

Situation of the profession

I. History and Development

Psychomotricity was initiated in Greece in 2002 through the collaboration of Prof. Renate Zimmer and Prof. Antonis Kambas. From 2002 until 2006 the two Professors gave seminars regarding Psychomotricity in dozens of Greek practitioners (mainly Physical Educators and Kindergarten Teachers), who started applying the principles of Psychomotricity in their practices.

Psychomotor Associations

In 2002, the Scientific Psychomotor Association Hellas was established in order to spread the idea of Psychomotricity to Greek professionals. Under the aegis of this association, in 2008, the first issue of the European Psychomotricity Journal (www.psychomotor.gr) was published. Since then, every year, several articles related to the Psychomotricity field have been published. The European Psychomotricity Journal is the only scientific journal with the term Psychomotricity in its title.

In 2017, Psychomotor Association Hellas (www.psychomotortherapy.gr) was established by Christina Sypsa and Prof. Antonis Kambas and during the same year became a member of the EFP. The Flemish and German influence dominate in the philosophy of Psychomotricity of the aforementioned association, as the two founders were educated in Flanders and Germany, respectively. The association plans to offer workshops and seminars to professionals who are interested in incorporating the Psychomotor philosophy in their daily practice with children, adolescents and adults, in typical or non-typical populations. Seminars will involve training in useful psychomotor assessment instruments, best clinical practices or other interesting issues regarding the theory and practice of Psychomotricity.

II. Education

In Greece there does not exist a basic training in Psychomotricity. From 2006 until today, Psychomotricity is included in the majority of the curricula of the Pedagogical departments of Preschool Education and from 2011 as an autonomous elective course in the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science (DPESS) of the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH).

III. Profession/ Practice

Psychomotricity does not exist as a profession in Greece. However, all the Physical Educators and Kindergarten Teachers who have been educated in Psychomotor education are able to apply the basic principles of Psychomotricity in their work

(kindergartens, recreational activities or adapted physical education programs). At the moment, there are about 150 professionals, mostly women, who apply Psychomotricity in the private domain all over Greece.

Moreover, Psychomotor Association Hellas offers group Psychomotor education/prevention programs in Komotini to children from 2,5- 8 years old, with or without any psychomotor disorder or delay.

Finally, until now, there is only one private organization, Psychomotor Athens™ (www.psychomotor-athens.gr), which offers Psychomotor education, prevention and therapeutic programs to children with or without developmental disorders, from 1 to 16 years old. Psychomotor programs are individual or in groups. Since 2010, more than 1000 children have received Psychomotor programs as part of their intervention program or as recreational activities. Through its holistic approach, Psychomotor Athens™ provides a full multi-disciplinary team consisting of: Occupational Therapists, Psychomotor Therapists, Speech Therapists, Special-Needs Teachers, Psychologists, Adapted Physical Educators and Psychiatrists, all of whom evaluate, propose and provide therapies to children with developmental, sensory, learning, emotional and behavior difficulties.