

#### THE EUROPSY FRAMEWORK FOR TRAINING PSYCHOLOGISTS IN EUROPE:

## Revised Standards For Establishing Professional Competence

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Overview 1) What is EuroPsy? 2) 2023 Revision of EuroPsy 3) EuroPsy Training and Education Framework, 4) EuroPsy Competence Model 5) Supervised Practice 6) CPD

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1) What is EuroPsy?

EuroPsy is a European standard for education, professional training and competence in psychology set by the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA).

• The Basic EuroPsy Certificate presents a benchmark for evaluating the quality of the academic education and professional training of psychologists across Europe. **EuroPsy** EuroPsy

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#### Why do we need EuroPsy?

- Transparency
- Openness about education and training pathways
- Quality
- · Offers a guarantee of quality
- Development of the profession
  - Supports efforts of educators and trainers to improve standards and share best practice



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#### Aims and guiding principles of EuroPsy

- Promote availability of psychological services across Europe
- Protect consumers through assurance of quality standards
- Ensure award on basis of a) academic curriculum b) professional competence and c) endorsement of ethical standards
- Ensure fairness
- Guarantee qualification at entry level and beyond
- · Endorse commitment to active maintenance of competence
- Respect national regulations/licenses as EuroPsy is not a licence to practice
- Assist competent authorities in recognizing foreign qualifications



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#### Background of EuroPsy

- Established by the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations
  (FFPA)
- Implemented since 2010 (revised 2023)
- European qualification standard for psychologists
- Supplements national standards and helps the public to identify if a psychologist is competent to practice



Governance of EuroPsy

- EFPA maintains the register of EuroPsy psychologists and has responsibility for oversight and quality assurance of the EuroPsy Certification system.
- The European Awarding Committee (EAC) of EFPA has responsibility for developing and monitoring developments of EuroPsy.
- The National Awarding Committee (NAC) takes responsibility for the evaluation and award of individual EuroPsy certificates.
- The Specialist European Awarding Committee (S-EAC) ensures that the registration and award of the Specialist EuroPsy occurs in accordance with the regulations.
- The Specialist National Awarding Committee (S-NAC) takes responsibility for the evaluation and award of individual EuroPsy specialist certificates.





### Routes to the EuroPsy

#### There are two main routes into EuroPsy:

- 1. Individual completes application form and gives evidence of their curriculum and subsequent supervised practice in a specific 'field of practice' (clinical or health, education, work & organisational psychology, sport psychology, and other), the "regular route".
- · 2. Psychologists who may have trained at a time when the current requirements did not apply can provide evidence of education and practice via a "transitional arrangement" route. This route applies for a limited period of time.

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#### Applying for the EuroPsy

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- Psychologists must complete an application form (downloadable from the website of the National Awarding Committee or the national psychological association in their country).
- 2) The application must provide information on: the university education, the supervised practice, specifying the professional competences and contexts within which she/he has worked under supervision to qualify for independent practice.
- 3) Applicants should check whether their university and the curricula meet the EuroPsy requirements, as otherwise additional courses may need to



- Successful completion of academic university curriculum in psychology (at least 5 years, 300 ECTs, max 25 ECTS non psychology) Undergraduate study (min. orientation internship 4 ECTS, thesis 10 ECTS)
  - Graduate study (3 to 6 months internship and thesis each 15-30 ECTS)
- 2) Supervised practice within a specified field of practice (at least 1 year/1500 hours, 60 ECTS) and satisfactory evaluations of professional competences by at least one accredited supervisor in this field of practice
- 3) Commitment to professional code of ethics (MetaCode of EFPA and code of national association in country of practice)



#### Requirements for renewal

- Renewal necessary after 7 years
- At least 400 hours of practice per year over 4 out of 7 years
- At least 80 hours of CPD per year (of which at least 40hours must be documented)



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## Impact of the EuroPsy

- Influencing legislation on the regulation of psychology, e.g. Spain, Portugal, Croatia,...
- Influencing university curricula, e.g. Spain, Portugal, Poland,, ...
- Improving transparency for the public
- Promoting best practice (supervision; CPD)
- Bringing together psychologists in Europe



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2) 2023 Revision of EuroPsy Standards, Competences and CPD



EuroPsy Basic certificate

at least 9D ECTS of study credits of advanced study or training

At least three years of postgraduate practice (post eligibility for EuroPsy Certificate) of which at least 500 hours is supervised practice

At least 150 hours of supervision (i.e. on average 50 hours a year)

Submission of a log book to evidence the specialism

At the present time the following Specialist Certificates exist

Psychotherapy

Work and Organizational Psychology

Sport Psychology

(as a pilot: Clinical Neuropsychology)

 $\bullet$  The EuroPsy Specialised Certificate is an additional qualification and builds on the standard of the EuroPsy.

