

AFIRMAR

OS PSICÓLOGOS

2010 ELECTIONS
ORDEM DOS PSICÓLOGOS

LIST "A": "AFFIRMING PSYCHOLOGISTS"

Affirming Psychologists and Psychology in Portugal 2010/2013

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INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

(photo)

FRANCISCO SANTOLAYA

President of the Colégio Oficial de Psicólogos, Spain

“Portugal needs a strong and organised Order, which is able to perform its role as a partner in the European and Ibero-American framework of professional Psychology organisations. Telmo Baptista is the right man for that role. His experience and credibility are essential for the Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses.”

(photo)

RAYMOND FOWLER, PhD

Ex-President of the American Psychological Association (APA)

“I am a former president of the American Psychological Association (APA) and for 13 years (1989-2003) I served as the Chief Executive Officer of APA. During my years at the APA, I worked hard to build the APA into a strong national psychological association, and I have also been instrumental in helping to build strong psychological associations in other countries. It has been a pleasure to see the progress made by professional psychology in Portugal.

To build a strong profession of psychology in any country, it is important to have a strong psychological association that is recognized as representing professional psychology. After several years, that has now been achieved in Portugal. The success of such initiative can be attributed to the work of the team lead by Prof. Dr. Telmo Baptista. As a result of their efforts, I support the candidacy of Prof. Dr. Telmo Baptista and his team to the Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses for the term 2010-2013.”

Raymond D.Fowler, PhD
Professor Emeritus
University of Alabama

(photo)

TUOMO TIKKANEN

Ex-President of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)

“I am a former president of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) which represents 250.000 individual members in 34 European countries and Member associations. As President of EFPA, I was able to follow the development towards the creation of the Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses, in which the work done by the Associação Pró-Ordem dos Psicólogos was a very important step.

As a result of the work they developed for the creation of the Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses, I support the candidacy of the team lead by Prof.Dr.Telmo Baptista to the Ordem dos Psicólogos Portuguesess for the term 2010-2013.

Tuomo Tikkanen
President Finnish Psychological Association 1994-2010
President European Federation of Psychologists Associations 1999-2007”

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE FUTURE

Affirming the Psychologist and the role of Psychology in society and the importance of our role for people and organisations is essential for the future of our profession.

Psychologists, as specialists in behaviour, are a resource for the country in a difficult context in which adaptability, flexibility and change are essential characteristics for survival and social progression. We live in a time in which the collapse of the economic models in force exposes the need for the consideration, in a more determining manner, of the psychological factors in the economic analysis of our world and our reality. To ignore them is to not see the future.

In this context, the Psychologist's role and that of Psychology gains particular importance in our society.

Our programme looks to the future, establishing priorities which shall allow the affirmation of the profession, starting with structuring of the Ordem dos Psicólogos, highlighting what should be our contribution to the country.

We have a plan to achieve our goals. All Psychologists have a role in this plan through their daily work. Together, we aim to build better quality services and assurances for all Portuguese citizens.

TRUST, CREDIBILITY AND AMBITION

We propose an ambitious standing in the search for objectives from all of us and the affirmation of the Psychologist's role. An attitude that gives our actions credibility, investing in the quality of our performance as Psychologists, gaining and strengthening the trust among Portuguese citizens, in their use of our services and skills.

We trust in the ability of Psychologists to build a better place in which to work, to contribute towards the development of the country and to give Portuguese citizens a better quality of life, at the same time as being a contributing factor towards the better success of us all. This attitude is critical for the future. It shall allow us to

create the conditions to innovate and mobilise Psychologists towards the common goals we strive for, without losing sight of the vision for the future of Psychologists, Psychology and Portugal, in a context of their affirmation and experience of living in the European area.

EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS

Our confidence in the future and our capacities as Psychologists stem from the recent past, in which the success of those who got together for the common good is clear.

We are aware that there is much work to be done, but we are certain that without the little that has already been achieved, we would not be able to achieve anything else - the Ordem dos Psicólogos.

