



*Alpe Adria Association for Promotion of Mental Health
International Mental Health Collaborative Network
European Democratic Psychiatry*

and

*Social Care Home Hrastovec
University of Ljubljana, Faculty for Social Work*

invite you to a conference

EUROPE WITH NO LUNATIC ASYLUMS

RISK – AN OPPORTUNITY NOT A THREAT

Enhancing the risk taking capacities in community mental health

Hrastovec, 12th and 13th May

Danger has been associated with mental distress only from mid 19th century (monomania). Closing mad people in the lunatic asylums was a way of restoring or guaranteeing certainties – both in public realm as in private domain.

Deinstitutionalisation, a move from closing people toward care in the community, coincides with coming of the risk society where certainties are replaced by the risk and opportunities. This opens possibilities of seeking what we want rather just preventing what we dislike.

However, being at risk besides being a risk to others has become a moment of legitimating of the professional intervention. Being unable to protect oneself warrants a public response.

Calling somebody dangerous or being in danger is being used to construct the ideology of the other, the myth of otherness. Moral panic is the tool of invoking power.

Basic question is how to equalise the opportunities of the people who are relatively powerless and face harsher odds. It is about enabling people to take risks at the same costs as the others. It should be about enabling people to take risks and do things and not about preventing them.

Issues to be discussed:

Risk assessment. *The logic of assessing risk. Use of available data (quantitative and qualitative) in assessing risk. Calculating harm and benefits. Understanding the risk taking situations. Risk as part of everyday life.*

Risk taking. *The right to take risks and to make mistakes. Enhancing risk tolerance and risk minimisation techniques. Moment of intervention: preventing, harm reduction, repairing and restoring. Tactics of risk reduction: technical, educational, social and environmental.*

Responsibilities. *Legal issues associated with risk. Responsibilities. Guardianship and advocacy. Ways of insuring the risk.*

Risk in different settings. *Violence. Suicide. Dementia. Alcohol and drugs. Risk in crisis situations. Risks in pharmacology. Criminal proceedings. Risk and parenting.*

Organising Committee: *Lorenzo Toresini, Vito Flaker, Josip Lukač, Petra Hameršak, Myriam Klanjšček*

REGISTRATION FEE: 85 €

TRR: SI5601100-6030300592
(Bank of Slovenia BSLJSI2X)

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PLENIMINARY PROGRAMME

12. - 13. MAY 2006

Friday, 12. 5.06

9.30 – 10.00

REGISTRATION

10.00 – 10.30

WELCOME by

- Stanislav Brenčič, Chairman Of The Parliamentary Committee For Labour, Family, Social Affairs And Disabled,
- Josip Lukač, Director Of Social Care Home Hrastovec,
- Rocco Canosa, chairman, Psichiatria democratica,
- Lorenzo Toresini, Chairman of Association for Promotion of Mental Health Alpe Adria ,
- Representative of Ministry for labour, family and social affairs.

10.30 – 11.00

Ann Davis, (Birmingham – UK): *Risk and mental distress: working with service users experiences and perspectives.*

11.00 – 11.30

Vito Flaker, (Ljubljana/Hrastovec – SLO): *How to Analyse Risk.*

11.30 – 11.45

BREAK

11.45 – 13.30

- Lorenzo Toresini (Merano – I): *Risk as a Condition of Gain.*
- Katrin Lange (Bremen -D): *The Need For Safety As A Challenge For Services, Users And Society – Experiences From Processes Of Deinstitutionalisation.*
- Tom Schmid (Vienna – A): *Social Security in the Risk Society - A Pendulum Between Safety and Freedom.*
- Halima Hadžikapetanović (Zenica – BIH): *The Impact of the Mental Health Services Reform on the Risk of Hospitalisation.*
- Rainer Nathow (Bremen- D): *Risk in the Context of Implementing Psychological Methods and Out-patient Service into the Chinese System of Psychiatric Care.*
- Robert Oravec (Ormož/Pecs SLO/H): *Understanding Of The "Pro Choice" Orientation Of A Suicide - Related Internet Newsgroup.*
- Vesna Švab (Ljubljana – SLO): *Handling the Risk of Stigmatisation.*

13.30 – 14.30

LUNCH

14.30 – 18.30

WORK GROUPS (To be held in one of the castles. Some will involve field visits linked to the topic. Typically they would involve some prepared contribution and some spontaneous discussion).

Topics:

1. *Risk Assessment in Legal Procedures (Compulsory Admission, Guardianship etc.).*
2. *Qualitative Methodology of Assessing Risks (Vito Flaker, Vera Grebenc, Petra Hameršak).*
3. *Risk in Dementia: in the search of new possibilities for community living (Vida Milošević, Jana Mali).*
4. *Risk and Medications: Coming off Psychiatric Drugs - Possibilities And Risk (Peter Lehman).*
5. *Alcohol and Violence (Darja Zaviršek).*
6. *Risk of being a relative, a parent (Danilo Sedmak, Olga Vasilchenko).*

18.30 -

PARTY IN CASTLE OF CMUREK/TRATE

Saturday, 13.5.06

9.00 – 9.30

COFFEE

9.30 - 10.30

WORK GROUPS REPORTS

10.30 – 11.00

BREAK

11.00 – 12.00

Risk Strategies and the Mental Health Policies in Europe (Green Paper) (Panel discussion): Participants John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament, Cveto Uršič, Director General of the Directorate for Disabilities, Ministry of Labour, Family And Social Affaires, Marušič Andrej, Chairman of Mental Health Council of Slovenia, Rocco Canosa, Democratic Psychiatry, Peter Lehman, publisher and mental health activist, Marija Perkovic, Member of the State Council of Slovenia, Devora Kestel (WHO), Edo Belak, Relatives Association, Mojca Urek, Faculty for Social Work, Ljubljana.

12.00 – 13.00

CONCLUSIONS