REPORT ABOUT ALFPHV’S SURVEY
ECPVI – Budapest 10th – 12nd November 2016

Béatrice DEPONDT, Chantal LÉCOLIER, Évelyne ROLLOT, Françoise TOMENO and Nathalie VAN LANDEGHEM
ALFPHV
Association of French Speaking Psychologists Specialized for Visually Impaired Persons

* **Founded in 1969** to bring together psychologists working in **different fields**: clinical psychology, psychodynamic, psychotherapy, neuroscience and cognitive psychology

* They all work for **blind or partially sighted persons**, with their relatives and with other professionals

* All of them are aware of the **clinical dimension** and share the same **ethical commitment**

* The Association offers **continuing training** for its members by organizing annual **working session** and publishing conference **proceedings**
“Recommendations for the practice of psychologists working with Visually Impaired People”

5TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOLOGY AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT ECPVI 2014 – BRATISLAVA November 20-21
Sharing our work experiences

* Types of training
* Frameworks of practice
* Patients/clients
* Co-workers
* Intervention areas
* Responsibilities towards visually impaired persons
* Professional associations and legal recognition
* Legal obligations
## Survey results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN ENPVI</th>
<th>MAILING</th>
<th>COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN ENPVI</th>
<th>MAILING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>Send</td>
<td>Answered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byelorussia</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN TOTAL** 178 30 (16,8%)
The survey respondents
Who are they?

They are:

- Psychologists (93.3%) including 5 psychotherapists and 1 research manager
- Neuropsychologist (3.3%)
- Other (3.3%): University Disability Coordinator
General training of these psychologists

**Between 5 and 7 years**, PhD or Master, with specialization and/or clinical practice under supervision

- **Belgium, France, Hungary, Iceland, United Kingdom, USA**: Master or PhD (5 years)
- **Denmark**: Master and 2 years of clinical practice under supervision
- **Germany**: Master and 3 years more to become a psychotherapist
- **Greece**: Master and 2 or 3 years of specialization
- **Ireland**: 7 years
- **Netherlands**: Master and supervision
- **Norway**: six years of university education and training in psychology, based on the scientific/practitioner model
- **Sweden**: Master and 1 year of clinical practice under supervision
Many specializations

* Brain injury
* Clinical psychology/Psychopathology
* Disability
* Early intervention
* Educational psychology
* Health psychology
* Institutional psychotherapy
* Neuropsychology
* Parent/family counseling
* Psycho-gerontology
* Psychotherapy
* Qualification to teach in higher education (“agrégation” in French)
* Visual impairment (or sensory impairment)
Many interests

* ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
* Ageing
* ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorders
* Assessments
* Blindness
* CVI – Cerebral Visual Impairment
* Developmental aspects of VI
* Disability
* Early intervention
* Inclusion
* Mental health

* Mental imagery
* Neuroscience
* Parent/child interaction
* Pedagogical issues
* Psychiatry
* Psychoanalysis
* Psychotherapy
* Rehabilitation
* Special education
* Teenagers
* Working relationships with teams
They work with

- Infant (14)
- Children (16)
- Families (18)
- Adults (21)
- Teenagers (22)
- Teachers and vocational trainers (3)
- Young adults (1)
They work with

- Blind people (29)
- Partially sighted (28)
- Cerebrally visual impairment (18)
- Additional disabilities (18)
- Brain injury (15)
- Psychiatric problems (15)
- Deaf Blind people (11)
- Hearing impairment (5)
- Others (5)
They work for

- Private practice (12)
- School for VI (5)
- Psychological consultation centre (5)
- Social support service (2)
- Functional rehabilitation center (6)
- Medical center (1)
- Scientific research (4)
- Others: early intervention service, university, etc. (11)
Their professional situation

- Employed (18 - 60%)
- Independent practice (6 - 20%)
- Both (5 - 16,7%)
- Other (1 - 3,3%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic approaches</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychotherapies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training sessions</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychological approaches</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family therapies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
They work with a multidisciplinary team

Mainly work with healthcare professionals, rehabilitation trainers, social workers and other psychologists.
When there is a job description, it is written by psychologist or by a higher authority (supervisor, manager, ministry, etc.)
If their practice are evaluated, it is by their higher authority, their colleagues, professional supervision, their clients, accreditation organization or quality management procedures.
They decide on their own activity (90% yes)

- their objectives (86.7% yes)
- the choice of methods (96.7% yes)
- the length of a work session / appointment (86.7% yes)
- the number of work sessions / appointments (90% yes)
- without prescription (82.8% no). Otherwise it is prescribed by health insurance or a manager

- the number of appointments is not fixed in advance (79.3% no), otherwise, they are decided with the client or according to a contract
Who pays?

* The financing varies a little from one country to another
* Overall it is paid
  * by government funding
  * or by clients/patients/families
  * and sometimes with assistance from welfare system or health insurance (private or state)
Is consent requested?

Most often, consent is requested.
It is an obligation for 22 psychologists.
They communicate their reports

When they do, the reports are sent to:
- Patient/client
- Family and child
- School (head of school, teachers, etc.)
- Medical contacts
- Different authority representatives
- Multidisciplinary team, co-workers
Psychologist’s professional title is protected by legislation.

