



NEWSLETTER EDITOR: BARBARA REICHLE NEWSLETTER Nr. 1 AUGUST 2015

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# Letter from the President, Frosso Motti-Stefanidi



Dear colleagues,

I want to welcome you to the first EADP Newsletter!

During the last EADP council meeting that took place in Braga, September 2014, we decided to prepare yearly a newsletter. Newsletters will be another means of communication with EADP members. You will be informed of new activities and developments regarding our association. Professor Barbara Reichle is the Editor of our Newsletters.

During the 2013-2015 term, we continued in the EADP tradition to organize events such as our well-known summer/winter schools and conference, but we also launched new activities.

First, we developed and launched a new website (please see <a href="http://www.eadp.info">http://www.eadp.info</a>). EADP council member Professor Peter Titzmann was responsible for its development and is of its administration.

Second, we embarked on a new goal – the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge to inform European public policy and the broader public of relevant developmental research. Accordingly, for the first time at an EADP conference, we are organizing a debate on the translation of developmental science into meaningful recommendations for policy makers in Europe and beyond. With this goal in mind, we have invited Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, and Professor Christiane Spiel, University of Vienna, Austria, to organize the first debate and host it as moderators. This exciting new event will take place in Braga, September 11th, 2015, 14.30 - 16.00.

To further pursue the realization of this new goal- translation of science to policy- Professor Ersilia Menesini became the Communications Officer of our association.

Third, we gave during this period special emphasis to capacity building events, such as scientific and grant writing, and advanced statistics/methods. Towards that end, Dr. Radosveta Dimitrova, Chair of our Early Researchers' Union, organized 2 writing weeks. Furthermore, we are organizing such a capacity building preconference-event in Braga. Jacobs Foundation generously supports these events.

To ensure the smooth collaboration between the EADP and our conference organizers towards the preparation of the conference scientific programs we have instituted a new role. Our Program Officer is professor Rosario Rueda.

Last but not least, we initiated collaboration with other learned societies. For example, as member of the International Consortium of Developmental Science Societies, the EADP is contributing to

the realization of its first meeting, and the EADP together with SRA are contributing towards the realization of an SRCD-funded Experts' meeting that will take place next week in Greece.

You will find more information regarding these initiatives in the pages of this Newsletter.

I hope you are having a relaxing and fun summer!

See you soon in Braga!

Frosso Motti

President of EADP

#### **EADP New Initiatives:**

# 1. From Science to Public Policy, by Ersilia Menesini



#### EADP new initiative: research dissemination, policy and media

The European Association of Developmental Psychology has decided to prioritize the dissemination of research-based results and projects to inform European policy makers, professionals, psychologists, educators, and other stakeholders on the relevant findings of developmental research studies.

In recent years, growing attention has been paid to translational research in psychology. This is an approach to integrate, instead of separate, basic and applied research. In response to the community calling for more usable research findings, developmental psychology scholars are dealing with topics and problems that can have practical implications for children's development and societal well-being.

In our association, translational studies have had a long tradition of attention. Most of our training schools and special initiatives have been devoted to translation research topics, such as parent-child interaction and family interventions, acculturation processes in peer contexts and society and interventions related to risk behaviour and health prevention during adolescence.

Trying to give higher visibility to this tradition, the EADP council appointed a small committee, composed of Professor Motti-Stefanidi (President), Professor Ersilia Menesini (Communications Officer) and decided to work along three pathways to fulfill three main aims in this area.

Dissemination initiative at each biennial Conference of EADP

The council decided to hold a policy-relevant meeting in each biennial conference starting from Braga Conference 2015 on. This can take the form of a public lecture, a seminar, or a workshop directed to a larger audience, involving discussion with journalists, politicians, and policy makers.

In addition, seminars and workshops addressing translational research will be promoted at each

#### EADP conference.

Press Releases of relevant papers in the EJDP

The council decided to dedicate higher attention to the dissemination of papers published in EJDP. To this regard, the authors of papers that are *relevant for policy implications* will be asked to prepare a brief summary to be disseminated as press release.

#### Policy reports

The council will disseminate through the newsletter brief summaries of selected research or initiatives that can be particularly relevant for their practical implications.

Further initiatives in this area will be undertaken after an evaluation of the past and current activities at the next conference in Braga (2015).

In this line, two events, a debate and a preconference workshop, are organized at the ECDP17 Braga conference.

