ECPA Newsletter



ECPA Newsletter

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12.12.2007

1. Introduction: A few words

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Community Psychology,

presenting the newest newsletter of the European Community Psychology Association (ECPA) we would like to thank all ECPA-members for trusting in us to serve as the new executive committee 2007-2009. Based on the important work to lay the foundations of ECPA done the past-president José Ornelas, Maria Joào Moniz and Terri Mannarini we are happy to contribute to consolidate and expand the work of ECPA in the next years.

ECPA has done an important step for the sustainability of its activities with the new bi-annual schedule of the presidency and the executive committee: members voted not only for the president (Wolfgang Stark, Germany) and the treasurer (David Vossebrecher, Germany) for 2007-2009, but also for the president elect 2009-2001 (David Fryer, Scotland) and the members-at-large (Bruna Zani, Italy) and Nicholas Carr (Norway). Together with the past-president (José Ornelas, Portugal) we will be able to form a continuous line of work for ECPA over 6 years and help to reach long-term goals of ECPA also. We are happy to work as part of a highly committed, active and regionally well-balanced group of professionals to develop an active ECPA. Nevertheless, of course, activities of the EC will be less valuable if not accompanied by active participation of the members.

Therefore, the most important and ongoing goal will be to improve communication among members, other psychological associations and related disciplines, and people interested in developing community psychology in Europe.

Improved communication will set the stage for special interest groups for mutual professional and scientific exchange among community psychologists, and we do hope that members will be active in forming and nurturing such interest groups.

Community building and active citizenship will be one of the most important goals to face the current and future challenges in the various European regions, of an emerging European society and of a globalised world. ECPA, together with national community psychology associations and networks and as well with organizations of other disciplines should play an active role as an expert for community building and citizen participation both in local and regional/international contexts.

To develop a status as an important active professional body, ECPA of course will need to attract more members and more active members. We currently count 31 official (paying) individual members from Britain, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Scotland and Spain: this recommends some humbleness in our activities. Therefore, we of course hope to gain more individual members and organisational members for more power within and of ECPA.

Nevertheless, we can be proud that a small active European group (ECPA and, before 2005 the more informal European Network on Community Psychology) has managed to organize five major biannual European conferences and four European workshops in the last ten years. The next major event will be the 2nd International Conference on Community Psychology June 4-6, 2008 in Lisbon (www.2iccp.com), co-hosted by ECPA and organized by our colleagues in Portugal. Please consider that becoming a member at ECPA (full membership: 50 €; student membership 25 €) will reduce the conference fee by 50 €.

This newsletter contains information about the members of the Executive Committee of ECPA, the minutes of ECPAs General Assembly (including ECPA's Annual Report) and a report on the Seville Conference on Migrant Integration (www.migrantintegration.org). We are proud that ECPA together with the Seville Conference supported the "declaration against torture" launched by our Australian community psychology fellows. Also, the "statement on poverty" launched by UK community psychologists, shows the responsibility for society by community psychologists. You also may find some ideas on ECPA's development and goals in the paper "What if Community Psychology Mattered in the World?" written by Wolfgang Stark.

A text by Alipio Sánchez Vidal on impressions from the International Seminar entitled "Integrating New Migrants in the new Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology" which took place in Seville, Spain, 19-21 September 2007 (www.migrantintegration.org/seminar) arrived a little too late to be contained in this newsletter volume. We will publish it in the next newsletter. Those who would like to read it earlier please contact D. Vossebrecher or D. Fryer.

The next newsletter, published in three months, we – hopefully with your active participation – will discuss recent and future developments of community psychology in Europe, including a report of the 30^{th} Anniversary Meeting of Community Psychology in Italy and ideas about future special interest groups of ECPA.

We would like to wish you peaceful and relaxing Christmas holidays and a happy new year 2008.

Wolfgang Stark (President ECPA)
David Vossebrecher (Treasurer)
David Fryer (President-elect)
Bruna Zani (Member-at-large)
Nicholas Carr (Member-at-large)

2. Presenting the members of the Executive Committee

Bruna Zani from Italy, Member at Large

Professor Bruna Zani was born on 22nd February 1948 in Cesenatico (FC). She got her high school diploma at Liceo-Ginnasio "V.Monti" of Cesena and then the degree in Political Sciences, specialising in sociology in July 1970 at the University of Bologna. She then specialised in Psychopedagogy at the University of Turin in 1974. She is married, and has three children.

She was associate professor in 1989 in Social Psychology at the Faculty of Education and since 1993 has taught Community Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology in Bologna. Since March 2000 she is full professor of Social Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology in Bologna. She was a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Behavioural Development (1998-2001) and, since 2002, of the Journal of



Community and Applied Social Psychology. She is a member of Italian Community Psychology Society (SIPCO), the Italian Health Psychology Society (SIPSA), the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS), and a member of the Executive Committee of the Social Psychology Division at AIP (the Italian Psychology Association) since 1999 and was coordinator of the Division in the period 2002-2004. She is Dean of the Faculty of Psychology since 2002.

Research topics are Community Psychology, psychosocial aspects of wellbeing and health, 'burnout' in social and health professionals; social perception of mental disorders; relations between parents and adolescent children; AIDS risk perceptions in adolescents; adolescents' risk behaviours.

Professor of Social Psychology University of Bologna, Italy bruna.zani@unibo.it

Nicholas Carr from Norway, Member at Large

I am 52 years of age, a father to 3 children, and live on the west coast of Norway, in the city of Bergen, a former capital of our country. My wife, Grethe Grung, whom some of you met at the Sevilla meeting, is currently working with migrants in the Community. I was graduated as a clinical psychologist from the University of Bergen, some 21 years back, and have been working within schools, drug addiction and health services. I joined the first post -graduate programme for Community Psychologists to be established in Norway, trained by colleges Arvid Skutle, Erik Iversen among others. Today we are around 60 colleges who have gone through this post-graduate program, and are working in different fields of research, prevention or clinics. I believe that CP has a natural place in the field of suicide prevention because our methods can measure social well being, quality of life and degrees of integration and participation in the community.

