



**Activity Report 2005 - 2007  
of the Executive Council of EFPA  
to the General Assembly, Prague 2007**

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**Richard Freeman (United Kingdom) - Secretary General and Vice President**

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**June 2007**

## **Activity Report of the Executive Council of EFPA**

### **to the General Assembly, Prague 2007**

#### **I Introduction**

The General Assembly (GA) follows the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychology, which is organised in Prague, the Czech Republic, under the auspices of EFPA by the Czech Psychological Association. This report summarises the work of the Executive Council (EC) covering the period 2005 - 2007, starting from the GA in Granada July 2005.

#### *(i) EFPA and its Member Associations*

EFPA, the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations, was founded 26 years ago, in 1981. Today it includes representatives from 32 European countries. The members of EFPA are national Psychological Associations or Federations, one from each country. There are 25 European Union members plus seven other European countries. In the future, the Federation's aim is to have Member Associations from all European countries. There is still potential for EFPA to expand in those European countries that have not yet been able to join the Federation. The Prague General Assembly will decide on applications from the psychological associations of Bulgaria and Serbia. During the period 2005 - 07 there have been contacts for this purpose with psychological organisations in Romania and Russia.

At this moment, the EFPA Member Associations have a total of 200,000 individual members. In addition, the student organisation EFPSA, the European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations, is an Affiliate Member of EFPA. The EFPSA Member Associations and the associations with an observer status in EFPSA have about 80,000 members.

#### *(ii) The Executive Council*

Since the last GA, the EC has met twelve times: Granada, July 2005 (following the GA); Brussels, September 2005; Brussels, October 2005; Brussels, December 2005 (related to the Presidents' Council Meeting); Prague, April 2006 (related to the meeting with the Prague ECP organisers); Athens, July 2006 (related to the Presidents' Council Meeting); Brussels, October 2006; Helsinki, December 2006; Brussels, February 2007, Brussels, April 2007 (related to the Presidents' Council Meeting); Brussels, June 2007 and Prague, July 2007. The venues were chosen on the basis of the following considerations: (i) to consolidate the office in Brussels, (ii) to visit associations which are hosting, or will be hosting, International or European Congresses of Psychology.

These meetings have been well attended. Tasks and liaison duties have been shared between the EC. The workload has continued to grow and at times the workload has exceeded the resources available in the EC and the Head Office. The working atmosphere has been open and democratic. As a rule, the final decisions taken by the EC have been unanimous. The members of the Executive Council are listed in Appendix 1.

#### *(iii) The Presidents' Council*

The Presidents' Council, constituted formally by the GA in 1997 to meet at least once a year, has met three times in the period (December 2005, July 2006 and April 2007) at the EFPA Head Office in Brussels and in Athens. The Presidents' Council has become important and valuable as a consultative and advisory body for EFPA and its Executive Council. The

Council plays a vital role in bringing together the Presidents of the Member Associations, evaluating the activities of EFPA, facilitating the exchange of policies and perspectives, and thereby developing our understanding of each other's organisations and the integration of EFPA.

The Presidents' Council has already in April 2007 discussed the draft Activity Plan for the period 2007-09. The draft Activity Plan will be submitted to the General Assembly.

## **II General policy direction of the Executive Council**

The EC has been working towards the following ten goals (according to the Activity Plan of 2005 - 2007, accepted by the General Assembly in Granada July 2005):

### **1) Developing a European Certification in Psychology**

The most important goal of EFPA is to ensure the high quality of education and training for psychologists both at the national and the European level, to facilitate the mobility of psychologists and the mutual recognition of qualifications, and to ensure that psychology is practised at a high standard everywhere in Europe.

EFPA has decided to develop a European Certificate in Psychology (EuroPsy), which would be granted to all those psychologists in the EFPA Member Association countries whose education and training in psychology meets the EFPA standards. The EuroPsy standard has been agreed upon in the Granada General Assembly in 2005. EFPA has worked towards receiving acceptance of the EuroPsy standard from the European Commission, EU Member States and other European governments. Achieving this would be a new, important step for the profession. The EuroPsy Certificate and a EuroPsy Professional Card would also be visible, useful products of value to the individual members of EFPA Member Associations.

#### *Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications 2005/36/EC*

The European Union adopted the Directive 2005/36/EC, concerning the recognition of professional qualifications in Europe in September 2005. Its Article 15 provides a possibility for professional associations to present "platforms" to the European Commission. It provides also a possibility for the professional associations to produce Professional Cards which would contain information about the education and training of the professionals and thus facilitate mobility in Europe. The Directive also gives EFPA the possibility to present to the European Commission a "reasoned request for the coordination of minimum requirements" of the education and training of psychologists in EU Member States.

#### *EuroPsy experiment in six EU Member States 2005 - 2007*

The EFPA Granada General Assembly in 2005 had already accepted the basic EuroPsy model of European education and training in psychology. The next phase of the EuroPsy project has been an experiment with the practical and organisational procedures connected with the EuroPsy Certification and evaluation of national psychology programmes. The experiment has been carried out in six European Union Member States by EFPA Member Associations: Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain and UK. The experiment has been steered and monitored by the EuroPsy Steering Group appointed by the EFPA Executive Council. The Steering Group will submit its report to the General Assembly.

*EFPA Declaration on the education and training of psychologists in Europe*

In July 2006, the EFPA Presidents Council took a clear position on the European standard in psychology and its relation to the Bologna process. The Declaration is attached (Appendix 2).