#### **EADP Science For POLICY DEBATE at the Braga ECDP17 Conference**

During the period 2013-2015 the EADP embarked on a new goal – the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge to inform European public policy and the broader public of relevant developmental research. Accordingly, for the first time at an EADP conference, we are organizing a debate on the translation of developmental science into meaningful recommendations for policy makers in Europe and beyond. With this goal in mind, we have invited Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, and Professor Christiane Spiel, University of Vienna, Austria, to organize the first debate and host it as moderators. *This EADP Science For Policy Debate will take place at the Braga ECDP17 Conference*, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 14.30 - 16.00

Chair: Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, EADP President

Organizers and Moderators: Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen & Professor Christiane Spiel

The invited speakers are:

Professor Eveline Crone, Leiden University, The Netherlands, on "Adolescent Brain Development: Risks and Opportunities"

Professor Hirokazu Yoshikawa, New York University, USA, on "Children in the Age of Sustainable Development"

Professor Hans-Peter Blossfeld, European University Institute, Italy

The debate will be moderated by Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen and Professor Christiane Spiel, both researchers in developmental science with a policy mind.

After the debate, a reception will follow.

# Braga Pre-Conference Workshop "Towards Reducing the Research-Practice Gap in Developmental Psychology"

Scientific research in developmental psychology is concerned with many topics that are of high societal relevance. Yet, this knowledge often remains largely within the scientific community

and is published in outlets that are unknown by practitioners and policy makers. Most of the time, the focus in research is limited on explaining developmental processes and their associations with conditions and outcomes, while it could easily be applied to scientifically based interventions for the improvement of human development in all age periods. As part of the new EADP initiative, there will be a one-day workshop for young scholars on this issue, which is also known as the research-practice gap.

The workshop is *organised by Dr. Maja Schachner and Dr. Loes Kejisers*. The aim is to sensitise young scholars to the issue, and show up ways towards reducing this gap. In particular, it will focus on the following three topics: (1) designing and implementing intervention studies, (2) communicating scientific results to an applied audience, and (3) getting involved with policy and decision makers.

Experts on these topics include Professor Barbara Reichle (Ludwigsburg University of Education, Germany), Dr. Metin Özdemir (Örebro University, Sweden), Professor Martyn Barrett (University of Surrey, UK) and Professor Christiane Spiel (University of Vienna, Austria). The workshop is generously supported by the Jacobs Foundation, which provides ten scholarships for young scholars.

#### **EADP New Initiatives:**

# 2. Newsletter, by Barbara Reichle



Dear EADP Members, dear colleagues,

It was Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, our tireless president, who had the wonderful idea that we need a newsletter. And I agree with her. So here it is, the first EADP-newsletter. I hope you like it, and please take some time to give us your feedback. Newsletters come to live when members participate in them. So please send me your suggestions concerning new sections, or dropping useless or boring sections, let me know about activities of general interest (conferences, new books, interesting papers, awards, history, and science politics) and I'll be happy to include your input into the next newsletter. I hope to have a next newsletter ready by the end of the year.

Have a great summer, and do come to Braga, it is worth it (I've checked it out last fall)!

#### **EADP New Initiatives:**

3. New Website, by Peter Titzmann





Over the past decades, the demands for functionality and design of websites have changed dramatically. As a result, the long-standing website of the European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP) could not meet expectations of researchers from inside and outside our organization anymore. The EADP council therefore decided to develop and launch a new website. All members of the EADP council were involved in the definition of requirements for content and user friendliness.

As a result, the new site offers easy access to information on our organization, meetings, our journal, EADP awards, and much more. Also, the Early Researchers Union (ERU) received an area for their activities. Furthermore, and the News section does inform about upcoming conferences, collaborations and displays job advertisements in the area of developmental psychology. We herewith invite you to explore our new website at http://www.eadp.info/.

Nevertheless, although brand-new, the website will undergo further changes in the near future. Particularly the area of membership will be restructured. We currently work on an implementation of an online form for membership applications and membership renewal, which will be much more convenient for our members. This form has to be developed in collaboration with the publisher of our societies' outlet, the European Journal of Developmental Psychology (EJDP). The delay of implementing this form is due to the high standards of confidentiality and security we want to offer to our members, which cannot be met with the usual website setup. In addition to changes in the membership area, the newsletters will be published online in a News subsection. Currently, the website is administered by Peter F. Titzmann. If you have suggestions or information that would be relevant for our members, send an email to <a href="mailto:titzmann@jacobscenter.uzh.ch">titzmann@jacobscenter.uzh.ch</a>.

