

POSITIONING ON EUROPSY CERTIFICATE

Preamble

In the Collective of Psychology Students, CEP-PIE (*Colectivo de Estudiantes de Psicología, Col·lectiu d'Estudiants de Psicologia, Colectivo de Estudantes de Psicologia, Psikologiako Ikasleen Elkargoa*) we believe a strong, structured and unified psychology profession across Europe is needed. This can be achieved through structures and standards such as EuroPsy (i.e. European qualification standard for psychologists): it presents criteria to ensure training in psychology meets a high-quality standard across Europe through the consensus of national and international professionals. Therefore, an optimal service from psychology professionals across Europe is guaranteed.

Our duty as representatives of Spanish psychology students is to provide resources that allow the optimal acquisition of skills and critical thinking in psychology students. Raising awareness on the development of the profession is crucial to guide students towards their future careers. In our collective, we advocate making EuroPsy more visible to make our profession more universal. EuroPsy gives visibility to specialties of psychology that are already recognized and helps the consolidation of the specialities where consensus has not been reached. The European Federation of Psychology Students Associations (EFPSA), a federation in which Spain is a Member Organisation, underlines the importance of the EuroPsy certificate for psychology students and professionals. They, therefore, fully support this document.

Background

EuroPsy is a project created by EFPA (*European Federation of Psychologists Associations*); the Federation is the main organisation of psychology professionals in 38 countries across Europe and currently has 350,000 members. They created EuroPsy, aiming to establish standardized criteria for academic and practical training in psychology under the supervision of psychology professionals in Europe (Lunt et al., 2014).

The EuroPsy project arose as a result of the Bologna declarations of 1999, which along with projects such as the *Tuning Educational Structures in Europe*, seeks to create and establish a common space for higher education within the different European university systems that transcends those of a national nature within each country (EuroPsy, 2019). The aim of this project would be to facilitate the mobility of psychology professionals throughout Europe and to recognise their skills and professionalism in order to guarantee the quality of service. Thus, the EFPPA (*European Federation of Professional Psychologists Associations*), which would later change its name to EFPA at the London General Assembly in 2001, set basic standards for the profession at the academic and practical-vocational level in 1990, which would be refined over the years until a definitive consensus was reached. In 2001, the first draft, called EuroPsyT and created by a working group made up of different European psychologists, was presented. The sketch, which outlined the standardized criteria established for professional practice, and academic training in psychology (EuroPsy, 2019), was discussed by several associations and entities of psychology professionals. Finally, in 2005, the final draft that would later give shape to the EuroPsy certificate was presented by the EFPA within the European Commission and the other member countries as a consensus document by psychology professionals from all over Europe. This final draft was well received in most countries, and in the European community at large (EuroPsy, 2019; T. Tikkanen, July 8, 2007).

It should be noted that this certificate does not qualify *per se* for the practice of the profession in any European country, nor does it affect or influence the certificates, qualifications or recognitions specific to the profession in each country. This certificate aims to establish minimum criteria to ensure that professionals who carry it possess knowledge and skills that qualify them for the practice of the profession, regardless of their field of specialisation (EuroPsy, 2019).

EuroPsy was structured in two levels: On the one hand, the first level defines the theoretical-practical knowledge within the psychology profession regardless of the field of specialization or professional performance. On the other hand, there is a second level of advanced or specialized training, from which it is possible to obtain a certificate, which defines standardized criteria for practising the profession in a given field. Currently, for this second level, there are only two certificates: the EuroPsy Certificate in Psychology of Work and Organisations and the EuroPsy Certificate in Psychotherapy.

There are four areas of psychology recognised by EuroPsy, although only two EuroPsy certificates have been created. The areas that are recognized within psychology according to the roles or services provided to society are clinical psychology and health, education, work and organisations, and finally, the category “others” (EuroPsy, 2019). Currently, there are professionals who are trying to work on creating certificates for other psychology fields of expertise, including neuropsychology (Hokkanen et al., 2020).

Nevertheless, it is important to continue working to overcome these barriers in order to build a strong, high-quality profession across Europe.

Certificate Requirements

Furthermore, regarding obtaining the EuroPsy certificate itself, it must be shown that the applicant fulfils the requirements laid down for the field of expertise claimed and that those requirements have been correctly obtained. To this end, there is a European Awarding Committee (The European Awarding Committee) elected by the EFPA Executive Board every four years, which brings together up to five professionals from different fields, whose role is to ensure that the award of the EuroPsy certificate is always carried out in accordance with its rules.

