am writing this to facilitate an understanding of EATA – what it is and what it is not – for those who have questions or are interested in the history of EATA.

My knowledge is from experience (I am a member of EATA since 1978 and have served in many roles over the years on EATA boards and committees) and from re-reading all EATA newsletters and many of the ITAA Scripts from the last 30 years.

In July 1975 the first international TA conference in Europe took place in Villars in Switzerland and was a great success.

The enthusiasm was immense and all over Europe were people training in TA and beginning to form TA associations in their countries and with their languages. Most of these founding people were members of ITAA (with the headquarters still in San Francisco) and were training with trainers from ITAA, mostly Americans. At this legendary conference they met for the first time and realized, that they were already many in Europe.



Out of this enthusiasm, with the strong support of Bob and Mary Goulding (who were, together with others, the initiators of this conference) a group of European Transactional Analysts started as a "steering committee" with the clear goal to form and install a European Association for Transactional Analysis – EATA. After at least 3 meetings from autumn 1975 until July 1976 EATA was founded and domiciliated in Geneva in Switzerland. At meetings at the second TA conference in Europe, in Enschede in the Netherlands in July 1976, the first EATA council was formed and it elected at the first EATA council meeting in October 1976 its first officers: President: Michael Reddy (Great Britain), first Vice President: Carlo Moiso (Italy), second Vice President: Konstanz Robertson-Rose (Switzerland) and Treasurer: Raimond Hostie (Belgium).

8 years later, in the EATA newsletter from June 1984, Michael Reddy, the first EATA president, wrote about the origins of EATA:

"EATA began in a bar. At any rate, I like to think it did. To be precise, it was the bar of the Club Mediterranée in Villars in the summer of 1975.

At least I think it was. There were three of us drinking in there – Arnold van Westering, Konstanz Robertson-Rose and myself. I think it was me anyway. This is simply to say that what follows is a purely personal account of the origins of EATA. Experience has taught me that I don't always remember history the same way as those I shared it with. I have always had a certain sympathy for those who write history: I now have a fresher understanding of those who are under the impression they have also been making it.

Anyway, while we three were mulling over the chances of a European TA association, d*oubtless there were other small groups muttering darkly about the same thing in other corners of other bars.*

Because the next vivid recollection is of a much larger group of all the Europeans at the same conference who had had the same surprise to discover there were so many across Europe already well into TA.

Then, all of a sudden, we discovered: there are probably a couple of hundred of us: and seventy or so are already gathered in the Yoga Room of the Club Mediterranée to seriously discuss the founding of EATA.

Despite the Yoga Room this was not a meditative assembly – more like the Tower of Babel – and if we had needed any further excitement (which we did not), it was provided by the irruption of a South American gentleman who was passionately determined to address the meeting on his own behalf.

We concluded in any case with the resolution to form a Steering Committee which in turn evolved into the first Council of EATA, and I had the great pleasure of serving on it for four years.

The last series of vivid mental images are of the various Council meetings during that time: in Brussels, in Paris, in London, in Yvoire, fogbound in Munich. In Elsinor, in Enschede, in Seefeld and in Rome. There are two things about those meetings: subjective impressions again, but perhaps important and perhaps shared by others.The first is that the members of those first Councils, as of subsequent ones too I have no doubt, were all very much individualists. It was alleged from time to time that there was a fair component of Rebellious Child. And why not? Both theoretically and personally it has sometimes amazed me and sometimes hurt that this could be said as a matter of accusation. But Viva the Rebellious Child, say I. And Viva likewise the positive aspects of Adapted Child and Critical Parent which are neglected in some of our theory and practice.

The second important aspect of those first meetings was the surprise that we actually achieved something. As individualists we were not naturally the best committee members, yet just as we reached a conclusion at the end of that first meeting in the Yoga Room and put it into practice, so we brought into being a viable organization which is now in its tenth year. The clue lies in two things: First, the great pleasure and enjoyment we had in each other's company. Nothing else would have taken me, and it was true of others too, away from home so frequently for four years at some considerable personal cost in time and expense.

The second element was the extraordinary composition of those early Councils. There was one period when no single member was married to someone of his or her own culture. The Dutchman had an American partner, the English a Spanish one. The Spanish representative was married to a Hungarian, the Swedish to an Englishman, the Swiss to a Norwegian, and so on. It was a genuinely cosmopolitan group, without being pretentious about it. It was just naturally so. The weakness of such a group was that it disguised the fact that the the national groups we represented were not in such close harmony themselves. For me, the strength of EATA lies primarily in the regional

and national groupings. In my view, EATA was always destined to be more of a federal organization. But because the early Council members had crossed national boundaries themselves, we perhaps did not see that was not equally true for the different people we represented. Perhaps we wasted energy at the beginning in attempting to create centralised organs.

