Psychology in Europe – Opportunities, challenges, priorities

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European Federation of Psychologists' Associations

Assemblea AIP
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Basic facts

- EFPA was founded in 1981 by 12 national associations and grew steadily as the EU expanded
- EFPA is a federation of **37** national psychologists' associations countries (incl. all 27 EU countries), covering > 300.000 psychologists. The Member Association that joined EFPA most recently is Ukraine
- It collaborates with 12 Associate Members (specialists) and 2 Affiliate Member (EFPSA and EFPTA).
- It's focus changed from collaborating on professional issues to representing and promoting psychology (education, profession and research) at the European level.

List of Associate Members

- EAAP European Association for Aviation Psychology
- EAPA European Association of Psychological Assessment
- EAPP European Association of Personality Psychology
- EADP European Association of Developmental Psychology
- EAWOP European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology
- ECPA European Community Psychology Association
- EMDR Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing - Europe
- ESCoP European Society for Cognitive Psychology
- ESTSS European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies
- EUROPLAT European Psychology Learning and Teaching Network
- FEPSAC European Federation of Sport Psychology
- FESN Federation of European Societies of NeuroPsychology

Spheres of operation

External

EFPA interacts with the **European Institutions** (EU) and **other international organizations,** in Europe and globally



Internal

EFPA interacts with **National Psychologists Associations** and their **Governments**, as well as **European Psychologists Associations**

Mission of EFPA (since 2011)

The **mission** of EFPA is to promote the **development, dissemination and application of psychology in all its forms in Europe and beyond,**

and to contribute to shaping a humane society, in Europe and beyond, on the basis of psychology's expertise.

Activity domains



Opportunities for participation in EU policy-making

- The EU offers many opportunities for influencing the policy-making process.
- Among them are:
  1) Direct contact with the Commission and the Parliament
  2) Meetings organized by the Commission or the Parliament
  3) Participation of the Commission or the Parliament in self-organized or joint meetings
  4) Participation in official advisory bodies
  5) Public consultations by the Commission on new legislative proposals

Opportunities to develop and utilize psychology

- As a cooperative platform, EFPA can play an initiating, facilitating and coordinating role in matters of concern for its members – in ways that go beyond the capacities of single associations.
- Through EFPA, associations can :
  - Obtain better information about Europe
  - Work together and share knowledge
  - Develop common standards and models for professional activity, education, and research
  - Improve professional ethics
  - Influence national legislation

What is in it for you,
as Member Association?

What is in it?

1. More visibility and influence at the European level
2. Greater opportunity for coordinated action – European and national level – which has greater chance of success.
3. Better support for MAs in their actions towards national governments.
4. Possibility to generate financial support for countries (e.g. structural funds).
5. More opportunity to profit from what EFPA develops (e.g. standards, law, ethical code, publicity materials), and from what other MAs have developed - thus less need to re-invent the wheel.

