



Tics and Tourette Across the Globe (TTAG) Meeting

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, 9:00–13:00 EEST | Eugenides Foundation

“Empowering Minds: Creating Supportive Educational Environments
for People touched by Tourette”

TTAG Hours 1 & 2

- 9:00-9:15: TTAG 2024 Summary, TTAG 2025 New Board

Host: [Michele Dunlap](#), TTAG President-Germany

- 9:15-9:45: In-Service Presentations / Rethinking TS in Education

Host: [Marla Shea](#), TTAG Board Secretary-USA/UK

- 9:45-9:50: Break

- 9:50-11:00: TTAG Panel Discussion

Host: [Marla Shea](#), TTAG Board Secretary-USA/UK

Introduction Video: Natalie Davidson

Topic: “Empowering Minds: Creating Supportive Educational Environments for People touched by Tourette”

Panelists: [Kathy Giordano](#) (TTAG USA), [Lucy Toghill](#) (Tourette Action UK), [Christina Batagia-Papakaliati](#) (Tourette Greece), Teacher/educator from Greece (TBA)

- 11:00-11:10: Break



TTAG Hours 3

- 11:10-11:55: Language Creates Reality: Reframing Tourette as a Strength in the Classroom

Hosts:

[Roxana Apollonio](#), TTAG Board Member-Spain,

[Agnieszka Malek](#), TTAG Board Member-Poland

[Donatella Comasini](#), TTAG Board Member-Italy

The way we talk about Tourette shapes how individuals and educators perceive it, making strength-based language essential for creating empowering environments. Language impacts identity and self-esteem in the classroom, and deficit-based descriptions can limit a student's potential by focusing on challenges rather than strengths.

- 11:55-12:00: Break

TTAG Hours 4

- 12:00-12:45: Problem-Solving Workshop: Addressing Challenges in the Classroom

Hosts: [Kathy Giordano](#) TTAG Education Chair-USA

This session equips educators with tools and strategies to navigate real-world classroom challenges while maintaining a strength-based mindset. Participants will break into small groups to discuss specific scenarios, such as a student experiencing disruptive tics during a group project, peer teasing, or frustration with academic tasks. Groups will brainstorm solutions, reframing challenges as opportunities and fostering inclusion. They'll role-play or present ideas for facilitator feedback.

The session ends with a strength-based strategy toolkit for classroom challenges.

- 12:45-13:00: Inspirational Closing: “A Future of Empowerment”

Hosts: [Donatella Comasini](#), TTAG Board Member-Italy

To conclude on an uplifting note, the session will highlight the progress and potential of students with Tourette through personal success stories that showcase their achievements. Emphasizing the transformative power of supportive environments, the discussion will reinforce how encouragement and understanding can make a meaningful difference.