

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Written by the staff of the Order of Psychologists of Albania.

Under the supervision of the President Mrs.Valbona Treska.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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WELCOME SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT



(Valbona Treska PhD - President)

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to share together the journey of the Order of Psychologists during 2021 for the fifth year in a row.

This year, in the wake of a pandemic year, it has not been easy to achieve the objectives, as we had to postpone many activities and works planned during this year. However, it has been a year with challenges and achievements, among which conducting of the elections for the governing bodies of the O.P.A has been one of the biggest challenges and achievements in terms of the participation of psychologists and the desire to continue consolidating the institution even under difficult pandemic conditions.

The Order of Psychologists is already an institution with complete structures that works well for the benefit

of membership. Our licensing, continuing education, professional practice or ethics Commission have continued their work and have considered dozens of requests.

Meanwhile, the administration of the O.P.A has continued the work with a volume of correspondences and documentation which is added year after year, but is also continuously improved.

Our membership is grown this year. If at the beginning of the institution operation the psychologists themselves found it difficult to adapt to the new rules and the procedures they had to follow, it is now established that not only the membership but also the young psychologists who want to become part of the O.P.A, have more information on procedures to follow. The online meetings held this year with students of public and non-public universities in the country, with the aim of providing information on membership procedures, have been helpful in this regard.

The continuing education Commission has done a voluminous job this year with the accreditation of trainings with providers of various institutions and organizations. A total of 9 meetings of this Commission were held this year, and in each meeting there was an agenda with 5 to 10 or more items for program accreditation and loan approval. The innovation of this year has been the addition of accreditation programs by public institutions for the training of psychologists, mainly by the Regional Pre-University Educational Directorates in the country and the “Mother Theresa” University Health Center. The leaders of these institutions, but also the psychologists themselves, have been encouraged to carry out programs in the framework of continuing education, since the monetary cost for each psychologist participating in these programs in public institutions is lower and helps the membership. During this year, we also opened the first call for the review of documentation for self-reporting activities.



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It has been a difficult job and we still have a lot to do in this direction, as it is a new process, both for the membership itself and for the Continuing Education Commission that reviewed these files. Participation in trainings, conferences, scientific publications and other Continuing Education activities remains one of our challenges for the following year, with the aim of increasing the quality of activities that are accredited, but also informing any psychologist about the Regulation of Continuing Education and procedures to follow for relicensing.

One of the most important Commissions for maintaining professional standards has been the Commission of Ethics and Professional Disciplinary Judgment. We continue to have the highest number of complaints submitted to this Commission from the field of legal psychologists. There have been some complaints from some other areas of competence, but it is estimated that the legal area continues to be very sensitive for citizens due to the problems that have been encountered; the possibility of undertaking specific policies for this category of psychologists during the following year is being assessed.

A significant part of the cases reviewed by this Commission have submitted a complaint to the National Council based on the relevant regulation. This body, case by case, has left in force the decisions of the Ethics Commission, but there have been cases when it was deemed necessary to change the measures taken.

What has been established during this year is a better acquaintance of psychologists with the Code of Ethics, but still its strengthening and the increase of professional standards remain the main challenges of the Order of Psychologists structures.

We have continued our work this year with a series of correspondences in national and international level. O.P.A positions have been strengthened, which means that there is also a better approach to the psychology occupation in general in the country.

One of our achievements this year was the presentation of the "Psychologist in the Police" manual, several months' cooperation between "Pameca V" Program, the State Police and the Order of Psychologist. I was honored that together with two colleagues Fatbardha Osmanaga Prof. PhD and Skerdi Zahaj PhD we have worked for the finalization

of this manual and its publication. For the first time, psychologists in the state police structures, but also these structures themselves, have a complete material for the work that must be done by any psychologist, part of the police organizational chart. This manual also paves the way for the revision of work plans for psychologists in the police, work plans which must also be in accordance with international standards and directives.

Although many activities were held online, during this year we had an intensive work in international level. There have been several trainings and seminars organized by the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) which are offered free of charge to the membership. Likewise, we participated in every EFPA's executive council meeting.

We continued to be an active part of the Global Psychology Alliance under the direction of the American Psychological Association (APA). Being part of this large grouping of all psychologists in the world, has made us not only exchange experiences, but simultaneously be part of global policies jointly undertaken for certain issues that are the focus of psychologists. Global warming is one of the issues on which we are working not only at the national level to undertake preventive policies for environmental damage, but also at world level.

The extraordinary work that we have done in 4 years of the institution, served this year as an example of motivation for all associations and orders at global level. At the request of the American Psychological Association (APA), I was invited to participate in the proceedings of the 32nd International Congress of Psychology, which took place in July of this year. It was a pleasure and an honor to present the work of the Order of Psychologists on a panel with APA's CEO Mr. Arthur C. Evans. The presentation of Albania was made in the context of successful leadership, describing the journey of the Order of Psychologist's institution since its foundation, the challenges, difficulties we have gone through as well as the successes we have had in a very short period of time. These successes culminated in full membership in the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) in July 2019 as well as the signing of the Memorandum of Collaboration with the American



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Psychological Association (APA) in July 2020.

We have completed recording of presentation for the 32nd International Congress at 02.00 am under strong emotions and a lot of happiness for this achievement, together with the O.P.A staff who are always there in any positive or negative challenge we go through.

Personally, participating in this Congress has been an extraordinary challenge!

I cannot fail to mention, during this year one of the biggest challenges; that of the elections for the O.P.A governing bodies held on March 27, 2021. While the time of the elections was approaching, even during pandemic and with the difficulty of gathering people in interior premises, we started the trip to the main cities of Albania, with the aim of sensitizing the membership for participation, presenting candidates, but also with the aim of face-to-face discussion of the problems faced and the objectives that we all need to achieve together.

After a period of several months of preparations under an exemplary organization with voting Commission, observers, enumerators, support staff, we managed to have a record turnout of 420 members, who with their vote decided the direction of the Order in the next four years. I am honored, but at the same time even more motivated to work, by the vote of membership to continue leading the Order of Psychologist. My responsibilities in this second term are undoubtedly greater, to raise the standards of our occupation and to strengthen the role of the psychologist in every corner of Albania. I am fully convinced that even the honorable colleagues of the National Council, after these elections, will do their best to urge even further and improve the work of institution.

Implementation of the 5th National Assembly of the O.P.A which was held in Tirana on June 18, 2021 in the outdoor premises of Palace of Brigades, was also a professional event that continues to show how

much will each of us members of the Order has to consolidate the institution, to discuss, brainstorm and find common solutions for the sake of occupation.

A very careful work has been done during this year in selecting local coordinators, not only in counties that have had a coordinator during these years, but also by adding new counties such as Vlora, Lushja, Dibra, Gjirokastra and Elbasan to their map.

Allow me to thank on your behalf, all those psychologists who ran to be local coordinators of their district. The desire to voluntarily join the O.P.A structures and to give their help fills us all with optimism for the consolidation of our occupation in every corner of the country. I am happy that our entire network of local coordinators in the counties of Vlora, Gjirokastra, Korca, Lushnje, Elbasan, Lezha, Shkodra, Dibra is made up of professional girls and women dedicated to being helpful in their community.

We have all continued to grow together this year. On behalf of the Order of Psychologist, I hereby express my gratitude to each and every one of you, the O.P.A members, who work and fight every day with your daily work, with love, dedication and enthusiasm, so that the psychologist is well positioned in society. Each one of you has helped us to be stronger professionally today and with more requests by citizens to receive our services.

A year with even more challenges awaits us, but I am sure that together we will be able to move forward with success and dignity, best representing the PSYCHOLOGIST name!

Sincerely,
Valbona Treska

January, 2021



1. INSTITUTION'S ROUTING DURING 2021

Although still under a pandemic year due to COVID-19 and with many challenges to carry out our daily activity, we have managed to have a series of successful activities month after month even this year.

January

On January 26, through a MEMO from the Educational Services Center (QSHA), we were informed about the start of the State Exam development procedures for the first time for psychologists. Having come a long way, but a very good job in enabling the development of the first state exam for psychologists.

Also, thanks to the cooperation between the Order of Psychologists and the Ministry of Education and Sports, at the beginning of the year the procedures were completed for about 204 new psychologists who were added to the psycho-social sector in the entire Albania.



On January 27, we celebrated the 4th anniversary of the establishment of the Order of Psychologist. Four years since the Founding Assembly! Four successful years!

During January, the working group, consisting of 9 professionals in the field of psychology, selected by QSHA, started putting together the first set of questions for the psychologist state exam.

The Order of Psychologists held an informative meeting this month, in a question-and-answer format, where the main goal was to clarify any ambiguities or problems encountered during participation in accredited activities, related to the Continuing Education process.

February

In February, we held a meeting with the General Directorate of Prisons with the common will to strengthen and consolidate the role of the psychologist in the penitentiary system.





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On February 19, the process of distributing Membership Cards 2021 to all members of the Order of Psychologists began.