There is at least one association of psychologists.

In every country, there are legal obligations such as confidentiality, professional secrecy, ethical obligations and keeping clinical records.

And like every citizen, the respect of the current laws in each country.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Psychologist’s Association</th>
<th>Name of the code</th>
<th>Officially recognized authority</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Belgian Commission of Psychologists (Commission Belge des Psychologues – Psychologencommissie)</td>
<td>Royal Decree establishing the Code of Ethics for Psychologists (Arrêté Royal fixant les Règles de Déontologie du Psychologue – Koninklijk Besluit tot Vaststelling van de Voorschriften Inzake de Plichtenleer van de Psycholoog) Deontological Code of Belgian Psychologists (Code de Déontologie des Psychologues Belges)</td>
<td>Yes • Psychologists’ Order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Danish Psychological Association (Dansk Psykolog Forening)</td>
<td>Ethical Principles for Nordic Psychologists (Etiske prinicpper for Nordiske Psykologer)</td>
<td>No • Not legally recognized but by Danish Psychological Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>ALFPHV, FFPP (Fédération Française des Psychologues et de Psychologie), SFP (Société Française de Psychologie), etc.</td>
<td>Deontological Code of French Psychologists (Code de Déontologie des Psychologues Français)</td>
<td>No • Not recognized by law but by the associations • Healthcare professionals are mandatory registered on ADELI’s List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>The Association of German Professional Psychologists (Der Berufsverband Deutscher Psychologinnen und Psychologen – BDP)</td>
<td>Ethical Principles (Ethische Richtlinien)</td>
<td>Yes • Federation of pedagogues of blind and visually impaired education (Der Verband für Blinden- und Sehbehindertenpädagogik e. V. (VBS))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Psychologist’s Association</td>
<td>Name of the code</td>
<td>Officially recognized authority</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Association of Greek Psychologists (ΣΕΨ – SEPS)</td>
<td>Deontological Code (ΚΩΔΙΚΑΣ ΔΕΟΝΤΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>• Not recognized by law but by ΣΕΨ – SEPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Hungarian Union for Psychologists. Hungarian Chamber for Psychologists Hungarian Psychological Association (Magyar Pszichológiai Társaság – Magyar Pszichológusok Érdekvédelmi Egyesülete)</td>
<td>Code of Ethics (Pszichológusok Szakmai Etikai Kódexe)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• Professional Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Icelandic Psychological Association (Sálfræðingafélag Íslands)</td>
<td>Moral Rules Ethical Committee</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• Depend on Nordic Psychological Committee (Norrænu sálfræðingafélaganna – SAK) • Union of Psychologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI)</td>
<td>Code of Ethics Board of Professional Conduct</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>• Code of Ethics recognized by PSI but not law • Legislation is planned but not currently in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Psychologist’s Association</td>
<td>Name of the code</td>
<td>Officially recognized authority</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Dutch Institute of Psychologists (Nederlands Instituut van Psychologen – NIP)</td>
<td>Code of Ethics (De Beroepscode)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• Psychologists are registered on the Dutch Healthcare System with a BIG Register (Beroepen Individuele Gezondheidszorg – Dutch Individual Health Care Professions Act)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Professional Code is recognized by NVO (Association of Educationalists in The Netherlands – Nederlandse Vereniging van Pedagogen en Onderwijskundigen) and NIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>The Norwegian Psychological Association (Norsk Psykolog Forening – NPF)</td>
<td>Ethical Guideline (Etiske prinsipper for Nordiske psykologer)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• Psychologists’ Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Swedish Psychologists Association (Sveriges Psykologförbund)</td>
<td>Ethical Principles (Yrkesetiska principer för psykologer i Norden)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>• Recognized by Psychologists’ Association but not by law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>British Psychological Association (BPS)</td>
<td>Code of Ethics and Conduct</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>• Psychologists are registered by HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American Psychological Association (APA)</td>
<td>Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct Ethics Office – Ethics Committee</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>• Recognized by APA not by law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• State Licensure Board (authorization to practice)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Their comments and observations

- Age range of the respondents
- Years of professional experience
- Changes during professional experience
- Specific treatment methods
- Number of patients/clients
- Professional writings
- Personal notes
- Digitized records
- Psychological file
- Special time for research, training and supervision in their schedule
Our comments and observations

* **About training and specialization**
  * is it mandatory to choose a specialization during the initial training? If so, does this specialization determine the kind of job?
  * after the initial training, are there specializations required for a particular practice (visual impairment, disability, etc.)?

* **About the ethical or conduct or moral Codes**
  * Who wrote them?
  * Which is the impact of the professional codes on practice?
  * Is ethics code part of the psychological training? Are the psychologists students aware of it?

=> to permit a better description of the psychologists’ role and what is expected of them
Respecting differences between individuals

Our purpose is to encourage us to exchange about our practices, and to really speak about the Visually Impaired Persons.

That questionnaire reflected our French culture, practices, and language. For other cultures, issues may not have been so easy to understand.

We hope this will permit a better understanding of our practices and give a better offer for Visually Impaired Persons.

Let us discuss!