



ABSTRACT FORM

Name/Nome	Vladimir Jović	Country/ Paese	Serbia
Affiliation/Organizzazione <i>(University/Agency/NGO)/(Università/Azienda/ ONG)</i>	Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, International Aid Network, Belgrade		
Address/Indirizzo	Dalmatinska 115/10, 11 000 Belgrade		
Phone-mobile/Telefono	+38163394426	Fax	
E-mail	Vladimir.jovic@gmail.com		
Title of the contribution/Titolo del contributo	From Humanization to Deinstitutionalization		
Objectives/Obiettivi	The main objective is to discuss relevance of the concept of human rights within the frame of community mental health care and its positive relation with deinstitutionalization.		

Contents-text/Contenuto-testo:

Max. 400 parole/words

Large psychiatric hospitals carry with them increased risk of human rights abuses, psychological and physical abuse with serious consequences and torture. This is recognised decades ago through work of independent international organizations for prevention of torture such as EU Committee for Prevention of Torture (CPT) and UN Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture (SPT), but also examples and tools coming from professional organizations (such as WHO QualityRights). Psychiatric hospitals are places of (often involuntary) detention, hierarchical organization, imbalance of power and dehumanizing mechanisms directed at obtaining full control over individuals in distress. Through closer analysis and understanding, it is possible to compare dehumanizing mechanisms within psychiatric hospitals (and traditional psychiatric services) with same mechanisms operating against other marginalized groups; it is always supported through (not always explicitly stated) pseudo-science and ideology of discrimination, that is in rise all over the world in recent years. Dehumanization can be understood as a prerequisite of interpersonal violence, including abuse of individuals in psychiatric institutions. On the other hand, development and empowerment of independent monitoring bodies, resulting openness and transparency of

institutions will eventually lead to improvement of rights of users and better protection of their rights. In that sense prevention of dehumanization and torture is a powerful tool in the process. But as we have learned, main goal and ultimate outcome should still be the deinstitutionalization, as we can say that “the only proper prevention of torture is deinstitutionalization”. We believe that in all discussions of transformation of psychiatric services and improvement of care, concept of protection of human rights is indispensable beacon which can guide us through the process.