

Regulated Professions Representative Form

Section 1: Regulated Profession Details

Regulated Profession: Clinical Psychologist/Counselling Psychologist

Full Name of representative	Fotini Demetriou
Position/Title	Clinical Psychologist BSc in Psychology, MSc in Clinical Neuropsychology, PhD in Psychology
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Section 2: Observations Regarding Legislation

Please provide specific observations related to the legislation governing this profession:

With reference to all the points below that are included in PART A, which concern the legislation governing the profession of Clinical Psychologists and Counselling Psychologists in Cyprus, I provide the following observations, suggestions, and comments:

- The MSc Psychology programme of the European University Cyprus (EUC) demonstrates high academic standards, a coherent structure, and clear alignment with international frameworks. However, several legislative and practical parameters should be carefully considered in relation to the Cypriot context.
- In accordance with the legislation, for the MSc in Clinical Psychology programme, the core of students' practicum (minimum of 300 direct hours) should be conducted within mental health settings that hospitalise or treat individuals presenting with severe psychopathology. From the list of the organisations that provide placements for Clinical Practicum, only one (the Mental Health Services) fully meets these criteria. The other organisations listed do not satisfy the legislative requirements, as they do not hospitalise or treat individuals with severe psychopathology.
- Due to the legislation, for the Counselling Psychology MSc programme, the core of the students' practicum (minimum of 300 direct hours) should be conducted in health or social care settings offering psychological support to individuals experiencing

psychosocial problems without the presence of severe psychopathology. Although the Counselling Psychology MSc programme is not offered at present, the list of collaborating organisations for practicum placements appears sufficiently diverse and aligned with the relevant requirements.

- According to the Psychologists' Registration Law of 1995 (Law 68(I)/1995), supervised practicum constitutes a mandatory component for registration as a psychologist in Cyprus. Supervision must be provided by a registered psychologist who meets specific criteria, including a minimum of five years of prior professional practice in the relevant field. More specifically, Clinical Psychology trainees should be supervised exclusively by a registered Clinical Psychologist with at least five years of demonstrable experience in applied clinical psychology, while Counselling Psychology trainees should be supervised exclusively by a registered Counselling Psychologist with equivalent experience in applied counselling psychology.
- It is recommended that the criteria and procedures for approving practicum placements and supervisors be clearly documented and transparently communicated to all stakeholders, ensuring consistent application of standards and alignment with legislative requirements.
- According to discussions held during the meeting on 30 October 2025, certain concerns were raised regarding the qualifications and specialisations of supervisors overseeing trainee Clinical Psychologists. It is therefore recommended that both postgraduate programmes in Clinical and Counselling Psychology be fully aligned with the current legislation. At present, in the Clinical Psychology MSc programme of EUC, the specific requirement regarding supervisor qualifications is not being fully implemented.
- During the same meeting, it was also mentioned that students who do not perform satisfactorily in pre-practicum interviews or evaluations are advised to undertake their practicum abroad. While this practice aims to support academic progression, it creates a potential risk of unequal treatment among students.
- This recommendation is based on notable differences in the legislation regulating the profession of psychologists between Cyprus and other countries, as well as on considerations related to students' wellbeing (e.g., financial and logistical burden) and the principle of equitable treatment for all students. It is therefore advised that alternative measures be developed to provide constructive support and facilitate students' successful integration into clinical training.
- Based on the above, and in order to facilitate procedures and address any uncertainties regarding the quality of supervised clinical training, it is recommended that the 300 direct hours of clinical practice be carried out within the Mental Health Services. This measure would ensure that all students complete their practical training in officially recognised clinical settings under appropriate supervision, in full alignment with professional standards and the requirements set out in the relevant legislation.

- At present, approximately thirty clinical placement positions for Clinical Psychologists are available at the Mental Health Services, which could adequately accommodate the needs of this specific programme. Furthermore, it is recommended that clinical placements abroad, particularly in countries such as Greece, be avoided for the reasons outlined above.

PART A

Attached you can read (i) the legislation governing the registration of psychologist's profession in Cyprus with the main points highlighted and (ii) meaning and interpretation of the term "practicum".

Part B

Also, all the following should be considered:

Description of the exclusive duties of the applied psychology specializations, as approved and amended in the sessions of the **Council of Registration of Psychologists of Cyprus (ΣΕΨΚ)** dated **13/05/2011** and **23/05/2014**, in accordance with **Article 11(4)** of the applicable legislation.

“Exclusive duties” means the specific professional duties that are reserved exclusively for each recognized specialization of applied psychology. These duties do not, however, prevent the ethical and appropriate performance of other psychological acts that do not fall under the exclusive duties of another recognized specialization of applied psychology and that may be equally carried out by all recognized specializations of applied psychology.

