

WHITE PAPER:

**PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A
EUROPSY SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY**

BY THE EFPA STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
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1. Proposal to the EFPA general assembly in 2021

The Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology proposes to establish a project, “Establishment of a 2 year pilot phase: Specialist Certificate in Clinical Neuropsychology starting March 2022“, in collaboration with EFPA Member Associations.

The Specialist Certificate would build upon the EuroPsy Basic Certificate and have requirements similar to the Specialist Certificates already available (see Appendix A).

2. What is Clinical Neuropsychology?

Neuropsychology and Clinical Neuropsychology are briefly defined by the EFPA Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology: ***Neuropsychology** is a specialised domain of psychology that is focused on the relationships between cognitive and affective functioning, the personality and behaviour of the individual, and brain functioning. Cognitive functions include e.g. attention, learning, memory, language, and reasoning. Affective functions include emotions and mood. **Clinical Neuropsychology** is the application of Neuropsychology in clinical situations across the life span to understand how these functions relate to either normal brain functioning or acquired or developmental brain injury. The practice of Clinical Neuropsychology involves a clinical interview and the use of neuropsychological assessment methods for diagnostic and prognostic purposes. This information can also be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions.¹*

3. Development of the Specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology

During the last few decades, Clinical Neuropsychology has developed from a small clinical discipline to an advanced and well-respected specialty internationally and in Europe². In most countries, comprehensive academic and practical training in the field is required to practice as a specialist in Clinical Neuropsychology³.

There are regional and national neuropsychological associations worldwide, providing evidence that neuropsychology and its clinical application is a specialised domain within psychology. In Europe, 23 neuropsychological associations with a total membership of more than 8200 are represented in the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology (FESN) as of 2020. The FESN was founded in 2008 by fifteen European national neuropsychological societies⁴ and is an associate member of EFPA. Other such associations include the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), founded in 1967⁵, the Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Neuropsychologists⁶, and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología⁷. In the USA, the Society of Clinical Neuropsychology (Division of Clinical Neuropsychology) now is the largest and fastest growing of 55 divisions of the American Psychological Association⁸. A full list of relevant neuropsychological societies, associations or sections for neuropsychology in Europe can be found in **Appendix B**. It demonstrates the interest in the area of Clinical Neuropsychology and the demand of training. In many countries a large proportion of the membership already has an advanced level specialization while in others the advanced training is still being developed. **Appendix C** contains the numbers of psychologists with a potential interest in a EuroPsy Specialist

¹ Hokkanen et al., 2020;

² Godin et al., 2017; Kubu et al., 2016; Roper et al., 2018;

³ Hokkanen et al., 2019;

⁴ Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology (2020, April 27). Retrieved from <https://www.fesn.eu/>

⁵ The International Neuropsychological Society. (2020, April 27). Retrieved from <https://www.the-ins.org/about-ins/>

⁶ The Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Neuropsychologists. (2020, April 27). Retrieved from <https://groups.psychology.org.au/ccn/>

⁷ The Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología. (2020, April 27). Retrieved from <https://www.slan.org/>

⁸ <http://www.apa.org/about/division/officers/services/profiles.aspx>

Certificate in Neuropsychology in the countries represented in the Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology.

The proposed Specialist Certificate builds upon the Basic Certificate and the training is targeted to professionals that are eligible for the basic EuroPsy. Several countries in Europe (for instance the Nordic countries, Austria, The Netherlands, UK, Italy) already recognize neuropsychology as a pathway for specialism and have programmes that provide training on the specialist level. The entry requirements include the license to practice within clinical health care settings. **Appendix D** presents information on advanced level programs in Clinical Neuropsychology available for candidates who already are licenced psychologists. In the 32 listed programmes by national providers and universities, approximately 750 persons graduate per year. The list is based on the information the Standing Committee has been able to collect and is not exhaustive. In many countries, completion of the specified training program ensures certification as a specialist. In others, candidates provide proof of the competencies they have acquired when applying for membership in a specialist registry or society. Out of the 24 European countries currently offering the basic EuroPsy, at least 17 have been developing their own models for specialist training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Most of the programmes listed in Appendix D would likely fulfil the criteria for the proposed Specialist Certificate (Appendix A), in addition to being eligible for the basic EuroPsy. National registries for qualified clinical neuropsychologists with extensive training already exist for instance in the UK, Ireland, Austria, the Netherlands, and in the majority of the Nordic countries.

