

**Tuomo Tikkanen, President, EFPA
The European Federation of Psychologists Associations**

**Psychologists welcome the Directive proposal:
It offers new possibilities for free mobility and
high quality of psychological services in Europe**

The European Federation of Psychologists' Associations is a federation of 31 European national psychological associations, including all the 15 European Union Member States and the new applicant states. EFPA and its member associations represent 150.000 psychologists in Europe. This is about one third of the the world's global population of psychologists.

We welcome the Commission's Directive proposal on recognition of professional qualifications. It clearly creates new possibilities for better mobility and automatic recognition to European professions, and at the same time good enough guarantees of the quality of the services to European citizens.

Especially article 15 concerning the possibility of the Commission accepting common platforms presented by European professional associations is well synchronised with the carefully designated plans within European psychology.

EFPA is planning to issue a European Diploma in Psychology (EDP) in the near future, quite likely in the beginning of the year 2004 if and when this Directive proposal will be accepted.

This European Diploma would be granted to all psychologists who have training in psychology that fulfils the criteria that are designed to be the European standard in psychology. The criteria are an undergraduate degree, a Master's degree or equivalent level university training in psychology and at least one year of supervised practice, adding up to six years. For details, see the Leonardo project report and/or the websites www.europsych.org or www.efpa.be.

The level and the requirements of the Diploma will be very similar to those regulations that already exist in the majority of the EU Member States and in some other European countries. Already at this moment psychology is regulated by law, training or other arrangement in 13 Member States.

The European Diploma in Psychology has been prepared by a University network project team. The project has been funded since 1999 by the EU under its Leonardo da Vinci programme. The project has involved 15 partners from 10 EU countries, one EFTA and one non-EU country, and the European Federation of Psychologists Associations. Altogether the planning and consultation process has involved 31 European countries.

Psychology as a science and as a profession touches every aspect of human behavior. Professional psychologists work in many different contexts, including clinical, educational, organisational, and forensic fields.

Although the education and training of professional psychologists varies between European countries, there are nevertheless substantial commonalities in content and competences or outcomes of education and training. There is agreement that the European Diploma in Psychology would become a useful passport into independent professional practice as a psychologist all over Europe.

In conclusion, we state that the reform of the directives concerning the recognition of professional qualifications is urgent. The system of the sectoral directives has become quite rigid, bureaucratic and expensive. In addition, the so called general system, involving three years' university training does not suit an established profession, like psychology, where the Master's level university degree together with adequate experience of supervised practice is the minimum requirement for professional practice.

We also want to emphasise that the common platforms which the Article 15 proposes, would not in any way restrict the power of the national authorities concerning training and education. The common platforms would simply offer an additional tool to promote free mobility. The acceptance of these platform would be fully in the hands of the Member States and the European Commission.

Tuomo Tikkanen
President, EFPA
European Federation of Psychologists' Associations

Head Office Brussels
Agora Galerij
Grasmarkt 105/18
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

www.efpa.be
headoffice@efpa.be