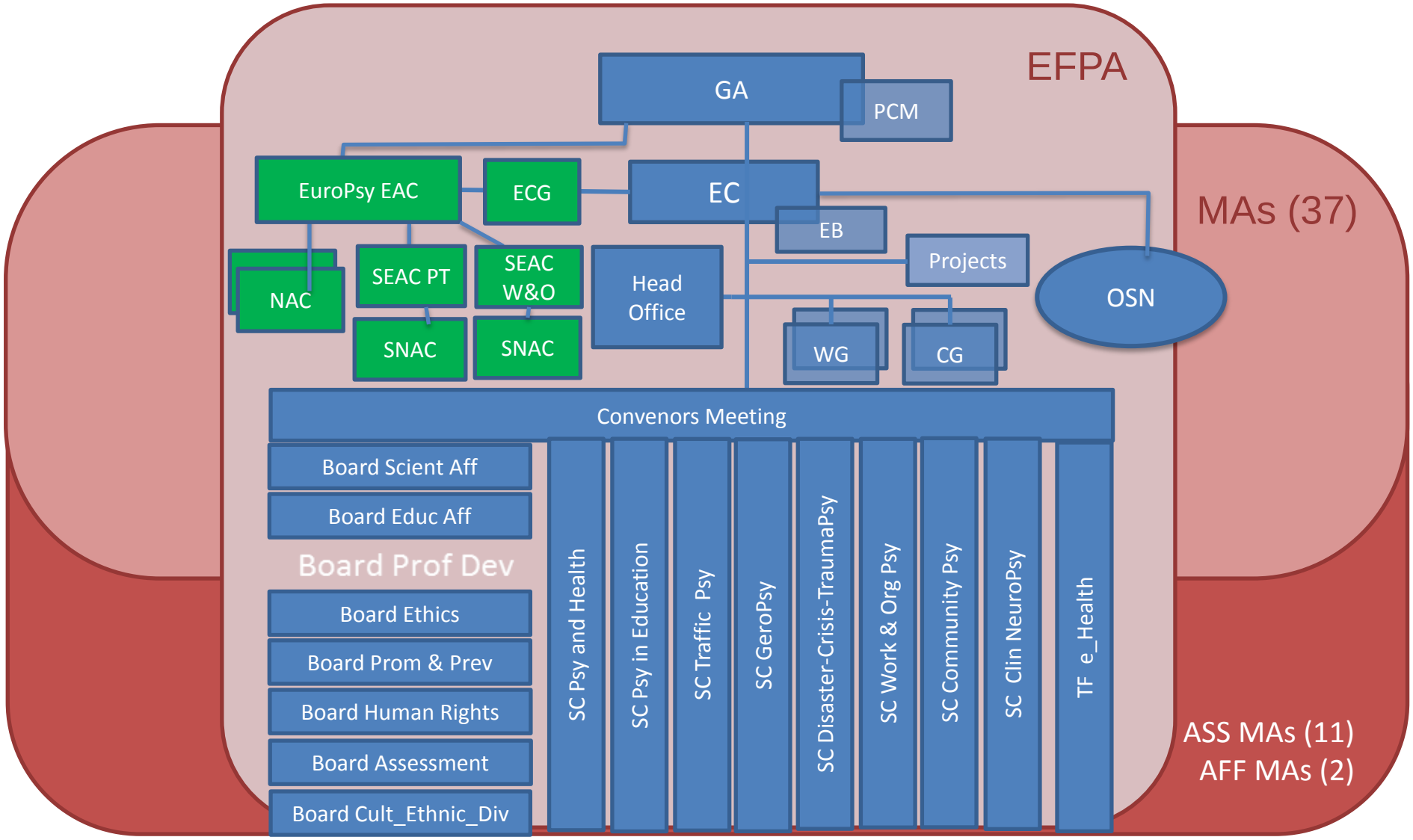
What is in it?

6. More opportunity to use expertise mobilized through EFPA and for information sharing (e.g. News Magazine, EP Journal)
7. A more transparent committee structure, with more output and greater accountability.
8. Better sharing of expertise and resources; more mutual support.
9. Possibility for small MAs to participate in more committees via virtual meetings, without costs.
10. More impact for committees will have more impact; more justice being done to their work.

The need to be there

- Europe *needs to know* what psychologists can offer and should learn to *seek their views and contributions*, just as it does with e.g. lawyers, economists, engineers, and medical experts.
- Representation at the European level is important because this is where *policies* are made and *decisio*ns are taken that affect research, education and professional work of psychologists.
- It offers opportunities for making contributions to European (and indirectly national) policies and for advocacy.

EFPA's committees Sep 2017



Boards, SCs and TFs

- EFPA now has 7 Boards, 8 Standing Committees and 1 Task Force
- + Operational Support Network OSN
- + Network News Correspondents
- Total number of volunteers > **400 !!** (>300 active & > 100 corresponding members)
- (this is without EC, EAC and the 21 NACs, 3 (S)NACs..)