4. Why is Clinical Neuropsychology important?

The prevalence, and health impact, of brain disorders are substantial. The European Brain Council has monitored the situation since 2003 when they reported that disorders of the brain are the largest contributor to the total morbidity burden in Europe, accounting for 35% of all disease burdens⁸. More recently, the economic costs of brain disorders were found to be correspondingly large, constituting 24% of the total direct healthcare expenditure in Europe in 2010⁹. Since 2010 the burden in absolute terms has still increased¹⁰.

It is well recognised that Clinical Neuropsychology makes a significant contribution to the management of a host of neurological, neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, psychopathological, and neuroendocrine disorders from assessment to treatment. In many countries, a comprehensive neuropsychological assessment is considered standard for the management of a range of diseases and disorders affecting the nervous system and the brain. Clinical neuropsychologists are typically involved in integrated healthcare settings, participating in multidisciplinary collaborations, and contribute to the treatment and rehabilitation of patients¹¹.

Based on comprehensive clinical assessments of cognitive, affective and behavioural functioning, neuropsychological assessments provide information about the daily life functioning of children and adults. Schools and universities increasingly use this information for children and students with special needs, and other institutions use it for adults in planning vocational and neuropsychological rehabilitation. The objective data provided by neuropsychological assessment has shown high utility in follow up of patients, either to measure the efficacy of treatment or rehabilitation or by measuring decline in neurodegenerative disorders¹².

⁸ Olesen & Leonardi, 2003;

⁹ Gustavsson et al., 2011; Olesen et al., 2012;

¹⁰ Raggi & Leonardi, 2020;

¹¹ Albert et al., 2011; American Psychiatric Association, 2013; Hokkanen et al., 2019; Litvan et al., 2011; Yeates, Levin, & Ponsford, 2017; Zink, 2001;

¹² Lezak et al., 2012;

The demands for clinical neuropsychological services are both increasing and diversifying. Within health care and community settings, Clinical Neuropsychology is the specialty with the most advanced scientifically based competencies in the analysis of cognitive, affective and behavioural consequences of the aforementioned disorders, as well as other neurobiological-based diseases and disorders interfering with mental functioning. Clinical neuropsychologists not only assess and diagnose deficits, but also have a key role in the differential diagnosis of psychological, psychiatric, neurological, and neurodevelopmental disorders.

5. Why a EuroPsy Specialist Certificate?

Clinical Neuropsychology: (1) is a field with its own scientific knowledge base and tradition; (2) is a fast growing field in Europe and world-wide; (3) requires a standardization in training and practice, given the huge diversity in training and level/quality of services across Europe; (4) requires a high level of specific knowledge and competent skills from clinical neuropsychologists to meet the expectations of society and health care systems; and (5) fits naturally into the EuroPsy specialisation model.

Findings from surveys conducted by the EFPA SC on Clinical Neuropsychology have revealed that the level of training and the quality of service provided by Clinical Neuropsychologists throughout Europe varies considerably. In the European countries that already offer advanced training and a specialisation track, the profession of Clinical Neuropsychology has been developed into an important discipline for the neurocognitive and affective health care of children and adults. In some other countries in Europe this training and professional development hardly exists. **The Specialist Certificate, the proposed training model leading to it, and the advanced competencies to be delineated, will provide an aspirational goal for countries that are still developing the training.**

The profession of Clinical Neuropsychology is built on a unique scientific knowledge base, well-established training, unique methodology and clinical practice. A range of competencies has been identified that are specific to its practice, in line with the EuroPsy. An earlier European survey conducted by the Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology demonstrated a high level of agreement among experienced senior professionals on the core competencies needed for the practice of Clinical Neuropsychology in the advanced level.

A universal minimum standard of training and practice is necessary to ensure an acceptable level of quality across Europe and to protect from malpractice. Common high-level standards for education, practical training and clinical practice in Clinical Neuropsychology within Europe would aid in the strengthening of clinical neuropsychological services. This has already been achieved in the countries with high standards in Clinical Neuropsychology. **The proposed certificate will complement but not override national regulations and will not jeopardize the existing high standards.**

Establishing a specialisation will protect the field from self-defined “specialists” and will help build a common ground for quality clinical neuropsychological services across Europe. Providing a specialist register of qualified neuropsychologists who have met the agreed minimum standards will contribute to ensuring such standards and competencies. Having a specialisation as an addition to the basic EuroPsy will protect the public by helping society identify who is trained to a particular standard endorsed by EFPA. To have a common definition of specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology will also facilitate the free movement of neuropsychologists across Europe. This is important, as free movement of labour is an important EU foundation.

The Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology therefore recommends establishing a EuroPsy Specialist Certificate in Clinical Neuropsychology.

6. Appendices

Appendix A.

Description of the requirements in the currently available Specialist Certificates within the EuroPsy framework, Psychotherapy and Work and Organizational Psychology along with the tentative proposed requirements for Clinical Neuropsychology.			
Requirement	Psychotherapy	Work- and Organizational Psychology	Clinical Neuropsychology
Basic EuroPsy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education after basic EuroPsy	90 ECTS, of which 400 h theory	90 ECTS (2400h)*, of which 60 courses and 30 applied research/ assessment/ intervention	90 ECTS, of which 60 courses and 30 applied research/ assessment/ intervention ¹
Content	Vary with curriculum and/or learning trajectory	Specialist curriculum framework	Specialist curriculum framework
Supervised practice	3 years, 500 h of work supervised	3 years, 400 h/y supervised, "coached professional practice"	3 years of supervised professional practice
Supervision	150 h (50h/y)	150 h (50h/y)	150 h (50h/y)
Competencies to be demonstrated	A list is being developed	Those defined in EuroPsy regulations, applied to Work- and Organizational Psychology specialized level	A list is being developed, based e.g., on the US ² and UK ³ models and the work of The Standing Committee on Clinical Neuropsychology
Competence development	Implied in Psychotherapy training in one or more Psychotherapy methods	Based on an explicit system of Competence Development	Based on an explicit system (program or flexible model)
Continued Professional Development	Being developed	4 ECTS (100h) at the moment of application, included in the 90 ECTS	To be developed
Additional requirement	100 h personal therapy		

Notes: * Early specialisation countries: 60 ECTS after Basic EuroPsy ECTS = European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and h = hours

1) to be later translated into hours for non-university context

2) *Entry-level Competencies in Clinical Neuropsychology*. Retrieved from <https://www.cospp.org/clinical-neuropsychology>

3) *Competency framework for the UK Clinical Neuropsychology profession*. Retrieved from <http://www.bps.org.uk>

Appendix B

Societies/associations or specific sections of Clinical Neuropsychology for psychologists in Europe (at the time of the survey)		
Name of the society/association/section:	Number of members	webpage
Suomen Neuropsykologinen Yhdistys, Finnish Neuropsychological Society	621	http://neuropsykologia.fi/en/index_en
The Norwegian Neuropsychological Association	400	www.nevropsyk.org/foreningen/om-nnf
Sveriges Neuropsykologers förening (Swedish Neuropsychological Society)	637	www.snpf.se
Società Italiana di neuropsicologica (SINP)	300	https://sinp-web.org
Society of Specialists in Clinical neuropsychology (AISN)	69	http://aisn.pro/
Società degli Psicologi di area neuropsicologica SPAN	200	https://www.neuropsicologia-span.it
Icelandic Neuropsychological Association (TSÍ). This is now (since October 2020) a very informal association, with no board of governors or other formalities	8	www.facebook.com/groups/1428647230768737
Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie Österreich	380	www.gnpoe.at
Portuguese Society of Neuropsychology (Sociedade Portuguesa de Neuropsicologia)	30	http://spnpsy.rf.gd
Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses*	328*	www.ordemdospsicologos.pt/en
Czech Association for Neuropsychology (CANP)	44	www.canp.cz
Section for Clinical Neuropsychology, Czech and Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS)	47	https://cmpsy.cz/?page=neuropsy
Czech Neuropsychological Society	10	www.cenes.cz
Hellenic Neuropsychological Society	180	https://www.hnps.gr/en/hellenic-neuropsychological-society/
Hellenic Psychological Society, Division of Neuropsychology	11	www.elpse.com/en
British Psychological Society [Division of Neuropsychology]	600	www.bps.org.uk
Organisation Française des Psychologues spécialisés en Neuropsychologie (OFPN) / French association of neuropsychologists	517	www.ofpn.fr
Société de Neuropsychologie de Langue Française (OFPN) / French society of neuropsychology	250	www.snlf.net
The Dutch Neuropsychological Society	840	https://nvneuropsy.nl

* Members with advanced specialization in neuropsychology

Appendix C.

EuroPsy Holders, EuroPsy holders fulfilling specialist criteria in (Clinical) Neuropsychology, certified (Clinical) Neuropsychologists, and registered psychologists in the European countries represented in the Standing Committee.

