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ABSTRACT FORM

Name/Nome	Theodoros Megaloeconomou	Country/Paese	Greece
Affiliation/Organizzazione (University/Agency/NGO)/(Università /Azienda/ONG)	Solidarity Mental Health Network		
Address/Indirizzo	Kolonou 79, Athens, 10436		
Phone-mobile/Telefono	00306945801233	Fax	
E-mail	theodorosmegaloeconomou@yahoo.gr		
Title of the contribution/Titolo del contributo	THE ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL CRASH OF THE GREEK MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM		
Objectives/Obiettivi			

Contents-text/Contenuto-testo:

As it is well known, there was never, in Greece, a real psychiatric reform, in the sense of transformation of (going beyond) the traditional psychiatric circuit, hospital-based, for the internment of the patients. What was called “reform” was only a trans-institutionalization, from asylum to hostels (small asylums) in the community. No Mental Health Centers, no sectorization of services, no politics of social inclusion. After about 35 years of “reform”, still 65-70% of hospitalizations in psychiatric clinics of mental hospitals and general hospitals are involuntary. Restraints and the unilateral drug therapy is the normality of the clinic’s function, with “revolving door” determining the functioning of the system and the destiny of the patients. Biological psychiatry, based on the open alliance of pharmaceutical companies with psychiatric community, is what determines the “culture and the practice” in the system. This “culture and practice” interacts (and becomes even more inflexible and defensive) with the consequences of the severe economic crisis, the unprecedented under-stuffing and under-financing of the services. The only “new”, that is prepared, is the OPG, that did not exist, until now, in Greece and is presented as modernization and progress.