

FACULTY OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Comenius University
Bratislava

INSTITUTE OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY



EFPTA

European Federation of
Psychology Teachers' Associations

Mapping Unknown Territories: EFPTA initiatives in the pre-tertiary teaching of psychology in Europe

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What is EFPTA?



- ✓ **The European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations (EFPTA)** has been founded in 2004 in Helsinki.
- ✓ EFPTA supports the **teaching of psychology at pre-tertiary level** of education in Europe.
- ✓ For a large number of students, the **journey into psychology starts at pre-university level**: a wide variety of psychology courses is available for students from 15 to 20 years of age (in some countries even for those under 15).
- ✓ EFPTA collects data from European countries about pre-tertiary teaching of psychology to **map the different paths into psychology among students**, to support psychology teachers, respond to their professional needs and promote the teaching of psychology in secondary education.

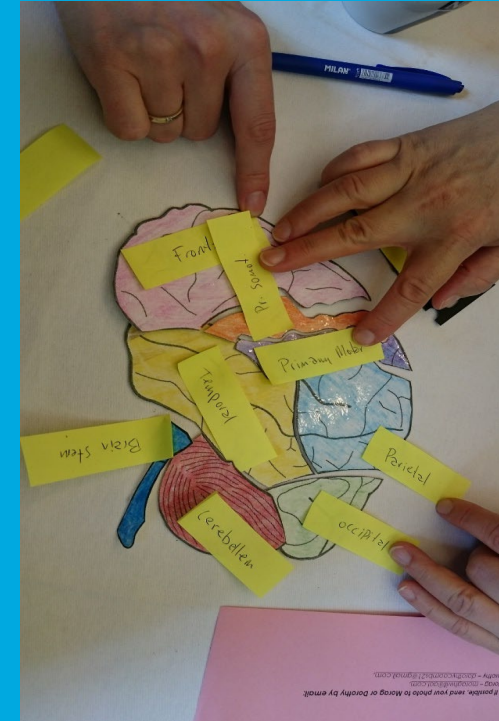
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Main goals of EFPTA

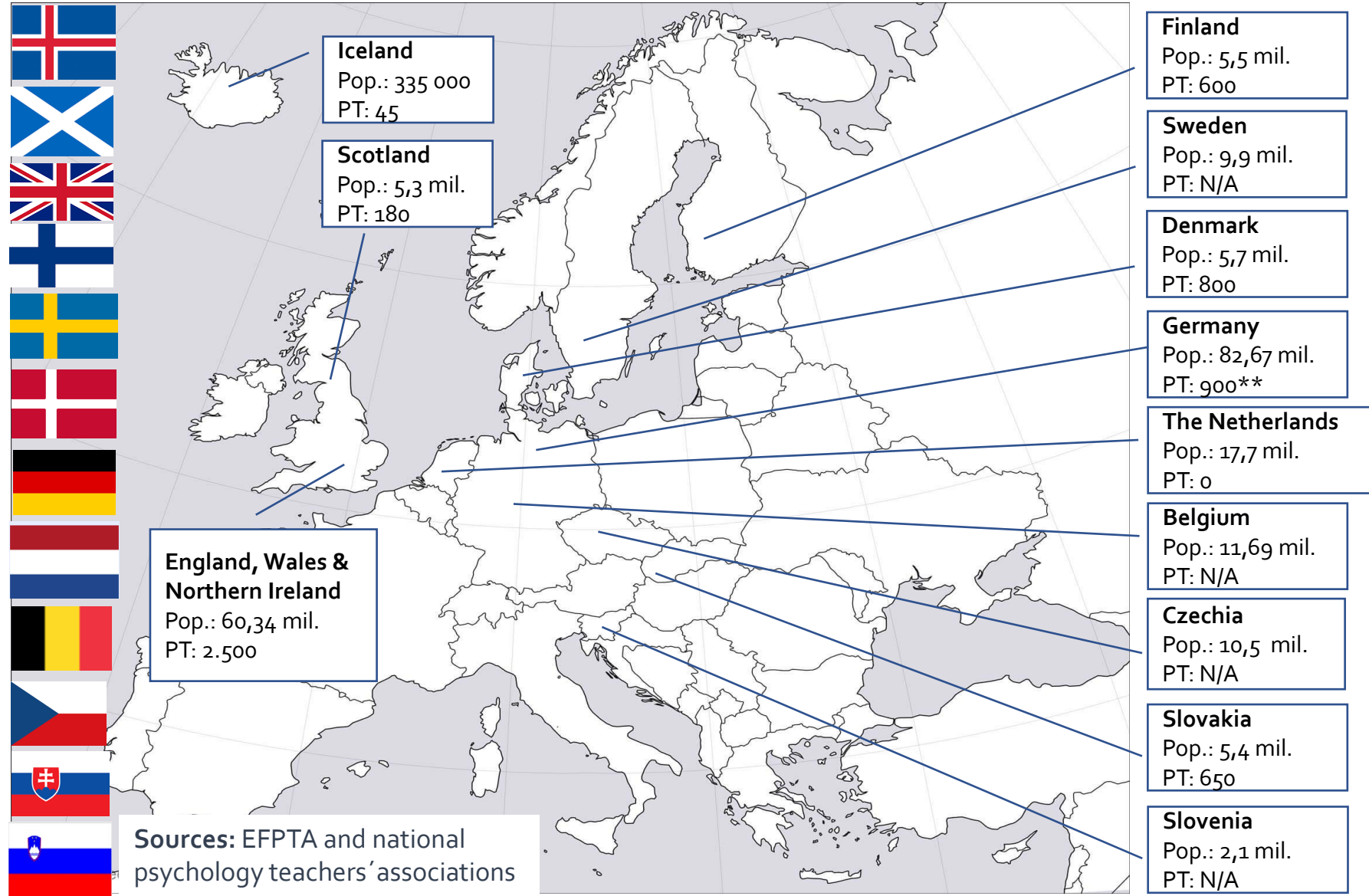
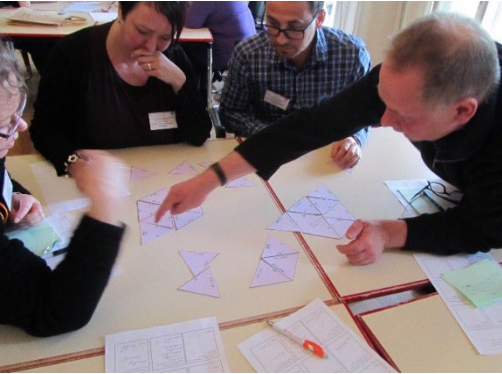


