

Country: Poland

National Delegate: Ewa Gruszczyńska

Health Psychology Section of Polish Psychological Association

Meetings and members' activities:

During the past year two meetings of the Health Psychology Section of Polish Psychological Association took place: one in October 2018 and the second one during the conference in Katowice. The first one held an election as a 3-year term of the board came to the end. New board for years 2018-2020 was chosen:

- President: Helena Wrona-Polańska, Pedagogical University of Cracow
- Vice-President: Dorota Włodarczyk, Medical University of Warsaw
- Secretary: Magdalena Łazarewicz, Medical University of Warsaw
- Members: E. Gruszczyńska, A. Pasztak-Opiłka, T. Ostrowski, M. Ziarko

The biannual 12th national conference was held in Katowice in May 2019. Within two days it was attended by approximately 100 persons, majority of them were active participants. The event is important for all Polish researchers who identify themselves as health psychologists. However, similarly to the EHPS conferences, practitioners were less represented, which is also evident in the membership structure of the Health Psychology Section.

Legislation

There has been no progress in the legislation process in recent years. Thus, there is still no legal recognition of the profession of a health psychologist, but also of a psychologist in general. However, due to the popularity of psychological services, provided mainly by the private sector, the demand for these regulations is clearly increasing.

In this context, a positive sign of recognition of these needs from the psychologist community itself is the formulation of a new code of ethics, which replaced the document from 1991. The new code was approved in December 2018 by the general meeting of delegates of the Polish Psychological Association.

Education

The new law on higher education and science was introduced in July 2018. Due to the scope of changes it has been named the Constitution for Science. For further details, please look at the webpage of [Ministry of Science and Higher Education](#).

From a very practical point of view, for psychology, the possibility of a two-stage bachelor plus master programme as well as a 5-year long-cycle master program has been preserved. A higher education diploma must contain only information about a degree in psychology, without indicating the so-called "specialization", unless it is a practical profile, with learning outcomes formulated accordingly. However, the most prestigious psychology programmes are still conducted in a general

academic profile, with a strong position of methodological and statistical modules in curriculum and master thesis based on empirical project done under supervision.

Also the European Psychological Certificate ([EuroPsy](#)) was fully introduced in Poland and several study programmes have already been evaluated for compliance with these standards. The programmes with the already mentioned general academic profile are generally confirmed to be partially compliant, due to too short external practical training (“internship”). According to Polish law, such training is not obligatory in this profile and although it is usually included in psychology studies, its duration rarely exceeds about 100 hours, comparing to EuroPsy requirements of 3months (15 ECTS).