My main field of interest during the last 10 years is Suicide prevention. I hold a critical position to the role clinical psychology has played within the field of suicide prevention, and believe that part of the reason we currently are not successful in preventing suicides in Europe, is the fact that we are failing to address the topic on a community and society level.

I am thankful for the opportunity you have given me to work for our organisation and to collaborate with ECPA members all over Europe, and I am looking forward to represent Norwegian community psychology according to our common guiding principles for the ECPA.

Clinical and Community Psychologist

Helse Bergen, Norway Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry nicholas.carr@helse-bergen.no

David Vossebrecher from Germany, Treasurer

David Vossebrecher was born in Dortmund, Germany in 1974, a city in one of the country's major industrial areas until the 1980ies. He studied psychology at Ruhr-Universität Bochum and at Freie Universität Berlin, where he became involved in Community Psychology. During his time in Berlin he also studied 'Critical Psychology' developed by Klaus Holzkamp and his colleagues, which has almost disappeared today – a great loss. Another issue of interest is qualitative research methods.

Since July 2005 David works as a research associate at Faculty of Human Sciences at University of Cologne (Köln) in Germany, where he also teaches on qualitative research methods, empowerment, and prevention/ health promotion. Besides this, he engages in projects in different fields of prevention (e.g. substance abuse, youth viol-



ence, conditions of early parenthood, health promotion), which work on a 'peer education' approach combined with an empowerment perspective. David carries responsibility for the project's evaluation. At present he is strongly dedicated to 'participatory' praxis-oriented research and evaluation, which he believes can play a part in supporting and fostering empowerment and participation processes. Offmainstream research methods – like qualitative methods – can play an important role here.

David is glad to be part of ECPA and would like to take the opportunity to give thanks for the confidence and electing him as ECPA treasurer. He is looking forward to the next two year's work.

University of Cologne, Germany Faculty of Human Sciences Center for International Relations david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de

David Fryer from UK, President Elect 2009 - 2011

David is currently President Elect of the 'European Community Psychology Association' and will serve as

President from 2009-2001. He currently teaches on courses of community, critical, social, health and clinical psychology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at Stirling University, Scotland. He is supervising PhD students doing research on disabling practices; school exclusion; and community activism. He is also enjoying learning from community activists in a number of community based projects. David has published widely and lectured internationally on community psychology, unemployment and mental health.

David has previously served as Editor of the 'Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology' and as Chair of the 'International Committee' of the 'Society for Community Research and



Action' (SCRA), where he also was elected a Fellow in 2000. He is a Fellow of the 'British Psychological Society' in 1996. The BPS's 'Standing Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities' described him as "a community psychologist, whose research and publications has for many years helped to give a voice to people disadvantaged by unemployment and/or poverty". David is currently Chair of the BPS's 'College of Fellows' and as such is organizing a major conference on global warming, to which he is bringing community critical perspectives.

David is setting up an Interest Group for ECPA members called (working title) "Praxis" for those ECPA members who are interested in developing community psychologies which are informed by critical' perspectives i. e draw on the work of Althusser, Foucault, Freire, Martin-Baro, Marx, etc and are action oriented. David is also working with Jarg Bergold to work towards the establishment of 'The European Journal of Community Psychology'.

University of Sterling, Scotland Department of Psychology d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk

Wolfgang Stark from Germany, President 2007 - 2009

born 1954, married

I am teaching organisational and community psychology at the University of Duisburg-Essen and at the 'Zollverein School for Management and Design' in Germany, and in the Community Psychology Masters Program at the Instituto Psicologia Aplicada in Lisboa, Portugal, where I am also member of the board of directors of the program.

Before my academic I have been the founder and one of the directors of a Self Help Clearinghouse in Munich/Germany (Munich Self Help Resource Center) and have done some research and practice on prevention, social networks, self-organized counseling and public health. At University Duisburg-Essen, I am director of the Organisational Development Laboratory (www.orglab.de) and of the university's 'Center for Societal Learning and Social Responsibility'. My research focus is on the cultural analysis and empowerment of organisational and social systems (community development, organisational learning) and corporate and societal social responsibility.



In Community Psychology I have been serving as one of the International and European Coordinators of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) form 1986-1994, am a founding member and member of the Executive Committee (1994-1998) of the German Association for Community Research and Action, and also am a founding member of the European Network of Community Psychologists (ENCP) and the European Community Psychology Association. I have been organizing many national community psychology conferences and (together with Jarg Bergold) the 5th European Conference on Community Psychology (2004) in Berlin.

Community and Organisational Psychology University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany Organisational Development Laboratory wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de

3. Message from the President

This paper has been delivered as an inaugural address of the incoming president of ECPA for 2007-2009, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Stark (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany). Unfortunately, due to a slipped disc, Wolfgang was not allowed to travel; therefore the address has been read to the members of ECPA present at the Seville 2007 meeting. The following paper is an adapted version of the Seville address:

What if Community Psychology mattered in the World?

Challenges and Chances for European Community Psychology

Wolfgang Stark, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Being a community psychologist always has been like a quest for new ways to work with psychosocial problems and challenges of people and social settings, but it also has been and will be a quest for a political identity as a psychologist who wants to improve social justice and individual well-being in a complex world.

Michael Frese, the past president of the International Association of Applied Psychology (www.new.i-aapsy.org), asked in his keynote paper 2006 in Athens "What if Applied Psychology Mattered in the World?" and he stated that psychology today needs a currency that is as important and respected as money. Therefore, in his opinion, psychology should develop well-being and happiness as a psychological currency in contrast to money and economic goods only. In order to do this, he continues, psychology needs to have an impact an all spheres of social life – community and social systems, economy, politics etc.