**EuroPsy Specialisations** 

Generic requirements

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WG Task: Revising EuroPsy standards

1. Revise and update EuroPsy education and training standards for the EuroPsy basic certificate to reflect best practice in EU a) Appendix II: Framework and minimal standards for education and training of psychologists

b) Appendix V: Supervised practice

2. Revise EuroPsy Competences (Appendix III) taking account of the International Declaration of Core Competences in Professional Psychology

3. Elaborate CPD standards (Appendix VI) and develop guidelines on systems for evaluating CPD

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Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the EuroPsy regulations 2010

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#### EuroPsy Competences: Strengths

#### **EuroPsy Model**

- Sets European standards for education in psychology
- Describes important competences for psychologists and independent practice
- Stresses the importance of (context related) knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes applied and practiced ethically
- · Incorporates the idea of problem-solving cycles



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### EuroPsy Competences: Weaknesses

- Primary competences
  Inconsistent structure between and within categories
  Specify content (e.g., need analysis) or level/object of actions (e.g., individual, group assessment) Mix content, level/object and type of interventions (e.g., planning, person, direct, indirect)
  Only Development & Evaluation follow a problem-solving cycle, but overlap (Service/product eva
- Enabling competences:
- Not needed for all areas of practice (Marketing & Sales; Practice management)
  Lack important aspects: e.g. ethical, diversity/cultural, technological competences, research, teaching, and advocacy of psychology

  The property of the proper
- · Primary and enabling competences
- Theoretical rational and relation to competence models are unclear.

  Do not specify psychological knowledge, skills, attitudes (KSA) and learning outcomes
- Overlap (e.g., Development and Research and Development).

  Do not relate to curriculum contents / competences in phase 1-3 (Appendix II, tables 1 and 2).
- Redundancies and lacking clarity in standards <u>efpa</u>

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#### **Accepted WG Proposal**

3) Education and training standards for the EuroPsy basic certificate (Appendix II)



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#### **EuroPsy Basic Framework**

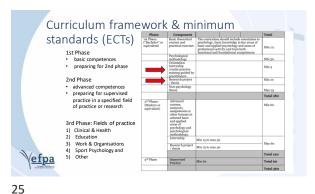
Three phase or integrated curriculum (360 ECTS)

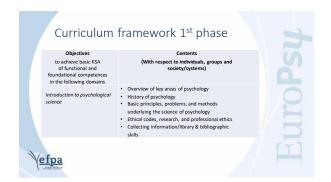
- 1st phase Academic Bachelor or equivalent study
- 2nd phase Academic Masters or equivalent study

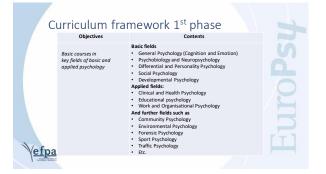
• 3rd phase Supervised practice





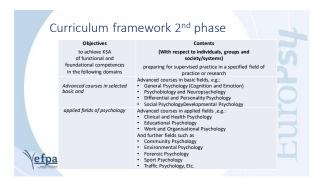






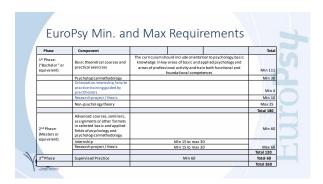




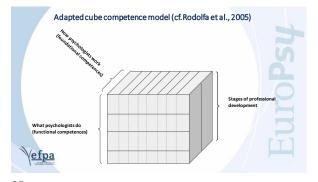


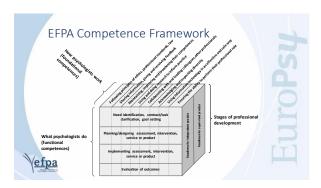
|   |  | nework 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase   |      |
|---|--|--|------|
| / | Objectives                                 | Contents   |      |
|   | Advanced assessment and evaluation methods | Advanced quantitative and or qualitative research design (e.g., aurwy methods, advanced interviewing, EEG, [MRI, eye-tracking) Advanced multivariate statistics and or qualitative methodologies (e.g., data analyses) Advanced assessment and psychometric theory, Field specific assessment and evaluation methods (e.g., work & organisational psychology, diucational psychology, clinical psychology, decuational psychology, clinical psychology, such as and/or other psychological subdisciplines, such as | LOPS |
|   |  | work analysis, analysis of learning needs,<br>psychopathology assessment, evaluation of<br>intervention outcomes)  |      |
|   |  | <ul> <li>Skills training in report writing and or expert reports<br/>and or diagnostic reports</li> </ul>  | -    |











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Moving from describing content to describing learning outcomes and psychological knowledge, skills and attitudes (KSA) needed for functional and foundational competences √efpa

