

## Report on the 13<sup>th</sup> ENYSSP conference

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European Network of Young Specialists in Sport Psychology (ENYSSP) held its 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference with subtitle *On the Road to Olympics* in Bratislava, Slovakia from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October. The subtitle was perceived as a metaphor of sport psychology practitioners' developmental journeys.

Over 80 participants from 20 European countries shared their experiences and knowledge during official and unofficial parts of the conference. Though the conference is organized to attract especially young specialists in sport psychology, we are glad that every year we can also invite among us renowned and experienced keynote speakers. This year keynote lectures were delivered by Mark B. Andersen from Halmstad University in Sweden, president of FEPSAC Anne-Marie Elbe, and Caroline Jannes president of the Flemish Association of Sport Psychology. On the top of keynote lectures our keynote guests also led workshop sessions on topics of transference and counter-transference, pursuing career in academia, and application of Competing Values Framework.

During 2,5 days conference program offered 15 interactive workshops organized in 5 sessions. Workshops covered topics such as professional philosophies, systematic approach, club identity; different techniques working with athletes and teams such as ACT approach, drawing techniques, focus group, video recording, and ACT based interventions; and also the keynote workshops mentioned above. Poster session and short oral communications session were an opportunity for young practitioners to share their research work, as well as experiences from applied practice. Three awards were granted for the best poster, the best workshop, and the best oral communication. The best workshop was decided based on voting by workshop attendees, whereas the other two awards had committees deciding upon the best contributions.

ENYSSP conferences share with other sport psychology events the goal of linking science and applied work together. The way it is done is a bit less traditional as half of the program consists of interactive workshops. On the top there is one unique goal that we perceive in some way the most important one, and that is to bring participants opportunities to network and to get to know each other. To foster this participants had some their areas of interest on their nametags, program traditionally included social event that was this year focus on discovering the city we were in, and for the first time we introduced a *Knowledge café*. During this evening event people discussed in informal atmosphere their opinions, experiences and knowledge on different topics, such as ethical dilemmas, ACT, development of sport psychology practitioner, youth and talent development and so on.

For athletes at Olympics, when the closing ceremony is over, the new countdown toward next Olympics starts for those who continue with their athletic career. We believe that the development of sport psychology practitioner is a lifelong process, so in this case our next ENYSSP conference countdown started with the end of the conference in Bratislava. You are all welcome to join us at the 14<sup>th</sup> ENYSSP conference that will take place in Zagreb, Croatia from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. For more information go to [www.enyssp.com](http://www.enyssp.com).