This is wisdom by hindsight. Perhaps it had to be so. What I carry with me and will treasure to the end of my days is the closeness I had with those people, the experiences we shared together, and the recollection of such intense moments. Which all started in the bar at Villars.
Or was it the bar? I'm sure it was. Wasn't it?"

As the leading principles of EATA I only cite the current preamble of our statutes, which gives the spirit and goals of EATA:

"EATA's guiding principle is to develop, sustain and protect Transactional Analysis philosophy, theory and practice. Fundamental to this is respect for autonomy and the dignity of all humanity.

EATA will, therefore, actively promote individuality, diversity and community at affiliate association and individual membership levels. The association is underpinned by a commitment to TA principles, especially those of confidence and trust in self and others, a contractual method and the human capacity to solve problems and grow.
The association is governed by democratic principles and accountability as defined by contracts between the affiliated associations and EATA."

Two other leading principles, which are not less important, are and always were:

- The quality of TA shall be protected through clear and strong qualification processes, and these shall be controlled internationally. Out of this principle, training and examination was always one core activity within EATA.
- All TA qualifications shall be mutually recognised worldwide.
- The international cooperation, respect and recognition shall not end at the borders of Europe, but shall be realised worldwide. This included the commitment to co-create, together with ITAA (the International Transactional Analysis Association), the standards for training and examinations worldwide.

EATA developed as an organisation of (national) organisations with only a handful individual members and this was always important: EATA acts in the interest of its member organisations, and this is secured through democratic structures and procedures.

Of course, this was not always easy and the history of EATA shows a lot of conflicts of all kinds, but in the end EATA seems to be still a story of success.

Note: all further details of the history of EATA can be looked up in the EATA newsletter – all issues since No. 1 in October 1977 until No. 110 in June 2014 and also the minutes of meetings and discussions are stored in the EATA archives at the EATA office in Konstanz in Germany.

EATA 50 Years



By **Laurie Hawkes**
DESS in Clinical Psychology
CTA

It is not easy to describe my early experience of EATA, and even pre-EATA. Looking back, it feels as if I was a little kid in the summer of 1975. In fact, I was 20 years old when the first TA conference in Europe was held in Villars-sur-Ollon at Club Med.

It was a fabulous experience, discovering so many different people "speaking" TA. It was amazing to see the many possibilities a conference could offer. Every workshop was new and exciting. Meeting European TA colleagues from other countries was equally inspiring. It felt as though a whole new world was beginning to open up.



The three days immediately following the Villars Conference saw the first-ever Training Endorsement Workshop to be organised by BoC. This new workshop replaced the "PTM Contract Workshops" which had existed under the previous accreditation system. As you can see from this cheerful photograph taken at the close of the T.E.W., both staff and participants found it a challenging, enjoyable and successful event. Workshop co-ordinator Marilyn Zalcman is at the far left of the photo.

People like Michael Reddy really made an impression on me. I loved his humility. I still remember his story about starting out as a therapist: "When I think about my first sessions, I turn pink with embarrassment." Hearing that was incredibly liberating.

Someone had written on a board: **THERAPIST // THE RAPIST** and went on to explain how professionals should be extremely careful with clients' boundaries. Carlo Moiso was there too, enthusiastically embracing people and engaging intellectually with everyone he met. His long black hair gave him something of a Rasputin-like air. Tom Frazier generously shared his kindness, both with the conference organisation and with anyone who wanted to talk about TA. And of course there was Fanita English, our polyglot European-American, an incredibly vivacious woman with a powerful presence. A number of Europeans came together with the idea of creating a European association.

My memories are somewhat hazy, but I recall volunteering to be the contact person in France, as using English came easily to me. Throughout the following year there was quite a bit of correspondence, although I did not continue for long because I was a broke and overworked student. Meanwhile, in France, following that conference, we founded our own TA association, IFAT (Institut Français d'Analyse Transactionnelle). By the time the second conference in Europe was held in Enschede, the Netherlands, I was fortunate enough to serve as a semi-official interpreter for a small group of French speakers, whispering translations to them from the back of the room. After that came the annual conferences in Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Italy and elsewhere.

