

**European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations
Biennial Conference 2026: "Why (learning) psychology matters"
16-19 April 2026, Ljubljana**



Keynote Speaker: Ana Kozina

Abstract

Teachers' burnout in focus: The role of social-emotional competencies and diversity awareness

This talk will address a rise in reported emotional challenges, coupled with heightened stress and burnout among teachers in Europe, by discussing the role of teachers' social-emotional competencies and diversity awareness support. The neglect of teachers' social and emotional competencies and diversity awareness competencies is evident in research (the vast majority of research in the field targets students, less so teachers), policy (lack of systemic support) and practice (lack of support, especially long-term). In the field of education, attention has largely been given to curricula development and didactics and not to the relational process of teaching and learning. This process has resulted in teachers who know what and how to teach, but are not supported in navigating the complexities of the relationships in the classroom. The talk will build on the experiences in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions targeting teachers' social-emotional competencies and diversity awareness in a European perspective.

Biography

Ana Kozina is head of the Centre for Evaluation Studies at the Educational Research Institute of Slovenia and President of the Educational Research Scientific Council. Her research is focused on the field of developmental and educational psychology and within a broader context of educational research. She is strongly engaged in the international research community as the Slovenian representative in the International Association of Educators and in the European Commission's ENESET international network. As a Positive Youth Development Policy and Intervention Committee leader she is an active member of Positive Youth Development in a cross-national perspective research network.