Telmo Baptista leads a team that boasts 7 years' experience working towards the creation of the Ordem dos Psicólogos. This historical milestone, which is unique to Psychology in Portugal, put to the test Psychologists' capacity for persistence and resilience, especially of those who on behalf of approximately 6.000 Psychologists in Portugal, took the necessary action that over the previously mentioned 7 years allowed the dream that we have all had for over 30 years, to become reality. The association Pró-Ordem dos Psicólogos (APOP) – lead by Telmo Baptista – is part of the history of Psychology in Portugal as being responsible for the creation of the Ordem dos Psicólogos and for having guaranteed the viability for the start and establishment of the Ordem, with its financial, human resources and material contributions.

We have proven that together, we can achieve common goals. We have shown that persistence, effort and sacrifice can be rewarded.

Since the beginning of this process, we have contributed towards the Affirmation of Psychologists and Psychology in Portugal. We laboured during that period, in the absence of an Order, answering requests from the Court and Public Attorney's Office, concerning acts performed by Psychologists. We participated in and contributed towards legislation processes or programmatic documents relating to our field or to fields in which Psychologists intervene, such as the Mental Health Plan, Professional Mobility in the European Area and the Diploma on Special Education and Social-Educational Support.

The establishment of the Ordem dos Psicólogos followed, in a particularly difficult setting, without any kind of support, with delays caused by the indecision and administrative body of the State.

Some people have taken the opportunity to attack the establishment of the Ordem dos Psicólogos. They do so against the responsibility and determination of those who have invested their time, freely and voluntarily, within the terms laid down by Law. They do so without constructive concerns, often invoking the scorn and slander similar to that of the old men of the Restelo, without reflecting on the reasons and consequences of such facts and actions. We do not see ourselves mirrored in this attitude! We have never sat around waiting for an Order to suddenly appear to now criticise it from various angles! We did not let the legal time to discuss Laws and Regulations pass to now accuse them of being inadequate or unfair! We preferred to take action in the construction of that which is common to all Psychologists, risking solutions and systematically improving our proposals in an ongoing, entrepreneurial process, in which we endeavour daily to improve what we have achieved and not to destroy what others do. This is the attitude that we defend for Portuguese Psychologists. This is the attitude which we defend that Psychologists should offer the country. To Affirm Psychologists and Psychology in Portugal.

Over 14.500 Psychologists were registered. Over 6.000 Psychologists concluded the registration process in time to participate in this first electoral act. The Registration, Electoral and Internship Regulations were drawn up and applied for the acts to be transparent and comply with legal requirements. The Foundation Committee, appointed in April 2009 and lead by Telmo Baptista, without any resources being assigned for the pursuit of their mission, set up facilities for the Ordem in Lisbon and Porto, put the Secretariat into operation, set up an online website, placed the electoral and registration regulations at the public's disposal, began the implementation of the community directive on

qualifications and prepared the electoral act, fully fulfilling the mission it had been given within the term of his mandate.

The experience of this successful process, managed over many years without hardly any resources, was the preparation of the organisation that now has everything it needs to be strong and able to implement the necessary action for the benefit of all Psychologists and the Portuguese public in general.

The results are in full view: we have an Order and it is established. The names on the list include some of those who worked hard and are mostly responsible for this success.

For all Psychologists, to Affirm Psychologists and Psychology.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

THE PROGRAMME PRESENTED TO PORTUGUESE PSYCHOLOGISTS HAS 4 PRIORITY ACTION AREAS:

- To set up an infrastructure for the Ordem dos Psicólogos so that it is an efficient organisation;
- To qualify and develop Psychologists' skills and innovate Psychology in Portugal;
- To increase and improve the presence and social importance of Psychologists, by promoting a better communication of their role, entrepreneurship and representation in different forums and areas where their contribution is necessary, defending the technical autonomy of their acts;
- To create and develop a set of benefits associated with registering with the Order, which are of a personal and professional nature.