# **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

4. Report of the editor of the European Journal of Developmental Psychology, by Willem Koops



Thomson Reuters Citation Data about the European Journal of Developmental Psychology were released in June 2015 and the Impact Factor is **1.721**. This is a beautiful jump from 1.219 in 2013. Because of this IF the Journal is now ranked 35th of the 68 international journals of Developmental Psychology (SSCI).

Interesting data: the production backlog has decreased considerably, and it currently takes about 7 months between manuscript acceptance and issue publication; the journal received 32500 downloads in 2014; the most downloaded paper is: "The changing role of the father in the family" by Dorothea E. Dette-Hagenmeyer, Andrea B. Erzinger and Barbara Reichle, published in Vol. 11, No 2, March 2014; the top cited paper is "A checklist for testing measurement invariance" by Rens van de Schoot, Peter Lugtig, and Joop Hox, published in Vol. 9, No 4., 2012; articles in the Cyberbullying special issue (Volume 9, Issue 2) received on average 9.8 citations each. Generally special issues and special sections are doing very well.

As editor I am happy with these results and I hope that the membership realizes that these are the results of the hard work of the Associate Editors: Monika Knopf (in 2015 followed by Dagmar Strohmeier), Olga Kochukhova, Ersilia Menesini and Rens van de Schoot (and all the reviewers willing to collaborate with them!). Of course we all still will try to move up to the top further and, together with our Publisher, we will seek ways to reach that top.

# **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

5. Early Researchers' Union (ERU), by Radosveta Dimitrova, Chair of ERU



The Early Researchers' Union (ERU) at the European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP) was established in 2008 in order to increase opportunity for network, collaboration and knowledge exchange of student and young members of the EADP at the early stages of their career <a href="http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/">http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/</a>.

ERU is meant for undergraduate students, graduate/PhD students, researchers, postdocs, or junior faculty members (up to assistant professorship) primarily interested in developmental psychology and/or an area relevant to the study of human development. In addition to the Board members (President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer), ERU consists of approximately 30 national representatives in their respective countries across Europe. See

more details on how to join us at http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/how-to-join/.

An important acknowledgement for ERU was represented by a special section in the Newsletter of the APA Division 52, International Psychology, where all ERU/EADP initiatives were highly appreciated and disseminated (more details at page 29 of

http://internationalpsychology.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/ipb winter 2014-1-20-2 final.pdf

The ERU/EADP organizes the following key initiatives:

**ERU/EADP Writing week** (the last two editions have been extremely successful as testified by the number of papers (five papers for each writing week edition), which were developed and published following these events. For more details see ERU Newsletters <a href="http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/newsletters/">http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/newsletters/</a>

**ERU Events at the EADP Biennial Meeting** (ERU lecture, ERU best poster award, ERU social event) and **ERU Newsletter** (4 per year) more at <a href="http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/newsletters/">http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/newsletters/</a>

# **ERU EVENTS AT THE EADP conference in Braga:**

http://ecdpbraga2015.com/scientificprogram.php

**ERU Best Poster Award** 

**ERU Poster Session** 

**ERU Preconference Workshop** 

**ERU Lecture Meet the Editors** 

**ERU General Assemble** 

JACOBS FOUNDATION /EADP PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP, see Nr. 9, p. 13 below

### **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

6. Lausanne Conference 2013, by Blaise Pierrehumbert



From the final report of the Lausanne Local Organizing Committee on the 2013 conference:

#### 1. Attendance

was around 1.100 participants, including locals and staff; participants came from 53 countries; we had around 1.100 presentations. Interestingly, the country with the highest number of papers was Japan.

### 2. Program

Eight keynotes had been invited, plus the presidential address, as well as 10 symposia. In addition, there were three invited round tables. Besides, there were 140 symposia (organized in 10 sessions), including thematic sessions, invited symposia and workshops, representing a total of around 600 presentations. Finally, there were six poster sessions (around 520 posters), some of them organized as posters symposia.

A pre-congress conference, invited by UNIL, had been scheduled for the local public (around 1'000 participants). In addition, six pre-conferences and two post-conferences have been organized (one of then sponsored by Jacobs).

Thirty young researchers have been selected by an ad hoc committee and received a Jacobs fellowship for travel and accommodation (1'000 €).

EADP ERU (Early Researchers' Union, see above) included an ERU meeting, an ERU social event, a "writing week" (invited by EADP), a poster session on the best poster award, and a ERU lecture on presentation skills.

