Serbia has started psychiatric reform within Stability Pact Project for SEE Countries by opening Pilot CMHC as a outpatient unit of huge hospital, the year 2005. The next steps were adopting of National Policy for Mental Health, the year 2007 and Mental Health Law, the year 2013.

However, to this day the reform process doesn’t get on so far. There are only five CMHC centres in whole country and asylums (huge psychiatric hospitals and social residential institutions) are still existing.

The reason for reform delay is probably specific organization of mental health care services, because out of huge institutions, there are relatively modern and well distributed psychiatric services in every general hospital, organized for inpatient treatment of acute psychoses. There are also outpatient services, clinics for psychiatry and day hospitals, which creates wrong impression that Serbia has contemporary psychiatric services.

The new National Strategy for Mental Health should be adopted by Government until end of this year and focused to reorganization of existing psychiatric services towards CMHC, using as an advantage their good distribution in community and relatively well educated professionals, which makes possible to stop referrals...
in asylums and to gradually decrease number of institutionalized patients until closing down large psychiatric hospitals.