

**THE PROCESS
OF THE TRANSFORMATION
OF THE EXISTING WORKSHOPS OF
THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL OF PETRA OLYMPUS, GREECE,
INTO SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

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The Psychiatric Hospital of Petra Olympus used to be one of the biggest psychiatric hospitals in Greece (350 beds in mid 1980's).

- ● Most of the hospital based departments are situated up in the village of Petra, 25 km out of the city of Katerini, in the northern part of the country.
- ● A Monastery was situated there many years ago. Since 1970, it has been operating as a Psychiatric Hospital.
- ● Today, 104 people are hospitalized there. Its final closure has been planned to take place by the beginning of the year 2004.

P.H.P.O. - Hospital Based Facilities (for chronic psychiatric patients)

1 Rehabilitation Unit, 2 Long-stay Wards

Following the plan of the psychiatric reformation, and since the closure of the hospital has taken its way, great emphasis is given on

- ➤ The residential care in the community and
- ➤ The vocational rehabilitation of the chronic patients.

P.H.P.O. - Community Based Facilities

- ● Community Mental Health Center
- ● Acute Ward
- ● Outpatients' Clinics
 - - psychiatric Clinic
 - - neurological Clinic
 - - dental Clinic
 - - social service
- ● Mobile Units (2)

**P.H.P.O. - Psychosocial
Rehabilitation Units**

- ● Residential Care
(Sheltered Accommodation)
- ● Vocational Rehabilitation

P.H.P.O. - Residential Care

- ● 2 Psychogeriatric, high dependency Hostels (36 residents)
- ● 2 Group-homes (24 residents)

- ● 4 Sheltered Apartments
(20 residents)

Emphasis is given on the residents' independence, autonomy, high Quality of Life, social integration and in avoiding their re-admission into the P.H.P.O.

Programmes for Vocational Training & Rehabilitation

- ● Tavern-Restaurant 'Tristrato'
- ● Program 'Psychargos'
 - - Greenhouse workshop
 - - Bread & pastry workshop

'TRISTRATO' TAVERN

It was founded through the European Program *HORIZON*, as a move for the vocational rehabilitation for people with mental problems. It is a type of Social Enterprise run by 10 people (users of psychiatric services).

The employees have continuous medical, psychological, social and nursing support. The aim of the therapeutic team (which consists of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a social worker, and 2 members of the nursing staff) is the highest motivation and guidance of the employees, the improvement of their functioning level, their independence and the improvement of their social skills.

The hospitable place is open and accepts all the citizens of the town of Katerini, the staff of the PHPO, the residents of the hostels, the boarding houses and the sheltered apartments, but also the patients of all the units.

The delicious tidbits attract more and more customers.

'TRISTRATO' has taken over the supply of all the intramural and extramural psychiatric units with an evening sandwich and the catering of the sheltered apartments with their breakfast and lunch. It also takes over the catering of conferences and other displays.

THE BREAD AND PASTRY WORKSHOP

Programme "Psychargos", 1st Phase

Since June 2000, 12 hostel residents were trained in bakery. The workshop operates in the scope of the European programme 'Psychargos' 1st phase that aims at the social and economical rehabilitation of the chronic mentally ill.

It also aims at the fight of the exclusion from the job market. The adjustment of the trainees became gradually, adapting their working hours. During their training, old, forgotten abilities reappeared.

Today, the workshop is open daily providing all the intramural and the extramural units with sweets. It also caters for conferences, celebrations and displays (along with the tavern 'Tristrato').

GREENHOUSE WORKSHOP

Programme "Psychargos", 1st Phase

The greenhouse started its operation since the day the 12 residents moved to the hostel 'ARMONIA'. It is a sheltered, heated greenhouse of 120 s.m. which is located next to the hostel. In the greenhouse, tomato is grown throughout the year. Outside the greenhouse many horticultural products are grown.

The aims of the greenhouse workshop

- ● Help the residents regain their 'lost' abilities
- ● Recover their skills
- ● Test their abilities
- ● Motivate them
- ● Organize their time in real working conditions

It would be desirable to manage and isolate the abilities of some of the residents to specific jobs, so as to help them get out the free job market.

The workshop supplies with its products all the extramural and intramural units of the hospital.

The process of the "transformation"

A "core" by five mental health professionals of the P.H.P.O. was introduced. Its job was to search the laws, contact with the local authorities, inform the rest of the hospital's staff and the patients **about what the Social Enterprise is**. This "core" is responsible for the formation of the final suggestion to the Greek Ministry of Health and Welfare.

So, many informative **meetings** took place. There were informative meetings for the staff and for the patients. Informative **leaflets** were given to everybody stating details about the Social Enterprise, the shares one can get, the cost of each share, and managing information.

The process of the establishment of the Social Enterprises: The law.

