



Report 2013

of the

Standing Committee Psychology in Education
By Marianne Kant (Convenor)

EFPA General Assembly in Stockholm on
July 13-14, 2013

Report 2013

Executive summary

The EFPA STC Psychology in Education (SC-PE) met all recommendations of the EFPA GA Istanbul 2011, which guided the work plan 2011-2013 including work on the development of

1. European Quality Standards for Psychological Services in the Educational System
2. European Quality Standards for the Education and Training of Psychologists in the Educational System as part of the EuroPsy development.
3. The professional network at a European level, including the improvement of the website
4. Support for European Policies related to the field of psychology in education
5. The adaptation of the former work and status of N.E.P.E.S. to new EFPA structures.

Concrete outcomes of the work period are

- a report and position paper on psychology in education and inclusive education
- a reference guide on universities in Europe with offers in the area of psychology in education
- a report on psychology in education and school based mental health promotion.

Activities

AD1: EUROPEAN QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

1.1. Activity

The SC-PE promoted the submission of proposals for the CEDEFOP study visit program http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu/?cid=1&artid=&scid=&per_id=3&lang=EN among psychologists in education across Europe. The intention is to evaluate different structures of psychology services in education across various European regions by a common evaluation tool. On the basis of evaluation reports, the SC-PE will summarize the results and will develop recommendations for best service models. The SC-PE hopes that the recommendations will be ready by July 2015.

This project will facilitate the implementation process of quality management in services of psychologists in education by sharing experience across Europe. It is a contribution to European policies of interoperability solutions for public administrations and a contribution to the development of quality standards of psychological services in education through modeling and evaluation.

1.2. Achievement

The SC-PE members have been informed about the CEDEFOP study visit program in 2012/2013. A first study visit has been accepted by CEDEFOP and took place 14.-19.10.2012 with 11 participants from Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Turkey. Details of this study visit available at <http://www.nepes.eu/?q=node/829>

In order to evaluate the various services a questionnaire has been developed, which can be used for further study visits. Danish school psychologists have applied for organizing a second study visit in 2013. They are currently waiting for a feedback from CEDEFOP.



2.1. Activity

The SC-PE promoted a project proposal for EU funding on developing a social platform for school psychological services of public administration including EFPA, AFPEN and the Psychology Department of the Pan European University Bratislava as partners. The 3 year project also searched to

investigate possibilities and barriers of cloud computing to contribute to quality improvement of public services.

2.2. Achievement

The project has been handed in under the EU research program in January 2012. The project coordinator has been invited with 2 other projects for an internal final audit at the European Commission. Unfortunately the proposal failed with the recommendation of the European Commission to hand it in again in an improved version. The coordinator of this proposal decided in the meantime to eliminate educational psychologists from the partnership. Thus we learnt to be very careful in the future with potential partnerships during the development of a project proposal.

AD 2 EUROPEAN QUALITY STANDARDS FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS PART OF THE EUROPSY DEVELOPMENT.

1.1. Activity

The SC-PE encourages in various places (website, conferences...) interested stakeholders to hand in relevant project proposals for European funding and facilitates improved collaboration among practitioners and university departments, organizations responsible for education and training of psychologists in education across Europe.

1.2. Achievement

1.2.1. Several universities and organizations have indicated their interest to develop programs for a "European Master Educational Psychologist". The SC-PE facilitated contact among those interested colleagues. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances and due to heterogeneous expectations, no concrete proposal has been developed so far.

1.2.2. The SC-PE has facilitated the development of a project proposal on the European dissemination and intercultural evaluation of a social emotional learning program for pre-school children developed by psychologists ('It's me'). The first application failed. Thus the proposal has been improved and has been handed in again in January 2013 under the Lifelong Learning Comenius multilateral projects program with partners including, e.g.

- the European School Psychology Training Centre <http://www.espct.eu/>
- Psychology Institute of the University of Poznan/Poland
- Psychologists in education of the University of Oradea/Romania, RINO Noord-Holland, Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University/Russia, Educational Ministry of the German Speaking Community/Belgium.

A feedback about the success of this application is expected for July 2013. In case of a successful application, this project will contribute to improve the training of psychologists in education across Europe.

2.1. Activity

European collaboration is still poor among psychologists in education as well in practice as in education and research. Thus the SC-PE planned to enhance improved communication and collaboration among universities/training organizations and practitioners of psychology in education by establishing a list of relevant addresses, experts and expertise at universities across Europe. SC-PE members have communicated relevant data from their country.

