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**REVIEW OF THE SPEECHES OF THE PARTICIPANTS
OF THE ROUND TABLE “DEVELOPMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD
OF SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY”**

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Abstract. The article presents the materials of the speeches of the of the round table participants that was held within the framework of the international scientific and practical online conference “Sports psychology in the intercultural space”. For the first time in many years, members of the Association of Sports Psychologists of Russia and the CIS countries were able to meet with representatives of the Managing Council of the International Society of Sports Psychology (ISSP) to build a dialogue and cooperation. The article presents the original materials of the participants of the round table, including various aspects of the organizational and practical work of the members of the ISSP Managing Council together with other international associations and federations. Each speaker’s report was devoted to a specific topic. At the same time, all the reports complement each other and allow us to understand the current trends in the development of sports psychology in the world. During the round table, the activities of sports psychology associations in Russia, China and India are most fully revealed. An educational project for training specialists in the field of sports and physical exercises initiated by the European Federation of Sports Psychology more than 25 years ago is also considered. The Past President of ISSP Gangyan Si made a report on the initiatives of the ISSP “Think Tank” Center related to the mental health of athletes. The work of ISSP on international certification of specialists in the field of sports psychology is presented in the reports of Chris Harwood and Franco Noce. Professor Daniel Gucciardi made a video presentation about his vision of the main problems in the field of sports psychology and the important role of promoting open science.

Keywords: The International Society of Sports Psychology, Intercultural Sports Psychology, international meeting.

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ОБЗОР ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЙ УЧАСТНИКОВ КРУГЛОГО СТОЛА «РАЗВИТИЕ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА В ОБЛАСТИ СПОРТИВНОЙ ПСИХОЛОГИИ»

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Аннотация. В статье представлены материалы выступлений участников круглого стола, проведенного в рамках международной научно-практической онлайн-конференции «Спортивная психология в межкультурном пространстве». Впервые за долгие годы члены Ассоциации спортивных психологов России и стран СНГ смогли встретиться с представителями Управляющего совета Международного общества спортивной психологии (ISSP) для выстраивания диалога и сотрудничества. В статье представлены оригинальные материалы участников круглого стола, включающие разные аспекты проводимой организационной и практической работы членов Управляющего совета ISSP совместно с другими международными ассоциациями и федерациями. Каждый доклад выступающего был посвящен конкретной теме, в то же время все доклады дополняют друг друга и позволяют понять современные тенденции развития спортивной психологии в мире. В ходе круглого стола наиболее была раскрыта деятельность ассоциаций спортивной психологии в России, Китае и Индии, так же был рассмотрен образовательный проект по подготовке специалистов в области спорта и физических упражнений, инициированный Европейской федерацией спортивной психологии более 25 лет назад. Паст-президент ISSP Gangyan Si сделал доклад о проводимых инициативах «Think Tank» ISSP, связанном с вопросами психического здоровья спортсменов. О работе ISSP по международной сертификации специалистов в области психологии спорта рассказали Chris Harwood и Franco Nocerone.

Daniel Gucciardi в рамках видео-презентации представил свое видение основных проблем в развитии спортивной психологии и продвижении идей «открытой науки».

Ключевые слова. Международное общество спортивной психологии, межкультурная спортивная психология, международная встреча.

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In December 2020, the conference “Sports Psychology in the intercultural space” was held at the Ural Federal University, within the framework of which a round table was organized by the members of the Association of Sports Psychologists of Russia and CIS Countries (ASP) with the mem-

bers of the governing Council of the International Society of Sports Psychology (ISSP).

The conference was opened by V. A. Koksharov, the rector of the Ural Federal University. In his welcoming speech he noted that the conference was being held on the eve of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Ural Federal University, which is one of the largest Russian and International centers for training specialists of various profiles.

The University is preparing to host the XXXII World Summer Universiade of Students in 2023, as a support in the development of student sports and sports science has always been one of the priorities of the University.

The moderator of the round table was L. N. Rogaleva, a member of the Presidium of the Association of Sports Psychologists (ASP), Associate Professor of the Ural Federal University.

