

April 2011

EFPSA Newsletter



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European Federation of
Psychology Students' Associations

Welcome from the Presidential Team



Dorota Wisniewska (President) & Lisa Wagner (Vice-President)

Dear psychology students and friends,

We are welcoming you for the second time this mandate to our Newsletter. It will bring you through what has been going on in EFPSA in the past months, and will give you a snapshot of what is going to happen in the approximate time. We want to keep you updated what we do as an organization representing psychology students over Europe and what kind of opportunities come along,

and we hope this will interest you! In this issue we will go through some events that took place, some of them organized by EFPSA, as our summer schools and the brand new EFPSA Day; some of them external where we participate as partners giving our students the opportunity to develop themselves. You will also get an overview of the new contacts we have been making with

countries that have not been involved in EFPSA, and how new bunches of psychology enthusiasts are catching the EFPSA spirit. Finally, you will read about the blog of the Journal of European Psychology students (JEPS) and how it can make writing papers so much easier.

Dorota Wisniewska & Lisa Wagner

EFPSA Day—The first one ever!

During the last EFPSA Congress in The Netherlands (2010) a brand new annual EFPSA event was born – EFPSA Day! Local Organisers (LOs) from different European countries would organize an event for psychology students to promote and bring EFPSA to the attention of more European psychology students in a fun and interactive way. This event would take place on the same day throughout Europe uniting us all by a common goal, thought and spirit even though we would be in different countries! EFPSA Day was set to take place on the 10th of November 2010 and to our great joy LOs from 21 different European countries offered to organise EFPSA Day at their university! We also received a lot of great input during the joint Autumn meeting of the Executive Board and the Member Representatives in Slovenia, and loved to see everyone so involved! After EFPSA Day we received photos (and even a video, thank you Greece!) and testimonials on how EFPSA Day went. It was



Austrian Psychology students getting a chance to learn more about EFPSA.

very interesting to see how EFPSA Day was organised and experienced in different unique ways. Some LOs also invited EFPSA people from a foreign country to talk about EFPSA and their experiences which emphasized the intercultural aspect of EFPSA. There was a lot of Mushi Mushi dance going on, presentations about EFPSA, trainings, workshops, lectures, stands, social activities afterwards, etc.

Concluding, it was a great day which united all of us; many more European psychology students got the chance to learn about all the great things EFPSA has to offer and the LOs

worked upon their organisational skills (which was not without challenges)! Soon we will be sharing the photos of EFPSA Day that we received from the different LOs. To be the first EFPSA Day ever we thought it went really well and we want to thank everybody for participating and making it happen! We are proud with this great start of a great new annual EFPSA event!

Your EFPSA Day Team,
Alexandra Ooms (EFPSA Day coordinator) & Ana Milunovic (EFPSA Day team member)

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Train the Trainers summer school & Trainings in and for EFPSA



The EFPSA Trainers Train with a overview of all potential new EFPSA trainers

From 8th to 15th of August the small village of Werfenweng in Austria witnessed a true EFPSA first: 20 highly motivated psychology students from 11 countries experienced and shaped the first EFPSA Train the Trainers (TtT)

summer school. Four trainers with experiences in diverse fields took them for the "train ride of their lives": The participants were introduced to the basic skill and attitude sets that are necessary to become a trainer and challenged beyond their com-

fort zones.

However the TtT ending, the ride in the "EFPSA train" is not over just yet for the participants: The call for the EFPSA Trainers' Pool has been opened - so they can become the first generation of EFPSA trainers and help to further establish trainings within the organisation. The trainers' pool of EFPSA offers a platform for EFPSA trainers to exchange their experiences after attending the Train the Trainers summer school; they are also being mentored by more experienced trainers. Becoming an EFPSA trainer requires applying for the trainers' pool after the Train the Trainers summer school and after delivering a high standard 10 hours of training. The standard is checked through analysis of the session design and

performance by experienced EFPSA trainers and by analysis of evaluation forms filled out by the participants of the training. If a person is rejected after applying for the trainers' pool, he/she can apply again after delivering not less than 20 hours of training, again, the standard of them is analyzed. There are no limitations in how many times one can apply for the trainers' pool. The EFPSA trainers are encouraged to deliver trainings to different target groups: e.g. young people in their community, psychology students, local and national organisations and the EFPSA Member Representatives and Executive Board teams. They are also being informed about events by and cooperation's with other student-run organisations.

4th EFPSA European Summer School

The 4th EFPSA European Summer School took place in July 2010, with the topic of 'Social Cognition'. Thirty-five students coming from all parts of Europe gathered together in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, for an unforgettable week of lectures, working on research projects and inspiring social and cultural exchange. With the lectures each morning, numerous hours spent on the research projects each afternoon and the rest of the week spent socializing during the evenings, the only thing that was lacking was time for sleep. One of the key goals of the ESS is to build the foundations of intercultural studies conducted by psychol-

ogy students. The participants had been sorted into 6 research groups prior to the ESS, each with its own research topic. Each research group was supervised by a PhD student, who supported and mentored the participants throughout their time spent at the summer school. The results of each research project are intended to be published in scientific journals or presented at a conference, offering students a unique opportunity to get into the field of academics, far sooner than is ordinarily the case. The EFPSA European Summer School gives psychology students an insight into research in an



The participants of ESS at the location in Bulgaria

international environment, in contrast to studies that are often bound to a local university. Publishing the research serves as an example for successful collaboration between

people from different European countries and gives the participants a chance to enter the world of professional research, which may open their doors to PhD studies.