The social program included a speakers' dinner, a conference dinner, the Braga reception, the welcome and the closing receptions, plus a program of outings for guests and accompanying persons.

# **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

7. Butterworth & William Thierry Preyer Awards,
by Frosso Motti-Stefanidi
and Ana Almeida





The Excellence in Research on Human Development Award and the Young Scientist Award were launched in 2007 at the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> biennial European Conference of Development Psychology in Jena, Germany. Both awards would be from its onset a tribute of the European Society for Developmental Psychology to William Thierry Preyer and George Butterworth, honoring the genius and the novelty of research in human development.

Regardless a still short history, the two awards have borne the spirit of excellence of its foundation. The four former editions the Preyer and the Butterworth awards thrived to distinguish European psychologists, whose work, at different periods of their research careers, had been internationally recognized for its original and outstanding contribution to the understanding of human development in context and in a lifespan perspective (more information at <a href="http://www.eadp.info/awards/">http://www.eadp.info/awards/</a>).

Until now, every biennial meeting of the European Association of Developmental Psychology features the announcement of the awardees during the opening ceremony, who are also bespoken in the context of special events during the conference.

# **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

# 8. Braga Conference, by Ana Almeida and Isabel Soares





Braga welcomes the 17<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Developmental Psychology in 2015!

The 17<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Developmental Psychology will be held from September 8-12

in Braga, Portugal.

The hosting organization is the University of Minho, a proud conference venue for hosting the

The hosting organization is the University of Minho, a proud conference venue for hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting of EADP, and welcoming in campus one of the most important foreground stages of today's developmental psychology.

Under the auspices of the EADP, the organizing committee of the upcoming conference aims to consolidate the experience of sixteen previous editions of successful scientific forums, providing the context to a permanent network of researchers encompassing the board field of developmental psychology. The diversity of themes of the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial of EADP draws a map where classic topics such as cognition, emotion, moral, assessment and methods, personality, family, peers are filed under studies of developmental neurosciences, neurodevelopmental genetics, sociocultural issues in developmental psychology, applied developmental psychology, and developmentrics.

An international panel of experts in developmental science will be leading a very ambitious scientific program. Plenary sessions, invited paper symposia, poster sessions and thematic grouped-presentations, preconference workshops specially addressed to the early careers will fill up a daily program, approaching researchers and facilitating informal get-together. Closing these stimulating yet intense days at the conference, a live social program with a strong ethnographic sense will echo the richness of north Portugal.

Situated in the heart of the Minho region, Braga treasures its ancient history from the Roman and the medieval eras carrying it into a modern, warm at-heart and festive city. Not distant from Braga, at a 20 kilometer ride, is Guimarães, world heritage and 2012 European Capital of Culture, and less than 50 kilometer ride is Porto, recently awarded the best European destination in 2014. Endless places of enchantment, amazing landscapes, gastronomy, culture and fun are easily accessible and worthy the time for its discovery.

# **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

9. EADP Jacobs Foundation Preconference, by Frosso Motti-Stefanidi and Radosveta Dimitrova





Organizers: Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, EADP President, and Radosveta Dimitrova, Chair of EADP-ERU

We are happy to announce a capacity-building workshop that the EADP organizes in collaboration with the EADP-ERU and with the financial support of Jacobs Foundation.

The workshop features two events conducted by distinguished colleagues:

Scientific Writing: Professor Robert Kail, Purdue University, Editor of Child Development Perspectives

**Grant Writing: Professor Susan Branje, Utrecht University** 

The workshop will be conducted at the **Braga Conference site from 9am to 4pm, September 8, 2015**.

The instructors will present the main principles guiding good scientific and grant writing (what to do, how to do it, what not to do), and will provide intensive hands-on experience on the topic. They also will consult participants on their own work.

The workshop includes 14 participants, mainly young scholars. EADP members, and preferably EADP-ERU members, had clear priority. Applicants sent an application for an oral presentation or a poster at the conference and applied for a travel grant. Travel grants will be 700 euros each, and are funded by the Jacobs Foundation.

#### **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

10. EADP Jacobs Foundation Summer School 2014, by Frosso Motti-Stefanidi and Radosveta Dimitrova





Since 2008 and with the generous financial support of Jacobs Foundation, the European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP) has been organizing Summer Schools. These Summer Schools have a common theme and are a training ground for young scholars interested in child and adolescent development. Established researchers recognized for their expertise and teaching abilities, work with doctoral and post-doctoral students for five, intensive days of research training.