The Order of Psychologists has for some time started a series of contacts with the largest companies in the market, with the aim of facilitating services in monetary value for psychologists who are members of the Order of Psychologists.

After facilitating services with the Albanian Post Office, a Cooperation Agreement was concluded with the largest clinical and medical laboratory in the country “INTERMEDICA”.

In these difficult times, cost reductions in laboratory services ranging from 5% to minus 30% of the service value are a great help to our community.

The agreement was signed by the Administrator of “Intermedica”, Mr. Vasil Llajo and the President of the Order of Psychologists, Mrs. Valbona Treska.

Valid membership cards generated with a QR code will now also serve to identify psychologists who are members of the O.P.A in the entire “Intermedica” subsidiaries in order to benefit from the agreed discounts.

March

During this month, meetings were held between the President of the Order of Psychologists Mrs. Valbona Treska and its members in the districts of: Durrës, Shkodra, Berat, Lezha, Vlora and Elbasan. The purpose of these meetings was to inform members of the Order of Psychologists about the elections for the governing bodies, presentation of candidates, progress of the institution work, to listen to any concerns or





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problems encountered during the psychologists work, as well as to answer any questions that members had.

On 27.03.2021, elections were held for the governing bodies of the Order of Psychologists. With the approval of the Order's Election Regulations by the National Council of the Order of Psychologist, with



decision no. 2, dated 03.02.2021, the administration of the Order of Psychologists is the body responsible for organizing and running the elections for the



governing bodies of the Order of Psychologist. These elections took place in the premises of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, in a premise that guaranteed the correct implementation of measures and protocols against COVID-19. - 420 psychologists, members of the Order of Psychologists from all over the country participated in these elections. More detailed information on this process can be found at the end of this report.



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Furthermore, in February we also held a meeting with the Coordinators for the Psycho-Social Services sector of the DRAPs (General Directorates of Pre-University Education) in the country, as well as with Mrs. Rezarta Basha, representative of the Psycho-Social Service in the General Directorate of Pre-University Education and at the same time a member of the National Council of the Order of Psychologist.

The focus of this meeting was discussions regarding the continuation of joint steps to solve the problems of school psychologists, such as:

1. Cooperation between DRAP (General Directorates of Pre-University Education) and the Order of Psychologists for drafting and implementing the Internal Regulation for the employees of the Psycho-Social Service, which is expected to be made available to the service within the month of March.
2. The establishment of a working group, for the drafting and unification of Work Protocols for all psychologists, part of the Psycho-Social Service.
3. The start of online training in the coming days with all school psychologists, part of this service in our country, on the Psychologist's Code of Ethics and Deontology.
4. Drafting of a joint request, addressed to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, related to the issues of salary increase and transportation reimbursement for this category of psychologists.
5. The start of work for designing programs accredited by the O.P.A for obtaining credits from school psychologists. (In case of accredited activities undertaken by public institutions, as in this case MASR (Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth), the expenses of psychologists are ALL 200 per credit only, so for an accredited training for example, 5 credits, the value of the training is ALL 1000 only).

April

President Valbona Treska held a meeting with the group of university lecturers who will draft the fund of questions.

The daily work of the O.P.A administration has continued with constant correspondence regarding the problems encountered by psychologists and policies that the institution is following.



The work with various Commissions continued.

May

President of the Order of Psychologists Mrs. Valbona Treska, held a bilateral meeting this month with the Director/Rector of the State Police Security Academy, Mr. Bilbil Memaj, highly appreciating Mr. Memaj, for the will and desire to give voice to psychology field in the police.





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Based on the Joint Order of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Assessment of Practical Skills took place on May 17-18-19-20-21, 2021, at the Order of Psychologists head office.

There were 103 interns on the exam list, of which 3 interns did not appear on the exam day.



Based on Article 19, sections 1 and 2, 99 trainees passed and only 1 trainee did not pass the traineeship exam.



During this month, the meeting of the Presidents of the European Federation of Psychology took place on Zoom platform. This meeting preceded the General Assembly that took place on June 29, 2021.

Albania was represented in this Assembly by 2 delegates with full voting rights.

May also brought us the pleasure of having in our head office, students and university lecturers



of psychology at "Marin Barleti" University, who were informed about the registration and licensing procedures.

On 05.05.2021, a symbolic ceremony was held





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at the Order of Psychologists office, to welcome the new members elected to the National Council. The first members of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists were also present there, who were awarded a recognition award by the Order of Psychologists, for their valuable contribution in the first 4 years of the institution's existence.

June

The Order of Psychologists was present at the meeting on "Friendly Justice for Juveniles", an activity organized by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the General Directorate of Prisons, held at the Juvenile Detention Centre in Kavaja.

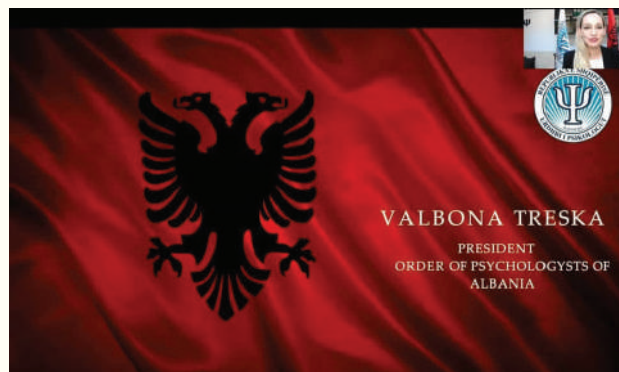
On 29.06.2021, the Assembly of the European Federation of Psychologists took place online, which was scheduled to take place in Ljubljana.



During this month, a "Reply" letter arrived at our office from the "Ministry of Education and Sports", on the concern of school psychologists for their engagement in administration and monitoring the

development process of State Matura 21". In this letter, it was explained to us that the involvement of psychologists in administration and monitoring of the development process of State Matura is mainly related to the competencies and tasks they have, accompanying students with disabilities. Their engagement in this process was made with the approval of these employees. In the future, the Ministry of Education and Sports emphasized that it will guarantee non-involvement of psychologists in such processes, in addition to cases where their presence is necessary.

At the request of the American Psychological Association (APA), President of the Order of Psychologists, Mrs. Valbona Treska, was invited to participate in the proceedings of the 32nd International Congress of Psychology. She was invited to participate on a panel with American Psychological Association





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President Ms. Jennifer F. Kelly and APA CEO Mr. Arthur C. Evans. In the early hours of June 22, we had closed the registration of Albania's presentation in the global arena. In this Congress, held on 22.06.2021, President Treska referred to successful leadership. She gave a description of the entire journey of the Order of Psychologists institution, from its establishment until now, all the challenges and difficulties the institution, but of course also the successes achieved in such a short period of time, which culminated in full membership in the European Psychological Association (EFPA), as well as signing of the Memorandum of Collaboration with the American Psychological Association (APA).

On 29.06.2021, the Order of Psychologists announced that it will undertake an inspection campaign in public and private institutions for the implementation of Law 40/2016 "On the Order of Psychologists in the Republic of Albania", to determine any breaches of the law by psychologists who practice the occupation without meeting the legal criteria.

July

On-site inspection started in July to identify cases

of practicing psychologist's occupation in violation of Law 40/2016 "On the Order of Psychologists in the Republic of Albania".



Anyone who was found to be in violation on practicing the occupation, i.e. who did not meet the criteria established by law, was notified by the inspection group and given the task of making it possible within a 7-day period to the psychological employees, part of these institutions, who practiced their occupation in violation of the law, to fulfill all the criteria, by filing with the Order of Psychologists all the necessary documentation to become members of the Order.

During this month, the meeting of member countries of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP) took place online.

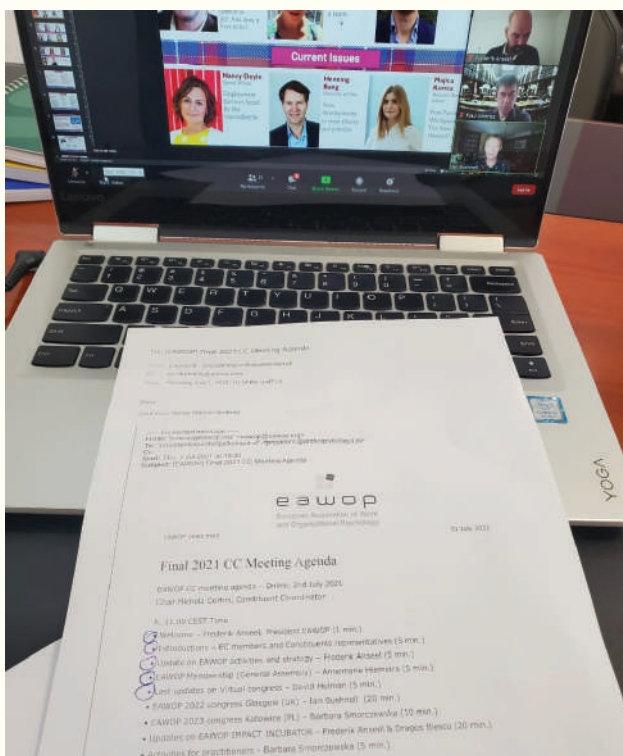
Since May 2019, we have been members of EAWOP with full rights. For the second year in a row, the Order of Psychologists represented by the President was selected as the examiner of EAWOP reports and documents for 2020.

