



Report 2015-2017

of the

Task Force EU calls

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**To the EFPA General Assembly in Amsterdam on
July 15-16, 2017**

Report 2015-2017, Task Force EU-calls

Executive summary

This report describes potential challenges and opportunities for EFPA in grant seeking efforts. The TF has identified 8 specific ideas for obtaining grants and the same time promoting psychology in society. Applying for, and indeed obtaining an actual grant proved beyond the capacity and resources available to the TF.

The TFs modest ambition is that its work may further prepare the opportunities for EFPA to obtain future financial support. The TF has however reached a very clear conclusion that obtaining funds is best served by committees dedicated to specific projects. Some of these committees already produce work in the interest, not only of EFPA, but of society in general. To inspire EFPA's more than 20 committees to search funding for their on-going activities and potential projects, the TF has prepared a symposium for ECP 2017 in Amsterdam July 2017: **"Psychology's Value Added for Society"**.

Introduction

This report covers the activities of TF EU calls performed during the period July 2015 – April 2017.

The TF EU calls succeeds TF EU calls active 2013 – 2015 as recommended to the EFPA GA in 2015 and the former TF *Resources* 2011 - 2013. A central suggestion by the former TFs was to look for grants that would promote psychology as a profession (as a side effect or bonus), in line with the approved EFPA parole "giving before getting".

The present TF started its work based on the recommendation from the previous Task Force:

1. Explore possible routines for dissemination of good practice and research
2. Exploit the network made up by EFPA bodies, partners or individual MAs, AMAs
3. Identify which MAs and partners have experience or showed previous interest in certain of the different grants
4. Play a more active role in deciding priorities for research and practice development, as opposed to leave that to EU (presenting EFPA as an active partner – also in policy making)
5. Horizon 2020 is a good example of a program that lies close to what EFPA may achieve:
 - i. EU needs European level associations to raise awareness of Public health issues

- ii. WHO takes an interest in developing MH services in East Europe, hence a potential partner or “backing” organization for EFPA when/if applying for Horizon 2020 grants
 - iii. Addressing MEPs to promote programmes/applications in EU might be useful
6. Erasmus plus might be a set of programmes that would support proliferation of EuroPsy
 7. Overall aim to accumulate knowledge and experience of the process of obtaining funds, not focus solely on whichever fund is available at the moment

Nine representatives were appointed or invited to the TF, including the EC liaison. Six of these attended the first meeting, only four the last of four meetings.

Activities

Prior to the first TF meeting, the members were invited to suggest projects or activities that would both promote psychology and simultaneously generate funding. The first meeting produced an optimistic list of 8 ideas.

Each group member was assigned responsibility to elaborate on the a specific idea before each following meeting. Each idea is more or less in the area of interest of one or more EFPA committees. The relevant committee are indicated under each of these eight ideas.

Pertinent questions examined for each idea were:

- Is the deliverable in demand, and why do we think so?
- Who is the ‘client’ (e.g. EU) and is he willing to pay?
- Can EFPA provide it and how?
- Who can do it and when?

Each idea is described and commented in various detail:

1. Evaluation of the (effect of the) qualification directive

Relevant EFPA committee: EAC

EU should acknowledge that there is little mobility of psychologists in Europe. EFPA might perform a gap analysis on psychological competence – academic level and structure, practice and supervision, national function/role description of psychologists, national legal regulation of title and practice. Thus preparing for general acceptance of EuroPsy as the generally accepted level of competence for European psychologists. Such an evaluation project may very well include benchmarking of ethical standards and mapping of cultural idiosyncrasies (in mental health services)

2. Promote EuroPsy as a means to produce competent (and productive) psychologists more rapidly

Relevant EFPA committee: EAC and Board of Educational Affairs

Few European psychologists enjoy full rights of professional operation when they graduate as psychologists. Most European nations require substantial training, frequently both theory and practice, to reach a level of competency deemed sufficient to allow them rights for individual, responsible practice.

