



## Rapport – Technical event, Budapest 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011

*ISIA is promoting quality and safety for its members.*

More than 40 people, representing 21 nations from all over the world, attended the Technical Event that ISIA organised in Budapest the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2011, with the great collaboration of the Hungarian Ski Teachers Association.

The event has been organised in order to address two very important issues for the professional snowsports teachers: quality and safety, to be obtained through the educational standards, that in our association are defined as the Minimum Standard.

The first issue directly relates to the institutional tasks of ISIA, that has to support, protect and promote the interest of the professionals.

As it was stated during the meeting, the best way to do so, is helping them to have the proper knowledge in order to meet and exceed the needs and the wishes of their customers, of course within the boundaries of their competences and of the necessary safety.

This has to be planned since the first steps of their education as professional teachers.

That is why it is very important that the members of ISIA, the National Associations that are currently grading the snowsports professionals, must make sure they have a strong educational curriculum meeting a minimum level that is defined by the ISIA Minimum Standard.

The first part of the event in Budapest was dedicated to the Minimum Standard itself: why this is necessary, what is, who is affected by it, when to implement it and how to.

As it was pointed out, the ISIA Minimum Standard of ISIA is a set of rules and tools defining the professional performance level required to the snowsports teachers, in all the aspects of their job.

Based on the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training [ECVET], it defines two main grades: the ISIA Stamp, the prestigious and historical brand of ISIA, and the ISIA Card, the new identification document introduced in 2008 for the professionals at the highest level.

As from the bylaws of ISIA, the ISIA Stamp level is awarded to those nations meeting, in their education system, the corresponding standard.

It is the first step in order to become full member of the ISIA family and to have the right of voting at the ISIA General Assembly.

The next level, the ISIA Card, is for those nations who, due to the needs of their members and of their market, aim to a performance level identifying the professional formed in order to be able to operate independently and organise their activity by themselves, without having to rely on the structure of an organised ski school.

The Minimum Standards contains the rules and the content of the training the teachers must follow and pass; the procedures to check the courses delivered on field do comply with what prescribed; the tools to identify and certify the qualified professionals; the procedures to guarantee the quality level over the time.

The ISIA Technical Commission presented the new Inspection Rules and the papers to perform the formal certification (in terms of duration and general content) of the courses.

This can be achieved just filling in a simple spreadsheet, once this has been completed, it clearly shows if the level is there or not.

The same tool is going to be available as an on line version, and hopefully this will be the core of a system for managing the data and information about all the education systems in the world.

Once implemented, this will allow the ISIA Nations to better sharing their knowledge, in the interest of their Members and of their customers.

Of course, the electronic check, on line or with the spreadsheet, does not necessarily complete the certification process of an Association. The process can prosecute with on field inspections when necessary, and it can be performed also after the certification has been achieved. This is very important, in order to maintain the quality up over the time.

Once a Nation has obtained the ISIA certification, it achieves the right of being added into the ISIA Snowsport Professionals Database that is already on line and contains the data of the professional teachers from all over the world.

The database is useful to verify and certify without any doubt the identity and the qualification of the holder of an ISIA stamp or an ISIA Card.



The second part of the meeting was dedicated to how the subject of safety is taught in the courses for the teachers.

This is a very important matter, encompassing many different domains: from the general attitude and behaviour that must be always taken in account in any situation, to the rules and prescriptions in order to act safely in the boundary of confined areas (indoor or outdoor) to the wider spectrum of knowledge and technical competencies needed in order to approach in a safe way the off-piste activities.

ISIA requested the Members to present how they interpret and deliver the general guidelines for safety embedded in the Minimum Standard.

Eight nations presented their view on such a subject: the speakers were from Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Ireland, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia.

The handouts are available on the ISIA website - [www.isiaski.org](http://www.isiaski.org).

The presentations gave all the participants a very wide and interesting contribute, and they could be the base for implementing an ISIA Safety Minimum Standard, better detailing the guidelines available at the moment, and that might be submitted to all the Members for their approval.

Following the conclusions of the event, the Technical Commission will present a proposal in order to achieve a common consensus for the minimum content of the curriculum for safety.

The event was closed with two main statements, each related to one of the thematic discussed during the meeting.

The wide and deep interest raised by the argument on the safety, led to the decision of hosting an on snow event dedicated to the same subject.

It will happen during this winter – 2011-12 - in a suitable venue, and the Technical Commission and the ISIA Board are already working in order to prepare it.

The second resolution links back to the meaning of the whole ISIA and the job they are doing with the Technical Commission.

The quality certification process ISIA started is big and is going to benefit all the members.

It needs a great effort that must be agreed and supported by everybody: to be actually achieved, there is need for the active participation of all the ISIA community.

Though, it is worth doing it: aiming to quality and committing to respect the standard over the time, is the best way to increase and improve the professional image all over the world, and even more important, it helps promoting the reciprocal respect and trust between the member nations of ISIA and between the snowsports teacher and their customers.

That is why, it has been agreed the nations commit to fulfil the requirements for being active Members of ISIA: it is an ongoing and never ending process, that needs an active and continuous participation to the life of the association.

*The nations who participated at the ISIA Technical event in Budapest the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October were: Andorra, Argentina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United States of America.*

*The Board and the Technical Commission would like to express their thankfulness to all the Nations that being there contributed to make a successful meeting.*

*Special thanks go to Dr. Katalin Egri and to the whole Hungarian Ski Teacher Association for the great organisation and hospitality.*

Vittorio Caffi