“Exclusive duties of the specialization of Clinical Psychology” refer to the performance of psychological acts that involve the diagnosis and systematic psychological treatment of individuals presenting with severe psychopathology.

“Exclusive duties of the specialization of Counselling Psychology” refer to the performance of psychological acts that involve the diagnosis and systematic psychological treatment of individuals experiencing primarily psychosocial difficulties that are not associated with severe psychopathology.

In Greek Language

Περιγραφή αποκλειστικών καθηκόντων των ειδικοτήτων εφαρμοσμένης ψυχολογίας όπως αυτά εγκρίθηκαν και τροποποιήθηκαν σε συνεδρίες του ΣΕΨΚ (Συμβουλίου Εγγραφής Ψυχολόγων Κύπρου) ημερομηνίας 13/05/2011 & 23/05/2014 με βάση το άρθρο 11 (εδάφιο 4) της κείμενης νομοθεσίας.

“Αποκλειστικά καθήκοντα” σημαίνει τα ειδικά καθήκοντα που η εκτέλεσή τους κατοχυρώνεται αποκλειστικά σε κάθε συγκεκριμένη ειδικότητα εφαρμοσμένης ψυχολογίας, χωρίς αυτά να παρεμποδίζουν την εκτέλεση κατά τρόπο δεοντολογικά ενδεδειγμένο άλλων ψυχολογικών πράξεων που δεν εμπίπτουν στα αποκλειστικά

καθήκοντα άλλης εγκεκριμένης ειδικότητας εφαρμοσμένης ψυχολογίας και που ισάξια δύναται να εκτελούν όλες οι εγκεκριμένες ειδικότητες εφαρμοσμένης ψυχολογίας.

“Αποκλειστικά καθήκοντα της ειδικότητας της Κλινικής Ψυχολογίας” σημαίνει τη διενέργεια ψυχολογικών πράξεων που συνιστούν διάγνωση και συστηματική ψυχολογική περίθαλψη προσώπων με σοβαρή ψυχοπαθολογία.

“Αποκλειστικά καθήκοντα της ειδικότητας της Συμβουλευτικής Ψυχολογίας” σημαίνει τη διενέργεια ψυχολογικών πράξεων που συνιστούν διάγνωση και συστηματική ψυχολογική περίθαλψη προσώπων που αντιμετωπίζουν κυρίως προβλήματα ψυχοκοινωνικής φύσης που δεν συνδέονται με σοβαρή ψυχοπαθολογία.

Section 3: Additional Comments

- The MSc Psychology programme of the European University has achieved a high level of maturity through years of systematic development and refinement. It has established well-defined and well-documented processes that ensure consistency and transparency across all academic operations. Graduates of the programme acquire a comprehensive foundation of knowledge and skills within the science of psychology, supported by a strong integration of theory, research, and applied training. The overall design of the programme promotes students' education and development within the broader context of psychological science.
- It is recommended that the Department continues to enhance the following areas:
 - Ethical and legal literacy: Explicit integration of Cypriot legislation, ethical codes, and professional practice boundaries into relevant modules will better prepare students for professional responsibilities within the local context.
 - Documentation of practicum procedures: Continuous monitoring and documentation of practicum standards will safeguard transparency, compliance, and quality in supervision.
 - Supervision and staff development: Sustainable workload planning and continuous professional development opportunities for academic and supervisory staff are essential to maintain quality and ensure consistency in clinical training.
- Based on the above, and in order to facilitate procedures and address any uncertainties regarding the quality of supervised clinical training within the Clinical Psychology programme, it is recommended that the 300 direct hours of clinical practice be conducted within the Mental Health Services. This measure would ensure that all students complete their practical training in officially recognised clinical settings under appropriate supervision, in full alignment with professional standards and the requirements set out in the relevant legislation. At present, approximately thirty clinical placement positions for Clinical Psychologists are available within the Mental Health Services, which could accommodate and adequately meet the needs of the EUC programme.
- Furthermore, it is recommended that the undertaking of clinical placements abroad, particularly in countries such as Greece, be avoided. This recommendation is based on differences in the legislation regulating the profession of psychologists, as well as considerations related to students' wellbeing (e.g., financial burden) and the principle of equal treatment among all students.

Any further comments:

Overall, the MSc in Psychology programme at the European University Cyprus demonstrates significant strengths, particularly through its strong academic foundation and dedicated faculty. At the same time, it is important to ensure full alignment with the legal and professional framework governing clinical training in Cyprus. Implementing the above recommendations will further enhance the programme's quality, ensure full legislative compliance, and reinforce its credibility and professional standing within both the national and international contexts.



Representative's Signature:

Date: 02/11/25