

International differences of psychotherapeutic informed consent: A comparison of Croatian and Ukrainian psychotherapists' self-reports

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The study of cultural differences between Croatian and Ukrainian therapists in their attitude to informed consent consisted of a survey which was carried out during partly during International conference, which was held by the Society of Psychotherapeutic Associations in Croatia (SPUH) in Zagreb, October, 2011, and partly by sending out the questionnaires electronically, via social nets, personal contacts, and Psychotherapeutic Associations. Overall, 98 of the 360 distributed questionnaires were completed and sent back. Having discarded incomplete ones as lacking essential answers we had 66 questionnaires ready for examination. Therapeutic practices is shown to be different in both countries than the North American and

Western European ones, as therapeutic practices in Croatia and Ukraine does not include the following items of informed consent: fee for extra professional services that includes report writing, phone talks longer than fixed time, therapist's involvement into legal proceedings. There was also established a significant difference between the Croatian and Ukrainian therapists by the following items: contacting psychotherapist by phone, keeping treatment records, mentioning ethics code and the laws regulating psychotherapeutic activity, situations of disclosing confidential information etc.