EMPLOYABILITY, QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

The Ordem dos Psicólogos must undertake medium and long term goals on increasing the employability of Psychologists. For this to be achieved, the Order must start by clarifying current unemployment figures, which are the areas of higher employability and what the prospects are for the future of the profession. The Order must promote all kinds of actions which support the ongoing qualification of Psychology professionals, through internships, certification or professional training.

Employability Observatory

The work on clarifying and learning about the socioeconomic reality of the profession should take place in partnership with other organisations and shall become the foundation for putting into action indicators and objectives, as well the strategies and actions developed to achieve them. This Study on the Employability of Psychologists should become the embryo of an Employability Observatory of Psychologists, which produces accurate data on the evolution of the employment of Psychologists and their working conditions, at the same time as it reflects on the future prospects of the profession. The employment of Psychologists should overcome the social issue of accessing the workplace, to focus on the benefits of the work of the Psychologist, its importance to society and in the use of qualified human resources in the country at the service of its development. The elected members for “Affirming Psychologists” make the commitment to visit different districts to learn the reality Psychologists face and to take advantage of opportunities to work with organisations, form partnerships within the framework of internships and increase the proximity of the Order and Psychologists to their elected representatives.

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

The candidates for “Affirming Psychologists” are committed to developing measures with a view to taking advantage of Professional Internships as a way of increasing Psychologists’ employability, improving their skills with the aim of better integration in the labour market. Internships contribute significantly towards training in the workplace, providing an easier route into the market, as well as the opportunity for the trainee to show his worth and subsequently guarantee his progression towards a situation where he is paid and has a contract, in a context of ongoing qualification through work and the guided application of theoretical knowledge acquired to the practical reality of the job. Internships allow organisations to become aware of their need to count on the work of Psychologists.

We shall defend the recognition of experience gained to allow for exemption from undertaking the professional internship, as a means of enhancing the career of Psychologists practising professionally, within the current legal framework and the proposal of Law 57/2008, mentioned herein.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS WE AIM TO DEVELOP SEVERAL MEASURES:

Internship Scholarships

To create an internship scholarship in the Order, that can be offered to internship candidates. Within the framework of this scholarship and in order for it to be achieved, agreements must be established with large organisations or networks whose area of intervention depends on the service of a large number of Psychologists in order to create permanent internships, providing it is guaranteed that such internship places do not replace actual work posts of Psychologists. Therefore, a paid Professional Internship Programme should be promoted, that creates suitable working conditions and encourages its expansion into a higher number places offering Internships.

To promote the figure of Internship Supervisor

The figure of Internship Supervisor should be increasingly highlighted and valued so that it promotes the employment of young people as a result of references provided by them. We defend that conditions be developed for the supervision of internships to taken into account for career progression within each speciality. Furthermore, we shall promote the idea of the supervisor becoming a mentor within the organisation. We shall create a mentoring programme, in which junior Psychologists are able to receive professional advice, thus promoting contact between senior and junior Psychologists, in almost informal meetings, which shall simultaneously allow employer Psychologists to meet professionals they may need to employ in the future. This figure should represent the foundation of a network among Psychologists, to facilitate contact and employment opportunities, but without a paternalistic attitude.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

To promote, on a theoretical/practical level of the Professional Internship of the Order, competencies in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, as a means of developing a better use of work opportunities by Psychologists, initiative and project creation, development of new niches and areas of action and a proactive attitude in approaching the labour market.

Decentralisation and Local Development

The Order should work closely with local governments with the aim of optimising Psychologists' intervention in municipalities or local organisations.