Last year, the EADP-Jacobs Foundation Summer School took place on the Greek island of

Syros, June 15-19, 2014, on the topic: "Risk and Resilience: Multilevel Dynamics". Dr. Frosso Motti-Stefanidi (University of Athens, Greece) and Dr. Ann S. Masten (University of Minnesota, USA) with the assistance of Dr. Radosveta Dimitrova (EADP Early Researchers' Union), were organizers of the Summer School.

The scientific program included lectures by Prof. Ann Masten, Jens Asendorpf, Manuel Voelkle, Christine Heim, Michael Pluess, Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, Froma Walsh and Katariina Salmela-Aro. Twenty four young scholars from seven European countries attended the school lectures, gave talks during a poster session, and mutually exchanged their research perspectives. A full report and feedback from participants can be found on the ERU Newsletter from August 2014 http://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/newsletters/



#### **Reports and News regarding EADP Activities:**

11. Relationships of EADP with other International Learned Societies, by Luc Goossens and Frosso Motti-Stefanidi





Our Association continues to enjoy good relationships with other learned societies and organizations with objectives similar to our own. At our upcoming biennial conference in Braga (Portugal) in early September, we will continue the tradition we started two years ago at our Lausanne conference and organize an Integrative Psychological Science Symposium in close collaboration with the Association for Psychological Science (APS). At this symposium, which is entitled "What can cognitive neuroscience tell us about development?" and will be chaired by Annette Karmiloff-Smith, specialists from Europe and North-America will illustrate how we can

arrive at a better understanding of cognitive development in both typical and atypical pediatric populations using a variety of different neuroimaging technologies. Recently, our long-standing collaboration with the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) has also been strengthened and deepened. Our Association has moved from Affiliate membership to the status of Associate membership, as a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of the two organizations at a meeting in Brussels early this year. Our President-Elect, Katariina Salmela-Aro (University of Helsinki, Finland) has attended the EFPA General Assembly at the 14<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychology in Milan (Italy) in early July on behalf of our Association.

#### An SRCD-funded event in collaboration with EADP AND EARA:

SRCD funded a proposal prepared by Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, on behalf of SRCD'S International Affairs Committee and Radosveta Dimitrova, on behalf of SRCD's Ethnic and Racial Diversity Committee, to organize an experts' meeting on the topic of immigrant youth adaptation and well-being. The main goal of the meeting is to generate new insight on explanatory mechanisms on what is presently known about positive youth development (PYD) and positive adaptation of immigrant youth from a global perspective. The organization of this meeting has provided a venue for collaboration between SRCD with the European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP) and the European Association of Research in Adolescence (EARA). Fifteen experts from the USA and Europe will take part in the meeting. EADP and EARA will each cover the expenses of one of the European participants. The meeting will take place September, 16-20, 2015 on the island of Hydra in Greece.

# Other Interesting News

Radosveta Dimitrova recommends:

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY to be held in Granada (Spain), in the Hotel `Nazaries Business SPA' from 20 to 22 November, 2015.

http://www.hotelnazariesgranada.com/es/fotos-videos/

http://www.society-in-science.org/home.html

# Special:

# A bit of History: Historical Recollections about Harry, George and Sandy, by Willem Koops



From the first days of the existence of the European Conferences on developmental psychology, I was involved in the organization and I remember well the difficulties and problems to get a few very strong characters collaborate. The first initiative came from Sandy Jackson. Sandy was originally from Scotland and moved in 1977 to the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. He organized the first Conference in Groningen in 1984. At that time the European conferences were seen as conferences under the auspices of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD). The European conferences took place in the off years of ISSBD. ISSBD had a strong say in the organization of the conferences: for many years I was, in my capacity of member of the Council of ISSBD (for several years I was the Secretary General of ISSBD), a member of all the organizing committees of the European Conferences (after Groningen: Rome, Budapest, Sterling, Seville, Bonn and Krakow).

There were two strong scholars involved in all these European Conferences: George Butterworth and Harry McGurk, actually both international renowned developmental psychologists. George was very English: he always explained to us how awful the American language was disturbing the original civilized English language. I could not get him more angry than by explaining that the American language is – according to the history of languages experts – closer to Shakespeare than modern English. Although George was a great scholar and internationally very active and famous (that's why we created the George Butterworth award, to honor George), he was not very American-oriented. He did not like the supervision of ISSBD that in his time was what he called "invaded" by American scholars. He therefore wanted to separate the European conferences from ISSBD. As a representative of ISSBD I was strongly against such a divorce. That did not impress George.

Harry McGurk was a very Scottish man: he did not like the English that much, he even preferred the American colleagues above English colleagues. Harry was active in ISSBD (was one of the Presidents of this organization). He found a European organization too local and preferred the international flavor of ISSBD.

The two men were colleagues of course, and they really respected each other, but they disagreed on nearly anything. I learned from Harry that officially a particular flower (dianthus barbarous) is called in England: "sweet William" and the same flower is called in Scotland "stinking Billy". I remember also that once I arrived late in the evening in the Scottish city of Stirling, to visit George Butterworth, who has been working for some years at the newly established Stirling University (where he organized in 1990 the biennial European Conference). It was raining (as nearly always in Scotland) and I was lost. I asked a person in the street: "Sir do you speak English?" (a stupid question, but I was tired) and the man said: "No sir, Scottish." And he walked away! So George and Harry were acting from a long history of little affection between the English and the Scottish...In many meetings in which the possibility of "freeing" European developmental psychology from ISSBD was discussed, Harry and George, each with

their followers, were loudly disagreeing.

Eventually George finally succeeded in institutionalizing the European Society for Developmental Psychology as a separate autonomous organization (in 1997 at the end of the conference in Rennes). At that time Harry was the President of ISSBD (and I was the Secretary General and worked with him). Harry and I decided not to become members of the new European Society; we disagreed with the necessity to separate from the only international organization for developmental psychologists, that was (and is) the ISSBD. George became the President and remained the President until his sudden passing away in 2000, as the consequence of a very sad accident. Harry McGurk had passed away in 1998 as a consequence of complications after a heart operation.

The first secretary/treasurer of the European Society was Sandy Jackson, a very nice open, friendly and respected scholar. After the death of George Butterworth, he and the then active intermittent President of the European Society, Michel Deleau from Rennes, contacted me to ask whether they could seduce me to become the President. And both colleagues explained that I was needed to restore the international contact of the European Society with other international learned Societies, in the first place with ISSBD. That was the way they indeed successfully seduced me and so I became President of the European Society in 2002. And from then on I became more and more enthusiastic about European Developmental Psychology, not as a different kind of psychology, but as universal developmental science executed within a "local", European cultural and societal context.

One of the difficulties that we had to conquer was to get access to the money of the Society in Barclays bank in London (in branches of the bank in other countries in Europe this was according to the English rules of the Bank impossible). It turned out that only the Secretary/treasurer of the original organization (Michel Deleau) had access, because he never was replaced officially by someone else. We could not change that for many years. Even far after Michel was followed by a new treasurer. The difficulty had to do with English laws: it is obligatory to have sufficient UK members in the board of any organization, that wants to operate from an English bank. We finally could only solve the problem by institutionalizing a new organization (the European Association of Developmental Psychology) under Dutch law (Dutch law is extremely friendly for international organizations) and then gradually move all the money with the help of Michel Deleau from the bank of the old organization to a Dutch bank (ING). I think that probably on paper we still exist in England, but then in the shape of a dead Society, with only one pound Stirling in Barclays' bank, and without members. In this difficult long process we were advised by an intelligent lawyer, who did this work out of love for me as the President (she is my daughter).

I don't want to make wrong impressions: the discussions that were led by George and Harry moved most of the time within the borders of civilized communication, and the discussions were great fun! I liked both persons. And that eventually we all engaged ourselves in the European Society/Association was possible by George's endurance and organizational talent and by his confidence in European developmental science. And our consciousness of having to be not just European, but really international, is the result of Harry's input. And without the endless patience and diplomacy of Sandy Jackson we would not exist: he was the mediator between George and Harry and he seduced several colleagues to be involved in the European Society (like myself). To be honest: nobody could resist the kind invitations of Sandy Jackson.

Sadly Sandy passed away in 2003 after many years of suffering from cancer.

When I ended after 10 years my two terms of a deanship at Utrecht University in 2012, I received a wonderful book (a so-called liber amicorum or Festschrift) edited and written by friends from all over the world. The title was Du choc des opinions jaillit la lumière, which is a classic French expression, meaning "The clash of opinions generates light". The coming into existence of the European Association of Developmental Psychology is a beautiful example of an Enlightening product of a "choc des opinions", a clash of opinions.