The opening of the round table began with the welcoming words of the honorary member of the Association of Sports Psychologists G. D. Gorbunov, the Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor, who was being elected as a member of the Directorate of the European Federation of Sports Psychology and Motor Activity (FEPSAC) for twelve years.

G. D. Gorbunov wished success to the international forum and noted that within the framework of large-scale events it is possible to establish long-term professional ties between specialists from different countries.

The first report “Past, Present, Future of the Russian Association of Sports Psychologists and the CIS countries” was presented by L. Gayazovna Ulyayeva, the President of the Association of Sports Psychologists, Candidate of Psychology, Associate Professor, Moscow [1].

In her report, L. G. Ulyayeva revealed the goals and activities of the Association of sports psychologists of Russia and the CIS countries, which are developed in accordance with the requirements for professional psychological communities and are a continuation of the best traditions of the Russian school of sports psychology. Among the founders of the Association there are the founders of sports psychology schools: G. D. Gorbunov [2], A. V. Rodionov [3], S. D. Neverkovich [4], G. B. Gorskaya [5].

L. G. Ulyayeva emphasized that the mission of the ASP is to promote the development and self-realization of the individual in the field of physical culture and sports, and the priority area of the Association’s activities is psychological education and education, information and analytical work, scientific and methodological support, cooperation in the field of scientific research, coordination of the activities of practical psychologists, health psychology, mass sports, fitness and international cooperation.

Currently, the ASP includes representatives from 15 regions of Russia, as well as sports psychologists from neighboring countries. ASP members conduct professional activities in leading educational institutions and sports organizations.

In her report, special attention was paid to the historical contribution of Russian scientists P. A. Rudik, A. Ts. Puni, N. A. Bernstein and their followers to the development of sports psychology in Russia. The leading Rus-

sian scientific schools that train sports psychologists and conduct scientific research were presented, the priority areas of practical work of sports psychologists in the preparation of athletes at all stages of their sports career were revealed, and the importance of the work of sports psychologists with parents, sports managers and managers was also pointed out.

L. G. Ulyaeva stressed that the important role of the association is to create new opportunities for the international exchange of experience and achievements in the field of sports psychology, as well as the development of international relations.

The next speaker from the International Society of Sports Psychology (ISSP) was the Past President of ISSP, Professor Gangyan Si (Hong Kong Institute of Sports, Hong Kong, China). He congratulated the participants of the conference and the round table and expressed his opinion that the conference is a good chance to share knowledge and ongoing work in the field of world sports psychology.

The report of Gangyan Si included two parts, the first part was on the topic “Think Tank” Center of the International Society of Sports Psychology (ISSP)” and the second part was on the topic “Activities of the Chinese Association of Sports Psychology (CASP)”.

The ISSP “Think Tank” Center is a new initiative in the strategic plan of the International Society of Sports Psychology (ISSP).

From the ISSP’s point of view, the “Think Tank” center has several goals: (1) to develop those initiatives that can help its members; (2) to play an active role in uniting sports psychology societies and associations in the world; and (3) to include key topics in the world agenda in the field of sports psychology.

In 2018 and 2019, the “Think Tank” Center held two meetings devoted to the mental health of athletes, which consisted in summarizing the opinions of expert groups of ISSP, FEPSAC, the Association of Applied Sports Psychology (AASP), the Asia-South Pacific Association of Sports Psychology (ASPASP) and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC).

Based on the held meetings, two consensus statements were published in support of the mental health of athletes of the highest sports skill who are participating in the Olympic/Paralympic quadrennial. The materials of the meeting were published in the journal ISSP [6].

These statements serve as a guide for conducting research and developing practice, summarizing the current state, problems and future directions of preserving the mental health of athletes [7].

In particular, the statements note that the changes associated with the pandemic have provided psychologists involved in sports and physical exercise with many problems and opportunities related to sports training, physical activity and health [8].

During the pandemic period and after it, psychological consultants working with elite athletes noted an increasing number of requests related to how to adapt to new living conditions and changes associated with the pandemic, based on national conditions and regional responses to the pandemic.

The requests ranged from the personal and sporting problems to problems related to social isolation, career expectations, uncertainty of the qualification process, as well as limited access to training bases and training partners.

In connection with the ongoing challenges, sports psychologists have developed approaches that are common to all and the specific ones for different regions in solving the problems of athletes during the pandemic.

Among the general approaches, the strategy aimed at discussing the problems of athletes, regarding what they feel and think, was recognized as the key one. For this purpose, online consultations or off-line consultations were used.

The purpose of the consultation was to encourage athletes to express their problems, fears, frustrations and insecurities, first state them, and then start preparing to solve problems as more information becomes available.

The openness also meant encouraging effective communication between sports men and those who worked with them both in sports organizations and in the process of communication with family or friends.

It was important to pay attention to the need to strengthen relations and unite the members of each sports team in difficult moments.

The second part of Gangyan Si's message concerned the activities of the Chinese Association of Sports Psychology (CASP), which is a professional organization under the Chinese Society of Sports Science and consists of about 500 members. The members of the association are mainly professors and graduate students of universities, as well as some full-time consultants in applied sports psychology. CASP has its own accreditation system for sports psychology consultants.

There are about 10 universities in China that offer doctoral programs in sports and exercise psychology, more than 30 universities that have master's programs in sports psychology, and 5 Sports Universities that offer a bachelor's program in the specialty «Psychology of Sports and Exercise».

CASP cooperates with the Chinese Olympic Committee to support the national teams of China and sports psychologists have been involved in the preparation of athletes for the Olympic Games since 2004.

Currently, Chinese sports psychology consultants are working with more than 20 teams that are preparing for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo and for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing.

Answering questions, Gangyan Si noted that many textbooks on sports psychology in China in the 1980s were based on translations of Russian textbooks on sports science and sports psychology, so the experience of Russian scientists, as well as the experience of other countries in Europe and the United States is extremely relevant for Chinese scientists. Currently, Chinese scientists, on the one hand, integrate the experience of foreign countries, and on the other hand, broadcast their research results, which are increasingly recognized in the world, ensuring the development of world sports psychology.

The following report was presented by Jolly Roy, Professor in the field of Sports Psychology (Center for Sports Science, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, India).

In her report on the topic “The role and scale of sports psychology in India”, she drew attention to the applied aspects of the work of sports psychologists in India.

First of all, she noted that India is a multicultural country with a developing economy, where there are different languages, religions; there is a great diversity both in sports and in the psychology of people.

At the same time, despite the existing differences, there are common approaches in professional practice, especially in the applied aspects of the work of sports psychologists, while many areas of work in India are similar to those that exist in other countries, in particular, there is as teaching as consulting and research.

Jolly Roy noted that her institute has a program for students. It allows them to prepare students for both the role of consulting psychologists and for the role of researchers in the field of sports psychology.

There are also programs for training coaches who are students of sports psychology programs, taking into account the specifics of sports. They also receive certain skills of working with athletes.

Jolly Roy stressed that educational programs in sports psychology are being developed not only for universities, but also for coaches with the subsequent issuance of certificates.

In addition, the work of sports psychologists is not limited to sports, but is also focused on physical culture, on strengthening the link between physical activity and mental health. In mental health programs, an important component is the orientation of students to achieve a balance of stress and energy, to develop an optimal comfort zone.

Jolly Roy’s presentation reflects the main areas of work of sports psychologist:

1. Teaching: training of coaches; orientation of specialists in the field of sports to sports psychology; advanced training courses in sports psychology; certification courses; master classes; seminars.

2. Education: knowledge exchange, activity-based learning, orientation to the technique of sports psychology.

3. Conducting research includes: postgraduate studies, funded research, cross-cultural research at universities/institutes, interdisciplinary research projects, knowledge exchange on special projects, preparation of publications, presentations, posters and organization of webinars.