August

The President of the O.P.A, Valbona Treska, PhD



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was invited by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Gjirokastra, to speak on “Psychology of the individual during the communism period”.

The activity was held in the premises of Argjiro Castle.



This meeting brought together not only professionals in the field, but also citizens of Gjirokastra, who discussed what we inherited from that period and the way society functions, not leaving the individual to be developed individually and professionally free.

The event ended with a performance by actor Arben Derhemi.

Proceedings of the annual Congress of the “American Psychological Association” took place, from August 12-15, 2021. The proceedings of this Congress were attended by the President Treska together with four colleagues from the O.P.A., dedicated for years to psychology in the country, such as Mrs. Elona Mustafaraj, Mrs. Blerta Bodianku, Mrs. Valbona Habili and Mr. Arjet Pervizi.

September

On September 7, 2021, participants of the annual Congress of the “American Psychological Association”,



as representatives of the Order of Psychologists, held a meeting with the membership, to share with them exactly this very valuable experience.

During September, the Order of Psychologists launched a calendar of online meetings with members, on certain professional topics, within the framework of professional growth.

The goal was to improve the practice of occupation, increase the quality of service and professionalism.

The first topics addressed in these meetings were: “Ethics of the psychologist in social networks”, “Practice of occupation within the field of competence” and “Online consultations and therapies. Difficulties and challenges”.

Each meeting had a professional psychologist who read for a few minutes and moderated the ongoing



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meeting. Then discussions, questions and proposals were raised by the participants.

On September 28, 2021, after a very long time, the work on defining the program on which the fund of questions for the psychologists State Exam was drawn up. The Order of Psychologists remains pending the publication of the Fund of Questions by the working group at the Educational Services Center, in order to give the green light for conducting the State Exam for the first time in our country.

October

During this month Prof. Artemisi Shehu Dono held next lecture on the topic: “Ethics of the psychologist in social networks”.

A meeting was held near the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, between the Minister Mrs. Ogerta Manastirliu and the President of the Order of Psychologists Mrs. Valbona Treska. In this meeting, it was discussed about the close relationship of the 4-year cooperation between the institutions, about the work progress of our institution, as well as challenges for the future. In this meeting, we conveyed all concerns that come to us from psychologists, who practice the occupation, to health institutions.

The Order of Psychologists announced the opening of applications for all those psychologists who wish to become part of the work groups for drafting work protocols in Education, Justice and Health.



In an activity that received the attention of many media in the country, we concretized a very good work done in cooperation with the State Police and Pameca V, on the proper functioning and role of the psychologist in the Police.



The focus of the activity held to the State Police premises was promotion of the Guide “The Role of Psychologist in the Police”.

This successfully completed work had the maximum support of the State Police and Pameca V program.

This is just the beginning of a work that will continue to improve with trainings, workshops, meetings and other guides.





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November

The calendar of meetings and open lectures followed, this time with the lecture on topic: “Standardization of communication procedures with parents and pedagogical staff among school psychologists.” A lecture that successfully concluded the orientation of school psychologists on the





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procedures and the path they should follow for practicing correctly the occupation.

The Order of Psychologists joined the 16-day initiative of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to say: “STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE”.

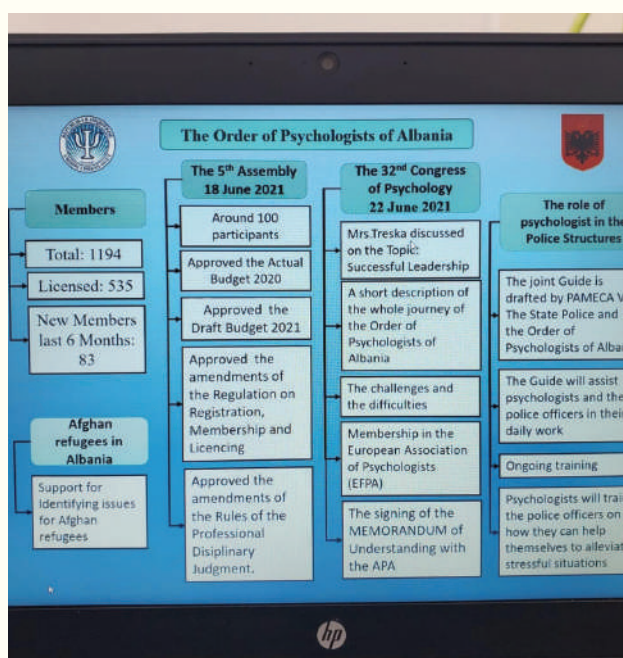
It was a pleasure and above all an obligation that as an institution we were part of a sensitizing and informative journey that lasted 16 days, but we all have the maximum commitment that this awareness will continue all year round.

On November 19, the meeting of the Presidents of

European Psychologists was held online by EFPA. An annual meeting of all presidents of member countries, which this year, in compliance with the protocols of anti-Covid measures, took place online.



Also this month, the President of the Order of Psychologists Valbona Treska, PhD was invited alongside the Governor Mr. Gent Sejko and Prof. Adrian Civici to the opening of the awareness campaign “Neither old nor young, I’m just LEK” undertaken by the Bank of Albania.





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Country	Coordinator	Status
Albania	Received	
Austria	Received	
Belgium	Received	
Bulgaria	Received	
Croatia	Received	
Cyprus	Received	
Czech Republic	Received	
Denmark	Received	
Estonia	Asked for postponement	
France	Asked for postponement	
Germany	Received	
Greece	Received	
Hungary	Received	
Ireland	Received	
Italy	Received	
Latvia	Received	
Lithuania	Received	
Luxembourg	Received	
Malta	Received	
Netherlands	Received	
Norway	Received	
Poland	Asked for postponement	
Portugal	Received	
Romania	Received	
Russia	Received	
San Marino	Received	
Slovakia	Received	
Slovenia	Received	
Spain	Received	
Sweden	Received	
Switzerland	Received	
Turkey	Received	
Ukraine	Received	
United Kingdom	Received	

Also, this month we had the pleasure of officializing the group of the youngest Local Coordinators of the Order of Psychologists, who are:

1. Mrs. Alma Shyti - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Lezha District;
2. Mrs. Migena Haxhi - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Shkodra District;



3. Mrs. Elisaveta Dino - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Korça District;
4. Mrs. Fatmira Lala - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Lushnje;
5. Mrs. Arta Beqiri - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Dibër District;
6. Mrs. Veliona Hoxhaj - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Vlora District;
7. Mrs. Jonida Mustafaraj - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Elbasan District;
8. Mrs. Loreta Mamani - Coordinator of the Order of Psychologists, Gjirokastra District.

Their official presentation was made in the following days in each district, by the Head Office of the Order of Psychologists.

We had the pleasure to start the presentation tour of Local Coordinators with Vlora. A city that for the first time will have a local coordinator, who will facilitate and bring members of the Order closer to central offices in Tirana.

Following the accomplishment of open lectures, this month an open lecture on the topic: "Practicing the occupation within competences" was successfully accomplished with lecturers Valbona Treska PhD. and Lawyer Bledar Fejzo.

December

The General Assembly of the European Federation of Psychologists' took place, which was also held online this year. Albania was represented by President Valbona Treska, PhD. and Mrs. Elona Mustafaraj, member of the National Council.