**2) Recognition of specialist expertise in various fields of psychology**

In the 2005 - 07 Activity Plan it was decided to develop recognition of specialist expertise in various fields of psychology. The first project has been psychotherapy, since requirements for the specialised training of psychologists in psychotherapy had already been accepted in 1997 in the Dublin General Assembly, and slightly revised in the 2005 Granada General Assembly. The EC was also aware of the political implications and needs in the field of psychotherapy. The preparatory work has been done by the Standing Committee on Psychotherapy. During the period it became evident that the specialist level recognition and certification should be aligned with the basic EuroPsy standard – and the Certificate recognising specialist expertise should be built onto the EuroPsy certification. The Certificate would be for a “Registered EuroPsy Psychologist – with Specialist Expertise in Psychotherapy”. The other possible fields where recognition of specialist expertise would have a practical value for European psychologists have been identified as developmental/educational psychology, health/clinical psychology, work and organisational psychology, traffic psychology and crisis/disaster psychology. The work connected with defining the criteria for specialist expertise in work and organisational psychology has been started in cooperation with the European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology (EAWOP).

**3) Legal matters concerning psychology and psychologists**

The Executive Council has followed closely the development of legal regulations concerning psychology and psychologists in all EFPA Member countries. Special emphasis has been given to developments within the European Union.

*Legal status of the profession in European countries*

The Executive Council has received reports on legal developments concerning the profession and practice of psychologists in Member countries. The developments have mostly been beneficial for the profession, but there are still problems with the legal regulation in many countries. By 2007, there are national laws and legal regulations protecting the title “psychologist” and/or regulating the profession of psychologists in 18 European Union Member States and three other European countries. In addition, a law for that purpose has been prepared and is being processed by the Government in at least four countries. In summary, 21 out of the 32 EFPA Member countries already have some form of legal regulation of the profession and in five more countries the regulatory process has been started by the national government.

The details of the legal status of psychologists in Europe are in the attached article “25 years of EFPA” (Appendix 3).

**4) Linking academic and practical psychology**

The General Assembly in London 2001 emphasised the importance of developing EFPA as a joint organisation of academic and practical psychology. Therefore, the Standing Committee on Scientific Affairs was established as a permanent Committee of the Federation. The name change from EFPPA to EFPA was meant to reflect the idea of the Federation representing both academic and practical psychology. Also, the EFPA Statutes have been changed in Granada 2005 to reflect the same idea. The Committee will submit a report to the General Assembly.

### *The European Psychologist*

In 2003, The European Psychologist became the official outlet of EFPA, and its Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors were appointed by EFPA and the publisher Hogrefe & Huber. The EFPA Standing Committee on Scientific Affairs has been given the function of the publication committee of the European Psychologist. Professor Rainer Silbereisen, from the EFPA Executive Council, has worked as the Editor-in-Chief of the European Psychologist. EFPA Executive Council member Katharina Althaus has been the professional News Editor of the journal. EFPA, together with its Member Associations, has committed itself to an effort to obtain 400 individual annual subscriptions for the new European Psychologist in 2005 - 07. The Editor-in-Chief will submit a report to the General Assembly concerning the development of the European Psychologist.

## **5) Activities in the key areas of the profession**

### *Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups*

The activities in the key areas of the profession have mainly been arranged through the work of Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups. This period has seen four Standing Committees: Ethics, Psychotherapy, Scientific Affairs, Tests and Testing; two Task Forces turning into Standing Committees: Disaster and Crisis Psychology, and Traffic Psychology; and one Task Force: Psychology of Ageing. In addition, a joint Working Group continued to work between the EFPA Standing Committee on Tests and Testing and the European Association of Work and Organisational Psychology (EAWOP). Standing Committees have a long-term role: they are appointed for four years and may be continued. The members of the Standing Committees are appointed by the Member Associations and confirmed by the Executive Council after each General Assembly. Task Forces have specific tasks, and they are usually appointed for two years at a time to cover a specific area of work and to present a final report in a publishable form to the General Assembly (see EFPA website [www.efpa.eu](http://www.efpa.eu)). In addition to the Standing Committees and Task Forces appointed by the General Assembly, the Executive Council can form short-term Working Groups which are necessary in carrying out the tasks decided in the Activity Plan of EFPA. Each Standing Committee (SC), Task Force (TF) and Working Group (WG) has had a member of the EC as a liaison person who supports the work of the Task Force, presents progress reports to the EC, and provides an important link between the EC and the SC/TF/WG.

Reports will be presented to the General Assembly by the following:

- Standing Committee *Ethics*
- Standing Committee *Disaster and crisis psychology*
- Standing Committee *Psychotherapy*
- Standing Committee *Scientific Affairs*
- Standing Committee *Tests and testing*
- Standing Committee *Traffic psychology*(Task Force *Traffic psychology until July 2006*)
- Task Force *Geropsychology*

### *The Network of Secretaries General of EFPA Member Associations*

The Network of the Secretaries General of the EFPA Member Associations has been active during the period. The Network aims at the exchange of information concerning the organisation of work in the Member Associations and between them, especially the use of new information technology. The Network will submit a report to the General Assembly.

## **6) European and international contacts**

The general goal is to increase the influence of EFPA on the European Union (EU) and other European and international organisations. The following actions have been taken:

- meetings with representatives of official bodies
- publication of Standing Committee and Task Force reports on the EFPA website
- co-operation with other organisations
- work at the EU level directed towards the goal of ensuring that psychology as a discipline and a profession is sufficiently taken into consideration in various EU policies and activities.

