

EHPs Turkey Report 2017,

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I) Health Psychology in the country

Changes in the status of health psychology in the country (e.g., regarding the health care system or legislation)

It is quite difficult to keep health psychology dynamic in Turkey. The lack of policymaking groups within the government also restrains the field's development and proliferation. Turkish Psychological Association made an announcement on March 7, 2017, regarding psychologists' professional sustainability as health science licensees: "A decision was taken by the Council of Higher Education (yok.gov.tr) on February 24, 2016. In this decision, psychologists graduated from the psychology departments of science and literature faculties were given the provision that they could not be regarded as health science licensees... Our association decided to stop the execution through a cancellation case against the Council of Higher Education, opened by the Council of State and heard by the 8th Office of the Council of State. In this way, the decision was stopped. The final decision states that psychologists will again be considered as health science licensees.

...The case is followed by our association's lawyer and information will be given to the public about the other steps of the case". The secured injunction text is available from <https://www.psikolog.org.tr/assets/uploads/file/yd%20karar%C3%84%C2%B1.pdf>

II) Education, training & professionalization

1. PROMOTION OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Although there have been attempts for boosting the demand for health psychology education at universities, the program initiatives are restricted to the faculties of literature. Medical schools do not embrace field. Therefore, research remains limited.

2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS

In June 2017, we made an online inquiry on 44 universities in Turkey's three demographically and economically prominent cities, including its capital Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. Only 9 universities have announced semester and/or elective courses for mostly their 3rd or 4th grade students. Besides, only one university, Middle East Technical University, has a Health Psychology Research Team (<http://hpert.metu.edu.tr/main.html>).

III) Activities

1. CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

CISED 2nd National Sexual Health Congress was held from April 7th to 9th, 2017, at Ankara Limak Ambassador Hotel. As stated by the congress' president Prof. Dr. Cengiz GULEÇ; "in Turkey and in the world, where the need for multi-disciplinary work is increasingly

important, the number of individuals or couples who are applying with mental and physical complaints caused by sexually transmitted diseases in recent years is increasing day by day". Relevantly, the congress' theme was "Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Safe Sexual Life and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)". The congress announced the support of various organizations, including The Association of Psychotherapy and Psychotherapists (PSİKODER), The Association of Psychosomatic Gynecology and Obstetrics, The Association of Family Therapies and Therapists (TERAPİDER), The Association of Therapy and Psychological Consulting (TEPDER). The congress' web site is available from <http://cised.org.tr/kongre2017/> .

Health and positive psychology are two fields supporting each other. As also stated by Harvard Health, the development of health, longevity and well-being are known to be correlated with positive emotions. Uskudar University, Istanbul hosted 2nd Eurasian Congress on Positive Psychology, from May 12th to 14th, 2017, with the theme of "The Science of Living Well". Resilience, well-being and positive body were among the congress topics. The congress' web site is available from <http://ppcongress2017.org/en/> .

2. PUBLICATIONS

National society/division/section's publications (including reports and material for professionals and the public)

Unfortunately, we have not come across a report or book published for health psychology professionals or the public by Turkish Psychological Association this year.

3. WORKING GROUPS (if any)

We do not have a working group.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Our LinkedIn group carries on its informative activities with 68 members.

5. PLANNED/FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology plans organizing "ICHPS 2018: 20th International Conference on Health Psychology and Stress" in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 26-27, 2018. As stated on its web site, it "aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Health Psychology and Stress. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Health Psychology and Stress". Abstracts/full-text paper submission is due to September 15, 2017. The conference's web site is available from <https://www.waset.org/conference/2018/04/istanbul/ICHPS>

IV) Other issues

In our LinkedIn group, we lastly shared information about the annual congress. Our consideration is that EHPS' announcements regarding young researchers and international collaborations have gradually decreased in number. Therefore, we need more support to promote EHPS activities in our group sharing.