Boards, SCs and TFs

- *Boards* deal with general aspects of professional development that are relevant for the psychological profession as a whole, irrespective of field of practice or specialization.
- *Standing Committees* deal with expertise development and professional development within particular areas of practice.
- *Task Forces*
- *Working Groups*

Specific expectations

- Committees are expected to:
  - participate and represent EFPA in relevant European events, in consultation with EC Liaisons, taking into account the general EFPA guidelines
  - support and develop activities in international events (e.g. world days)
  - take initiatives to develop policy statements and papers, which will be published by EFPA after agreement of the EC.
  - (possibly) develop proposals for Specialist EuroPsy certificates, which will need approval of EC and involvement of B-EA and B-PD.

REFERENTI ITALIANI BOARDS (2015-2017) 2017-2019?

1. Scientific affairs: REMO JOB
2. Educational Affairs: SERGIO SALVATORE
3. ~~(Professional development: MARCO GUICCIARDI)~~
4. Ethics: NINO DAZZI ?
5. Promotion & prevention ----------
6. Assessment: ADRIANA LIS
7. Human rights and psy: BRUNO MAZZARA
8. Cultural & Ethnic Diversity: ----------

Referenti italiani Standing Committees (2015-17) 2017-19 ?

1. Psychology and health: VITO TUMMINO
2. Psychology in Education: PAOLA PERUCCHINI
3. Traffic Psychology: FRANCO AMORE
4. Geropsychology : *SANTO DI NUOVO* *(CORRESPONDING)*
5. Crisis, disaster & trauma: ANTONELLA POSTORINO
6. Community Psychology: CATERINA ARCIDIACONO
7. (Work & org psy) ? ----------
8. Clinical neuropsychology SARA MONDINI

REFERENTI ITALIANI Task Force – Working group (2015-2017) 2017-2019?

1. Tsk force E- health: ANGELO COMPARE

1. Working group in Sport Psychology ? ----------

- Operational Support Network (OSN) ELEONORA DRAGO

- Tutti i referenti nazionali, e i convenors, possono essere riconfermati o cambiati. **V. situazione italiana**

EC (2017-2019)and Staff

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	EFPA STAFF (head office)
Telmo Mourinho Baptista (Portogallo) *President*	**Sabine Steyaert** *Director*
Robertas Povilaitis (Lituania) *Secretary General*	**Valérie Boni** *Management Assistant*
Christoph Steinebach (Germania) *Treasurer*	**Julie Van den Borre** *Office Manager*
Josip Lopizic (Croazia)	**Ivana Marinovic** *Management Assistant*
Tor Levin Hofgaard (Norvegia)	
Eleni Karayianni (Cipro)	
Bruna Zani (Italia)	

What is *EuroPsy?*

- *EuroPsy* is a European certification system for psychologists, which
  - defines and guarantees the qualifications of registered members of the psychological profession
  - covers the profession as a whole and thereby helps to maintain psychology's integrity and identity
  - applies to all of Europe, which helps strengthening the position of psychology in Europe and globally.

EuroPsy
European Certificate in Psychology

Norway
Iceland
Finland
Denmark
Estonia
United Kingdom
Latvia
Nether-lands
Russia
Germany
Hungary
Czech Republic
Slovenia
Austria
Italy
France
Greece
Spain
Portugal
Cyprus
Turkey
Lithuania



Common standards for content, quality and mobility

- *EuroPsy* was developed to overcome the discrepancy between a huge diversity in *content* of education and training of psychologists in Europe, and the need for a common European understanding of psychologists' qualifications.
- It was felt necessary – in the interest of psychologists' clients and employers, as well as psychologists – to set common standards of expertise that would help guaranteeing *quality*.
- Also, increasing *mobility* of citizens in the EU (professionals and clients / patients) makes standards for the recognition of qualifications indispensible.

