

PGA of Austria Latest to Achieve European Education Level System Recognition

The PGA of Austria are one of the latest PGAs of Europe Member Countries to achieve European Education Level System (EELS) recognition of their PGA education programmes.

After extensive periods of analysis and assessment, the **PGA of Austria**, along with the **PGA of Canada**, **PGA of Czech Republic**, **PGA of Hungary**, and **PGA of Switzerland**, have had their Professional Education Programmes leveled within the system.

The **PGA of Austria**, **PGA of Canada** and **PGA of Switzerland** achieved the 'PGA Professional Level', the **PGA of Hungary** achieved the 'PGA Coach Level', and the **PGA of Czech Republic** achieved the 'Initial Professional Education (IPE) Level'.

The system has been in place since 2013 and seeks to recognise Member Countries' education programmes for their curriculums (breadth and depth), delivery (quality of education materials / workshops by Tutors or Trainers), the learning environment and methods of assessment (type and robustness).

Focusing on the three domains of teaching and coaching, the game and the industry, the system allows programmes to be mapped against 72 agreed Learning Outcomes (LOs). The number and areas in which these LOs are currently met determines what level of recognition their programme achieves, with the 'PGA Professional Level' meeting all 72 LOs, the 'PGA Coach Level' meeting 38 specific LOs, and the 'IPE Level' meeting all 13 IPE-specific LOs.

The system ensures that PGAs are recognised for what they can do, unlike the pre-existing binary system of recognition in which many PGAs were unable to achieve recognition regardless of the quality and relevancy to market of the education in their programme.

"These five countries have worked diligently on the detailed mapping and analysis of their programmes," said Director of Education & Membership for the PGAs of Europe, **Tony Bennett**.

"As we discovered a number of years ago, a single European education programme was not feasible as the markets and requirements vary so widely across our Member PGAs. EELS now allows their programmes to be bespoke and unique to their requirements, whilst meeting the standards that we uphold for programmes across our membership.

"They also now have clear pathways to progress their programmes over time by increasing the number of LOs that the programmes meet. Through the Association's guidance, Tutor Training and Mentoring programmes, and direct delivery of the IPE programme, we are able to foster this development across our entire membership."

Representatives from the five PGAs were presented with certificates during the 2017 Annual Congress at Costa Navarino in Greece, after which they took part in a revealing panel discussion about the process involved, the concept of EELS in general, and what it meant to their respective PGAs to be recognised within the system.

For more information visit <http://eur.pe/EuropeanEducationLevelSystem>

For more information about the PGAs of Europe, visit www.pgae.com, follow [@PGAsofEurope](https://twitter.com/PGAsofEurope) [<http://bit.ly/17ATrHX>] on Twitter, or like the [PGAs of Europe Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/pgae) [<http://on.fb.me/RnDfEc>].

Image Caption: *PGA of Austria representatives receiving their EELS Certificate at the 2017 Annual Congress*

Notes to Editors:

An Association of 35 National PGAs (32 European and 3 international) with a collective membership in excess of 21,000 golf professionals, the PGAs of Europe is committed to the advancement of golf, golfers and the golf profession across Europe.

The Association is also a partner in Ryder Cup Europe as the sole member of the Ryder Cup European Development Trust, and is widely acknowledged as a lead body in the delivery of golf development expertise on a global basis through its collaboration with The R&A in its "Working for Golf" programme. [www.pgae.com]

PGAs of Europe European Education Level System [EELS]

In 2009, the PGAs of Europe embarked on a radical change to its recognition of professional education programmes. As a result, the European Education Level System (EELS) was developed to ensure that a country could be recognised for its education against agreed standards, which in turn reflect the needs of the golf market.

The European Union funded Golf Stand project was used as a launchpad document. Golf Stand had brought together representatives from across the sector, national federations, PGAs, club managers, golf course owners, greenkeepers, training providers and qualifications authorities to produce this definitive work.

EELS has three levels spanning the three domains of teaching and coaching, the game and the industry. The system allows programmes to map against 72 agreed Learning Outcomes (LOs). The number and areas in which these LOs are met determine what level of recognition their programme achieves, with the 'PGA Professional Level' meeting all 72 LOs, the 'PGA Coach Level' meeting 38 specific LOs, and the 'IPE Level' meeting all 13 IPE-specific LOs.

Of the many benefits that EELS offers, one significant advantage is that the Learning Outcomes are written in a way that allows education providers to easily understand what is required, and governments to clearly recognise what successful trainees are able to know and do, so making transference of qualifications easier.