

Report from EFPA Presidents' Council Meeting held in Kyiv (Ukraine) on November 28-29, 2019.

Convenor representing Italy: Santo Di Nuovo (president AIP, vice-president INPA)

Activity of the Executive Council and its priorities.

The incoming Efpa president Steinebach exposes the goals of the Executive Council for 2019-2021:

- General impact: to advocate psychology that makes a decisive contribution to solving social problems in Europe and in the world
- To enhance scientific and professional standards and promote the profession at the national and European level.
- To promote cooperation between groups and member associations
- Checking continuously the process of goal achievement
- Commitment to working groups not more than one per year

Specific goals for quantifiable results in 2011:

- Pilot sport psychology Europsy specialist certificate;
- Accreditation standards for training courses agreed by the President Council;
- Standards for continuing education and supervision, connected to regulations at European level;
- A 'model code' for regulating the profession, particularly to clarify the relationships between psychology and psychotherapy.

In the discussion for comments on these general and specific goals, I have suggested more connections with cultural and political stakeholders. In Italy, but perhaps in all countries, it could be useful international support towards political decisions including psychological aspects (e.g., migration). Improving contacts with European institutions is needed. A contract by EFPA with an international lobbying organization may be a good idea.

About enhancing the accessibility of information and developing collaboration, could be useful more publicity of the action-research projects carried out in different countries

Regarding the list of priority areas, I voted for 1) prevention and early interventions for health, 2) migration and refugees, 3) use of artificial intelligence; and I suggested to add a specific sub-topic on the psychology of the elderly.

For the nominations of the Italian components in the boards and Standing Committees, we have sent a request for a short delay, because at this moment the Order of Psychologists is voting for renewing the regional and national Boards, and the decision about the choice of the persons representing Italy in the Efpa committees will be taken by the new governance, in agreement with the Academic association I represent.

Efpa suggests to use for the selection specific expertise and experience in the fields, but also encourages new nominations from early career psychologists who can have benefits for their career from participation to the boards.

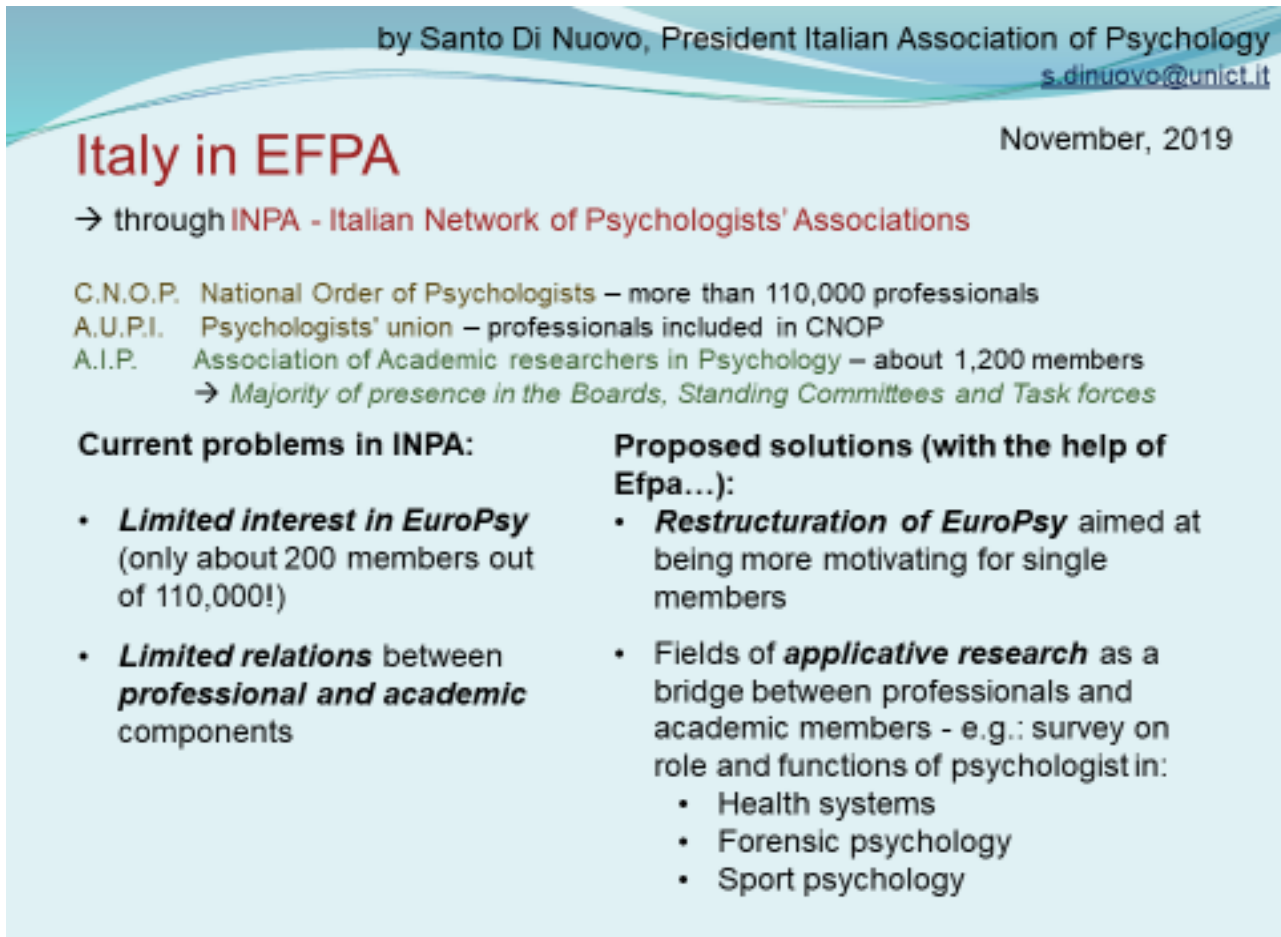
The workplan of each board or committee will start in February, so before this date the nominations have to be completed.