The European committee is also responsible for advising the national committees of the different countries affiliated with EFPA since these national committees are responsible for assessing whether the curriculum vitae of the professional applying for this document meets the requirements for the subsequent award and recognition of the certificate (EuroPsy, 2019).

The minimum requirement for obtaining the EuroPsy certificate is to have completed an academic/practical training of at least six years, with a total of 360 credits, including undergraduate or equivalent training, master's or equivalent training, and one year of traineeship supervised by a qualified supervisor who meets a number of requirements laid down by the National Committee to ensure that during the course both theoretical and practical knowledge are integrated.

After obtaining the certificate, it is valid for seven years. It is renewable by the review of the professional's curriculum from its issuance to the current date, to ensure that it meets a number of professional criteria and milestones.

Competencies

As for the competencies recognized by the certificate, they are all based on the principles, knowledge, models and methods of psychology within an ethical and scientific practice to promote development, good practices, and individual, group, organisational and societal effectiveness (EuroPsy, 2019).

In fact, there are two types of competencies within the certificate: primary competencies and enabling competencies. The primary competencies are defined as those essential skills that a psychologist must demonstrate since these are acquired specifically within the field of psychology. There are a total of 20 primary competencies divided into six categories: Target Specification, Intervention, Assessment, Development, Assessment and Communication.

The enabling competencies, which total nine, unlike primary competencies, are more transversal in nature, covering other professions. Examples of these enabling competencies would be professional relationships or marketing and sales.

Recommendations

Having said all of the above, the Collective of Psychology Students (CEP-PIE) and European Federation of Psychology Students Associations (EFPSA), states that we support as an entity the existence and development of the EuroPsy certificate, in accordance with the principles by which it is governed, for the following reasons:

1. In CEP-PIE we see it as essential to continue working on a model that allows us to develop strong, rigorous, scientific, effective, inclusive and proactive psychology, regardless of field within the whole European Community.

2. We believe that the EuroPsy certificate is a consensus tool for the recognition and consolidation of the different fields of expertise of psychology in Europe. At the same time, we believe that EuroPsy can be a reference point for the various member countries that do not have these fields of expertise to work on creating them with the highest possible quality criteria.
3. We seek mobility for psychologists between the various European countries because we see this experience as an enriching opportunity, both personally and professionally, which helps to establish a strong, multicultural and high-quality psychology in Europe.
4. We see EuroPsy as a seal of quality and security for those who receive services from a psychology professional because it ensures the continuous professional development of the person who owns it.
5. We support the certificate because it certifies quality academic and practical training associated with specific professional skills.
6. As CEP-PIE, we support the current certificate expedition procedure: there are several groups of professionals in each country responsible for assessing both professional and training experience, which must be at least of six years and where 360 theoretical credits must be achieved, plus a year of traineeship supervised by professionals recognised by the Committee, in order to ensure that applicants can obtain the EuroPsy certificate.
7. Amongst others, clinical neuropsychology, legal psychology, child-juvenile psychology and community psychology are psychology specializations that as of today do not have a certificate as a speciality. We, as students' representatives, believe these specializations should be recognised as such and included in the EuroPsy project. We believe in the necessity of specialties in EuroPsy like clinical neuropsychology, legal psychology, child-juvenile psychology and community psychology with scientific endorsement and international professional recognition in order to clarify those roles in the countries with no regulations in those specializations. Helping them to advance in the recognition of their roles through international consensus as a reference figure.

Positioning on EUROPSY Certificate

Colectivo de Estudiantes de Psicología

Fecha: 25/12/2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Couwet".

Deianara Couwet

President of EFPSA 2021-2022

Raúl Valles

President of CEP-PIE 2021-2022

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Supporting Literature

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Este posicionamiento tendrá validez durante **cinco años** tras el momento de su aprobación por parte de los Asociados del Colectivo de Estudiantes de Psicología, CEP-PIE (Colectivo de Estudiantes de Psicología, Col·lectiu d'Estudiants de Psicologia, Colectivo de Estudantes de Psicologia, Psikologiako Ikasleen Elkargoa).

Si está leyendo este posicionamiento más tarde de noviembre del 2026 puede consultar a junta@cep-pie.org sobre la vigencia de estas declaraciones.