By the time we returned to Villars in 1984 for another conference at the same Club Med, the staff had identified a particularly amusing aspect of our community. I found them hilarious as they mimicked us, delighted to see one another again after one or several years apart. We would reconnect with people whose faces we recognised instantly, while

discreetly trying to catch a glimpse of their name tags because we were not entirely sure we remembered their names. The staff perfectly imitated our enthusiastic greetings: opening our arms wide for a hug while simultaneously sneaking a look at the name tag!

So many wonderful people returned year after year: Jenni Hine and Margareta Robinson from Switzerland, Janne Blarke from Denmark, and Raymond Hostie, who played such an important role in the French-speaking TA community.

He founded the French-language journal Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle and later wrote the wonderful book Analyse Transactionnelle: l'âge adulte. Sur les traces d'Eric Berne vingt ans après (Transactional Analysis: The Adult Age. In Eric Berne's Footsteps Twenty Years Later).

Of course, I am naming only a few of the people whose faces emerge from my memories today. But even these are enough to remind me what rich and remarkable years those were.



Joint Meeting of ITAA and EATA boards
front row from left to right: Barbara Classen (Switzerland, EATA), Claude Steiner (USA, ITAA), Adrienne Lee (England, EATA), Charlotte Sills (England, EATA), Jim Allen (USA, ITAA), Isabelle Crespelle (France, EATA), Felipe Garcia (USA, ITAA)
second row from left to right: Jan Hennig (Germany, EATA and ITAA), Martine Huon (France, EATA), Roland Johnsson (Sweden, EATA), Vern Masse (USA, ITAA), Servaas van Beekum (Australia, ITAA), Ingrid Schweiger (Austria, EATA), Marian Weisfeld (USA, ITAA), Günter Mohr (Germany, ITAA), Gordon Hewitt (New Zealand, ITAA), Linda Gregory (Australia, ITAA)

Growth and Expansion (1977-2000s)

EATA Memorys



By **Isabelle Crespelle**
TSTA-P



Four EATA-members passed their TSTA-Exam on Aug. 6th, 2003 in Oaxaca, Mexico (from right to left): Sari van Poelje, Netherlands (O); Jésus Cuadra, Spain (P); Nicole Pierre, France (E); Dr. Fritz Mautsch, Germany (O) with Isabelle Crespelle, exam supervisor in front. Congratulations and best wishes for your further work as TA-trainers.

I attended the EATA Conference in Seefeld in 1977. I took my TA 101 with Raymond Hostie and discovered Fanita English, then 61 years old, who gave a brilliant presentation on child growth. She spoke fluent English, French and German and needed no interpreter. I was fascinated, and we became close friends until her death at the age of 105. She received the EATA Gold Medal at the Prague Conference in 1991 and was so proud! I enjoyed being Vice-President of EATA under the presidencies of Adrienne Lee, Charlotte Sills and Jan Hennig. At the same time, I was also the European representative in ITAA alongside Carlo Moiso. I served on both the COC and the BOC. I am happy to have contributed to securing a vote in both organisations to ensure that the same standards and rules for CTA and TSTA examinations were respected throughout the world.

Thanks to EATA, I had the opportunity to introduce TA in several Eastern European and Asian countries through various TA 101 courses: Hungary, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Iran and Kazakhstan.

I am deeply grateful to EATA for these wonderful experiences!

2000s

Professionalisation and Leadership



By **Adrienne Lee**
TSTA-P

I can remember the emotion I felt when, as the new President of EATA in 2004, I looked round the room of delegates at our first Council Meeting.

Over 30 European delegates gathered around one table, set aside language barriers, and passionately worked to build a stronger EATA. Backed by great enthusiasm and funding, it was one of the proudest highlights of my career.

In those three years we launched a new Ethics Code and updated the Constitution, but I was most delighted to launch the Presidents' Meeting, where the leaders of national TA associations could meet and share their experience and resources, and the OutReach programme, where we held our Executive meetings in countries that needed extra support to promote TA. The members of the Executive Committee not only had our own intensive meetings, we also ran workshops for a one-day conference at the venue. The gifts of EATA still are generosity, connection, standards of excellence and deep respect for all our differences. Our new Joint Mission Statement with ITAA now honours our interconnection and social and ecological responsibility. At last we have gone beyond Autonomy to Homonomy! I am proud to be a member of EATA and sincerely thank all the past Presidents, Chairs of Committees and Council Delegates for their loyalty, integrity and hard work.



