

## **Glossary entry**

**professional practitioner:** A person who conducts their work under the guidance of agreed ethical standards of performance that are appropriate to their field, usually overseen by professional associations.

## **Further explanation**

A professional practitioner (a professional) is a person whose regular work and occupation (practice) serves some important aspect of public interest and contributes to the general good of society – and is recognised by the public as such.

A professional belongs to a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards. This group positions itself as possessing special knowledge and – usually accumulated over a significant period of time – in a widely recognised body of learning derived from research, education and training at a high level.

A professional has knowledge and skills, usually accumulated over a significant period of time, that are necessary to perform their specific role within that profession.

A professional ideally enjoys considerable work autonomy and is commonly engaged in creative and intellectually challenging work. They are actively aware of their rigorous ethical and moral obligations, which constitute their professional responsibility.

Professional practitioners in the field of education engage in Living Educational Theory Research as a form of continual professional development. They hold themselves to account for understanding and improving their practice, whatever the field of practice and social formation that forms the context of their practice. They contribute to the growth of a global knowledgebase of developing values-led practice by creating and sharing their living-educational-theory as a valid, evidence-based and values-laden explanation of their educational influences in their own learning, in the learning of others and in the learning of the social formations within which the practice is located.