

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 at our 2024 Conference in Helsinki in April we celebrated 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 in projects with other psychologists' / psychology educators' organisations in Europe, e.g. Board of Educational Affairs of EFPA, and ESPLAT.
- We present at international conferences, such as the ECP.



- 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. We **compare and learn from different psychology curricula and teaching traditions** in different European countries.
- Dialogue and **sharing of idea and experiences across borders** are beneficial for our practice as teachers, and **for our young people**.
- We make the most of the **increased opportunities for international participation**, in Europe and beyond, that **online technology** offers:
 - **collaborative student projects** work well via online communication
 - our **webinars** are available worldwide
 - we have **contributed to hybrid conferences** taking place in Australia and the USA.





EFPTA in the global context

- Psychologists and educators around the world increasingly recognise that **global challenges need to be central to school curricula for young people**, including – and perhaps especially - in psychology.
- So EFPTA supports **high school psychology teachers and curriculum designers** in efforts to address such challenges, e.g. **climate change, mental health, decolonising the curriculum, conflict and violence.**



Some common challenges faced by high-school psychology teachers and students in Europe (1)

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** or even **negative perceptions of high-school psychology** amongst academics and practising psychologists.
- Often the links between **psychologists’ national associations** and **psychology teachers’ associations** are limited, though there are some notable exceptions, e.g. in Finland.



Some common challenges faced by high-school psychology teachers and students in Europe (2)

- Psychology teachers and students are frequently offered only **limited involvement in high school psychology curriculum development**; government education departments (national /regional/ local) often operate in a **top-down rather than consultative** manner.
- In many countries the provision of **teacher education for psychology teachers is limited**.
- **To what extent are these challenges found beyond Europe, in the international context? This is a question that EFPTA is interested in exploring.**



Thanks for your attention!

Find out more about EFPTA at www.efpta.org.

**Sign up to our mailing list via the website –
receive newsletters once or twice a year with info
about our conferences and other events.**

**Look out for news of our next conference in
spring 2026!**

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On twitter/X: [@EFPTApsychTeach](https://twitter.com/EFPTApsychTeach)