I liked the picture of a special human and social currency used by Michael Frese. With respect to community psychology, I am deeply convinced that in today's and future European and global developments community building, empowerment, well-being, happiness and social justice will become important elements of a currency which can be as/more important as money. Therefore, asking "What if Community Psychology Mattered in the World?" should be written on the banner of our quest.

In 2006, an international vision group on community psychology initiated by Thom Wolff of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) started to develop some guiding principles on the future of community psychology. The group identified four guiding principles which I would like to mention here,

because they may display some of the future challenges of European community psychology we will have to face together with ECPA:

- Community psychology will become increasingly global in nature. This is why local communities
 are increasingly important because they are affected by global forces. Community psychology
 must collaborate with communities so they effectively adapt to such changes.
- A community psychology approach, by definition, must be an approach informed by multiple
 perspectives. Thus, the future of community psychology will require partnerships with other disciplines and community stakeholders. We will have to partner with and learn from other disciplines
 (i.e. among others sociology, anthropology, education, ethics, management science) and stakeholders (social and health sector, private business, public sector, community initiatives) while maintaining our own unique identity as psychologists.
- Community psychology will become more engaged in the formation and institutionalization of
 economic and social policy. These policies will be based upon the values that are at the core of
 our discipline and will incorporate psychological principles. Involvement with policy is consistent
 with community psychology's ecological perspective on community which recognizes the importance of macro system factors, such as policy, on communities.
- Community psychology will become a field of research and action that makes a significant difference on issues of social change by promoting social justice. Social justice is defined as conditions that promote equitable distribution of resources, equal opportunity for all, non-exploitation, prevention of violence, and active citizenry.

Of course, there will be more and also conflicting challenges to be faced by community psychology in the future. And, there may be a special challenge not only to maintain national and regional identities as community psychologists in a globalised world, but also to appreciate diversity in our own discipline and to start learning from different approaches and values.

To face these challenges and chances for ECPA I would like to suggest following steps on a road to success for ECPA:

1. Communication is the key

Communication is the most important challenge for ECPA as it is for any kind of international association. I would like to suggest that we try to achieve a quick and effective communication (not only) among ECPA-members by using modern technology:

- a) We already started an open monthly telephone conference of the members of ECPA's executive committee and members of the board having the opportunity to participate.
- b) David Fryer started an ECPA-related e-mail-discussion group where each member of ECPA can follow and participate in ongoing discussions and decision making within ECPA's executive committee. Please ask David for invitation, if interested (d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk).
- c) We will try to send out a bimonthly newsletter focusing on ECPA-topics, regional and disciplinary reports, political questions and issues to be raised, announcements and more. Please view this newsletter as a starting point active participation is more than welcome.
- d) In addition we should try start a blog (as it was suggested by Jarg Bergold already some years ago) to share current work done and to encourage an open discussion on important issues in European and global community psychology
- e) I do hope that we jointly will be able to start an CP-e-journal pretty soon, based on the success of the online-journal FQS (www.qualitative-research.net). David Fryer and Jarg Bergold will put energy in this project.

2. Community Building as a European Focus

We should focus on macro- and micro-issues on the topic and challenge of community building together with various partners: this is why it is important to develop close ties not only with national community psychology groups in Europe and other parts of the world, but also with other psychological and social science/social action networks and associations. In addition, the European Union and the European Commission will be one of the most important partners to foster community building and a sense of community in our society.

3. Develop Active Interest Groups

To support this movement and to strengthen the capabilities of each community psychologist in Europe, we should form Community Psychology Interest Groups (both professional and student groups) which will be able to maintain, and promote the rich body of knowledge and develop future questions in community psychology, will/may be important for our society.

4. Invest in joint education

We should invest in a joint education and practice in community psychology and CP special topics in order to develop the idea of community psychology for young professionals. For this we can use and institutionalize a rich body of experience of community psychology programs in universities and schools all over Europe. The time for an interdisciplinary Community Psychology Master Program should come within the next two years.

We as community psychologists all know very well, that change in communities and society is a very slow process which is composed of many tiny steps and which requires the commitment of many people; and professionals like community psychologists may not be the most important ones. Therefore, community psychology requires a good deal humbleness and care for people, and the wish to learn from other people and settings. This is why in my opinion the most important and rewarding goal and activity for ECPA will be opportunities like this event here in Seville: to bring professionals, researchers, students and activists together who share similar goals, values, ideas and activities for mutual support and empowerment.

This is why I would like to thank the organizers and activists of the recent seminar in Seville for bringing together such a wonderful group of committed people. I also would like to thank other community psychology activists in other parts of Europe for organizing similar events in the past and the future. The opportunity to meet each other will be the outstanding International Conference on Community Psychology (www.2iccp.com) organized by our colleagues in Portugal - and I am looking forward to meet all of you in Lisbon in June 2008.

Wolfgang Stark, ECPA President

4. Minutes of the General Assembly meetings on September 6th 2007 in Sevilla, Spain (2 parts)

Minutes were prepared by Maria Vargas-Moniz, revised by Jim Orford, ECPA General Assembly Chair

GA Meeting # 1, September the 6th 2006, 18.30 - 19.30 hours

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome Participants/ Register Those Present
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Reading the Minutes of the Second General Assembly Opole Poland 2006
- 4. Nomination of ECPA Member to register the Minutes
- 5. Presentation and Discussion of the 2006 2007 Annual Report
 - Action Report
 - Financial Report
 - Membership Report
- 6. Transition to new President and President Elect
- 7. Other Issues

1. Welcome Participants/ Register Those Present

Following the requirements of the ECPA Constitution, specifically stated in Article 24°, the third European Community Psychology General Assembly was declared opened by Jim Orford who grace-

fully accepted to chair the 2007 meetings, and welcomed all those who were present as ECPA formal members as well as those with the status of observers to the meeting.

A list to register those present was distributed to attendees that totalled 22 (twenty two) present (document attached).

2. Nomination of ECPA Member to register the Minutes

The chair proposed that Agenda item #4 be moved to #2 to invite an ECPA member to take notes for the General Assembly; Maria Vargas-Moniz was proposed and accepted by the membership for the role of registering the meeting minutes.

