



### ABSTRACT FORM

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<b>Title of the contribution/Titolo del contributo</b>	<b>VISITING DTC PROJECT - <i>Democratic Peer Accreditation for Democratic Therapeutic Communities.</i></b>		
<b>Objectives/Obiettivi</b>	To present Italian scientific-professional improvement and accreditation program of residential and housing services for mental health users, named Visiting DTC Project, as a scientific project based on a mental health model that is able to keep the political issue of human rights connected whit the scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of care interventions.		

**Contents-text/Contenuto-testo:  
Max. 400 parole/words**

Visiting DTC Project is an Italian scientific-professional improvement and accreditation program of residential and housing services for mental health users, adults, children and young people.

The program is aimed at those methodological aspects of the quality in community mental health identified as “group-community quality”, and it is conducted through an evaluation and certification methodology named Democratic Peer Accreditation, which is based on involvement of the main stakeholders (users, family, staff and managers) and the local communities to which the services belong.

Visiting DTC Project represents an action research on the Italian development of the international scientific model of Democratic Therapeutic Community (whose efficacy has recently been evaluated according to the EBM parameters) and of the professional model of Recovery approach in community-based mental health.

The program also includes specific training for “Expert DTC Evaluators” able to accredit not only professionals but also users, family members and service managers as quality certifiers, and specific operationalizations of consensually recognized and democratically approved Good Practices, to be applied, exchanged and disseminated within the services involved.

Finally, Visiting DTC Project has a democratic organization that uses social assemblies and work groups to elaborate the decisions concerning services and the people involved. It has been active since 2012. Until today no. 70 residential and housing services for mental health users and more than a thousand people were involved (users, staff, family and managers) divided into three sub-projects spanning half of the Italian regions, from Friuli Venezia Giulia to Sicily.

Long-term outcomes of Visiting DTC Project are development of Service Standards able to keep the political issue of human rights connected with the scientific evaluation of the effectiveness.