



## **Report 2013-2015**

**of the**

## **Task Force EU calls**

**To the EFPA General Assembly in Milano on  
July 11-12, 2015**

## Report 2013-2015, Task Force EU-calls

### Executive summary

The TF EU calls has met three times during the period. Only half the appointed members attended the meetings. This report describes potential challenges and opportunities for EFPA in grant seeking efforts. The report describes its four separate domains of activity and the (limited) results produced. 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 strongly recommends the GA to establish a new task force to implement the suggestions of this report. Admittedly, a task force without administrative resources will have limited possibilities of succeeding.

### Introduction

This report covers the activities of TF EU calls performed during the period July 2013 – June 2015.

The TF EU CALLS succeeds TF RESOURCES active 2011 – 2013 as recommended to the EFPA GA in 2013. A central suggestion by the former TF 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 has understood its mission along two dimensions: One dimension is funded projects on the one side, preferably broadly related to EFPA activities and supported or executed by MA experts. On the other side are operating grants, namely economic support for EFPA activities already in process.

The other dimension distinguishes between reactive and proactive projects. The former refers to projects invented and announced by a donor party. The latter refers to projects initiated by EFPA or MAs with a view to promote psychology, psychologists and their services to society and thereby broaden the public understanding and interest.

Six representatives were appointed to the TF, but only three have taken part in the (three) meetings during 2014 and 2015. This gave the TF a rather slow start as it wanted a broader basis for decisions about the TF work plan. Consequently establishing the work plan was postponed to the second meeting (September 2014). From September 2014 Joke de Vocht joined the TF, serving as a Project Intern.

Early in the period it became clear that producing an application for an actual grant would be beyond the capacity and resources available to the TF. Instead, the TF has concentrated on preparing some operational tools for possible future grant seeking activities. It has also produced a list of recommendations and potential future steps to establish grant seeking as a regular EFPA activity.

## Activities

### **1. Produce an inventory of potential grants, mainly from EU, but also from other relevant providers:**

Joke de Vocht (Project Intern) has produced a comprehensive matrix (see attachment) of GRANT PROVIDERS with specifics on the following items: TYPE OF FUNDING, FIELD, PROGRAMME, SUBPROGRAMME, TOPIC, CALL, EXPLANATION, DESCRIPTION &/or (relevant) OBJECTIVES, FUNDING RULES, CONTACT POINT, "LEGAL BASIS / GROUND RULES", REFERENCE, PUBLICATION DATE, CLOSING DATE, GUIDELINES, OTHER CALL, DOCUMENTS, OTHER INFORMATION +

The inventory has certain limitations.

Firstly, this kind of information is obviously perishable. Frequent updates would be required to obtain maximum value of the inventory, possible only with administrative resources.

Secondly, it would be a challenge for anyone immediately to find the grant/funding to suit a particular profile. One improvement would be to rank the list of funds according to psychological relevance. That might prove quite a challenge as not a single of the entries mentions "psychology" explicitly.

Possible next steps to make the database more useful would be to:

- a. Include previous successful application in a separate column, where applicable
- b. Include a column indicating the grant's field of interest/activity/topic
- c. Indicate in a separate column which EFPA bodies, partners, individual MAs, Associated member associations for whom a particular grant would be relevant
- d. A suggestion to EFPA on how its network of members and MAs might be utilized as a source of income through dissemination of psychologically relevant results of funded projects.
- e. Make a general outline of the necessary steps in the process of applying for a grant.