### *Activities in relation to the European Union and the Council of Europe*

EFPA has kept contact with EU bodies through the Members of the EU Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee (CESE) in order to ensure that it is kept informed of the present and future regulations concerning the training and profession of psychology and the field of psychotherapy. EFPA representatives have negotiated with the European Commission Internal Market's Unit of Regulated Profession concerning the development of the European Certificate in Psychology and its relation to the Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. EFPA also actively participated in the processing of the new EU Train Driver Directive – and its requirements for examinations for psychological fitness for all train drivers.

EFPA has been granted permanent participatory status as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) in relation to the European Council in 2003. During the period 2005 – 07, EFPA received invitations to attend the European Council's sessions for the Non-Governmental Organisations, which are held four times a year in Strasbourg. EFPA has had only limited possibility to attend these sessions. EFPA has had talks and developed cooperation with the Council of Europe especially in the area of Psychological Help in Disaster and Crisis Situations.

### *Relations to European central organisations and governments*

EFPA has created permanent and close contacts with EUROCADRES, the European experts and managers' organisation. EUROCADRES is a federation of national academic central organisations. EFPA has been an active member of CEPLIS, the European Council of Liberal Professions. The co-operation has been very useful both for purposes of receiving information and influencing the political process concerning the regulation of professions in Europe. EFPA Executive Council member Pierangelo Sardi served as Vice-President of CEPLIS during the period 2005 – 07 and was elected President of CEPLIS in June 2007.

EFPA has also offered its support to Member Associations in matters concerning the quality and training requirements of psychologists and the status of the profession. During the period 2005 – 07, EFPA has offered its support in the development of national legal matters concerning psychologists, e.g. to Cyprus, Belgium, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

### *Representation*

EFPA was represented in the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Athens in 2006. The EFPA Presidents Council Meeting was held in conjunction with the Congress. EFPA was represented also in the Congress of EFPSA (European Federation of Psychology Students Associations) in Finland in 2007 and in the MENA Congress (Middle East and North African psychological organisations) in 2007. These links are considered very important for EFPA's communication and collaboration purposes. EFPA has also started a cooperation

project with the International School Psychology Association (ISPA) in order to create a Network of European Psychologists in the Educational System functioning under the guidance of the Executive Council of EFPA.

*Work with new member associations and non-member associations in Europe.*

The Secretary General, Richard Freeman, has had the responsibility of working with non-member associations who may eventually be seeking membership of EFPA.

*Forum of European Psychology Associations*

EFPA organises the Forum of European Psychology Associations, which meets every two years at the European Congress of Psychology. The Forum brings together the European topical psychological associations (for example EAWOP, EHPS, EARLI, EAPA, and EAPP), and enables exchange of information, co-ordination of congress dates, and other communication activities. The European Forum meeting will be taking place during the Prague ECP in July 2007.

## **7) Communication and public relations**

The visibility of EFPA as the only organisation entitled to speak for European psychologists has been promoted via the following channels:

- Direct communication with the European Union authorities and European professional organisations
- The European Congress of Psychology
- The Head Office in Brussels
- The EFPA website: [www.efpa.eu](http://www.efpa.eu) (formerly [www.efpa.be](http://www.efpa.be))
- News from EFPA in the European Psychologist and online.

*Electronic communication*

The general goal has been to increase and improve internal and external communication, by facilitating communication between the member associations of EFPA and with other national and international bodies (both psychological associations and other bodies). This has been carried out primarily through the use of electronic communication. Electronic communication has been active in the last two years with the Member Associations receiving a total of 65 Electronic Member Circulars from July 2005 until June 2007: 22 Electronic Member Circulars were sent in July-December 2005, 25 in 2006 and 18 in January-June 2007. The Executive Council and the Standing Committees and Task Forces have worked via special electronic mailing lists created for them.

*EFPA website*

The EFPA Head Office has taken charge of the development of the EFPA website. The renewed website has raised the profile and visibility of EFPA and improved communication. It now contains contact information (email addresses, websites) of all the Member Associations where this is available. All professional documents accepted by EFPA that have been edited into a publishable form have been put on the website. In future it will be the joint responsibility of the EC and the Member Associations to regularly produce news for the website, both from the EC and from different European countries. This will provide a lively and dynamic means of communication and dissemination. All basic documents, including EFPA Statutes, latest Activity Plan and Activity Reports and all EuroPsy material can be found on EFPA website.

### **8) European Congresses of Psychology**

After the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress in Prague in 2007, the next congress will take place in July 2009 in Oslo, Norway; the EFPA Executive Council has signed a contract concerning this. The call for bids to arrange the ECP 2011 has been sent to the EFPA Member Associations, and the General Assembly in Prague will decide on this matter. The Congress itself is quite well established. It provides an opportunity for EFPA to gather together psychologists from all European countries and beyond to promote scientific and professional research, developments and perspectives. The Congress aims at high-quality scientific and professional presentations and provides an opportunity to debate and discuss research and professional matters. The 2007 Congress in Prague has been prepared and marketed with a perspective to attract wide participation.

The European Congress of Psychology also permits collaboration with IAAP and IUPsyS - bodies that have collaborated with, and supported, the Congress since 1995. The support for each others Congresses was formally agreed upon in the cooperation agreement signed by IAAP, IUPsyS and EFPA in Singapore, 2002.

Since 1995, the Aristotle Prize has become an integral part of the European Congress. In 2007 it will be awarded to Professor William Yule (UK). The Prize Committee consists of three EFPA Executive Council members and two other distinguished European psychologists.