Professional Internships and Law 57/2008

The Affirming Psychologists" list proposes to endeavour, before the Assembly of the Republic, to promote the alteration of Law 57/2008, so as to fulfill that which had been proposed in the public consultation of the aforementioned Law, by APOP. In order to remedy the delay, from 2 to 6 months by the Government, for the nomination of the Foundation Committee, and its lack of support for the establishment of the Order, which has delayed the whole Professional Internship process, the proposed alteration is for the exemption by the Order of the performance of the professional internship by all graduates with 18 months' practical experience until the 31st December 2008 (thus taking into account the appointment date of the Foundation Committee and the time necessary to put an Internship Programme into operation) and not the 16th October 2007, the date set in the current Law in force.

A second measure is the recognition of experience already acquired, in both internships and voluntary work, whether paid or unpaid, providing it has been monitored by a supervisor.

TRAINING

The Order should promote the ongoing training of its members. Training should include relevant and comprehensive information regarding the various areas in which Psychologists practise, from the legislative aspects to the technical aspects of their intervention. This training should include components of classroom attendance and distance learning. Ongoing training would be provided via a suitable **duly certified training system** while simultaneously using the training market which already exists, providing it has been formerly duly certified by the Order. This training shall contribute towards the qualification of Psychologists, as well as to their differentiated recognition in regard to specialities, promoting career progression within them. Postgraduate training should also possess these two measures: the Order as a promoter of postgraduate training and as an accreditation entity of the training provided, so that courses can be recognised by the Order, not only in terms of quality, but also as part of the credits for training throughout one's career.

The "Affirming Psychologists" list aims to implement a system for the **renewal of the professional certificate** every seven years, through attending training courses, postgraduate courses, internship supervision, among other activities recognised by the Order, as confirmation that all Psychologists are updating their knowledge and skills, their suitability in the labour market and the quality of their professional intervention. For the renewal of the certificate, different training activities that Psychologists usually undertake shall be a contributing factor, providing they are duly recognised by the Order, as well their professional experience.

The collaboration of Universities is essential for the **curriculum to be aligned** with social reality, the labour market and, particularly, its future prospects, within a panorama of transversal and flexible skills.

GRANDPARENTING

The creation of a grandparenting system, aimed to include in the Order professionals who although they do not hold any formal qualification in Psychology because the course did not exist at the time, are recognised as Psychologists. APOP defended, in the public discussion of Law 57/2008, the recognition of all Psychologists, who, while not possessing specific training in Psychology, were its founding fathers, who taught the first undergraduates in Psychology in Portugal. Unfortunately this request was not met, and it remains the aim of the "Affirming Psychologists" list, to obtain this recognition, thus approving a specific resolution in the first meeting of the Order's Assembly of Representatives.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

We aim to actively participate in the Higher Education Assessment and Accreditation Agency, contributing towards the improvement of higher education in Psychology in Portugal and for its correlation with the employability of Psychologists.

IN DEFENCE OF THE FIELDS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

One of the most important aspects in guaranteeing the wider recognition of the social role of the Psychologist, and the subsequent improvement of the working conditions in which they provide their services as well as their employability, is the defence, clarification and delimitation of all the fields of psychological intervention.

WE HAVE THEREFORE DRAWN UP 6 PRIORITY ACTIONS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE OTHERS THAT FOLLOW:

Psychological Act

To perform all the work involved in defining specific acts in Psychology in the **different areas of intervention** and to publicise it widely, defending the technical autonomy of Psychology.

Teaching Psychology

It is essential for Portuguese citizens to have adequate initial and basic training in Psychology, that they can learn this subject under the guidance of Psychologists and not professionals from other academic backgrounds, whose technical ability for teaching Psychology is obviously inadequate. Therefore, we shall strive for Psychologists to have a recognised qualification to teach Psychology at secondary school level.

Psychological Assessment

We are all aware of examples where psychological assessments are performed by someone who is not qualified in Psychology. It shall be the responsibility of the Ordem dos Psicólogos to endeavour for this situation to be rectified, in order for psychological assessments to be performed only by those who have the competencies to do so – Psychologists. We aim to undertake a strong media and influential campaign aimed at public and private entities so that this need for regulation and protection for the customer and consumer is met, while we take strict, corrective and preventive measures within our reach, against those who usurp the title of Psychologist, in this or other acts in their specific field of work.

