

Annual Report - Bulgaria

Anna Alexandrova-Karamanova Health psychology has rapidly developed in the last years in Bulgaria and the proportion of health psychology topics within the national psychology research agenda and applied activities continues to increase.

Conferences

The triennial Bulgarian National Congress of Psychology was held on 31 October-2 November 2014 in Sofia. A specialized health psychology section was included in the program for a third consecutive edition of the congress.

An international conference "Psychological intervention and prevention of the work-family conflict" took place on 19-20 September 2013 in Sofia. It was the final conference of the eponymous international research project with partners including Institute for Population and Human Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgarian Association for People Management and Institute of Psychology at the Romanian Academy of Science.

A national conference "Psychology in Medicine", organized by the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, was held on 7-8 February 2014 in Stara Zagora.

The Health Psychology Research Center, Sofia, Bulgaria, together with the partners from the Seventh Framework Programme project "Improving quality and safety in the hospital: The link between organizational culture, burnout and quality of care –

ORCAB", were involved in the First international meeting on Wellbeing and Performance in Clinical Practice, 28 May-1 June 2014, Alexandroupolis, Greece.

Participation of Bulgarian health psychologists in other international conferences:

- 27th Conference of the EHPS, 16-20 July 2013, Bordeaux, France;
- 2nd Symposium of Social Sciences and Humanities PhD Students "Education, Culture and Society - Nowadays Challenges", 14-17 October, 2013, Wrocław, Poland;
- 23rd Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, Shanghai, China, 8-12 July, 2014.

Organizational aspects

A Health Psychology Section within the Bulgarian Psychological Society was established in 2013.

Sofia University's doctoral programme in health psychology will be officially accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency in 2015. Until now two PhD students have graduated from the programme, and two new students have started their PhD studies.

Continuing education

A 3-day workshop "The Science of Well-Being:

Evidence-Based Interventions for Children, Adolescents, and Families”, led by Drs. James Maddux, Robyn Mehlenbeck, Christianne Esposito-Smythers, & Sarah Fischer, George Mason University, USA, was held on 11-13 July 2014 at Sofia University.



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Published books in the area of health psychology

Zornitza Ganeva (2013). Something more about breast cancer, Sofia: Elestra. The book reviews literature on psychooncology and breast cancer and presents research on the experiences of women with breast cancer at the time of diagnosis and one year after.