The Wilhelm Wundt – William James Award for Exceptional Contributions to Transatlantic Psychology will be given for the third time in Prague 2007; the recipient is Professor Serge Moscovici (France). The Award Committee consists of three EFPA Executive Council members, two other distinguished European psychologists and two representatives of the American Psychological Foundation (APF).

### **9) Developing the Head Office of EFPA**

The efficient functioning of EFPA has tremendously improved both in its administration and in all other areas. The development of the Brussels Head Office has been of crucial importance in the process by which EFPA has become more politically active, present in Brussels and sharing information with other organisations in Europe. We also aim to provide more and better services, information and communication to the Member Associations and to other bodies. This has required more resources at the Head Office and they have been provided. The Head Office was purchased together with the Belgian Federation of Psychologists in 2002 with EFPA reserves. The EFPA Head Office in Brussels is located right in the centre of the city. This has enabled the permanent presence of the Federation in the European Capital. Also, a long-term archive and resource collection has been built for the Federation. The Executive Council, Presidents' Council and Committee, Task Force and Working Group meetings have taken place at the Brussels office. The Office has improved efficiency and communication with Member Associations, and will be further used to develop links and lobbying with the European Union and its organs. During the period 2005 - 07, the Office Manager Sabine Steyaert has been hired to work for EFPA on a near full-time basis (27 hours a week). This has provided an excellent resource for EFPA activities.

### **10) Developing the finances of EFPA**

EFPA finances have developed in a responsible manner in the period of 2005 - 07. Despite increased activities, the budget has not been exceeded. In the future it will be necessary to obtain some more funding for the Federation in order to finance all the tasks that have been identified in the Activity Plan. In particular, activities in EFPA's recently granted participatory Non-Governmental Organisation in relation to the European Council would require additional funding. During the period 2005 - 07, EFPA was unable to attend most of the invited NGO sessions in Strasbourg because of limited financial possibilities. A total overview of the finances of EFPA in the period of 2005-07 and a new budget proposal for 2008-2009 have been submitted to the General Assembly.

### **III Evaluation of the Work**

EFPA has a wide range of goals and tasks. Much more time, personnel and resources would be needed to accomplish everything. In particular, the activities connected with the EuroPsy standard and Certification would require significantly more resources than are available at present.

The goals and tasks included in the Activity Plan require that the whole Executive Council participates in sharing the workload and its internal co-operation works well. The work of the EC takes much more time than the meetings and necessary preparation with most of the actual work done between meetings. The EC electronic mailing list has become a frequently used channel of communication. This has also contributed to the increasing workload of the EC. As all the members have many additional responsibilities in their own countries, international work requires extra motivation and energy.

The EC has worked hard and the working atmosphere has been good. Communication and administration have been greatly facilitated by the development of electronic communication. The functioning of EFPA is dependent on both the functioning of its many different sub-groups and the efforts of the Member Associations. Since the activities in many key areas have been delegated to the Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups, the effectiveness of their work is of crucial importance. Without their active contribution the EFPA EC would not be capable of executing the tasks decided by the General Assembly or fulfilling the expectations of the Member Associations.

Most of the goals and tasks presented in the Activity Plan of 2005-07 are still being worked upon. The present EC completes its work and presents a proposal for an updated Activity Plan of 2007 -09 to be discussed and accepted by the General Assembly.

Finally, we would like to offer our thanks for the opportunity to work for EFPA to wish the next EC the best of success.

EFPA Executive Council  
June 2007

**Appendix 1: EFPA Executive Council members 2005 - 2007**

Tuomo Tikkanen	(President)
Richard Freeman	(Secretary General - Vice President)
An-Magritt Aanonsen	(Treasurer - Vice President)
Katharina Althaus	(EC member)
Johanne Bratbo	(EC member)
Pierangelo Sardi	(EC member)
Rainer Silbereisen	(EC member)

## **Appendix 2: EFPA Declaration 2006:**

### **The European standard of education and training in professional psychology - EuroPsy**

*This document describes EuroPsy, the comprehensive European standard for the education and training of psychologists who qualify for independent professional practice. The standard is based on established scientific criteria for psychology as a science and profession. It is understood that for practical reasons psychology students and young psychologists can start their practice under supervision with a less comprehensive qualification. Nevertheless, the EuroPsy standard is seen as the valid framework for the profession of psychology in its fullest and actual scope.*

EFPA is a federation of 32 European national psychological associations, including all of the 25 European Union Member States and seven other European countries. EFPA and its member associations represent 165 000 psychologists in Europe. EFPA is an International Non-governmental Organisation (INGO) consulting with the European Commission on all matters relating to the standards of education and training, professional practice, and European recognition of psychologists.

It is of major importance to all parties involved that psychological services to individuals and organisations are provided by psychologists who are fully qualified and adhere to clear principles of professional ethics. A high and comprehensive level of education and training in scientific psychology creates the required knowledge basis for professional competence in psychological assessment, intervention and communication.

The European standard of education and training of psychologists working in independent practice were ratified at the EFPA General Assembly in 2001 and unanimously reconfirmed in 2005. The European Certification in Psychology (EuroPsy) is based on these standards. EFPA has negotiated on the standards with the European Commission since 2002 and the final version of the EuroPsy model was presented to the European Commission in September 2005 for consideration. EFPA proposes these standards to be the basis for free mobility and automatic recognition in the frame of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications 2005/36/EC.