Psychologists and Mental Health

To affirm Psychology in the field of Mental Health is to guarantee that the role of Psychology and the Psychologist is recognised, first and foremost, at legislative level. Therefore, we defend the alteration of Decree-Law n.º 8/2010 for a legal standard that allows the use of Psychology in the improvement of Portuguese citizens' Mental Health, electing it as one of the priority areas at National Health Plan level. The Order, must, therefore, contribute towards the amendment of a Decree-Law that currently disregards Psychologists and Psychology, with grave consequences for all Portuguese citizens (in that they are among some of the highest consumers of psycho drugs in the western world).

Social Reintegration and the Role of the Psychologist

For a number of years Psychologists have been developing a role which is poorly recognised within the scope of reintegration services of the Ministry of Justice, with their contribution being extremely important for social cohesion. This role is limited due to the lack of definition of their intervention, lack of openness to use specific techniques and methods of psychological intervention and few barriers between the role of the Psychologist and other professionals who also intervene in the same area. We aim to initiate a constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Justice, so that the competencies of Psychologists can be made better use of for the benefit of all Portuguese citizens and in defence of the professional ethics and deontology of Psychologists and the specificity of the acts that only they are entitled to perform.

Psychologists as Promoters of Educational Development

Portuguese citizens recognise the importance of having Psychologists in schools and education in general. The presence of Psychologists in schools was a goal that many educators, parents, pupils and teachers had. It was a long ambitioned and drawn out battle, but has proven to be a winning formula. However, because of the lack of an organised regulating body, the framework for psychologists in schools, their role and conditions in which they perform their professional role have not always been safeguarded by the State. We defend that the Order should be a partner of the Ministry of Education in the construction and definition of a more efficient intervention of Psychologists in Schools, which accompanies the skills of these professionals and the needs of the educational system, to meet the best international standards in the field. A new role for Psychologists in Education – for us all.

Psychologists in Organisations

Psychologists are agents of change and specialists in behaviour. Their presence in companies, as behavioural managers, can be seen as a competitive benefit within the framework of a global world eager for flexible and transversal competencies. "Affirming Psychologists", undertakes the responsibility to promote to companies and businesses, the advantages, role and duties of Psychologists within organisations, directly or through training Psychologists in Entrepreneurial Skills and Project Management.

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL IMAGE

We defend that the Ordem dos Psicólogos should possess strong communication tools and use them to promote Psychology and Psychologists, to put them on the Social and Political Agenda and maintain a close relationship and contact with all members, to enable them to be informed and mobilised quickly and in a timely fashion.

For “Affirming Psychologists”, communication and the social image of Psychologists shall be undertaken constructively with the aim of promoting social development and community well-being, thus contributing to increasing the importance of the role of Psychologists in society, the demand for their services and consequently, their employability.

THE ROLE AND IMAGE OF THE PSYCHOLOGIST

The role and image of the Psychologist should be one of the top priorities on the Order's plan of action. We are aware that the profession is still a recent one in Portugal and scarcely sought out against the contribution it can make in resolving personal, community and organisational problems. We thus defend channelling the means for making the Psychologist's role more visible, through thematic campaigns on the contributions Psychologists and Psychology are able to make, of the reflection and promotion of innovation in the intervention of the Psychologist and even highlighting good practice and awarding the merit of such practice. The political affirmation of the Ordem dos Psicólogos, as a transversal mediator for so many domains within society, is the cornerstone for building this image and conquering this role. For these measures and objectives to be achieved, we propose several plans of action.

Message to the President and the Country

An annual message by the President of the Order, an important event in which an issue is raised which affects society as a whole. This issue shall be the theme for the year, with the contribution of Psychologists to society. (ex: Psychology and Social Inclusion, Psychology and the Promotion of the Elderly, Psychology and Violence, among others). It shall be a message addressed to the President of the Republic and the Country.

