ESTSS Professional Certificate Regulations

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1. The ESTSS Professional Certificates

ESTSS Professional Certificates from here on refers as EPC.

Article 1.
The ESTSS certificates set standards of education and training for different professional profiles in the field of psychological trauma.

Article 2.
Individual professionals are eligible to be listed on the European Register of ESTSS certificates and to hold the EPC if they:

a) Have successfully completed a national professional curriculum accredited by ESTSS;

b) Have given permission to store and share their personal data for assessment and registry purposes

Article 3.
Following a positive evaluation of the evidence mentioned in Article 2, a professional gains the right to be entered onto the Register and awarded the EPC. EPC can be withdrawn if any misconduct against local ethical rules comes to the knowledge of ESTSS.

Article 4.
It is strongly recommended that all professionals that hold an EPS are able to show evidence of maintenance of professional competence in the form of a certain amount of hours of practice, continued education and professional development as indicated in the Appendix 2.

Article 5.
The EPC details that professionals are required to provide are specified in the Appendix 1. of this statute.

Article 6.
The information to be included in the European Register for professionals is specified in
Article 7.
Each registered EPC professional is also qualified in all countries in which there are ESTSS Member Societies.

Article 8.
The record of a professional will be removed from the Register in the following cases:
(i) upon the request of the holder; (ii) when a court of law or a national committee has imposed a sentence or measure against the holder that prohibits him/her from practicing their profession such as removal from a national register or withdrawal of a national license.
National Societies are obliged to notify ESTSS if such an event occurs. The record will be included in the register again when the suspension in the respective country ends.
2. ESTSS Certification Committee

Article 9. The responsibility for awarding the EPC and entering an individual into the Register according to these Regulations rests with the ESTSS Certification Committee. This Committee delegates the Certification Committees of the National Societies to award the EPC in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 10. 

a) The ESTSS Certification Committee: 
It is formed by a member of each National Certification Committee, selected by the National Societies. If possible they should provide a balance between those working as practitioners and those working at universities and involved in the education of professionals. Members of the committee elect their chairperson.

b) Members are appointed for a term of four years, renewable upon approval from their National society. The chairperson is appointed for a term of two years, not renewable.

c) The terms of appointment should if possible be set in such a way that a maximum of three new members can be appointed every two years.

Article 11. 

The ESTSS Certification Committee is responsible for oversight of the dissemination, implementation and operationalization of the EPC process in each Member Society in respect of its Regulations and for ensuring that the Registration and award of the EPC occurs in accordance with these Regulations.

Its tasks include the following:

a) to provide guidance for the National Certification Committee; this would include sharing information and supporting the National Certification Committee to implement ESTSS curricula in their countries in a mutual exchange process.

b) to delegate the authority to award the EPC to the National Certification Committees;

c) to ensure that national curricula are interpreting the ESTSS standards in a similar way and to co-ordinate the work of the National Certification Committees;
d) to supervise the proper implementation of the ESTSS Regulations on EPC by each National Certification Committee;
e) to ask the local committees to update ESTSS on any changes of the local curricula
f) to take steps towards the suspension of a National Certification Committee if there is evidence of mismanagement or misuse of these ESTSS Regulations on EPC;
g) to work with national associations to remedy the causes of a suspension of the National Certification Committee;
h) to prepare a report for every ESTSS Board Meeting;
i) to deal with appeals against decisions of National Certification Committees;
j) to oversee the maintenance of the European Register;

Article 12.
The awarding of the EPC is delegated to ESTSS National Member Societies. Being an ESTSS National Member Society is the prerequisite of offering the EPCs in their given country.
3. ESTSS accreditation Committee

**Article 13.**

ESTSS accreditation Committee

a) The ESTSS accreditation Committee consists of a Chairperson and up to three other Members.

b) The accreditation committee has the possibility to include experts from the field to support the review process of the applications. All the decisions are made by the committee. The chairperson of the ESTSS Certification Committee shall be a member of the ESTSS Accreditation Committee and shall serve as liaison with the ESTSS Certification Committee.

d) Members are appointed for a term of five years, renewable, by the Executive Board of ESTSS.

**Article 14.**

The ESTSS Accreditation Committee is responsible for the face and content validity of the curricula and training routes.

Its tasks include the following:

a) to receive and evaluate applications from the national societies for accreditation of their curricula;

b) to provide guidance for local expression of curricula according to the standards of the ESTSS curricula, if needed;

c) to develop regulations for training routes and standards in the domain as appropriate;

e) to provide a half a year report to the ESTSS Board Meeting;

g) to meet every two years with the ESTSS Certification Committees to moderate procedures and to share good practice.
4. The procedure for obtaining the EPC

Article 15.
The application for EPCs must be made to the national societies after their accreditation by ESTSS. The application must provide all relevant information specified in the regulations for the respective EPC.

Article 16.
The National Certification Committee will establish whether the candidate meets the criteria required.

Article 17.
For every candidate, the national society will pay an administrative fee of 5 € to compensate ESTSS for issuing the certificate and keeping the European register.