During the period 2005-07, EFPA has been conducting a EuroPsy certification and registration pilot project in six EU Member States: Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. This will be followed by the EuroPsy registration of qualified psychologists in all 25 EU Member States and seven other European countries by EFPA and its Member Associations. This registration process will be accompanied by EFPA launching a EuroPsy Professional Card as introduced by the Directive 2005/36/EC to facilitate free mobility of qualified psychologists in Europe. The Professional Card will contain relevant information on the psychologist's education and training.

The EuroPsy requirements for qualification for independent practice are as follows:

- 1) Completion of education and training in psychology at recognised University level of at least six years' duration, including:
  - a) A university degree in psychology, which has a duration equivalent to at least five years of full-time study (300 ECTS)
  - b) At least one year of supervised practice (included in or added to the university degree programme), and

2) Commitment in writing to the ethical code of psychologists in the country of practice and the European Metacode of ethics for psychologists.

With regard to the Bologna declaration and its expectations that one could train professionals ready for the labour market in three years, EFPA emphasises that for independent professional practise the Bachelor's degree (usually three years or 180 ECTS) is insufficient and incompatible with established European minimal standards for education and training, and with modern, scientifically-based psychological practice.

Only the successful completion of university studies in psychology of at least five years duration (300 ECTS) provides the necessary competence to assess psychological processes in their complexity, to determine the options and the limits to one's own professional work, to evaluate assessment results and to start using psychological interventions independently. This high quality and level of education and training of psychologists is also the necessary base for the additional specialist education and training in areas or methods of psychological intervention, such as psychotherapy.

The title and/or the profession of psychologists are legally regulated in the majority of the EU Member States and other EEA countries. This regulation restricts the use of the title psychologist and the independent practice of the profession to individuals who have completed a University degree in psychology of at least five years duration (300 ECTS) and who have the necessary practical experience required for independent practice.

This regulation is quite strictly controlled by the competent authorities of the Member States because of the sensitive nature of psychological services with regard to health and consumer protection. As the Directive 2005/36/EC states in its foreword, point 44: "This Directive is without prejudice to measures necessary to ensure a high level of health and consumer protection." This means that the competent authorities of the Member States are obliged to ensure that the quality and level of professional education and training necessary for independent practice in psychology is maintained.

By 2008, EFPA will launch the EuroPsy certification and registration process in all 32 Member countries. EFPA will also present the EuroPsy model to all EU Member States and other governments' competent authorities for acceptance as an automatic instrument for the recognition of professional qualifications in psychology between European countries.

We are convinced the EuroPsy standard is the best possible way to guarantee both good quality and free mobility of qualified psychologists and psychological services in Europe. The EuroPsy standard is also sufficiently synchronised with existing legal and other regulations in order to be accepted by the competent authorities of the EU Member States.

EFPA Presidents Council  
Athens, July 16, 2006

### **Appendix 3: 25 years of EFPA - from exchanging information to making policy**

The European Federation of Professional Psychologists Associations (EFPA) was founded in Germany in 1981, when representatives of 12 national psychology associations signed the Statutes. The first General Assembly (G.A.) was held in Heidelberg in 1981. Since that time General Assemblies have been held every two years: 1982 Edinburgh, 1984 Vienna, 1986 Lausanne, 1988 Rome, 1990 Luxembourg, 1991 (Extraordinary G.A.) Budapest, 1992 Brussels, 1993 Tampere, 1995 Athens, 1997 Dublin, 1999 Rome, 2001 in London, 2003 in Vienna, 2005 in Granada. The EFPA General Assembly is now held in conjunction with the biennial European Congress of Psychology and will be held in Prague in 2007.

The Presidents of EFPA have been Michael Hockel (1981-1982), Frank McPherson (1982-90), Ype Poortinga (1990-1993), Ingrid Lunt (1993-1999) and Tuomo Tikkanen (1999-2007). A new President will be elected at the Prague General Assembly in July 7 - 8, 2007.

The 25 years of EFPA can be characterised as a transformation from an organisation whose main function was to exchange relevant information between its Member Associations towards a European federation that formulates common policies and guidelines on the education, training, professional ethics and practice of psychologists in Europe, and which presents proposals and initiatives to the governments of the European countries, to the European Commission, and to the Council of Europe.

The aims of the federation are ((as accepted in the EFPA *Statutes* in Granada General Assembly, 2005)

- To promote psychology as a science and profession and to further the active exchange between them.
- To promote the development of psychology in research, applications and practice and to further adequate dissemination of psychological knowledge.
- To promote communication and co-operation between Member Associations in Europe, and to contribute to their development.
- To further the establishment of ethical codes for psychologists, and to promote the application of psychology as a means of improving the well-being of those to whom psychologists offer services.
- To further the development of psychology as a science and as a profession with particular reference to training, qualification and status.
- To support the interests of psychology and its application in relation to any European or international organisations concerned with defining research or professional politics significant for psychology.
- To support Member Associations in promoting the interests of psychology within their own countries.
- To facilitate contacts with international bodies of psychology and related disciplines and to be an important source of advice to European institutions, government departments and to political, social and consumer organisations.
- To promote the reputation of psychology and psychologists as well as the protection of their interests.
- To promote for the benefit of the general public, improvements in quality of life and well-being by promoting inclusion in society and the prevention of mental illness and disorder.

- To disseminate psychological knowledge and professional skills in the interest of the citizens of Europe, provide documentation and make available information and expertise of scientific and professional psychology to the public.

