

## Operational Support Network OSN

Meeting, Friday, Feb 2, 2018: 10:00-16:00

London offices of the British Psychological Society BPS - 30 Tabernacle Street, London

Documents to this (and former) meeting in the Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/01fts3bnh0aqn7m/AADDalYFegmYH7xi0UTJRF-Da?dl=0>

### Minutes of the meeting



**Present:** Michaela Langer (Austria), Koen Lowet (Belgium), Andrea Finkel Gates (United Kingdom), Sarb Bajwa (United Kingdom), Ole Tunold (Norway), Tiago Pereira (Portugal), Ulrika Edwinson (Sweden), Sabine Schläppi (Switzerland),

**Apologies:** Marie Zelander (Denmark), Marta Fulop (Hungary), Eleonora Drago (Italy)

**EFPA EC and staff:** Robertas Povilaitis, Sabine Steyaert, Julie Van den Borre

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## 1. Opening, Welcome and introduction

- a. Presentation of participants (group picture)  
The participants were asked to introduce themselves
- b. Agenda, amendments  
The agenda was approved as presented.
- c. OSN : actual composition  
Overview participants list (PowerPoint)

## 2. Approval minutes OSN meeting November, Berlin 2016

The minutes were approved as presented.

S. Steyaert explained that a date for a second OSN meeting in fall this year will be fixed at the end of the meeting. She informed that the 2nd half of the European semester (July-December) will be organised in Cyprus but this does not implement that the OSN meeting and/or other meetings are obliged to take place in Cyprus.

## 3. After the EFPA General Assembly Amsterdam July 2017 and before the GA Moscow July 2019

- a. Key decisions (Ukraine 37<sup>th</sup> MA, FESN 11<sup>th</sup> Associate MA, ECP 2021 Slovenia, less EFPA groups..)

### Ukraine 37th MA

The National Psychological Association (NPA) is a small organisation which is trying to find its way within the EFPA structure. They still have lots of questions but they were very enthusiastic to become an EFPA member. S. Steyaert requested to support them and send in material related to psychology and psychologists if asked for.

### FESN 11th Associate MA

The Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology has been accepted as the 11th Associate MA. EFPA has a Memorandum of Understanding with them, publicity is made for each others organisation and they will attend the General Assembly (no voting rights) but their expertise is needed for the EFPA working groups.

### ECP 2021 Slovenia

The ECP Congress 2021 will be held in Ljubljana.

### Less EFPA Groups

Some groups are more active than others. It has been decided that if after two years a group is not capable to show results or seems to be inactive, the group will be closed down. In total 5 groups have been terminated already by the Executive Council (EC).

- b. Activity agenda

Reference was made to Dapulse (a smart collaboration and communication platform to get team members working in sync in one place). The activity agenda is always discussed at the PC meetings and the EC is keeping the Presidents informed of what is going on.

- c. Statement on Psychotherapy

Psychotherapy is a hot topic in Europe. The delegates present at the GA in Amsterdam made a statement on this which was unanimously agreed on. It has been translated into 5 languages and other translations will follow so that all MA languages are covered. The idea is also to make a flyer. The statement has already proven to be useful for MA's when negotiating with their respective government about psychotherapy (e.g. in Malta where they are preparing a new law on psychotherapy and forget about psychologists).

- d. Awards 2019: call for nominations Aristotle Prize, Wundt-James award, Comenius Early career award and Robert Roe award + probably new Russian award

A call for nominations will be sent after the summer allowing to find candidates until the end of the year. The Russian colleagues have announced their willingness to present a new award, i.e. the Lev Vygotsky prize. The EC is still negotiating the

requirements and conditions of this prize. The awards are handed over during the Congress opening ceremony in Moscow.

e. Composition of EC: vacancies 2019

The EC consists of 7 members and there will be 6 vacancies in 2019. The members are elected for 4 years and can be re-elected for 4 more years but no member can serve on the EC for more than eight years unless they're candidate for a different position in the eC. Looking at the current composition, C. Steinebach, R. Povilaitis and T. Levin Hofgaard will end their second mandate in 2019. T. Baptista, E. Karayianni and B. Zani finish their first term. S. Steyaert asked the participants to discuss this information with their Presidents in case they would like to nominate someone in the beginning of next year.

