



**Report 2013-2015**

**of the**

**Standing Committee on**

**Traffic Psychology**

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

## Report 2013-2015

### Executive summary

Traffic psychology (TP) is a young expanding field in psychology. Whereas traffic psychology is primarily related to “the study of the behaviour of road users and the psychological processes underlying that behaviour” as well as to the relation between behaviour and accidents, transportation psychology, sometimes referred to as mobility psychology, has its focus on mobility issues, individual and social factors in the movement of people and goods, and travel demand management. The aim of the Standing Committee of Traffic Psychology is to act as a voice for Traffic Psychologists in Europe, either in research and or in practice.

Traffic safety is, among others, a major aim for traffic psychology. The new EU road safety guidelines (2010) would aim to cut European road deaths by 50% by 2020. However, as recent incidents show, traffic safety is not only relevant for road but also for rail and flight traffic. European legislation like the Directive 2007/59/EC (*Train Driver Directive*) has direct impact on the roles, responsibilities, qualifications and recognition criteria for psychologists and physicians, and the content and frequency of periodic psychological examinations in the rail domain. It is EFPA’s mission to maintain high safety standards by promoting the scientific application of psychological knowledge also in the rail field.

### Introduction

This report covers the activities of the Standing Committee on Traffic Psychology, performed during the period July 2013 – June 2015.

The EFPA Standing Committee, Traffic Psychology was founded in 2005 in Granada, Spain and was promoted from being a Task Force in summer 2006. The Task Force was founded in 1993 in Tampere, Finland and the Task Force has been active since that time, except for a period between 1997 and 1999, until it was turned into a Standing committee. Its history has been reported by Risser (2003).

The strategic aims of the SC were formulated in Prague, October 2006, and have not been changed since then. However, it is intended to update and to adjust the aims with regard to the planned changes in the strategy and organization of EFPA bodies.

- Formulate common guidelines for the practice of Traffic Psychologists in Europe. This could take the form of statements prepared for individual topics,

where the guideline is illustrated by a current newsworthy event or situation. These documents could form a series.

- Harmonize proposals for a curriculum for education of Traffic Psychologists and what counts as equivalent qualifications across Europe.
- Clarify and improve the structure and delivery of Traffic Psychologists across Europe. This would also involve networking with other psychologists beyond EFPA and where appropriate with medical colleagues who are central to the efficient delivery of Traffic Psychology.
- Act as a voice to promote Traffic Psychologists in Europe. As well as networking where the opportunity allows, we can attempt to develop a website; clarify the channel of communication within and via EFPA; and lobby our national representative of the Council when relevant issues and Directives emerge. We present the SC via presentations about it at conferences.

## Activities

### 1. To develop the 'country reports' series.

We invented a series of 'country reports'. Aim of the country reports is to provide a state of the art of traffic psychology in EFPA member states. To review the historic development of TP, its professional and academic origins, available methods, major research issues and political challenges as well as its current developments and future prospects.

#### 1.1. Activity as performed:

At our last meeting in Como at March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 no country reports have been provided due to the predominance of activity 2 (see below). At the next meeting in July 2015 in Milano reports will be done from Croatia and Romania.

#### 1.2. Achievements:

2 new country reports by July 2015

### 2. Train drivers examination

Directive 2007/59/EC ('Train Driver Directive', TDD) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23.10.2007 is about the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. It lays down the procedures for obtaining and withdrawing licences and certificates as well as specifying the tasks to be carried out by the competent authorities in the EU countries.

The European Railway Agency (ERA) conducted an evaluation of the transposition in spring 2013, where it sent a questionnaire to railway operators and other parties (safety agencies, trade unions etc.), including CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies). Unfortunately EFPA was not

considered but we sent a letter to ERA in May 2013 requesting changes with regard to the standards for the assessment of psychological requirements and the qualification requirements for persons conducting psychological assessment, preferably referring to EuroPsy (see our GA report 2011-2013).

In November 2014 ERA published a report about the outcomes of the consultation which identifies different concerns about the medical or psychological fitness examination. E.g. the frequency of psychological testing must be clarified as well as it is proposed to evaluate the development of some common criteria for the recognition of doctors and psychologists.

As a result of the above outcomes EFPA is setting up a meeting with representatives of ERA, in order to discuss the Train Drivers Directive and its future development, as far as relevant for psychology and psychologists. The main points on the agenda will be the roles, responsibilities, qualifications and recognition criteria for psychologists and physicians, and the content and frequency of periodic psychological examinations. The meeting is planned to be held at the end of May 2015 in Brussels.

### **3. To develop the web-site status**

3.1. The web-site has been updated but the task to advance and broaden the content has been postponed due to current lack of time and resources.

### **4. To decide whether to establish a Biannual Newsletter**

- The idea of publishing SC Traffic psychology newsletter has been discussed at our last meeting in Como in 2014. K. Kleinman from Slovakia presented a draft version. Basically his suggestion is that new, relevant and even low level information is to be distributed to all members by this newsletter. It could also bring the new members faster up to date.
- The following issues were discussed: who is the target audience (internal SC TP, EFPA community, even broader?), if only internal: what is the added value above the mailing list?

Conclusion: the idea of the newsletter is not abandoned. It is not an official communication channel yet, but in test phase. KK first gathers possible interested parties to receive it. Next we need to follow the legal way to approach these people. At the same time we need to find out who will be sending the newsletter (Mr. Kleinman or EFPA).

## **Meetings**

- 1) March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Como, Italy
- 2) July, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Milano, Italy

## **Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations**

The General Assembly is asked to take notice of the following:

- a. None, yet

**Members of the group:**

| <b>Country</b>                       | <b>Name</b>                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| EC LIAISON                           | Robert Roe                  |
|                                      |                             |
| Austria                              | Ralf Risser                 |
| Belgium                              | Mark Tant                   |
| Croatia (New)                        | Dubravka Svilar Blažinić    |
| Czech Republic (New)                 | Pavla Rymešová              |
| Denmark                              | Annette Meng                |
| <i>Finland</i>                       | <i>Mika Hatakka</i>         |
| France (New)                         | Erik Declercq               |
| Germany                              | <b>Jens Schade ©</b>        |
| Italy (New)                          | Franco Amore                |
| <i>Latvia (New)</i>                  | <i>Inga Smirnova</i>        |
| <i>Lithuania (New)</i>               | <i>Auksė Endriulaitienė</i> |
| Luxembourg                           | François D'Onghia           |
| Romania (New)                        | Mihaela Chraif              |
| <i>Russia (New)</i>                  | <i>Nelli Chrustaleva</i>    |
| Slovakia                             | Karol Kleinmann             |
| <i>Slovenia (New)</i>                | <i>Marko Polic</i>          |
| Spain                                | Hector Monterde i Bort      |
| Sweden                               | Henriette Wallén Warner     |
| <i>Switzerland</i>                   | <i>Markus Hubacher</i>      |
| United Kingdom                       | Andrew Tolmie               |
| © = convenor                         |                             |
| <i>Italic = Corresponding member</i> |                             |
| TOTAL                                | 20                          |
| TOTAL Active                         | 14                          |
| Total Corresponding                  | 6                           |