It would be in the interest of these nations to adopt a well proven model of education, namely EuroPsy, to prepare psychologists for value added professional performance at an earlier stage than today. The case should be presented to the EU to obtain funding for planning and implementation of EuroPsy as the common standard in all EU/EEA-nations.

The idea suggests to produce a table of specific activities, enabled by the EuroPsy standard competencies, and crucial to the mental health services of most countries. Such a table would also greatly facilitate the work of national competent authorities and consequently prepare for increased mobility. Activities should originate from the EAC, in understanding with EC. All MAs would need to provide a national list of professional activities, and which competencies are required to carry out these activities, both legally and professionally. Not least should this project work in close cooperation with the above «Evaluation of the (effect of the) qualification directive»

3. Revive the former Network of Crisis and Disaster

Relevant EFPA committee: SC on Crisis and Disaster Psychology

National and, in particular, European governments and authorities lack a network of ready experts of psychology to offer advice and assistance when crisis occurs. EFPA created such a network in the early part of the 2000s. EFPA and its Executive Council together with its Standing Committee of Disaster and Crisis Psychology, which was chaired by Salli Saari, received a considerable amount of financial aid and funding from the 47 European nations' Council of Europe (HQ in Strasbourg) for creating this network and arranging necessary training and capacity building seminars connected with it.

As crisis and disasters are not diminishing, neither in size nor frequencies, it might be prudent to explore a revival of such a network. We expect that the recent development of refugee mass movement

further calls for an interest among European governments and authorities to have such a group of experts close at hand.

4. Propose capacity building programmes in developing Europe

Relevant EFPA committee: SC of Psychology and Health

The number of clinical psychologists available to the population in East Europe is significantly lower than in the West. Positions for psychologists in the public mental health service are limited and the services have developed slower than in the West. WHO has explicitly pointed to East Europe as an area much in need of increased psychological resources.

A fairly easy first step would be to offer work shops and general training for resident psychologists. A more ambitious approach would be to address potential structural improvements in the mental health care services. Such improvement might include the introduction of medical free treatment and services at the primary health care level. This is nothing really new. Similar projects have been carried out by the initiative of e.g. Council of the Baltic sea states. Both Erasmus+ and Marie Curie funds are eligible sources for funding of capacity building programmes. Possibly EEA/Norway grants too.

The TF was in no position to initiate such a project on its own. If however a), the idea closely corresponds with the EC action plan, and b), interested MAs may be identified, this would certainly be a very powerful demonstration of what EFPA could provide for society.

5. Work packages delivery under Horizon 2020 - H2020: Promoting mental health and well being in the Young

Relevant EFPA committee: Network of News Correspondents, EP journal

The idea is to exploit the vast EFPA network in Europe of 300,000 psychologists and almost an equal number of psychology students. A number of the Horizon 2020 projects contain psychological elements in need of dissemination.

A dissemination plan / procedure to include a broader set of channels – (As peer reviewed articles are too limited as a source of information. As a general rule, scientific journals (in English) are not widely read by practitioners. The possibility to hire services on a no cure, no pay basis might be considered.

6. EFPA committees as experts on a range of society's challenges

Relevant EFPA committee: EC

EFPA has at its disposal more than 20 committees and about 200 committee members. These highly competent people might be offered more systematically to the EU-commission – as experts on a range of society's issues.

7. Non communicable disease control and prevention

Relevant EFPA committee: Board of Prevention and Intervention

Offer support to WHO and EU on behavior change programmes, based on psychological knowledge, practice and evidence. (Obama has a team of behavior psychologists to secure the success of political initiatives and programmes).

8. Operating grants under the 3rd health programme

Relevant EFPA operator: Head office

Many organizations like EFPA are receiving operating grants on the 2015-2017 period on an annual basis. Operating grants is a support for some of the core operating costs and activities of Non-Governmental bodies promoting an agenda on health, in line with the Program. It is vital to underline that the core action of EFPA is coherent with the Health agenda and program.

