



ITALY

I. Situation of the Profession

History and Development / Professional Organizations

In the 1970's in Italy Psychomotricity began to spread in the special educational field together with the help of the French school, with particular interest in various professional objectives.

The first of these objectives was to create a particular and definite professional profile.

Accordingly, in 1987 a national association called ANUPI (Associazione Unitaria Psicomotricisti Italiani) was created with the goal of unifying all theoretical and practical professionals.

The Fifth International Congress, which took place in Florence in 1982, gave significant contribution to this development, gathering the participation of more than twelve hundred people, and highlighted the growing importance of Italian psychomotricity.

In 1988, about twenty schools were associated in a federation, FIScOP (*Federazione Italiana Scuole ed Operatori in Psicomotricità*) whose aim was to create a unique programme around basic and homogeneous training. In 1994, despite the risk of losing the true identity of psychomotricity by combining it with special education, in a process that could make it become a physiotherapist discipline, a new association called FIPM was constituted.

However, a new problem appeared due to the presence of different educational programmes (in relation to the numbers of hours required and other issues). Therefore in 1999 the FISSPP (*Federazione Italiana Scuole Superiori Professionali di Psicomotricità*) was constituted with the purpose to identify psychomotor schools by their educational systems, based on European standards. Consequently, all private schools shared the same goal but were differentiated from university education, which is in turn based on the "developmental-age and neuro psychomotor therapist" with a specific emphasis on functional rehabilitation.

In 1993, the AIFP (*Associazione Italiana Formatori in Psicomotricità*), was constituted with the goal of ensuring psychomotor education and to define the criteria for a regulated list of professional teachers.

In 2005, another association was constituted: APPI (*Associazione Professionale Psicomotricisti Italiani*) with the main goal of preserving psychomotor educational contents as proposed by private schools (respecting the EFP program and curriculum) in comparison with the restricted programme of university education. Some of these private schools are accredited by the region for the validity of their education.

Today the identity of psychomotricians is very clear and the discipline is situated among the social, pedagogical and rehabilitative fields.



II. Education

Currently in Italy there are only private schools with programmes ranging between 2400 and 3800 hours each.

Particularly, FISSPP schools follow the French school programme (in the 90th per cent) with 2.839 hours (ECTS 180). The curriculum covers a period of three years.

Some particular methods are taught in other schools (e.g., Aucouturier, Le Boulch), with a programme, which is very different and limited in hours than basic education.

In terms of private schools, about 150 people graduate each year and they can find work.

There is also a university education that provides the title of “Developmental-age and neuro psychomotor therapist”, which develops mainly competencies related with physiotherapy and only for infancy and is therefore not recognized by most of the Italian associations of Psychomotricians.

By 2010 the International University Master in psychomotricity is active with 120 credits (languages: Spanish, French, English).

Nowadays in Italy 8000 psychomotricians exist and work in different institutional fields.

III. Practice

Psychomotricians work in many fields: health, prevention, education, re-education and research, and their skills are applicable to all age groups.

Regarding institutions, they work in schools, kindergartens, advisory centres, social-educative centres, adult and child psychiatry, the elderly, and people with other problems, etc.

The work is organized both in individual and group therapy.

They work in public services, in private practices with conventional arrangements, and in freelance services.

IV. Legislation

In December 2012 the law on the recognition of the profession “not-regulated” has been approved. Among these professions we have Psychomotricians. Their competences are assured by the National Professional Associations that are accredited by the competent Ministry.

Therefore, psychomotricians are currently recognized for their professional practice, but not for their education. And, in order to be recognized, the psychomotrician has to be a member of one of these Professional Associations.

Weblinks:

APPI: www.appi-psicomotricisti.it

FISSPP: www.ciserpp.com

AIFP: www.ciserpp.com

CNEL: www.cnel.it

COLAP: www.colap.it