4. Conducting psychological consultations in sections: increasing physical activity, physical exercises and mental health, clinical problems, psychological well-being and health, improving the quality of life.

5. Organization of development programs to increase productivity: training for the development of psychological skills, the stress-energy balance program, the program for creating conditions for a psychological mood and entering the optimal training zone.

In more detail, Jolly Roy focused on the work of sports psychologists in medical institutions that work with athletes who have been injured. She noted that an injury is often considered by athletes as a hopeless situation leading to the end of a sports career, so the help of psychologists is extremely relevant to them at this time.

The work carried out with athletes solves various complementary tasks.

The first task concerns the normalization of the psychological state of athletes, their acceptance of the situation and faith in receiving adequate medical care. This task is achieved through the correction of negative and non-constructive thoughts after injuries. The unfounded thoughts of athletes include such as, “the situation is hopeless”, “injury is a sign of weakness”, “injuries must be hidden”, “my career is over for me” and “the contract may be interrupted”.

The activity of a sports psychologist is to help athletes accept their emotions in the current situation, believe in medical care and form trust in the medical staff.

The second task is to train athletes in recovery skills, understanding the need for them to follow the instructions and the desire to work in the rehabilitation process. It is important to organize a feedback that allows you to get the necessary information about the recovery process. At this stage, a sports psychologist trains athletes to understand the goals of rehabilitation, stimulates their motivation and inclusion in the rehabilitation process, to form their greater activity, desire to fulfill prescriptions and instructions, to receive useful information, which will ultimately ensure the progress in rehabilitation.

The third task is related to the training of athletes in various psychological techniques and methods that help them go through the process of rehabilitation after injuries (overcoming difficulties). Usually, the following psychological methods are used at this stage: relaxation exercises (yoga recovery techniques, relaxation), calming techniques, goal setting, visualization, talking to yourself.

The fourth task is to advise athletes. Consultations are necessary for athletes due to the fact that they experience a lot in the process of recovering from injury. Therefore, at this stage, the role of a psychologist is relevant as an adviser who conducts individual counseling (if it is necessary), expresses psychological support and sympathy.

The fifth task is focused on helping athletes master the regulation of emotions, developing strategies for athletes to manage their emotional states.

The sixth task is related to the organization by a psychologist a group of help and support for athletes. During solving this task, a sports psychologist performs the role of a facilitator: he organizes support groups for the exchange and discussion of problems, fears and difficulties. Such work is necessary so that athletes can realize that others may also have the same problems, so that athletes can share their problems and look for the ways to solve them together.

Next, Jolly Roy told about her work as a sports psychologist in Malaysia with highly qualified athletes.

She has noted that in the framework of working with athletes, she pays special attention to the following aspects: planning, evaluating the basic characteristics of athletes and their sports performance, conducting team discussions and conducting individual consultations of athletes, assessing basic needs. Intervention – support, for example, consists in developing concentration and increasing awareness, etc. [9].

Answering the questions received from the audience, Jolly Roy noted that there is a great ethnic diversity among athletes in India and Malaysia, so it is necessary to focus on overcoming ethnic and cultural differences, which can increase interest in work.

According to Jolly Roy, a promising area of work in India is the integrated use of psychology, physiotherapy, nutrition methods in working with athletes, which is achieved by the joint work of sports psychologists with other specialists.

It is also important to work with young athletes. Though the use of psych techniques in sports varies depending on the sport, however, they have a common basis; this is a job for concentration, meditation, balance, technique changes of unproductive thoughts, etc.

The main focus in the practical work of psychologists is always associated with the fixation on the strengths of the athlete, as well as psych machine training and development of the controlled stress balance [10].

Then a member of the ISSP Managing Council, Professor Daniel Gucciardi (Curtin University (Australia)), made a video presentation on the topic “My thoughts on key trends and discussions in the field of sports and exercise psychology...”, in which he briefly spoke about himself and his scientific interests, and then focused on those aspects that he considers relevant at the present time.

The first aspect concerns the formulations of the concepts existing in the psychology of sports and physical exercises.

