



European Diving Technology Committee

*Policy for guidance how to co-operate with associations, companies
and other organizations
and how to handle membership in some cases.*

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Important Note

The information contained in this document is for guidance purposes.
No legal liability shall attach to any opinion, comment and / or recommendation contained herein.
The content of this document should be considered in accordance with the requirements of applicable National
Regulation or Guidance

Policy and guidance for co-operation and membership

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1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this summary is to contribute to the establishment of a larger and better communication platform between European (EU/EER) organizations in the commercial diving industry.

Introduction

EDTC has a long tradition of cooperation with other associations and provides an independent forum to promote improvements in diver safety, technology, training and medicine within the EU/EER. It needs to extend its operations to co-operate with other organizations, provided that the cooperation is within the scope of the purposes put forward in article 2 of the By Laws of the EDTC.

Terms and definitions

A number of organizations in Europe including EDTC , IDSA , IMCA have developed and published guidance relating to diving safety. A number of Governments, though not all, also have their own regulations specific to their countries. Although not all terms and definitions are the same, there is commonality in the terminology used by these different organizations and governments

Normative/informative References

When we mention these references we should make the difference between official standards (governmental status), guidance and other documents.

External Relations

EDTC has a long tradition of cooperation with other associations. The collaboration must be primarily on the European (EU/EER) level.

Future co-operation will be based on how well the organizations conduct their operations to provide better commercial diving education, safety, technological and diving medicine.

The outcome of the co-operation must make a positive contribution to the EDTC's primary aim of improving working/professional **diving safety in Europe**.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background and Definition of the Committee

The European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC) was established in March 1973 as a result of an initiative taken by the United Kingdom's Society for Underwater Technology (SUT). The Society felt that there was a need to promote good standards for diving, to provide a means of improvement if appropriate, and to coordinate where possible, the different standards which existed around Europe.

EDTC members took the decision of revising the By-Laws in the annual meeting in Brussels on 12th October 2005. As of today, the foundation By Laws defines the main aim of the organization as making European professional diving safer. Its motto is: *Securitas per unitatem*.

2.2. Status Quo

Membership to EDTC is defined at the article 4 of the By Laws. As of 2015 March, EDTC has representatives from 21 European countries. Membership is open to representatives of any country within Geographical Europe according to By Laws 4.1. Each country may be represented by a single representative in each of the following categories:

Medical,
Industry,
Government,
Unions.

According to the By Laws, item 4.2, specialist organizations or individuals may, with the approval of the Joint Meeting, become members, but shall normally only be represented by a single person unless the Joint Meeting agrees to more than one representative. As of 2015 March, 7 other associations and organizations are accepted as members.

An alternative way to work within the EDTC is as an observer member. According to the article 4.4, the Executive Board can grant "Corresponding Member" status to organizations or individuals involved in work in any of the fields covered by Article 3 above if this is deemed to be a likely benefit to EDTC and its aims. Such Corresponding Members may be limited in number and will have observer status only. As of March 2015, there are 9 corresponding members.

2.3. Cooperation with EDTC

EDTC has a long tradition of cooperation with other associations. The collaboration has primarily occurred at the international level. These partnerships give us new knowledge and input, inspiration and strength that make it easier for us to reach our common goals.

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EDTC has previously, though not on a regular basis, collaborated with commercial business projects and has also, rarely, collaborated with individuals on specific strategic occasions.

EDTC needs to extend its cooperation to other organizations, provided that the cooperation is within the scope of the purposes put forward in article 2 of the By Laws of the EDTC.

This document is prepared to guide, regulate and formulate the cooperation principles of EDTC and also to provide guidance regarding membership for specialist organizations or individuals.

3. Terms and definitions

Association: Group of companies or organizations or both working in conjunction to achieve a common goal.

Diving medicine: Area involved in providing medical support to working divers: assessments of working divers, manage diving accidents and advise diving contractors and others on commercial diving medicine and physiology (with knowledge in relevant aspects of occupational health).

Companies: An entity working to promote the interests of said entity on a commercial basis or for which it obtains is remunerated.

Cooperation: Cooperation means EDTC and a non-member party working together for the common benefit. Cooperation is of a short time usually with a defined timeframe.

Government agencies: Entities that work to promote the interests of a state or government agency and which are controlled or owned directly or indirectly by said government, state or states in collaboration.

