



Report 2015-2017

of the

Task Force "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" (TF CED)

.....

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

Report 2015 -2017

Executive summary

Key statement to the GA will be to show that there is an urgent need and sense to transform the TF CED to a durable format like Board or Scientific Committee.

Therefore the period reported can be condensed in one most prominent attribute: a friction between the demand working for a final term and the awareness of being needed even more and also able to support current profession-related and societal challenges and concerns. Although cultural and ethnic topics are ongoing issues since years (the TF CED is existing already in its fourth period, means for 8 years!), the current situation of refugees made needs undeniable obviously.

So in short the TF CED:

- was busily active with live-meetings, and skype meetings
- did double the active group members from 4 to 8 (+ EC liaison)
- reached the goals with publications and collaborations' starts
- wrote a proposal for a transformation into a Board CED

Introduction

This report covers the activities of TF CED, performed during the period July 2015 – June 2017.

So TF CED was busily active with 3 live-meetings, and 4 virtual skype meetings, and two symposia at ECP 2017 (participation in a joined and an own one) in Amsterdam.

The active group members doubled since last period from out of 4 countries to now out of 8 countries.

The important achievements are: (1) the "European Guidelines for Psychologists working with Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" (version for practitioners, now as an article of the book see (2), in planning extended version for practitioners and researchers);(2) a book out of the TF CED field (members and associates) edited by Alexander Thomas (in press); (3) start of collaborations with other boards; (4) identification and presentation of potential curriculum components for study programmes of psychology on Bachelor level; (5) identification of 3 reasons for an ongoing need of the topic "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" and becoming a Board: a. responsibility to future psychology colleagues by establishing the intercultural psychology mandatorily in the BA study programmes; b. responsibility to society by spreading intercultural knowledge based on scientific findings, c. making possible an interdisciplinary discourse of our profession psychology by the intercultural reflection; and (6) the proposal for a transformation into a Board.

Activities

This period started after the ECP in Milan in July 2015 where the TF convened at the Invited Symposium of European Congress of Psychology in Milan under the convenorship of Ludek Kolman, Czech Republic. The convenorship was passed to Germany with Alexander Thomas. For he was stepping down in December 2015 it was passed to his colleague Ulrike de Ponte in January 2016.

1. **Collaborations:** According to GA recommendations, TF-CED had to suggest ways to incorporate knowledge on (the implications of) Cultural and ethnic Diversity in education and professional work of psychologists in various areas, in collaboration with the Board of Educational Affairs and the Board Professional Development.
 - 1.1. Activity as performed: The TF went further with collaborations on three level: (1) getting in new active TF members, (2) collaboration with EFPSA, (3) collaboration with other EFPA groups
 - (1) *New active members:* Due to the current situation by dealing with refugees the active participation by members from further countries did increase.

- The active members are from: Czech Republic, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Italy (EC liaison), Germany (convenor), and for the ECP 2017 now also Croatia; once EFPSA
- This is very valuable due to gaining perspective on the topics, and did need time as well to come and find together (March - June 2016).

(2) *EFPSA*: At the ECP 2015 in Milan there was a first contact by Ulrike de Ponte to the EFPSA Board members, where it became quickly obvious that the TF idea of implementing mandatorily intercultural psychology in the programmes of Psychology all over Europe meets the needs of the students' organisation.

- For EFPSA it is even more evident that intercultural psychology will be needed in all kinds of working fields, and there is a gap in their education already on Bachelor level.
- So two intercultural workshops were conducted from Hans van Eck and Ulrike de Ponte, who were invited to the EFPSA Conference in Ružomberok, Slovakia, from the 14th - 17th September 2015.

(3) *Collaboration with other EFPA groups*: On the convenors' meeting in Brussels in September 2016 an exchange between Stephan Dutke (convenor BEA), Bruna Zani (EC liaison of BEA and TF CED!) and Ulrike de Ponte started. Stephan Dutke initiated the preparation of a Jointed Symposium "Migration Phenomena and the Education of Psychologists" planned for ECP 2017 in Amsterdam. Five EFPA groups accepted to join the symposium: the Board of Educational Affairs, the Board of Human Rights, the Task Force Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, the EFPA European Awarding Committee EuroPsy, and the EFPA Working Group on Refugees.

- The TF CED (represented by the convenor Ulrike de Ponte) is invited to present on the Jointed Symposium the "Curriculum Components" for discussion about an implementation of intercultural psychology mandatorily in the study programmes of Psychologists at Bachelor level.

1.2. *Achievements*: The exchange with and the participation of other member groups enriched the work on the topics of CED. The exchange with EFPSA and the other EFPA groups made first steps and on a good way now.

2. ***Curriculum Components***: According to GA recommendations, TF-CED had to develop of curriculum components on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, possibly based on modules on intercultural competences existing at the Applied University of Regensburg, Prague and application in other universities, at bachelor and master levels, preferably in the framework of EuroPsy, in collaboration with the Boards of Educational Affairs and the Board of

Professional Development. The need of working in a durable format on the topics of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity was ascertained.