Article 18.
The date on which the EPC will be awarded to that individual is the date on which the applicant has been awarded by the National Society.
5. Miscellaneous

Article 22.
The EPC Regulations and the appendices on the EPC are established and can be changed by the Board of ESTSS, by a vote in support of 2/3 of those present. They will be operative with effect from a date set by the Board of ESTSS at the moment when they are established.

Article 23.
a) Transitional arrangements for the EPC assigning will apply for a period of two years after the date of recognition of a National Committee in a particular country.
b) Arrangements for acknowledgement of non-certified active professionals are defined in Appendix 3.
c) All transitional arrangements will end in December 2025.
6a. Registers of ESTSS Professional Certificate

Article 24.
The ESTSS Registers of EPC is held and maintained by the ESTSS Certification Committee and comprise the national listing of suitably certificated professional as provided by each National Certificate Committee.

Article 25.
The ESTSS Registers hold the names and details of all the holders of EPC. Registers will be different according the different certificates and professional profiles.

Article 26.
The information mentioned in the Registration Details of the EPC will be recorded in the ESTSS Registers, which are a searchable online facility available through the ESTSS web pages.

Article 27.
The entries of the Registers for a country shall be updated upon the initiative of the National Certificate Committee when an EPC is issued, re-issued or withdrawn. The Register shall be updated when an EPC is issued, on the instruction of the National Certification Committee. Information in the Registers may only be changed by the ESTSS Certification Committee and if authorized by the National Certification Committee.

Article 28.
The ESTSS Registers holds the names and details of all the holders of EPC.
6b. Registers of ESTSS Professional Certificate Providers and Trainers

Article 29.
Local Providers and Trainers have their own Registers following the same process for EPC professional.

Article 30.
Local Providers Register and Trainers Register should show name, address, others details and modules released.
Appendix 1. ESTSS Professional Certificate and Application Form

The *ESTSS Professional Certificate* application form will be provided in template by ESTSS in order to ensure comparability and common style of information across the countries awarding the *ESTSS Certificate*.

The Certificate will provide the following information:
This is to certify that ___________________________ meets the requirements to be called Registered ESTSS _______________________________ and is considered qualified by all the ESTSS National societies as far as there are no restrictions from national regulations in the country concerned.

The registration details of the Certificate to receive and will be entered in the register are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Last name, first name</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Home address, work address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Degree/Title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Email</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Country of practice</td>
<td></td>
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<td>6. Main field of practice</td>
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Appendix 2. European Psychotraumatology Continuing Education (EPTCE) scheme

So far, there is not an organized continuing education activity by the ESTSS. Notwithstanding we consider EPTCE a strategic aim to be reached. In order to put the basis of a more organized activity on continuing education, below we lay down a preliminary framing for all these activities.

The holders of the EPC (ESTSS Professional Certificate) are expected to maintain and further develop their level of professional competence. This should be achieved by means of work experience and personal professional development and through the process of supervision. Where no local requirements exist, the following are provided as guidelines for use by National Certification Committees that want implement Continuing Education in their Country.

**Work experience**
The applicant should be strongly recommended to show evidence of professional work as a professional in Psychotrauma activities (therapy or other specialized activity included in their professional certificate) after the certification.

**Personal professional development**
It is a responsibility of the Registered EPC Professional to stay informed about recent professional scientific developments in psychotraumatology, including but not limited to the fields of practice. Applicants should be strongly recommended to show explicit evidence of continuing professional development per year. Evidence of a variety of activities is suggested.

There is a wide range of different types of professional development activities, and the following list is not intended to be exhaustive:

- Certified attendance and participation in ESTSS accredited courses and/or workshops aimed at further professional development
- Development of specific new skills through practice at work
- Certified attendance in peer supervision meetings
- Certified participation as a supervisor provided that this is formally recognized
- Certified attendance at a professional or scientific conference
- (Co-)authorship and/or editing of publications on research and/or professional issues
- Presentations to professional audiences
- Editorial work on journals and books in psycho-traumatology
- EJPT Training Articles reading activity by online ESTSS web site

**Record keeping**
Registered EPC for Psychotrauma therapists should be strongly recommended to maintain a record of their continuing education in psychotraumatology.
Appendix 3. Arrangements for acknowledgement of non-certified active professionals

Common rules should be adopted by the national societies in order to recognize the quality of activities done, quality of training done and completeness of formation regarding a specific EPC. Members of national societies already active in the psychotrauma field can be awarded specific EPC if the following conditions are full-filled:

a) basic professional qualification as required in the respective country;
b) certificate of 2-5 years trauma specific activity (coherent with the specific EPC);
c) education in the field of psychotraumatology (number of hours equivalent to the specific EPC).

For applicants in psychotraumatherapy only:

d) at least 48 hours of qualified training in two trauma-focused methods (TF – CBTs or EMDR) for classic PTSD and complex PTSD or as otherwise recommended by the current ESTSS „Therapy of Posttraumatic Disorders in Adults“ curriculum.