

2025 ECPA General Assembly MINUTES

25th July 2025

**In person at the 2025 ECPA Conference held at the ISPA-IU, Lisbon, Portugal
15:30-17:00 GMT + 1**

This GA was organized in connection with the 2025 ECPA Conference “Building Communities in Uncertain Times”, held at the ISPA-University Institute in Lisbon, Portugal, from the 23rd to the 25th of July 2025.

The Assembly was chaired by Francesca Esposito, ECPA President for the 2024–2025 term, alongside other ECPA Board members attending the Conference, namely Cinzia Albanesi, Fortuna Procentese, Dora Rebelo, and Nicola Rainisio.

Welcoming: Francesca Esposito, President of ECPA, opened the General Assembly by welcoming participants, including new ECPA members attending the Conference for the first time. She acknowledged that this year marks a special milestone for ECPA: 30 years of community psychology networking in Europe, beginning with the founding of the European Network of Community Psychologists in Rome in 1995; and 20 years since ECPA became an official organisation, established on July 15, 2005, in Brussels (see the ECPA statutes). To commemorate the occasion, a photo of the European Network of Community Psychology—taken during the Business Meeting held at the University of Stirling in 1999—was shared (courtesy of David Fryer).

ECPA Membership: Nicola Rainisio, ECPA Board Member, reviewed the main membership trends, noting that the community has now reached 107 affiliates, with the recent conference bringing in 65 new participants—providing strong momentum for ECPA’s growth in the coming years. The members currently

represent 21 European and non-European countries, with Italy, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, the UK, and Germany being the most represented.

The group shows a healthy balance between academic roles and practitioners, with young researchers (mainly Ph.D. candidates) now accounting for 31% of the total, followed by professors/lecturers at 27%, practitioners at 21.5%, and researchers at 20.5%. The presentation concluded with an invitation to new members to stay engaged and take part actively in ECPA's initiatives.

ECPA Newsletter: Dora Rebelo, ECPA Board Member reviewed last years' statistics (memberships increased by 50% due to the conference), we now have 488 subscribers: 382 non members, 106 members and a new host (wordpress) as the previous one (mailchimp) surpassed the limit of free subscribers.

- Average engagement: 52% (ppl who open the newsletter)
- ECPA contents are now news and events, community updates, call for papers and announcements of upcoming conferences, as well as monthly recommended reads. We invite members to contribute with ideas and suggestions for new content. We are also open to suggestions on style and accept new contributors.

ECPA Webinar series: Nicola Rainisio recalled the most recent activities within the Webinar Series, highlighting in particular the sessions held in 2025:

- January: Patrizia Meringolo in dialogue with Alba Zambrano and Camillo Donati on "*Promoting Change in Interventions with Unaccompanied Migrant Minors and Practitioners Working with Them: Theoretical and Practical Aspects*"
- March: Cinzia Albanesi and Maric Martin Lorusso in dialogue with Roberto Abreu, Michela Mariotto and Annie Pullen-Sansfacon on "*Research under Attack: The Struggles of Western Scholars Doing Research with Trans Youth and Their Families in the Current Sociopolitical Climate*"

Both the quality of the contributions and the strong public interest confirm ECPA's commitment to collectively addressing politically and scientifically relevant issues, with the intention of continuing on a regular basis at least every four months. The presentation concluded by reminding participants that many webinars are available on the ECPA YouTube channel and by encouraging members to propose new topics and take an active role in the webinar organization.

Student Engagement: As ECPA student representative, Maric Martin Lorusso, was not able to attend the ECPA Conference, Francesca Margherita De Falco, former ECPA student collaborator, was invited to share some updates about student engagement within ECPA. This year marked the first with a Student Representative on the Board, with the intention of fostering collaboration among equals and avoiding hierarchical roles based on academic seniority. In this perspective, particular attention has been dedicated to increasing student visibility and involvement. Student contributions have been highlighted through the inclusion of their presentations in the ECPA newsletter alongside those of Board members, as well as through direct dialogue aimed at better understanding the needs and aspirations of the student community. During the Conference, the first Student Town Hall Meeting was organized, an interactive moment designed to connect participants, foster peer support, and share experiences and struggles as community psychology students in academia. As community psychology remains a niche field, students often face challenges in finding academic contexts that align with their values and approaches.

Another important development has been the introduction of the Master's Thesis Award, established for the first time this year and recognized at the Conference. The award, multilingual and not limited to English or Spanish, includes an economic prize and aims to provide recognition and visibility to outstanding master's students. This initiative complements broader efforts to

create more opportunities for students to showcase their work and to strengthen their role within ECPA. Looking ahead, the Board aims to maintain a permanent student representative role, foster the creation of a network of community psychology students across countries, and launch a call for papers that will open inclusive spaces for exchange. The vision is to deconstruct hierarchies of knowledge between academia and activism while welcoming the contributions of young researchers and master's students.

