



**NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS  
FOR PERSON-CENTRED AND EXPERIENTIAL  
PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING  
(PCE EUROPE)**

[WWW.PCE-Europe.org](http://WWW.PCE-Europe.org)

Member of the European Association for Psychotherapy ([EAP](#))  
Member of the European Association for Counselling ([EAC](#))  
Chapter of the World Association for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling  
([WAPCEPC](#))

## **Information for (new) members of PCE Europe**

Welcome! Your organisation has become a member of the Network of European Associations for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy: PCE Europe. This network contains over 30 member organisations throughout Europe and has become a chapter of the World Association for Psychotherapy and Counselling (WAPCEPC) in 2009.

PCE Europe started as the Network of European Associations for Person Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling (NEAPCEPC) and was founded in 1998 in the city of Luxembourg on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the European Person/ Client-Centred Organisations in Luxembourg. The terms "Person-Centred" and "Experiential" and the concepts and processes they encompass have an extensive, rich and evolving history. The choice of the phrase "Person-Centred and Experiential" is intended to promote continued dialogue and development. The name of the network has been changed to PCE Europe in 2009 at the Szeged meeting for reasons of practicality. The Statutes and Bylaws, which are the basis for the functioning of PCE Europe were agreed in 1999 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (GA) in Athens.

This document intends to inform you as a new member (organisation or institute) about the aims, characteristics and structure of the network, which imply both benefits, rights and obligations for members of PCE Europe.

## **1. Aims PCE Europe**

The main aims of PCE Europe have been defined as:

- to further co-operation between person-centred associations and institutions in Europe, especially in the field of psychotherapy and counselling, e.g. through common projects
- to support/facilitate European person-centred associations, institutions/ individuals in their work
- to promote the person-centred paradigm and to support and encourage scientific study as well as the improvement of practice in this paradigm, specifically in psychotherapy and counselling
- to engage in socio-political processes to ensure the continued contribution of the paradigm in health, social insurance, education, academic contexts etc.
- to commit to supporting and/or organising European PCA conferences
- to foster the exchange of research and ideas, theory and practice among a variety of language groups through existing journals and other means
- to work together closely with the WAPCEPC and other worldwide PCA associations
- to work together with the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), the European Association for Counselling (EAC) and other key associations throughout Europe.

## **2. Characteristics of PCE Europe**

The aims of PCE Europe result in certain principles and characteristics of members involved in the network. PCE Europe aims to provide a European-wide forum for those professionals in academia and practice who:

- commit to the primary importance of the relationship between client and therapist in psychotherapy and counselling
- hold as central in their therapeutic endeavour: the client's actualising process and phenomenological world
- embody in their work those conditions and attitudes first postulated by Carl Rogers conducive to the therapeutic movement
- commit to an understanding of both clients and therapists as persons, who are at the same time individuals and in relationship with others and their diverse environments and cultures
- have an openness to the development and elaboration of person-centred and experiential theory in light of current and future practise and research

These characteristics are in line with those of the WAPCEPC and in accordance with the non-discrimination agreement valid within the framework of the European Union. Once joining PCE Europe as a member, it is essential that organisations or institutes share these characteristics.

PCE Europe is a member of the European Association of Psychotherapy (EAP) and European Association of Counselling (EAC). As far as psychotherapy is concerned member organisations acknowledge the standards of the EAP and in the case of counselling the standards of the EAC. If this is not yet the case when joining PCE Europe as a member, the aim is that member organisations fulfil them within a given period of time.

### 3. **Structure and functioning of PCE Europe**

The structure of PCE Europe corresponds to person-centred principles:

1. Members of PCE Europe are *national person-centred and experiential organisations or training institutes in Europe which are current organisational members of the WAPCEPC* and adhere to *national* (if these exist) psychotherapy and/or counselling *training standards*.

The principle of local autonomy is maintained. The authority of PCE Europe can only be applied to the composition of the network, to its collaborative procedures and to its external relationships. It also applies to questions concerning the European Certificate of Psychotherapy. Any other decisions limiting the rights of national organisations require the ratification of the members to become effective.

2. The *board* consists of 4-6 representatives, chosen by member organisations at each bi-annual GA, who organise monthly Skype meetings. The board has to represent the members and carry out the decisions and policies of PCE Europe agreed in the GA, manage ongoing matters (e.g. certificates, networking with EAC and EAP) and those tasks that may arise (e.g. applications of new members) between GA meetings.

