

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Iasi, 10.02.2019

Dear committee,

I decided to apply as candidate for the Standing Committee on Disaster, Crisis and Trauma Psychology consequently to a personal self-evaluation of my professional experiences and the desire to represent the vision and interests of our profession in the committees of the European Federation of Psychology Associations. I will support my candidacy for a number of reasons, mentioned in the following lines.

The interest for psychological effects of long-term adversity conditions (reaction to extreme stress, coping, resilience) started in 2002, with the study for the Bachelors' thesis, where I intended to evaluate the presence of PTSD, anxiety and depression as life-long consequences of repression during communist era (the case of political imprisonment). Subsequently, for my PhD's thesis (2010) I continued the study of the political repression, including analysis of biographical data and evaluation of coping, self-efficacy, etc. The main focus was the study of the former political prisoners' 'survival' strategies during the adaptation to a hostile social context.

Crisis intervention was a key-topic in the three years (2010 – 2013) research program "Postdoctoral Studies in Ethics and Health Policies", implemented by "Gr. T. Popa" UMF Iasi. In particular, the study of the implications of chronic and terminal illnesses for the patients and for the caregivers made me aware by the difficulties posed by the end of life decisions to the closed ones or professionals. Following the study itself, I've developed, with a fellow psychologist (working in a Palliative Care Unit) and a Medical doctor, a professional training for psychologists and physicians (2013-2014). Named "Intervention skills in systemic perspective for assessing and advising cancer patients or palliative care terminally ill patients ", it was certified by the College of Psychologists of Romania and Iasi College of Medical Doctors as a complementary professional training. Considering the feedback and the later follow-up survey, we have reasons to believe it was quite helpful for patients, families and caregivers in the different crisis related to terminal illnesses.

As spoken foreign languages, I can mention English (Proficient user for understanding and speaking, and independent user for writing), French (Independent user for all criteria) and Italian (basic user). I also had the chance to use and develop my language skills while working with international research teams (EUNET- ADB project), as ERASMUS student at University of Groningen, Netherlands (for English) or during a professional internship at Universite de Savoie (for French)

Working as Researcher, Project responsible or Coordinator, I found myself in the position to work with diverse organizations (academic institutions, NGOs, research groups), in international environments (EUNET ADB Project; research stage at Université de Savoie, France; ERASMUS mobility at University of Groningen, NL) or in multidisciplinary teams. The long-term professional and working relations I was able to establish (some for more than 10 years long, as for the research concerning addictive behaviours) may be a good witness of their quality and endurance.

I can only hope that you will find these aspects a good recommendation for this position.

Sincerely yours,

George Macarie, PhD