2.1. Activity as performed: The Curriculum Components were shared with (a) EFPSA and at the (b) European Semester/Symposium in Leipzig.

(a) EFPSA

- Some elements out of the experience-oriented parts of the modules of the Regensburg Programme were conducted (two workshops on two days, each with different content).
- As a best-practice model the Regensburg Programme was presented.

(b) European Semester / Symposium DGPs Congress, Leipzig, September 2016

- The Curriculum Components were presented and discussed.

(c) Durable format for the topics of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

- The transformation of the TF CED into a durable format was written.

2.2. Achievements: The Curriculum Components have been successful discussed and are on a good way; but still a discourse with EuroPsy has to be done.

3. **Ethical standards:** According to GA recommendations TF-CED had to develop professional guidelines and Ethical standards for psychologists working in the intercultural field and also in the field of research, in collaboration with the Board of Professional Development and the Board of Ethics;

3.1. Activity: In July 2015 after the symposium of TF CED in Milan there was written a draft of seven pages on the "European Guidelines for Psychologists working with Cultural and Ethnic Diversity".

- On the face-to-face meeting in June 2016 it was decided to go on with the additional focus on ethical guidelines for researchers.
- A collaboration about the topic just is initiated by the EFPA Board of Ethics; it was pending because of non-availability of the responsible members by family and job-related reasons.

3.2. Achievements: The article "European Guidelines for Psychologists working with Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" will be published in the TF book; the work on an extended version referring to researchers is still planned as well as ongoing collaboration with the Board of Ethics. The group could be: Carla Moleiro, Sylvie Graf, and Alina Galantanu.

4. **Publication:** According to GA recommendations, TF-CED had to continue the work on the publication of the book on culture and ethnic diversity issues

- 4.1. Activity: The publication "Culture and Ethnic Diversity: How European Psychologists Can Meet the Challenges" will be published by Hogrefe before the ECP 2017, Alexander Thomas is the editor. The book gives an overview of intercultural aspects in all sorts of working fields of a psychologist. It contains 7 parts and 22 chapters, altogether more than 230 pages
 1. EFPA-Task Force "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity"
 2. Theoretical and Conceptual Aspects
 3. Personality, Education, and Training
 4. Work and Organizational Psychology
 5. Clinical and Counselling Psychology
 6. Migration
 7. Psychology of International Youth Exchange
- 4.2. Achievements: The publication will be published by Hogrefe before ECP 2017.
5. **Ongoing work of CED:** The Task Force CED did change the former task "Preparation for the creation of an association that can continue the work of the Task Force, which can apply for Associate Membership of EFPA, and the discontinuation of the Task Force by July 2017".
 - 5.1. Activity: There was an ongoing need for a durable format to work on the topics of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity ascertained. This was confirmed by the increased number of active TF members.

On the current situation in Europe not only concerning the fled migrants, but also by open borders, globalisation of labour and education, and raising intercultural partnerships and families the intercultural issues became more evident to the public as well as to psychologists' daily work and research. But psychologists feel badly prepared. There is a lack of education in the BA study programmes all over Europe in intercultural psychology. Besides, for keeping our psychologists' work on a high level there is an urgent need as well for self-reflection of our profession on cultural and ethical level. For all these reasons a durable format as a Board is needed to work more visibly and on a long run on the topics of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity.

- **Transformation to a Board CED:** A "Proposal for a transformation to a Board CED" was passed already to EC of EFPA about becoming a Board. There are two important foci connected with it: (1) The intercultural focus could support the self-reflection of our own profession as there are culturally driven impacts in concepts, methods,

didactics, and all interventions and diagnostic tools we are using; (2) Intercultural psychology should become a mandatory subject in the Bachelor study programmes of Psychology in Europe; (3) Interculturally well prepared psychologists are able to contribute to European societies by spreading the intercultural knowledge.