Goals: A set of well-defined objectives which the entity, organization or association seeks to achieve.

Membership: Party being a member of EDTC

Memorandum of Understanding: A MoU describes a bilateral agreement decided by the board of the EDTC and the party wishing to collaborate with EDTC. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action.

Organizations: Non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations. Entities that function on a non-remunerative basis or non-profit basis to further the interests of its members or to achieve the stated goal of said entity.

Public services: Journalist either as freelance or employed in an organization or company.

Partnership: Party which is not member of the EDTC but which has some form of long term cooperation with the EDTC according to a MoU or some other form of agreement setup between the parties.

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Safety: Measures taken to prevent injuries to any person involved directly or indirectly in a diving operation. The concept of performing diving operations without sustaining any injuries to any person or resulting in any lost time incidents.

Sponsorship: a cash and/or in-kind fee paid to EDTC in return for access to the exploitable commercial potential associated with EDTC. This may be by way of sponsoring material or venues for EDTC in return for a commercial expectation associated with EDTC.

Technology: Any equipment, software or hardware, used to perform a diving operation or in connection with a diving operation for which an entity receives remuneration or for which it is common to receive remuneration.

4. Normative/informative References

“normative”: definition of “normative” = official rules and regulations with legally binding status such as:

4.1 NATIONAL REGULATIONS:

- BELGIUM: AR 2004,
- DENMARK,
- FINLAND,
- FRANCE: 2012,
- GERMANY,
- ITALY 2012,
- NORWAY: PSA,
- NETHERLANDS,
- SPAIN,
- SWEDEN,
- UNITED KINGDOM, HSE

(This list is not complete and is reference only).

These rules and regulations normally include:

- safe diving practices (legal obligations),
- medical assessment of fitness to dive (annual, periodical),
- particular safety provisions (related to circumstances, equipment, experience, competences);
- diving decompression : (list of regularly used decompression tables for efforts under hyperbaric conditions).

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4.2 INFORMATIVE REFERENCES: (sources & origins: documentations)

“informative”: definition of “informative” = industry agreements and recommendations for safety of personnel such as:

EDTC: Competence Standards,

EDTC: Medical assessment of working divers,

IDSA S&P’s April 2014,

IMCA: IMCA diving guidance and Safety Flashes

EDTC By-Laws updated in the annual meeting in Brussels on 12th October 2005.

(This list is not complete and is reference only).

5. External Relations

5.1 Summary

Co-operation with non-members whatever their activity or nationality is necessary from time to time in order to further the EDTC’s main aim of making European diving safer.

The purpose of this document is to:

“Provide Guidelines to the EDTC Executive Board when considering co-operation/collaboration with Non-Member organizations.”

The Guidelines for co-operation should conform to the following criteria:

- a) The outcome of the co-operation must make a positive contribution to the EDTC’s primary aim of improving working/professional Diving Safety in Europe.
- b) The purpose of the co-operation/collaboration must be set out in a Memo of Understanding drawn up by the EDTC Board, and when signed circulated to all members for information.
- c) The organization concerned should:
 - i) Be of good standing in the Diving Industry.
 - ii) Not have been expelled from any organization.
 - iii) Conform fully to all European (EU/EER), national and local government regulations.
 - iv) Not manufacture or deal in Arms, Alcohol, Tobacco or Pornography.

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- d) Behave in an ethical correct way (preserve human rights, no fault history etc.)
- e) Shall not use the name of EDTC for their own sole purposes (commercialization of EDTC).
- f) Shall not use the EDTC Logo without the express approval of the EDTC Board
- g) Shall not affect the association's credibility adversely

5.2 Co-operation with other organizations

EDTC would welcome co-operation with other organizations, with a purpose to spread interest towards the overall aim of the EDTC to make European professional diving safer. The goals of our co-operation is to engage more people in development, increase awareness of - and seek support - our aim and goals, share knowledge in diving safety and strive for concrete action. Collaboration with others is an important interaction and learning where we affect and are affected.

EDTC has a long tradition of cooperation with other associations. The collaboration has primarily occurred at the international level. These partnerships give us new knowledge, inspiration and strength that make it easier for us to reach our common goals. EDTC has previously, though not on a regular basis, collaborated with commercial businesses, and only rarely with individuals on special strategic occasions.