3. Apologies

The following list of apologies was presented to the meeting:

A. Skutle
C. Arcidiacono
D. Francescato
D. Vossebrecher
E. Iversen
F. Monteiro
S. Maria
T. Mannarinni
W. Stark

4. Reading the Minutes of the Second General Assembly – Opole Poland 2006

The minutes of the 2nd ECPA General Assembly were read out to the meeting by Maria Vargas-Moniz. No changes were suggested; therefore the Minutes were formally and unanimously approved.

5. Presentation and Discussion of the 2006 – 2007 Annual Report

The chair than invited the ECPA President José Ornelas to present the 2006-2007 Annual Report that included the Action Report and the Financial and Membership Report. The presentation followed the written report previously distributed to members attending the meeting. In the oral presentation José Ornelas emphasized the efforts made in communication with the EFPA (European Federation of Psychologists' Associations), and with SCRA (Society for Community Research and Action) as equal standing partners, stating that it is his belief that ECPA is now a stronger organisation, therefore more appealing and representing a more promising area of Psychology in Europe, and as a field in general.

Concerning the ECPA website, José Ornelas urged members for participation; the greater difficulty is not organizing the web page, but keeping it lively and with the contributions of membership. We need to re-energize and renovate our strategies, so that participants and future members discover that it is worth being a member.

The chair opened the discussion to the meeting, asking for comments, suggestions and amendments to the 2006- 2007 Annual Report. P. Duckett raised the topic that in the Annual Report we have stated that in the process of building the ECPA internal regulations we were inspired by the SCRA and APA statutes; at present there is a strong debate about the APA not signing up to the declaration of Psychologists against torture, and that it was against the Geneva Convention. Therefore he would not agree to mention of ECPA being inspired by APA.

José Ornelas than proposed to rephrase the Annual Report; instead we would state: "for the organisation of the ECPA electoral procedures we took the example of other similar organisations world-wide." That was agreed.

D Fryer, suggested that from his experience the financial and membership report should be separate from the action report, and suggested that we should have someone, an external accountant to certify our financial report; that procedure is healthier for the organisation. Both recommendations were accepted. The two documents will be presented separately in the final version, and the revision of the financial report will be discussed with the next ECPA treasurer.

I. Menezes suggested the digitalization of the expense documents in order to be presented to membership by e-mail. The meeting thought that would be practical now because we have a very low volume of expenses, but that in the future that would not be very helpful for the membership. Therefore the idea of having an independent audit was considered to be the best procedure to be followed for the future. The new treasurer will be asked to arrange for independent audit of the accounts, preferably at no or minimal cost.

With the modifications noted above the Annual Report was unanimously approved.

J. Orford suggested including in the Minutes a vote of thanks for all the work carried out for the Association by the Lisboa team during the last two years; the meeting accepted the suggestion.

6. Transition to new Officers of the Association

J. Orford reminded the meeting that we have had our first electoral period, and that the procedures for election of new officers have been carried out according to the mandate received in Opole in 2006. For the three positions available - next President, President-elect and Treasurer - three nominations were received up to the announced closing date of July the $15^{\rm th}$

One name had been proposed for each position. A total number of 32 voting papers were issued to the membership on June the 30^{th} 2007 and by July 15^{th} we have received a total number of 10 votes unanimously endorsing the elections of those nominated. From the electoral results we were able to confirm W. Stark as 2007-2009 ECPA President, D. Vossebrecher 2007-2009 ECPA Treasurer, and D. Fryer President Elect for the term 2007-2009, and President 2009-2011.

J. Orford reminded the General Assembly that W. Stark was not present due to sudden health problems; D. Vossebrecher was travelling, so also unable to attend the meeting. D. Fryer stated that he was willing to serve the ECPA and that as future chair would do all he could to help the different perspectives of Community Psychology to flourish in Europe.

According to the internal regulations developed by the outgoing committee, the ECPA Executive Committee shall be composed of: The President, the President-Elect, Past President, the Treasurer, and three members at large.

J. Orford invited members present to offer names for the three remaining positions for the Executive Committee. B. Zani and N. Carr stepped forward and were appointed by the General Assembly. A third person was not identified among those present, so J. Orford suggested that the person should be appointed by the recently elected President. That was agreed.

7. Other Issues

Maria Vargas-Moniz proposed that the next Executive Committee should think about the revision of the ECPA application form since the statement of eligibility for unwaged and reduced fees was seen as very uncomfortable for the people in those situations.

The meeting having completed the discussion and decisions about the items proposed in the Agenda, the Meeting was officially ended at 19.30 hours by the chair J. Orford.

GA Meeting # 2, September the 6th 2006, 19.30 - 20.30 hours

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome Participants / Register those present
- 2. Nomination of ECPA Member to register the Minutes
- 3. Plans for 2007 2008:

II. International Conference on Community Psychology – Lisboa 2008

4. Other Issues

1. Welcome Participants/ Register Those Present

Following the requirements of the ECPA Constitution, specifically stated in Article 24°, the third European Community Psychology General Assembly was declared opened by Jim Orford who gracefully accepted to chair the 2007 meetings, and all those who were present as ECPA formal members as well as those with the status of observers were welcomed to the meeting.

A list to register those present was distributed to attendees who totalled 22 (twenty two) present (document attached).

2. Nomination of ECPA Member to register the Minutes

Maria Vargas-Moniz was proposed and accepted by members for the role of registering the meeting minutes.

In pursuance of the formal procedures of the ECPA General Assemblies the minutes of the 2nd ECPA General Assembly were read out to the meeting by Maria Vargas-Moniz. No changes were proposed; therefore the Minutes were formally and unanimously approved.

The following list of apologies was presented to members (see above).

3. Plans for 2007–2008

Considering that the next President was not able to attend the meeting, Maria Vargas-Moniz was appointed by the General Assembly to read a message from the new President about future plans for the ECPA. In a slightly adapted version, the message is part of this newsletter (please see chapter 3) and is therefore not shown again here.