Status of *EuroPsy*

- *EuroPsy* is a standard set by EFPA, that is, the national psychologists associations of Europe.
- *EuroPsy is not a license to practice*. EuroPsy respects and supports licensing regulations made by national governments (e.g. for health professions).
- *EuroPsy* is compatible with European Directives 2005/36/EC and 2013/55/EU (Qualifications Directives), and is meant to *facilitate the evaluation* of migrant psychologists' applications by Competent Authorities.

Challenges at the European level

1. Gap politics - psychology
2. Selecting options and getting on-board
3. Building commitment and securing resources
4. Delivering and keeping momentum



Results

- Many of EFPA's activities and projects represent *small steps* forward, but overall there has been a significant advance.
- In a few years time we have seen an enormous gain in *visibility, voice and impact* of psychology in Europe.
- EU policy-makers are showing *interest* in our views and contributions.
- Yet, we are newcomers, there are many others, and there is still a *long way to go* and many more steps need to be made.

Current priorities

- Organize ourselves better and become *more professional* in our activities at the European level
- Improve our *publicity and communication*
- Manage the *portfolio of contacts* with the European Commission and the European Parliament, as to cover health, employment, education, transportation, and Internet.
- Build *(new) relations* with the EESC and the Council of Europe, and collaborate with WHO Europe

Challenges at the national level

1. National perspective and bias
2. Diversity and unclear profile
3. Skewed involvement
4. Attracting sufficient resources



Choices

- EFPA has made the following choices in dealing with these challenges:
  - Promote the unity of psychology
  - Emphasize diversity as an asset
  - Adopt collaboration as leading principle
  - Promote participation of all associations in committees, the European Congress, and publications
  - Address national concerns via committee work and supportive actions towards national governments
  - Search for additional funding

Results

- EFPA has been able to *involve* national associations and European specialist associations in its activities (through committee work), which has lead to increased *knowledge sharing*.
- Member Associations and EFPA have worked closely together in developing and rolling out *EuroPsy*, and thereby created a new service to the public and psychologists.
- More often than before, it has appeared possible to *link national concerns to European developments*.
- However, much of the *potential* of being a European organization remains to be realized.

Current priorities

- Even *greater involvement* of national associations in European activities (new: 'European Semester')
- Improve *publicity and communication*
- Further disseminate, develop and profit from *EuroPsy*
- *Model Code of Ethics* and a *Model of Psychologists Act*
- Improve psychology *education*, also for non-psychologists
- More *knowledge-sharing*, e.g. on advances in prevention and intervention

Beyond the EU: WHO - Health 2020



MEETING WITH WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Copenhagen, May 22, 2014

Psychology in the European region

- We will continue along these lines, expand our advocacy work, raise the profile of psychology, invest more in professional development and education, strengthen the link between the national and European level and seek greater leverage from it; and deliver more to people and society.



Psychology in other regions of the world

- We are long-time partners of IUPsyS and IAAP and will continue and deepen our collaboration with these global organizations.
- In addition, we are ready to collaborate, and to exchange knowledge and experiences with regional organizations, including FIAP, for mutual benefit.
- In developing new contacts we will take into consideration our special responsibility vis-à-vis former colonies.

Psychology at the United Nations

- We are open to work with colleagues at the level of the United Nations to make sure that the voice of psychology is heard and that it attains more room to contribute to understanding and resolution of the worlds major problems: poverty, health, education, intolerance, environment, etc.
- As from June 15, 2017 EFPA has Special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN



European Semesters

1) Czech Republic, July-December, 2017 

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2) United Kingdom, January-July, 2018 

3) Cyprus, July-December, 2018 



8) EFPA news magazine





The ‘European Psychologist’ Journal



16th European Congress of Psychology

Psychology: creating the future together



JULY 2-5, 2019

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

ECP 2021 Ljubljana





DRUŠTVO PSIHOLOGOV SLOVENIJE
SLOVENIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION



