

Editorial

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The last couple of months have been a challenging time for all of us. We have all been and still are adjusting to a “new normal” – a new way of working, handling our family lives and maybe even finding a new way of enjoying our free time. The article by Köning, Roomaney, and Cipolletta depicts this genuine situation we are in at the moment by reporting about the responses to Covid-19 by the National Delegates of the European Health Psychology Society.

Moreover, this issue showcases the excellent work that the EHPS as a society is doing on an international level. Muindi, Gitau, Hale and Michie report about their work in Africa. We also have two reports about the involvement of the EHPS in the work of the United Nations demonstrating the formal affiliation with the UN. This is accompanied by a call for submissions of papers focusing on the application of health psychology approaches in any of the areas of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Laura Köning, Rizwana Roomaney, and Sabrina Cipolletta report on behalf of the EHPS National Delegates about Health Psychologists' responses to COVID-19. Their report is based on a poll that has been administered via the National Delegate officer to EHPS national delegates. Three questions had been asked: 1. How is your country coping with COVID 19 emergency? 2. How are you personally coping? and 3. What else might be done? The current article summarizes and categorizes the responses and presents the conclusion that experts in health psychology form an important part of the healthcare team and play

a crucial role in restoring the mental health of people throughout the world.

Kanyiva Muindi, Hellen Gitau, Joanna Hale and Susan Michie write about “**Research in Africa: Lessons learnt from participatory research in Kenya**”. This article covers reflections and lessons learnt based on a roundtable discussion at the 2019 EHPS conference in Dubrovnik (Croatia). The authors emphasize that in low- and middle-income countries the research should increasingly use a participative approach with community partners to design research questions and interventions to make sure that the derived activities are being implemented. They summarize their recommendations in five lessons learnt, which are being described in the article. The authors conclude that it is important to communicate to stakeholders and non-academic partners what is realistic and deliverable throughout the project and what is not.

In her piece “**Healthy Planet, Healthy People – Reflections on the United Nations Association Web Talk**” **Josianne Kollmann** informs about an UN hosted web talk delivered by Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme. In her talk, Inger Andersen stresses that climate change is still of utmost importance, even when facing a global pandemic. In her conclusion, Ms. Andersen stresses that the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to help understand that humans have a vital impact on the environment and climate. This impact should be used for a sustainable change towards a healthy planet and healthy people. The Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to bring home to the public that humans have a vital impact on environment and

climate. This impact, however, bears not only responsibilities but also a huge chance for a sustainable change towards a healthy planet and healthy people.

Philipp Kadel reports about the UN Global Youth Townhall Meeting which aimed to gather the global youth's input for the UN75 declaration. It will be adopted in September 2020 for the UN's 75th Anniversary. The three most important issues that had been discussed during the meeting were, recovery from COVID-19, global peace and security and tackling climate change. An inspiring and diverse group of young speakers discussed these issues with the two co-facilitators of the UN75 declaration.

Through our formal affiliation with the UN, the EHPS works to support sustainable development through the implementation of health psychology research and practice to improve health around the globe. As a society, we are ensuring that the sustainable development goals are reflected in our research and projects. Therefore, **Lucia Rehackova and Maria Karekla** are inviting **submissions** of papers focusing on the application of health psychology approaches in any of the areas of the Sustainable Development Goals for publication in a special issue of the European Health Psychologist. More information about the scope and the review process, can be found in this issue.

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