When the calls open (in 2017) for the period of 2018-2020 an elaborated application should be produced, backed by EFPA committees.

The other main activity of the TF was to prepare a symposium for ECP 2017 in Amsterdam July 2017: **“Psychology’s Value Added for Society”**.

The basic purpose is to inspire EFPA's more than 20 committees to search funding for their on-going activities and potential projects. So far the symposium has three presenters: Ingrid Lunt on EuroPsy funding, Eva Munker-Kramer on EU funding of the Train-the-trainers programme in Crisis Psychology, and Marianne Kant-Schaps on funding of the ESPIL programme. An EFPSA representative will present their success story of obtaining operating grants from EU.

Comments to activity ideas:

The list of ideas were discussed in the TF's last meeting with a view to adjust it to the EFPA EC working plan, provided by the EC liaison Telmo Baptista. Further action on all eight ideas in the next period should probably be recommended:

I. Idea 1 and 2 (on mobility and EuroPsy) should be regarded as one and the same project, with idea 2 as an optional consequence and contingent on the success of idea 1.

III. Idea 3 (Network on Crisis and Disaster) is clearly defined and is already suggested to the SC of Disaster and Crisis Psychology directly.

IV. Idea 4 (on capacity building) has great potential and is already a core aspect of the EC action plan.

V. Idea 5 (Horizon 2020): The idea is to offer the EFPA network for dissemination of Horizon 2020 project results. If Head Office capacity allows it, templates regarding EFPA's potential involvement in project Work Packages could be produced.

VI. Idea 6 (EFPA committees as experts on a range of society's challenges): How the joint knowledge of EFPA might be exploited for the benefit of society. This has already been implemented as a general reminder/proposal to the EC and the committees.

VII. Idea 7 (Non communicable disease control) This is probably best seen as an invitation to the Board of Prevention and Intervention, possibly others: To apply psychological knowledge in large scale public health prevention programmes.

VIII. Idea 8, (Operating grants) As in idea 5, this partly hinges on available administrative resources. The point is to provide templates for operating grants applications. Such funding may be available to support a number of the various committees' activities.

Meetings

- 1) 24 February 2016, Amsterdam
- 2) 29 April 2016, Brussels
- 3) 15 September 2016, Brussels
- 4) 9 March 2017, Brussels

Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations

The TF observes that searching and applying for funds, detached from other EFPA committee work is beyond the capacity of a volunteer task force as this. As demonstrated in the TF report of 2013-2015 the number of possible calls that may be responded to is very high, and the chances of succeeding inversely low.

The TF has reached a very clear conclusion that obtaining funds is best served by committees dedicated to specific projects. Some of these committees already produce work in the interest, not only of EFPA, but of society in general. Applications for financial support to such services should have considerably better chances of succeeding. Furthermore, the proven success stories of former project funding show that these have been obtained, not by responding to open calls, but indeed by applying for funding to projects elected by EFPA itself.

The recommendation is therefore not to appoint a new TF EU-calls for the next period, but rather stimulate existing committees to consider sources of funding for their ongoing work and projects.

One task is still pending: to produce templates as described under idea 5 and 8. The TF recommends either to form a working group to carry out this task or, given sufficient resources, ask the EC to include it in EFPA's administrative activities.

Proposals for decisions by GA

1. Not to appoint a new TF EU-calls for the next period
2. Stimulate existing committees to consider sources of funding for their ongoing work and projects.

Members of the group:

Telmo Mourinho Baptista (EFPA EC liaison), Tuomo Tikkanen (Finland), Tiago Pereira (Portugal), Joke de Vocht (intern), Tatiana Re Simona (Italy); Doru Dima (Romania), Peter Kinderman (UK), Ole Tunold (Norway, convenor)