

EASPD Provider Forum Poland

“Deinstitutionalization – chance for improvement”

Leaders’ Forum in Health and Social Policy

24-25 November 2015

Narrative Report

1. CONTEXT

The Polish Parliament has been considering a proposal for disposing of the present legal status, role and significance of the National Programme for the Protection of Mental Health (NPOZP). The Programme, which until now has been part of the Mental Health Act since 2011, has been implemented with great difficulty and much resistance, in close cooperation with local governments as well as broad circles of professionals, patients and their families, to whom the idea of humanist and person-oriented reform of psychiatric care in Poland is of great value.

In the views of the Polish civil society, the matter of psychiatric care in Poland should be a priority of healthcare policy because of the social aspect of mental health, which requires comprehensive solutions and a much broader approach than is the case in somatic illness. Every fourth Polish family experiences problems related to mental health; every fourth Pole suffers from mental health issues and every tenth from serious mental illness. Approximately 20% of the senior citizens, who are becoming a growing section of the society, suffer from various mental health complaints. The NPOZP programme aim has been the provision for comprehensive care, suited to people’s needs, available close to their place of residence, preferably in a home environment. It has also given perspective for improving the dramatic situation of psychiatric healthcare and avoiding its possible final collapse.

The proposal to deprive the National Programme of Mental Healthcare of its legal status, by degrading it to the level of one of the many operational objectives of the National Healthcare Programme, designed under the Public Health Act, would definitely undermine its rank, role and relevance. Therefore the forum aimed at addressing the issues of the current status of the National Programme of Mental Healthcare and search for sustainable and beneficial innovative solutions for the development of the respective service provision in Poland in the future.

2. PROVIDER FORUM PROGRAMME AND DISCUSSIONS

Themes of Forum

- „What is Deinstitutionalization and its’ fundaments: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Union strategy” - Luk Zelderloo, EASPD, Belgium - 20min
- “Person-centered approach a stimulant for health and development” – Professor Henryk Gasiul, UKSW, Warsaw - 15min
- „Testimony of a mother” - Wilhelmina Grych, Association „Nadzieja dla rodziny”, Gdańsk - 15min
- „How we have built the change in Mental Health in Triest – 40 years of experiences” – Peppe Dell’Acqua, Triest, Italy – 40min

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- “Innovative UE practices in DI, especially mental health oriented” - Luk Zelderloo, EASPD - 25min
- “The community based Mental Health Center on 7days/24 hours, what it means and how it is possible to start” – Renzo Bonn, Udine, Italy - 30min
- “Isle of deinstitutionalization - Olszańska 5” – Andrzej Cechnicki, Kraków - 30min
- “Deinstitutionalisation in Poland in context of National Mental Health Protection Programm” - Professor Jacek Wciórka, Poland
- “Perspective from a large psychiatric hospital” - Stanisław Kracik, Kraków – 15min
- “How we work in the Open Dialogue approach” - Izabella Ciuńczyk, Koszalin – 15min
- “Experiences of the Sections of Community Psychiatry” - Artur Kochański, Lublin – 15min
- “Process of recovery and the new experts – as seen by the client and the family” – interview, lead by Professor Jacek Wciórka
- “EU sources of funding deinstitutionalization” – Stefana Cankova&Luk Zelderloo, EASPD; Ministry of Development representative; discussion - 30min
- “Transition of the system in Serbia with support of EU” - Slavica Milojević, Belgrad, Serbia

Organisers:

- EASPD
- Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) in Poland
- Polish Institute of Open Dialogue
- Polish Psychiatric Association
- Community Psychiatry Section of Polish Psychiatric Association
- Foundation Leonardo
- Association “Kolomotywa”
- University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński
- Other

Number of participants:

- Present at the Forum: 160
- Online: 500 (through lifestream)

Institutions/ Organisations:

Nationwide, more than half from across Poland (not from Mazowieckie Voivodeship), nearly all ‘voivodeships’ represented + NGO and academic experts in the Deinstitutionalisation field

- **Type:** Institutions, organizations specializing mainly in Mental Health (around 70%), the rest – specializing in other disabilities;
Most of the institutions/organisations were mental health (in broad sense) institutions and NGOs
- **Representatives:** mainly executive/board member representatives; also representatives of clients and academic experts

Participants from authorities:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Development
- Members of Parliament (including member of the Parliamentary Commission of Health)

3. OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

Demand made by the participants in the Forum:

- Establishment of a Parliamentary Mental Health Group
- Establishment of a trans-ministry team consisting of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Family, Work and Social Policy (and maybe also Ministry of Development) for the inaction of the National Programme of Mental Health
- Expert representatives are taken into account in forming Law directives
- Change of the Law for Mental Health and guaranteed financing for the Law
- Fundamental change in financing that is currently ex. based on bed numbers in hospitals

Achieved of commitments of authorities:

- In the Ministry of Health there will be established a Department of Mental Health
- The representatives of Ministry of Development mentioned in after-talks the possibilities of reallocating funds for DI and a general need to asses current EU DI fund inner guidelines

4. PARTICIPANT LIST (attachment)