2003-2026

Renewal and Connection



By **Marianne Rauter**
EATA Executive Secretary

When Jan Hennig asked me whether I would like to take over the EATA office, I had already been Executive Director of the German Transactional Analysis Association for several years and was therefore familiar with the structures of training in Transactional Analysis.



I was happy to accept the challenge and one day set off in my red VW Passat for Aix-en-Provence, where the long-serving Executive Secretary, Martine Huon, would introduce me to the role and hand over the files.

At the beginning, I shared the position with Charlie King, Executive Secretary of the English association, as I was not entirely confident in my language skills. However, after Charlie decided to pursue other activities a short time later, I took over the role completely.

My first trip to a Council Meeting took me to Timișoara, Romania, in 2004. From the very beginning, I was fascinated by the collaboration between 30 delegates from 23 countries. In 2026, 30 delegates and around 10 to 15 officers will meet in Prague for the Council Meeting.



What impressed me from the start was how people from all over Europe worked together on a common goal: making Transactional Analysis better known and ensuring that training as a Transactional Analyst was comparable across international borders.

I particularly enjoyed the different temperaments and found it especially reassuring that, apart from the delegates from the UK, none of us were native English speakers. Everyone communicated cheerfully according to their own language abilities, and somehow we always managed to understand one another, although the British occasionally had to be asked to please speak a little more slowly ;-)

At the beginning, EATA's membership consisted mainly of Western European associations, but over time it expanded eastwards to include countries such as Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.



During my time with EATA, membership increased from 6,385 in 2003 to 8,945 in 2025. The fields of application of Transactional Analysis have also expanded. Alongside the clinical field, TA is now widely used in counselling, organisations and education.

EATA has been through both good times and challenging times. A major turning point was the pandemic in 2020, which also changed the way EATA works. Increasingly, meetings shifted from in-person gatherings to online formats. This made the work faster and more varied, which certainly reflects the spirit of our times. Today, there is a growing focus on structure and well-defined processes, making EATA's work more transparent and efficient.



This is my final year as Executive Secretary of EATA, as I will retire at the end of the year. I am deeply grateful for all the trust and friendship that have been shown to me, and for all the work and joy shared in so many different places across Europe.

I wish EATA continued success and many new members in the years to come.

2013-2021

Personal Memories



By **Petra Goršić**
PTSTA-P

I started my role as a Croatian delegate in EATA in 2013 and remained a delegate until 2021. On the first day of my role, I came to the Council Meeting in Oslo and didn't know anyone there. I was a little bit frightened and very curious about what would happen there. Leilani Mitchell was Chair of the Communication Committee at that time, and she was always joking and bringing cookies to the meetings.

I was drawn to this atmosphere where work and fun mixed together. I joined this committee and stayed there for eight years, chairing it for six of those years.

There was a lot of work to do, but it was done with so much respect and fun, and there were so many joyful moments. We travelled through Europe from one Council Meeting to another, developing different projects, meeting regularly online and becoming friends.





My warmest memory from those times is the three days I spent in Konstanz in the office of our dear Executive Secretary, Marianne Rauter. Annamaria Cser, who was General Secretary at that time, and I came to Marianne to create a structure for keeping EATA documents. It was so nice to come to this charming town and to work in what I felt was the heart of EATA.

I feel that during the period of my delegation I grew up. I went through my divorce, I started my new marriage, I gave birth to my youngest daughter, I completed my CTA and changed the course of my career. And people from EATA were part of this process I was going through. I felt supported. I had a strong sense of belonging to this community and felt accepted. I entered EATA not knowing anyone, but finished my delegate term with so many friends and feeling connected to the whole association.

Now I am in the position of Language Coordinator for the Croatian and Serbian languages and am happy to stay connected to EATA through this role.

Presidential Timeline

The timeline of EATA Presidents included in this special edition has been compiled from historical information available on the EATA website. It highlights some of the key developments that took place during each presidency and offers a brief overview of EATA's evolution over the past fifty years.

As with the personal recollections featured throughout this publication, the timeline is not intended to be a comprehensive historical account. Some periods are documented in greater detail than others, reflecting the information available to us today.
Behind every presidency stand many dedicated volunteers, officers, committee members, delegates, trainers, examiners, and members whose collective efforts have shaped EATA across generations.

We hope this timeline provides useful context while honouring the many people who have contributed to the growth and development of our association.









