

Information on the Activities of the Counsellogical Association

The Counsellogical Association was listed in the National Court Register on the 31st January 2011. The Association has certain elitist characteristics and embraces researchers and academic staff, who have at least a PhD degree and operate in the field of counselling in the Polish and European areas. People who are members of the Counsellogical Association represent many academies: the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, the University of Wrocław, the University of Zielona Góra, Witelon State Higher Vocational School in Legnica, Kazimierz Pułaski Politechnic in Radom, the University in Mannheim, the University in Patras and the National Institute of Vocational Training and Guidance (INETOP) in Paris.

The Association is a politically neutral, voluntary, self-governing and an independent non-profit making association, which respects the right of each individual to his /her own convictions and points of view, and the right to freedom of academic inquiry. It has its own statute and logo¹ and is managed by the Board of Directors consisting of:

- Chairperson – Prof. Józef Kargul, PhD
- Vice-chairperson – Prof. Bożena Wojtasik, PhD
- Vice-chairperson – Marcin Szumigraj, PhD
- Treasurer – Prof. Elżbieta Siarkiewicz, PhD
- Secretary – Alicja Czerkawska, PhD

The mission of the members of the Counsellogical Association is to be active in research: initiating counsellogical research projects, conducting international cooperation with academic centres, integrating counsellogists, popularizing knowledge of counsellogy by organizing conferences and issuing publications, and cooperation with practitioners to introduce innovations into counselling. Another important area of activity concerns education: the development and assessment of educational counselling programmes conducted in courses and training sessions, bachelor's, master's and post-graduate studies, and also organizing and conducting various educational activities addressed to students, university teachers, advisors and other individuals performing advisory functions while employed by counselling institutions in the educational, labour and non-governmental organizations sectors.

¹ The graphic form of logo was elaborated by Mirosław Antoniewicz.

The Board of Directors has decided to form Sections, delineating particular areas in which individual members, in accordance with their interests and competences, can take the initiative and be active. These are the names and tasks of the sections:

- ▶ **Publishing section** – creators of the ‘Journal of Counsellogy’ – Prof. Alicja Kargulowa, PhD
- ▶ **International cooperation section** – establishing and conducting cooperation with international representatives involved in counselling research, following interesting scientific happenings abroad and reporting on them – Prof. Bożena Wojtasik, PhD
- ▶ **Research and educational project section** – initiating and organizing activities related to conducting research on counselling, creating educational projects, following interesting scientific happenings in Poland and reporting on them – Marcin Szumigraj, PhD
- ▶ **Cooperation with practitioners section** – undertakings intended to establish cooperation with advisors, counselling centres and management of governmental and non-governmental institutions – Barbara Skałbania, PhD
- ▶ **Media section** – conducting marketing activities related to promotion of the ACS – Anetta Pereświet-Sołtan, PhD.

The Counsellogical Association takes patronage over the Counsellogical Seminars (Naukowym Seminarium Poradczawczym) led by Associate Professor Bożena Wojtasik at the University of Lower Silesia, and the Summer School for Young Adult Education Researchers and Counsellogists (Letnią Szkołą Młodych Andragogów i Poradczawców) led by Full Professor Józef Kargul and organized by the University of Zielona Góra and the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław. In continued activity, members of the Counsellogical Association intend to develop cooperation with the agendas of central and local administration, academies and research centres, non-governmental organizations and other national and international institutions.

The members of the Counsellogical Association hope that the Association in the initial phase of its activity will be a significant social initiative contributing to interdisciplinary research on counselling and will trigger quality changes in welfare institutions.

Alicja Czerkawska

(Translated from Polish by Andrzej Czerkawski)