

Hellenic Association of School Psychology (HASP) Launch Conference - A Bright New Start

Anastasia Psalti, Professor, Founding Member, Hellenic School Psychology Association (HASP), Greece & Anastassios Matsopoulos, Associate Professor, Acting President, Hellenic School Psychology Association (HASP), Greece

The Hellenic Association of School Psychology (HASP) (hasp.observatory@gmail.com) was founded in 2021 by professional school psychologists, researchers and academicians in the field of School Psychology. The Association's objective is to promote: (a) the profession of the school psychologist, (b) the recognition of the specialty of School Psychology in Greece, and (c) applied and basic research in the field of School Psychology. HASP has been an affiliate member of the International School Psychology Association (ISPA) since July 2021. The acting president of HASP, Professor Anastassios Matsopoulos, made a short presentation of the Association and its objectives at the General Assembly of the 43rd ISPA Conference in Leuven, Belgium this past July. Despite its short "life", the Association has an international presence through its participation in international research projects.

On November 5, 2022 HASP organized its

launch conference titled "**The Professional Identity, the Role, and the Future of School Psychologists in Greece Today**". This was an online conference, offered free of charge to all participants. Its main purpose was to introduce the newly founded Association to the Greek educational and scientific community and lay the groundwork for future conferences, workshops, webinars, etc. in accordance to its by-laws (article 2) that provide for the exchange of professional education and training for all interested members and friends of the Association. The conference was addressed to school psychologists, students of school psychology, schools of education and other related fields, as well as to special education and general education teachers of all levels, social workers, speech therapists, parents and researchers interested in issues of school psychology and applied psychology at school (e.g., educational, clinical, and counseling psychology).

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The HASP launching conference in Greece had a pervasive ISPA aroma. The conference included 3 keynote addresses by former ISPA Presidents, a round-table, and 4 workshops. Professor Matsopoulos welcomed the participants and Professor Sissy Hatzichristou from the University of Athens, Greece and ISPA President, Professor Olimpia Pallikara from the University of Warwick, UK, and Dr George Nikolaidis, CEO of the Child's Institute of Athens, Greece offered the opening remarks.

The first keynote address by Peter Farrell, Professor Emeritus from the University of Manchester in the UK was titled *School* →

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ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ
ΣΧΟΛΙΚΗΣ ΨΥΧΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΣΤΟ ΠΕΔΙΟ
 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΣΧΟΛΙΚΗΣ ΨΥΧΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
 Hellenic Association of School Psychology
 (H.A.S.P.)

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**Η Επαγγελματική Ταυτότητα,
 Ο Ρόλος & Το Μέλλον Του
 Σχολικού Ψυχολόγου Στην
 Ελλάδα Σήμερα**

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ, 5 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2022
 Online Conference

ΠΡΟΣΕΚΑΚΗΜΕΝΟΙ
 ΟΜΙΛΗΤΕΣ
 Past Presidents of
 International School
 Psychology Association (ISPA)

**Dr Vitor
 Alexandre
 Coelho-
 Portugal**

**Peter Farrell-
 Professor
 Emeritus- UK**

**Bill Pfohl-
 Professor
 Emeritus-USA**



- Αλληλεπιδραστική Στρογγυλή Τράπεζα με Ειδικούς για εφαρμοσμένα θέματα Σχολικής Ψυχολογίας.
- Απογευματινά Βιωματικά Εργαστήρια - Επικεντρωμένα στην Απόκτηση Κλινικών Δεξιοτήτων.
- Διάλογος με το κοινό.

ΔΟΡΕΑΝ συμμετοχή
 Χορηγείται Βεβαίωση Παρακολούθησης

Προεγγραφές έως Τρίτη, 25 Οκτωβρίου 2022 στο e-mail: hasp.observatory@gmail.com

Psychology – Where have we come from; where are we going? Professor Farrell reflected “on the massive global achievements of school psychology” from the 1970s until today and discussed “some of the challenges and unresolved issues that still confront the profession in the 21st century”. His final remark pointed to “the vital role that professional associations, such as the Hellenic Association of School Psychology, can have in supporting children, schools, families and communities.”

The second keynote speaker, Vítor Alexandre Coelho, Coordinator of Positive Attitude project in Portugal, presented his research and intervention programs on social-emotional learning in his address titled *Social Emotional Learning: Current Challenges for Practitioners* focusing mainly on the importance of differential effectiveness for practitioners, and shared with us the lessons he learned during the 15 years of the Positive Attitude program. The last keynote address *Self-Care: Essential for Your Mental Health*

by Bill Pfohl, Professor Emeritus from the Western Kentucky University in the USA reminded us that to take care and help others we need to first take care and help ourselves, as *“we make ourselves vulnerable by helping others.”*

The round-table titled *School Psychologists in the Field: Needs & New Challenges* highlighted the challenges, the needs, and the importance of school psychologists who work in special education schools and Centers for Interdisciplinary Assessment, Consultation and Support (KEDASY) and the urgency of creating communities, that is support systems, a need that became even more obvious during the lockdowns. Professor Matsopoulos was the coordinator of the round-table which included 3 brief presentations: *The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the role and functions of psychologists who work in greek schools: Experiences & needs* by Anastasia Psalti, Professor of the University of Macedonia in Greece & Katerina Dadatsi, School Psychologist, Ph.D.; *Special Education Schools: Challenges and needs of School Psychologists* by Konstantina Deliyanni, School Psychologist; *Centers for Interdisciplinary* →

Assessment, Consultation and Support (KEDASY): Challenges and needs of School Psychologists by Irene Markoulaki, School Psychologist. At the end of the brief presentation, the floor was open to the conference participants who shared their observations, concerns, and positions on the issues discussed.

A great asset of the conference was the 4 experiential online workshops offered to a limited number of participants. The aim of the workshops was to provide information and hands-on training in various skills necessary for the effective provision of psychological services at schools. The workshops were: (1) *Prevention goes to school: basic principles for the development of prevention programs at school* by Maria Kyriakidou, Psychologist, Deputy Scientific Officer & Gabriela Terzopoulou, Psychologist, Scientific staff, Prevention Centre PYXIDA, Thessaloniki, Greece; (2) *Grief Management at School: Life line* by Sofia Chatzinikolaou, Head of the Social Institute of Active Citizens of Greece; (3) *Resilience Curriculum “RESCUR-An Obstacle, An Opportunity”, a European Prevention Program for Resilience for*

preschool and elementary school ages by Anastassios Matsopoulos, Associate Professor, University of Crete, Greece; (4) *Group Psychotherapy for Adolescents with Autism & Interventions for a better adjustment to Middle and High School* by Ionas Sapountzis, Associate Professor of School Psychology and Program Director of the School Psychology Program, Adelphi University, USA.

According to conference statistics, among the approximately 1300 registrations there were 262 registrations by school psychologists and almost 220 by psychologists of other specializations along with many graduate students of psychology, education, special education and social work. The post-conference evaluation provided 377 responses to a short online questionnaire. The majority of the respondents reported high satisfaction with the overall conference as it provided them with knowledge to meet the demands of their job. All presentations and keynote addresses were rated as adequate and helpful, while 75% of the respondents would recommend this conference to a person they know.

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<https://youtu.be/N74iEWvVudc>

