Good Practices in Mental Health Services: Ensuring a Rights-based Approach

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"I realized if we put them in human conditions they become more human. It’s very easy, if you put people in inhuman conditions, in confined conditions, they become less human." Ladislav Lamza, the Director of ‘Center For Providing Services In The Community’ hugs Luka, one of the beneficiaries who has moved out of the institution. Ladislav is responsible for the changes at the Center that has allowed the beneficiaries to leave the institution and live, with support, in the city.

Rehabilitation cannot take place behind the high walls of an institution. In four years, 172 out of 200 people have moved from ‘Home for the Insane’ in Osijek, Croatia, into apartments. Staff have trained to serve as assistants in the community. For many beneficiaries it is the first time they’ve experienced true freedom. This facility in Osijek is the only one out of 26 in the country to implement the UN convention to deinstitutionalize. This project was funded in part through a grant from Open Society Foundations. Read more stories of life with mental health issues at: http://www.onedayinmyworld.com/