ECPA website: Website update from Miles Thompson. In the last few months, a lot of changes have gone on behind the scenes that the ordinary viewer wouldn't necessarily see or notice. But the fact the website is still (mostly!) working - is hopefully proof that these changes have been successful. Part of these changes have meant that we have transferred our newsletter which was based on MailChimp to WordPress - our website. We had to do this because we had reached the free ceiling on the number of subscribers we could have for MailChimp and so would have had to start paying monthly fees. Moving things within our website, means we can save the organisation money and keep growing our reach.

Last time we shared updates about the website we talked about some of the inherited problems with the old website. For example, its front page was based on a blog style. This meant that the latest post which was posted anywhere on the site, would appear on the front page. We now have a simple but fixed home page to aid navigation.

We also had many navigation menus: 11 in fact. We have consolidated this down to 6: to make for easier navigation.

We plan to make further changes in the weeks and months after the conference. But, in the short term, the important thing was to ensure that a relatively stable website could provide all the information required for applicants and delegates at the conference.

Participation in Efpa: Ecpa Past President and current Board member, Cinzia Albanesi, informs the GA that in June a community psychology working group (Nicholas Carr, Minou Ella Mebane, Katriina Hyvonen, Wolfgang Stark, Serdar M. Değirmencioglu, Malwine Deckert) delivered the Green Paper “Community Psychology can help mitigate and adapt to the Climate Crisis by increasing Community Participation, Planetary Sense of Community and Climate Justice”. The green paper is a product of a community psychology working group that has collaborated under the auspices of three organisations, EFPA, ECPA and EFPSA. Furthermore, at conference in Cyprus in July 2025, EFPA voted the approval of “Community and Social intervention” as a field of practice in Psychology. This is a great achievement and ECPA is grateful to Isabel Herrera Sanchez for the hard work in the document preparation, and to the Standing Committee for supporting her work. ECPA thanks also Caterina Arcidiacono, for the work she did in EFPA lobbying for this achievement. As EFPA is changing the role of working groups, probably the Standing Committee in community psychology will lose its centrality in favour of ECPA, as affiliate to EFPA for community psychology. This means that we can/should support the activities needed to translate the field of practice in something concrete.

ECPA Awards: ECPA President, Francesca Esposito, announced the recipients of the 2025 ECPA Awards:

- The ECPA Lifetime Career Award 2025 was awarded to Bruna Zani.
- The ECPA Best Doctoral thesis award was awarded to Christian Compare.
- The ECPA Master Thesis Award was awarded to Francesca Margherita De Falco.

Awardees have been invited to address the General Assembly following their nomination.

ECPA Statement: The Board shared the newly released statement on the War in Gaza (now available on the ECPA website).

Plans for the future: This part of the GA was jointly chaired by all ECPA members and dedicated to discuss strategies, ideas, and plans for the future.

After discussion, some decisions were taken in terms of the future steps:

- Constitution of the Ecpa Award Committee: Serdar M. Değirmencioğlu and Wolfgang Stark expressed interest in being part of this Committee.
- New internal list serv/ mailing list: it was decided that the ECPA team will set up a new ECPA listserv dedicated to the exchange of opportunities, research projects, events, information amongst members - this will be an optional subscription.
- ECPA Charter of Values and Principles: It was decided that ECPA will embark on a collective process to define its own ethical values and principles, providing a solid foundation for members in these challenging times.
- Regular hybrid meetings: it emerged the suggestion to hold regular hybrid meetings to exchange information amongst community psychology groups across Europe. These meetings can also be a nice way to cultivate relationships amongst us. The ECPA Board committed to try to organise some hybrid meetings. At least one or two per year.
- Mapping and creating visibility on the experiences of community psychology that are happening in the different countries of ECPA members.
- Thematic working groups: The idea of establishing thematic working groups, similar to SCRA, was brought up during the discussion. However, it was agreed to begin with a general ECPA listserv and later assess whether creating thematic working groups would be meaningful and sustainable.
- Promoting circulation of students: The possibility of encouraging greater mobility among community psychology students across Europe was

discussed, for example, by promoting an international early research scheme in community psychology.

- EFPA Community and Social Intervention field of practice: It was also discussed and agreed that ECPA will take part in the process of operationalising the EFPA Community and Social Intervention field of practice in Psychology. In this view, the ECPA Board will contact EFPA expressing their willingness to actively participate in this process.

ECPA Biennial Conferences: The commitment to holding biennial ECPA Conferences, providing opportunities for community psychologists to connect across Europe, was reaffirmed. Accordingly, it was announced that the next ECPA Conference will take place in 2027 in Barcelona.

ECPA Election of the President and Treasurer: It was announced that the current mandates of the President and Treasurer will conclude in December 2025, and that new elections will be held. Maria João Vargas-Moniz and Caterina Arcidiacono shared information about ECPA's election procedures. Accordingly, an Electoral Commission was established, composed of Prof. Maria João Vargas-Moniz and Dr. Imma Di Napoli.

The meeting closed at 17:00. The ECPA Board thanked the participants and invited them to stay tuned for ECPA initiatives.