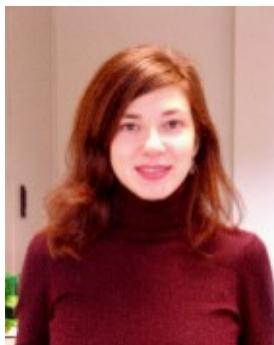


EHPS Subcommittees

Results of the EHPS Member survey

**Youlia Spivak**

on behalf of EHPS
Research Collaboration
Sub-committee

Youlia Spivak
Jacobs Center for Lifelong
Learning and Institutional
Development,
International University
Bremen, Germany

Email:
y.spivak@iu-bremen.de

The main goal of the survey was threefold: 1) to collect information about existing research activities in international collaboration projects, 2) to explore whether EHPS should be involved in professional organisations and in what function and 3) to explore whether members wish to be included in the EHPS Research and Collaboration Database (RECORD).

Research Activities

Fifty-nine EHPS members took part in the EHPS member survey. Twenty-one participants (37%) were involved in funded research projects in the recent past. Most projects were funded by the EU, followed by the WHO and other not further specified organisations. Among others, participants were involved in the following EU-funded projects:

- “Tackling Inequalities in Health”,
- “Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Preventive Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries”,
- “European 5th Framework research project about genetic education of non-genetic health-care providers”,
- “Diet, obesity and genes (DIOGENES)”,
- “Exploiting bioactivity of European cereal grains for improved nutrition and health benefits (HEALTHGRAIN)”,
- “Choosing foods, eating meals: sustaining independence and quality of life in older people (SENIOR FOOD-QOL)” etc.

Further, participants were involved in different WHO-funded research projects, for example, “Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)” or “Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)”.

Thirteen participants (27%) indicated receiving joint funding together with their collaboration partners. Again, the majority of funding was received from the EU (62%). Eleven participants (21%) were involved in different international organisations. The majority was involved within the EU or was working for the WHO, mostly as reviewers of research proposals or as consultants.

Desirability of EHPS Involvement in Professional Organisations

The majority constituting forty-eight participants (92%), agreed upon desirability of EHPS members’ involvement in professional organisations. As can be seen in Figure 1, WHO with twenty-two entries was mentioned in the first place as a professional organisation EHPS could be involved in, followed by EU with thirteen entries. The other entries were distributed among the following categories: UN with two entries, governmental department of health, charity organisations and PAHO each with one entry. Six entries were assigned to other not further specified international or public health organisations that organize and finance large scale health interventions.

As can be see in Figure 2, a broad panoply of tasks and functions the EHPS and its members could execute in the above-mentioned organisations was mentioned. Consultancy through provision of health psychological expertise is seen as a leading competence that EHPS might offer, with thirteen entries. Promotion of health psychology through representation in the committees and participation in the decision-making processes was the second frequently mentioned task, with seven entries. It was followed by the possible cooperation with the professional organisations via joint research, e.g. through planning and carrying out surveys and intervention programs, with six entries. Further, EHPS could assume a lobbying function, e.g. try to acquire EU-funding (four entries) or help to review funding application (three entries) and provide education and training programs (two entries). Lastly, EHPS could also highlight important areas for future research (two entries). Seven participants pointed that EHPS should generally be active without listing any specific tasks or functions.

Figure 1: Number of entries for organisations the EHPS and its members should be involved in

