

2021 ESCAP journey: tackling new challenges and perspectives

Dear colleagues and members of national societies,

To describe 2021 as challenging is an understatement for so many. Our lives, work, family and friends are constantly adapting to our uncertain situation. I know so many psychiatrists that despite these uncertainties have tried their hardest to be there for their patients and families, and on behalf of ESCAP we want to thank you all for your continual work in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. As 2021 comes to a close, I would like to take this time to reflect and share with you what ESCAP has achieved this year and what we have to look forward to in 2022.

The ESCAP board are continuing to work in a strong collaborative, authentic and democratic way, in 2021 we have met online over 4 times, to discuss how we can support you, our Members, in the ultimate aim of improving the mental wellbeing of children and adolescents and their families in Europe. Transparency of our initiatives and work is paramount for us to become the common house of European child and adolescent psychiatry.

Our big focus at the moment is the organization and publicizing of the **19th International ESCAP Congress in Maastricht on the 19-21 June 2022**. The abstract submission deadline has been extended to the 17th January 2022. You can find out more on the dedicated [website](#) for more information.



Recent, ongoing and new ESCAP projects:

1. Using and promoting our new **website** and newsletters. This time last year we published our new look [website](#). We've had encouraging feedback and hope that you find the site easy and friendly to find what is important for you. But we're open to your suggestions if you have any.
2. Hosted our first **online events**.
 - a. [ESCAP, UEMS-CAP and EFPT training day](#) on the 24 June
 - b. [ESCAP Expert Day: Changing perspectives](#) on the 25 June

Both events were a great success, with over 300 attendees from 34 countries across the globe. We also had two special lunchtime sessions on the [impact of COVID-19 on child and adolescent services](#) by Johannes Hebebrand and Joerg Fegert. Read the [event report](#).

3. Hosted our **General Assembly**, where Professor Joerg Fegert (head of the ESCAP Policy Division) was voted as president-elect, it was agreed that professor Stephan Eliez, past president, would stay on the board and work on the upcoming congress. We have put on hold the votation for selecting a host for the ESCAP 2027 congress.

4. Published a second **Policy Position Statement** on COVID-19 : [Next Generation Europe – a recovery plan for children, adolescents and their families](#)
5. Launched the second phase of the **CovCAP survey**, which assessed the [perceived impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child and adolescent psychiatric services after 1 year](#). A European perspective. We thank all those who participated in this research by sharing and completing the survey. It is now published and available [here](#).
6. Partnering with two research groups to apply for **EU Horizon projects** (outcome of applications are pending).
7. Approaching the **European Commission** members to help drive change forward for child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health. We are now on the [EU Transparency Register](#) and the [EU Health Policy Platforms](#).
8. [Research academy](#) call for participation now open for the **2022 Research Academy** in Maastricht (17-18 June). The theme of which is “New perspectives for research and clinical practice in eating disorders”.
9. ESCAP endorses the [second residential course](#) and the London Eating Disorders Conference.
10. Continued our partnerships with our [partner societies](#), such as the EFPT-CAP, UEMS-CAP, IACAPAP. We hope to form more partnerships in the coming years.
11. Communicating key issues in the [ECAP Journal](#) through ESCAP Communications, and Editorials.
12. ESCAP presence at **national society meetings**. Several members of the ESCAP board attended, presented and took part in roundtable discussions at the [12th Panhellenic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Congress 2021](#). We want to do this more with our national societies, so if you have an event that you want ESCAP to be part of, then let us know.

Member advantages

We would like to point out that as an ESCAP member you can take advantage of:

1. **Dedicated page:** Your society has a dedicated [national member page](#) on our website. You can modify this page with any specific issues according to your national interests.
2. **Events:** On our [International Event](#) page you can advertise your event for free on this page, just send us an image of your event banner and a web link to our editor.
3. **Jobs:** On our [Jobs page](#), you can advertise jobs for free. These are segregated into Job opportunities, Research opportunities, and Internships and Residencies. Please contact our editor for more information.
4. **Featured articles:** you are welcome to work with our editor to produce an article that will feature on our website. These articles can be addressing country specific issues in CAP, key disorders, treatment issues, training, career development etc. Contact our editor to discuss further.
5. **Support our divisions:** ESCAP has separate [Clinical, Research and Policy divisions](#) that work on current issues from producing guidance papers, developing training, to announcing policy position statements on global and European issues. As a member, you can nominate people from your board to become committee members of these divisions and support the work behind these projects.
6. **Join ESCAP committees:** Support new working groups, such as the Early Career and Trainee Psychiatrists committee to launch specific initiatives related to training and educational needs.

7. **Membership:** we strongly recommend that you use our logo on your website to illustrate that you are an official member of ESCAP.
8. **ESCAP presence at your meetings:** all the ESCAP board members are keen to help with your national events. If you're hosting an event and would like ESCAP to participate then please get in contact and we can help promote and attend the meeting.
9. **ESCAP driving specialities of CAP in European countries:** the Spanish society for child and adolescent psychiatry announced that they have achieved to get child and adolescent psychiatry as a recognized speciality in the medical discipline. This has taken years of effort and persistence, and with Spain hosting the Madrid 2015 ESCAP congress, this boosted awareness of the discipline to the forefront of their campaign. Congratulations to them. If you aim to do the same then get in touch and we can support you on your journey.

With your collaboration, ESCAP will strengthen, CAP services, education and policies can improve, and ESCAP will be in a position to empower and enhance all national societies' efforts at an international level.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the Maastricht congress. Until then, we wish you healthy season greetings and a prosperous new year.

Kind regards

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