Numbers of EuroPsy holders were taken from <https://www.europsy.eu/> by Sept. 30th, 2021. The numbers of EuroPsy holders fulfilling specialist criteria in (Clinical) Neuropsychology (CNP) have been estimated by national specialists. The numbers of national specialists in CNP, and registered psychologists have been given from the national members by Oct., 2021.

	EuroPsy holders, efpa.eu register	EuroPsy holders, fulfilling specialist criteria in CNP	Certified (Clinical) Neuropsychologists, national sources	Registered Psychologists, national sources
Austria	95	ND*	205	11.078
Cyprus	15	4	0	745
Czech Republic	14	2	100	1.000
Finland	64	5	370	5.000
France	125	ND	0	78.197
Germany	164	ND	1.130	34.000
Greece	264	0	ND	0
Iceland	0	0	9**	113**
Italy	22	ND	210	ND
Lithuania	215	ND	ND	ND
Norway	377	24	378	~10.000
Portugal	5.406	100	328***	ND
Russia	400	ND	ND	ND
Sweden	47	4	286	11.500
UK	295	ND	ND	ND
13 active and 2 corresponding members of the SC (of 38 EFPA members)	7.502	139	3.016	151.633****

* Not determined.

** Those are psychologists that are acknowledged as having special expertise (registered as experts in Clinical Neuropsychologists or Clinical Psychology by the Directorate of Health) above the minimum requirements (6 are PhDs, 3 MSc). There is a total of 920 licensed psychologists in Iceland (i. e. they are licensed by the Directorate of Health to practice and fulfil at least the minimum requirements (M.Sc.) to practice psychology).

*** Data collected in 2020, representing numbers of certified Psychologists with advanced specialization in Neuropsychology; in a rough estimate, at least 30% of these should fulfil the criteria for a specialist certificate in CNP.

**** This figure is too low, as it was not possible to obtain the numbers from many states, including the big countries Russia, the UK and Italy.

Appendix D.

Specialist programmes / courses in Clinical Neuropsychology in Europe. Table 1 refers to programmes or courses by national providers that are available ONLY for qualified psychologists with basic EuroPsy or equivalent. Table 2. lists similar programmes provided by universities. Table 3 lists other specialist programmes that are available in Europe.

Table 1. Specialist programmes / courses in Clinical Neuropsychology by national providers available ONLY for qualified psychologists with basic EuroPsy or equivalent		
Austria		
Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie Österreich	Curriculum Clinical Neuropsychology	www.gnpoe.at
Czech Republic		
Institute of Clinical Psychology and Czech Neuropsychological Society	Certificate course Clinical Neuropsychology of Adults	https://www.ikpcr.cz/kopie-z-rorschach2/
Institute of Postgraduate Education, Ministry of Health	Certificate course Practical Clinical Neuropsychology	https://www.mzcr.cz/certifikovany-kurz/
Institute of Postgraduate Education, Ministry of Health (collaboration 1.st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)	Certificate course Clinical Neuropsychology of Adults	https://www.ipvz.cz/o-ipvz/kontakty/pedagogicka-pracoviste/klinicka-psychologie/ck-klinicka-neuropsychologie-dospelych-2021-2022/
Motol University Hospital	Certificate course Clinical Neuropsychology - Child	https://www.fnmotol.cz/kliniky-a-oddeleni/spolecnopracoviste/oddeleni-klinicke-psychologie/kurz-detska-klinicka-neuropsychologie/
Germany		
Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie (GNP)	Curriculum klinische Neuropsychologie der Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie	www.gnp.de
Norway		
The Norwegian Psychological Association (NPF)	Specialist education in clinical neuropsychology for authorized psychologists	http://www.nevropsyk.org/
Sweden		
Sveriges Psykeologförbund, SPF (Swedish Psychological Association)	Specialist in Neuropsychology	https://www.psykeologforbundet.se > utbildningar och certifikat > Specialistutbildning
The Netherlands		
Federation for health psychology and psychotherapy (FGzPt) under governance of the Dutch ministry of Health (VWS)	Curriculum Clinical Neuropsychology	https://www.rinogroep.nl/klinisch-neuropsycholoog