National Psychology Award

The National Psychology Award is a prize to be awarded every year in recognition of the innovative and qualifying work that has contributed to the development of the profession of Psychologists and Psychology in Portugal. This award should make possible and guarantee better working conditions for the implementation of the awarded project(s).

Psychology White Paper

The project that we propose to undertake aims to perform a national survey of the current situation of Psychology and Psychologists, simultaneously gathering suggestions and proposals for actions to be implemented or promoted by the Order or that need to be coordinated between the Order, Civil Society and the State. This Paper shall present the results of an in-depth survey and discussion process, covering the highest number of Psychologists possible, in all areas of intervention, from which its publication and wide distribution shall result. As a final goal of the process, measures deemed appropriate, shall be implemented by the Order.

MEDIA

Periodical Publication

The creation of a magazine of the Order, for distribution among members, with news about important actions within the field of Psychology in Portugal and to give visibility to the benefits of such achievements countrywide. It shall allow what Psychologists do to be shown and their contributions towards people's well being. This magazine shall be distributed to Psychologists and the different action targets of Psychologists and to decision-makers about Psychologists.

The Order's website: www.ordemdospsicologos.pt

Following the success of the Order's current website, we propose to develop and improve this media and visibility platform of the Order's work, with a view to it being increasingly at the forefront of simplifying bureaucracy in all procedures and activities. We are committed to implementing an online platform to manage and monitor the Order's Professional Internships. Periodical multimedia information shall also be made available on a regular basis.

Social Networks

Communicating quickly and reaching the highest number of Psychologists possible, shall be achieved by combining all the media channels, with particular emphasis on new information technology.

Among the tools to be used we highlight Social Networks such as Facebook and Twitter, thus continuing and strengthening our work in this field.

Conference

A conference shall be organised aimed at discussing the professional issues affecting Psychologists – the Conference of the Ordem dos Psicólogos. This Conference shall be an annual event in Portugal, providing the opportunity to promote good practices, merit, innovation and the general role of the Psychologist. It shall also be a forum to discuss and approve proposals by Psychologists, to analyse the body's main problems and their proposed resolutions and for networking. It shall be thematic and a highlighted social event, to be advertised nationwide in the media.

Promotional Campaigns for Psychologists

In order to promote the Psychologist's role in Portuguese society, several campaigns shall be undertaken within the different media channels, on a national and regional level, using all the technology available in order to increase the Psychologist's visibility within society, to promote the use of their skills and to make clear their areas of action.

ORGANISATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND BENEFITS

Any action to be undertaken by the Order shall only be possible with a strong support structure behind it, which is financially secure and well organised, for all the Order's activities to be carried out efficiently.



ORGANISATION, HUMAN RESOURCES AND ACCESSIBILITY

The structure of the Order should be organic and functional, safeguarding the necessary Human Resources for it to be efficient and as easily accessible as possible for all the Psychologists at the Order's service.

National facilities for the Order

To develop a project for new facilities for the Ordem do Psicólogos. This should be a project that is publicly presented and discussed, where the Order's main services shall be set up, as well as to guarantee conditions for permanent activities to be performed in training, professional internships and those of different

Specialities

We propose the creation of specialities in Psychology pursuant to Law 57/2008 and the European Diploma, as well as to support their foundation. We shall defend and promote a broad consensus in defining the criteria of clinical, educational and organisational specialities.

Divisions

The creation of divisions of interest within the Order, such as areas which allow the possibility of organising people into groups of interest, in an attempt to create the structures necessary to promote such meetings. These Divisions, in some cases, may become the foundations of new specialities.

The election of Order's first regional bodies

We shall call the first elections for the Order's Regional Offices – North, Centre, South, the Autonomous Region of the Azores and the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

Quality Certification of the Order

The quality of the services provided by the Ordem dos Psicólogos must be an ongoing condition for their proper functioning. In order to guarantee the ongoing improvement of procedures, we propose to create a Quality Management System for the Order and to obtain its certification.