### **From EFPPA to EFPA in 2001**

In its earlier years EFPA functioned more as a federation of professional associations. Hence the original name, European Federation of Professional Psychologists Associations, EFPPA. In 2001, at the London General Assembly, the name was changed to the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) in order to reflect the Federation's aspiration to keep the science and profession of psychology together. A permanent Standing Committee on Scientific Affairs (CSA) was established also in 2001. Shortly thereafter EFPA also adopted the scientific journal the European Psychologist as its official organ. The name change, the commitment to represent both science and the profession of psychology in Europe, and developments with the European Psychologist were an important milestone in the history of EFPA.

### **Member Associations and psychologists in EFPA in 2007**

Today the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) represents 200,000 individual members and Member Associations from 32 European countries. Of this number, 165,000 are fully trained psychologists. However, the total number of individuals with psychologist's training in the EFPA member countries is 293,000 (EFPA survey, May 2005) and it is estimated that the number of professional psychologists in Europe will be about 371,000 in the year 2010. The growth rate would thus be 5% per year, or 27% in total in the period 2005-2010. Countries with the largest number of psychologists are Italy (55,000), Germany (45,000), United Kingdom (43,000), France (35,000), and Spain (30,000). The other European countries with a large number of psychologists are the Netherlands (18,000), Belgium (17,000), Portugal (13,000), Switzerland (9,500), Austria (9,000), Sweden (7,700), Denmark (6,300), Finland (5,000) and Norway (4,800). In fact, 90% of all European psychologists have been trained and work in these 14 countries.

In EFPA member countries there are currently around 310,000 psychology students, and in many of these countries there are many more new students of psychology than there are graduating psychologists. In some countries, the percentage of psychologists belonging to their national EFPA Member Association is high, e.g. in Italy and Spain (100% membership) and in the Nordic countries (90 - 95%). On the other hand, there are countries where far fewer psychologists are members of their national associations (10 - 50% membership).

The EFPA member countries together have 543 million inhabitants. Thus the present ratio of psychologists per inhabitants is 1 psychologist per 1850 inhabitants. However it is estimated that by 2010, this ratio will be about 1:1500 and there are already seven European countries where the ratio is equal or better than 1:1000: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and Switzerland. Four more countries, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, and Latvia, are estimated to reach this situation by 2010.

Reaching the goal of having 1 psychologist per 1000 inhabitants for the whole of Europe would require about 550,000 psychologists in the 31 European countries covered by EFPA. For many larger European countries reaching this ratio would mean a huge increase in the number of psychologists. For example, Germany with its 83 million inhabitants would have to have 83,000 psychologists.

For more information on EFPA and its Member Associations, see [www.efpa.eu](http://www.efpa.eu).

### **Legal regulations in European countries**

Presently there are national laws and legal regulations in 18 European Union Member States, and in three other European countries, protecting the title “psychologist” and/or regulating the profession of psychologists. In addition, a similar law has been prepared and is being processed by the governments of at least *three* EU Member States and two other European countries. This means that there is legal regulation (or legislation in process) in 26 out of the 32 EFPA Member countries. The 21 European Union Member States with legal regulations (or legislation in process / marked with \*) are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland\*, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal\*, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom\*. The other five European countries are Croatia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland\*, and Turkey\*. In 12 countries, Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, and Sweden, there are also regulations and/or arrangements concerning the public funding of private psychological services (stronger than private insurance arrangements). These regulations and arrangements are, however, quite varied. Out of the EU Member States, only four - the Czech Republic, Latvia, the Netherlands and Slovenia - have no basic legal regulation on psychologists either in existence or in process. Outside the European Union, Liechtenstein also lacks the basic legal regulation of psychologists.

### **European MetaCode on Ethics**

In 1995 EFPA accepted a European MetaCode on Ethics. This is a set of principles on which all EFPA Member Associations must build their national ethical codes and guidelines. The process of changing all the national ethical codes to be in line with the European principles has taken a long time. At present, all new countries whose psychological associations apply for EFPA Membership must show evidence that their national ethical code for psychologists is in accordance with the principles of the European MetaCode. See [www.efpa.eu](http://www.efpa.eu) – Ethics.

### **Development of common standards of training and common practices**

A long-standing objective of EFPA has been to develop a common framework for minimal standards of training and professional practice of psychologists in Europe. The ‘Optimal standards for training’ was agreed by EFPA Member Associations as early as 1990 when it stated that training must be both scientific and practical – and that the total duration of education and training at university level should be at least six years.

The European Union Directive 36/2005/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications requires the European Commission and Member States, together with the European professional associations, to develop procedures for recognizing the equivalence of qualifications and for facilitating movement between Member States. This Directive was accepted by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament on September 7, 2005. The Member States have to implement the Directive in their national legislation within two years, i.e. by September 2007.

This is a very important step for the profession of psychologists. It provides EFPA with a new opportunity to make direct proposals to the European Commission and to the EU Member States on the European standard concerning the education and training of psychologists in Europe. Article 15 of the Directive confirms the right of representative

European professional associations - like EFPA - to make proposals to the European Commission on “common platforms” or “minimum requirements” that would lead to the automatic recognition of professional qualifications without further compensatory measures being necessary. The Directive also provides EFPA with the possibility to make a “reasoned request” for the coordination of minimum requirements in the training of psychologists and to develop a European Professional Card to promote mobility. EFPA is working towards developing a Professional Card whose holder would be guaranteed to have an adequately high level of education and training in psychology thereby enabling free professional mobility in different European countries, i.e. the EuroPsy.

