



TAs from the following 32 countries took part:

- Afghanistan, Azerbaijan
- Brazil
- Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Germany, Greece
- Holland, Hungary
- Iceland, India, Israel
- Japan
- Korea
- Latvia
- Pakistan, Poland
- Romania, Russia
- Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland
- Turkey
- UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates

- 37% of these countries are in the European Union
- 59% of these countries are in the wider European area
- 28% of these countries are in the wider area of Asia
- 6.5% of these countries are from the North Americas
- 6.5% of these countries are from the South Americas

There is a clear lack of representation from the following continents: Africa, Australia and Oceania and large parts of Asia and the North and South Americas

The results should be read with this in mind. The division above is to illustrate what areas of the world are represented and under-represented and it is recognized that there are disputes over which countries are included in what continent.

FEEDBACK FROM QUESTIONNAIRES ON TEACHER ASSOCIATION (TA) FUNDING
COLLECTED AT IATEFL ASSOCIATES' DAY APRIL 2007 IN ABERDEEN

The questionnaire was divided into the following areas:

1. Sources of Funding

Of the TAs questioned, the following percentages said that they obtained funds from:

- Membership Fees: 100%
- Sponsorship from the British Council 62.5%
- Conference/Event generated income 50%
- Sponsorship from publishers 43.5%
- In-house seminar/Teacher Training generated income 25%
- Government Grant/Ministry of Culture funding 21.5%
- Sponsorship from the American Embassy 15.5%
- Advertising 15.5%
- Sponsorship from local educational bodies and businesses 9.5%
- Local Universities 9.5%
- Donations 9.5%
- Sale of newsletter/publications 6.5%
- Funds generated from selling contact list 6.5%
- Raffles at events 6.5%
- Summer School generated income 3.5%
- Project consultancy generated income 3.5%
- Sponsorship from Cambridge ESOL 3.5%
- Sponsorship from TESOL Inc 3.5%
- Hornby Trust 3.5%

2. Identifying Recent Changes in Funding

Of the TAs questioned, the following percentages said they had noticed changes in funding as follows:

- No changes 50%
- Decrease in British Council funding 15.5%
- Cuts in government grants 9.5%
- Withdrawal of funds from regular sponsors 9.5%
- Increase in publisher sponsorship 6.5%
- Increased grants from other ELT associations e.g. TESOL Inc 6.5%
- Recent approaches by new sponsors for joint initiatives 3.5%
- Recent requests for tailor-made courses 3.5%
- Increase in BC funding 3.5%
- Decrease in publisher sponsorship 3.5%
- A general drop in available money 3.5%
- Increase in income from the sale of in-house courses 3.5%
- Haven't noticed anything yet, but expected to drop 3.5%
- No response to question 3.5%

3. Obtaining Funds

When asked if it was difficult/easy to obtain funds, the following answers were received [each point was made by a separate participant]:

- "Yes, we had to reduce the number of newsletters from 3 to 2 per year"
- "Yes, editing and printing the newsletter is quite expensive, so we have reduced the number of newsletters per year"
- "Yes, neither the government nor the commercial bodies are interested in supporting the organization"
- "Yes, money is shorter. The publishers have their own events and can't support ours"
- "We lost a lot of money last year on a conference with ***** which was a joint venture. Also costs for one of our journals have increased, so we might have to stop publishing it in paper version but keep it as a magazine online which is cheaper"
- "So far so good – we are presenting ourselves as a readymade source of professional development for government ministries and both public and private institutions"
- "These days people don't feel the need to join a TA. When I started teaching it was a must. These days it's more of an option or a luxury. If there aren't enough members then the membership fee would have to go up, which in turn would decrease membership, so it's not really an option"
- "We have problems. And the British Council in ***** do not have enough funds to help. And the sponsors don't get any benefit from sponsoring"
- "We are fortunate enough to have collected a reserve so we do not have financial problems at the moment"
- "The funding is just enough to meet the basic costs. But not, for example, to hire better qualified office staff to improve the work of the central office"
- "Generally the professionals would like to become a member of a TA, but when it comes to paying money or dealing with money affairs the problem occurs"
- "Yes, teachers do not see the value of becoming part of a network so memberships are below target"
- "Yes we do. Travel expenses are the main problem"
- "The situation is still the same as years before"
- "Yes, declining membership, declining conference participation"
- "The situation is getting worse as inflation is running at about 7-8% per annum and we can't raise the membership fees too much"
- "Yes, because the majority income is from membership and the number of members has declined recently"
- "Yes – lack of time and resources to secure government grants"
- "Yes – probably because we haven't been able to do better marketing of the TA – we don't have a good follow up on relationships with funders. We haven't been creative and innovative"
- "Perhaps finance is the greatest problem. We have lots of projects, ideas so on. Yet we cannot realise them due to financial problems. The income of our members is low. That's why we cannot allocate adequate membership fees. Also we obtain simply no government support"
- "Yes we have. Probably because government bodies do not support us"
- "***** obtains enough funding at the moment. The problem will start with the decreasing number of members, if it happens"