- **Preparing a statement:** EuroPsy states in their *Reference Point for Design and Delivery of Degree Programmes in Psychology*: "Professional psychologists apply psychology and psychological knowledge and understanding to real-life questions in order to enhance the well-being and effectiveness of individuals, groups and systems" (Tuning project, n. y., p. 20). This makes clear that it is on the psychology's hands to undertake responsibility to society by applying knowledge and showing how to deal with cultural diversities. It *is* a basic psychological task. Therefore the pivotal importance of intercultural psychology as a basic area of teaching psychology should become stronger. Education in intercultural psychology will fill the urgent need of psychologists working already everywhere in multi- and transcultural environments. From here psychology will spread the intercultural knowledge and will get the chance to reach all people.
 - **Internal EFPA-Conference on "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" for Self-reflection and Preparing the future psychologists' generation:** For the next period a conference should be organised together with all other EFPA Boards and Scientific Committees. Its aim should be (1) to discuss possible steps towards implementing curriculum components and bring all perspectives together on integrating intercultural psychology mandatorily into the curriculum of the study programmes of Psychology on Bachelor level. (2) To start an intradisciplinary communication and the self-reflection of our own profession, as there are culturally driven impacts in concepts, methods, didactics, and all interventions and diagnostic tools we are using.
 - **Database of inter- and cross-cultural psychologists' experts:** A database of psychologists who are experts in the field of intercultural and/or cross-cultural psychology should be build.
 - **Educational courses for practice fields, lecturing, and reflecting research:** There should be educational courses for practitioners and academic staff in intercultural and/or cross-cultural psychology. Specific offers towards the practitioners' needs in field-specifics, towards teaching intercultural psychology, and towards reflecting research processes should be delivered.
- 5.2. Achievements: Current Achievements: Active members doubled (see. 1.). Joined symposium planned with other EFPA groups (see 1.3) and an own Symposium according to the title of the publication. The book as

described in 4. will be published in 2017. On GA in Amsterdam there will be a request for a durable format.

Meetings (also videoconferences, or skype meetings) during term 2015-2017

- 1) July 2015; ECP 2015, Milan
[14th-17th September 2015, EFPSA Conference, Ružomberok, meeting with EFPSA]
- 2) 29th March 2016, 18-19 hrs, skype telephone conference
- 3) 29th April 2016; 19-20 hrs, skype telephone conference
- 4) 16th-18th June 2016; TF Conference, Regensburg
- 5) 18th-22nd September 2016, European Semester / EFPA-Symposium, on DGPs Congress, Leipzig
- 6) 8th November 2016, 17-18 hrs, skype telephone conference
- 7) 16th March 2017, 18.30-19:30 hrs, skype video conference with ES liaison
- 8) 18th April 2017, 18-18 hrs, skype video conference
- 9) July 2017; ECP 2017, Amsterdam; two symposia, GA

In average 5 participants were attending the meetings.

Important: Information & recommendations for GA & Member Associations

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

- a. The TF "cultural and Ethnic Diversity" wants to transform itself into a Board "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity".
- b. The topic "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" is implicit in each psychology discipline and can lead into an interdisciplinary discourse. The new board will support EFPA to start an intra disciplinary communication and an internal self-reflection on the focus "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" of our own profession. There are culturally driven impacts in concepts, methods, didactics, and all interventions and diagnostic tools, etc. we are using. This is relevant for the future to do research and every work on high quality. This means it is essential for practitioners doing their work adequately, for academic staff teaching intercultural psychology and doing well-reflected, valid research.
- c. The new Board CED will go further on promoting the issue that intercultural psychology should become a mandatory subject in the Bachelor study programmes of Psychology in Europe. It's an educational task for all universities to prepare the younger generation of psychologist well for the current and future challenges.

- d. With b) and c) the Board CED can support our profession to take responsibility in the European societies to spread intercultural knowledge on a high reflected quality level. The challenge is not only to integrate a lot of fled people, but makes it necessary to reflect on the existing methods, models and concepts and ways, because these tools are from Western mindsets. We need to learn innovatively together with the people who come from collective countries.
- e. The Board CED will intend to build a database of psychologists experts on the topics of intercultural and /or cross-cultural psychology and on ethical perspectives.
- f. The Board CED will promote educational courses for practitioners and academic staff in intercultural and/or cross-cultural psychology. Specific offers should be delivered towards the practitioners' needs for intercultural field-specifics, towards teaching intercultural psychology, and towards reflecting culturally impacts in research processes (models, methods, constructs, etc.).

Proposal for decisions by GA

The General Assembly is advised to accept the following proposal:

1. The Task Force "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity" wants to transform into a Board "Cultural and Ethnic Diversity".

Members of the group: (name and country)

Bruna Zani (EC Liaison, Italy)

Iva Zegura (Croatia)

Sylvie Graf (Czech Republic) and Ludek Kolman (Czech Republic)

Inger Birk Jensen (Denmark)

Ulrike de Ponte (Germany, current convenor)

Isabelle Albert (Luxembourg)

Hans van Eck (Netherlands)

Carla Moleiro (Portugal)

Alina Mihaela Galantanu (Romania)

Clara Checuti (EFPSA)

Reference

Tuning Project (n.y.). Reference Point for Design and Delivery of Degree Programmes in Psychology. Booklet towards Tuning Educational Structures in Europe written by Ingrid Lunt (University of Oxford), Remo Job (Università di Trento), Roger Lecuyer (Université Paris Descartes), Jose Maria Peiro (IDOCAL, Universidad de Valencia & IVIE) with the collaboration of Susana Gorbeña (Universidad de Deusto). Latest update August 2014:
http://www.efpa.eu/professional-development/tuning-europsy_-tuning-educational-structures-in-europe