

International Project on Competence in Psychology (IPCP)

Supported by the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) and the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)

FINAL IPCP Report

June 2016

After the Fourth International Congress on Licensure, Certification and Credentialing of Psychologists closed in July 2010, the Fifth International Congress on this topic (hereafter called “5th International Congress”) was scheduled to occur in Stockholm in July 2013, prior to the European Congress of Psychology (ECP2013). In July 2011, the Organizing Committee of the 5th International Congress, in July 2011, decided to use the 5th International Congress to discuss important matters connected to relevant issues in the regulation of the profession. Challenges with the mobility of professional psychologist between regions and countries came up as an issue that seemed to be universal. It was agreed that differences in competences were central. Based on this discussion it was decided that the theme of the 5th International Congress would be the identification of internationally recognized core competences of professional psychologists. (See list of Organizing Committee members in “*Report - International Congress., Part 1 – Appendixes, 6.1 Organizing Committee*”.)

All documents referred to can be found and downloaded from

<http://www.psykologforeningen.no/foreningen/english/ipcp>

A Work Group was formed to prepare a program for the congress that would address this goal. All proposals and pre-congress documentation were discussed in the Organizing Committee by email or in meetings. The preparations, organization, activity, and results of the 5th International Congress are described in detail in the “*Report - 5th International Congress, Part 1*”.

At the conclusion of a very successful and productive 5th International Congress, it was decided to take the process onwards in a collaborative project, supported by the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) and the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), and which would have the same goal; to promote the development of “A global agreement on identifying the benchmark competences that define professional psychology”.

The project was named the “International Project on Competence in Psychology – IPCP”. A Work Group was established consisting of:

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*) Administrative support

The Work Group published its first progress report in April 2014 (see link above). It included a revision of the draft Summary Model of basic competences, which had initially been produced for discussion at the 5th Congress. The report was distributed to the “Reference Group”, a worldwide network of over 250 individuals and organisations. In addition, the draft was discussed at:

- a three-hour open meeting at International Congress on Applied Psychology (ICAP)2014 in Paris (July) with almost 60 participants present,
- two symposia at ICAP2014,
- open meetings at the East African Regional Conference in Kampala in November 2013, and
- the 20th South African Psychology Congress in Durban, September 2014.

The Work Group met for a one-day meeting in Paris, in conjunction with the ICAP2014, and for a two-day meeting in Oslo in September 2014. At these meetings, all comments received between April and September were considered and discussed, and a revised draft Summary Model was developed.

A Second Progress Report (see link above) and revised draft document was forwarded to the Reference Group in November 2014 and a second round of comments were received. The Work Group then met in Auckland, New Zealand in February 2015, where these latest comments were considered and the Competence Model revised once more. The meeting resulted in a draft Declaration: the revised competences (presented in a tabular format), a revised Preamble, and a Glossary.

Following this meeting and completion of the document revisions, which were presented in a Third Progress Report (June 2015), the Work Group presented the draft of the Declaration at the European Congress of Psychology (ECP) in Milan, July 7-10, 2015, where there was a “panel discussion” together with the presidents of IAAP and IUPsyS. The session was an

open meeting, and provided an opportunity to discuss the work that had been done, and to formally present the draft Declaration to IUPsyS and IAAP. Also, in October 2015, an open meeting was held in Beirut at the First Arab Conference, organized by the Lebanese Psychological Association, where the draft Declaration was presented and discussed.

After further revision of the draft Declaration based on feedback during these presentations, this latest draft was circulated to the Reference Group as well as IAAP, IUPsyS and other national and regional psychology organisations with a deadline for comments set at 1st December 2015. At this stage of the project, the Work Group stressed that comments from psychology organizations would be given most attention.

The Work Group had its last meeting in Beijing in February 2016. The draft was revised and resulted in the proposal of the “Declaration of Core Competences in Professional Psychology” (hereafter called “The Declaration”). The Work Group saw the need for more information on the background and aim of the Declaration, and consequently added a new chapter: “Introduction”.

Shortly after the Work Group meeting in Beijing, the proposal for the Declaration was forwarded to IAAP and IUPsyS with a recommendation to take it to their assemblies in conjunction with the International Congress of Psychology (ICP) 2016 in Yokohama in July 2016. (See the link above for a copy of the proposed Declaration.)

With this transmission, the Work Group of the International Project on Core Competences in Professional Psychology – IPCP – regarded its work as completed.

The documents are temporarily on the website of the Norwegian Psychological Association and will be moved to the websites of IAAP and IUPsyS when, hopefully, the declaration has been accepted at their assemblies in Yokohama. A folder containing approximately 230 files of documentation from the activities of the project will also be added.

Having achieved what it set out to do, the members of the Working Group want to give a huge thank you to the following:

- The members of the Organizing Committee of the 5th International Congress for thinking “outside the box”, for focusing on an important issue and believing that it was possible, and to the Work Group members who took on the work of writing the documents that this project was based on.
- The participants and facilitators of the 5th International Congress in Stockholm for their dedication and great work done over three very productive days.
- The organisers from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) and the Norwegian Psychological Association (NPA) who were instrumental for making the 5th International Congress a success.

- The organisations that have made it financially possible for the IPCP Work Group members to participate in the activities of IPCP and for hosting meetings.
- The members of the Reference Group/network for their support and helpful comments.
- IAAP and IUPsyS for their support of the IPCP.
- ASPPB, NPA, and the American Psychological Association (APA) for sponsoring the 5th International Congress.
- As chair of the IPCP Work Group I also want to express my gratitude to the members of this group for their dedication to the task and for great cooperation.

Thank you all!



Sverre L. Nielsen

Chair

International Project on Competence in Psychology (IPCP)