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## Development of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert in the process of the professional activity

*At practice of the forensic and psychological expertise, the psychologists face the fact that each criminal affair is unique, each subject of the expertise is an individual, has his own destiny, his own personal traits. In order to be considered as a highly-qualified specialist in the field of the forensic psychological expertise, it is not enough for a psychologist to acquire some professional patterns, it is necessary for him to have an individual style of the professional activity, to develop the psychological competence.*

**Key words:** *expertise, psychologist-expert, forensic psychologist-expert, professional competence, psychological competence, individual style of the activity.*

The contemporary society requires searching for the new ways of the work improvement, especially specialists connected to the assessment of the character traits and activity motives in the specific life contexts.

At present it is difficult to imagine an investigation, a court hearing or examination by any other authority without taking into consideration the experience of the modern psychology.

However, in spite of the fact that the lawyers study the psychology, undoubtedly, the knowledge of psychology increases, but it is behind the need of its application in criminal in civil legal proceedings.

The forensic psychological expertise (FPE) is one of the forms of the application of the psychological knowledge in civil and criminal hearings. The practice of applying the forensic and psychological expertise in the trial and during preliminary investigation shows, that the possibilities of the forensic and psychological expertise are constantly growing. It is due to the enlargement of the field of the forensic psychological expertise, the improvement of the methodic procedures and technologies of making this type of the expertise.

There are a lot of books and articles dedicated to the problems of creating new types FPE, opportunities and forms of using the special psychological knowledge, purposes of FPE and their process (F.S. Safouanov, O.U. Mikhailova, M.M. Kochenov, V.V. Romanov, T.N. Sekerazh, T.V. Sakhnova, V.F. Engalichev, S.S. Shipshin, E.N. Kholopova, A.L. Uzhaninova, O.D. Sikovskaya, L.V. Alexeeva and others).

We undertook a special research in order to find out the structure and conditions of the development of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist – experts.

We have received the following results. The notion of the psychological competence starts to form among the fourth year students, but is not well emerged. The fifth year students have a complete conscious notion about the psychological com-



petence, his professional qualities, which the specialist –psychologist must have, however there is no representations about the specifics of works of the forensic-psychologist- experts and the image of the professional. The operating psychologist-experts have the sophisticated complete representation about the psychological competence, about professionally-important qualities, about the specifics of the work, about the image of the professional. It points to the fact that from the stage of getting the professional education and in the process of the transition from educational –cognitive to the educational –professional activity, from the training stage to real professional activity there is a gradual development of the professionally –important qualities, which are at the basis of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert.

The research allowed determining the contents of the compounds of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert. The essential compounds of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert are:

- motivation and value compound including the moral and ethic qualities of the forensic psychologist-expert (confidentiality, respect for personal rights, independence from legal investigating authority and other participants of the legal proceedings and etc); their desire for self-development and self-improvement; emotional stability, self-command and self-restraint while making the forensic and psychological expertise and the interaction with the different participants of the legal proceedings;
- cognitive compound includes special psychological knowledge, skill to make different kinds of the forensic-psychological expertise, writing a conclusion using the comprehensible language for all the participants of the legal proceedings;
- regulative component includes the behavior patterns, personal characteristics as: общительность, self-mastery, diligence, good-organization, self-control in speaking, efficient interaction with all the participants of the legal proceedings and etc.

Psychological competence is a part of the professional competence, which suggests complex integral education, which helps to the forensic psychologist-expert to efficiently fulfill professional activity and includes different types of the psychological competence of the psychologist-expert, which are defined by the following characteristics and which find the confirmation in the answers to the questionnaire and in the structure of the questionnaire and in the factor structure of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-experts: social competence (self-confidence; skill to organize professional activity according to the social norms and rules; the ability to see motives and behavior of the participants of the legal proceedings; efficiency of the interaction with people under trial; the skill to forecast the consequences, to see final results of the social contacts with (people under trial, preliminary investigators, advocates, colleagues and etc.); communicative competence, is included in the structure of the social competence and includes in itself the efficient interaction with all the participants of the legal proceedings (people under trial, preliminary investiga-