EDTC future collaborations will be based primarily on how well the partner conducts its work in safety, technology and working/professional diving medicine - whether it concerns associations or companies. Furthermore, an important factor is the potential benefit co-operation is expected to provide. An assessment of the partner's work and credibility in the field will be included in the EDTC consideration of any interactions. At the same time, we will also analyze the counterparty's motives for cooperation.

EDTC's different collaborations does not limit EDTC's opportunities to criticize organizations, companies or politicians who make decisions that are bad for EDTC purposes. EDTC will always be free to act in line with the association's goals and values. EDTC credibility and trust need to be managed well and with great care - our credibility has been built up over a very long period of time through extensive volunteer and professional work and is one of our most important assets. Use of the EDTC name and exposure of the association's logo and other symbols will be examined and proper use ensured. Abuse of EDTC name is unacceptable and may result in the Association cancelling any cooperation. For all collaborations EDTC strategies shall be considered and - where possible - be used.

EDTC collaborations may include implementation of joint campaigns and discussion papers, projects in the short and long term, education, marketing and exposure in the key objectives of the association or activities that generate goodwill for the EDTC.

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It is important to inform members about any intended collaborations and the rationale for them. This is important both for the opportunity to dialogue and anchoring of individual collaborations, as to jointly develop collaborations. In all partnerships, care should be taken to assure that the association's credibility is not adversely affected. EDTC is against the violation of human rights and any use of threats and violence against people and EDTC would disagree with organizations whose activities produce such consequences. EDTC must not participate in illegal activities.

5.3 Partnerships with associations and other organizations

EDTC cooperates with associations on issues, and in other areas where it is expected to lead to increased benefits in terms of impact on knowledge and understanding relating to working/professional diving safety, technology and diving medicine, which is our association's goals.

5.4 Collaboration with government agencies and other public services

EDTC co-operates with authorities and public organizations at local, regional, national and international level. This means that our views and positions can be brought forward and give us the opportunity to influence important decisions. Meanwhile, our own knowledge can increase and new interfaces can be created. Our interactions can be very diverse in scope and character and can consist of anything from discussion and consultation.

5.5 Collaboration with companies

Collaborations with companies can provide benefits in terms of the impact of corporate actions on the field. Through counseling and advice EDTC can contribute to a company's performance improvements within the field of occupational health and safety. Through partnerships with companies EDTC can also reach new audiences, and new meetings between the Association and others occur.

5.6 Sponsorship

Support in cash or kind may be accepted for specific events hosted by members on behalf of EDTC. However any support which is offered for the general operation and administration of the EDTC as whole should not be accepted by individual members but passed to the EDTC Board for its consideration.

When discussing the possibility of support/sponsorship members must ensure that the potential sponsor is not seeking to gain financially either directly or indirectly from the arrangements. The member and the sponsor should draw up a document setting out the detail of the proposed sponsorship, a copy of which should be forwarded to the EDTC Secretary. If there is any doubt about the details the member should obtain advice from the EDTC Board via the Secretary.

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If an event is not being sponsored it is acceptable for a member to charge appropriately on a non-profit basis, any surplus may be retained by EDTC and used as appropriate for other future similar events.

When arranging an EDTC event the member may use the EDTC Logo on associated literature or mail. However, it must not be included on any certification concerned with the event, as it may then cause confusion as it can imply that the event is approved/recognised by EDTC.

5.7 Other corporate partnerships

In addition to following the rules (see above) sponsorship will be assessed regarding the total value in both the short and long term, for each co-operation. The aim of cooperation, for example, should be to move forward or to increase awareness of EDTC's work. Assessing the benefits of co-operation should include, for example, what specific improvements in the individual company's business and of its goods or services that co-operation can lead to. Co-operation shall, wherever possible give measurable results. The extent to which co-operation can lead to increased awareness among new audiences should be considered.

It is important to assess the risk to EDTC with regards to legitimate activities that are or may prove to be detrimental to EDTC's credibility and reputation among the public that can be influenced by co-operation. Subsidiaries and close co-operation companies may be included in the assessment, if appropriate. In case of doubt no co-operation should begin.

EDTC shall always have the opportunity to criticize a partner on issues where it believes it is justified and should always have the option to terminate the agreement if the partner acts in a manner that is not consistent with EDTC's values or by laws.

Communication regarding the cooperation, in order to enhance awareness and interest amongst others and companies should be without the appearance that EDTC in a unjustified way legitimizes the partner's business.