



International Conference

Mental Health: the Consumers' View Salute mentale: la prospettiva degli utenti

Venue: Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia, Via San Vittore 21, Milan, Italy.

Date: 10 - 11 June 2005.

Sponsorships

The conference will be a joint initiative by WAPR and the City of Milan, co-sponsored by WHO, supported also by the Province of Milan. The conference is not receiving any commercial sponsorship.

Languages

English and Italian with simultaneous translation in the plenary sessions.

Admission fees

Consumers free, Relatives WAPR members free, Relatives non WAPR members 20 €, Professionals WAPR members 30 €, Professionals non WAPR members 60 €.

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Topics

The aim of the conference is twofold: First, to present a worldwide assessment of the current status of consumers' movement in the mental health field, by highlighting similarities and differences related to geographic, social, cultural and political contexts. Second, to provide a forum for discussion of a number of core issues through the open confrontation among consumers', professionals' and relatives' views and the presentation of local experiences and projects. The issues to be discussed will be the following:

- Housing/Income
- Work/Employment
- Stigma/Discrimination
- Human rights
- Recovery: what helps and what hinders
- Users' run services
- Research.

The enhancement of the growth of consumers' movement in areas where it is still weak, such as Italy and other Mediterranean countries, is an expected outcome of the conference.

Format

The conference will be introduced by a keynote address presenting the first draft of a worldwide map of the consumers' movement. The preparation of this map is a WHO project in collaboration with WAPR consumers' representatives, to be included in the WHO 'Atlas Project' on mental health resources across the world. The findings of this project will be then discussed by a panel of consumers' representatives from various countries.

Then the schedule will include four roundtables centered on the issues previously indicated. Two consumers, one professional and one relative will participate in each roundtable. A discussion with the audience will follow.

In addition, a number of discussion groups, in relation to the number of participants, will be run in parallel sessions to allow a more in depth discussion of the issues or any other topic of interest, with focus on local grassroots experiences.

Reports from the discussion groups will be presented in plenary sessions.

In the closing session, a comment will be delivered by the World Federation of Mental Health, final remarks will be presented by the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, a closing address will be delivered by a representative of the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry and by a representative of WHO.

Speakers

The consumers will be selected through consultation with the consumers' associations and groups, by assuring the participation from different countries. Special efforts will be made to support the participation in the conference of consumers from low income countries. In the speakers' selection gender issues will be taken into account. The relatives will be indicated through the collaboration with EUFAMI and other relatives' associations, and the professionals by WAPR. The professionals will represent various professional groups and disciplines.