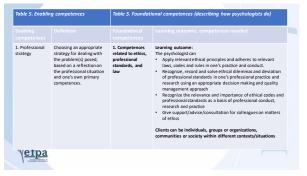


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| Table 4. Primary competences of psychologists |  | Table 4. Functional competences (describing <u>what</u> psychologists do) |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|   |  |   |   |
| A. Goal specification  1. Needs analysis      | Interacting with the client for the purpose of defining the goals of the intervention or service that will be provided Ga thering information about the client's needs by means of appropriate methods, clarifying and analysingthe needs to a point where meaning life further action can be taken. | Need identification, contract/task clarification and goal setting         | Competences needed are in particular:  Attitude:  **Cutious – interest leading to inquiry to understand the causes of client's behaviour and interpretation of events  Open-be open to client's need and goals  **Empathic – willingness to understand the client's situation and share client's feelings  **Collaborative – display a willingness to work with clients and others in a respectful manner |
| 2. Goal setting                               | Proposing and negotiating goals with the client, establishing acceptable and feasible goals, and specifying criteria for evaluating goal fulfilment later.   |   |   |









Functional competences

2. Planning / Idesigning relevant assessment and intervention or product/service

Salls

1. Choosing methods and their implementation strategies, taking into consideration the goals of assessment/intervention, clients' (mental) status, their context and individual/group/organisational differences

2. Analysing the options available and formulating hypotheses about the possible outcomes of the choices and the evaluation criteria for testing these hypotheses

Attitudes

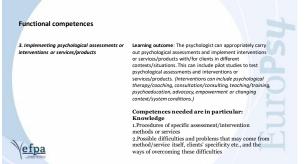
1. Carring – displays kindness and concern for others, considering a client's emotional state

2. Responsible – being aware of one's own responsibility

3. Flexible – displays a flexible approach and mindset

4. Critical and hypothesis-oriented thinking – display willingness to reflect critically on own actions

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Functional competences

3. Implementing psychological assessments or interventions or services/products

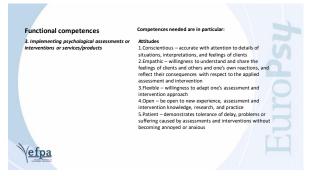
5. Can implement specific assessment/intervention methods under different conditions and with different clients

1. Can implement specific assessment/intervention methods under different conditions and with different clients

2. Can recognise, articulate and manage/accommodate unexpected / possible (side)effects (consequences, impact) during the assessment/intervention without losing sight of the agreed goal

3. Can test the agriori formulated hypotheses for evidenced based decisions

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Functional competences

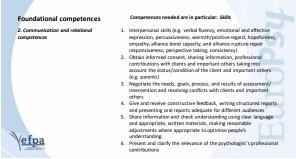
4. Evaluation

Learning outcome: The psychologist can evaluate process characteristics, and outcomes, outputs, and impact of psychological assessments and/or interventions or services/products and to revise the procedures if necessary during the implementation process (formative evaluation) and at the end (summative evaluation). If needed, it may mean going back to section 1 (need analysis and goal setting) and start the process again. (Outcome measures may include reliability, volificity, usefulness, impoct, gain, effectiveness etc. depending on the context and goals of the evaluation)

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Foundational competences

2. Communication and relational competences

1. Open – applies an open minded and enquiring client specific approach to communication and relationship building

2. Honest: when obtaining informed consent, developing contract, reporting the findings

3. Positive – supportive and positive in approach in communication and feedback

4. Respectful – accepts others as equal in professional interactions

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# Learning outcome: Foundational competences Psychologists have the responsibility of developing their professional qualities and maintaining, improving, and broadening their knowledge, expertise and multi-faceted competences. This requires that they are able to use the functional competences to develop their own professional competences in a career long process: analysis of training needs, goal setting, planning the training, implementing the training, evaluating the training. 3. Continuing Professional Development – CPD competences

The psychologist can:

1.Maintain professional competences

2.Overcome gaps in knowledge and skills

3.Respond to the challenges of the rapidly growing knowledge base and technological developments by

upskilling

4.Change practice requirements when needed
5.Commit to continuous lifelong learning

6.Engage in supervision
7.Share and learn from collaboration with other psychologists and professionals

dational competences

Competences needed are in particular:

Knowledge
1.Recent/novel evidence-based research, methodological and theoretical psychological perspectives in specific fields of practice 2.Multicultural perspectives of psychology and diversity 3.Interprofessional collaborative practices 4.Professionalism/Ethics

Jupdating knowledge in line with current evidence bases
2.ldentifying needs and areas for development
3.Exploring knowledge
4.Examining and analysing information from a range of sources and
different mediums

5.Questioning and using critical thinking 6.Self-actualising, self-reflecting and learning