According to the **legislation 2716/1999**, the Greek government gives the opportunity to people with mental illness to participate in Social Enterprises promoting their vocational rehabilitation and their financial independence.

Its development and supervising belongs to the Greek Ministry of Health and Welfare.

It can develop any kind of financial activity and it is exempted by taxation.

Who can participate in these Social Enterprises

Members of a Social Enterprise can be mental health professionals, people with mental disorders, local authorities and private individuals. The ratio is 35% mental health professionals, 45% people with mental disorders, 20% local authorities and private individuals, respectively.

Shares

Every member can participate in the S.E. buying only one (required) share, the cost of which is estimated to **150 €**. There is also the potential of participation with optional

shares (maximum: 5).

The required share is equal and undivided for all the members. It gives the capability to each member of one vote, regardless of the number of the optional shares one may own.

At the end of each year there will be share in the benefits. The share is analogous to the shares each member has.

The mentally ill

The people who participate and work in the S.E. will get an extra wage, depending on their productivity and hours of work.

This payment does not interfere with any other allowances or pensions that the people with mental disorders already get.

The S.E. will insure all the employees who are not insured.

The mentally ill will keep having the support of our mental health professionals.

The mental health professionals

The mental health professionals can choose to either work to the S.E. part-time or full-time.

Their salary will continue to be given by the hospital.

There will also be a 'core' (a therapeutic team) that will support the mentally ill that are employed by the S.F. Such scheme already exists in TRISTRASO, as it was earlier mentioned.

Local Authorities

There will be shares bought by the Prefecture of Pieria and the various Municipalities.

The only difference with the other share-holders is that local authorities can have an unlimited number of optional shares.

The bodies of the Social Enterprise

➤ ➤ **The General Assembly**

This is the highest body of the S.E. It controls and supervises all the other bodies.

All the members participate in the general assembly and vote in person.

➤ ➤ **The Administrative Council**

It consists of 7 members. There are also 7

alternate members. All of them are elected by the general assembly.

The tenure of office is 3 years. It can be extended for up to three more months, only until the new council will be elected.

➤ ➤ **The Supervisory Council**

It consists of 3 members and is elected by the general assembly. It controls the actions of the Administrative Council and the keeping of the general assembly's decisions.

Resources

The resources of the S.E. can come from:

- ➤ Public revenues, co-financed programmes from the E.U.
- ➤ Bequests, donations and concessions of assets.
- ➤ Incomes of the S.E.
- ➤ Incomes of the exploitation of S.E.'s assets.

The core's action

Up to now the core of the P.H.P.O. took the following actions:

- ➤ They met the Development Counselor from the corresponding ministry.

- ➤ They all visited the forest owned by the hospital.
- ➤ They informed the staff, the mentally ill and the local authorities.
- ➤ They visited and co-operated with the forest inspection.
- ➤ They co-operated with the Byzantine Antiquities Department, since there is an old Byzantine Church in the place of the hospital.

The beginning of the P.H.P.O. Social Firms

The **tavern 'TRISTRATO'** will be the base of the P.H.P.O. Social Firm. It is a set-up, autonomous, and well-profit business.

The incomes of the first six months of the year 2003 reached the amount of the 64.000 €

with a net profit of about 21.000 €.

The way it operates is similar to the one of the Social Firms.

- ➤ The next step will be the inclusion of **the greenhouse and the bake & pastry workshop**. These two workshops operate daily but they cannot sell their products, since they cannot give receipts. They still operate more as sheltered workshops.
- ➤ **The chestnut orchard** can also be included in the S.F. The chestnuts will be collected and different chestnut pastries will be baked in the bake & pastry workshop. This will be unique in the area and the P.H.P.O. The S.F. will have the exclusiveness.
- ➤ The P.H.P.O. is located up in mount Olympus, having excellent climate. The future planning involves its transformation into a **tourist resort** for people with mental disorders and other disabilities.

Expectations

- ➤ We hope that emphasis will be given on "professionalism" without though undermining the therapeutic role to the course of the social integration of the employees-people with mental disorders.
- ➤ We hope to help these people function better, have a better daily life, quality of life, and a higher income.
- ➤ We believe in the acceptance of the S.F. by the community, since the local authorities and private individuals will be involved.
- ➤ We hope to a wider market for the sale of our products, since we will have the co-operation of the local authorities.

Speculations-Difficulties

- ➤ Most of the patients are under the influence of their mental illness and the use of medication for years(so, their functioning level is very low).
- ➤ Fight of the stigma of mental illness and of the negative-rejecting attitude of the community.
- ➤ Organizing difficulties. Cautiousness of the Local Authorities for the co-operation and the disposal of money/sums.
- ➤ Speculation about the fortune/progress of the not so functioning patients who cannot take part in the $\sigma\epsilon$ Social Firm.

After all, everybody has the right to a decent and better life.

Thank you.