**O. Tunold** referred to the statutes, Article 14.8, which stipulates" *No member can serve on the Executive Council for more than eight years. Former members of the Executive Council may, however, be elected President, Secretary-General or Treasurer for another maximum of eight years, provided that they have not served in these functions before*". This means that in principle C. Steinebach, R. Povilaitis and T. Levin Hofgaard can go for the position of resp. President, SG and/or Treasurer depending of their former functions. Job descriptions of all vacancies will be sent out and Sabine Steyaert mentioned that she will share them with the OSN members in advance.

#### 4. Key Decisions of the Presidents' Council November 2017 Prague

a. European Semester: state of affairs and call for 2019

i. 2017: Jan-June: Switzerland: lessons learned (Sabine Schläppi)

**S. Schläppi** explained that fostering exchange, knowledge sharing and joint activities are one of the main aims of the European Semester. She went through the list of EFPA meetings the Swiss Association supported organisationally, logistically and financially i.e. (biannual meetings of the EFPA organs (EC and PCM) and the meetings of several thematic working groups of EFPA. In the frame of the meeting of the EFPA Standing Committee on Disaster Psychology, a half-day Symposium was organised presenting a joint programme with contributions from members of the Standing Committee and Swiss Colleagues working in the area of Crisis, Trauma and Disaster Psychology. A special focus of the Symposium was on sharing lessons learnt in different European countries. The European Semester web space was used to inform about the meetings held, to present the Swiss Federation but also to shed some light on the breadth of psychology as a profession in Switzerland and beyond. What exactly do psychologists contribute to health & wellbeing? How, for example, do they support the education system, strengthen work and social organisations and improve road safety? Answering these questions about psychology as a profession in Switzerland is the aim of the Jubilee book that was being produced and published in the frame of the 30th anniversary of the Federation of Swiss Psychologists. Some of the portraits published in the book have been translated into English and made available for EFPA member associations via the European Semester Website. EFPA member associations have been encouraged to reuse the material for their own purposes to enhance public perception about psychology as a profession, to destigmatise the area of expertise where needed as well as to underline the important contribution of psychology to society. The website is still active for those interested. Hosting the European Semester was not only a nice possibility for the Swiss Federation to present itself to the other European Associations and to foster collaboration and exchange – it also offered a great opportunity for them to rethink their involvement at European level, i.e. as a member of EFPA, and start implementing some organisational changes deriving from this. They learnt that the EFPA working groups (Boards,

Standing Committees and Task Forces) offer a great opportunity to get engaged at European level and enrich the discussions from the Swiss perspective as well as to benefit from knowledge and lessons learned generated in other countries. This opportunity has not been efficiently used so far.

Given the limited resources, FSP learnt to be more strategic in terms of thematic engagement at European level, i.e. to rethink their strategy for which thematic EFPA working groups they nominate an FSP delegate and to which they do not. Now they are in the process of aligning their engagement in the EFPA working groups with their national thematic priorities (Legislaturprogramm, Themen & Stakeholdermonitoring). For the period 2017-2019 they have in total 6 FSP delegates nominated for the following working groups: Board of Ethics, Board of Promotion and Prevention, Board of Assessment, SC on Psychology and Health, SC on Geropsychology, SC on Traffic Psychology.

They also need to become better in ensuring the communication flow between the FSP delegates and the FSP Board & Secretariat. They are currently revising the way they collaborate with their FSP delegates (reporting, proactive inputs to working group agendas/meetings, use of delegates as resource persons etc.) in order to really benefit from their engagement in the different working groups and to use the knowledge and experience generated at international level for their national projects and activities.

Hosting the European Semester in Switzerland helped the Swiss Association to better understand the role and functioning of the EFPA and particularly its thematic working groups. This resulted into a critical rethinking of how they engage in the different EFPA bodies. They are now in the process of implementing the needed changes so that their engagement will hopefully become more strategic, thematically more aligned to the national priorities and hence more relevant to their work.

S. Schläppi concluded by stating that the Organising European Semester may:

- Enrich the discussions from the Swiss perspective
- Benefit from knowledge in other countries
- Given limited resources-> rethink strategy of engagement
- Better ensuring the communication flow between FSP delegates and the FSP board and secretariat
- Reporting and proactive inputs to working group
- Foster the contact to member organisations