During this month we had the pleasure to

Country	Member	Initials
Albania	Valbona Treska - Elona Mustafaraj	
Austria	Ilse Wimmer-Ruchinger - Marion Kromberger - Sandra Lettner - Gerald Götterer	
Belgium	Jan De Houwer - Mark Schillekens - Lotte De Schryver	
Bulgaria	Sava Dzhonev - Irina Zinovieva	
Cyprus	Chara Demetriou	
Czech Republic	Veronika Polienková	
Denmark	Anne Grenborg Johansen - Mette-Sofie Arntvig - Jøel C. Boukris	
Estonia	Kersti Kuvabäl	
Finland	Laura Hokkanen - Laura Nieminen - Emmi Tuomi	
Germany	Ulrike De Ponte - Christen Schürk - Annette Schlipphack	
Greece	Vassiliki Bouchouvala - Vassiliki Karagianni	
Ireland	Rosaleen McEvanev	
Iceland	Tryggvi Guðjón Ingason - Anna María Frimannsdóttir	
Italy	Santo Di Nuovo - Mario Sello - Caterina Arcidiacono - Vito Tumminio	
Latvia	Laila Albreht - Inga Berina	
Lithuania	Vilija Šap	
Luxembourg	Marc Späen	
Malta	David Debono - Adrian Gervasi	
Netherlands	Monique Raaij - Henk Geertman - Hans de Vries - René Arntz	
Norway	Håkan Skand - Bjørn-Hild Stokvik - Kim E. Karlsen - Julius Olsenhaug - Arvid Lauring	
Poland	Beata Krzyżewska-Hryniewicz - Andrzej Setowski	
Portugal	Francisco Miranda Rodrigues - Sofia Ramalho - Ana Isabel Lage - Daniel Teixeira Coelho - Miguel Oliveira	
Romania	Ion Dafinovic - Dragoș Iliescu - Mișu Ciomogeanu - Mihaela Rus - Călin Kio - Nitu Sava	
Slovakia	Marko Vitovec	
Spain	Manuel Berdullas Torres - Rosa María Redondo Granado - Silvia Berdullas Saunders	
Sweden	Ulrika Ekström (Sjöström)	
Switzerland	Julien Parrand - Camilla Jencenaki - Marcell Brändli	
Turkey	Ali GÜNGÖR - Cem Saka ÇULUĞU	
United Kingdom	Katharine Carpenter - Sarah Bailey - Debra Malpass - Karen Beaumont	
Ukraine	Olena Pali - Oleg Burdach	



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officially introduce to the membership, some of the new Coordinators, selected, who will be the future cooperators of our institution, and who with their contribution will facilitate the provision of services between the central office of the Order of Psychologists in Tirana and members of the Order of Psychologists in these districts. So during this month we introduced the coordinators:

- Lezha District Coordinator, our colleague Mrs. Alma Shyti.
- For the first time in Elbasan District, we introduced Mrs. Jonida Mustafaraj as Coordinator of this district.
- Korça District Coordinator, our colleague Mrs. Elisaveta Dino.
- In Lushnja city, we introduced as Coordinator for the members of the Order of Psychologists in this city, our colleague Mrs. Fatmira Lala.
- We had the pleasure of presenting the coordinator of Shkodra District, Mrs. Migena Haxhi.



This month we had the pleasure of presenting the coordinator of Shkodra District, Mrs. Migena Haxhi. In this meeting, colleagues discussed problems





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that concern the community of this district and that will be addressed and pursued for solutions.

We ended the year with a beautiful and important event for psychologists that has already become a tradition every end of year on the announcement of “Psychologist of the Year”.

Nominated by the members themselves, for this year were three psychologists:



1. Mr. Elidon Shehu
2. Mrs. Irma Gjozi
3. Mrs. Olta Jacellari

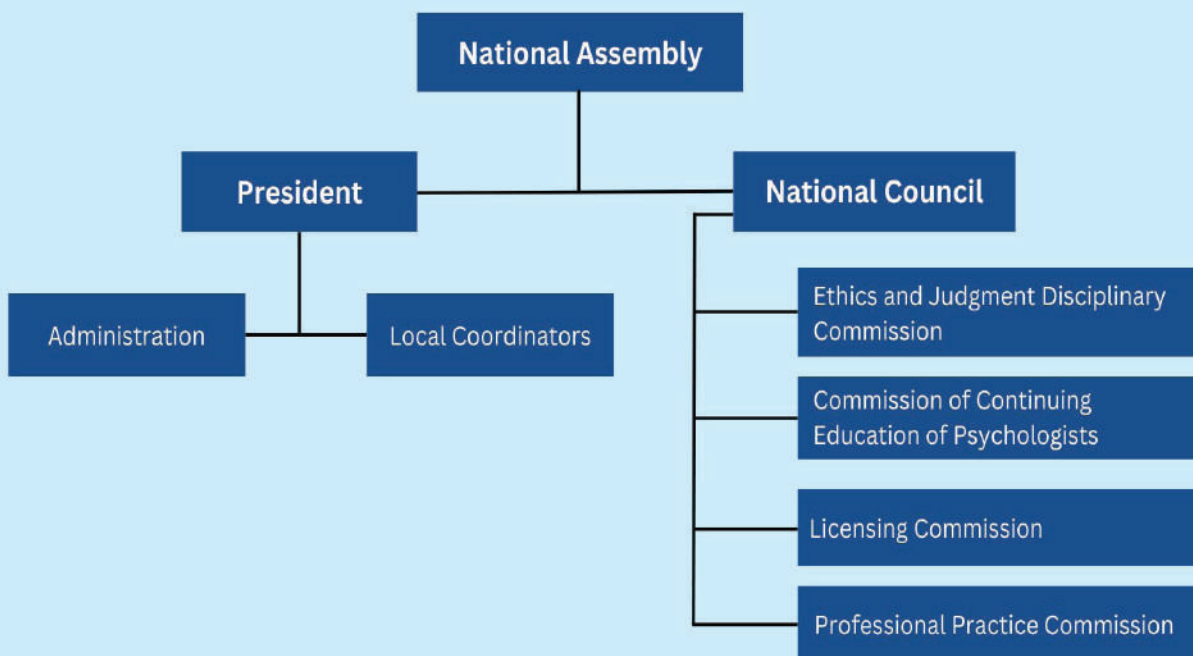
After the voting process, Ms. Olta Jaçellari was chosen as the winner of the symbolic award “Psychologist of the Year “2021”, whose work for years has been focused as a school psychologist at DAR (Regional Educational Office) Tirana. Mrs. Jaçellari is an honorable professional, a model psychologist and, above all, a point of reference for young psychologists who are part of the psycho-social service in educational institutions.





2. BODIES OF THE ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITY

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGIST OF ALBANIA



The main bodies of the Order of Psychologists are:

- a) National Assembly;
- b) National Council;
- c) President of the Order;
- ç) The Ethics and Professional Disciplinary Judgment Commission
- d) Continuing Education Commission
- e) Other Commissions, which currently include Licensing Commission and Professional Practices Commission .

Organizational chart of the Order of Psychologist



2.1 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- The highest governing body of the Order of Psychologist, based on Law no. 40/2016, is the National Assembly.
- The National Assembly consists of all members of the Order of Psychologist.
- The National Assembly has the following functions:
- Elects the National Council and the President of Order, by secret ballot and by simple majority of all its members;
- Approves the Statute of the Order;
- Approves the Code of Ethics and Deontology;
- Approves the regulation for professional disciplinary judgment;
- Approves the regulation for registration, membership and licensing;
- Approves the regulation for the organization of professional practice;
- Examines and approves the draft budget of the Order, as well as examines its actual budget;
- It analyzes the annual activity of the Order bodies;
- Reviews the external audit report, in three-year intervals.
- Approval of the actual budget for 2020, approved by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists Decision No. 5, dated 28.05.2021.
- Approval of the 2021 draft budget, approved by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists Decision No. 23, dated 17.12.2020.
- Approval of amendments to the Registration Regulation, Membership and Licensing, approved by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists Decision No. 12, dated 28.05.2021.
- Approval of amendments to the Regulation of Ethics and Professional Judgment, approved by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists Decision No. 8, dated 28.05.2021.
- Free space for discussion.

The assembly took place successfully and with constructive discussions, approving all items on the agenda.

The 5th National Assembly held its work on 18.06.2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the external premises of the Palace of Brigades with the following agenda:

- Opening of proceedings of the 5th National Assembly.
- Greetings from Mr. Elton Kuqja in the capacity of the former Coordinator of Durrës District.
- Greetings from the new member of the National Council, Mr. Besmir Frroku.
- Greetings from the President of the Order of Psychologist.
- Analysis of the annual activity of the Order of Psychologists bodies.
- The 5th National Assembly decided:
- To unanimously approve by 84 members present in the Assembly, the Actual Budget of 2020
- To unanimously approve by 84 members present in the Assembly, the Project-Budget of 2021
- To unanimously approve by 84 members present in the Assembly, the amendments in the Registration Regulation, Membership and Licensing.
- To unanimously approve by 84 members present in the Assembly, the amendments in the Regulation of Professional Disciplinary Judgment.

Upon proceedings of the Assembly, the members had the opportunity to spend time together discussing and sharing their experiences. The development of National Assemblies is not only an obligation derived from law, but also a form to cooperate more among the professionals of Albania.

2.2 NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council is the executive body of the Order, which consists of 16 members.

Elected members of the National Council are:

Mrs. Fleura Shkëmbi PhD, Mrs. Valbona Habili PhD, Mr. Edvin Lame PhD, Mrs. Artemisi Dono PhD, Mrs. Elona Mustafaraj, Mrs. Rezarta Basha, Mrs. Manolita

Hida PhD, Mrs. Orjola Plaku, Mr. Besmir Frroku, Mr. Altin Nika, Mr. Bledar Zeneli,

The composition of the National Council includes 4 members appointed by the Ministries, respectively from:

- Ministry of Health and Social Protection (simultaneously also the Competent Authority of



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the Order of Psychologists according to the law):

- Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Defense

The National Council has the following responsibilities:

- a) approves its organizational structure;
- b) determines the quotation and fees;
- c) administers the movable and immovable assets of the Order at national level;
- d) supervises all the activities of the bodies that depend on him;
- e) drafts the statute, regulations of the Order, as well as the Code of Ethics and Deontology and proposes them to the National Assembly for approval;
- f) maintains and updates the Order of Psychologists' Register;
- g) set up ad-hoc working groups for conducting controls in practicing the psychologist's occupation;
- h) prepares and publishes the annual and financial report.

