

Annual Report - Poland

Conferences and meetings

The annual meeting of Health Psychology Section of Polish Psychological Association was held in November 2013. Besides the work-related agenda it was also dedicated to commemorate the work of Prof. Kazimierz Wrzesniewski. He was one of the founding members of the Section and, even more importantly, the leading figure of health psychology in Poland. He consequently promoted it as an academic discipline and area of interdisciplinary practice. He was a member of the EHPS board in 1992-1994. He influenced many of us, both as a person and as a scientist. We will miss him.

The board meeting took place in May 2014. The main topic was the next national health psychology conference planned for May 2015. Members of local organizers committee presented a very promising conference outline. Foreign participants are welcome (<http://www.psychologiazdrowia.ug.edu.pl/>, the webpage is in Polish, but if you need information in English please contact psychologiazdrowia@ug.edu.pl).

Legislation

The legal recognition of the profession is still far from the satisfactory. Due to a lack of legal legitimacy there are at least several competing certificate programs in Poland with a huge diversity regarding quality, length and enrollment requirements. Those under the auspices of the Polish Psychological Association

are perceived as the most demanding, as well as the most prestigious. However, all of them concentrate predominately on psychotherapy (clinical psychology), not on specific domains of professional activity (i.e., health psychology).

Currently, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has been working on new regulations. The academic centers have been more involved in the process comparing to the previous years when opinions of professional associations had only been taken into account.

Education

According to the Bologna Process a new framework for studying psychology was introduced in September 2014. The main difference is that it consists of two cycles (bachelor's and master's degree, separately), well-recognized in many European countries, instead of one, usually a 5-year master's program. However, so far only one academic centre has offered such two-level curriculum, with a master's program combining clinical and health psychology.

Launching a new journal

The first journal edited in Poland entirely dedicated to health psychology came to life last year. The Health Psychology Report is an English language journal, founded in accordance with the guidelines necessary to apply for an

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impact factor. For details please see
<http://www.termedia.pl/hpr>



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