Year	President	Developmnets
1976–1978	**Michael Reddy**	Foundation of EATA (16 July 1976); early European network takes formal shape.
1978–1980	**Raymond Hostie**	Constitutional acts approved and implemented; membership and financial base grow.
1980–1982	**Janne Blarke**	Consolidation of the European TA community; development from the pioneering years.
1982–1984	**Vincent Lenhardt**	New committees created; officer roles defined; first permanent administrative support.
1984–1985	**Antoinette de Mol**	
1985–1986	**Alice Stevenson**	
1986–1987	**Gerrit Heesters**	
1987–1989	**Julie Hay**	Affiliation and cooperation with ITAA strengthened.
1989–1991	**Nicole Duhamel**	TA development in Eastern Europe; first EATA conference in Eastern Europe (Zagreb, 1989).
1991–1992	**Ann Waters**	Shortened term; succeeded by Servaas van Beekum.
1992–1993	**Servaas van Beekum**	Stockholm conference (1992); continuity during a transitional period.





Presidential Timeline



1993–1996	**Mary Cox**	EATA faces severe financial difficulties; recovery and stabilisation begin.



1996–1999	**John Parr**	Post-ITAA separation; rebuilding relations, mutual recognition, financial stability and a smaller Executive Committee.
1999–2001	**Jan Hennig**	Focus on cooperation between EATA, affiliated associations and other TA organisations.





2001–2004	**Roland Johnsson**	Integration of new Eastern European countries; Core Competencies; first European TA Trainers Meeting in Malmö (2003).
2004–2007	**Adrienne Lee**	Further development of the European network and support for growth across countries and fields.





2007–2010	**Maria Teresa Tosi**	Renewal of training/exam systems; strong research focus; IJTAR established.
2010–2013	**Sabine Klingenberg**	Major organisational change; 2012 structural reform and new statutes; TDRC and Ethics Advisor role established.





2013–2015	**Marco Mazzetti**	Transition toward a larger, more diverse European TA community; stronger research and international cooperation.
2015–2019	**Krispijn Plettenberg**	"Active, accessible and attractive" EATA; stronger links between Council, committees and affiliated associations.



2019–2022	**Peter Rudolph**	Organisational professionalisation, process clarity and continuity; new Executive Committee.



2022–2025	**Sylvia Schachner**	Connection, communication, visibility and renewed training/examination handbook; mutual recognition with ITAA (2023).



2025–2028	**Sylvia Schachner**	Second term begins July 2025; strategy group, digitalisation, financial stability, communication and EATA's 50th anniversary.

Behind the 50th Anniversary project

Listening to the Past, Strengthening Belonging

Two contributors. One shared purpose.

Behind EATA's 50th Anniversary Project are two contributors who approached the journey from different starting points, yet discovered many of the same values along the way.





Ana-Marija Vidjak	Paul Martin Raspe
Understanding the stories	**Making stories accessible and inclusive**
Explored EATA's history through the experiences of those who lived it	Using video and storytelling to help make TA and EATA's stories visible, accessible and welcoming.
What surprised her?	**What surprised him?**
Relationships, challenges and the human stories behind organisational history.	Passion, commitment and the dedication of leaders and volunteers.
What connects generations?	**What connects generations?**
The value of TA and the importance of relationships.	A shared interest in TA and a commitment to its development.
Hope for members	**Hope for members**
To feel connected to EATA, its history and each other.	To feel pride, gratitude and a sense of belonging within the community.

Through video interviews with former presidents, both explored what has connected EATA members across five decades: commitment, relationships, community and a shared belief in the value of Transactional Analysis.

Common threads

♡ Passion for Transactional Analysis
♡ Commitment to EATA
♡ Appreciation for Volunteers
♡ Learning across Generations
♡ Building Community
♡ Belonging and Inclusion

Editor's introduction

Although their perspectives differ, both contributors arrived at a similar insight: EATA's history is ultimately a story about people. Not only about structures, conferences, examinations and professional standards.

It's about relationships.

About volunteer effort.

About shared learning.

About belonging.

The following reflections bring together their experiences of working on the anniversary project and what they discovered while listening to the voices that helped shape EATA over the past fifty years.

Listening to the Past, Connecting the Community. Fifty years of people, passion, and the shared journey that continues to shape our community.

Behind the Anniversary Project

For Ana-Marija, the project began with curiosity.

"A 50th anniversary should be more than a celebration of a number."

Rather than simply marking a milestone, she saw an opportunity to understand how EATA had evolved through the decades. She wanted to look beyond official records and organisational milestones and explore how members experienced their times within EATA.

