

EUROPEAN FEDERATION
OF PSYCHOLOGISTS'
ASSOCIATIONS
EFPA



TASK FORCE
ON
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
DIVERSITY

CONVENOR : INE VINK

REPORT TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY JULY 2011
IN ISTANBUL

EFPA
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Report of the TF Cultural and Ethnic Diversity to the GA Istanbul July 2011

1.Executive summary :

- Period of Task Force/Standing Committee
July 2009 until July 2011
- Scope of work
See Proposal Task Force Cultural and Ethnic Diversity:
implications for the psychologist.
- Recommendations

Analysis and synopsis: 9 recommendations of the TF CED

1.The whole field of CED continues to become more and more important, as evidenced by the growing number of immigrants and the growing incapacity of European societies to integrate these people. It is important that psychologists become aware of these issues and take them into serious consideration in their work with clients, schools and organizations.

2.Ongoing assessment of psychological measures is necessary in order to establish if they are successful interventions in all fields of culturally diverse work.

3.The subject of intercultural competence should be made an integral part of the course work for BA, MA and post-doc programs for psychologists.

4.Psychologists who are working or wish to work in clinical psychology, could use special training/ education in intercultural competence in order to effectively work with clients of a differing cultural background from their own.

5.Labor and organizational psychologists working in the fields of personal development and organizational change must be qualified to apply, in their professional tasks, the knowledge based on cross-cultural and intercultural psychological research. Awareness needs to be raised that this knowledge is not only available, but necessary.

6.Psychologists working in the field of education and skills training need more profound knowledge about methodologies for intercultural learning and training and about culturally diverse learning environments.

7.Those psychologists who are already knowledgeable about CED in their own field can offer this knowledge for use in other disciplines, including politics, to help address the more societal aspects of CED.

8.Potential students from migrant groups should be encouraged to study psychology and become specialized in intercultural issues. This would provide the student with dynamic career opportunities based on personal experience-expertise and provide employers with a service market that is attractive to their clients.

9.In order for psychologists to increase their helpfulness to those migrants

experiencing problems becoming productive citizens of society, these recommendations as listed above need to be implemented

- This Task Force/Standing Committee reported was accepted as the position of EFPA at the GA date and place.
10th EFPA Congress: Sunday July 12th 2009 in Oslo

2.Introduction : one paragraph introduction to the field and definition

Text of motion proposing the Task Force/Standing Committee to the GA, with date of GA and decision (any modifications to motion)

We move to continue the Task Force for another two years. See: Proposal

3.Literature

A brief review of the relevant literature in the field and a bibliography of key texts

1. Ine Vink: Intercultural determination of working capacity: A Freshwater Fish is No Saltwater Fish; BSL, 2009.
2. Ine Vink and Rob van Dijk: I and the Other. Testing or solving problems? (Ch 5). In: Culture and Psychodiagnostics. BSL, 2011.
- 3, Alexander Thomas, Eva-Ulrike Kinast and Sylvia Scholl-Machl: Handbook of Intercultural Communication and Cooperation, vol 1. 2011 Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht.
4. Alexander Thomas: 2007 Kulturvergleichende Psychologie. Göttingen: Hogrefe.

4.Methodological aspects

Methods used to collect information

Two questionnaires were developed and administered with support of prof dr. R. Roe to the directors of our Member Associations (Mas).

The Task Force has reviewed the literature and collected information of the Member Associations.

5.Summary data

A summary of the situation in the different MAs (not the original responses)

We conclude that there very little institutionalized attention for this important subject.

The British Psychological Society has a Faculty called "Race and Culture".

6.Analysis and synopsis where appropriate

See Point 1 Recommendations

Given the lack of general interest in this subject despite the grave societal problems, there is a need for awareness-raising measures, motivational and educational input among psychologists. Specific instruments, relevant and practical tools, have been developed for psychologists for cultural sensitization, for instance cultural assimilators, learning models. These tools can be used for the development of personal potential, for education, and in treatment for psychological problems. The information is available, instruments have already been developed, however there is a **need for assistance in implementing and disseminating this info.**

We propose:

-the development of a Task Force website page on the EFPA site in which resources for psychologists are easily obtainable. Examples are literature sources, availability of translation services in own country, cultural do's and don'ts that could be helpful in interaction with clients, lists of specialized colleagues, where to get the tools and training, etc.

-the development of a European certificate in CED for psychologists

-offering and helping develop guest courses or multimedia presentations in various countries/cultures, possibly including tours of the cultural landmarks and background.

-more assistance from EFPA in promoting scientific research in the CED field.

7.Proposal for a common EFPA position

The Statement is: it is never too late to develop an interest in migration and its psychosocial consequences.

8.Implications for EFPA Member Associations

Active participation in our EFPA network in this field.

European diploma.

Exchange of students/interns/colleagues within Europe in the Bachelor of Master studies.

Practitioners are offered more access to resources.

9.Future tasks of EFPA

This should include action to be taken at national, EFPA and EU level where necessary, at professional, scientific, strategic and political levels.

Once EFPA facilitates the task force lobby, there will more chances of making CED topics visible to various organizations.

The EFPA could lobby in order to ensure that organizations who are financing research projects (in general and applied psychology) integrate CED topics as mentioned above into their own long term vision and future plans.

10.Conclusion

We recommend that an enormous and centralized effort should be made in this field.

▪ Annex

Membership of Task Force/Standing Committee

Drs. Ine Vink, Ildikó Nagy, Prof. Dr. Alexander Thomas, Prof. Dr. Ludêk Kolman, Csanády András, Prof. Dr. Gretty Mirdal, Prof. Dr. Mehmed Eskin.

Process of the work (how carried out): three European meetings;

See minutes of these meetings

Copies of any questionnaires used

Copies of other relevant material.