EUROPEAN 'PATIENTS FOR PATIENT SAFETY' WORKSHOP

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3-6 September, Dublin, Ireland

This was the first "Patients for Patient Safety" workshop in Europe organized by the World Alliance for Patient Safety in conjunction with the WHO European Regional Office. It aimed to develop a network of patients, consumers, caregivers and consumer organizations across the region to support active patient involvement in patient safety programs, with the ultimate purpose to improve health care quality and safety at national, regional and global level.

This amazing event took place in Dublin, Castleknock Hotel where 52 participants from 22 countries spent four whole days in discussing the issues about patient safety, the role patients can play and identifying the main areas of activities. Patient safety covers all aspects of patient care in hospital, community or at home: drug side-effects wrong procedures and decision system & human errors medical device issues The workshop was organized around questions: tell our story, what brings us all together. The topics discussed in more detail were: Patients Engagement/ Openness/Honesty/Disclosure/ Partnerships/Networking World Alliance for Patient Safety Workstands. Participants have also formed round tables of Eastern, Central and Western Europe. They discussed future plans about pro-

grams of actions on specific tasks: cultural change, raising awareness, legislation changes, patient empowerment, etc. The organisers of this workshop and patient safety champions recognized not having any specific goals and guidelines stated on mental health issues. We were 4 participants from GAMIAN-Europe: Ema Gruber (Croatia, Happy family), Tatiana Belyaeva (Russian Federation, Self-Help Club), Aikaterina Nomidou (Greece, SOFP-SI. N. Serron) and me from Lithuania (Club13&Co.).
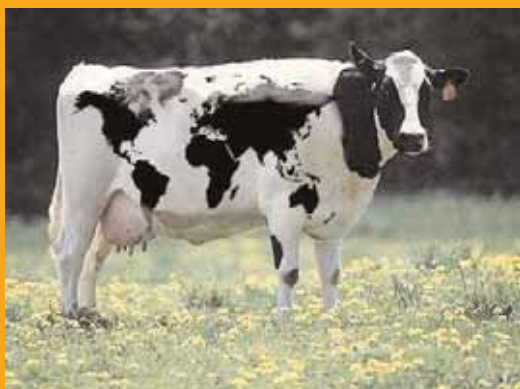
After this event we decided to highlight some important issues on patient safety for the mental patients who suffer from stigma more than others and therefore belong to a more vulnerable category. Patient safety of mentally ill can be endangered everywhere: in hospital, community, at home/family. We discussed, observed and articulated the following problems: Lower quality of medical services because of mental patients stigma& discrimination Lack of compliance in therapeutic process which causes unsafe situations (refusal of medication, wrong medication or dose) Medical mistakes in treatment related to the fact that mental patients physical illness is often disregarded and neglected Low awareness about side effects of psychiatric medication Patients with severe/chronic mental illness can be easily misused or manipulated. We

offer several proposals: Raising awareness about patient safety in mental field

- Partnership of all key players (experts, professionals, families, patients)
- Education of patient advocates and patient for patient safety champions
- Dissemination of good practice and solutions to prevent medical errors and improve patients safety
- Learning from experience of mental patients (patient is an expert of his own experience, he is in a center of health care system and should be seen as a compass, conscience, teacher, catalyst and witness)
- Changing of European mental health policy to cover care of both physical and mental health.

We are inviting all GAMIAN-Europe members to discuss patient safety issues with us and add your opinion, thoughts or comments on our suggestions concerning the patient safety.

Sweet sleep

Many thanks to Carlos, who has sent us this cow. Perhaps he knows how to select new rare breeds?..

THE LOUNGE