



**Report 2013-2015**

**of the**

**Task Force for Culture and Ethnic Diversity**

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

**Executive summary**

Through the period reported the TF met at the time of European Congress of Psychology at Stockholm in July 2013. Second meeting of the Task Force happened in Prague in October 2014 at the premises of the Czech University of Life Sciences. The next meeting of the TF is going to happen at the time of the European Congress of Psychology in Milan, July 2015.

The important achievements of the TF CED were the implementation of the Invited Symposium at Stockholm, planning of Invited Symposium at Milan, implementation of the survey, and activities directed to the development of training courses.

**Introduction**

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

Through the period reported the TF met at the time of European Congress of Psychology in Stockholm in July 2013. The program of the meeting is described in the report.

Second meeting of the Task Force happened in Prague in the second week of October 2014 at the premises of the Czech University of Life Sciences. Altogether, five members and two guests attended the meeting. At the meeting the activities of the TF CED were discussed current issues and future activities of the Task Force. The more important issues discussed covered the importance of development of training programs in culture and ethnic diversity, inter-culture communication, and cross-culture sensibility and competence. It was agreed to implement a survey aimed at identifying the degree of readiness of professional psychologists to deal with culture and ethnic diversity issues in the EFPA member countries.

The next meeting of the Task Force is going to happen at the time of the European Congress of Psychology at Milan in July 2015.

The most important achievements of the TF CED in the period reported were the implementation of the Invited Symposium at Stockholm, planning and preparations of Invited Symposium at Milan, implementation of the survey, and activities directed to the development of training courses in inter-cultural competence.

## Activities

1. Activity as planned: In July 2013 the TF convened at the Invited Symposium of European Congress of Psychology in Stockholm under the convenorship of Inger Birk Jensen, Denmark.
  - 1.1. Activity as performed: The participants of the seminar read their papers and discussed future activities of the TF. The presenters and papers read were, as follows: Prof. em. Dr. Alexander Thomas, Regensburg University, Germany (*An Academic Teaching Program in Culture and Ethnic diversity for M. A. Students of Psychology*); Assoc. Prof. Ludek Kolman, CULS, Prague (*An Inquiry into the (sub)cultural Contingency of Work Motivation*); Prof. Carla Moleiro, Lisbon University, Portugal (*Case Conceptualization, Relationship Building, and Intervention Challenges with Culturally Diverse Clients among Clinical Psychologists: A Case for Cultural Competence Training*); Assoc. Prof. Rashmi Singla, Roskilde University & NGO TTT, Denmark (*A Bottom Up Initiative: Meditation and Mindfulness 'Eastern' Practices in the 'Western' Academia*).
  - 1.2. Achievements: the TF members present at the seminar agreed the plan of future activities.
2. Activity as planned: Prague meeting, October 2014.
  - 2.1. Activity as performed: Task Force convened in Prague on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 on the premises of Czech University of Life Sciences. Altogether five TF CED members and two guests have taken part in the meeting

proceedings. The memo from the meeting was duly submitted to EFPA Headquarters in due time. The program of the meeting was, as follows:

- Veronika Polisenka acquainted the participants with the issues EFPA currently deals with;
- Work plan of the TF CED was discussed and agreed. The more important items of the plan included:
  - Preparation of a survey aimed at identifying the degree of readiness of professional psychologists to deal with culture and ethnic diversity issues in the EFPA member countries;
  - Development of training programs on inter-cultural competence;
  - Organizing an Invited Symposium of the TF ECP 2015 in Milano;
  - The members convened discussed persons suitable for TF convenorship in the period after the year 2015. Prof. Alexander Thomas was agreed to be the most suitable person as the next convenor.

2.2. Achievements: The survey was implemented, as planned. Its results will be discussed at the TF CED Invited Symposium in Milano. A training program on inter-cultural competence is under development in Regensburg. CULS in Prague follows the suit.

3. Activity as planned:

3.1. An Invited Symposium at the time of the European Congress of Psychology in Milan in July 2015 was planned and its program implemented. The presenters, and papers to be read, are as follows: Alexander Thomas & Ulrike de Ponte (*Intercultural Competence is Psychology*); Carla Moleiro (*Ethical standards for psychologists working with culturally and ethnically diverse populations: The interplay between ethical principles and ethical virtues*); Alexander Thomas & Ulrike de Ponte (*Ethnic and cultural diversity – workshop*); Sylvie Graf & Tibor Zingora (*Benefits of Ethnic Diversity: Secondary Transfer Effect from Intergroup Contact with Vietnamese to Prejudice against Roma*); Ludek Kolman (*Intercultural sensibility training*).

3.2. The program of the Symposium was accepted by the Congress organizers.

4. Web page

4.1. Activity: Administration of a web-page.

4.2. Achievements: Thanks to the efforts of Carla Moleiro the web-page is up-to-date.

5. The survey

5.1. The survey was conducted, as planned. The results will be discussed at the TF CED Invited Symposium in Milan. Conclusions of the discussion

and the survey results will be sent together with the survey results to the EFPA Headquarters.

- 5.2. Gathering information, as intended.
6. A book
  - 6.1. Alexander Thomas organizes publication of a book on culture and ethnic diversity issues.
  - 6.2. So far, proposal of the book chapters were submitted by TF CED members and other cooperating colleagues.

## **Meetings**

- 1) July 2013; ECP 2013 Stockholm;
- 2) 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014, Prague
- 3) July 2015; ECP 2015, Milan

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

The General Assembly is asked to take notice of the following:  
According to the experience of the TF CED members, the cooperation of Member Associations seems to be rather scanty, sometimes. As goes about the survey reported on above, only nine from about thirty Associations provided any information, at all. Because of it we deem that, perhaps, it might help to introduce some new organizational principles (e.g., networking) in the functioning of EFPA.

## **Proposals for decisions by GA**

The General Assembly is advised to accept the following proposal:  
Some time ago TF CED members Inger Birk Jensen and Ludek Kolman sent a letter to EFPA asking for help on how to proceed in founding a new Association with a provisional name Cultethnic Forum for Research and Practice in a way which will comply to the EFPA procedures and rules. Presently, it is proposed to GA to provide an advice of the kind asked for.

## **Members of the group:**

Inger Birk Jensen, Denmark  
Carla Moleiro, Portugal  
Nadezda Mikhailovna Lebedeva, Russia  
Alexander Thomas, Germany  
Ludek Kolman, Czech Republic