



ehps report

Updates from the Strategic Meeting of the Executive Committee, January 2009

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On a clear and very cold day, six EC members arrived in Sofia to attend the winter Strategic Meeting of the Executive Committee, this time hosted by our President, Irina Todorova, in her home city. Our eighth member, Vera Araujo-Soares, was unable to join us this time – she is the proud new mother of baby Daniel and is on maternity leave. Bulgaria was in the midst of the Russia-Ukraine gas crisis but nothing could stand in the way of completing our task: Two full days discussing and formulating plans regarding the Society's many areas and activities– budget, conferences, education and training, national delegates, CREATE, Synergy, publications, website, grants, new initiatives and others. We began by reviewing EHPS financial and membership situation, which we can report are in good shape.

We reviewed the events that took place after the Bath conference in relation to the venue for the conference in 2010. We expressed our appreciation of the willingness of both Israeli and Romanian members to host a conference in their countries. The new EC led the process of deciding between these venues according to the Society's Articles and Bylaws and aimed to involve all members in the decision process. The virtual discussion board enabled us to simulate a real members' meeting, which led to an expression of diverse views and opinions regarding the proposed conference venues, including political arguments. In our EC meeting, we reiterated the objectives of the Society as a professional, non-political organization. We believe that it is important to continue to strengthen the international nature of the EHPS so that all members feel equally welcome, can contribute equally, and feel they benefit from belonging to the society.

The annual EHPS conferences are the Society's main activity and therefore also the main issue with which the EC is concerned. Our experience in the last few years has led us to realise that we need to ensure that we maximize our learning from year to year. Therefore, we have taken steps to consolidate our knowledge and experience in this area and to make sure it is passed on to each new Executive Committee. As part of this move, we have decided to create the position of Conference Officer and appointed Paul Norman, our President-Elect. We will also be updating our conference procedures to reflect what we have learned from recent conferences. For example, we will offer hosts the possibility of working with an international conference company if they want to, and

offer recommendations of particular companies that will be available regardless of the venue.

We also discussed the procedural aspects of reaching decisions about conference venues. In the future, a formal call for conference venues with an appropriate deadline will be issued each year, requesting specific information about the proposed venue. If there are several suitable proposals, we will study them, discuss with the applicants and decide based on various criteria such as their availability, geographical balance, previous conferences in that country, and any strategic issues. We will continue to strive to present one venue per year for members' approval, while also providing members with details of the proposals we have received and the reasons for our recommendation. At the moment, we are lucky to have quite a few countries that have expressed their interest in hosting an EHPS conference and we hope to visit all of them over the next few years.



Another major issue that was addressed was our budget: Don't worry; even though the world is threatened by a financial crisis, the EHPS is currently in a good financial situation! This is due to the success of all our recent conferences, including the last 2008 joint EHPS/DHP Conference in Bath. Therefore, we will soon be announcing several new initiatives, which will be confirmed each year based on the Society's financial situation. All these initiatives are intended to promote networking and/or cross-national research that has an added value to EHPS members. For example, the conference grants will be increased to cover recipients' costs up to a ►

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set maximum. We will be making a call for proposals for cross-national research initiatives, which we will be funding. We have also approved two promising initiatives proposed by CREATE and intended for CREATE members: The tandem stipend, which will allow two young researchers from different countries to visit one another to work on a joint project, and the visiting scholar award, which will allow a young researcher to visit a senior researcher in another country.

In the area of Education and Training, we will be working in three main directions: clarifying the professional situation of health psychologists in Europe, sharing information about the content, structure and requirements for Master's degrees in health psychology from different countries, and creating a resource for available training programs in Europe. Many of these activities will be conducted with the help of the National Delegates. We will maintain our contacts with the NDs and open a discussion about the professional identity of health psychologists in specific countries, including organizing a roundtable in Pisa.

We are also happy to let you know that we have a new office assistant Franziska Unholzer, who will be assisting with membership processing and financial calculations. We will also be having some website support from Aljoscha Triendl. Thanks to both of them and we wish them an enjoyable term with the EHPS.

The preparations for the Pisa 2009 EHPS Conference, Synergy 2009 and CREATE 2009 are proceeding smoothly and we look forward to seeing everyone there! Please take advantage of the extended deadline to send in more paper and poster submissions and to register for the interesting pre-conference workshops and Meet the Expert initiative. The first steps in preparing the 2010 EHPS Conference in Cluj, Romania have also been taken.

These are only some of our plans for the next year. We will continue to keep you informed about our plans and activities. More importantly, we would like to encourage each and every one of you to become involved in the EHPS, to initiate and take part in its activities. Please contact us if you would like to propose ideas or join some of the sub-committees working in specific area. ■

Call for contributions

The European Health Psychologist (EHP), the official bulletin of the European Health Psychology Society, would like to issue a general call for contributions to members of the EHPS. The quarterly online publication of the bulletin reaches all members of the EHPS and as such is a vehicle for transmitting timely and thought-provoking ideas and research. Past issues have featured wide ranging scientific topics written by contributors based both within and outside of Europe and the EHP aims to continue this trend into the future. Contributions may include, but are not restricted to:

- ✓ **Position papers (think pieces)**
- ✓ **Overview papers**
- ✓ **Research letters**
- ✓ **Interviews**
- ✓ **Controversy**
- ✓ **Reports about conferences and workshops**
- ✓ **Country/research group profiles of EHPS conference host countries**
- ✓ **Other important information relevant to EHPS members**

All potential contributors should contact the editorial team in advance to discuss ideas or potential submissions. Further details regarding publication guidelines can be found on the EHP website www.ehps.net/ehp/author_instructions.html