Table 2. Specialist university programmes in Clinical Neuropsychology available ONLY for qualified psychologists with basic EuroPsy or equivalent		
Czech Republic		
Charles University	Certificate course Clinical Neuropsychology of Adults	https://www.acvz.cz/detail-vzdelavaci-akce/767-Certifikovany-kurz-Klinicka-neuropsychologie-dospelych
Finland		
University of Helsinki / Finnish University Network of Psychology (Psykonet)	Neuropsychologian erikoispsykologikoulutus, Specialisation Programme in Neuropsychology	https://www.helsinki.fi/fi/laaketietee/linen-tiedekunta/psykologia-section-31161 http://www.psykonet.fi/english
Italy		
Università degli Studi di Padova	Postgraduate Master in Clinical Neuropsychology	https://www.unipd.it/corsi-master/neuropsicologia-clinica
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Postgraduate Master in Neuroscienze Cliniche: Valutazione, Diagnosi e Riabilitazione neuropsicologica e neuromotoria	https://asag.unicatt.it/asag-master-neuroscienze-cliniche-valutazione-diagnosi-e-riabilitazione-neuropsicologica-e-neuromotoria-1667
Lumsa Università	Postgraduate Master in Neuropsicologia Clinica	https://www.lumsa.it/corsi_master_secondo_livello_neuropsicologia_clinica
Università del Salento	Postgraduate Master in Esperto di valutazione e Riabilitazione Neurocognitiva dell'eta Evolutiva, dell'adulto e dell'Anziano	https://www.unisalento.it/didattica/dopo-la-laurea/master-di-i-e-ii-livello
Università del degli Studi di Verona	Postgraduate Master in Neuropsicologia Clinica e sperimentale	https://www.emagister.it/corso_master_neuropsicologia_clinica_e_sperimentale_ii_livello-ec2791509.htm
School of Specialisation in Clinical Neuropsychology		
UK		
University of Glasgow	Post- Graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology	https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/clinicalneuropsychologypractice/
University of Bristol	Master in Clinical Neuropsychology, post-graduate studies	https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/2021/life-sciences/msc-clinical-neuropsychology/
University College London	Post-graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology [child]	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught-degrees/clinical-paediatric-neuropsychology-msc

Table 3. Other specialist programmes in Clinical Neuropsychology

Table 3. Other specialist programmes in Clinical Neuropsychology		
Greece		
School of Psychology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece	Master's program in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, Clinical Neuropsychology Track	https://www.psy.auth.gr/en/clinical-psychology-and-neuropsychology
Department of Neurology, University of Athens, Athens, Greece	Master's program in Clinical Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neurosciences	https://school.med.uoa.gr/metaptychiakes_spydes/programmata_metaptychiakon_spydon_eisachthentes_apo_to_akad_etos_2018_19/pms_koina_diethni/kliniki_neyropsychologia_noitikis_neyroepistimes/
City College, International Faculty of Sheffield, Thessaloniki, Greece	Master's program in Clinical Neuropsychology	https://citycollege.sheffield.eu/frontend/articles.php?cid=346&t=MA-in-Clinical-Neuropsychology
Department of Psychology, Scientific College of Greece, Université Strasbourg, Athens, Greece	Master's program in Clinical Cognitive Neuropsychology	https://scg.edu.gr/psychologia-metaptyxiako-cogn-neuropsych/
Portugal		
Universidade do Minho / Universidade de Coimbra / Universidade de Lisboa	Interuniversity Master in Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology	https://www.psi.uminho.pt/en/education/imcen/Pages/default.aspx
Universidade do Algarve	Master in Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology	https://fchs.uaalg.pt/en/curso/1526
Universidade de Aveiro	Master in Health Psychology and Neuropsychological Rehabilitation	https://www.ua.pt/en/c/389/p
Universidade Católica & ISPA	Master in Neuropsychology	http://en.ispa.pt/cursos/neuropsychology
Instituto Universitário de Ciências da Saúde	Master in Health Psychology and Neuropsychology	https://www.cespu.pt/en/university-education-instituto-universitario-de-ciencias-da-saude/master-in-health-psychology-and-neuropsychology/
Universidade Lusófona	Master in Applied Neuropsychology	https://www.ulusofona.pt/en/masters/applied-neuropsychology
Russia		
Moscow State Psychological and Pedagogical University, Moscow	Neuropsychology of childhood. Neurodiagnostics Neuropsychological approach to correction children developmental disorders	
Department of Psychology Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow	Propaedeutics of the neuropsychological approach Methods of neuropsychological and psychophysiological assessment Neuropsychological Rehabilitation	

	Pediatric Neuropsychology: assessment and adjustment	
Karvasarsky Institute of psychotherapy and clinical psychology, S-Petersburg	Fundamentals of neuropsychological diagnostics, correction and rehabilitation	

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