### **The EuroPsy**

The EuroPsy is a standard for the education and training of psychologists developed by EFPA. This standard is high enough for the majority of the EU Member States, as well as non-EU European governments, to accept it as a basis for automatic recognition. The framework of the EuroPsy, which consists of a Master’s or equivalent level of university training in psychology lasting for a total of six years and one year of supervised practice included in or in addition to the University degree, had already been accepted at the EFPA General Assembly in London 2001, . The final EuroPsy report was accepted in EFPA General Assembly in Granada, July 2005.

The EuroPsy has been presented to the European Commission and will also be presented to the EU Member States’ relevant authorities. EFPA will negotiate over “building a common platform” together with the European Commission. This will be done by collecting exact data on the duration and content of the training of psychologists in the EU Member States. At the same time EFPA has an opportunity to test the practical procedures concerning the EuroPsy and/or the registering of those European psychologists whose education and training fulfils the EuroPsy standard. The EuroPsy trial is being carried out in six EFPA EU Member Associations, namely in Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the UK. This consultation and trial period will last until the end of 2007.

### **Links with other international bodies**

EFPA has links with a number of relevant international bodies including: the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, the American State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), the Organization of Psychologists in Quebec (CPQ), the Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, Council of Europe, European Union (EU), the International Association for Applied Psychology (IAAP), the International School Psychology Association (ISPA), the International Union for Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the European Organization for Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), the European Trade Union’s branch EUROCADRES, the United Nations Education of Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). EFPA aims to establish other links as appropriate to further the development of psychology and psychologists in Europe.

EFPA collaborates with IAAP and IUPsyS in organising and marketing joint international psychology congresses. EFPA also organises the Forum of European Psychological Associations, which offers the opportunity for information exchange, communication and the development of joint policies and action in matters of common concern to European topical psychological associations. The forum meets at the occasion of international congresses of

psychology taking place in Europe and provides these associations with a European network for communication and collaboration.

### **European Congresses of Psychology**

The biennial European Congress of Psychology is organized under the auspices of EFPA in cooperation with IAAP and IUPsyS. The first such congress was held in Amsterdam in 1989, followed by Budapest in 1991, Tampere in 1993, Athens in 1995, Dublin in 1997, Rome in 1999, London in 2001, Vienna in 2003, and Granada in 2005. The 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychology will be held in Prague in 2007. See [www.ecp2007.com](http://www.ecp2007.com). EFPA holds its General Assembly in conjunction with these congresses. The latest European Congress of Psychology in Granada, Spain in July 2005 had more than 3000 participants.

### **Aristotle Prize and Wilhelm Wundt - William James Award**

EFPA has sponsored the Aristotle Prize since 1995 for outstanding European contributions to the science and profession of psychology. The Aristotle Prize has been granted seven times, to prof. Pieter Drenth (Netherlands) in 1995, to prof. Paul Baltes (Germany) in 1997, to prof. David Magnusson (Sweden) in 1999, to prof. Alan Baddeley (United Kingdom) in 2001, prof. Lea Pulkkinen (Finland) in 2003, prof. Rocio Fernandez-Ballesteros (Spain) in 2005 and prof. William Yule (UK) in 2007.

EFPA together with the American Psychological Foundation (APF) has sponsored the Wilhelm Wundt – William James Award since 2003 for excellent contributions to the cooperation between European and North American Psychology. The Wilhelm Wundt – William James Award has been granted three times, to professors Lars-Göran Nilsson (Sweden) and Endel Tulving (Canada) in 2003, prof. Charles Spielberger (USA) in 2005 and prof. Serge Moscovici (France) in 2007.

The reception of the awards has become an essential part of the opening ceremonies of the European Congresses of Psychology.

### **Standing Committees**

EFPA has established six Standing Committees which support the work of the Executive Council and the General Assembly by monitoring developments in areas which are of permanent interest to EFPA. The Standing Committee on Ethics helps to support the development of ethical standards and the implementation of a European MetaCode on Ethics, accepted in 1995.

Period 2005 - 2007:

- Standing Committee on Ethics
- Standing Committee on Disaster, Crisis and Trauma Psychology
- Standing Committee on Psychotherapy
- Standing Committee on Scientific Affairs
- Standing Committee on Test and Testing
- Standing Committee on Traffic Psychology

Standing Committees are appointed for a four-year period and may be renewed following review.

### **Task Forces**

Part of the development work of EFPA is carried out by Task Forces which are appointed at a General Assembly to carry out a certain task, usually for a two year period. They consist of

representatives from member associations. A Task Force has a convenor and a small number of members with interest and /or expertise in the area of activity. During 2005-2007, EFPA has had a Task Force in the area of Geropsychology. Earlier EFPA has had Task Forces on e.g. clinical psychology, health psychology, and psychologists in the educational system. At the end of their work, Task Forces present a report to the General Assembly. They provide a valuable means of collecting information on a particular area from member associations and the reports are a useful resource both for members and others.

Together, the Standing Committees and Task Forces have presently about 60 active representatives from different countries.

