



## **Report 2015-2017**

### **Standing Committee on Community Psychology**

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

#### **Executive summary**

This period is the second after the group was established as a SC in Stockholm 2013. We have increased the general activity, and also focused more on the main goals from the work plan from 2015-17. Our focus of attention is always a long term strategy to increase the awareness and use of Community Psychology in all fields of psychology and in society in general. The Knowledge Alliance between Universities and Institutions will be one main task for the years to come. To build a Competence model for teaching CP will be the next, and to develop training programmes will be the third step. We are working in close collaboration with established teachers and researchers who are developing the Knowledge Alliance based on their professional positions and background.

There has been a strong collaboration between ECPA (Associate member of EFPA) with SC members being on the board of ECPA. This helps promoting CP in Europe, but also implies awareness regarding the roles and mandates. The large established network of CP colleagues in European Countries (more than 1000 professionals) is available for research and practice.

#### **Introduction**

This report covers the activities of SC on Community Psychology as performed during the period July 2015 – June 2017. The Task Force was launched as the result of a proposal from the French Association of Psychology (Thomas Saias) at

the GA of ECP2011 in Istanbul. The idea came from the Norwegian President of NPA during the 7<sup>th</sup> European Congress of CP in Paris, 2009.

The SC has worked to systematize the science-based knowledge and tools and teaching programs on community research and practice to develop an integrative competence model. Our Survey has mapped the European field of CP teaching and research, and shows a wide diversity in traditions and scope.

The SC has followed its work plan, but also seeks to practice what we preach in the sense that we are critical to our own practice and the power structures that are working in the system we act. To link academic/scientific knowledge and tacit community based knowing on community building and social innovation is a strategy to empower the Community.

CP is becoming an emerging discipline in many nations, and EFPA member Associations are working to integrate CP in basic training, and as a discipline or specialization. Community psychology is influencing the dominant fields of European Psychology as an enrichment and supplement.

Community Psychology scholars, researchers, university teachers, community professionals and activists have over the last decade developed a range of tools which are very helpful for professional psychologists in Europe. Our strategy is to foster use of CP competencies both among psychologists and other disciplines. Addressing societies greatest challenges CP will seek to enhance community building, to develop a common sense of community, to contribute to social and psychological well-being and, by doing so, improve and foster social innovation.

## **Activities**

### **1. Develop a competence model for CP as a basis for training at institutions and universities teaching CP at graduate and postgraduate levels**

Results from our Survey have been analyzed and a report is published for the ECP in Amsterdam. The report outlines the basic CP competencies and gives an overview of the main models for training today. The Survey is an ongoing activity monitoring data coming in from established contact persons on the national level. A lot remains to develop a consensus based model for training at institutions, but some advice is expected to come in the next period.

### **2. Increase the knowledge base and tools on community building and social innovation for communities. Establish a Knowledge Alliance between Partner Universities, Organizations and social enterprises**

We have completed the needs analysis for linking community based and academic knowledge on community building and social innovation (Report

2013-2015). This has been followed up according to the Erasmus+ Application goals and results.

We prepared an Application for 26.02.16 which was not successful in terms of funding. We therefore re-submitted an application for 2017, including the changes proposed by the committee who evaluated the first application( see attachment ). In the process of planning the alliance, many contacts have been established, collegial relations developed and these are expected to be lasting collaborations independent of the funding. This result is part of an ongoing process.

**3. Develop guidelines for Training in CP and initiate a European Master of CP, affiliated to more than 3 major European Universities**

This activity will depend on the results from the above mentioned Knowledge Alliance and Competence model, and has been postponed.

**4. To develop cooperation with other Boards on common issues, identify overlapping fields of interest, develop cross-over knowledge, groups or projects.**

We have consulted other Boards and Associations within Prevention, Health Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Critical- and Political Psychology, and SC on Human Rights.

Meetings with the Board of Prevention and Intervention, and contacts with the TF on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity. Network with other relevant Boards and Committees to note areas where guidelines and areas of joint work are needed. April meeting in Bergen, at the Convener meeting September 2016 Brussels. We have been invited by the EFPA president to participate in the working group on Refugees, and our convener participated in the first meeting. At this meeting he reported from the EU Conference on Social innovation in refugee inclusion.

The overlap between activities of Ecpa and EFPA SC has been discussed. This given the fact that some parts of our working plans have similar goals. The Ecpa corresponding member will collaborate towards the Ecpa president, and facilitate coordinated activities where this is relevant.

For the ECP in Amsterdam the SC has planned for a joint meeting with boards with overlapping interests, and invited the SC on Human Rights.

