

Psychotherapy using psychoactive substances (substance-assisted psychotherapy) began to attract increasing interest around the year 2010, after a three-decade interruption in research. This interest has been strengthened by more recent scientific studies of its effectiveness.

The relevance of this form of therapy for medicine and society is being increasingly positively evaluated by the public and policy makers. The discourse between doctors, psychotherapists, and scientists on this topic as well as among politicians, health care institutions and the public is of substantial importance for the rapid establishment and promotion of these therapeutic methods. Components of this discourse include legislation, the clarification of technical and training requirements, measures for quality assurance, the dialog among international experts, and the integration within the psychiatric-psychotherapeutic professional associations of the respective countries.

The International Society for Substance-Assisted Psychotherapy (ISSP) aims to educate the public and professionals about these methods and to establish and promote them at various levels. It has set itself the task of organising scientific events, developing curricular for training and continuing education, drafting guidelines, establishing quality standards, and designing certification processes.

Purpose of the ISSP

(1) The purpose of the association is to promote science and research, vocational training and public health in the field of mental health, especially psychotherapy, in particular by researching and promoting the use of psychoactive substances to support psychotherapeutic treatment and by informing the public accordingly. The association itself does not carry out such psychotherapies.

(2) The purpose of the statutes is realised directly through the association's own activities and through the procurement and forwarding of funds for the realisation of the non-profit purposes of Paragraph 1 from another non-profit organisation or from a governmental body, for example by:

- (a) The creation of a network of scientists working in this field as well as of physicians and psychologists practicing psychotherapy who are interested in information about this topic;
- (b) support for researchers, doctoral candidates and undergraduate students who are scientifically interested in this subject, for example by financing publications and translations of scientific works of importance to this field and by awarding sponsorship prizes or scholarships;
- (c) the organisation and implementation of continuing education events, working conferences, congresses or symposia;
- (d) the establishment and co-organisation of curricula-based continuing education courses for professional psychologists and medical therapists;
- (e) the development of quality standards and quality control measures for these forms of therapy;

- f) the provision of appropriate information to the public, in particular to the relevant specialist public and its associations and organisations, for example by creating and maintaining a website providing appropriate information on the subject;
- (g) the establishment and promotion of contacts with political institutions, associations, institutions, public bodies and the media with a view to disseminating appropriate information on the therapeutic procedures concerned.

(3) The results of the scientific activities of the association will be made available to the general public in a timely and appropriate manner. Events carried out by the association are open to the public. Scholarships and awards are granted on the basis of publicly available guidelines.

(4) In its activities, the association cooperates with non-profit organisations, groups or public corporations with similar tasks, when and insofar as this serves to promote the realisation of the non-profit purpose of the statutes.