

EFPTA - the European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations: supporting pre-university psychology education in schools & colleges across Europe

What is EFPTA?

EFPTA is a federation of national and regional associations of psychology teachers in schools and colleges in European countries. Members are mainly involved in teaching psychology at ISCED levels 2 - 4, to school students aged c.13-19 years.

Aim: To promote pre-university psychology education in Europe by facilitating co-operation amongst Psychology Teachers' Associations.

History of EFPTA: The Federation was established in March 2004 in Helsinki, and became an Affiliate of EFPA in July 2009. Two events /meetings are held every year in European cities. Every member of each member association is entitled to attend all events.

EFPTA Board: The Board (or Committee) includes representatives of all member associations.

EFPTA members: Members comprise teachers' associations – Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Scotland, Slovakia - and individual members and affiliated organisations (in Austria, Belgium and Spain)

National psychologists' societies support EFPTA: EFPTA receives support from member countries' psychologists' associations, including Suomen Psykologiliitto (Finland) and the British Psychological Society (UK). Modest financial support is also provided by educational institutions in various countries.

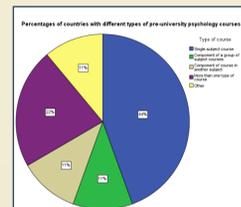
Links with EUROPLAT: EUROPLAT conferences are organised by the Higher Education Academy Psychology Network (UK). HEA / EUROPLAT's focus is on university level psychology education, but the network also supports pre-university teaching.

Website and Newsletter: You can keep up with EFPTA activities via the website - www.efpta.org – which includes the Newsletter.

EFPTA research

An EFPTA online survey of pre-university psychology education in nine European countries in 2009 found:

- All responding countries teach 15-19s (ISCED 3-4), but under-15s (ISCED 2-3) are taught psychology in only three countries - Finland, Germany, Scotland
- Students typically have 2 - 5 hrs of classes per week
- A wide variety of assessment methods is used
- Psychology courses are mostly academic, but some are vocational, or form part of a personal wellbeing course
- Almost all countries teach cognitive, developmental, social psychology & individual differences, plus research methods & practical research skills.



The formation of EFPTA in March 2004 was celebrated aboard the Helsinki-Tallinn ferry. Joe Cocker (centre) pioneered EFPTA's development

Jari Honkala (left), founding President of EFPTA, receives a commemorative quaiach from the British Psychological Society, Scotland 2009



EFPTA events since 2004

Conference-style events are held twice yearly, normally in spring and autumn. Programme items include talks by practising teachers, workshops for sharing good practice in psychology teaching, and research presentations, as well as the Board meetings. These events offer teachers unique potential for networking, and also provide school psychology students with a rare opportunity to present in a professional context; student presentations are always a highlight for delegates.

2004	March - Helsinki & Tallin: psychology teachers from England, Finland and Scotland met and established EFPTA November - Cambridge: Election of Board; Seminar with teachers from six European countries
2005	April - Copenhagen: Seminar November - Barcelona: Conference; 60 delegates from 10 countries
2006	April - Amsterdam: Seminar November - Dortmund: Conference
2007	March - Reykjavik: Conference November - Bologna: Conference
2008	March - Cardiff: Seminar October - Helsinki: Seminar
2009	April - Edinburgh: Conference October - Seville: Conference
2010	April - Bratislava: Conference October - London: Seminar

School students present their research project to EFPTA delegates, Dortmund 2006

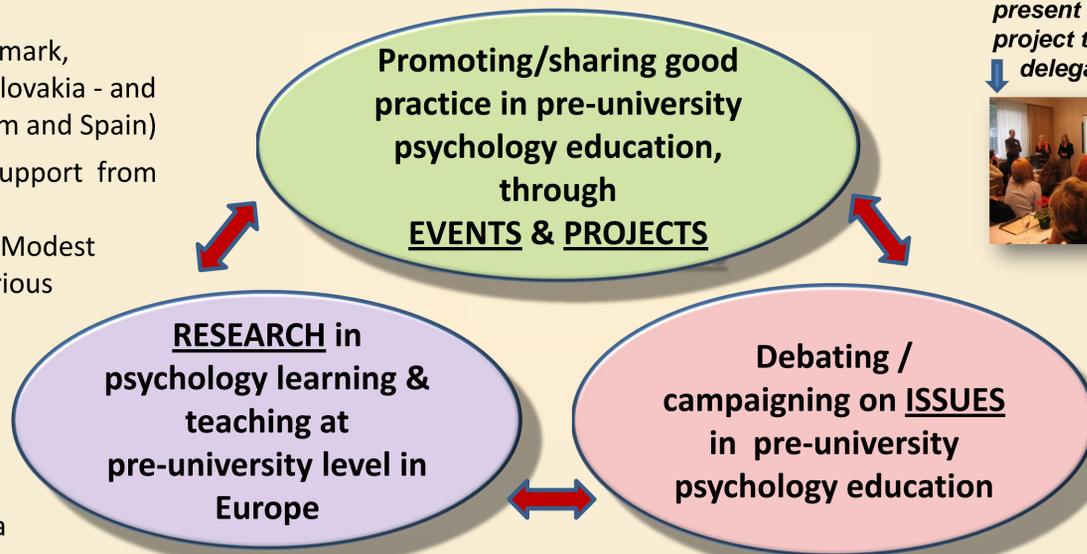


Delegates let their hair down at a traditional ceilidh, Edinburgh 2009



Trainee Psychology teachers from Dortmund gained workplace experience at a school in England, mentored by Dorothy Coombs (2007)

Three main areas of EFPTA activity



Some key issues :

- In many countries, psychology is not taught in schools at all – should it be taught to ALL young people?
- Where psychology IS taught in schools, should it be optional (as in most countries currently) or compulsory, as in Finland?
- Teacher qualifications vary between countries - how can we ensure that psychology teachers are well qualified?
- Should psychology be taught from 12-13 years, or is 15-16 years a more suitable age to start?
- Should a pre-uni psychology qualification be made a pre-requisite to gain entry to a university psychology course?

EFPTA projects – examples:

- Teacher and student exchanges – eg Denmark / Scotland
- Student collaboration online, on practical research activities – Iceland /England
- Student contributions to events & Newsletter
- Visiting speakers at national association events, including Germany / Scotland, Finland / Scotland
- Contribution by teachers from several countries to a book on pre-university psychology teaching – Italy
- Numerous new contacts /networks across Europe, online or in person, eg for specialist interest groups.



Are YOU a pre-university psychology teacher? Is there a psychology teachers' association in your country? Do you train teachers for pre-university psychology? Do you want to promote pre-university psychology education in your country? Join EFPTA! Contact us: see www.efpta.org, or email hans.reynierse@hz.nl.