

## I) Health Psychology in the country

Currently, Health Psychology does not exist as a discipline in Cyprus. The law as it stands recognizes Clinical, Counselling, Forensic, School and Organizational Psychology.

There are two associations that represent a number of psychologists in Cyprus, the Cyprus Psychologists' Association (<http://cypsa.org.cy/english/>) and the Pancyprian Psychological Society (<http://www.pasypsy.net/>). The Cyprus Psychologists' Association (CYPSA) has submitted a recommendation for legislative change to include Health Psychology among other disciplines in 2010 but nothing has been done to that direction yet. Legislative revisions are under way but this is a long process.

Since Health Psychology does not exist as a discipline in Cyprus, no Health Psychologists are registered. Therefore, those with training and qualification in Health Psychology obtained abroad are either working in academia, or are registered in different disciplines, like Clinical and Counselling Psychology. Moreover, licensed Clinical and Counselling psychologists are working with health-related issues as a result of continuous professional development.

## II) Education, training & professionalization

There is no official Health Psychology training programme in Cyprus. However, Health Psychology courses are offered in a number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Also, a number of students with postgraduate training in Health Psychology are pursuing a Clinical Psychology doctorate because the clinical route is a pathway towards being licensed.

In general, Health Psychology is either an area that is the focus of research within Doctorates in other disciplines of Psychology or covered by teaching, practicum and research within Clinical Psychology programmes as there is great interest in that area.

## III) Activities

### CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

There is currently an effort to organize Health Psychologists who are members of the CYPSA. A working group that will consult the Association on matters related to Health Psychology will be launched soon. Nevertheless, the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the EHPS took place in Limassol, Cyprus and was a major success both in terms of attendance and quality. Also, the Conference steered a lot of interest and discussion from local media. More information here: <http://www.ehps2015.org/>

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are various research projects currently underway which are related to health issues. These are mainly hosted by the University of Cyprus' Department of Psychology, the Cyprus University Technology's Nursing School or in local health organizations. In general, funding for projects related to Health Psychology is increasing, especially related to prevention. For example, the Anti-Drugs Council has been funding small projects for prevention and/or intervention (i.e. smoking cessation, alcohol abuse etc.). Other local organizations are slowly providing some funding for such efforts.