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### **Lithuanian law on practical activity of psychologists**

Various countries of the European Union are heading for a regulation of psychology as a profession. The reasons are:

1. Patient Protection: Patients are unable to decide who might provide competent assistance.
2. Occupational mobility: It must be ensured that psychologists from other countries meet the national standards. To prove this, the national standards have to be defined. If the standards are the same in different countries, the mobility of psychologists would be easier.
3. Evidence-based practice: Psychology is in demand in special situations in which people need help. The practice of psychologists must be based on current theory and research. Therefore, psychology must be separated from non-scientific practices.
4. Ethical Commitment: Practitioners must commit themselves to continuing education and to dedicate to ethical standards to make sure that they provide the best possible support.

A good example is the Law of Psychological Practice in Switzerland. Professionals have to have a bachelor and master degree in psychology. In addition, practitioners after having specialized by completing a further education and having signed a commitment to adhere to the Ethical Code are allowed to practice and are put into a register. Help seekers can find information about certified practitioners in the public register (<https://www.baq.admin.ch/baq/en/home/themen/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/psychologieberufe.html>).

These developments will ensure that the people who seek help receive the best help they need and at the same time be protected from risks and harm. In addition, the regulation of psychological practice protects the society from the consequential costs of mistreatment.

I strongly support the efforts to establish a law regulating psychological practice in Lithuania that meets the standards that are set for Europe.



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