- ✓ promote psychology education at pre-university level,
- ✓ share knowledge and experience of teaching and learning in psychology,
- ✓ consider curriculum and assessment issues,
- ✓ share teaching methods and resources,
- ✓ consider issues of teacher education and professional development,
- ✓ promote exchanges and joint projects,
- ✓ support teachers to establish associations in their countries,
- ✓ influence policies on psychology education at European level,
- ✓ increase psychological literacy amongst the population.



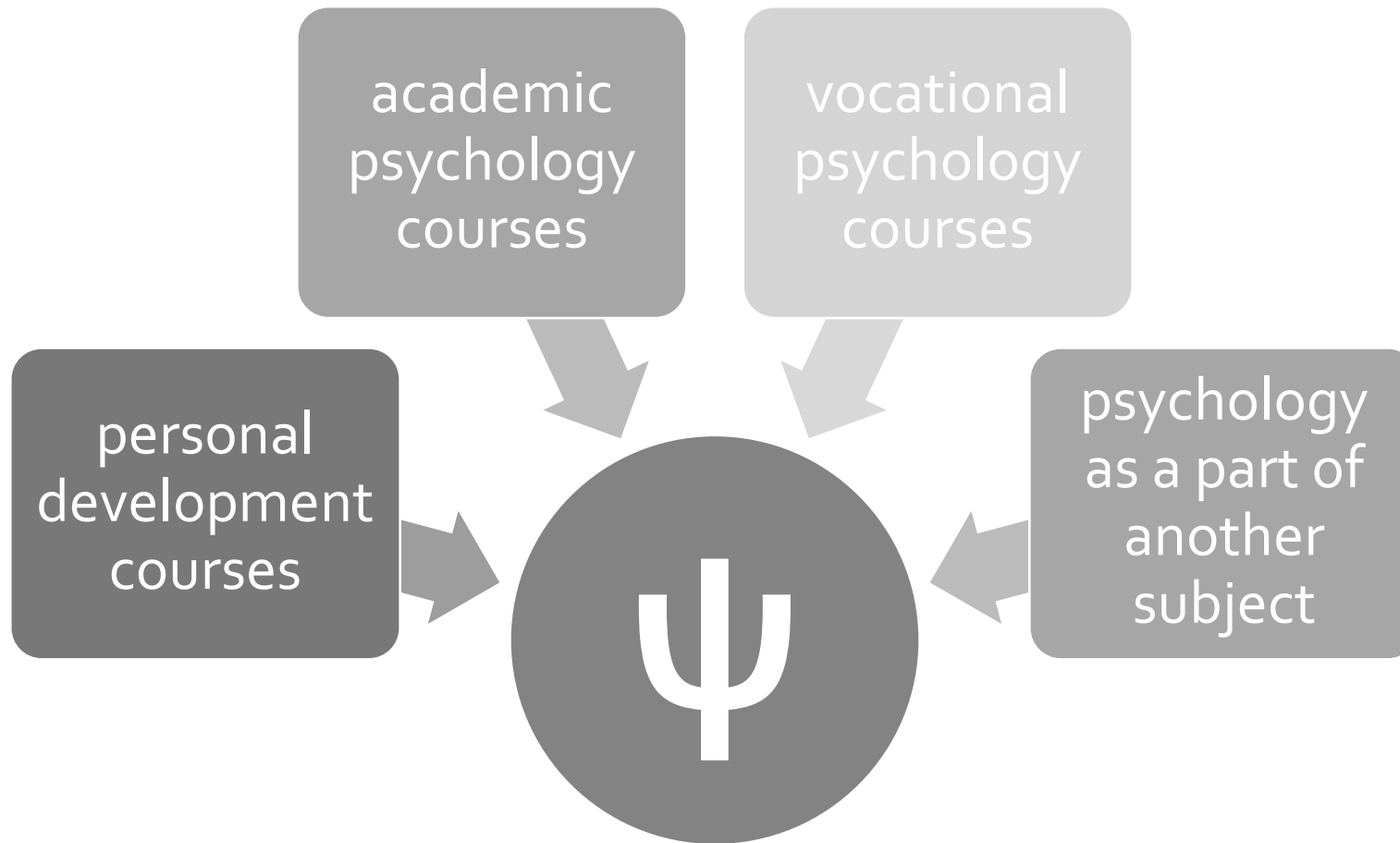
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EFPTA MEMBER COUNTRIES