What is contained in the definition of the concept? “...cognitive symbols (or abstract terms) that define the features, attributes or characteristics of a phenomenon in the real or phenomenological world, which they are intended to represent, and which distinguish them from other related phenomena” [11].

According to Daniel Gucciardi, concepts are fundamental for performing high-quality scientific research and obtaining reliable scientific data, both in theory and in practice.

The definition of the concepts that we study and that underlie the psychology of sports and physical exercises are often much generalized and therefore are not adequate enough for both science and practice. Therefore, with a weak conceptual apparatus, our efforts to translate them into effective methods often fail.

The criticism is that researchers define concepts as the result or cause of another concept? For example, if we consider that “resilience is like

the ability to use personal qualities to resist pressure” [12], or “a psychological resource similar to a state that is purposeful, flexible and effective in nature for carrying out and maintaining purposeful actions” [13], then we give an inadequate definition.

Because in this case, we are mixing personal qualities or a certain set of human qualities with what these qualities allow a person to do.

At the same time, according to D. Gucciardi, there is no information about the exact nature of these personal qualities, in other words, what exactly will constitute stability and what will not constitute stability.

We cannot test this definition empirically, because the relationship between personal qualities and their results is assumed to be true by definition. At the same time, D. Gucciardi noted that he is not personally immune himself from his own criticism.

In particular, the criticism concerns his own work on the concept of mental stability, in which he used self-critical analysis to revise this definition in such a way as to advance in clarifying the necessary and sufficient conditions of the concept [14].

D. Gucciardi believes that his view on the role of definitions in sports psychology is not perfect, but this view can be useful for increasing the work with concepts and will help to advance the development of sports psychology forward.

Then the Professor Gucciardi said that in the process of preparing several systematic reviews and meta-analyses of interventions aimed at optimizing human activity and improving health over the past five years [15, 16], therefore, he highlighted such an aspect as the low quality of reporting in primary studies published in the field of sports psychology. From an empirical point of view, readers need a sufficient amount of information about the methodological protocol so that they can assess the quality of the work and the conclusions drawn from this data.

The scientist believes that practitioners cannot apply the results obtained in the absence of complete information about what exactly was done and how it was done, what kind of intervention was done and why it provided this or that effect.

Thus, to solve this problem, existing guidelines can be useful for researchers who are interested in optimizing the quality of their reports can be useful, which can be posted on the Equator Network website.

As an example, this site provides guidelines for reporting on the main types of studies: observational, randomized, control studies, clinical case reports, systematic reviews and meta-analyses. These are just some of them [17].

D. Gucciardi noted that he and his team use these recommendations to think through key elements when planning research, as well as to accurately determine what will be reported in the published documents.

Applied researchers, for example, can use a checklist together with a systematization of behavior change methods to clearly think about the nature of their intervention, as well as how best to communicate this information to readers.

The third aspect concerns the Open Science movement, which is gaining huge popularity in psychology and in many other fields of science, primarily as a result of the widespread inability to reproduce results that are generally recognized by the scientific community.

Open science in a broad sense is designed to support the openness, integrity, reproducibility of scientific research through research materials and processes that are available to everyone free of charge.

Providing access to the source data of the analytical code or copies of our research papers are all examples of open science and practice. Open science has many advantages, including learning from other approaches and optimizing the scientific process, especially when it comes to statistical synthesis of research, because access to data can be quite difficult when they are not sufficiently reported in primary research.

The Open Science framework is a free open source project management that helps researchers or research groups work on projects privately or makes the entire project publicly available for wide distribution.

The Professor Gucciardi drew attention to the fact that, unfortunately, researchers in the field of sports and exercise psychology are in no hurry to participate in the movement for open science. But this trend is changing rapidly. Therefore, he believes that his personal page [18] can just become an example of supporting the project-open science, on which he and his colleagues have previously registered their research and made elements of research processes available to the wider community.

The next presentation at the round table was presented by Athanasius Papaioannou, a member of the European Federation of Sports Psychology, Professor, University of Thessaly, Volos (Greece).

