

Dear NACS Member,

Copenhagen 6. June 2024

The last couple of years there have been discussions and disagreement concerning how to interpret the criteria for authorizations in sexology. With the purpose of resolving this, representatives from NACS board and NACSAC committee met in April 2024, in Copenhagen.

We are thankful to all the participants for a positive and constructive workshop that gives us hope and passion for continued collaboration about authorizations. The meeting unanimously decided that we will reduce the present four authorizations to two; These are Clinical Sexologist and Educational Sexologist.

On the [www.NACS.eu](http://www.NACS.eu) website you can read about the criteria and a schedule for how the new strategies will be implemented. If you already have one of the existing authorizations, they are of course still valid. On the website you can see information on how to apply for the new titles.

Sincerely

Tonny Bønløkke Hertz, President of NACS and Hanna Möllås, Chair of NACSAC

### **The meeting in Copenhagen.**

Summary of meeting 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 in Copenhagen with representatives from NACSAC and NACS board, on how to go forward with the collaboration concerning authorisations in sexology.

### **Present at the meeting;**

Satu Perttunen (FI)

Satu Söderström (FI)

Hanna Möllås (SE)

Hanna Byström (SE)

Birgitte Schantz Laursen (DK)

Tonny Bønløkke Hertz (DK)

Petter Winther-Brose (NO)

Siv Gamnes (NO)

Indíana Rós Ægisdóttir (IS)

Monika Vändra (EE)

Annika Tamme (EE)

Moderator: Anne Louise Schantz

Minute taker: Sara S. Hessner

## **Background och discussion**

The last couple of years there have been discussions on how to interpret the criteria for authorisations, mostly concerning the title Specialist in clinical Sexology. Since the authorisations were installed many years ago, there has been different developments in the field of sexology and education in our countries. Seeking to resolve disagreement the NASAC meeting in Oslo formed questions to be discussed and answered in a workshop with one representative from the national NACSAC committee and one representative from NACS board. The meeting was held in Copenhagen the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. Two questions were in focus for the day:

How many titles should we have in NACS?

What should be the criteria for these titles?

## **Conclusions and decisions**

We unanimously decided to change the numbers of authorisations from four to two. These two are Clinical Sexologist and Educational Sexologist.

**Title: Clinical sexologist / NACS authorized clinical sexologist / Clinical Sexologist NACS**

## **Definition and requirements:**

*Clinical sexological work should be understood as face-to-face contact with clients and patients to treat and provide ongoing care for individuals with sexological issues, to help them achieve better sexual health and understanding of their gender and sexual identities from a bio-psycho-social point of view. Clinical sexological work should aim to help the individual in understanding themselves and their life holistically. Sexologists are specialists in the field of sexual health and their work with patients can improve quality of life significantly.*

### ***Professional education***

Agreed upon: minimum of bachelor's in social and health studies (180 ECTS)

### ***Sexological education***

As they are now for counsellor - 60 ECTS

### ***Clinical sexological practice***

Agreed upon: 300 hundred hours within the last 5 years.

### ***Ethical standard***

Agreed upon: WAS guiding ethical guidelines.

### ***SSA/SARS***

Agreed upon: 25 hours, but highly recommended to have more hours (5 hours can be individual).

### ***Supervision***

Agreed upon: 100 hours group and 60 hours individual. No time frame. Requirements and authorisations for supervisors are agreed upon by each national organization.

### ***Formal criteria***

Agreed upon: Letter of recommendation from supervisor, application fee, member of their national organisation for two years.

## **Title: Educational sexologist / NACS authorised educational sexologist / Educational Sexologist NACS**

### **Definition and requirements:**

*Educational sexological work should be understood as both teaching and training, as well as public health and strategic developmental work, in sexological topics including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Educational sexologists may teach and train in classrooms, provide education for groups or training for professionals. They may also design and implement educational sexual health programs and projects, workshops, conferences, courses, and seminars, develop methods and materials, author sexological textbooks, promote sexual health, deliver lectures, or take part in relevant research in sexological sciences.*

### ***Professional education***

Agreed upon: Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS).

### ***Sexological education***

Agreed upon: 60 ECTS.

### ***Sexological practice***

Agreed upon: 600 hours professional experience of which 100 hours should be direct contact hours.

### ***Ethical standard***

Agreed upon: WAS ethical guidelines.

### **SSA/SARS**

Agreed upon: 25 hours (10 % can be individually)

### ***Supervision***

Agreed upon: Supervision should be skipped and instead trust the ground education hence it is already supervised. Requirements and authorisations for supervisors are agreed upon by each national organization.

### ***Formal criteria***

Agreed upon: Letter of recommendation from supervisor, application fee, member of their national organisation for two years.

### ***Other criteria:***

Agreed upon: No other.

## **Time schedule for implementing the new guidelines:**

We are happy that we now agree on how to go forward. NACS board and the NACSAC committee will meet in Tampere Finland the NACS conference to set up all formal information. This will then be presented at the GA together with descriptions of new application form and diplomas.

1. If you already have an authorisation but want the new titles you can apply for them starting now **(Date)** This is handled by the national authorisation committees (it will not be presented in NACSAC). The fee for this is 100 Euro, paid to your national organisation. You write them an email giving validation that you fulfil the new criteria's concerning these areas that are changed:
  - a. Professional education
  - b. Sexological practice (Either Clinical or Educational depending on which title you are seeking).
  - c. Supervision
  - d. For Educational Sexologist: SAR/SSA

The national authorisation committee approves this in their own time and then send an email back to you about validation that you can use the new titles. Diplomas for this will be written and distributed at the NACS conference in October 2024 in Finland.

2. The applications for new authorisations that would have been submitted the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, will be paused. Instead, the new authorisations can be submitted the first time the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. These will be handled in a spring meeting in May 2025.

If you have any questions, first and foremost send these to your national representatives. If they do not know the answer, you can send an email to the addresses below, to be handled when NACSAC and/or NACS board meet.

NACSAC Chair Hanna Möllås [hanna@livetsunder.com](mailto:hanna@livetsunder.com)

NACS board President Tonny Bønløkke Hertz [mail@tonny-claus.dk](mailto:mail@tonny-claus.dk)