D. Fryer and P. Duckett highlighted the need of a statement by the ECPA members for a position about APA not signing up the declaration of Psychologists against torture; the General Assembly mandated D Fryer to send the following message on behalf of the meeting to Professor Veno who had asked for international support on this issue:

"Those present at the final plenary session of the II European Community Psychology Association International Seminar ("Integrating new migrants in the New Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology") held in Seville, Spain 19-21 September 2007 considered the widely circulated request by eminent community psychologist Professor Art Veno for international support in his attempts to ensure that the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture is condemned by the Australian Psychological Society. Those present at the final plenary session of the II European Community Psychology Association International Seminar in Seville unanimously voted to send a message of support from the meeting to Professor Veno, his colleagues and all those condemning the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture".

Following the meeting agenda the "II. International Conference on Community Psychology" to be held in Lisboa on June 2008, was presented by the ECPA Past-President José Ornelas that is the Conference Coordinator inviting all membership to present their proposals and also to be key- contacts for dissemination and the concrete organisation of the event, that is the European contributions towards the strengthening and consolidation of Community Psychology world-wide.

Having completed the discussion and decisions about the items proposed in the Agenda the Meeting was officially ended at 20.30 hours by the chair J. Orford.

5. Annual Report 2006 - 2007

The report was prepared by José Ornelas, ECPA President 2005–2007 and Maria Vargas-Moniz, Executive Coordinator 2005–2007 with special contributions by Malgorzata Szarzynska, Paul A. Toro, and Anna Bokszczanin.

Introduction

The 2007 annual report is composed of points following the structure of the Action Plan presented at the 2006 General Assembly in Opole-Poland. The report is composed of 7 themes or issues including managerial and internal procedures, communication, teaching opportunities, the organization of the II International Conference on Community Psychology, membership issues and the financial report.

1. Managerial and Internal Procedures

The concrete proposals made on the action plan were:

a) Continue the work on internal procedures for management

This year was very active on this chapter due to the need to prepare the electoral procedures. In Opole there was the nomination of a Working-group to lead the task of organizing the electoral procedures, composed by J. Ornelas, W. Stark, C. Arcidiacono, and M. Vargas-Moniz. J. Orford accepted the role of special consultant as a result of the experience of formulating the ECPA statutes. The mission was to organize a process adjusted to our reality, based on the experience and statures of similar organisations.

For the organization of these procedures it was possible to have a meeting in Lisboa with J. Ornelas, W. Stark, and M. Vargas-Moniz, with consultation input from the other members. The result of this work was presented to the members for the election period.

The document on the procedures shall constitute the specific chapter on nomination and electoral procedures of the Internal Regulations to be developed by the ECPA, therefore this is a task to be continued. The 2007 ballot took place, and 32 votes were issued for the members had their dues of the year of 2006 and the year of 2007. We have validated the 2006 dues because according to the article 6 of the ECPA statutes, membership is valid up to six months of the next calendar year which corresponded to the date that the votes were issued. The calendar shall be specifically organized for each electoral period.

b) Have a membership application/ annual renewal system in the webpage facilitating payment

Some members expressed some difficulties in completing the payment of the fee; therefore we have reviewed the ECPA application form to try to overcome this problem, and a renovated form is now inserted on the webpage.

c) Contacts with EFPA

In July 2007 the ECPA President was in Prague for the Conference hosted by the European Federation of Psychology Associations, and had a meeting with the President Tuomo Tikkanen (Finland).

About the ECPA participation as a member of the Federation, the European nature of the ECPA implies that it may not be a regular member, but an affiliate member, a specific statute, but the Federation was very interested in having the Association as member.

2. Communication

a) Board Members - roles within ECPA

Some tasks were shared among membership, such as the WG on the electoral procedures. A. Sanchéz-Vidal also developed efforts towards the organisation of a book on European Community Psychology.

b) Web Page

The ECPA web page received some contributions from our members, such as the Summary of the Opole Conference; links were established for the Sevilla 2007 Seminar

c) Membership Involvement

Concrete proposals were the organisation of the @ Bulletin and the involvement, and for the organisation of annual reports. Some messages by email have been sent to membership calling for participation; however we recognize that more specific tactics of member's involvement should have been undertaken, such as specific requests to members or probing for feedback on proposals for the website. This is a strategic area that we would like to see further developments.

3. Development and Influence of Community Psychology within Europe

a) Information on Community Psychology courses and curricula and organisations

We have gathered some information about the work being developed in Community Psychology, such as France, with the recently created French Association for Community Psychology. Some specific initiatives at academic level are also being entailed in Romania, and we have entailed contacts with academics involved in Community Psychology courses in Portugal (e.g. Universidade do Porto; Universidade do Minho and Universidade dos Açores)

b) Community Psychology Events

The 2007 Seminar was the result of a collaboration effort entailed by Manuel García-Ramirez, and a group from the University of Sevilla on a emerging topic of the integration of new migrants in the European Context. This Seminar has also been articulated with other European Initiatives, such as the ERASMUS Program for the development of the Curriculum of a European Masters on Migrants and Health, in which community psychology is going to be integrated as an area of influence. This congregation also opened our networks of contacts towards other people (both academic and professionals) from several European countries.



The ECPA President invited all membership to participate in roundtables proposed for the biannual conference on community research and Action – SCRA (Passadena, USA, June 2007) and in the panel we have had the participation of Donata Francescato (Italy), José Ornelas (Portugal), Malgorzata Szarzynska (Poland), Maria Vargas-Moniz (Portugal), and Patricia Merigolo (Italy), that share some of the experiences in EU countries.

At the European Federation of Psychology Associations, we also have had representatives, such as David Fryer (UK), Susana Maria and José Ornelas (Portugal).

c) Other Collaboration and Exchange Efforts

During the years of 2006 and 2007, we have had entailed efforts to build a transnational network with Community Psychologists from the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and Portugal interested on migrations issues that has jointly prepared a submission to a European initiative on this topic.