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Foundational competences

3. Continuing Professional Development – CPD competences

Competences needed are in particular

Attitudes

1. Open – be open to challenge, change and development
2. Curious – interest leading to inquir, be interested in the causes of
behaviour and events
3. Collaborative – display a willingness to work with others in a
respectful manner, to share knowledge and experiences
4. Goal oriented – set goals and evaluate progress on a regular basis
5. Innovative – explore new ways of working
6. Proactive – identify professional development activities

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Foundational competences

4. Science and research competences

Learning outcome:

Learning outcome: Psychological practice requires a constant critical reflection that is informed by knowledge, practice and research and he ability to use and do research to inform practice and understand of the process of research. The psychologist can:

The psychologist can:

1.Engage in evidence-based decision making, critical reasoning, and integrating best available scientific and contextual expertise into practice.

2.Use informed and scientifically established assessment, intervention, supervision and consultation tools and strategies.

3.Informs oneself critically and reflectively about advances in psychological science, other sciences in general and own subject area.

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Foundational competences

4. Science and research competences

Attitudes

Actitudes

Activates

Act

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Foundational competences

5. Collaboration and leadership
competences

5. Kills

1. Shared decision-making and leadership
2. Perspective taking
3. Resolving conflict
4. Managing and leading change

Attitudes

1. Trustful – willingness to create an environment of confidence
2. Open – be open to new experience, knowledge, research, and practice
3. Collaborative – display a willingness to work with other people in a respectful manner
4. Responsible – willingness to take on responsibility

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# Foundational competences 6. Individual and cultural differences competences

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#### Learning outcome:

The psychologist can:
1.Identify, acknowledge, and respect diversity and minority

1.Identify, acknowledge, and respect diversity and minority issues
2.Recognise osion alvalue, beliefs, and experiences on one's professional behaviour with clients and others and the impact on others
3.Work and communicate effectively with all forms of diversity in clients, colleagues, and others
4. Be inclusive in all forms of diversity in working with clients,

colleagues, and others Awareness of own biases helps to avoid stereotyping individuals belonging to different groups. The psychologist can consider that sociocultural factors such as gender, gender

consider that sociocultural ractors such as gender, gender dientity, culture, ethnicity, age, family context, religion, sexual orientation, majority / minority affiliation etc. are included in the assessment of factors which affect personality, values, worldview, relationships, psychopathology, and attitudes to treatment, and can make individual adjustments to the client's needs based on this.

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# Foundational competences Learning outcome: The psychologist can use digital technologies, in particular information / communication technologies in an effective and safe way considering clients' needs, data protection, online privacy and optersecurity for need analysis and goal setting, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Knowledge about the possibilities and limitation of digital technologies, in particular information/communication schoolegies, the possibilities and limitation of digital technologies, in particular information/communication. 7. Digital/information and communication technologies and the skills to apply the technology in an effective and safe way.

Foundational competences

7. Digital/information and communication technology competences

Knowledge

1.Ethical practice, legal and security requirements (e.g. GDPR), specific to electronic/remote practice
2.Professional boundary issues
3.Range of digital technologies (e.g. Self Help or Online
Producted Laranico-Fithward)

3. Analge of congrain technologies (e.g. Sert neigh or runne Blendde Larnig/Therapy) Blendde Larnig/Therapy) interventions and of apps in psychological interventions available to support the delivery on factor larning the processes which may affect digital practice across individual, system and group work (e.g. turn taking and use of non-verbal, processes which may affect digital practice across individual, system and group work (e.g. turn taking and use of non-verbal information)



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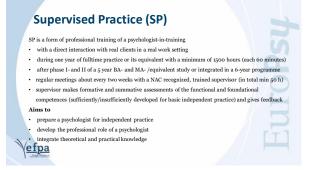








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Supervisory and self assessment of functional and foundational competences distinguishes between the two levels of competence

Not yet competent
Competence insufficiently developed
Need of further development and requiring guidance and supervision

Competent
Competent Supervision

Competent
Competent Supervision

Competent
Competent Supervision

Performing tasks without guidance at the basic level of EuroPsy

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6) Continuous professional development (CPD) standards (Appendix VI)

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Professional work experience

- In addition to their ongoing professional work (at least 400 hours per year for at least 4 years during the 7 year revalidation period), psychologists need to update and broaden their professional knowledge and skills through a range of professional development activities.
- To maintain their competences, psychologists are expected to provide explicit evidence of at least 40 hours of CPD activities per year (all together 160 hours).
- However, a minimum of 80 hours per year are recommended. CPD is recommended to be distributed at least over four years. Evidence of a variety of activities is required.
- E.g. Certified attendance and participation in accredited courses and/or workshops aimed at further professional development (max. 60%) / Certified attendance in supervision / intervision meetings (max. 30%) / Teaching (max. 20%)

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