The report by A. Papaioannou is “International intensive course of European leadership in the psychology of sports and physical exercise: initiative of the European Federation for Sports Psychology (FEPSAC)”.

The Professor A. Papaioannou noted that FEPSAC was founded in 1969 and it is a very old organization whose goal is to promote scientific, professional and educational work in the field of sports psychology [19].

One of the main activities of FEPSAC is the organization of congresses and conferences. Every 2 years, FEPSAC organizes its own congress. The last congress in Munster (Germany) was attended by more than 900 participants. The next congresses will be held “in Padua, Italy, on July 11–16, 2022 under the title” Psychology of sports, exercise and performance: challenges and opportunities in a changing world” [20], and then in 2024 in Innsbruck (Austria).

FEPSAC publishes its journal “Psychology of Sports and Physical Exercises” [21] and supports and sponsors national conferences on the psychology of sports and physical exercises in Europe, organizes educational courses, takes the initiative to publish books, supports students and young specialists in the field of sports psychology. In 2018, the certification of Specialists in applied sports psychology was opened, which has already certified 12 practicing specialists.

Then A. Papaioannou told about the history of the development of the European Master's Degree in Sports and Exercise Psychology (EMSSEP), which was organized on the initiative of FEPSAC and which is already 25 years old [22].

The European Master's Degree in Sports and Exercise Psychology (EMSSEP) was established with the support of a consortium of 12 European universities (1996–2021), such as the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium; the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; the University of Jyväskylä, Finland; the University of Montpellier, France; the University of Leipzig, Germany; the University of Thessaly, Greece; the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal; the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain; Lund University, Sweden; Halmstad University College, Sweden; Norwegian School of Sports Sciences, Oslo; Norway (until 2012, since 2016: the University of Inland Norway).

Among the program coordinators were Yves Vanden Aweele (University of Leuven, Belgium; in 1996–2002, Taru Lintunen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, in 2002–2005, Erwin Aplitz (Lund, Sweden, in 2006–2014), Athanasios Papaioannou University, Thessaly, Greece in 2016–2020, Anne-Marie Elbe of the University of Leipzig, Germany from 2021 to the present.

The intensive course includes a general curriculum in sports and exercise psychology (semester 1), a 2-week or 1-week intensive course with the participation of students and teachers of all network universities (language: English), distance learning in one of the network universities (semester 2).

Every year (since 2014), the teachers and students of the consortium moved to the host university, which organized an intensive course lasting from 6 to 20 days. Since 1996, more than 800 graduate students from all continents have been trained, participated in intensive course seminars, which were cyclically organized in all European countries.

The following information related to the organization and training of the European Master's Program in Sports and Exercise Psychology (EMSEP). This program was developed after EMSSEP. It is funded by the European Commission (2010–2016): Erasmus Mundus.

This program is designed for studying for 2 years; it is a master's program with a double diploma. The program is completely focused on sports and the psychology of physical exercise, with an annual intake of 20–25 international students who enter the three host universities (Jyväskylä, Lund, Thessaly).

Since 2016, the program has been continued jointly by the Universities of Thessaly, Leipzig and Jyväskylä. A special feature of the program is multiculturalism: students participating in the program represent more than 10 countries each year (many from non-European countries). The training is taught only in English.

The Professor Papaioannou introduced the experts working on this course. In particular, he noted such famous scientists as Dorothy Alfermann (University of Leipzig, Germany), Philip Boen (KU Leuven, Belgium), Stiliani "Ani" Chroni (University of Applied Sciences in Norway), Christoph

Gernigon (University of Montpellier, France), Maria Cassandra (University of Thessaly, Greece), Antonis Hatzigeorgiadis (University of Thessaly, Greece), Taru Lintunen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), Athanasios G. Papaioannou (University of Thessaly, Greece), Montse Ruiz (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), Natalia Stambulova (University of Halmstad, Sweden), Reinhard Stelter (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Anne-Marie Elbe (University of Leipzig, Germany), Franzi Lautenbach (University of Leipzig, Germany), Nadia Walter (University of Leipzig, Germany).