Infrastructure and Logistics

A sound infrastructure which has good working conditions for all Order employees and which is properly equipped, are essential to provide a good service to all Psychologists. Furthermore, we shall equip the Order, both nationally and regionally, with the latest information and communications management and financial management instruments.

National and Regional Offices

To create regional infrastructures for the Order, with their own head offices, human resources and materials.

colleges, divisions and other bodies of the Order.

Communications and information management

The size of an organisation such as the Ordem dos Psicólogos requires a professional communications and information management structure, which ensures reliable information is provided, has solid financial management and where administrative procedures are simplified. Hence, we propose to implement an Information Management System which is duly computerized, as well as an integrated communications structure on a national level, with regional support, with support lines which are accessed easily, to allow the quick clarification of queries and the resolution of problems.

Certificate

We shall approve the Professional Certificate model, thus complying with that set forth in Law 57/2008 and promote its distribution to all Psychologists.

Social Benefits

From the high number of members, the Order shall be able to guarantee unique conditions and special benefits in a multitude of services. Therefore, "Affirming Psychologists" proposes the creation of a benefits package available to all Psychologists, which includes Civil Liability and Health Insurance, special access conditions to financial products, such as Mortgages for members and their companies. Furthermore, protocols shall be signed nationwide, for access to other services, such as Gyms, Travel Agencies, etc.

"Affirming Psychologists" aims to create a **Legal Support Office** to advise its members on professional issues.

A commitment of "Afirmar os Psicólogos" is to create an information service for Psychologists on the vacancies available in organisations seeking professionals in this field.

ETHICS, DEONTOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ordem dos Psicólogos should represent the assurance of Ethics and Deontology among Psychologists and be a model in Social

Responsibility

ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY

We are committed to the approval of the Portuguese

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Ordem dos Psicólogos should be the partner of choice in relations with international Psychology associations

THE PRIORITIES WE STAND FOR IN THIS FIELD ARE:

To establish agreements with counterparts outside the European Area, in order to provide better mobility for Psychologists and to rectify

Psychologists' **Deontological Code**.

We are going to undertake extensive discussions and in-depth analyses in order to establish a **consensus for practices** in various fields. As a result, guidelines and good practices for all Psychologists should be developed. We would like to highlight the need for this to take place so that reports can be written and assessments and research carried out. These actions are strongly linked to the need for an assurance that is seen as trustworthy and that unequivocally identifies the Psychologist responsible for the act.

We shall not support deontological prevarications and blunders, in the defence of the credibility of all Psychologists.

Social Responsibility

To create a group of Psychologists who are prepared to intervene in catastrophes, with specific training provided by the Order, which can be mobilised to the location, under the Order's guidance and in collaboration with the Civil Protection Agency and other bodies that provide aid that are already in operation.

To affirm the profession in all the possible fields where Psychology can be applied, not only in the usual broad areas, but particularly in new areas, thus contributing towards social development and demonstrating the benefits of its use.

To adopt the best environmental practices, namely by planting trees in new forest areas in Portugal, to offset carbon emissions.

To begin the implementation process for social accountability management in compliance with standards SA 8000:2008 and NP 4469.

the situation of foreign Psychologist with sufficient qualifications to be recognised professionally in Portugal.

- To establish contact with all European counterparts in order to speed up accreditation procedures of titles and qualifications within the framework of European directives and the European Diploma in Psychology.
- To promote a permanent networking platform with contacts and to establish relationships with the PALOP (African Countries of Portuguese Official Language).
- Within the framework of European relations, to highlight contacts and partnerships with Spain, with a view to sharing experiences, good practices, the resolution of common problems and conciliation within the framework of European policies.
- To assert and request the presence of the Ordem dos Psicólogos at the EFPA, as a single representative body.
- On behalf of all Psychologists, to Affirm Psychologists and Psychology.

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