European Ethical Committee

Annual Report 2025

To: WABA Board
From: European Ethical Committee
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Committee Composition

The European Ethical Committee (EUEC) is composed of four members. Two members are serving a second term, and two joined the Committee in 2025 (see waba.pro.)

In 2025, the Committee received six formal complaints, including cases involving students and instructors, instructor-to-instructor conflicts, and one complaint submitted by a Training Institute team. In addition, several significant matters were reviewed due to their ethical relevance, even when no formal complaint was submitted.

Case A – Instructor Responsibility and Student Readiness

This case raised important questions about the responsibility of instructors when concerns arise regarding a student's readiness to progress, particularly when personal therapy or emotional development may be required.

The matter highlights the complexity of balancing pedagogical responsibility, student support, and clear professional boundaries. The Committee recognizes the importance of empathy, appropriate referrals, and transparent communication in such situations.

Decision:
The case remains in progress. Further dialogue among instructors is required to establish clearer guidelines and create an appropriate forum within the registry for sharing perspectives and recommendations.

Case B – Communication and Registry Transparency

This case concerned a student who reported not receiving course video materials and whose evaluation mark was changed without prior notification. The student also expressed that personal boundaries were not respected.

The Committee reviewed written explanations from both parties. The instructor agreed to provide the materials and to ensure transparency regarding any future registry changes.

Decision:
The case is considered closed.

Case C – Electoral Context and Formal Warning

A formal complaint was submitted in the context of tensions preceding the ESAC elections. Allegations included misrepresentation of facts and actions perceived as politically motivated.

Decision:

- No further public or direct accusations may be made without substantial new evidence.
- Formal complaints must not be used for retaliation or political maneuvering.
- Future concerns must focus on improving standards rather than targeting individuals.
- A formal warning was issued in accordance with WABA statutes.

Case D – Alleged Defamation Between Instructors

This complaint concerned alleged public defamation dating back to the 2022 conference. Despite mediation efforts by the Board, no resolution was achieved.

Decision:
As no concrete evidence was provided to substantiate the allegations, the Committee will not take disciplinary action and recommends that the matter be resolved internally between the parties.

Case E – Training Conditions and Professional Standards

Although no formal complaint was submitted, concerns were raised regarding professional conduct and training conditions during a Watsu 2 course. The Ethical Committee and ESAC were informally involved over 4 months.

Decision:
As no formal complaint was filed, a structured investigation could not proceed. The participants stated they felt heard, though not fully satisfied. The matter is considered closed.

Case F – ITC Conflict and Professional Conduct

This case concerned interpersonal tensions during an ITC training. It was reported that conflict was not optimally mediated and that public criticism occurred.

After reviewing testimonies and feedback from instructors and participants, the Committee concluded:

- The assistant may continue the path toward Watsu Instructor Certification, as teaching skills were acknowledged.
- Completion of a certified course in anger management or emotional regulation is required prior to continuing supervision and the WIC process.
- The ITC organizer is also recommended to undertake a certified course in emotional regulation to strengthen conflict management and leadership skills.

These measures are developmental and preventive in nature.

Case G – Governance and Naming Rights

A disagreement arose between Training Institute Team and instructor YY regarding governance practices and naming rights.

Key Points:

- Concerns were raised regarding repeated formal complaints perceived as obstructive.
- Discussion addressed the use of the term “European” in center naming.
- A related question emerged regarding the use of the name “Harold Dull” on centers and materials. Relevant lineage holders and organizations were consulted.

Final Decisions:

- The term “European” is not legally protected and may be used by Watsu centers and organizations in Europe, provided it does not imply endorsement by EU institutions.
- The name “Harold Dull” may be used only with formal permission through the official application process administered by Aquatic Wellness Foundation.
- Authority regarding the use of Harold Dull’s name rests with the Watsu Lineage Holder and must follow established procedures.

All parties expressed willingness to move forward in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Closing Statement

The cases reviewed in 2025 reflect the importance of clear communication, emotional maturity, and shared responsibility in maintaining the integrity of the WABA community.

With respect,

European Ethical Committee
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