Looking back, she became increasingly fascinated by the changing realities of the TA community: the concerns people had, the challenges they faced, and how EATA responded to those circumstances.

The interviews with former Presidents became a gateway into that history.

"The interviews seemed like a wonderful way of getting beyond the official history and hearing directly from the people who had experienced those different periods."

For Paul Martin, the anniversary project brought together two important parts of his professional life: his work within EATA and his earlier career in television production.

"This project brings together my current work in TA and for EATA with my previous career as a TV producer."

The people behind the history

When asked what surprised them most during the project, neither spoke first about structures, policies or strategic decisions. Instead, both returned to people.
Ana-Marija expected to hear about important developments and decisions in EATA's history. What stayed with her, however, were the stories behind those developments.

"What surprised me most was how personal many of the stories were."

She speaks about relationships, enthusiasm, challenges and unexpected events. Again and again she was reminded that organisations may have structures, but they are ultimately shaped by human beings.

"Organisations, although structures matter, are ultimately made by people."

Paul Martin noticed something similar from another angle.





These are three out of nine interviewed presidents which will be present in the the video that is coming out soon: Nicole Duhamel, Sabine Blumenstein and Maria Teresa Tosi

Listening to former Presidents, he was struck by the different ways in which each person carried leadership during their particular period in EATA's history.

"Each of the former presidents approached EATA's development and challenges in their own unique way and with their own enthusiasm."

Different personalities. Different circumstances. Different styles.

Yet beneath those differences, he saw a shared commitment to Transactional Analysis and to EATA itself.

Discovering EATA's story

Both contributors describe the project as a learning journey. Ana-Marija speaks of discovering countless small pieces of history she had never encountered before. More importantly, she developed a much deeper appreciation of how today's EATA emerged through the effort, vision and commitment of many generations.

"Hearing those different perspectives together gave me a much richer picture of EATA's history than I had before."

Paul Martin's discovery was linked to the breadth of the organisation itself.

"How broadly European in its outlook EATA has been from the very beginning.

At the same time, he found himself increasingly aware of the enormous contribution made by volunteers over the years.

The moments that stayed

For Ana-Marija, those moments were often unexpected. She was fascinated by stories in which seemingly small coincidences changed the course of events.

"Sometimes things happen that we could never have anticipated and can turn out for the good."

Equally powerful was the honesty with which former Presidents reflected on their experiences.

"There is something very humbling in hearing people who have held such significant roles look back with that kind of honesty and acceptance."

Paul Martin remembers another recurring theme.

"The appreciation expressed for the enormous amount of work done by all the volunteers and the responsibilities they carry."

What connects generations?

Across fifty years, EATA has changed. Contexts changed. Countries changed. Structures changed. Yet both contributors identify a remarkable continuity.

For Ana-Marija, the strongest connecting thread is the belief in the value of Transactional Analysis and the importance of relationships.

"There is a remarkable continuity in people's wish to learn, to contribute, to connect with others and to develop the TA community."

Paul Martin recognises much the same dynamic.

"Clearly, their common interest in TA, and in many cases, their love for TA and its continued development."

Belonging

Perhaps the most striking overlap emerges when both are asked what they hope members will experience when they encounter the anniversary stories.

Neither speaks first about knowledge. Neither speaks first about history. Both speak about belonging.

Ana-Marija hopes members feel connected.

"Connected to EATA, to its history and to each other."

Paul-Martin reaches a remarkably similar conclusion.

"A sense of belonging to this community, a sense of feeling at home in this community."

Final reflections

Looking back on the project, both contributors describe a growing appreciation for the many people who have shaped EATA over the years.Together, their reflections remind us that EATA's history is not only a story of milestones and organisational development.

It is a story of people.

People who contributed. People who volunteered. People who led. People who connected. And above all, people who helped create a community in which others could find a place to belong.

EATA at 50

"I hope people feel connected to EATA, to its history and to each other."
Ana-Marija

"I hope members feel pride, gratitude and a sense of belonging to this community."
Paul Martin

A story still being written.

For fifty years EATA has been shaped by people willing to contribute, learn, connect and lead.

Its future will be shaped by the next generation doing the same.

50 years

A Gift to the Future

The Italian Berne Awards Project: Preserving and sharing TA knowledge

What began as a conversation over breakfast during a working weekend in December 2025 grew into an ambitious community project.

Inspired by the desire to make the most influential contributions to Transactional Analysis more accessible to the Italian TA community, a group of colleagues set out to create a new volume dedicated to the winners of the Eric Berne Memorial Award.

