

## Ten Years of the Cyprus National Awarding Committee for the EuroPsy: *Aligning with European Standards to Leverage Local Impact*

Dr Anthi Loutsiou, Chair of the Cyprus National Awarding Committee for the EuroPsy

10th Anniversary Cyprus National Awarding Committee

Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the launch EuroPsy in Cyprus

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Εθνική Επιτροπή Κίπρου

Επίσημο Ψυχολογικό Σχολείο

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## Timeline of important professional milestones at a local level

- 2000 1st BA degree in Psychology at the UoC of Cyprus
- 2004 Cyprus enters the EU. Successful lobbying by CyPSA. Legislation for the practice of psychology adjusted closer to EuroPsy standards for practical training and supervised practice (1500 hours). Registration of psychologists begins.
- 2005 First professional training. Masters program at the UoC of Cyprus in School Psychology.
- 2009 legislation changed +1000 hours supervised practice discipline. Fierce lobbying against it by CyPSA.
- 2014 Cyprus NAC Approval by EFPA. Established transitional arrangements to route for certification.
- 2019 EuroPsy "transitional arrangement" route ended for the Cyprus NAC.

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## The Cyprus National Awarding Committee (NAC) for the EuroPsy

What we serve, Who we are, What we do

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The Cyprus National Awarding Committee (NAC) is designated by EFPA to manage the EuroPsy System in Cyprus via CyPSA

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      EFPA[EFPA EAC] --- NAC[Cyprus NAC]
      NAC --- CyPSA[National Association CyPSA]
  
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## The primary role of the Cyprus NAC

- Responsible for the evaluation and award of individual EuroPsy certificates in Cyprus
- Our work is regulated by the **EuroPsy Regulations**
- [https://www.europsy.eu/webdata/europsy\\_regulations\\_july\\_2023\\_en\\_brighton\\_v2\\_0.pdf](https://www.europsy.eu/webdata/europsy_regulations_july_2023_en_brighton_v2_0.pdf)
- Translation of the Regulations (and subsequent Revisions) in Greek (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023) / offered the work to the Greek NAC
- 4 Regular meetings a year for review of applications and administrative meetings plus additional meetings as needed



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## Key principle for all NACs Respect national regulations for the practice of psychology

- EuroPsy is **NOT** a license to practice –
  - it is an individual certification that is **complementary to national licensure**
- The Cyprus NAC accepts applications for the EuroPsy certification from applicants who are **already** registered psychologists in Cyprus.



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## According to the EuroPsy Regulations (Article 16)

- The NAC consists of a Chairperson and between 4-8 other Members.
- The members of the NAC will represent the main field of practice of psychology in that country and will provide a balance between those working as practitioners and those working at universities and involved in the education of psychologists.
- The NAC should be representative of the widest community of psychologists in the country concerned.
- The members of the NAC are appointed by the national Association (Full Member of EFPA) for a term of up to 4 years, twice renewable.



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## Who we are

Cyprus NAC members :

- Are Members of CyPSA
- Became EuroPsy certified
- Volunteer their time with a passion and a commitment for promoting a European identity for psychologists and a drive to foster quality standards in the training of psychologists and practice of psychological services.



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## FOUNDING MEMBERS (2014) of the Cyprus NAC for the EuroPsy

- **Dr. Anthi Loutsiou**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Role: Trainer of Professional Psychologists at the University of Cyprus (**NAC Chair and Secretary**) (responsible for the submission of the initial application portfolio)
- **Ms. Andri Anastasiou**, Licensed School Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in the Public School system, Trainer of professional psychologists at the University of Nicosia (until recently) (**NAC Vice-Chair**)
- **Ms. Elena Zarouna**, Licensed Counselling Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner, Policy Maker, and clinical supervisor at a Non-Governmental Organization, Clinical Supervisor (**NAC Treasurer**)
- **Dr. Christina Ioannou**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner, Policy Maker, and clinical supervisor at the Ministry of Education (**NAC Member**)
- **Dr. Maria Karekla**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Roles: Trainer of professional psychologists at the University of Cyprus (**NAC Member**)

## Current Cyprus NAC Members (2024)

1. **Dr. Anthi Loutsiou**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Role: Trainer of Professional Psychologists at the University of Cyprus (**NAC Chair and Secretary**)
  2. **Ms. Andri Anastasiou**, Licensed School Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in the Public School system, Trainer of professional psychologists at the University of Nicosia (until recently) (**NAC Vice-Chair**)
  3. **Dr. Andrea Makri**, Licensed School Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in the Public School system, Clinical supervisor (until recently), (**NAC Secretary**)
  4. **Mr. Giorgos Pepetsios**, Licensed Counselling Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in Private Practice, Clinical supervisor (NAC Member)
  5. **Dr. Constantina Demosthenous**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in the Public Mental Health System (NAC Vice-Secretary)
  6. **Dr. Chara Demetriou**, Licensed Clinical and School Psychologist, Primary Roles: Practitioner in the Public University system, Clinical supervisor (NAC Member – CYPISA Board Liaison)
- (**Dr. Marios Constantinou**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Primary Roles: Trainer of professional psychologist at the University of Nicosia (**NAC member / term concluded April 2024**))

