

## The World Health Organization has designated the Mental Health Department of Trieste as a WHO Collaborating Centre



### September 2010

The World Health Organization has designated the Mental Health Department of the *Azienda per i Servizi Sanitari* of Trieste, as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health. The designation is effective for a period of four years.

Since 1987 the Mental Health Department of Trieste has been an advanced experience in deinstitutionalization and community mental health services in Italy and Europe and has become a point of reference for deinstitutionalization process and community service development. It has been the promoter for shutting down psychiatric hospitals, first in Trieste and then throughout Italy, and it has started creating mental health centers in the community since the 1970s.

In 1974, when Franco Basaglia was director, it was first recognized as WHO pilot zone. It was appointed as WHO Collaborating Center first in 1987 and for over 30 years it has been developing community activities and service development, providing support to various countries in all continents.

In 2005, the Mental Health Department of Trieste was appointed as Lead Collaborating Center for Service Development and in the framework of WHO-Euro Helsinki Declaration and Action Plan, it offered stage visits to a large number of European and international professionals from 28 countries.

Internships, services and seminars were offered to 47 groups, including 35 foreigners, for a total of 700 persons, during 2009. They are doctors, psychologists, social workers and medical assistants, managers, administrators, politicians, students and interns, members of users, family and volunteers associations, social cooperatives from the following countries: Italy, Greece, Great Britain, Norway, Finland, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Germany, Serbia, Ireland, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal, Poland, Netherlands, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Korea, Turkey, Palestine, Jordan, Iran, Malaysia.



The work-plan approved by WHO, foresees cooperation for the development of local mental health services mainly to those countries that have undertaken or are planning to undertake, not without difficulties, psychiatric reform processes. In particular, it will support the pioneering Mental Health Centre in Nis (Serbia), created through the deinstitutionalization of the local psychiatric hospital. On request of the Executive Board of WHO for Europe, interventions will be implemented in Bulgaria and in former Soviet Union Asian republics such as Azerbaijan, supporting pilot projects and providing technical assistance in legislative aspects. Interventions are envisaged in Palestine, particularly in the mental hospital in Bethlehem. It will support the South American network of good practices as well as ongoing reform processes, particularly in Argentina and Brazil.

Based on the Work Plan approved, the WHO Collaborating Center of Trieste can offer to the interested actors:

- Support and guidance in various countries for deinstitutionalization and development of integrated/comprehensive Community Mental Health services: drafting of policies at the local and national level; leadership and management; implementation and development of local services network; workforce development (multidisciplinary teams)
- Collaboration, partnership and networking with some countries/areas which demonstrate the willingness and capacity to deliver community based service development
- Diffusion of Whole Systems & Recovery approaches: innovative practices in community MH (e.g. alternatives for acute care; comprehensive CMH Centres; rehabilitation, recovery & social inclusion services; deinstitutionalization & whole systems change; early intervention integrated network; social enterprises & Cooperatives technology, operation & policies)

The Training Centre in Trieste is equipped with:

- Library and comprehensive archive open to the public created with an innovative software for interactive consultation (more than 16,000 files have already been archived). *Oltre il giardino* (1908-2009):
- Historical archive, including internet version;
- Teleconference and videoconference equipment available
- University Psychiatric Clinic with training facilities, rooms, library
- Free accommodations at any time up to 1 year for about 15 trainee professionals and staggers (mainly from Italy - mandatory training for psychologists; Argentina and Brazil with specific projects; other countries on demand)

The WHO Head Quarters website ([www.who.int/collaboratingcentres/en/](http://www.who.int/collaboratingcentres/en/)) provides general information on WHO Collaborating Centres.

For more information about the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health of Trieste, visit: <http://www.triestesalutementale.it/english/index.htm>

For inquiries on possible cooperation contact:

Professor Roberto Mezzina  
Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre  
[Roberto.mezzina@ass1.sanita.fvg.it](mailto:Roberto.mezzina@ass1.sanita.fvg.it)

