

The European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations

**A brief introduction:
who we are & what we do**

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EFPTA was founded in 2004 by psychology teachers from three European countries

- It is a federation of national and regional associations of psychology teachers in schools and colleges in European countries.
- Members are involved in teaching psychology mainly at high school level to students aged c.13-19 years.
- Our key aim is to promote and support high school/ pre-university level psychology education in Europe. We support teachers to establish an association if one doesn't exist yet in their country.
- EFPTA now has 12 member countries and our 2024 Conference in Helsinki in April will celebrate our 20th anniversary 



- Our member countries are represented on EFPTA Board which meets 4 – 5 times per year, including two held in-person (recently in Stockholm & Edinburgh).



- We facilitate cross-border cooperation and networking amongst psychology teachers, and encourage student and teacher collaborative projects.



- We hold in-person biennial conferences and annual webinars

- We engage with other psychologists' / psychology educators' organisations in Europe, e.g. Board of Educational Affairs of EFPA, & ESPLAT.
- We present at international conferences.



- We maintain a website, and we keep in touch regularly with our Europe-wide mailing list of contacts interested in psychology education.



EFPTA – collaboration Europe-wide & beyond

- We are making psychology teaching more international at high school level, certainly within Europe. We explore different psychology curricula and teaching traditions in different countries.
- Dialogue and sharing of idea and experiences across borders can only be beneficial for our practice, and ultimately for our young people.
- **Psychologists and psychology educators around the world increasingly recognise that global challenges need to be central to school curricula for young people, especially in psychology. So EFPTA is keen to support high school psychology teachers /curriculum designers in addressing global challenges, e.g. climate change, mental health. We encourage efforts to decolonise the curriculum; for example, by seeking conference contributions.**
- We take advantage of the increased opportunities for international participation, including beyond Europe, thanks to online technology; our webinars are available worldwide. Through contacts in Australia and the USA we have contributed to hybrid conferences based in these countries.
- **EFPTA is ready to build on this approach by developing links with interested psychologists / psychology educators, and engaging in networks for sharing information about high school/ pre-university psychology in different countries....**
- ... and we would welcome opportunities to collaborate with APA Div 52.



Some common challenges faced by high-school psychology teachers and students in Europe

Countries vary, but these concerns are shared by many of our member countries:

- There is a need to bridge the gap between sectors / levels of education, to improve integration of the psychology curriculum between high school and university and ensure a smooth transition for students.
- ‘The journey into psychology begins at school’, but there is sometimes low awareness and/or negative perceptions of high-school psychology amongst academics and psychologists in professional practice.
- Often the links between psychologists’ national associations and psychology teachers’ associations are limited.
- Psychology teachers and students are offered only limited involvement in high school curriculum development; government education departments (national /regional/ local) operate in a top-down rather than consultative manner.
- In many countries the provision of teacher education for psychology teachers is limited.
- **In EFPTA we will be interested to explore whether these challenges are shared in the international context.**