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TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS EUROPE



(Sokolová et al., 2013; Williamson et al., 2015; Sokolová & Williamson, 2020)

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WHO ARE PSYCHOLOGY TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS?



(Sokolová et al., 2013; Williamson et al., 2015; Sokolová & Williamson, 2020)



Czech Republic 	Psychology is taught as a non-compulsory regular subject in general upper secondary education (age 16-19 year-olds), compulsory subject in some vocational schools, and elements of psychology are also included in the compulsory subject Social Studies.
Belgium 	Psychology in Flanders is first taught in upper secondary education for students aged 14-18 and covers 4 years of education. The courses are based on the national curriculum and have been revised in 2023. Psychology is a compulsory course for students following a study track in the domain of Society and Welfare.
Denmark 	Psychology is taught in upper secondary schools for students aged 16–20 years as a non-compulsory subject. The curriculum for psychology teaching is prescribed by the Ministry for Education.
England & Wales 	Psychology is one of the most popular subjects at A-level (16-19 year-olds) and it is available also as GCSE course for students from 14 to 16. In England, psychology is classified as a science subject.
Finland 	From 2005 every student has to study one course of psychology. Students are from 16 to 20 years old. About 80 % of this age group want to study psychology. There are a minimum of five psychology courses in each school.
Germany 	The conditions for psychology as a school subject vary among federal states. Most provide the subject at upper secondary level only (age 17-19). A few states do not yet offer psychology at all.

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Teaching Psychology around the World

(VOLUME 5)

Edited by

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 Alfredo Padilla López
 Liesel Ebersöhn
 Jacqui Taylor
 Shirley Morrissey



<p>Iceland</p> 	<p>Psychology is first taught in upper-secondary schools for students aged 16–20 years. It is a popular subject but usually it is not a mandatory subject for all students. Most often it is mandatory in programmes specially designed for those preparing for social sciences at university.</p>
<p>The Netherlands</p> 	<p>Despite the fact that education is already becoming more diverse, psychology is still missing from the school curriculum in the Netherlands. The project Psychology in Education provides modules, workshops and training sessions at secondary schools and vocational schools to increase the mental well-being and awareness of students</p>
<p>Scotland</p> 	<p>Higher Psychology is widely taught, mainly to students aged 16-18 years, and younger students (14-16 years) can also study psychology for national qualifications. Around 3,500 students take Higher Psychology each year, and there has been consistent growth in popularity of the subject since it started in 1999.</p>
<p>Slovakia</p> 	<p>Psychology is taught as a non-compulsory regular subject in general upper secondary education (age 16-19), compulsory subject in some vocational schools and elements of psychology are also included in the compulsory subject Social Studies/Citizenship education for both lower and upper secondary education.</p>
<p>Sweden</p> 	<p>Psychology in Sweden is first taught in upper secondary school for students aged 16-20 years. The courses are based on a national curriculum and have existed since 1965. Psychology 1 is mandatory for students studying the social science program and the economy program and optional on other programs.</p>

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TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS EUROPE: CURRENT CHALLENGES

- revisions of curricula
- motivation of psychology teachers to participate in national associations
- availability of teaching training and professional development
- addressing current societal issues (e.g., mental health awareness, climate changes, digital life etc.)

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FUTURE STEPS



- supporting international cooperation, continuous professional development and sharing the best practices among psychology teachers,
- setting standards for high quality of the teaching of psychology in schools,
- promoting links among different stakeholders (schools, universities, local and European authorities etc.),
- producing publications and research to highlight the evidence-based teaching of psychology in schools,
- raising the profile of psychology as a school subject to make it widely available and to develop psychological literacy and mental health literacy in young people.

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- Other resources are available on EFPTA website: www.efpta.org

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Thank you for your attention.

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