### **Communications**

One of EFPA's most important tasks is communication and the Federation has several means of communication at its disposal:

- the EFPA website, [www.efpa.eu](http://www.efpa.eu)
- regular circulars mailed to Member Associations from the *Head Office*
- each Executive Council member has liaison responsibility for a number of member countries
- face-to-face communication with member associations in connection with meetings of the Presidents' Council or when meetings or conferences are held in that country.
- The European Psychologist, the official organ of EFPA

### **Finances**

Member associations pay an annual subscription to EFPA according to the size of their membership. The financial resources of EFPA are used to fund its Head Office, the Standing Committees, meetings of the Executive Council, the Presidents' Council, the General Assembly and the production and updating of EFPA website and publications plus administrative costs of Standing Committee and Task Force activities

### **Practical operation of EFPA**

EFPA has an Executive Council consisting of an Executive Board of three members and four other members. The Executive Board consists of the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. Members of the Executive Council serve a term of four years and are eligible for re-election for one further term. Each Member Association may have only one member on the Executive Council. Between meetings of the General Assembly (every two years) the Executive Council is responsible for the management of EFPA and for the observance of the Statutes and Regulations. EFPA has had a permanent Head Office in Brussels since 1998. Head Office Manager Sabine Steyaert has been working for EFPA since 1998.

The seven officers of EFPA Executive Council in spring 2007 are: Tuomo Tikkanen, President, (Finland), An-Magritt Aanonsen, Treasurer, Vice-President (Norway), Richard Freeman, Secretary General, Vice-President (United Kingdom), Katharina Althaus (Switzerland), Johanne Bratbo (Denmark), Pierangelo Sardi (Italy), Rainer Silbereisen, (Germany), also Editor-in-Chief of the European Psychologist.

**EFPA participatory status to the Council of Europe**  
**- Crisis and disaster psychology, forced migration and traffic safety**

In the autumn of 2003 EFPA was granted a consultative and participatory status as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in relation to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is broader than the European Union and encompasses 46 European countries – from the Atlantic Ocean to the Caspian Sea. It also includes Eastern and South-eastern European countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia, where EFPA does not yet have Member Associations.

It seems that the Council of Europe needs psychological expertise in areas that do not fall into the traditional categories of health-care, educational or organisational psychology. The Council of Europe has to deal with a wide variety of issues facing Europe, such as those dealing with the prevention and handling of crisis and disaster situations, forced migration and refugees, and insufficient traffic safety. These are areas where psychological expertise is urgently needed to enable European societies to cope with these inevitable problems.

This requires that psychologists not only be ready to intervene after problems have occurred but that they also be prepared to step into the planning, training and handling processes connected with these problems, which are both social and psychological in nature. It also underlines the necessity of keeping our profession together – and not dividing it into segregated sub-professions. Disaster and crisis psychology illustrates this quite well: its scope covers the whole range of the traditional fields of health-care, educational and organisational psychology.

**Future of EFPA**

It is evident that EFPA will continue to grow in terms of activity, influence and number of psychologists in the EFPA Member Associations. EFPA aims at representing the science and profession of psychology as broadly as possible in its member countries, and will work towards including all 46 countries that are members of the Council of Europe. It will also endeavour to have a permanent role in advising European bodies in matters where psychological expertise can give an important contribution. Finally, EFPA will seek to ensure that it serves its Member Associations as a source of relevant information and a channel for influencing European policies.

Executive Council, EFPA

<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2005-2007</b>							
	<b>TUOMO TIKKANEN</b>	<b>RICHARD FREEMAN</b>	<b>AN MAGRITT AANONSEN</b>	<b>KATHARINA ALTHAUS</b>	<b>JOHANNE BRATBO</b>	<b>PIERANGELO SARDI</b>	<b>RAINER SILBEREISEN</b>
	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY GENERAL</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	SC CRISIS AND DISASTER	NETWORK SG	SC ETHICS	SC PSYCHOTHERAPY	SC TESTS AND TESTING	SC TRAFFIC PSYCHOLOGY	SC SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
					WG TEST USER STANDARDS		TF GEROPSYCHOLOGY
<b>COUNTRIES</b>	FINLAND	BELGIUM	ICELAND	CROATIA	DENMARK	CYPRUS	AUSTRIA
	PORTUGAL	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY	CZECH REPUBLIC		ITALY	GERMANY
		LUXEMBOURG	SWEDEN	ESTONIA		FRANCE	POLAND
		IRELAND		HUNGARY		GREECE	SWITZERLAND
		UNITED KINGDOM		LATVIA		MALTA	TURKEY
				LIECHTENSTEIN		SLOVENIA	
				LITHUANIA		SAN MARINO	
				SLOVAKIA			
				SPAIN			

	<b>TUOMO TIKKANEN</b>	<b>RICHARD FREEMAN</b>	<b>AN MAGRITT AANONSEN</b>	<b>KATHARINA ALTHAUS</b>	<b>JOHANNE BRATBO</b>	<b>PIERANGELO SARDI</b>	<b>RAINER SILBEREISEN</b>
<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b>	EFPSA				ISPA	CEPLIS	IUPSyS
	IAAP				EUROCADRES	EESC	
	IUPSYS						
	APA						
	EAWOP						
<b>CONGRESSES</b>							10TH ECP PRAGUE
<b>OTHERS</b>	LEONARDO PROJECT	HEAD OFFICE		News Editor EUROPEAN PSYCHOLOGIST			Editor-in-Chief EUROPEAN PSYCHOLOGIST
	FORUM ON EUROPEAN PSYCHOLOGY	CONTACTS POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS					
		EFPA WEBSITE					
	ARISTOTLE PRIZE COMMITTEE	ARISTOTLE PRIZE COMMITTEE					ARISTOTLE PRIZE COMMITTEE
	WUNDT_JAMES AWARD COMMITTEE	WUNDT_JAMES AWARD COMMITTEE					WUNDT_JAMES AWARD COMMITTEE
	POLITICAL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIONS						