

Secondary Publication



Herrera-Sánchez, Isabel María; Vargas-Moniz, Maria; Ornelas, José H.; u. a.

European perspectives in community psychology : Diversity, Innovation, and collaboration

Date of secondary publication: 28.07.2026

Version of Record (Published Version), Conferenceobject

Persistent identifier: urn:nbn:de:bvb:473-irb-116393x

Primary publication

Herrera-Sánchez, Isabel María; Vargas-Moniz, Maria; Ornelas, José H.; u. a. (2025): European perspectives in community psychology : Diversity, Innovation, and collaboration, in: European journal of psychology open, Göttingen: Hogrefe, Vol. 84 (Suppl. 1), p. 99, doi: 10.1024/2673-8627/a000085.

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Paper number 1084 | Symposium

European perspectives in community psychology: Diversity, Innovation, and collaboration

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This symposium highlights the diverse contributions of Community Psychology in addressing societal challenges through participatory, collaborative, and context-sensitive approaches. Key themes include: 1) Transnational Collaboration and Local Impact: Four decades of participatory action research in Portugal have advanced community mental health, housing-first models, violence prevention, and mental health promotion in education. These efforts showcase the transformative power of European networking and collective capacity building. 2) Academic Integration and Methodological Innovation: Community psychology education integrates participatory methodologies to address complex socio-ecological challenges. A Case-based studied in Italy illustrate the discipline's impact in local contexts and its alignment with contemporary societal needs. 3) Digital Competency Development: In response to technological transformations, Community Psychology emphasizes training in digital skills to enhance engagement with stakeholders and improve intervention effectiveness. This ongoing effort fosters the best practices and scalable training methodologies. 4) In Germany, Community Psychology holds potential as an emergent framework for integrating psychological principles into broader socio-ecological contexts, addressing contemporary societal transformations. Although not yet widely established, its focus on bridging theoretical knowledge with practical application aligns with the need for psychology to respond to complex social and environmental challenges. This approach could complement recent transformations in psychology training, such as the restructuring of master's programs, positioning community psychology as a valuable contributor to addressing Germany's evolving societal needs. In conclusion, Community Psychology in Europe demonstrates its capacity to foster sustainable societal changes through collaboration, inclusive education, and innovative practices. It serves as a vital field for addressing complex social issues while promoting equity, well-being, and social justice.