***This activity item is partly achieved***

**2. Produce a general check-list of requirements necessary to start the process of obtaining a grant. (A good example is the need to demonstrate tangible deliverables. Operating grants, evidently, is tricky to obtain without clear deliverables).**

This activity was not performed by the TF as such, but supplied by Peter Lewinski of EFPSA on short notice. EFPSA has for the second time obtained an operating grant from EU of € 35,000. EFPSA thus holds a valuable track record and would be an important source of experience for possible future grant seeking in EFPA:

- a. Assumption: EFPA is most likely to benefit from a) an annual operating grant (further possibly extended to a some form of a framework partnership agreement from European Commission / European Union); b) collaborative grants as a socially-relevant partners, especially in network/collaborative grants proposals (such as ITN MSC actions or COST),
- b. Contact EFPSA, Board of Management, and specifically Head of Finance (finance@efpsa.org) for information on their success in receiving Annual Operating Grants in 2013 and 2015 for €35,000 from European Commission. Gather know-how and relevant insights and possibly ask to be coached/trained on it. E.g. EFPSA's Head of Finance could provide training to EFPA on this matter and share the success stories, including relevant documents,
- c. Another option is to contact a specialized grant writing/training company with high success track and long experience (+20 years) in order to either/both a) receive training from them (e.g. EFPA's members of EU grants' task force); b) receive help in choosing, preparing and submitting relevant operational grants for EFPA. One known company is yellowresearch.nl, companies as such have a clear commercial interest in helping organizations such as EFPA and thus they work efficiently. Another, possible option would be to contact relevant organizations which are similar to EFPA in order to receive know-how from them (e.g. EFPA partners),
- d. The two above-mentioned points are solutions to use immediately. However, what EFPA is lacking is a Fundraising Strategy. For example EFPSA has a 8,500 words manual on its fundraising strategy that outlines approaches and its know-how on fundraising as whole and with grant writing specifically.

***This activity item is partly achieved***

- 3. Make a preliminary overview of possible EFPA “deliverables” (what can EFPA offer in return for grants?).** Two major areas seem feasible:
- a. Dissemination of good practice and research through the EFPA structure and network – an all European network with the potential of reaching 300,000 practitioners and researchers
  - b. Proliferation of EuroPsy as a means to
    - i. secure service quality and patient safety in all EU countries and
    - ii. enhance mobility of professionals in Europe and
    - iii. enable increased health equality

***This activity item has no deliverables – just recommendations***

- 4. Describe a Work package – to offer all options of what EFPA could deliver – disseminating results on projects containing psychological elements:**
- a. Dissemination plan / procedure to include a broader set of channels – peer reviewed articles are too limiting as scientific journals are not read by practitioners
  - b. Ask HO to describe the channels and forms of dissemination
  - c. Assemble “dissemination chapters” from grant applications and from funded project reports
  - d. Offer EFPA as a partner for EU funded projects
  - e. Seek strategic alliance with professional/commercial players who offer aid to parties applying for EU-grants
  - f. EFPA already disseminates information about EU-calls. A next step would be to inform that EFPA is available as a partner for these projects.

***This activity item has no deliverables – just recommendations***

## **Meetings**

- 1) 25 March 2014, Brussels
- 2) 19 September 2014, Brussels
- 3) 26 January 2015, Brussels

## Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations

Whereas EU Operating grants regulations have been changed to a three-year cycle as of 2014, (accepting applications only every three years) we are informed that this has been reconsidered. The operating grant is now available as an annual framework partnership, but possibly more difficult to obtain under this new regulation. The deadline for this year's applications is supposedly already in May.

If the GA chooses to establish a new task force to further explore possibilities for obtaining grants, this TF would like to suggest the following undertakings as potential items of a new mandate:

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

## Proposals for decisions by GA

The General Assembly is advised to accept the following proposals:

The TF will recommend to the GA that operating grants applications be initiated immediately after a possible successor of this TF is established.

### **Members of the group:**

Edward van Rossen (EFPA EC *liaison*), Markus Raab (FEPSAC), Tatiana Re Simona (Italy), Joke De Vocht, (Project Intern, Belgium), Ole Tunold (*Convener*, Norway), Albert Ziegler (Germany), Iulian Laurentiu Stefan (Romania), Peter Lewinski (EFPSA)