

ANNUAL REPORT EHPS 2014-2015

Associations

By autumn 2015, the Swiss Society for Health Psychology counted 74 full members, 19 of whom have the professional degree as Health Psychologist FSP. Note: this title has not to be mixed up with the new federally recognized title mentioned above.

Academic development

A Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Health Psychology (90 ECTS credits) has been created as a postgraduate education for psychologists by the "Triangle Azur", a network allowing cooperation between three universities in the French-speaking part of Switzerland (Geneva, Lausanne and Fribourg). Its curriculum consists of three Courses of Advanced Studies (CAS) each with a total of 30 ECTS credits, a specific education in practice, theories and methods (10 credits), a master thesis consisting of a research paper or an intervention report (16 credits), supervision (4 credits) and an internship (or proof of thorough practice in intervention or research) (30 credits). It fulfills the federal quality standards. A recognition as a specialization comparable to psychotherapy is foreseen by the Swiss confederation according to the law on the protection of the profession of psychology. See for more information <http://mas-psychosante.ch>. The first course is due to start by January 2016.

Current research

In 2015, there was a wide range of research in Switzerland in which health psychologists are involved or which cover fields of Health Psychology.

Conferences

In August 2014, the Swiss Public Health Conference was held in Olten on the topic of Mental Health. It was cooperation between the School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Olten, Public Health Switzerland and the Mental Health Network Switzerland (see also below). Although this was not a Health Psychology conference in the strict sense, Health Psychologists played an important role as they organized the conference and took part in the presentations and workshops: http://sph14.organizers-congress.ch/index_de.php.

Wim Nieuwenboom was elected unanimously as new National Delegate of the EHPS. He represented us at the last EHPS-Conference in Limmasol.

The fourth network conference of the Mental Health Network Switzerland took place on August 2015 and health psychologists were involved in it.

Other activities

The Swiss Society for Health Psychology has been asked to give its opinion with respect to a variety of governmental strategy papers and hearings. For instance, we were consulted in a hearing with respect to a draft paper on mental health (20.11.2014) and took position with respect to conceptual ambiguities and the derivation of options for action. Second, we were involved in the National Addiction Strategy (May 2015). Here, we criticized an approach that is too medical and proposed one that focuses more on the psychological and social determinants of health. Third, members of the board of the SGGPsy were also involved in a consultation about the National Strategy on Non-communicable Diseases in September 2015. Alongside conceptual improvements, an approach that does not exclusively focus on the individual but appropriately takes into account the contextual (social and economic) framework in which health behaviors occur was proposed.