The National Council of the Order of Psychologists of the Republic of Albania, throughout this year, has had a very busy activity.

A number of important decisions have been made during 2021.

The National Council has made the following decisions:

1. Decision No. 1, on 03.02.2021, "On the amendment of Decision No. 9 of the Ethics Commission. Giving the measure: Notice with warning for the removal of the right to practice the occupation"
2. Decision No. 2, on 03.02.2021, "On the approval of the Election Regulations of the Order of the Psychologist"
3. Decision No. 3, on 03.02.2021 "On the beginning of the disciplinary measure effects given by the Ethics Commission for the E.M. psychologist from the date of the Decision"

4. Decision No. 4, on 03.02.2021 "On the approval of remunerative fees for the voluntary work of certain individuals at the Order of Psychologists office "
5. Decision No. 5, on 28.05.2021, "On the approval of the Actual Budget of 2020"
6. Decision No. 6, on 28.05.2021, "On the approval of the Annual Report of 2020."
7. Decision No. 7, on 28.05.2021, "On the rejection of consideration of Mrs. A.B.'s complaint addressed to the National Council"
8. Decision No. 8, on 28.05.2021, "On the approval of amendments in the Regulation of Disciplinary and Professional Judgment regarding complaints that can be addressed to the National Council"
9. Decision No. 9, on 28.05.2021, "Regarding the rejection of Mrs. M.B.'s complaint to the National Council"
10. Decision No. 10, on 28.05.2021, "On changing the salaries of the administration who work full-time"
11. Decision No. 11, on 28.05.2021 "On the approval of the royalties change values for Continuing Education experts for activities that last more than three days and activities that are repeated"
12. Decision No. 12, on 28.05.2021, "On the election of new members of the Licensing Commission "
13. Decision No. 13, on 28.05.2021, "On the election of new members of the Practice Commission "
14. Decision No. 14, on 21.12.2021, "On the approval of the royalties for the External Experts of the KEVP (Commission for Continuing Professional Education) who perform the external assessment of the activity only "
15. Decision No. 15, on 21.12.2021, "On the approval of the royalties change for the meetings of the National Council"
16. Decision No. 16, on 21.09.2020, "On the amendment of Decision No. 9 of the Commission for Continuing Education "
17. Decision No. 17, on 21.09.2020, "On the approval of the draft budget for the financial year 2022" which also includes the change of quotations.

2.3 ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS FOR THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGIST ON 27.03.2021

On 27.03.2021, elections were held for the governing bodies of the Order of Psychologists. With the approval of the Order's Election Regulations by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists, with

decision no. 2, dated 03.02.2021, the administration of the Order of Psychologists is the body responsible for organizing and running the elections for the governing bodies of the Order of Psychologists.



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These elections took place in the premises of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, in an environment that guaranteed the correct implementation of measures and protocols against COVID-19. 420 psychologists, members of the Order of Psychologists, participated in these elections.

Based on the Election Regulations, all psychologists interested in running in these elections had the necessary time to submit their request for application accompanied by the necessary documentation, in meeting the criteria of Law No. 40/2016 "On the Order of Psychologists in the Republic of Albania" and the Election Regulations of the Order of Psychologists.

The candidates to be elected to the governing bodies of the Order of Psychologists were:

For President of the Order of Psychologist, single candidate:

- Valbona Treska PhD.

For member of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (pedagogue category), 4 members ran:

- Edvin Lame PhD
- Artemis Shehu Prof. PhD
- Valbona Habili PhD
- Migena Buka PhD

For member of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (category services), 13 members ran:

- Fleura Shkëmbi PhD
- Arben Hoti PhD
- Mr. Bledar Zeneli
- Mr. Altin Nika
- Mr. Orjola Plaku
- Mr. Besmir Frroku
- Mr. Rezarta Basha
- Mr. Aurora Memushaj
- Mr. Elsa Kera
- Mr. Elton Kuqja
- Mr. Sonila Luzi
- Mr. Fatjon Taipi
- Manolita Hida PhD

For member of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (association's category), single candidacy:

- Mrs. Elona Mustafaraj

After the elections were over and after counting the votes, the following winning candidacies were announced:

For the election of the President of the Order of Psychologist:

1. Valbona Treska PhD

For the election of members of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (Teachers category)

1. Artemis Shehu Prof. PhD
2. Edvin Lame PhD
3. Valbona Habili PhD

For the election of members of the National Council of the Order of Psychologists (Services category)

1. Fleura Shkëmbi PhD
2. Mrs. Rezarta Basha
3. Mrs. Orjola Plaku
4. Mr. Altin Nika
5. Mr. Besmir Frroku
6. Manolita Hida PhD
7. Mr. Bledar Zeneli

For the election of member of the National Council (associations category)

1. Mrs. Elona Mustafaraj

These elections proved high professional ethics responsibility and above all high participation of psychologists from everywhere around Albania who appreciated and supported the work of the institution so far and express their will to be represented in the governing bodies.

2.4 PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINARY JUDGMENT COMMISSION

This Commission was established under the Order of Psychologists pursuant to Article 19 of Law no. 40/2016 “On the Order of Psychologist”.

The Ethics and Professional Disciplinary Judgment Commissions has in its structure 5 members, of

which 4 are psychologists with over 10 years of work experience in the occupation and the representative of the Legal Office of the Order:

Mrs. Jonida Haxhiu, PhD; Mrs. Enila Cenko, PhD; Mrs. Brunilda Laboviti, PhD; Mrs. Redina Balla, and the lawyer of the O.P.A. Mr. Igli Çutra.

The Commission operates on basis of Law the Order of Psychologist, the Code of Ethics and Deontology as well as the Regulation of Disciplinary and Professional Judgment. During 2020, the Ethics and Professional Disciplinary Judgment Commission has examined a total of 5 cases, initiated by different individuals.

The Ethics Commission, after examining the cases, has given the following decisions:

In 3 cases, violations of the Code of Ethics were found and various disciplinary measures were given against psychologists, such as: notice with warning and exclusion from the O.P.A for a period of 3 months.

In 2 cases, after reviewing the case, the Ethics Commission did not find cases of violation of the Code of Ethics, so the request of the complaining parties was rejected.



2.5 THE COMMISSION ON CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Based on the legal acts in force, this Commission is elected by the National Council and headed by the President of the Order.

In its composition are the following members: Theodhori Karaj Prof. PhD; Zenel Orhani Prof. Asc. PhD; Erika Melonashi Prof. Asc. PhD; Marsela Shehu, PhD and Valbona Treska, PhD in the capacity of the President of the O.P.A.

After its establishment three years ago and after completing all the normative acts that make it functional, this Commission continued its work normally during 2021, examining the applications for accreditation and the requests to repeat the activities of the entities that were interested in performing accredited continuing education activities in psychology. During 2021, the following decisions were taken by this Commission:

Decision No. 1, on 28.01.2021

- To approve the distribution of credits for the repeated activity of QKSHP (Counseling and Psychological Services Center) on the topic:

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“Psychological interventions in children and adolescents”.

- To accredit the activity of KKSHP on the topic: “Assessment of the learning process”.



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- To accredit the activity of KKSHP on the topic: "Stress at work".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of ISHPK, on the topic: "Recognition and treatment of behavioral disorders in children and adolescents".
- The approval of the activity on the topic: "Psychodiagnostic assessment of school-aged children" from EMDR, should be postponed until the completion of documentation.
- The Final Report of the expert on the repeated activity of "Faik Konica" center, on the topic: "Disorder of addiction and substance abuse" to be returned, as it should be completed with the relevant recommendations and explanations according to the categories.
- To approve the distribution of credits for the repeated activity of "ISHPK" center on the topic: "Recognition and treatment of behavioral disorders in children and adolescents".

Decision No. 2, on 05.03.2021

- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "ISHPK" center, on the topic: "PBS program for training and behavior management".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "KKSHP" center, on the topic: "Assessment of the learning process".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "KKSHP" center, on the topic: "Stress at work".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "Të dëgjoj 366" center, on the topic: "Psychological assessment report".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "Të dëgjoj 366" center, on the topic: "Autism as a neurobiological complex".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "Faik Konica" School Training and Support Center, on the topic: "Psychological assessment of children at school age".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "Faik Konica" School Training and Support Center for the repeated activity, on the topic: "Therapy through art and play".
- To approve the credits for the activity of "Faik Konica" School Training and Support Center, on the topic: "Use of professional psychometric instruments carried out by the institution/center".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "QSUT", on the topic: "Cycle of seminars and lectures for psychologists and social workers".
- To approve the credits for the activity, on the topic "Behavioral Psychotherapy through Internet for depression", offered by "Urtësia" Psychological Clinic.
- To be selected as External Experts, for the assessment and monitoring of Continuing Education activities for psychologists, 4 candidates, according to the needs of completing the existing list of experts, namely Mrs. Ardiola Bodinaku, Mrs. Milita Tupi, Mrs. Sonila Luzi and Mr. Ronin Hoxha, with complete unanimity from all present members of the Commission.

