



Communications of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Presidential Column

To use what we already know

Attending the ESCAP 2013 Congress in Dublin has been a great pleasure to many of us. I was extremely happy to see so many colleagues working in child psychiatry gathering to exchange their knowledge. I am proud that we were able to host the very top of the European researchers at our biennial event. I was specifically fascinated to listen to those young women and men—already quite experienced though—who obviously have put all of their hearts in their work and who made their best effort to present the outcome at our ESCAP conference.

Time consuming research

Research is all about the development and understanding of our profession in order to help children and adolescents with their mental health problems. We must be aware that these matters proceed very slowly. It takes time to progress and we should always grant our brilliant thinkers their time to develop.

Applicable results

At the same time it was enjoyable to see how the Dublin Congress showed us so many results of research that are applicable rather directly in patient care. That of course is good news for clinicians. And indeed I saw many smiles on the faces of all those care workers in our Dublin audience who are worrying for their patients day in, day out.

European researchers and clinicians seem to become rather good at enlarging and applying new knowledge—we are really making leaps forward. Being able to offer all this to the children, our patients, is something to be proud of.

Implementation is the issue

But how do we implement this new knowledge in our organisations, in different circumstances, in different European countries? That policy perhaps is the most difficult topic that was discussed at our conference. It looks as if we have so many evidence based building blocks ready to apply within our daily work. Yet, organising ourselves and finding a way to make the actual implementation successful is an enormous task. Today's big challenge in child psychiatry is not *to know more*, but *how to use the things that we already know*. So currently, *implementation* is the issue for ESCAP—and I sure hope that the joint brainpower of all ESCAP members will help us to find solutions on this topic.

Improving communication

Mind you, ESCAP is more than a congress once every 2 years. We do not have to wait until Madrid 2015 to inspire each other on issues like the implementation of newly developed knowledge. Many of us already have bilateral or inter-academic cooperation going, not to mention the European research programmes that are up and running.

And we are going to support these valuable contacts, hoping they will expand. The ECAP Journal you are reading now, has recently been designated as the *Official Journal of ESCAP*. Having the only peer-reviewed journal on child psychiatry within our network means a great deal to us. The availability of scientific publications represents another step forward in the existence of our Society.

Very shortly ESCAP will offer another place to meet, by presenting a renewed website. We are planning to go live from Monday, September 30th. The address remains the same—<http://www.ESCAP-Net.org>—but content wise the

website will be totally refreshed. I am sure this will help to improve communication between child psychiatrists in Europe. We have the ambition to make 'ESCAP Online' the meeting platform for European cooperation in child psychiatry. Including country profiles, discussion facilities and a variety of contributions from all member countries on

research, practice and policy topics. Also we will highlight articles from the ECAP Journal. Let's meet online at ESCAP-net.org!

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