



## WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION

### Reflections from Congress in Athens 12-15 October 2006

On the 12th of October the The IX World Congress of Psychosocial Rehabilitation In Athens was held, sponsored by W.H.O. In Athens the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The topics of the congress were very provocative regarding the fact of fast industrial development of countries, run for profit, negligence of the societies about the needs of people with history of mental illness and their social marginalization. Especially experiences from Africa, India and Asia were very interesting to hear.

From the region of SEE I participated thankfully to the generous support and the granted scholarship by the organizers. During his stay he had a lot of formal and informal meetings on all levels. Users, professional, policy makers and took discussion about the reforming process in region of SEE. Considering that countries from this region are in permanent transitional crises, significant percent of poorness, some of the countries from SEE

still have a post traumatic period from the previous war conflicts.

I had a poster presentation on the topic “The role of NGOs in different models in area of mental health”.



<http://peter-drucker.org/apr/poster.html>

### WHO - WAPR – User/Consumer meeting Athens - 16 October 2006

After the congress we had a meeting with 10 more consumers from all around the world, with Mr Benedetto Saraceno – (Director Of WHO Mental Health Department and Substance Abuse) and people from WAPR- Dr Mike Madianos President elect and Dr Angelo Barbato past president of WAPR.

On the meeting we had a discussion about WHO initiative “Atlas in Mental Health User Consumer Movement “

All participants had a different views and possibilities to share their experience. It was very symptomatic diversity of opinions, users and consumer from Western developed countries were much less eager and more skeptic than users and consumers from Lower Income countries, who were interested more for cooperation work with WHO from Genève about Atlas.

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How ever the discussion was very fruitful and I personally consider that future Atlas should be implemented even in low income counters. Hence we expect to cooperate with WHO Geneva and WAPR on this subject in Macedonia.



Informal atmosphere on the Congress

Dejan Stevanovic

WAPR Secretary Macedonia