Europsy strategy and workplan 2019-2021

In Italy, Europsy appears to be less attractive than in other countries. Only a few psychologists ask to apply for Europsy. Our associates think a general certification will add nothing of relevance for their professional work. Many associates ask instead to have the possibility of making part of approved registers in specific fields (e., g. sport psychology, forensic psychology, and so on). Could Efpa answer this request of specific registers? Efpa will discuss more these points. Specific certifications could be developed. For Sport Psychology a team is working now. Promotional videos will be developed and diffused, e.g. "What is Europsy?"

Report from national components:

I have reported in a synthetic slide shown at the meeting the situation of INPA, the Italian Network of Psychological associations which participates in Efpa jointly on behalf of Italy.



by Santo Di Nuovo, President Italian Association of Psychology
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Italy in EFPA

→ through **INPA - Italian Network of Psychologists' Associations**

C.N.O.P. National Order of Psychologists – more than 110,000 professionals
A.U.P.I. Psychologists' union – professionals included in CNOP
A.I.P. Association of Academic researchers in Psychology – about 1,200 members
→ Majority of presence in the Boards, Standing Committees and Task forces

Current problems in INPA:	Proposed solutions (with the help of Efpa...):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited interest in EuroPsy (only about 200 members out of 110,000!)• Limited relations between professional and academic components	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restructuration of EuroPsy aimed at being more motivating for single members• Fields of applicative research as a bridge between professionals and academic members - e.g.: survey on role and functions of psychologist in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health systems• Forensic psychology• Sport psychology

The premise is that the Italian delegation represents a third of all the individual psychologist of Efpa, but we need to renew the condition of participation, and to revise as soon the formal agreement between the three components of INPA for the reasons indicated in the slide.

As previously said, the Italian Order is now changing the governance, after the elections made for the regional boards and after for national board.

When the new governances will be established, we will negotiate a new Statute for INPA and, within this, the new assignments in the boards and standing committees, and the guidelines for renewing the interest of our many thousands of psychologists in Europsy.

Regarding applied fields, I can add some other remarks about changes in Italian legislation. Last year the National Order shifted under the supervision of the Ministry of Health (before it was under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice). This is a very relevant award for Italian psychology, which was recognised as promoting health, both psychosomatic and mental, but also relational and organizational, in a very wide interpretation of the notion of health.

Another important goal for Italian psychology was the agreement signed between the national Order of Psychologists and the Ministry of Education for the presence of psychologists in the school system. The academic component of the Italian network of psychological associations will

cooperate to make research plans for the interventions in the scholastic settings, with pupils with a disability, special learning needs, hyperactivity, borderline functioning, and so on.

A well-affirmed practice promoted within the activities of EFPA board for Geropsychology was a survey on the occupational work of the psychologists specialized for support elderly persons (a first preliminary report was sent for publication to Efpa last year).

In all these national projects we will promote collaboration between academic and professional components of our national associations. But also we hope for wider cooperation with other countries, which will be surely useful for our projects and for international team works within Efpa.

As regards EU projects with Efpa involvement, I remember that a European Project Horizon 2020 H-Work (title: *Multilevel Interventions to Promote Mental Health in Public Services and Workplaces*) was proposed and coordinated by the University of Bologna (professors Bruna Zani, formerly components of the board, and Luca Pietrantonì). Bruna could remain a contact person from Italy for this project, very important for affirming the promotion of mental health in different workplaces, from a perspective of community psychology.

In January a kickoff meeting for these European projects will be held in Bologna.

Congresses and other plans

The next Efpa congresses have been presented (Ljubljana, 2021; Brighton, 2023) and the activities of the European student federation (EFPSA) which could also associate Italian students.

I have proposed the candidature of Italy for managing the Efpa second semester 2021, including the meeting of Presidents to be held in Italy.

A complete report of the meeting of Presidents will be sent as soon by the Efpa secretary, and I will broadcast to the components of INPA.

Santo Di Nuovo