**5. Develop and strengthen the position and role of Community Psychology Research in Europe.**

The SC has networked with universities travelling to Eastern Europe, to attend National Conferences as invited guests. As guest lecturer at the Cairo International university, a member has actively supported colleagues who lost their jobs in Turkey, and been a major advocate to promote human rights in his homeland. We have analyzed results from our Survey and set up a preliminary report including the status on CP research. We are currently cooperating with the European Community Psychology Association (Ecpa) in planning the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ECCP Conference in Newcastle, where the latest CP research will be in focus.

Others will continue to network internationally and keep in touch with colleagues who are interested in Co-organizing CP events and University Summer schools.

**6. Raise the awareness of psychologists, policy-makers, other professions and the general public about community psychology.**

We have Issued Press releases, position statements and position papers on community psychology and related fields. Members have also participated at business meetings and conferences to present and discuss Community Psychology issues. A former SC member has been appointed Professor of CP and keeps in contact facilitating the ICPC 2016 event in Durban, and being consultant on issues relevant for the SC. Another member is now a full professor at the University of Naples, and in this position acting as coordinator for the KA project. We have contacted editorial boards of European Journals to offer being member of these boards. Members have published articles in International Journals of CP. Published comments, distributed news by the official CP list serve and newsletters. Some have given interviews, engaged in CP activities in their respective countries on behalf of the SC with purpose to inform about our activities. During the Amsterdam ECP2017, members will organize CP symposia and SC members will coordinate CP workshops. The convener has participated at the National Anniversary for the CP post graduate program in Norway, with a talk on Norwegian CP in a European Context.

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

- 1) Date; July 2015, Place; Milan ECP Congress
- 2) Date; November 2015, Place; Brussels
- 3) Date; October 2015, Place; Skype
- 4) Date; November 2015, Place; Lisboa
- 5) Date; January 2016, Place; Skype
- 6) Date; April 2016, Place; Skype

- 7) Date; June 2016, Place; Skype
- 8) Date; September 2016, Place; Brussels
- 9) Date; November 2016, Place; Skype
- 10) Date; January 2017, Place; Skype
- 11) Date; March 2017, Place; Munich

In average there were 5-7 participants attending the meetings.

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

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

- a. Today the SC is a group of 9 active members with delegated tasks, but only 7 have committed to participate at regular activities. We need to compensate for this loss in some way, and work closely with EFPA as the nominated members are not responding to calls. Some members need to be replaced.
- b. We ask for opportunity to consult the EFPA Board on resources for advice. Members are doing a lot of volunteer work, and some are not able to join meetings due to lack of funding.
- c. If we are to participate in the Working Group dealing with the European Migrant Crisis with one member nominated to this task, this person should be continuing for the next period.
- d. The Mandate with activities set up and lead by the EFPA president ; “... to use our competence in trauma, grief, loss of community and adaptation to new life conditions...” should include CP perspectives on the Migrant issue.

### **Proposals for decisions by GA**

The General Assembly is advised to accept the following proposals:

- a. The SC is to continue activities according to the work plan for 2015 -17 including a description of core CP competencies to develop a model for CP training in Europe, based on results from the Knowledge Alliance.
- b. As reflected in the Ecpa Action Plan(attached) and the goals in the Work Plan, EFPA will facilitate and support collaboration between SC and EFPA Associate member Ecpa.
- c. The SC is given mandate to nominate national contact persons from the professional Network of Ecpa, to achieve goals of the work plan.
- d. Referring to EFPA as Associated Partner for the Erasmus grant application, EFPA will work with the coordinator to set up a plan for this Partnership.

**Members of the group: (name and country)**

EC LIAISON	Tor Levin Hofgaard
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Zina Paidonomou</i>
Germany	Bernd Röhrle
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Charalampos Pischos</i>
Italy	Caterina Arcidiacono
Norway	<b>Nicholas Carr ©</b>
<i>Norway</i>	<i>Borrik Schjodt</i>
Poland	Janusz Grzelak
Portugal	José Henrique Pinheiro Ornelas
Romania	Amalia Hodisan
<i>Spain</i>	<i>Fernando Chacón Fuertes</i>
Switzerland	Johann Krempels
Turkey	Serdar Degirmencioglu
United Kingdom	Rebecca Lawthorn
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Mara Vidnere</i>
<i>ECPA</i>	<i>Wolfgang Stark</i>
© = convenor	
<i>Italic = Corresponding member</i>	
TOTAL	15
TOTAL Active	9
Total Corresponding	6