

Annual Report Greece: 2019-2020

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I) Health Psychology in the country

The division of Clinical and Health Psychology of the Hellenic Psychological Society has formed two working groups: a. to investigate the creation of a national body or chamber that will examine the issues of exercising the profession of Psychologist in Greece, b. to examine the current European experience in psychology specializations and to investigate and document the facts concerning the existing specialties and directions of Psychology in Greece. At present, there is no national law regulation for specialties in Psychology in Greece.

II) Education, training & professionalization

In 2019 the Ministry of Education of Greece, announced the establishment of two new undergraduate programs in Psychology, at the University of Ioannina and Thessaly. This will give the opportunity for more undergraduate courses in Health Psychology to be taught as well as for new colleagues with training and qualification in Health Psychology to be hired in academia.

III) Activities

CONFERENCE & MEETINGS:

In 2019 the National Conference on Psychological Research was organized by the Hellenic Psychological Society and it was held in Alexandroupoli, Greece. On behalf of the Division of Clinical and Health Psychology society, a symposium was held in relation to the involuntary hospitalizations in Greece.

PUBLICATIONS:

During the last 2 years our members continue to publish in National & International Journals in topics directly related with the area of Health Psychology.

OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC COVID-19 PERIOD:

During this difficult year of the pandemic, more than 40 studies were conducted regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the emotional and social well-being of the general population and of the health care professionals; the variables that determine infection-preventive health behaviors; the factors that are related to adaptation to the emotional burden and the consequences of the pandemic and the lockdown etc. Almost half of these studies were local (addressed only to Greek population),

whereas the remainder were parts of international research efforts. The Hellenic Psychological Society is currently preparing a special volume dedicated to the findings of these studies.

Many of our EHPS members have participated in National and International research projects currently underway, related to health issues and impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic with populations such as university students, health care professionals and the general public.