As Community Psychologist the ECPA (2005-2007) President is involved in the European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research - COST - representing Portugal (Action ISO0603) on Health and Social Care for Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Europe.

d) The Opole Conference*

<u>Social Change, Solidarity, and Community - A Post-Conference Summary of the Sixth European Conference on Community Psychology in Opole, Poland.</u>

The Sixth European Conference on Community Psychology was held just outside the city of Opole, Poland, 6-7 October, 2006. Hosted by the Department of Psychology of the University of Opole, and sponsored also by the European Community Psychology Association (ECPA) and the Opole regional section of the Polish Psychological Association, the conference theme was "Social Change in Solidarity." It was especially appropriate to hold this conference in Central Europe (for the first time in its 12-year history), given the recent entry of Poland and several other Eastern nations into the European Union in 2004.

The conference took place at Kamien Slaski, a fully restored 17th century castle that was built on the site of the birthplace of Saint Hyacinth (Saint Jacka, in Polish). The secluded site gave the conference a "feel" different from what was experienced in the prior 5 such conferences (each held in or near the center of a major city). Participants noted that there were fewer "distractions" to draw them away from the conference sessions, and the beautiful and serene grounds (and fine weather) gave participants a fine venue for strolling about and talking together informally.

We had about 80 participants from a total of 12 different nations. The largest groups of attendees came from Poland (including many students from the University of Opole), neighbouring Germany, Italy, Portugal, and England. However, there were also attendees from France, Norway, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Romania, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Consistent with the conference theme, we invited one of the original organizers of the Solidarity movement in Poland, which began in the 1980s. Wladyslaw Frasyniuk gave us a spirited speech on how the Solidarity movement began. He commented on how a unique combination of two very different groups helped to produce the changes that eventually saw the fall of communism and totally reshaped the European landscape. Intellectuals, who knew about the abuses of the communist system but were, perhaps, afraid to fight against it joined with optimistic young workers (such as Lech Walesa and Frasyniuk himself). The workers were confident in their abilities and did not fear the authorities so much (as perhaps they should have done). Perhaps community psychologists can play similar roles by joining with disenfranchised members of their own communities throughout Eastern and Western Europe and the rest of the world?

Frasyniuk was invited as a special conference guest. In addition, there were several keynote speakers who were researchers and academics: Marek Wosinski (Warsaw School of Social Psychology, Poland; and Arizona State University, US) and Beth Shinn (New York University, US). These keynote lectures enlivened the conference atmosphere. Wosinski talked about CP teaching in the global and local contexts. His speech was focused on the presentation of his original project devoted to creating an Internet platform for research and action collaboration between University staff, students and community leaders.

Beth Shinn, one of the most prominent CP researchers in the world, gave some examples of modern and existing school programs conducted in the US. The programs aim to create changes in school settings. She stressed that psychologists changing their communities must be specially equipped and educated. The main principles of a successful change in communities are: clear, measurable goals, the participants' commitment, attention to the diversity of participants, and monitoring of program progress.

We also had several fun social events during and after the conference. These included a folk group performance Friday evening, the conference party Saturday at the close of the Conference, and a trip to Krakow and Auschwitz on Sunday, the day after the Conference. The events were both touching and entertaining and gave an opportunity for deeper reflection and relaxation.



We and the other organizers were especially pleased because of the opportunity the conference provided to "jump start" the development of community psychology throughout Poland. Many of the students attending were very enthusiastic about the prospect of learning more about our field. They found "refreshing" the application of psychological knowledge and research methods to real social problems they see in their communities. In addition to the many from the Opole region, we had attendees from several different regions of Poland, including Kracow, Warsaw, and Lodz. Many of the Polish attendees presented their work and the simultaneous translation between Polish and English throughout the conference made it easy for the Polish to learn about community psychology in the rest of Europe and for those from Western Europe to learn about work relevant to community psychology being done in Poland. Until two years ago, community psychology was virtually unknown in Poland. Now, after this conference, it is a small but brightly shining "star" in psychology and may come to be recognized in other disciplines as well. We are excited by the promise for community psychology in Poland and the rest of Central-Eastern Europe.

*Malgorzata Szarzynska, Paul A. Toro, and Anna Bokszczanin, Instytut Psychologii, Uniwersytet Opolski

4. II International Conference on Community Psychology in Europe

Following the experience of the I International Conference on Community Psychology "Shared Agendas in Diversity" from the 8th to the 10th of June 2006 in San Juan — Puerto Rico, were the ECPA has had a formal opportunity to have a key-note speech on Community Psychology in Europe, and a numerous delegation of our members were also there like Alípio Sanchéz-Vidal, Donata Francescato, Caterina Arcidiacono, and other colleagues from different European countries.

The challenge of bringing the II International Conference on Community Psychology to Europe was a proposal made long before the First Conference, and it was the first proposal received by the organisation, therefore the continuity of the initiative was brought to our responsibility. So we now have in June 2008 from the 4th to the 6th of June and preceded of two days of Pre-Conference Institutes. A web page was developed under the designation www.2iccp.com. This web page has links with the ECPA, SCRA, and established connections with many other Community Psychology organisations (e.g. Australian Community Psychology College; Sociedade Interamericana de Psicologia, Association Française de Psychologie Communotaire).



The dimension of this event requires, in our view, the contribution of ECPA membership in sharing transcontinental contacts that members may have in order to expand the network of contacts world-wide.

5. Development of Thematic Interest Groups

We have received proposals for Interest groups on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and another on LGBT issues, the ECPA General Assembly is responsible for taking the decision of accepting the emergence of the Interest groups. In this situation we expect to have a decision of the ECPA GA to these proposals, and other that may emerge around topics such as migrations, women issues, etc.