The original plan was to translate the award-winning articles published in the *Transactional Analysis Journal*.

However, the complexity of permissions, costs and administrative procedures made this approach unfeasible.

Instead, the team chose another path. Following an earlier example developed by Susanna Bianchini and Pio Scilligo, they invited colleagues across the Italian TA community to "adopt a Berne Award" and create original reworkings that faithfully capture the theoretical and clinical contributions of the prize-winning papers.

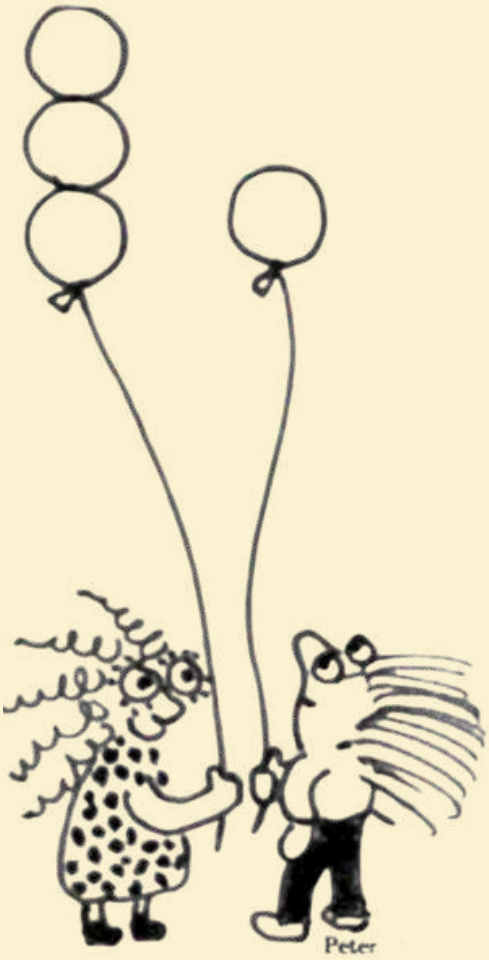
The response was overwhelming. Forty-five Transactional Analysts, including PTSTAs, CTAs and TSTAs from six Italian associations, joined the initiative.

The result is "I Premi Berne 1994-2026", a collaborative volume bringing together the legacy of more than three decades of Eric Berne Memorial Award-winning work. More than a publication, it is a community effort: a resource created by the TA community for the TA community.

All proceeds from the project will be used to support the future English translation of the volume and to fund the training or projects of those in need, in agreement with EATA.



Happy Anniversary EATA!



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to EATA's first 50 years. Here's to the next 50.



EATA Council members. Chamonix



Rome, 16 July 1999. General Assembly.



Vienna Council





EATA Council 1984
The new Council members and officers are pictured immediately after their election at Villars.



EATA Council in Edinburgh



A glimpse at the EATA Council meeting October 2000

EATA President Jan Hennig (left) and the ITAA President elect, Gordon Hewitt October 2000





Happy Anniversary EATA!

Roland Johnsson and Gordon Hewitt, the presidents of EATA and ITAA at the ITAA president's reception



EATA executive secretary Martine Huon at council meeting





The new EATA Executive Committee. 2012



EATA Executive Committee



Claude Steiner and Eric Berne



The first ITAA certificate of teaching member, granted to Dr. Eric Berne by the chairman of the ITAA Board of trustees...



Exams in Oaxaca,
Mexico. 2003



First TA 101
in Albania



First Ukrainian
TA 101

Some Council members during the
General Assembly. Croatia. 1999





First "Training
Endorsement Workshop"
held at Villars



ITAA, EATA hold
historic meeting



Joint Meeting of ITAA and EATA Hewitt (New Zealand, ITAA), Linda Gregory (Australia, ITAA).



Sylvie Monin, EATA Vice President, Leilani Mitchel i Krispijn Plettenberg, EATA President



Golden Medal
John Parr
1999



Golden Medal
Margaret Turpin
2000



Golden Medal
Marco Mazetti
2020



Gold Medal
Bill Cornell
2015



Silver Medal
Mark Widowwson
2014



16th Australasian conference in Perth in November 2002.



