



## **Resolution of WAPR General Assembly**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Milan**

In Greece, a social and humanitarian crisis is taking place that calls for European collaboration and support. Across Europe, the economic crisis is having devastating effects on the economic, political and social structures that have been constructed in our societies over the last decades.

The problem is not only financial or administrative. It's mainly political. There is a complete absence of a systematic public approach to mental health and policy planning, even though the W.H.O. and various scientific associations offer technical support for addressing increased needs in low resource environments (e.g. the WHO mhGap project). Furthermore, for political and bureaucratic reasons, less than 4% of available European Union funds for mental health have been used. The European Commission has officially informed that if the targets concerning the absorption set have not been met, the remaining available funds will be taken from mental health budget.

Pressure on individuals and the services system (public, nonprofit and private) is immense.

### **Need for action!**

As WAPR we support the actions by Greek National Confederation of People with Disabilities, the Network of NGOs for Mental Health, the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Associations for Mental Health and other stakeholders.

We are calling all relevant authorities (the European Commission, the European Ombudsman, the Greek Prime Minister, Greek political parties, the Greek Ombudsman, the Public Prosecutor's Office) to be engaged in resolving the crisis. We are calling for coordinated actions by all European associations of users, families, carers and professionals. The aim is i) avoid a regression regarding the psychiatric reform with re-opening closed psychiatric hospitals ii) to protect our social welfare and security systems at European level iii) to implement systematic actions for covering the new emerging needs and psychosocial problems. Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities must be the cornerstone of our efforts. This is a great opportunity for policy makers to collaborate with national



governments, to “combat poverty and social exclusion” and to reform social welfare systems.