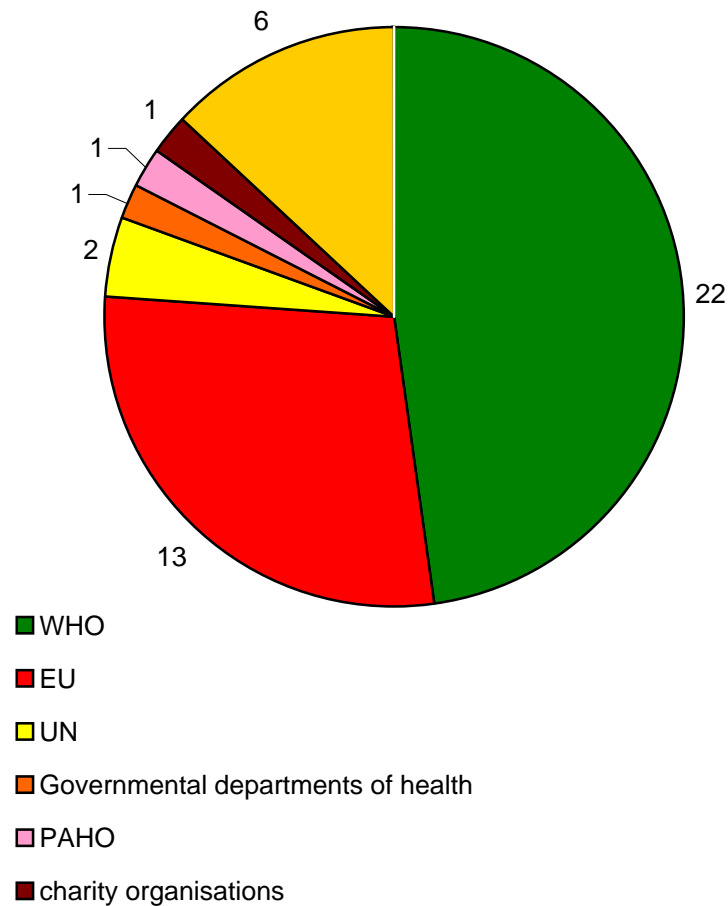
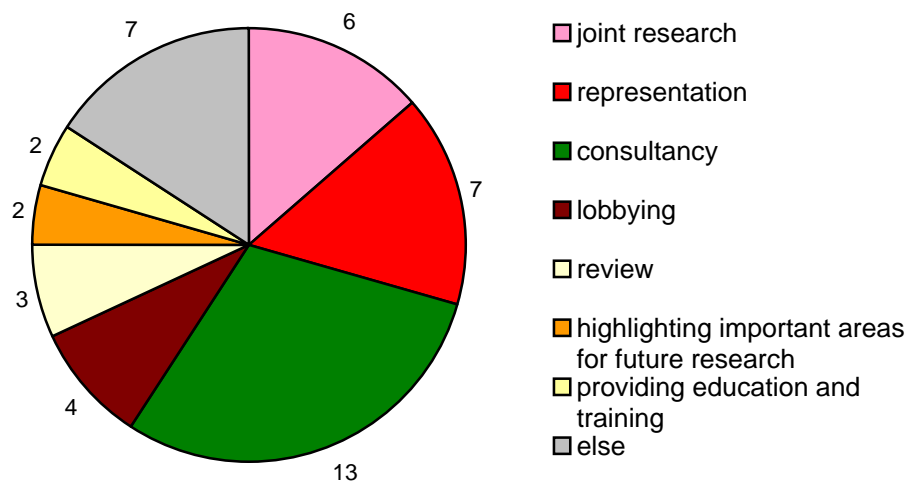


Figure 2: Number of entries for services the EHPS can provide for other professional organisations



Training course, research and collaboration database

Further, participants were asked if they were interested in participating in a “Get ready for Framework 7” training course. Twenty-three participants (39%) evinced their interest, twelve of them (20%) preferred not to participate, and twenty-four (41%) were undecided. All participants with one exception expressed a wish to be included in the EHPS Research and Collaboration Database (RECODE). The vast majority of participants (91,5%) was interested to be included in an e-mail discussion group.

It can be concluded that nearly half of the survey participants are already involved in agile international research collaboration activities. However, a wish to be included in the EHPS Research and Collaboration Database (RECORD) was expressed almost unanimously, indicating a great openness toward possible international research collaboration. Moreover, almost all participants embraced the idea concerning the involvement of EHPS members in other professional organisations such as EU or WHO. Thus, a tighter linkage between health psychology research and different governmental or health organisations was found desirable.