

EHPS Annual National Delegate Report 2016 (2015-16)

Country: Lithuania

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Conferences.

9 – 11 of May, 2015 The congress of psychologists of Lithuania "Quo vadis, psychology?" at Lithuania's Health Science university. Two sections of health psychology had 9 presentations and 2 discussions.

6–7 of May, 2016 The congress of psychologists of Lithuania „Psychology: science based practice for a person and for the society”. Plenary presentation: Prof. habil. dr. Antanas Goštautas “Psychology and medicine – perspective of science and practice integration in the health care system” and 10 presentations on topics related to psychologists’ work in health care system.

Legislation.

Up till now there are ongoing discussions about having specialized legislation for Psychologists’ practice. At present, project of legislation is undergoing procedures before the final stage of decision. Psychologists are working under legislation regulating health care system including law on biomedical ethics.

Organizational aspects.

Graduates from both, clinical and health psychology programmes (not graduates from other master programmes in psychology) may apply to working places within health care system and to be registered as medical psychologists under regulations of ministry of health. No internship or licensing is still required. There is no professional title in practice as clinical or health psychologist, nor in doctoral studies which goes under general name – social sciences, psychology, without a further specification. At ministry of Health of Lithuania there is a list of registration and a stamp confirming the identity of medical psychologist.

Continuing education.

Preparation of health psychologists within master study programme is being carried out in Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas), Health Science University (Kaunas), Vilnius University (Vilnius). After graduation they can start working in health care system as medical psychologist. There is no requirement of 12 month internship after graduating.

Work related professional recognition

There are a lot of ongoing research, practical projects and publications (including dissertations in social science area) on topics of health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation which are difficult to separate from other health related areas and cannot be assigned only to Health Psychology.