

SKJP Schweizerische Vereinigung für Kinder- und Jugendpsychologie
ASPEA Association Suisse de Psychologie de l'Enfance et de l'Adolescence
ASPEE Associazione Svizzera di Psicologia dell'Età Evolutiva

In Switzerland, the **Swiss Association for Child and Youth Psychology** is the main association of psychologists practicing in the field of school psychology / educational psychology, or more generally in the field of child and youth psychology. SKJP / ASPEA / ASPEE is an affiliate of ISPA, the International School Psychology Association.

The Swiss Association for Child and Youth Psychology has some 700 members: university trained psychologists, most of them hold a Master's degree (or equivalent). They work in the educational system as school psychologists, some are clinical psychologists or child guidance counselors working within institutions or in private practice. The total number of school psychologists in Switzerland is unknown. It is estimated to be around 1000.

As the educational system in Switzerland is regulated on the level of the 26 cantons (states), the legal norms that apply to educational psychology, as well as the working conditions including functions and salaries are very diverse in the different parts of the country.

In Switzerland there are 4 national languages which are spoken in 4 different regions. 63% of the 7 million inhabitants speak German, 20% speak French, 6% speak Italian and 1% speak Romansh. Most SKJP members live and work in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. In the French-speaking part, psychologists are rather organized in regional psychology associations.

English is a foreign language in Switzerland. Students learn it at school, mostly as a third language. Psychologists who work with children or adolescents have to speak the local language, in German-speaking Switzerland they should understand the regional dialect. This requirement as well as restrictions of the labour market (for professionals from outside Switzerland or the European Union) are often a barrier for English-speaking psychologists who wish to work in Switzerland.

For more information, contact the SKJP Central Office: info@skjp.ch

Websites : www.skjp.ch www.schulpsychologie.ch