Language Coordinator's Meeting In Manchester March 2016



Outreach programme in Istanbul. 2013

Outreach programme in Istanbul. 2013





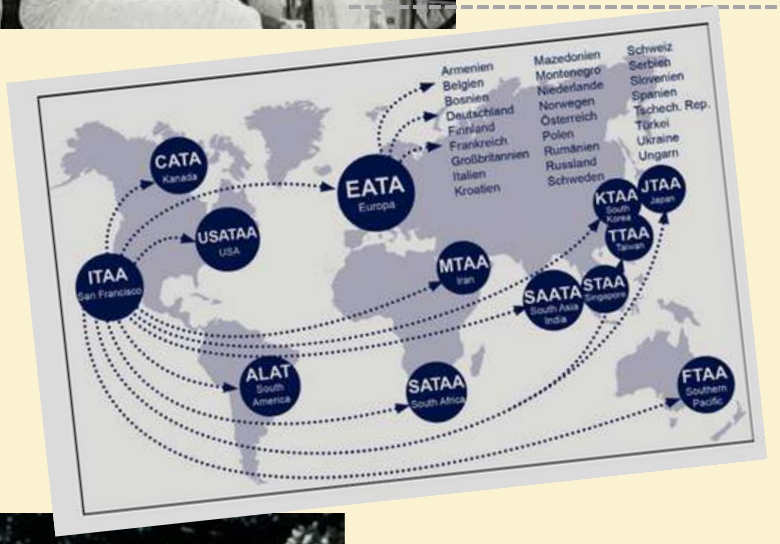
International Presidents Meeting (Les Diablerets, 2007)

Executive Committee 2005





Roland Johnsson EATA President and Annika Björk Trainers Meeting Coordinator. 2005



Young Eric Berne

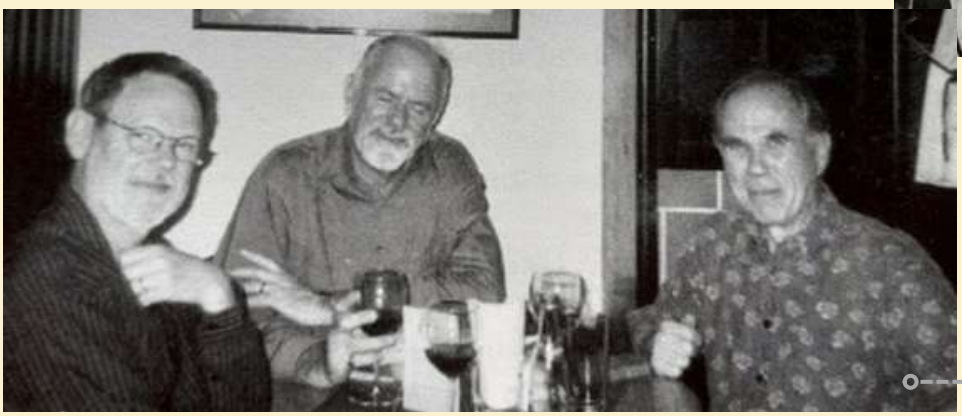




Julie, Trudi & the group in 1999

Group work of the trainers. 1999





A friendly break with R. Johnsson-new EATA President-, G. Hewitt -ITAA President- and J. Hennig -past EATA President and new Treasurer.



Richard Erskine – EATA TA Conference in Geneva, July 2016



Steven Karpman – World TA Conference in Berlin, July 2017



Ray Little – World TA Conference in Berlin, July 2017



Panel at EATA TA Conference in Geneva, July 2016



Council 2017 in Berlin





Outreach Program, Rijeka 2018, Croatia



Farewell of Peter Rudolf

Videoconference during Covid Pandemy





Outreach Program Lisbon 2023



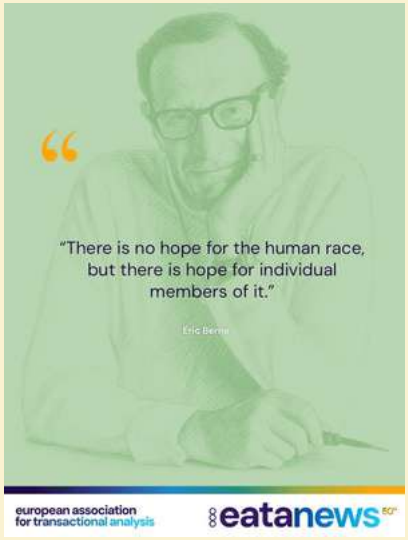
ITAA – EATA Joint Mission Statement (2023)



Outreach Program 2023 in Lisbon



World Conference 2025, Montpellier







Fifty Years, Built Together

Thanks to everyone who helped shape EATA through its Councils, committees and countless hours of voluntary work — and to every member whose presence, trust and participation made it a community: this story is yours.