

*International meeting "Franco Basaglia's vision: mental health and the complexity of real life. Practice and research"*

Over 250 participants have arrived from 25 countries to take part in the international meeting entitled "Franco Basaglia's vision: mental health and the complexity of real life. Practice and Research", organized by the Department of Mental Health of ASS1, the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health. The meeting took place from 9 to 12 December at the theater dedicated to Franco and Franca Basaglia and in the premises of the Department of Mental Health, as well as in other spaces of the Parco di San Giovanni (St. John's Park). Representatives of the World Health Organization, the Italian Ministry of Health, and the Western Australian Minister of Health and Mental Disability, who was interested in replicating the experience, all came to Trieste for this four-day conference, and even the Regional Government of Friuli Venezia Giulia, that funded the event, gave its contribution with a presentation by Mr. Franco Rotelli, Regional Councillor, as well as physician and psychiatrist who worked with Franco Basaglia.

"With this event", said Roberto Mezzina, Director of the DSM, "Trieste once again confirms its reputation as a crossroads between the different reforms on the issue of mental health and its role of transferring Franco Basaglia's experience at international level."

The meeting focused on the activities and objectives of the new 2014-2018 Action Plan of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health in Trieste. Many partners of the Action Plan and international leaders were invited to make their contribution to the event, which is an initiative of the Franca and Franco Basaglia International School. The main topics of the meeting were: human rights and the quality of care, empowerment and social inclusion, the de-institutionalization and development of community services. In parallel, study groups were formed to visit the Mental Health Services of Trieste and other local agencies.

The event, which was organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization of Geneva and Copenhagen, the Trimboos Instituut of Amsterdam, the International Mental Health Collaborating Network (IMHCN), and Copersamm-ConfBasaglia, also featured some leaders of the Wales services, who are in the process of developing a partnership for the opening of a 24-hour Mental Health Center in Pembroke, and the Dutch National Research Institute "Trimboos" that studied the Trieste system for reforms in the Netherlands together with service directors and experts of that Country. The participants also included doctors from Jordan, where the WHO asked for a support to the development of services, and, in addition to that, the European research on Empowerment created by the WHO Collaborating Centre in Lille (France) was presented. Several collaboration agreements were formalized with Hungary and the Czech Republic for the plan for the development of mental health services upon the government's request. Going beyond European countries, that have ongoing collaborations, projects were presented with countries like Malaysia, India, Brazil, and China, but mainly Serbia.

In this context, the approach based on human and citizenship rights remains key to a global vision of care, centered on people and on the necessary tools for them to regain control of their lives with the maximum possible autonomy.

Basaglia's thought translates today in the increasing inclusion of people and communities in a global approach to the existence of people with their subjectivity, which requires resources, healthcare and social agencies and organizations, associations and cooperatives, even outside the specific field of psychiatry, to meet their needs and enable them to enjoy their rights.