

**European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations
Biennial Conference 2026: "Why (learning) psychology matters"
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Keynote Speaker: Katja Košir

Abstract

Psychology education as a context for fostering social and emotional learning and an inclusive classroom climate

This lecture will argue for the importance of social and emotional learning, grounding it both in the role that students' psychosocial wellbeing plays in academic learning and in the recognition of social and emotional learning as an educational goal in its own right. It will outline ways in which teachers, as formal leaders of the classroom, can foster an inclusive classroom climate. Contemporary scientific insights into the functioning of peer groups during adolescence and the contextual specificities of growing up in today's world will be presented. Finally, psychology education will be discussed as a uniquely privileged context in which social and emotional learning, as well as an inclusive classroom climate, can be strengthened through the academic curriculum.

Biography

Professor Katja Košir, PhD in psychology, is a lecturer at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts at the University of Maribor. She works with future teachers, psychologists and (inclusive) pedagogues; in addition, she participates in the teacher education training program (PAI). Her research interests are mainly focused on various aspects of supporting social and emotional learning in schools, as well as on bullying. As an implementer of various trainings for professionals in the field of education, she strives to transfer scientific findings into practice and to effectively integrate and co-operate between academic community and educational institutions. She is a counsellor and supervisor for the online counselling service *To sem jaz* ("This is Me") and a recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence from the University of Maribor.