Decision No. 4, on 12.05.2021

- To amend Decision No. 1, dated 23.04.2020 and resume Continuing Education activities with direct (physical) participation.
- To approve the distribution of credits for the repeated activity, on the topic: "Disorder of addiction and substance abuse", of "Faik Konica" center
- To approve the distribution of credits for the repeated activity on the topic: PBS program for the treatment and management of behaviors in school", of "ISHPK" center with 8 credits and with expert Mrs. Fleura Shkembi.
- The file for CBT activity accreditation, on the topic: "Gender Dysphasia" with expert Mrs. Eriona Kola, should be left for completion.
- The application for CBT activity accreditation, on the topic: "Addictions and their treatment. Gambling addiction" with expert Mrs. Elona Hasmujaj, should be postponed until the completion of documentation.

Decision No. 5, on 11.06.2021

- The application for accreditation of "Faik Konica" center, for the activity, on the topic: "Art therapy in the psychological assessment of children", should be postponed until the completion of documentation.
- To accredit the activity, on the topic: "Use of professional psychometric instruments", of "Faik Konica" center.

Decision No. 3, on 27.04.2021

- To approve the credits for the repeated activity of "Faik Konica" center, on the topic: "Psychological assessment of school-age children".



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- The application for accreditation of the activity, on the topic: "Autism and the initial intervention with ABA therapy and the Basics of Psychomotricity in the treatment of developmental problems", offered by "EQUILIBRIUM" center, should be postponed until the completion of the documentation.
- To accredit the activity of CBT center, on the topic: "Gender Dysphoria".
- To accredit the activity of CBT center, on the topic: "Addictions and their treatment. Gambling Addiction".
- The application for accreditation of "Marin Barleti" University, for the activity on the topic: "Methods of effective inclusion of children on the spectrum of autistic disorder in inclusive classes", should be left for completion of the documentation.
- To accredit the activity of "Te degjoj 366" center, for the activity, on the topic: "Emotions, a journey to discover yourself and others".

Decision No. 6, on 07.09.2021

- To accredit the activity, on the topic: "Art therapy in the psychological assessment of children", of "Faik Konica" center.
- To accredit the activity of "EQUILIBRIUM" center, on the topic: "Autism and intervention with ABA therapy and the basics of psychomotricity in the treatment of developmental problems".
- To accredit the activity of "Marin Barleti" University, on the topic: "Methods of effective inclusion of children on the autistic spectrum in inclusive classes".
- The application for accreditation of the "Inner Life" Center for the activity, on the topic: "Affirmative Interpersonal Communication" should be postponed for completion of documentation.
- To accredit the activity of the "Inner Life" Center on the topic: "Multiple intelligences and learning styles".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the accredited activity on the topic: "Use of professional psychometric instruments", from "Faik Konica" center.

Decision No. 7, on 23.09.2021

- The application for the approval of credits for the activity, on the topic: "Art therapy in the psychological assessment of children", of "Faik Konica" center, should be left for completion.
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of "EQUILIBRIUM" center, on the topic:

"Autism and intervention with ABA therapy and the basics of psychomotricity in the treatment of developmental problems".

- To approve the distribution of credits for the CBT activity, on the topic: "Gender Dysphoria".
- The application for the approval of credits for the CBT activity, on the topic: "Addictions and their treatment. Gambling Addiction" should be left for completion.
- To approve the accreditation of the activity of "Inner Life" Center, on the topic: "Multiple intelligences and learning styles".
- To approve the distribution of credits for the activity of ZVA (Regional Educational Directorate) Durrës, on the topic: "Disability in educational institutions".

Decision No. 8, on 25.10.2021

- To approve with 5 credits the activity, on the topic: "Art therapy in the psychological assessment of children", of "Faik Konica" center.
- To approve with 10 credits the activity of CBT, on the topic: "Addictions and their treatment. Gambling Addiction".
- To approve with 10 credits the activity of "Barleti" University, on the topic: "Methods of effective inclusion of children on the spectrum of autistic disorder in inclusive classes".

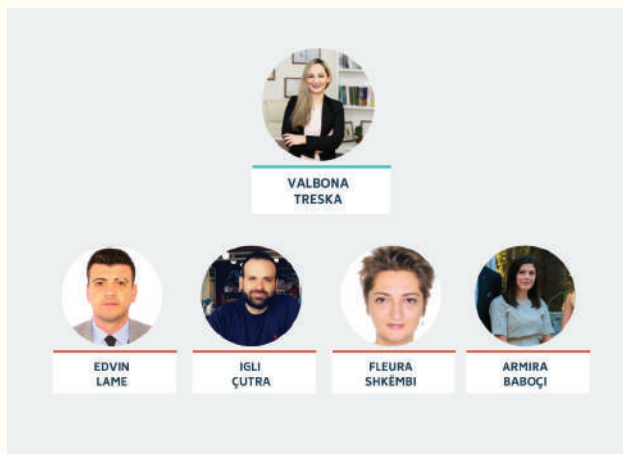
Decision No. 9, on 22.11.2021

- To complete the application for accreditation for the activity, on the topic: "CBT for PTSD; Treatment of post-traumatic stress and PE, Prolonged exposure".
- Refusal of the request for accreditation to "Faik Konica" center, on the topic: "ACT in clinical practice, integration of methods in counseling and psychotherapy", on the grounds that: "Contrary to the Regulation of Continuing Education and a Summary on the rules of Continuing Education, approved by KEVP, "Faik Konica" Center has published the date and time of the activity" before the approval by KEVP.
- The application for accreditation for the activity of "Faik Konica" Center, on the topic: "Treatment of psychological problems caused by emergencies" should be postponed until the completion of the documentation.
- To approve 10 credits for the 2 days of the training, on the topic: "Emotions, a journey to discover yourself and the other" carried out by "Të dëgjoj 366" Center.

- To approve the accreditation of activity of Marin Barleti, on the topic: "The first psychological intervention in schools" with 15 credits.
- To approve the accreditation of the activity of Marin Barleti, on the topic: "Efficient and practical techniques of anxiety management" with 5 credits.

2.6 ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGIST

Administration of the Order of Psychologists consists of:
Legal Office – one employee, Mr. Igli Çutra
Finance Office - one employee, Mr. Lejdi Goga
Secretariat, Protocol, Archives - one employee, Mrs. Armira Baboçi
IT office – a part-time employee, Mr. Enn Tusha



During 2021, this Commission has licensed 74 new psychologists, divided according to the following fields:

- Clinical psychologists - 35 members
- School and organizational psychologists - 4 members
- Counseling psychologists - 10 members
- General psychologists - member
- School psychologists - 11 members
- Psychologists in institutions - 3 members
- Legal psychologists - 2 members
- Psychologists in professional orientation - 2 members
- Organizational psychologists - 5 members
- Educational psychologists - 1 member
- Development psychologists - 1 member

2.7 OTHER COMMISSION

At the Order of Psychologist, several other Commission operate, which are necessary for the accomplishment of its mission.

2.7.1 Licensing Commission

This Commission was established by the National Council of the Order of Psychologists and examines the licensing requests of all those psychologists who, based on the law and normative acts in force, are exempt from the obligation to perform professional practice and the state exam.

It consists of the President Mrs. Valbona Treska, the lawyer Mr. Igli Çutra, the secretary Mrs. Armira Baboçi as well as members of the National Council: Edvin Lame, PhD. and Fleura Shkëmbi, PhD.

2.7.2 Professional Practice Commission

This Commission was established by the National Council as a result "Professional Practice Regulation" implementation, approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in the capacity of competent authority, which enables the legal regulation of the following procedures for a significant number of psychologists recent graduates and exemption from this practice for another category.

The Professional Practice Commission is headed by the President of the Order and consists of members elected by the National Council, specifically: Valbona Habili, PhD, Mrs. Orjola Plaku, as well as the lawyer



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of the Order of Psychologist, Mr. Igli Çutra and the secretary, Mrs. Armira Baboçi.

This year, 168 interns with regular employment contracts in various public and private institutions have been registered with the Order of Psychologist. During 2021, the Practice Commission reviewed the files of 20 psychologists and, after reviewing them, decided:

- 9 psychologists to be exempted from the obligation to carry out professional practice, based on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the O.P.A and MSHMS (Ministry of Health and Social Protection).
- 6 psychologists have been assessed as having to perform partial professional practice.
- 5 psychologists have been assessed as having to complete professional practice.