All information about the schedule and requirements for participants of the intensive course is available on the website [23]. Currently, the program, taking into account the situation with the pandemic, is working in a remote format.

The effectiveness of the programs, according to A. Papaioannu, can be assessed according to the data of student employment, which was obtained in 2107 thanks to an online survey of graduates who took courses from 2009 to 2016 according to an adapted questionnaire of T. Lintunena et al. [24].

In total, the survey of former students (2009–2016), the average age is 31.45 years ($SD= 4.56$), 40.5% of women ($N= 34$), 59.5% of men ($N= 50$). The respondents were the formation of a bachelor: mostly sports science (44.3%) or psychology 43%) or in another area of research (with 12.7%, for example, physiotherapy, etc.)

The courses have helped many people get their first job:

- 88.1% of participants started to work after graduating from the master (EMSSEP: 87.2%; EMSEP with 88.9%);
- 42.9% said that the master's degree was a prerequisite for obtaining their first job after graduation (EMS –33.3%; EMSEP– 51.1%);
- 29.8 per cent said that the master's degree is not a requirement, but it helped them in getting a job;
- 61.9% ($N = 52$) are still working at the same job (EMS–59%; EMSEP: 64.4%)

The status of professional activity of graduates:

- 30.1% of permanent positions (EMSSEP: 44.7%; EMSEP: 17.8%)
- 22.9 per cent of self-employed (EMSSEP: 15.8% OF EMSEP: 28.9%)
- 55% said that the master's degree was a prerequisite for obtaining their current job (EMSSEP: 47.4%; EMSEP: 61.9%).

Current work type:

- 34.5% are researchers (EMSSEP: 23.1%; EMSEP: 44.4%);
- 32.1% are involved in education or teaching (EMSSEP: 38.5%; EMSEP: 26.7%);
- 16.7% are consultants (EMSSEP: 17.9%; EMSEP: 15.6%);
- 2.4% are individual customer service (EMSSEP: 5.1% EMSEP: 0%)
- 3.6% marketing and sales (EMSSEP: 5.1%; EMSEP: 2.2%)
- 4.8% managerial or managerial responsibilities (EMSSEP: 2.6%; EM EMSEP: 6.7%)
- 6% other (EMSSEP: 7.7%; EMSEP: 4.4%)

Using EMSEP skills in their current job:

- 52.6% Constantly (EMSSEP: 32.4%; EMSEP: 70.7%)
- 39.7% Frequently (EMSSEP: 54.1%; EMSEP: 26.8%)
- 7.7% Not used (EMSSEP: 13.5%; EMSEP: 2.4%)

EMSEP students use their sports psychology skills more constantly than EMSSEP students.

- 21.4% of them work as a sports psychologist, mental development coach or consultants of athletes (EMSEP: 17.9%; EMSSEP: 24.4%)

- 29.8% (N = 25) of them have additional education – PhD.

The main reasons for participating in the courses are to increase the level of their knowledge, interest in research, and the desire to continue an academic / university career.

The results of the survey, according to the speaker, are optimistic and according to the answers of graduates, we can say that FEPSAC educational programs contribute to a career start, add motivation and ambition in the development of their own career.

The following report was made by Professor Chris Harwood from Loughborough University, UK and it was devoted to the topic “Professional practice in the field of sports psychology: ISSP-Register of Practicing Consultants (ISSP-R)”.

Chris Harwood spoke about one of the important initiatives of the ISSP Managing Council related to the development of a register of practitioners in the field of sports psychology.

It should be noted that this project was informed by the accreditation systems of other international associations and it is described in detail in the article “The common position of ISSP, FEPSAC, ASP and ASP on professional accreditation” [25].

Chris Harwood noted the key aspect in the developed project.

First of all, it is the choice of those competencies that are the core of the accreditation system for all specialists who work as sports psychologists and have experience in a sports career.

The project is based on combining deep theoretical knowledge and approaches in working with athletes, among which both interpersonal communication skills and the role of a mentor are relevant. The priority of this project is to support the development of standards in relation to the practice of sports psychology.

