

Editorial Note

on

The International OHP workshop: Psychosocial health in organizations: research and
interventions
(15-17th of December 2011)

hosted by

Department of Psychology, West University of Timișoara, Romania

in collaboration with

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In the middle of December 2011, in Timișoara (Romania), we had the pleasure to host an International workshop about Occupational Health Psychology supported by a grant for exploratory workshops of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS-UEFISCDI (project number WE_ PN-II-ID-WE-2011-054). We had the chance to bring together specialists (both scientific and practitioners) interested in this field, from Europe (Spain, Belgium, and The Netherlands) and from different University centers from Romania (Bucharest, Cluj, and Timisoara). The audience was composed by Romanian students and practitioners who aim at develop as OHP professionals.

Within the three days, several topics were presented, and also discussions about research topics and opportunities emerged. The presented topics shape the content of this special number. So, whereas the original presentations can be downloaded from our websites (<http://www.psihologietm.ro/OHPworkshop/> or <http://occupationalhealthpsychology.wordpress.com/international-ohp-workshop/>), this special issue of *the Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology* includes the full papers developed by authors and their collaborators in which they based their presentations.

Dr. Wilmar Schaufeli's article (Utrecht University; The Netherlands) presents the current state of one of the most currently studied factor as indicator of psychosocial health, Work Engagement, and propose a really interesting future agenda, in his paper entitled *Work Engagement: What do we know & Where do we go?*. By doing so, the paper covers its two main objectives: to present a brief overview about current knowledge on engagement (i.e., meaning and measurement, antecedents, consequences, state, and building work engagement), and to draft a future agenda (conceptualization and measurement, theoretical understanding, antecedents and consequences from work

engagement to performance, epidemiology, cross-cultural validity, engagement across time and at collective level).

Dr. Hans De Witte, Nele De Cuyper, Tinne Vander Elst, Els Vanbelle, and Wendy Niesen (K.U. Leuven University, Belgium) focus on one job demand or factor risk very fashionable in the current times of economic crisis: job insecurity. In their paper *Job Insecurity: Review of the literature and a summary of recent studies from Belgium*, the authors offer a short overview of research on this topic, with an emphasis on recent findings from the research tradition of the Work, Organisational & Personnel Psychology (WOPP) research group. The article describes the types of job insecurity, discuss some risk groups and analyze job insecurity's implications for employees' well-being. Also potential moderators are discussed and explanatory mechanisms for job insecurity are discussed.

Dr. Delia Virgă, Dr. Irina Macinga and Dr. Coralia Sulea (West University of Timișoara, Romania) present an overview of OHP in Romania: employees' and managers' needs and perspective, offering a comparative approach looking at Romania and other European countries, and discussing about importance and challenges of dealing with psycho-social risks.

Dr. Laurențiu P. Maricuțoiu and Dr. Florin Alin Sava (West University of Timisoara, Romania) present in their article an *Evidence based-approach in organizational and occupational health psychology. Current status and further development*. The article analyses OHP papers that include interventions on major OHP topics, arguing the importance of providing evidences in OHP research in order that practitioners could propose Evidence-based interventions. Authors provide useful suggestions in order to improve the current status of Scientific OHP research.

Dr. Eva Cifre Gallego and Dr. Alma M. Rodríguez-Sánchez (Universitat Jaume I of Castellón; Spain) base their paper: *Strategies for Optimizing Psychosocial Health at Work* on the Occupational Positive Psychology approach

and, starting from the Positive Experiences Model, describe different types of optimizing individual and organizational strategies based both on prevention and improvement.

Dr. Dragoş Iiescu (SNSPA, Romania) in his paper *Designing and Implementing Valid Well-being Audits and Interventions: A Simple Model and Case Study* presents key issues in building an empirical valid approach, highlighting main theoretical principles and presenting an example of a successful intervention.

Dr. Corina Ilin (West University of Timisoara, Romania) in her paper *International Funding Opportunities for Collaboration Projects in OOHP* is presenting the exploratory workshop organized by the OOHP Master team in December 2011, which opened paths for theoretical knowledge and for collaboration with researchers having international prestige. Also, the paper presents funding opportunities available in national grants, and the strategy chosen by the team to prepare a two-step access to funds.

Summing up, the current special issue of the RJAP provides a broad framework in the field of Occupational Health Psychology, both at the international/European and local level (Romania). We hope this issue is of interest both to scientists and practitioners interested in this field, and that it means another, but important step in launching this important field of OHP in the Romanian society.

Eva Cifre-Gallego & Coralia Sulea