tors, public prosecutors, judges and others); the skill to establish and to maintain the psychological contact with the people under the trial; the skill to treat very attentively the behavior of the person under the trial, his words, gestures, intonations, changes in appearance and behavior; individual style of the communication while carrying out different types of the expertise); conflict solving competence which is included in the structure of the communicative competence and which includes awareness about conflict reasons, and its main characteristics; the skill to manage the conflict; ability to solve the conflicts and soften the disagreements, all these characteristics contribute to the efficient interaction of the forensic psychologist-expert with all the participants of the legal proceedings); cognitive competence consists of the special psychological knowledge, умение to carry out psycho-diagnostic study and write down the conclusion in the simple language comprehensible for all the participants of the legal proceedings which allows to make FPE at short lapse of time at a rather high level, using his own individual style of the professional activity; auto-competence (inclination of the forensic psychologist-expert for the self-development; readiness and ability to acquire, to remember and control new knowledge, skills, which facilitate making the different types of the forensic and psychological expertise at high level; high level of the subjective control; the skill to change the inner state and change when some unforeseen difficulties arise while making forensic expertise; adequate self-assessment; high level of the expectations and achievement motivation, which help to develop social, cognitive, communicative competence).

The analysis of the questionnaire «Types and conditions of the development of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert» (made in purpose of this research) let us discover the conditions of the development of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert:

- multi-competent behavior – condition of the development the psychologist-expert competence which suggests the development of the different types of the psychological competence (social (communicative, conflict), cognitive, auto-psychological) simultaneously;
- the qualification improvement is the condition of the psychological competence growth of the psychologist-expert, realized through the possibilities of and readiness for the special training programs and courses for qualification improvement, which help to acquire and improve special knowledge, psychological knowledge and skills for making forensic psychological expertise;
- development of the competence in the process of the experience exchange is the condition of the psychological competence growth of the psychologist-expert, suggesting the organization of the constant process of the experience exchange with all the more or less competent colleagues in the process of the communication, collaboration work of making the forensic psychological expertise.
- creation of the individual style of the activity is the condition of the psychological competence growth, suggesting the psychological readiness for the professional activity, development of the need for the self-education, destined to find



the individual professional style of the psychologist-expert at the basis of the permanent self-motivating and self-development while acquiring professional activity;

- development of the motives of the professional achievements and professional self-realization, happens at the account of the urge of increasing their level of the opportunities and professional growth.

We created the questionnaire «Development of the psychological competence», according to the forensic psychologist-experts' answers, they were divided into 4 groups (the first group consisted of the psychologists –experts with the experience with less than a year (adaptation period); the second one – from one year up to 3 years; the third one– having work experience from 3 up to 5 years and the fourth– more than 5 years of the experience), allowed us to find out the main difficulties, professionally important knowledge, skills, and personal layers o, received in the process of the professional development. The analysis shows that, in the course of the professional growth the forensic psychologist-expert there is a gradual complication of the psychological competence, the introversion of the essential compounds (cognitive, regulative, motivation and value), creation of the sophisticated integrative characteristics of the professional activity, which testifies about the high level of the development of the psychological competence as a complex characteristic.

It is also necessary to remark that the great attention is paid by the forensic psychologist-experts to different kinds of training courses, qualification improvement, where they can gain and improve special knowledge and skills. They underline the lack or insufficient opportunities of the experience exchange with the colleagues or getting professional help from more qualified specialists.

In the process of the training and professional activity there is the development of professionally important qualities and life values characterized by the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-expert from the fourth year students to the fifth one and from the fifth one to the real psychologist-experts, changing the orientation from the every day life orientations of the fourth and fifth year students to the work orientation of the forensic psychologist-expert, the representation about the professional activity of the forensic psychologist-expert which is getting more integrated and adequate.

The operating forensic psychologist-experts in difference with the students have a well-formed individual style of the activity and the image of the professional, the model of the psychological competence is integrative and penetrates all the life spheres. Moral and ethic principles and values have a rather high load in the factor-analysis of the psychological competence of the forensic psychologist-experts (18,02 %), this factor has a lower meaning among the fifth year students (11,56 %), and among the fourth year students this factor is split into two factors according to its contents: the factor of the ethic standards of the professional activity of the forensic psychologist-expert (10,69 %) and the factor of the moral qualities of the forensic psychologist-expert (8,81 %), in sum explaining approximately the same percent of the variance of



all evaluations (19,50 %). The received results from the experts testimony about the significant role of the moral and ethic qualities in the structure of the psychological competence while making the forensic and psychological expertise. However we have insufficiently low percent of the moral and ethic factor among the fifth year students and the split of these qualities into two independent groups among the students of the forth year, which tells us that the following to the ethic norms of the psychologist-expert and adopting them as the behavior sample while making the forensic expertise and interacting with all the participants of the legal proceedings didn't become the part of the moral and ethic sphere of the personality and is not regarded as a value.

The received data can be used while creating programs and courses for forensic psychologists – experts, dedicated to the development of the psychological competence.

### **References**

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