He noted that the purpose of this ISSP initiative is related to improving the quality control of services at the global level, in order to develop the profession of a sports psychologist and increase its prestige.

The purpose of developing the registry is also related to improving the quality of services in sports psychology, the need to establish high standards for universal recognition and to attract sports federations and private clients to professional services, providing assistance and stimulating countries that do not have special accreditation systems, with the possibility of supporting properly trained practitioners.

Then he listed the criteria for registration in this registry, which are different for novice specialists and for those who have already had professional experience.

After a lot of work related to the study of various systems that exist in different countries, novice specialists need: confirmation of a bachelor's degree in psychology, or in similar fields and related fields, then a master's degree in psychology, or sports science with an emphasis on sport psychology is vital basic education. However, it is also important to have evidence of independent or controlled practice, which would be a confirmation not only of theoretical knowledge, but also of how the applicant can apply this acquired knowledge.

Therefore, it is necessary for applicants to provide documents in the amount of 250 hours of practice conducted with a supervisor.

The work with athletes or sports teams in the framework of practical work should also be carried out after the postgraduate stage, and include an internship or internship, which would be an internship or practical work under the guidance of a qualified supervisor.

At least 40 hours of such work with a qualified supervisor is considered sufficient. This is a requirement that is imposed for all applicants to confirm their competencies in specific areas; it is also a specific work practice and practical skills.

Another part for evaluation is a portfolio of evaluation documents; this includes, a practical work journal that includes at least four descriptions of specific contracts or specific work histories, recommendations from employers/clients or a description of meetings with managers/supervisor, working methods that were used as part of the work carried out.

It is also necessary for an applicant to provide a philosophy justification of his work as a practicing psychologist, which should be brief enough, but with such a description as to give a complete idea to the evaluation committee about the work that the applicant has done in practice in addition to the existing basic education. This portfolio is assessed by two psychologists from the ISSP committee

In addition, it is necessary for the applicant to pass special educational modules that relate to cultural competencies in the field of sports psychology, mental health, professional behavior and ethics. After completing the educational modules, the applicant must provide a list of articles read, a 90-minute webinar listened to and a reflective analysis after the 1000 – 1500-word webinar, including both his own experience and the experience of the knowledge gained and how the applicant imagines how his professional practice will be developed.

An example of an application is posted on the ISSP website, the cost of the service, membership fees and tuition fees for 3 modules are indicated [26].

The second way is for practicing psychologists who have already had a reputation and a permanent practice. They also need a confirmation of their experience, but a shorter and more concise application form.

Summing up his speech, Chris Harwood noted that more than 20 practicing psychologists have already joined the registry, it is also important that more experienced specialists can become mentors for young applicants.

Despite the fact that many countries have their own accreditation system, at the same time any specialist can receive additional confirmation and pass the way of accreditation in ISSP.

The topic of Chris Harwood was continued by Franco Noce, the member of the ISSP Board, Coordinator of the Sport Psychology Sector in Sports Training Center, Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil). His speech was devoted to the importance of continuing education in the training of specialists in the field of sports psychology.

Franco Noce noted that in 2016, Brazil developed a professional development program in the field of sports psychology, which is connected with making a contribution and improving the scientific and practical base of this field of sports knowledge.

He spoke about the activities of ISSP related to supporting developing countries in the development of sports psychology in their regions. Over the past two years, a program to support specialists from developing countries has been developed and in 2019 it was implemented in Uruguay.

Franco Noce also emphasized that the certification takes into account both cultural differences and educational requirements: bachelor's and / or master's degrees, taking into account which educational modules are accepted in countries of different continents.

The moderator L. N. Rogaleva made a concluding speech, noting that the round table was very fruitful in terms of understanding the various initiatives developed by the Managing Council of the International Society of Sports Psychology. It is also obvious that the Association of Sports Psychologists of Russia is working according to the stated directions and is ready for interaction, dialogue and continuation of cooperation with all international associations and federations.

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