2.7.3 Practical Training Assessment Commission

This Commission was established based on Order No. 580, dated 31.07.2019 “On the establishment of the Assessment Commission and Practical Training for the Occupation of Psychologist” of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and aims to evaluate the supervised professional practice of each psychologist subject to this procedure.

By order of the Minister of Health and Social Protection, based on article 17 of the joint order of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Health, “On the approval of the Regulation of Professional Practice”, the members of this Commission are as follows: Ms. Aleksandra Puci, chairperson of the Commission and representative of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Mr. Besmir Frroku and Mr. Edvin Lame, representatives of the Order of Psychologist. The Commission has initially drafted the orientation questions for the

of Psychologists at <https://www.urdhriipsilogut.al/fondi-i-pyetjeve/> according to the deadlines provided in the regulations. This year, the exam took place on May 17-18-19-20-21, 2021, at the Head Office of the Order of Psychologist, and on the exam list were 103 trainees who underwent the VAP (Professional Practice Examination), of which 3 trainees did not appear on the day of exam, 1 intern did not pass the exam and 99 trainees passed the VAP exam.

2.8 LOCAL COORDINATORS

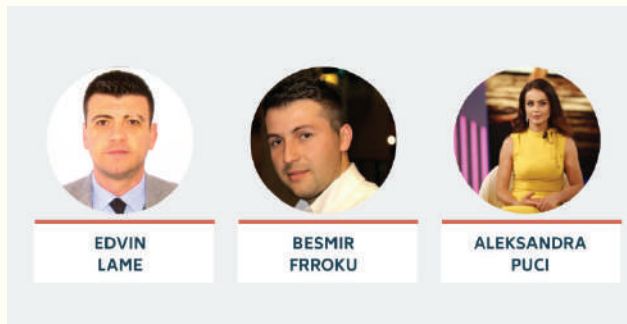
The purpose of this network is to provide support, help and protection of interests to all members of the Order of Psychologists of the respective district, focusing on the needs and problems they encounter while practicing the occupation of psychologist. After the elections in March for the governing bodies of the Order of Psychologist, President of the Order Mrs. Valbona Treska, thought to update the group of coordinators who cooperated closely with the Order of Psychologists during this period of time.

This update was made to give the opportunity to any member who feels that s/he can offer her/his service to the community of fellow psychologists in the country where she/he practices, by carrying out the coordination work with our central office of the Order of Psychologist.

The Network of Local Coordinators operates on a voluntary basis.

The local coordinator's mission is to:

- The performance of services for members of the Order, in the framework of the effective share of information related to the exercise of occupation, collection and distribution of specific documentation, with the aim of improving the quality in exercising the occupation of psychologist in the relevant regional institutions and reducing costs for the benefit of these services for members of the Order in the region
- Establishing and maintaining the relations of the Order with local bodies and other public and private entities in the region, in order to increase the influence and factorization of the Order of Psychologists.



professional practice exam, questions which have been published in advance on the website of the Order



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Some of the functions performed by the Local Coordinators are:

- Providing detailed information for each psychologist, who will carry out membership procedures, licensing, development of professional practice, state examination, conducting various trainings, etc.
- Collecting all the necessary documents to psychologists of the relevant region, in terms of membership-licensing procedure, as well as any other document related to the Order, and forwarding them to the O.P.A.
- Distribution to psychologists of the relevant region of the individual practice permit (Professional Licenses) or any other documentation issued by the Order for the members of this region.
- Creating and maintaining cooperation relations, within the region, with public institutions, as well as with any other public or private entity, which has common goals with the Order of Psychologists.
- Informing psychologists of the region regarding the decisions and instructions of the Order of Psychologists.
- Support for the organization and development of research and scientific activities in the field of psychology in the region.
- Also, Local Coordinators accept any complaint received against psychologists, together with all the accompanying documentation, and send it to the Central Office of the Order of Psychologists, in order to initiate review procedures by the Ethics and Professional Disciplinary Judgment Commission.

During 2021, coordinators for the Districts of Gjirokastra, Dibra, Elbasan, Vlora and Lushnje were added to the network of local coordinators of the Order of Psychologist, in addition to local coordinators in Lezha, Shkodra and Korça.

Currently, the distribution of the network of coordinators is as follows:

Local Coordinator for Shkodra District

Mrs. Migena Burrja/Haxhi

Address: St. "At Gjergj Fishta" St. 37 First floor

Phone: 0693129434

e-mail: Qarkushkoder@urdhriipsikologut.al



Local Coordinator for Vlora District

Veliona Hoxhaj

Address: "Sulejman Delvina" Street, Hajro Cakerri unit, Pall Lor, 2nd Floor

Phone: 0674060444

e-mail: Qarkuvlore@urdhriipsikologut.al

Local Coordinator for Lezha District:

Mrs. Alma Shyti

Address: "Kolin Gjoka" School

Phone: 0683296435

e-mail: Qarkulezhe@urdhriipsikologut.al

Local Coordinator for Korça District:

Mrs. Elizaveta Dino

Address: Mental Health Center, Korça

Phone: 0696171870

e-mail: Qarkukorce@urdhriipsikologut.al

Local Coordinator for Elbasan District

Mrs. Jonida Mustafaraj

Address: Albanian Center for the Integration of People with Special Needs

Phone: 0693847103

e-mail: Qarkuelbasan@urdhriipsikologut.al

Local Coordinator for the City of Lushnja

Mrs. Fatmira Lala

Address: "Kingresi i Lushnja" School

Phone: 0692626443

e-mail: koordinatorkallushnje@urdhriipsikologut.al



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Local Coordinator for Gjirokastra District

Mrs. Loreta Mamani

Address: Gjirokastra

Phone: 0694640798

e-mail: Qarkugjirokaster@urdhriipsikologut.al

Local Coordinator for Dibra District

Mrs. Arta Beqiri

Address: Bulqize

Phone: 0698220502

e-mail: Qarkudiber@urdhriipsikologut.al

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORDER OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

To be a member of the Order of Psychologists in the Republic of Albania, everyone must meet the following criteria:

1. Have a degree of higher studies “Bachelor” and “Master of Science” or “Professional Master” in psychology or equivalent, according to the legislation in force for higher education, issued by the institution of higher education, inside or outside the country, recognized by the ministry responsible for education.
2. Not to be convicted by a final court decision

for committing a criminal offense related to the exercise of the occupation, at the time of application for membership..

Anëtarësia ka patur një rritje gjatë vitit 2021. The membership has increased during 2021. The Administration of the Order has continuously done a great work of raising awareness toward psychologists, but also toward public and private institutions, which have been made aware of the need to implement the law.

In total, the Order of Psychologists for 2021 has reached 1619 active and inactive registered members in the occupation.

3.1 LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS

The licensing of psychologists is regulated based on Law “On Regulated Professions in the Republic of Albania”. According to this Law, after completing Bachelor and Master studies in psychology, one year of professional practice must be completed and then the state exam must be taken, as a prerequisite for licensing.

Exceptionally, this law stipulates that psychologists, who practiced the occupation before the entry into force of this law, are exempted from the obligation to take the state exam.

The Licensing Commission, based on the decision from Tirana Administrative First Instance Court, with No. 493 (80-2020-528), dated 17.02.2020, regarding the psychologist Ms. E.N., decided to examine and approve

the Individual Permit for Practicing the Occupation of Psychologist (Professional License) also for the category of psychologists who have completed a study cycle in psychology and practiced the occupation before the entry into force of Law 40/2016 “On the Order of Psychologists in the Republic of Albania”.

Under these conditions, in meeting the legal obligations, the Order has followed licensing process for this category of psychologists, based on Law No. 10171, dated 22.10.2009, “On occupations regulated in the Republic of Albania” and the Memorandum of Cooperation between former -Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the Order of Psychologist.

¹ Article 9 of Law No. 10 171, dated 22.10.2009 “On occupations regulated in the Republic of Albania” (as amended), point 4.: The following are exempted from the obligation to take the state exam: a) the professional who, at the time of entry into force of this law, practices or has practiced a regulated occupation;



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Currently, the licensing of psychologists according to the field of competence is presented as follows:

Licensed psychologists in years	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Total Licensees	307	175	71	101	74	728
Clinical Psychologists	147	97	32	32	35	343
Organizational School Psychologists	48	19	14	7	4	92
School Psychologists	28	14	3	27	11	83
Organizational Psychologists	8	13	2	7	5	35
Psychologists in Institutions	17	6	3	5	3	34
Psychologists in Professional Orientation	9	3	2	1	2	17
Psychologists in Psychological Counseling	41	25	9	18	10	103
Psychologists in Psychological Research	5	2	2	1	-	10
Forensic Psychologists	5	2	2	3	2	14
General Psychologists	8	2	6	2	1	19
Community Psychologists	2	-	-	1	-	3
Psychologists in psychological rehabilitation	1	-	-	-	-	1
Educational Psychologists	-	-	-	1	1	2
Developmental Psychologists	-	-	-	1	1	2
Clinical Linguistics					1	
Clinical Psychopathology					1	



4. Route to organizing the first State Exam

With maximum insistence and dedication, the Order of Psychologists, since the beginning of its work, enabled for the first time in the Republic of Albania distribution of Individual Permits to Practice the Occupation of Psychologists (Professional Licenses), for the entire category of Psychologists, who had completed both study cycles before the entry into force of Law 40/2016, and had practiced the occupation of psychologists regularly before the entry into force of this law, for at least 1 year. This is based on the legislation and acts in force. Currently, based on court decision No. 493 (80-2020-528), dated 17.02.2020, we have continued to distribute licenses to those psychologists who have completed a study cycle in psychology and practiced the occupation of psychologists before entering to force the Law, while they have completed the second cycle of studies after the entry into force of this Law, i.e. after May 2016.

