



BELGIUM

I. Situation of the Profession

History and Development

For the French-speaking part of the country

In 1962, after a 2-year degree (A levels+2) course for specialised educators, there was an introduction of one year specialisation in psychomotricity.

In 1975, within the framework of a 3-year degree (A levels+3) course in applied psychology with an option in orthopedagogy and psychomotricity. The Federation of Mental Health Centers introduces private training.

In 1980, saw the introduction of the first paramedical course specializing in psychomotor education and re-education, which was open to 3-year degree graduates (A levels+3). The course was part of higher education for adults and a recognised diploma was given.

In 1982, saw the opening of the Belgian Aucouturier School.

In 1989, saw the foundation of the first Belgian Professional Union of French-speaking Psychomotricians.

In 1997, the paramedical specialisation is transformed into a paramedical post-graduate degree in psychomotricity (3 years after A levels+3). This training was part of higher education for adults and an officially recognised diploma was given.

In 2002, saw the introduction of the position of “psychomotricity teacher in kindergarten education” and the foundation of the Belgian Association of Aucouturier Psychomotricians.

In 2009, recognition of the psychomotrician trained in paramedical education, into the sector of the Mental health.

In 2009, Validation of the professional profile of the psychomotrician by the Ministry for Education worked out by the French-speaking Belgian professional Union.

In 2012, teaching specialization and the ancillary medical post-graduate in psychomotricity were transformed into paramedical graduate in psychomotricity.

For the Dutch-speaking part of the country

In 1962-1964, Katholiek Universiteit Leuven / Catholic University of Leuven: saw the introduction of a specialization in psychomotor therapy for university-trained physical therapists. From 1976 university-trained physical educators were allowed in this specialization.



European Forum of Psychomotricity

In 1966, launch of the “Vlaamse Vereniging van Psychomotorisch Therapeuten” (Flemish Association of Psychomotor Therapists). This association became a non-profit association in 1971.

Psychomotor/Professional Organisations

The Belgian Federation of Psychomotor Education and Therapy Associations is a result of the merging of the following associations:

- Vlaamse Vereniging van Psychomotorisch Therapeuten (Flemish Association of Psychomotor therapists) – www.vvpmt.be
- Union Professionnelle de Psychomotricité Belge Francophone (Belgian Professional Union of French-speaking Psychomotricity) – <http://www.upbpf.be>
- Association belge des Psychomotriciens Aucouturier (Belgian Association of Aucouturier Psychomotricians) – www.abpa.be
- Ostbelgische Vereinigung für Psychomotorik (German-speaking Association of Psychomotricity)

II Education

For the French-speaking part of the country

Official education depending on the Community Ministry of Education:

Until 2012

1/ Full time education:

Title: Specialisation in psychomotricity

Category: teacher training higher education

Open to students who graduated at least from an educational, social or paramedical sector (A levels+3, 180 ECTS)

<http://www.prov-liege.be> ; <http://www.vinci.be> ; <http://www.isell.be>

2/ Full time education:

Option in orthopedagogy and psychomotricity as part of a 3-year-degree in psychology (180 ECTS)

Title: 3-year-degree in psychology

<http://www.vinci.be>

3/ Social promotion education:

Formation: minimum 1 day/week plus weekends during 3 years, allowing students to work at the same time.

Title and diploma: post-3-year degree in psychomotricity (ECTS currently being worked out)

Category: paramedical higher education

<http://www.cpse-liege.be>; <http://www.cesa.be> ; <http://www.prov-liege.be>



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Starting from September 2012

Starting from September 2012, teaching specialization and the paramedical post-graduate in psychomotricity are being transformed into paramedical bachelor in psychomotricity:

Title: Bachelier in Psychomotricity

Training: 3-year-dismantle: 180 ects. In agreement with the minimum programme of the Forum European.

Category: paramedical higher education.

