

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES: AEROMEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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During this 3-hour workshop, we will be taking a look at the EU Regulation 1042/2018 which mandates the design, implementation and conduct of PPSPs within all EASA AOCs by August 14th, 2020. The workshop will take place at the very beginning of the conference. Therefore, the workshop may serve as a building block and foster further discussion during the conference by encompassing what implementation of PPSPs looks like in practice. Actually, most of the larger airlines within Europe either already are compliant or are well on their way. This does however leave a very large number of smaller AOCs who struggle for resources and suitable structures to put in place a compliant PPSP.

Given that the audience will consist predominantly of psychologists, the workshop will focus primarily on the role of the aviation psychologist within PPSPs and what the phrase “mental and psychological health professionals” means within the framework of the relevant legislation. However, we will also spend some time establishing the overarching context: outlining firstly the peculiar psychology of the commercial pilot which identifies the barriers and benefits of a well-run support programme, and secondly the key elements that a successful PPSP must have; all of which will be based on the EPPSI Guide to Design and Implementation of PPSPs (<http://eppsi.eu/home-eppsi/eppsi-guide-on-peer-support/>).

The role of an aviation psychologist in PPSPs can be split into four distinct parts:

- Selection and initial training of the Peers,
- Acting as a resource to those Peers: CPD, mentoring, advising and supporting them,
- Taking a pivotal role in Peer Intervention of critical safety cases,
- Key responsibilities and considerations.

EPPSI will provide a panel of speakers to present these various topics. The panel will be present on stage the whole time, as the presentations will be designed to stimulate questions and discussion on a rolling basis. EPPSI has considerable practical experience in the field of PPSPs, be it regarding the design, implementation or conduct of such programmes. The expertise of aviation and clinical psychologists as well as an experienced pilot who are currently active within successful PPSPs will be available to the audience for questions and answers throughout.