Regarding the organization of the State Exam for Psychologists, this year we have continued to lobby and intensively request that this exam be finalized as soon as possible. After holding several meetings with the Minister of Education and Sports Mrs. Evis Kushi and our constant insistence on speeding up the process for organizing the State Exam for Psychologists, the work of the questions drafters group for the finalization of this exam began. The group of drafters was selected by the Educational Services Center,

under the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. 9 professionals with experience in various fields of psychology were selected, who met all the criteria set by the Educational Services Center, to become part of this group.

The task of this group set up at the Educational Services Center (QSHA) was to design orientation programs for Psychologists and to design a fund of questions for each area of competence.

We helped and encouraged to proceed as soon as possible to start drafting the fund of questions, given that currently a high number of Psychologists are waiting to take this exam, in order to obtain the professional license. Therefore, with the start of work on drafting the fund of questions, we remain confident that at the beginning of next year, this process will be finalized and the way will finally be opened for the completion of the State Exam for Psychologists.

On September 28, 2021, after a very long time, the work on defining the orientation program on which the question fund for the State Exam for the Psychologists occupation is being drawn up was completed.

We are looking forward for the publication of the Question Fund by the working group at the Educational Services Center in order to give the green light for conducting the State Exam for Psychologists for the first time in our country.

5. BUDGET

5.1 INCOMES

The Project-Budget of 2021 provided for the collection of revenues in the amount of ALL 9,980,000.00. Comparing it with the actual 2021 budget, we have an

excess from the collection of income from the activity carried out in the amount of ALL 11,116,825.00.



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The main revenue items for fiscal year 2021 are:

- Quotations: about 1350 quotations, in total	ALL 8,103,195.00
- Licensing: about 81 licenses, in total	ALL 1,220,000.00
- Registrations: about 409 registrations and re-registrations, in total	ALL 817,525.00
- Income from continuing education, in the amount of	ALL 656,900.00
- Income from editions and publications	ALL 10,800.00
- Income from membership certificates	ALL 20,400.00
- Income from the Practical Training Assessment Commission	ALL 288,005.00

As for the above, a total of unlimited net income of about ALL 11,116,825.00 was accomplished. At the end of the fiscal year 2021, the amount of legal income

has increased year after year since the establishment of the institution in 2017.

5.2 COSTS

Based on the experience of the past years, for the effect of disciplining incomes as transparently as possible, we have maintained a balance of mandatory expenses to be carried out according to planning.

- Salaries	ALL 3,761,328.00
- Operating expenses	ALL 6,017,000.00
- Capital expenses	ALL 200,000.00

Expenses on salaries have increased from the previous year, since due to the change in the minimum salary law, IT employee's salary goes from ALL 26,000.00 to ALL 30,000.00 reflected in forecast no. 3.

Also, with the decision of the National Council in May, a salary increase of about 21% (gross) was accomplished, in the amount of ALL 804,672.00,

According to the Project-Budget of 2021, the accomplishment of approved expenses was foreseen according to the following items:

more than the salary item provided for in the Project-Budget of 2021. From the amount of ALL 3,761,328 went in the amount of ALL 4,566,000, as this increase was considered affordable from the income of the Order of Psychologists during fiscal year of 2021, as well as it was considered a necessary increase after 4 years of work in order to motivate the staff of the Order of Psychologists.

Actual budget Expenses 2021:

- Expenses for salaries & bonuses of employees	ALL 4,393,864.00
- Expenses for social & health insurance	ALL 707,754.00
- Expenses for royalties & personnel outside the unit	ALL 1,793,529.00
- Expenses for office rent	ALL 827,200.00
- Administrative operating expenses	ALL 1,303,814.00
- Expenses for activities & international relations	ALL 1,018,569.00
- Expenses for printing, publishing and web management	ALL 743,882.00
- Expenses for banking and other operations	ALL 62,869.00
- Depreciation expenses from office inventory	ALL 97,497.00
- Depreciation expenses for IT equipment	ALL 38,316.00
- Depreciation expenses	ALL 135,813.00
- Total actual expenses	ALL 10,987,294.00



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In the item of **operating expenses**, ALL 3,956,334.00 were spent.

This has come firstly because the incomes have been collected above the anticipated amount, which has enabled the carrying out of necessary unforeseen expenses, but which have enabled the normal activity of the O.P.A and helped us to achieve our objectives.

During 2021, the capital depreciation expenses

Actual Budget Summary Table 2021

Title	Value	Currency
	in 000/ lek/ALL	
Income:		
Member Quotations	8,103	ALL
Registration fee	817	ALL
Licensing fee	1,220	ALL
Income from continuing education	656	ALL
Income from practical skills assessment	288	ALL
Other legal incomes	40	ALL
Reserve from 2020	932	ALL
Total	11,124	ALL
Expenses:		
Salaries	4,393	ALL
Fees for O.P.A meetings	1,793	ALL
Expenses for social and health insc.	707	ALL
Operating expenses	3,957	ALL
Capital depreciation expense	135	ALL
Total	10,985	ALL
Reserves for the following year	1,071	ALL

These expenses incurred are in the values of the normal operation of the institution during a pandemic year where many activities were not carried out and were cancelled.

As you can see, the actual budget of 2021 has maintained a stable balance between incomes and expenses, continuing to maintain the economic stability of the institution, as well as reflecting the

item was affected in the amount of ALL 135,813.00, where the depreciation calculation is presented with the fair value and then this cost is depreciated according to the Effective Interest method received by (SKK) (National Accounting Standards) deducting any loss or depreciation.

A summary table of the actual income and expenses of the fiscal year 2021 is presented below.

ambition to move to a more consolidated phase of the Order's operation, in order that its activity to become as sensitive as possible in national and international policies, to be as sensitive as possible to the membership and, above all, to fulfill the legal mission for which it was established on the basis of Law 40/2016 on "The Order of the Psychologists in the Republic of Albania".



6. OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED DURING 2021

- Following the process of formalizing the practice of the occupation, through increasing the number of Psychologists registered as members of the Order.
- Increasing the role of the Order of Psychologists in international relations, through intensive participation in EFPA working groups.
- Increasing cooperation with the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP), aiming to represent Albania in the permanent Commission and working groups of this organization and lobbying for the strengthening of the role of the organizational Psychologists in Albania.
- Exercising the Practical Training Assessment exams, as a prerequisite for participating in the state exam.
- Following the procedures for the accomplishment of the first state exam on the occupation of Psychologists.
- Maintaining close cooperation with the central and local government, not only in strengthening the role of the psychologists, but also in joint projects at the local and national level, which have factored the work of the psychologists in the field.
- Continued expansion of the network for local coordinators.
- Standardization of the psychologist's work in the police.
- Improving the system of Continuing Education in Psychology, in order to increase its effectiveness.
- Increase of continuing education activities, which enables psychologists to obtain credits, necessary in the relicensing process.
- Maintaining the stability of the institution and the smooth running of the activity.

7. OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

The objectives that our institution intends to achieve throughout 2022 are:

- Continuation of the process on formalizing the practice of the occupation, through increasing the number of psychologists registered as members of the Order.
- Continuous implementation of Practical Training Assessment exams, as a prerequisite for participating in the state exam.
- Following the procedures for the accomplishment of the first state exam for the occupation of psychologists and carrying out the State Exam.
- Strengthening the role of the psychologists in the field of Justice and providing continuous training for this category of psychologists.
- Empowerment through information and awareness of psychologists, regarding the exercise of Psychologists occupation within their areas of competence.
- Continuing to expand the network of local coordinators.
- Organization, in cooperation with international and local partners, of training cycles, with the aim of training specialized psychologists for intervention in certain situations and problems.
- Increasing cooperation with the European Federation of Psychologists' in order to increase professional standards.
- Increasing cooperation with the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP), aiming for representation of Albania in the permanent Commission and working groups of this organization.
- Raising awareness and strengthening the role of the organizational psychologists and undertaking initiatives for the local application of organizational psychology in public and private institutions.
- Obtaining the status of a member country with full rights in the International Union of Psychological Science (International Union of Psychological Science - IUPsyS), as one of the most important world organizations in the field of psychology.

