



# **MENTAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISIS**

*Dublin, 1<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - Gamian Seminar*

*ARETE ONLUS - Advocacy Association for the Empowerment of People  
suffering from Mood and Anxiety Disorders - Italy*

# IMPACT OF THE CRISIS IN ITALY

*Italy has suffered important effects due to the economic crisis since 2008.*

*A decrease of production due to a significant reduction of industries number.*

*An important increase of unemployment particularly in the south of the country and for young generation (till 40%).*

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# RESPONSES FROM INSTITUTIONS

*In Italy we gave two different responses to the crisis.*

*Till 2012 government tried to ignore it, attributing difficulties to reasons not really economic.*

*Since 2012 with an aggressive policy of services reduction and with some reforms to decrease interests of our public debt.*

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# EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS

*From institutions there are no statistical evidences of severe effects on people suffering problems of mental health. Data coming from our national organizations are updated to 2011. They report:*

*Suicide rate stable (6 per 100.000)*

*Antipsychotic drugs ▼ - Antidepressant drugs ▲*

*Hospitalization of people with mental health problems ▼*

# EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS

*A different view comes from the patients associations.*

*We see the fundamental support of families:*

- *Economical*
- *A source of care*

*This is not a new situation arising from the crisis.*

*It is a structural weakness of italian welfare.*

*450 € /month is the support for 100% invalidity in Italy.*

*There is a general law for employment of people with disabilities not specific for people with mental distress.*

# EFFECTS ON ASSOCIATIONS

*The economical crisis has reduced resources coming from public and private institutions for daily life and specific programs of associations.*

*Since 2010, a broad reflection has arisen asking how to face this new situation.*

*A sense of impotence and a reduction of activities has been a first reaction.*

*Later, a new spirit has permeated the associations more mature and evolved.*

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# EFFECTS ON ASSOCIATIONS

*A network of associations and resources is the best answer to the problems posed by the crisis.*

*This is not a time for seeking solitary solutions.*

*We tried to better know other associations working in the same field.*

*Links with public institutions are fundamentals to receive better knowledge and to push to better services.*

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# NETWORK OF ASSOCIATIONS

## MILAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH



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# NETWORK OF ASSOCIATIONS

## *ACTIVITIES*

- *Residences for people with mental health problems*
- *Job placements*
- *Calls for proposals and funding*

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# NETWORK OF ASSOCIATIONS

## *JOB PLACEMENTS*

- *Hotel*
- *WWF*
- *Advertising company*
- *House publishing comics*

*No use of the law for people with disabilities*

*Increase of self-esteem*

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