6. Financial and Membership Report

This report was prepared by Terri Mandarini, ECPA Treasurer 2005–2007

1. Financial Report

This financial report covers the period that goes from October 31, 2006 to August 31, 2007. At the end of October 2006, after the Opole Conference, ECPA budget had a total of 1947,26 Euro.

From November 1^{st} 2006 to August 31^{st} 2007 ECPA accumulated credits for 1600,00 Euro and afforded expenditure for 391,73 Euro.

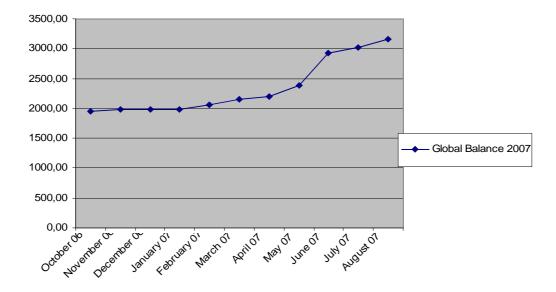
<u>Credits</u> result from the payment of membership fees (2006-2007). The number of ECPA members that during the year of 2007 have paid their dues was 31. However we expect to have more payments during the Sevilla Event to be held I a very near future.

Debits result from:

- 1. consumables (32,64 Euro);
- 2. the annual rent of a P.O. box, which was to be used for the ballot (42,00 Euro);
- 3. the annual web page expenses (185,13 Euro);
- 4. Account expenses (131, 96 Euro).

At present (August 31st 2007) ECPA budget amounts to \in **3155**, **73** (+ \in 1207, 81 compared to 2006) (graph 1).

Graph 1 - ECPA FINANCIAL TREND (October 2006-August 2007)



2. Membership

The concrete proposals contained in the Action Plan 2006-2007 were concerning the development of the presence of membership in the web page, and about keeping the new members campaign at national and international levels.

For the first domain we believe many more initiatives should have been taken. It is an area that it is still relevant to develop, and we would be happy to cooperate with future initiatives on that area. We have responded to over 50 email messages to the web page of people interested in becoming ECPA members, and requiring information about initiatives on specific countries.

For the year 2007 we have a total of 31 members (Tab.1) that validated their membership statute by paying their dues. This list does not correspond to our mailing list, because there are some members that did not pay their dues corresponding to the year of 2007 that is not ended yet, therefore we believe that we should keep an involvement strategy for membership.

Tab. 1 – 2007 Official Membership (Fees)

Name	Country	Email
AMARO Joao Paulo	PORTUGAL	<u>ipamaro@netcabo.pt</u> , <u>ipaulo@ispa.pt</u>
AMERIO Piero	ITALY	amerio@psych.unito.it
ARCIDIACONO Caterina	ITALY	caterina.arcidiacono@unina.it
BERGOLD Jarg	GERMANY	bergold@zedat.fu-berlin.de
BOKSZCZANIN Anna	POLAND	abok@uni.opole.pl
CARR Nicholas	NORWAY	nicholas.carr@helse-bergen.no
CICOGNANI Elvira	ITALY	elvira.cicognani@unibo.it
DE PICCOLI Norma	ITALY	depiccol@psych,unito.it
DUCKETT Paul	UK	p.duckett@mmu.ac.uk
EHMAYER Cornelia	AUSTRIA	cornelia.ehmayer@stadtpsychologie.at
FEDI Angela	ITALY	fedi@psych.unito.it
FRANCESCATO Donata	ITALY	mc0938@mclink.it
FRYER David	UK	d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk
GELLI Bianca	ITALY	biancagelli@tiscali.it
JORGE MONTEIRO Fatima	Portugal	fj.monteiro@oninet.pt
LAVANCO Gioacchino	ITALY	comunicazioni@gioacchinolavanco.it
MANNARINI Terri	ITALY	terrimannarini@hotmail.com
MARIA Susana	PORTUGAL	smaria@ispa.pt
MARTINI Elvio Raffaello	ITALY	martini@martiniassociati.it
MELLUISH Steve	UK	sim36@le.ac.uk

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MERINGOLO Patrizia ITALY meringolo@psico.unifi.it **NESTORE** Rosalba **ITALY** nestore@ilenic.unile.it joseornelas@mail.telepac.pt ORNELAS José **PORTUGAL** PROCENTESE Fortuna **ITALY** procente@unina.it riamina@hotmail.com RIA Mina **ITALY** SANTINELLO Massimo **ITALY** massimo.santinello@unipd.it wolfgang.stark@uni-due.de STARK Wolfgang **GERMANY** TOMAI Manuela **ITALY** manuelatomai@yahoo.it VARGAS MONIZ Maria **PORTUGAL** mariavargasmoniz@gmail.com VOSSEBRECHER David david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de **GERMANY**

ZANI Bruna ITALY bruna.zani@unibo.it

7. Statement on Poverty by UK Community Psychologists

The UK Community Psychology Annual Conference took place in York, England on 13th and 14th September 2007 organised by Jacqui Akhurst and her colleagues.

The conference attracted a wide array of practitioners, academics, students and community representatives from all over the UK. Plenary addresses were given by: Richard Wilkinson of the University of Nottingham Medical School on his epidemiological research on the individual and social consequences of inequality; Julia Unwin, Chief Executive Officer of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (a major UK research funding organisation) on funding opportunities for community psychology; and David Fryer (University of Stirling, Scotland) who critically unpacked the question 'what is community psychology?", focusing on the question rather than on possible answers.

The conference developed the 'York Community Psychology Statement on Poverty.' A draft of this was then discussed on the UK Community Psychology discussion list. The latest version of statement is:

"As community and critical psychologists we believe that psychologists have a fundamental responsibility to join with others to end both poverty and societal inequality independent of absolute wealth, which we believe are personally, collectively and socially destructive.

We believe mainstream psychology to be complicit with the prevailing psychologically toxic neo-liberal economic order and believe psychology has allowed itself to be used to hide systemic effects of poverty and inequality and instead position poverty as a consequence of individual psychological dysfunction.