2.2. Achievement

The final draft of the reference guide on universities in Europe with offers in the area of psychology in education is currently sent to the according universities for a check-up. It is planned to publish this document in form of a CD-ROM and at relevant websites until July 2013. The feedback from concerned experts at universities has been multiple so that there is no doubt that this guide will contribute to improved communication and collaboration.



European Reference Guide
Offers of Universities in the area of
Psychology in Education

AD 3: THE PROFESSIONAL NETWORK AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL, INCLUDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WEBSITE

1.1. Activity and Achievement

The professional network was further developed and strengthened by participating in various activities at EU and national level, such as national conferences of psychologists in education, of universities, of politicians, EU conferences and workshops on relevant topics, partnership conferences of project proposals for EU funding. Details are available at <http://www.nepes.eu/?q=node/21>. The N.E.P.E.S. website could not be improved as the SC-PE did not succeed in receiving European funding.

As a result of these activities European collaboration among psychologists in education is slowly increasing, e.g. at the next French national school psychology congress in September 2013, four SC-PE representatives are invited speakers.

AD 4: SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN POLICIES RELATED TO THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION

1.1. Activities

The SC-PE continued to follow up European Policies relevant for the work field and contributed to European Policies by participating in conferences, meetings and in follow up activities of the former working group with the European Commission on mental health in youth and education, e.g.:

- Evidence base policy conference by the European Commission "Social inclusion of youth on the margins of society: more opportunities, better access and higher solidarity", Brussels, November 2011 http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/events-189_en.html
- Workshop by European Commission, DG Sanco and EAC, "The role of mental health and social emotional learning in promoting educational attainment and preventing early school leaving", Luxemburg 9. October.

2.1. Achievement

Due to these activities at European level and due to the ESPIL report, the SC-PE convener has been engaged by the government of the German speaking community in Belgium as an external consultant for their reform project on restructuring services of psychologists in education. The reform project follows European policy recommendations by investing in prevention and by implementing a cross sectoral approach. This is an opportunity to provide European psychological expertise for educational reforms and to influence policies at national and European level:

Since the beginning of this partnership between the SC-PE and the government in the German speaking community of Belgium in June 2012 several European psychologists in education (Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands) got engaged in this reform process:

- Three new jobs for school psychologists have been created and seven psychologists have been contracted for
 - developing a participatory approach of youth involvement in policies
 - implementing a concept of health promoting schools
 - implementing a concept of crisis management in school environments
 - instructing the first European group of psychologists in education about child rights based practice in October 2013 via the CRED-PRO Curriculum <http://www.cred-pro.org/page/curricula-1>
- This curriculum has been developed by psychologists in education. Since 2008 the SC-PE has been trying to find funding for this train- the -trainers course, which is a major step forward for improving the quality of psychological services and professional training of psychologists in Europe.

2.1. Activities and Achievement

The STC established a working group on inclusion in education. Inclusive education is presently the most debated topic among psychologists in education across Europe.

Additionally this topic is at the top priority list of European education policy. Thus the working group developed a draft of a position paper on inclusive education and psychology. The position paper formulates a common position of European psychologists in education on the issue of inclusive education. It also illustrates how psychologists in education contribute to related European policies (best practice examples, evidence base, literature, ...). Currently the draft is submitted to national associations, divisions or sections of psychology in education for approval and should be finalized by July 2013.

Meeting

- 1) 19./20.1.2012, Brussels/Belgium
- 2) 11./12.10.2012 Porto/Portugal

Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations

The General Assembly is asked to take notice of the following work results of the EFPA SC-PE:

- a. Position Paper on Inclusive Education and Psychology
- b. Report on Mental Health and Psychology in Education
- c. Reference Guide on Universities with offers in the area of Psychology in Education

Proposals for decisions by GA

The General Assembly is advised to accept the following proposals:

The SC-PE should continue to work according to the recommendations of the ESPIL project and according to the work plan 2011-2013.

Members of the group:

Louise Hollerer Austria, Marianne Kant-Schaps Belgium, Monica Siakou Cyprus, Bohumira Lazaroova Czech Republic, Poul Skaarup Jensen Denmark, Annarilla Ahtola Finland, Francine Corman France, Walter Kowalczyk Germany, Paul Bartolo Malta, Jacqueline Horan Ireland, Ala Petrulyte Lithuania, Jelena Podmisanina Latvia, Antoinette Thill-Rollinger Luxemburg, Margreet Versteeg Netherlands, Sturla Helland Norway, Ines Gomes Faria Portugal, Andrey Podolsky Russia, Bozena Stritih Slovenia, Leopold Carreras Truñó Spain, Elinor Schäd Sweden, Julia Ouzia EFPSA