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- "So far we have managed to cope because there are still some funds from the past when there were some sources of funding available"
- "No – but we need more money"
- "We always face problems in funding our office, salaries etc. For other projects we can get funding easier now as we get more recognition and trust from donor organizations"

4. TA Resources

When asked if the TA had enough funds to cover the resources listed below, the following percentage of participants answered YES:

Hosting an annual or bi-annual conference 93.5%
A newsletter or other publication 78%
A paid administrator 46.5%
A computer and internet connection 56%
An office 31.5%

5. TA Status

When asked what status each TA has under local law, the participants answered as follows:

Non-Government Organization 42%
Non-Profit Organization 23%
Charity 17%
Association 3%
Private Organization 3%
Registered Trust 3%
Association of Language Teachers and Teachers' Union 3%
Guild 3%
Citizens' Collective 3%

6. Tax Exemption and Financial Assistance

When asked if each TA was granted exemption from tax or received any special funding as a result of their status the following percentage of participants answered YES

Tax Exemption

- For funds acquired from membership 6.5%
- All funds 59.5%

Lower Tax Rate 3.5%

Special Funding 9.5%

Don't know 9.5%

No answer 11.5%

7. Other Organizations Approached for Funding

When participants were asked if there were any other organizations not already mentioned that had helped them financially, they answered:

- Professional Development Unit, University of Iceland
- Iceland's National Teachers' Association
- Association of Teacher Trainers in Romania
- Banco de Brazil
- Goethe Institute
- Alliance Francais
- Hyphen Managerial Services, Greece
- Hellenic American Union, Greece
- Hornby Trust
- Estonian National Examination and Qualification Centre
- Association of British Schools
- European Platform in the Netherlands
- Canadian Government
- Local Libraries
- University of Edinburgh
- Community Shield Azerbaijan

8. Any Other Comments

Participants were asked if they had any other comments they would like to make regarding the issue of TA Finances:

"I really want to learn from other's experiences how they get funding to pay their staff, at least an office manager"

"Funding is demanding so we are considering this issue for now"

"Unfortunately we can't count on any funding from the ministry of education which is a big problem"

"We are probably not a typical TA, as we're only about 50 members out of approximately 55 possible"

"Thank you"

"We need a separate team/individual to look after funding"

"We need to think of funding as a year-long activity, not on an event-by-event basis"

"Access to operating funds required. Not just project specific funding, but for Board members to attend meeting, for example"

"How can we manage sustainability?"

"Can we please share experiences regarding agreements with sponsors?"

"No, thanks a million"

"I wonder if it would be possible to set up an endowment through active fund raising for basic office expenses – a sustainability issue!"

"The main problem – we cannot afford to invite most of the wonderful lecturers to our own conference [from other parts of the world]"

"We do not have an office, all our work is volunteers work and we ourselves are the ultimate sponsors when badly needed"

"In my opinion funding is the most demanding issue as it is both related to the value of services provided and with our ability to continue providing it in the future"

"I think personally that it is important for TA members to recognise and appreciate the very large amount of voluntary work on the part of committee members etc"

"Our next step is to establish regular and professional auditing"

"We have a low membership fee but we are still losing some members every year. We don't think it's to do with the fee but has other reasons"

☹ - One TA drew this picture

Compiled by Sara Hannam, IATEFL Associates' Coordinator, July 2007