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First Member Representatives' Task Force

In the last week of October, the members of the Executive Board (EB) and the Member Representatives (MR) of EFPSA (making a total of around 70 people) gathered in Slovenia, to discuss the future of EFPSA and gather ideas to make it a better and broader organization to serve the European Psychology students' interests as best as possible. During that week, everyone made a huge effort to contribute to this improvement and a lot of ideas came up which aimed to add, change and improve the structures of EFPSA and the many services it has available for all students.

Among this big set of ideas, one came up during the daily MR meetings, which aimed to develop a

new online platform at the EFPSA website with psychology-related events which were scheduled to happen all over Europe. This platform would be available for all students and would be a great way to advertise events which happen at a local, national and international level. This allows a much broader knowledge of possible events which pass by students and are great opportunities for their educational and personal development. For example, you're a student and you're visiting Portugal for a month and you decide that, while you're here, you want to check what events are going on in the city you're staying at or any other city in the country, through this platform you would be able to access this



The MRs discussing the diverse events that are hosted in all countries

information very easily without needing much effort.

The first MR Task Force was created with the intent of developing this idea and making it available in the most user-friendly way possible through easily accessible browsing methods. With the collaboration of other

teams of the Executive Board such as the Web Team and the Marketing Team we hope to make this first Task Force a success.

Luís Miguel Tojo
Member Representative of
Portugal and MR Task
Force

New in the Journal of the European Psychology Students

We are happy to share a lot of news with you since the last newsletter. Most importantly, the Journal of the European Psychology Students published its new issue. We are happy to continue covering a wide spectrum of psychological research reflecting the interests of our future scientists: Which disorders have the highest negative influence on social functioning? How well can Social Dominance Theory explain the individual-society relationship? What are the key determinants of children's affect regulation and self-organisation? The review process for the spring issue is already at its full speed. Compared to the autumn publication,

quite some things have been changed. For the first time, we received the manuscripts through our new online platform. We regard this as a milestone in the Journal of the European Psychology Students (JEPS) as it helps us to reach greater volumes in published manuscripts and considerably simpli-

"This structural change also serves the JEPS philosophy – offering experiences to young motivated scientists."

fies the reviewers' work. Additionally, our newly

recruited Associate Editors are now central in the review process to ensure the quality of the reviews and feedback to the authors. This structural change also serves the JEPS philosophy – offering experiences to young motivated scientists.

Last but not least, the Journal of European Psychology Students now has a younger sibling – the JEPS Bulletin. Whereas the peer-reviewed journal offers students the publishing experience, the JEPS Bulletin will guide them through the process of writing the paper, keeping track of the APA Style, selecting the journal and understanding the world of publishing as a whole.

The JEPS Bulletin is published fortnightly by the JEPS Editorial team and their collaborators.

To find out more go to

<http://journal.efpsa.org>

<http://journal.efpsa.org/blog>



News in brief

EFPSA at autumn IFISO meeting

EFPSA Vice-President Lisa Wagner participated in the International Forum of International Student Organisations (IFISO) autumn meeting in Istanbul-Yildiz. Board members and representatives from twelve different student-run organisations attended the discussions that consisted of sharing best practices on various aspects as well as planning of joint initiatives. The participants were also working on establishing communication among the organisations in between the meeting. Gains for EFPSA from attending the meeting were plenty: Apart from getting fresh ideas and perspectives and profiting from the other organisations' experiences, there are also possibilities for cooperation in the future.

Brand new event: the EFPSA Conference

Setting a milestone in EFPSA history, the Member Representatives voted in favour of a brand new event in the yearly EFPSA calendar: the **EFPSA Conference**. Similar to the EFPSA Congress, the Conference will last one week and host around 150 to 400 psychology students from all over Europe. In contrast, however, the Conference will set its focus on an extensive scientific programme on a broad academic topic. The participants will also enjoy a social and cultural programme, but on a smaller scale than what is known from the EFPSA Congress. We are confident that a large number of psychology students will seize this unique opportunity to gain profound scientific insights in an inspiring international environment. The first EFPSA Conference will take place in autumn 2012 and set the standard for the event's future development.

New Secretary General of the Board of Management of EFPSA & EFPSA meets Sweden

Unfortunately the Secretary General, Justin Walker, that had been voted upon at the General Assembly could not continue his function. According to the EFPSA statutes a call had been made to find a new person to fulfil this position. The Member Representatives gave their votes through e-voting. Ingrid van Miert from the Netherlands has been chosen to be the new Secretary General of EFPSA for the mandate 2010-2011.

In October 2010 Ingrid van Miert visited, still in the function of Country Coach in the Executive Board, the National Psychology Congress of Sweden. Sweden has been one of the original members of EFPSA but unfortunately lost contact. After meeting representatives of Psychology students of Sweden new contact has been established and Sweden will be represented at the 25th EFPSA Congress in Poland.

Joint Executive Board and Member Representatives' meeting

A Joint Meeting is a meeting that includes both Executive Board (EB) members and Member Representatives (MR). These two bodies of EFPSA work hard every mandate to help reach the objectives of EFPSA and provide all the services EFPSA has to offer to Psychology Students from all over Europe. Each year a different member organisation volunteers to host the meeting. Recently, to be exact in October 2010, the meeting took place in the fairy tale surroundings of Slovenia. The meeting was a very well organised by the psychology students of DSPS, the Slovenian National Organisation.

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www.efpsa.org
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The representatives of student-run organisations in Istanbul, Turkey

EFPSA is a non-profit organisation representing 250,000 psychology students from across Europe. EFPSA was established in 1987 and consists of 26 psychology student organisations from many different European countries. Our mission is to represent the needs and interests of European psychology students. In addition, we aim to promote scientific cooperation and cultural exchange amongst psychology students in order to enhance their mobility. EFPSA is widely acknowledged as a representative of psychology students by institutions, professors, as well as professional and student national and international organisations.