- ii. 2018: Jan-June: United Kingdom: update (Andrea Finkel-Gates)
- A. Finkel Gates** informed that the Semester's theme is called 'Psychology Moving Humanity Forward', that the website is up and running with all information available at <https://www.bps.org.uk/eusemester> A discounted rate at the BPS Annual Conference (Nottingham) to BPS membership level (30%) is offered to all members of an EFPA member association. Complimentary invitations have been sent to the EFPA President, EC and the Presidents of MA's with which the UK has an MoU. A European and International round table will take place at the conference. The BPS is delighted to invite all EFPA Boards, Standing Committees, and Task Forces to join them in celebrating the European Semester of Psychology in the UK and to hold their next meetings over there. The EFPA EC and PCM meetings will equally take place in the BPS London office from 25 to 27 April 2018 with a dinner planned in the Museum of London in the eve of the meeting. Regarding policy and communications, she stated that the aim is to share policy objectives and activities over the period of the Semester. The UK focus

in the first half of 2018 is on the launch of the revised code of ethics, a new report on obesity, an updated report on autism and responding to the UK Governments Green Paper on Children and Young Peoples Mental Health. She referred to an email that was sent to the HO from Andrew Walmsley (webmaster EU website) proposing to create short blog articles to host on the site from the European colleagues who have been engaged in work with psychologists from other countries. This would bring attention to the EU Semester itself but will also help to reaffirm their commitment to continued cooperation and collaboration across the international border. The proposal was made to pilot this at the BPS, learn from it during the European Semester and transfer it onto the EFPA website and continue from there on. S. Bajwa (new BPS CEO as from April 2018) added that BPS will look into some possible funding.

- iii. 2018: July-Dec: Cyprus  
S. Steyaert informed that she will share the program and that the tradition has been set up to organise one EC and one PC meeting in the host country of the European Semester.
- b. World Thematic days: press releases or statements  
N. Gale (BPS) wants to work together with EFPA on a statement for the World Health Day (7 April). The other world thematic days are: World suicide prevention day (10 September), World mental health day (10 October), Universal children's day (20 November), International day of human rights (10 December). These statements are always disseminated to the MA's and some of them translate these. The overall conclusion was made that these statements do not have enough impact since the EFPA members are not spreading them out as they should. Some statements are connected to other events like Brexit, refugees, aviation psychology and it would be good to use these opportunities to prepare some messages together but someone is needed to initiate this.
- c. Evaluation of EFPA structure discussion at PCM  
During the last PC meeting in Prague, the Presidents were invited to evaluate EFPA's structure by discussing the following aspects: structure, operative practice, needs and resources based on the questions that are part of the EFPA today and tomorrow discussion paper. A strategy paper has been produced summarizing all responses but this document is still subject to discussion and will be put on the agenda of the next EC meeting at the end of February. An analysis of the results will be reported at the PC meeting and during the next GA a new proposal of the EFPA structure will be presented. A. Finkel-Gates informed that the BPS is also undergoing a restructuring process and she will put the HO in contact with Liam Gallagher (Project officer Structural review) in order to enable an open discussion and best practice sharing on this matter.

## 5. News from the associations

- a. Overview of 37 EFPA MAs + 12 Associates (Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria)  
S. Steyaert informed that the poster presenting the 37 EFPA MA's is available on the website for printing. She explained the difficult situation that is going on in Romania, and that there will be no activity of Romanian delegates on EU level until the situation over there is solved. Bulgaria has been accepted as full member again.
- b. News from the associations: Members, finances, new developments, projects ...
  - A. Finkel Gates – United Kingdom**
    - Sarb Bajwa new CEO as from mid April 2018.
    - Structural review within board of trustees.
    - Having 2 years presidency instead of 1 year.
    - 4 policy boards will change into strategy boards.

- Threat to BPS: the formation of an association of clinical psychologists in UK. They think they would be better represented if they create own group instead of being represented via BPS.
- Recruitment of policy consultants: they inform on what is going on in Parliament.

#### **K. Lowet - Belgium**

- In process of reforming the organisation. Discussion themes: which competencies to be delegated to the national body of psychologists, which ones go to the regional associations.
- Interests for clinical psychologists are getting larger in Belgium. Creates big tension field. BFP guides this process.
- Project: new law psychotherapy takes time. The psychotherapy part of the law is being postponed. This law will be made available in English with the help of EFPA's translator.
- Project: regulatory body of the Commission of Psychologists: Most psychology licences are clinical psychologists and now that clinical psychology is regulated as a health profession, that body of psychologists has no purpose anymore and needs to be reformed.
- Mental health reform: is being changed in Belgium but goes slowly due to its federal nature.

#### **T. Pereira - Portugal**

- New Portuguese law: acts in health. The health care system must provide service of psychology. In the future, these will be autonomous services.
- Commitment of the government to reimburse psychological visits.
- 4th Congress from 12-15 September 2018 with the theme: psychology in prevention and promotion.
- In creation of OPP: working with government to ensure legislation based on EuroPsy competence model. All 18000 members are able to access EuroPsy certificate, collaboration with EFPA on this.

