The French WHO collaborating centre for mental health research and training organized two international congresses, in 2014 and 2018, that have gathered 400 and 650 participants. Both congresses were dedicated to empowerment of users in mental health, with a special focus on e-mental health for the second one. During them, we solicited stakeholders (users, carers, health professionals, policy-makers and researchers) in order to draw a list of recommendations for empowerment of users and carers in mental health care and research.

During the first congress, recommendations were collected from speakers and participants. These recommendations were grouped and reformulated through an iterative process with stakeholders panel and focus groups. In 2018 congress, recommendations were also asked to every speaker and participant. They were categorized into the recommendations of 2014 or new ones when necessary by three independent researchers.

The first process collected 200 material from stakeholders that ended up in a list of 21 recommendations covering three areas: Protection of Human Rights; Participation in the organization and evaluation of services; Information and communication. After 2018, 4 additional recommendations were integrated.

Even though empowerment of users and carers is a common claim, its implementation needs practical
recommendations built and approved by them.

Key words: Empowerment, recovery, users involvement