1/ Full time education

<http://www.prov-liege.be> ; <http://www.vinci.be> ; <http://www.isell.be> ;

2/ Social promotion education:

<http://www.cpse-liege.be> ; <http://www.prov-liege.be> ; <http://www.cesa.be> ;
<http://www.iort.be>

Private training: / no diploma

Belgian Aucouturier School.

Site: <http://www.ebppa.be>

For the Dutch-speaking part of the country

Students in rehabilitation sciences (5 years; 3 bachelors & 2 masters) can choose in their masters to specialize in a major specialization “psychomotor therapy”. Students with a “master in kinesiology” (4 years) can specialize in psychomotor therapy with a credit system (one year of specialisation: 60 ECTS). After both masters, students can candidate for a doctoral training at the International Doctoral School for Biomedical Sciences - Leuven. Site: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven: <http://faber.kuleuven.be>

The number of graduates a year is about 15 to 20 graduates.

III Practice

The sectors involved in professional activity are prevention, education, re-education and therapy.

Psychomotor therapists usually work in: general hospitals (neonatal, paediatrics, children and adolescents), psychiatry departments for children, adolescents, adults and geriatric patients and rehabilitation centres; kindergarten classes and special schools; mental health centres and psycho-medico-social centres; centres for people with physical and intellectual disability, from early childhood to adulthood; early childhood, day care centres; sector of the elderly; private practice.

They mostly work with children (from 0 to 6/7 years old) as far as education and prevention are concerned and with children, (pre)teenagers and adults as far as therapy is concerned.

In both parts of the country, the diplomas delivered by the official schools are recognised by the State.



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In Belgium, there is currently no law ruling the legal status of psychomotricians. The same goes for the formation.

Historically and theoretically, several different professionals can work as psychomotricians. However, they are mainly people who have an official psychomotricity diploma in addition to their basic training, or who have a specific certificate from a private school.

For the French-speaking part of the country

The graduate in psychomotricity intervenes in the field of health, education and research. In connection with other professionals, it contributes to the global development of the person by prevention, care and therapy. It implements a methodology of observation and carries out psychomotor assessments. It ensures the individual and/or collective assumptions of responsibility, care and therapies.

Through a specific approach, it supports the integration of the functions driving, emotional, cognitive and symbolic systems of a person. . It considers the body, and more particularly the tonic and body setting in motion, as the base of psychic construction.

From its total commitment and tonico-emotional dialog with the patient, it begins with technical and relational skills, to construct with the patient complete experiments which enable him to find or to restore the bond between the somatic and the psychic one.

Its tools are in particular psychocorporelles techniques, techniques of relieving, body mediations, the expressivity postural and gestural of the body. Its specificities are in particular the tonico-emotional dialog, the relation, the process of symbolization.

The psychomotrician intervenes within an establishment or of a service or as independent.

The psychomotrician is recognized in the legislation in the French-speaking Belgian legislation of the Mental health dealing with elderly people, handicapped people, early childhood, teaching etc..

Some psychomotor therapists are recognised as such but are sometimes employed for their basic qualifications (in education, physical therapy, logopedics, etc) and therefore are paid accordingly.

For the Dutch-speaking part of the country

All psychomotor therapists are university-level physical therapists or physical educators with a specialisation psychomotor therapy.

Physical therapists are not included in the paramedical field but have their own specific status. Psychomotor therapy is part of a physical therapist's work.

Do differences in salaries exist according to the place where the psychomotrician works?

Differences in salaries do exist depending on the paying authority, the level of work and the psychomotor therapist's original title.

Some regional social security organisations participate in the reimbursement. The same goes for some companies' insurance schemes.

If there is an official reimbursement, it is based on the psychomotor therapist's original title (in physical therapy, in logopedics etc.).



European Forum of Psychomotricity

No prescription is needed for work in the educational sector. However, a prescription is required from a medical or psychological professional for prevention and/or therapy treatment.

A civil liability insurance is recommended for psychomotor therapists who work in the private sector. It is based upon paramedical staff's « civil liability » insurances.

IV Legislation

KB nr. 78 of 10 november 1967 concerning the exercise of health professions.