

Impact of Economical Crisis on Mental Health - the situation in Finland

Regional seminar in Dublin, 25.5.2013

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How the financial crisis affects the patients associations:

- it has become more difficult to get funding for patient associations
- the Finnish Slott Machine Association* has set up more strict criteria for getting funding
- associations also need to report and evaluate their work more frequently than before, which is difficult especially for small patients' associations
- Companies prefer sponsoring some events or projects rather than giving direct funding for associations

* The profits from RAY's games are used for promoting health and social welfare in Finland. RAY (the Finnish Slott Machine Association) support 780 organisations annually and this year distributed funds are 301 million euros).

How the financial crisis affects the daily life of a patient:

- Eight out of ten professional respondents of a Mental Health Barometer in 2011 thought that patients in need of psychiatric care didn't receive it without being in a queue for it and that there is not enough mental health services in Finland, when in 2010 only three out of ten thought so.*
- Every fourth patient respondent had applied for health insurance and 43 % of them got a negative decision on the basis of applicant's mental health problems.*

* FCAMH has ordered Mental Health Barometer from TNS Gallup annually between 2005 and 2011. 324 Mental Health Patients and their family members and 497 psychiatrists and psychologists were interviewed for the survey as well as 1104 representatives of the population.

- Municipalities are adding the charging of health care payments through repossession and repossession of the payments has become more aggressive. Officials are more reluctant to give up charging the payments, too.
- Contesting of rehabilitation and housing services has brought big international companies to the market and in their units patients needs are not met as individually and as humanly as in the units of smaller, national service providers.

Thank you!