



I. Situation of the Profession

History and Development / Professional Organizations

In the 1970s Italy began to discuss psychomotricity in a 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 as a means of unifying all theoretical and practical professionals.

The Fifth International Congress gave significant input at its 1982 gathering in Florence, and with the participation of more than twelve hundred people it highlighted the emergent importance of Italian psychomotricity.

In 1988 about twenty schools associated in a federation, FISCOP (Federazione Italiana Scuole ed Operatori in Psicomotricità) whose aim was to create a unique program around a basic, homogeneous formation. Then, in 1994, despite the risk of losing the true identity of psychomotricity by combining psychomotricity with special education, in the process becoming a physiotherapist discipline, a new association called the FIPM was constituted.

However, a new problem appeared due to the presence of a different educational program (in relation to the numbers of hours required and other issues). So, in 1999 the FISSPP (Federazione Italiana Scuole Superiori Professionali di Psicomotricità) was constituted for the purpose of identifying psychomotor schools by their educational systems based on European standards. Consequently, all private schools share the same goal but are differentiated by university education, which is in turn based on the "developmental-age neuro- and psychomotric therapist" with a specific emphasis on rehabilitation. With the goal of ensuring psychomotor education, the AIFP (Associazione Italiana Formatori in Psicomotricità) was constituted in 1993 in order to define the criteria and maintain a regulated list of professional teachers.

Today, the discipline of psychomotricity hovers somewhere among the social, pedagogical and rehabilitative fields, but psychomotricians have been steadfast in the desire for their own specific city and identity relative to other professionals.

In 2005 another two associations were constituted: API (Associazione Psicomotricisti Italiani) who wants to develop psychomotricity in the educational field, following Aucouturier's method and APPI (Associazione Professionale Psicomotricisti Italiani) with the main goal for the psychomotor professionals to be recognized in the sanitary field, in public and social services and in private practices.

II. Education

Currently in Italy there are only private schools with programs ranging between 2400 (FISCOP) and 2700 hours each.

Particularly, FISPP schools (for example CISERPP) follow the French school program (in the ninetieth percent) with 2.845 hours (ECTS 180). The curriculum covers a period of three years.

Some other schools exist using particular methods, (e.g., Aucouturier and Le Boulch), and in such cases the cumulative number of hours can be very different than what the basic professional schools require. In terms of private schools, approximately 150 people graduate each year. There is also a university education that provides

the title of "developmental-age neuro- and psychomotor therapist", whose are mainly physiotherapy related competencies and is therefore not recognized by most of the Italian associations of psychomotricians.

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 centers, social-educative centers, adult and child psychiatry, and with aged people, persons with other problems, etc.

The work is organized both in individual and group therapy.

The Italian government does not officially recognize psychomotricists, so psychomotricity is practiced by other professionals as well. At any rate, the eight thousand psychomotricians present themselves in a competitive and qualitative way, and in most situations they are privileged.

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

There are some programs of private health assistance that reimburse the costs of psychomotor services. Also, in the public field they are reimbursed, but only in the context of a medical prescription.

IV. Practice

There are several legal proposals, but only two of them give importance to psychomotricity as it is considered in all of Europe. Such proposals were presented on January 24, 2006 and were unified for entry into Law No. 6229, regarding the health professions. Also, there is the dlgs 206/2007 following European directives on professions (2005/36).

Some regional laws on health professions offer the opportunity for psychomotricians to work in the preventive and educative fields.

Webblink:

AIFP: www.aifp.info

API: www.cnrpp.com

APPI: www.appi.name

CNEL: www.cnel.it

COLAP: www.colap.it

FIPM: www.fipm.com

FISCOP: www.fiscop.it

FISSPP: www.ciserpp.com