

Annual Report - Romania

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During the last year an increased interest in health psychology is indicated by the increase in the number of PhD theses, MA and BA dissertations on topics from the field of health psychology. For instance, a number of PhD theses are written under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Adriana Baban at the Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania. These cover very different aspects of health psychology ranging from bullying in school aged children to the use of technology in developing interventions or health at the workplace. For example, the health psychology MA student Cristina Vajaeen has developed an intervention package to improve resilience in teenagers with cancer, which will be tested in the oncology clinic in Cluj Napoca, Romania.

The master program on health psychology initiated at the department of psychology of the Babes Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca is attracting more students interested in developing and testing health promotion interventions. Some innovative courses have been introduced such as studying health promotion in vulnerable populations. The continuous development of the master program and PhD program in health psychology has greatly benefited from the contribution of Prof. Dr. Adriana Baban who has also received an award from the EHPS for her activity this year at the EHPS Conference in Innsbruck.

Research

New insights in research have been brought by Dr.

Diana Taut who is studying issues connected to women's health, namely representations of breastfeeding in discussion forums. Dr. Taut will also start her term as secretary in the EHPS EC committee this year.

Some researchers have collaborations with international Universities. Dr. Catrinel Craciun has completed a project on resources for positive aging in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Uwe Flick at the Free University Berlin, sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the EHPS networking grant with a project of promoting physical activity among older people from four different European countries. For the upcoming year she has established collaboration with Jacobs University Bremen with Prof. Sonia Lipkke and Prof. Dr. Hisao Osada from the Oberlin University in Tokyo. She was invited to give a lecture at the Japanese Health Psychology in Tokyo and thus established collaboration between the Romanian Health Psychology Society and the Japanese Health Psychology Society.

Regarding the participation in the EHPS conference, more than 10 members of the Romanian Health Psychology Society presented papers at the EHPS Conference in Bordeaux 2013 and Innsbruck 2014. They also became members of the EHPS. Other conferences with an increased participation of Romanian health psychologists were the IAAP in Paris and the International Congress of Behavioral Medicine in Groningen, the Netherlands. Moreover, 2014 was the year when the STAR Conference was hosted in Cluj Napoca at the Babes Boyai University and the European Psychosomatic Medicine Conference was organized in Sibiu. Several Romanian EHPS members presented papers at the STAR Conference and European Psychosomatic Medicine Conference.



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