#### **U. Edwinson - Sweden**

- Being involved with practical issues, renewal of office building, more modern membership register system also needed.
- Keep low profile on policy developments.
- General elections this year, focus on some areas.
- Joining EuroPsy in Sweden.

#### **M. Langer -Austria**

- New EB (7 people of which 6 are new): brain drain.
- New government: no idea what this means for our topics.
- New law on psychotherapy different in Austria than in other countries. Anyone who has his graduation can become a psychotherapist. Trying to convince stakeholders/government it is important to be either psychologist or medical doctor.
- Trying to raise the quality of postgraduate trainings.
- Focussing on the fact that psychological treatment is not reimbursed by the insurance.

#### **O. Tunold - Norway**

- New legislation: municipalities have to hire psychologists to have psychological competence as part of their service. The law will be in effect from 2020.
- The hospitals specialist health services have been applying for activity-based financing and the government introduced activity days in financing in mental health care.

- More and more regulations, less focus on quality and results: affects most European countries.

#### **S. Schläppi - Switzerland**

- Invention of a salary calculator. Best income is in occupational research and at universities, lowest is being independent therapist. Members can log in and compare their salary with other members.
- Publication standards in cooperation with practitioners, researchers and lawyers.

#### **R. Povilaitis - Lithuania**

- Struggling with attempt to pass law on practice of psychologists. Already 6th attempt since 2008. Almost at the final voting.

### **6. EuroPsy - state of affairs:**

#### **a. New website**

S. Steyaert informed that the renewal of the website takes longer than expected. This delay is caused by the unavailability of the people (volunteers) who would give content to the webpage. Also gathering the information on requirements to become a psychologist legally in a country took a lot of time. It has been decided to go live before the next EC. The website will be a useful source of information about EuroPsy requirements, legislation, competent authorities in and outside Europe and EU news related to the profession of psychologists.

#### **b. Supervision conference Aug 2017 Slovenia – follow up (book)**

The book has been sent by ordinary post to all MA's. A. Finkel-Gates asked to send the book again personally addressed to her since she was not aware that the BPS received it. The Supervision conference took place in August, supported by EAC and EFPA and also partially funded by EFPA.

#### **c. EAC – SEAC PT – SEAC W&O vacancies 2018**

A call for EAC nominations has been sent out, the deadline was fixed at 31 January 2018. Unexpectedly, a lot of nominations came in and the EC will decide on who will be nominated. A second call for EAC nominations will follow since other members will leave the committee and need to be replaced by the end of this year. Two other calls will also be sent out, i.e. for S-EAC Psychotherapy and end of 2018 for the S-EAC W&O.

#### **d. EuroPsy S(NAC) chairs annual meeting March 9, 2018**

#### **e. 3 EuroPsy workshops 'CPD', 'How to start a NAC' and 'Supervision, training for trainers'**

The new Chair Rosaleen McElvaney has launched these workshop initiatives. The workshop on 'CPD' and 'How to start a NAC' will take place on the same day (9 March 2018). The workshop on 'Supervision, training for trainers' (25 May 2018) will be given by Aisling McMahon, more information on the workshop outline and the official invitation will follow at a later stage. It is the first time EFPA organises an open workshop in Brussels and will fund part of this training. Mark Forshaw will lead the workshop on 'CPD' (9 March 2018) and he intends to visit the MA's who might be interested in having CPD.

#### **f. Germany: pilot project: promoting EuroPsy with students**

S. Steyaert had hoped that the EC would have taken a decision on this but the discussion is postponed to the next EC. The pilot project has been approved by the EAC but also needs approval from the EC. If this project will be approved and it turns out to be a success, it will be copied by other MA's.

### **7. European congress of Psychology**

#### **a. ECP 2017 – Amsterdam (NL): final report**

Only few information is available since EFPA did not yet receive the final report. A reminder will be sent.

#### **b. ECP 2019 – Moscow (Russia): [www.ecp2019.ru](http://www.ecp2019.ru) state of affairs**

The collaboration with the Russian colleagues goes very smoothly and they work in a professional way. They visited the MA's to promote the upcoming congress. They started the registration process and 420 people have already registered. The EC will go to Moscow at the end of February and talk to the scientific committee/organizers and visit the congress venue. A. Leybina has sent an email to the MA's asking for nominations to the international scientific committee since there are still some vacancies open.

c. ECP 2021- Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The agreement has been signed during the last PC meeting in Prague (November 2017).

d. ECP 2023 – call for bids

The call for bids will be sent after the summer, allowing enough time within the organisations whether they are interested to organise the congress.