## The responsibilities of a NAC include the following (Article 17)

- a) to submit all its procedures for approval to the European Awarding Committee;
- b) to stipulate the manner in which an applicant has to submit evidence of professional competencies;
- c) to prepare and publish a list of currently approved curricula for academic education in psychology, including the level of degree;
- d) to advise institutions of higher learning of conditions for approval;
- e) to issue guidelines for the assessment of competences by Supervisors;
- f) to prepare a form on professional ethics to be signed by applicants;
- g) to determine the fee for administrative costs to be paid by applicants;
- h) to nominate a contact person who will be authorised to access the EFPA Register of EuroPsy Psychologists

## The responsibilities of a National Awarding Committee (NAC) include the following (Article 17) (cont)

- i) to take a decision on each individual application for the EuroPsy, either informing the applicant of the reasons why the application failed or awarding the EuroPsy;
- j) to issue the EuroPsy Certificate to individual psychologists;
- k) to keep a record of psychologists awarded the EuroPsy;
- l) to keep an archive of all application materials for a period of 15 years;
- m) to prepare an annual report of activities for the European Awarding Committee;
- n) to provide relevant information and participate in the annual meeting of Presidents of the National Awarding Committees;
- o) to act as consultation body to the competent authorities for the recognition of psychologists' professional qualifications in the country.

## Activities of the Cyprus NAC and local impact



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## Key Activities of the Cyprus NAC at a local level

- **Promo and visibility**
  - Presentations at the Annual GA of CyPSA
  - Website
  - Exhibition Booth and presentations at International Conferences in Cyprus
  - Presentations to psychology students .
  - Presentations to Trainers of Psychologists
  - Presentations to Clinical Supervisors of supervised practice
- **Survey of Trainers (2022)** about internship and supervised practice (e.g. hours, quality assurance and level of competence of supervisors )
- **Consultation with Universities**
- **Support with Policy Advocacy**
- **Collaboration with CyPSA Board**
- **Establishing the Network of Clinical Training Directors**



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## Impact at the National level (1)

- Certainly it is NOT in the numbers of EuroPsy Certificates ©
- **Universities** benefited in designing curricula and setting the standards for the education and practical training of psychologists
- **Students of psychology** benefited in being better able to assess training programs and make informed decisions about their studies
- **Psychologists** benefited by having a European recognition for their credentials.
- **The profession** benefited by acquiring a more European identity.
- **CyPSA** benefited by having a European framework and an ally in EFPA for its lobbying efforts.
- **Supervisors of supervised practice** benefited by having their role more clearly established in the training of psychologists



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## Impact at the National level (2)

- **Built bridges** of connection between CyPSA and the Universities through a common European Standard
- **Fostered alliances** amongst universities to protect the level of training of psychologists through a common European Standard
- **Established** the Network for Directors of Clinical Training (2022)



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## Looking back

- In the first 10 years the Cyprus NAC remained committed to developing and setting procedural and administrative systems for the implementation of the EuroPsy in Cyprus that were transparent, fair, and pragmatic
- This was admittedly a challenging task for the NAC with many obstacles at all levels
- We raised our voices with the European Awarding Committee about the need for revisions of the EuroPsy regulations
- We welcome the significant revisions to the EuroPsy regulations approved by the EFPA General Assembly in July 2023 and congratulate the working group that took on this task under the leadership of our guest speaker Prof. Conny H. Antony
- We hope that the new regulations will help to streamline the work of the NAC's




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## Looking ahead – Call for Action - there is still a lot of work that needs to be done at a local level

- Work to **bridge the gap** between the current legal standards for the practice of Psychology in Cyprus and the EuroPsy Standards
  - Raise awareness with university program coordinators and trainers, policy makers ,and competent authorities like the licensing board
- Promote **quality assurance** in educational training and in supervised practice
  - Shift away from quantitative goals alone (e.g. hours) to competence driven outcomes
  - More opportunities for formalized training for clinical supervisors
  - A system to recognize NAC accredited supervisors
- Promote **best practices for practitioners of psychology**
  - Encourage Continuous Professional Development as a lifelong commitment for practicing psychologists to maintain their competence
  - Develop a system for recording, evaluating, and crediting Continuous Professional Development from various activities.
- **Raise the public's and employers' awareness** of the EuroPsy and help them understand which psychologists are competent to practice according to the European standard

**These can only be achieved with significant support from EFPA and CyPSA and synergies with universities**



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**EuroPsy is NOT just a certificate for psychologists**

- In the absence of a European Directive that regulates the practice of psychology across the European nations, EuroPsy remains our best option for a common European identity as psychologists.
- Cyprus is too small to be isolated from trends in European and international psychology
- We need each other within Europe, and beyond, if we are to make a difference for the profession and safeguard the citizens in Europe against unqualified providers of psychological services
- We need EFPA's support
- We need to support our Association to support EFPA's work with the EuroPsy


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## Sincere appreciation






Thank you for your partnership and commitment to the European Quality Standard for the training and practice of psychology



I could have not done this without the support of many



In the course of the EuroPsy implementation in Cyprus I have worked with 4 CyPSA Executive Boards, 3 Chairs of the EAC, 3 EuroPsy Liaisons and 12 NAC members.

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Thank you for your attention  
and for the opportunity to  
serve the European Quality  
Standard for Psychologists  
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