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### **New regulation on authorisation of psychologists in Iceland**

SAK (the Nordic Psychological Associations samarbejdskommite) highly appreciated the news brought by the Icelandic Psychological Association that in a new regulation one year of supervised practice is needed for authorisation as a psychologist in Iceland.

The quality of psychological services is important as is the quality of formal university education and training in psychology. This quality has to be ensured and this has been one of the main concern both of SAK and The European Federation of Psychologists' Association (EFPA). The qualification standard for authorisation of psychologists in the Nordic countries has for years been five years of formal university education (cand.psych. or similar degree) plus one or two years of supervised practice. EFPA has also established European qualification standard for psychologists (EuroPsy) which guarantees a level of education, professional competence, and ethical conduct to clients and employers across Europe.

To meet the EFPA qualification standard for the authorisation as a psychologist a formal university education and one year of supervised practice has to be completed (3+2+1 year). According to the current regulation in Iceland these standards are not met and therefore psychologists in Iceland are less trained and less qualified than their Nordic colleagues. This is a serious matter.

The new regulation however takes the one year of supervised practice into account which gives the education of psychologists in Iceland the qualification standard equal to the standard in the other Nordic countries and of EFPA. The situation today, that the regulation has been postponed for two years is of great worry and concern. The development and quality of psychological services, in health care systems that is supposed to offer the best service in Iceland, is at stake.

SAK strongly recommends that the Icelandic health authorities find a solution as soon as possible to secure the quality of psychological services in Iceland and make sure that Icelandic psychologists live up to the Nordic and European qualification standards.