**8. EFPA News Magazine: <http://efpa.magqmaker.com/> cooperation with MA's**

S. Steyaert mentioned she is desperately looking for information to be put in the online magazine. The HO is looking for information on their members' websites/facebook pages but it would save time if this information is being sent directly to the HO. The deadline for sending in information for the February edition is fixed at 20 February 2018.

**9. Next meetings 2018-2019**

A doodle poll will be sent with the following meeting dates proposals:

**2018:** 2/11-9/11-23/11-30/11

**2019:** 08/03, 15/03, 22/03, 29/03 and 08/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11

**10. Any other matters**

a. New communication platform for EFPA groups [Workplace](#)

The IT department recommended Workplace as alternative for the currently used mailing lists. For this, you are not obliged to have a Facebook profile. The HO is experimenting with this tool and will get a training at the office. A manual will be prepared and disseminated to all groups afterwards. The positive thing will be that the amount of emails will diminish drastically; via this tool you can chat, add files and documents, make polls, create events, ... S. Steyaert suggested to try it within the OSN group and this was approved by the people present. An invitation to the group will be sent after the training.

b. Virtual Communication – Discussion lists/groups (Andrea)

This agenda item was discussed under the previous agenda item.

c. National legal regulations of psychologists (Ole)

O. Tunold stated that the former President of EFPA; Robert Roe, had wonderful ideas and one of them were fundamental models for developing the profession and psychology in general. There has been developed a model code for ethics (still in process) which will be presented at the GA next year. Eight years ago the need for a common model code for legal regulation of the profession (title and practice) became obvious. A working group was established where he took part in trying to map legal regulations in member states. This is partly completed. The general opinion was that there exist no agreement on documents saying what the situation is for legal regulation of the profession at present. This has been discussed for years and a meeting took place in December 2017 of which the following project plan was discussed:

**Project goal**

An inventory of national legal regulations of psychologists' title and (restricted) activities:

- Laws and regulations (translated)
- Regulated activities
- Required competency (and CPD, if applicable)
- Legal sanctions – how, and by which authority

- Ethic rules and sanctions?
- Where the regulations apply (private/public), (health/other)
- Degree of authority/responsibility in public health service?

#### **Who are the stakeholders/interested parties?**

- EFPA (should be project owner)
- MA's
- Individual psychologists
- National competent authorities

#### **Justification:**

- A necessary prerequisite for professional development and standards
- A necessary lever and benchmark for establishing regulations where they are incomplete or non-existent (MA capacity building, e.g. Malta and Lithuania)
- A necessary bulwark against competing "professions" (read psychotherapists)
- A necessary tool for Cas to grant access to a national profession
- Simplifies mobility
- A vital instrument for enlightening the public about what a psychologist is and does

#### **Project organisation**

- Steering committee (SC): (EFPA director, one MA representative, one CA representative/ volunteer)
- Working committee (WC): Two project secretaries: One EFPSA intern and one legal student/intern

#### **Project tasks**

- Ally with the Belgian University KU Leuven/Milestone project and look for synergies – this is valuable and fresh input. EFPA could secure better compliance to the KG Leuven survey/mapping through direct requests to MAs
- Collect all law texts
- Go through all documents, compare and compile
- Map competent authorities

#### **Sources of information**

- WG legal issues mapping
- Nady's student's thesis mapping
- WHO's report on clinical psychology
- KU Leuven's survey (when completed)
- Proportionality test of EU 2014?
- EU RegProf database
- EuroPsy information /NACs /SNACs

#### **Process**

- Project approval by EFPA EC in February
- SC defines mandate, identifies and assigns WC
- Project start up before summer
- Final report in December 2018 or to GA in 2019?

It was decided that K. Lowet will work together with O. Tunold on a project proposal. A detailed description will not yet be available by the end of February but a draft will be prepared to be presented at the next EC.

- d. Social network (Eleonora)  
E. Drago apologized for the meeting.

**11. Closing**

S. Steyaert thanked the BPS and the members and closed the meeting.

**Next meeting Brussels EFPA HO**

OSN meeting on Friday November 30, 2018 (10:00 am -04:00 pm) Brussels time

OSN Dinner on Thursday, November 29, 2018 (07:30 pm) Brussels time

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Minutes prepared by Julie Van den Borre