

European Association for Palliative Care

EAPC Onlus: Non profit-making Association Non Governamental Organisation (NGO) recognised by the Council of Europe Association Européenne pour les Soins Palliatifs

EAPC Onlus: Organisation à but non lucratifs d'utilité publique ONG reconnue par le Conseil de l'Europe

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Task Force Proposal Form Formulaire pour propositions pour des groupes de projets

Information about applicant /coordinator - Information sur le proposant /coordinateur

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Information about project – Information sur le projet

1) Project title Titre projet	Education for Psychologists in Palliative Care
2) Objectives Objectives	Definition of core competences for psychologists working in palliative care in Europe Development of core curricula for psychologists working in different areas of palliative care

3) Members of Prof. Sheila Payne group (names, Help the Hospices Chair in Hospice Studies titles, Division of Health Research addresses) Lancaster University (Lancaster, UK) Dr. rer. medic. Saskia Jünger Membres du groupe (noms, Research Associate titres, Department of Palliative Medicine addresses..) RWTH Aachen University (Aachen, Germany) Drssa. Anna Costantini Chief of Departmental Psychoncology Unit Sant'Andrea Hospital University La Sapienza of Rome (Rome, Italy) Christine Kalus Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist The Rowans Hospice (Portsmouth, UK) Walter Rombouts Clinical psychologist palliative support team and medical oncology University Hospital Gasthuisberg KU Leuven (Leuven, Belgium) Dra. María Antonía Lacasta Reverte Clinical psychologist palliative care unit University Hospital La Paz (Madrid, Spain) Elzbieta Pożarowska, Poland **Psychologist** Palliative Care Department (Warsaw, Poland) 1. ANTEA Conference in Rome, November 2008: kick-off of the initiative 4) Project Milestones 2. 11th EAPC Congress in Vienna, May 2009: First meeting of the work group Emploi du 3. Publication of the results of the workshop in Rome (EJPC). **Temps** 5) Financial Plan Considering application for a research fellowship or the like Plan financier

6) Project summary / abstract Résumé du projet Approved international definitions of palliative care unequivocally postulate psychological support as essential component. However, it is not clear what "psychological support" implies, especially the differentiation between psychosocial support or spiritual support. Likewise, the role and the tasks of a psychologist in the field of palliative care are not clearly specified. By now, little has been published which might give orientation on this issue. Only few palliative care associations give explicit information on the role of psychologists in palliative care. Psychological associations generally do not deal with this issue, either – if at all, they only refer to the topic in the context of "aged care", "grief", or "end-of-life care". In reaction to this, psychologists in some national palliative care associations have started initiatives to develop an occupational image, a job description, and outline the basic concerns of their profession in the field of palliative care. Consistently, the following tasks and roles are delineated: (1) clinical tasks, (2) consultancy, (3) research, and (4) policy.

When developing an education programme for psychologists in palliative care, several questions have to be considered: (1) the expectations towards psychologists on the part of the patient and family members, (2) an elaborate compendium of psychological concepts and psychotherapeutic methods suitable for palliative care, (3) the tasks of psychologists in a palliative care team, and (4) the compatibility of psychologists' professional socialisation during their basic education with the exigencies of palliative care. Moreover, the workshop during the ANTEA conference in Rome has revealed that national, cultural and language differences have to be considered when defining core competences and establishing a common curriculum.

The following methods are suggested for the preparation of a core curriculum:

- a needs assessment among psychologists regarding the perceived requirements for working in palliative care
- if research funding can be achieved: a needs assessment among patients, relatives, and staff regarding the desired support by a psychologist
- a consensus process on the development of therapeutic concepts and interventions.

In all these questions, the national particularities have to be taken into consideration and adequately addressed within the research designs.

7) Other Institutions proposed for collaboration

- ANTEA
- International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS)? http://www.ipos-society.org/
- European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)? http://www.efpa.eu/
- Eventuelles autres institutions proposées pour une collaboration

Other associations / institutions? From which country?

8) Support requested from the EAPC Board of Directors, Head Office and /or EAPC Committees Support demandé au Comité

Directeurs,

Secrétariat Général et / ou autres comités de

l'EAPC

Possibility to use databases of collective members in order to reach psychologists in the different countries via the national associations (e.g., for a needs assessment or any other kind of survey)

Seek the expertise of EAPC Board members regarding political issues, project management, curriculum development

Support with organisation of time/room for a meeting during the EAPC congresses

Date February 11th, 2009

Place Dortmund, Germany

Signature

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Computer-filled and computer-signed form is accepted!