Tasks of the board also include:

- ✓ Preparing the GA and being responsible for the organisation of the meeting
- ✓ Admitting new members who fulfil the membership requirement
- ✓ Presenting a statement of the annual accounts and determine the budget for the next year, subject to approval of the members at the GA
- ✓ Presenting a report of its work during the last year to the GA.

On the PCE Europe website under the drop box menu heading 'board', you may find the names, responsibilities and e-mail addresses of the current board members, along with the minutes of the monthly Skype board meetings.

3. The *certificate committee* is responsible for the application process on the PCE Europe certificates on the website and checking for the appropriateness of applications with the respective (national) member organisations. The committee consists of 2-3 representatives from member organisations. One of the board members is responsible for sending out the certificates to applicants and liaises between the board and the certificate committee. (*For more information about the certificates see also the separate section*).

#### **4. Representation of members within PCE Europe**

Member organisations of PCE Europe have a voting right at the bi-annual GA meetings, on proposals done by either members or the board. Proposals can concern strategic topics e.g. socio-political issues or relate to cooperation with other person-centred organisations.

Organisations with up to 100 members have one vote, those with up to 1000 members have two votes, and organisations with more than 1000 members have three votes at the GA.

Members have to nominate at least one delegate (depending on the size of their organisation) and notify the board of this nomination and in case of any subsequent change. Each member organisation can send up to two delegates. The delegates of one organisation have to agree on their vote on behalf of their organisation. A person can be a delegate for a maximum of two member organisations. It is the responsibility of member organisations to reimburse the expenses of their own delegates.

Delegates of European organisations which are not (yet) members of PCE Europe are welcome to participate as a guest at one GA. They can be excluded from a part of the meeting by a decision of the GA and have no voting rights.

#### **5. Proposals for PCE Europe meetings (GA)**

As stated PCE Europe intends to function in a person-centred way and for this reason any member organisation can propose items for the agenda.

These items must be sent to the board no later than four months before the meeting, in order to be put on the first provisional list. This list will be sent to members not later than three months prior to the GA along with all necessary supporting information including the invitation for the next GA. Later suggestions, which can be proposed right up until the beginning of the meeting, are put on a second provisional list. The final list of items for the agenda is decided by the member organisations present at the GA meeting.

If an item was on the first provisional list, delegates are expected to have their organisations' mandate at the GA. If an item was proposed later, delegates are free (a) to decide or (b) to request the postponement of the vote or (c) to decide provided that the member organisation ratifies the provisional decision within two months after the GA.

## **6. Membership fees**

The membership fee is decided by the GA at the suggestion of the board. If no decision is made the membership fee remains unchanged. The fee is intended to meet the expenses of PCE Europe.

The membership fee for each year depends on the size of the organisation:

Up to 50 members = 100 euro , 51-200 members = 200 euro , 201-500 members = 250 euro , 501-1000 members = 350 euro and over 1000 members = 500 euro.

The membership fee has to be paid within the first three months of the calendar year.

A member can leave PCE Europe at the end of each calendar year with three months prior notification.

## **7. Application for PCE Europe certificates**

PCE Europe aims to achieve and maintain a high standard of training and practice for person-centred and experiential (PCE) psychotherapists and counsellors.

For this reason PCE Europe established *The European Certificate for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling (PCE Certificate)* for practitioners, trainers and (national) member organizations or training institutes. The applications of practitioners (psychotherapists and/or counsellors) and trainers are always checked with the (national) organisation or training institute.

This will help ensure that PCE psychotherapists and counsellors are trained according to NEAPCEPC standards and embrace the person-centred paradigm. The PCE Certificate will also aid mobility of PCE practitioners and trainers within Europe and visibility of the person-centred and experiential therapies to the public.

More information about the aims, benefits and costs of the certificates is to be found on the PCE Europe website under the certificate heading in the drop box menu.

## **8. PCE Europe newsletter and more information ...**

There is a PCE Europe newsletter issued on the website 3-4 times a year and sent to all members by e-mail by the PR representative of the board. This newsletter contains information about activities from the board, news from member organisations and a short calendar of conferences, symposia and lectures within the Person-Centred Approach (PCA) across Europe. Members are invited several times during the year to send a local PCA activities calendar, which is also posted on the website.

Hopefully, this document contains all the information you need as a new member to enable active participation in the network. In case you may still have any queries, please ask the chair of the PCE Europe board for an answer: [info@pce-europe.org](mailto:info@pce-europe.org)

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