We call for the radical transformation of psychology so that it has the resources necessary to expose the personally, collectively and socially destructive effects of poverty and inequality and the proactive deployment, with allies, of this transformed psychology to end poverty and societal inequality and the exploitation, exclusion, oppression, distress and illness which result from them."

ECPA members wishing to support this statement, please contract David Fryer (d.m.fryer@stir.ac.uk)

The annual meeting 2007 of the German 'Society for Research and Practice in Community Psychology' (www.ggfp.de/englisch), in its content, discussions, and title questioned "Poverty and Exclusion in Individual Responsibility". The meeting took place on June 22^{nd} and 23^{rd} 2007 in Munich. Further reports on the meeting and its results will be spread in the ECPA newsletter's next volume.

The topic of poverty and its consequences apparently is a pressing and important issue for European Community Psychology. Thus there might be interest to found an ECPA Interest Group on the issue of poverty. ECPA members interested please contact D. Vossebrecher (david.vossebrecher@uni-koeln.de), who has agreed to provide first step coordination.

8. Statement against the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture

ECPA and opposition to the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture

At the final plenary session of the European Community Psychology Association sponsored International Seminar on "Integrating New Migrants in the new Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology" held in Seville, Spain in 19-21 September 2007 the following statement was agreed unanimously:

"Those present at the final plenary session of the II European Community Psychology Association International Seminar ("Integrating new migrants in the New Europe: A Challenge for Community Psychology") held in Seville, Spain 19-21 September 2007 considered the widely circulated request by eminent community psychologist Professor Art Veno for international support in his attempts to ensure that the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture is condemned by the Australian Psychological Society. Those present at the final plenary session of the II European Community Psychology Association International Seminar in Seville unanimously voted to send a message of support from the meeting to Professor Veno, his colleagues and all those condemning the involvement of psychologists in the practice of torture".

Arthur Veno and Julie Van Den Ende have since kindly informed me about Australian Psychological Society conference events in relation to the ECPA statement. Professor Veno said that he believes that the Australian Psychological Society policy reflected the desired outcome of the resolution against torture by its members and that this was no doubt due, in part, to the "fabulous resolution passed at the ECPA" and the suggestions and support received. Professor Veno asked me to pass on the "most heartfelt thanks" of Paul Wilson, David Thomas, Julie van den Eynde and himself "to ECPA colleagues for the help which was so desperately required."

Arthur Veno and Julie van den Eynde sent me (D. Fryer) an article saying it "will soon appear on On-Line Opinion which sets things out much more clearly" and asking me to "kindly circulate the document on Julie and my behalf to anyone you regard as relevant" because of the suggestions of "improvements for others wishing to pass similar Resolutions". I am passing on the part of the text containing the "APS Declaration on Torture" below. The full article text can be obtained from D. Fryer (d.m.fryer@-stir.ac.uk).

APS Declaration on Torture

The Australian Psychological Society, as a member of the International Union of Psychological Science, fully endorses the United Nations Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1997.

The Australian Psychological Society regards all forms of torture, as defined in Article 1 of the United Nations Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1997, as breaches of the Society's Code of Ethics (2003) General Principle III Propriety.

DECLARATION

Psychologists shall at all times comply with the Society's Code of Ethics.

Psychologists shall not countenance, condone or participate in the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures, in any situation, including armed conflict and civil strife.

Psychologists shall not provide any premises, instruments, substances or knowledge to facilitate the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or to diminish the ability of the victim to resist such treatment.

Psychologists shall not be present during any procedure in which torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is used or threatened.

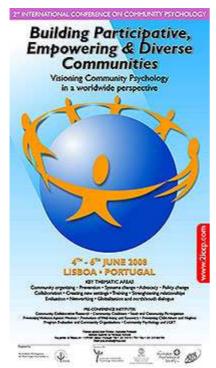
Psychologists must have complete professional independence in deciding upon the care of a person for whom they are responsible.

9. Miscellaneous topics

German Community Psychology mourns the death of Hubert Kötter

Hubert Kötter was one of the first and one of the most authentic activists and supporters of community psychology in Germany. Although severely ill already, he served as an active member of the German Society for Community Research and Action until fall 2007. Prof. Heiner Keupp, one of the mentors of community psychology in Germany from the very beginning, wrote: "Hubert Kötter always fought for societal change based on social justice. He always walked his life based upon clear social values. He never wanted to support the majority's opinion. His silent, but clear voice of reason always has been heard."

Hubert Kötter from Cologne, Germany died in the age of 60.



The Community Psychology Event 2008 in Europe!

Well known community psychology speakers, scholars and practioners and community activists will meet participants from many countries in Europe (west – central – east), the Americas (north – central – south), Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Please participate in this unique opportunity to meet community psychologists from different cultures and diverse backgrounds in wonderful and charming Lisbon, Portugal.

Experience the fascinating diversity of community building and responsibility for society and social issues. Contribute to the power of community psychology in Europe!

Please Note!

Early Registration (save € 50) before **January 31, 2008** only.

Deadline for submission for panel presentations, symposia, workshops, roundtable discussions and posters: **February 28, 2008.**

For further information see www.2iccp.com

Jimmy Carter Award for Community Psychology at University Duisburg-Essen

One of three "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Foundation Awards 2007" (www.jrcpf.org) in Germany has been given to the "Center for Societal Learning and Social Responsibility" (www.uni-akt-iv.org) at the University of Duisburg-Essen. UniAktiv, founded in 2005 by community psychologist Wolfgang Stark, supports civic engagement and fosters campus-community partnerships for academic service and learning. The center has been awarded at a ceremony at the University of Lüneburg (Germany) together with projects at the University of Mannheim and the University of Lüneburg. Former US-president and peace Nobel Prize winner Jimmy Carter and his wife are fostering campus-community partnerships for service learning and social responsibility in many countries of the world. A similar international network to foster campus community partnerships has been launched last year by community psychologist Marek Wosinski (www.igloo.org/uspsarnet).