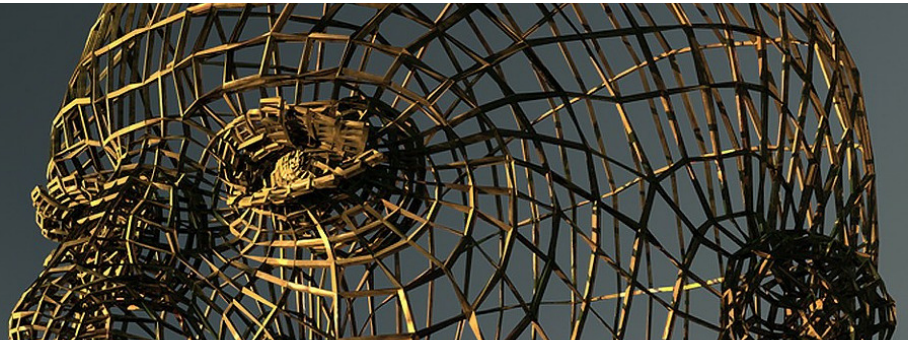


PsychCare

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR REFUGEES

PROJECT SPONSORED BY OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
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WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM



Newsletter N.4
Project **PsychCare**
January/February
2020

THE PSYCHCARE PROJECT TEAM, IS HAPPY TO SHARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS

... in which we have had the opportunity to get to know the realities operating in **Sicily**, through Focus Group with guests from **CAS** and **SPRAR / SIPROIMI** and interviews with professionals, operators and volunteers engaged in welcoming and protecting the mental health of adult and even numerous refugees' minors.

The activities of the Psychcare project concerned in particular the province of **Palermo, Agrigento** and **Trapani** within Sicily Region.



Project implemented in
cooperation with
CrossingDialogues
Association
for Intercultural and
Interdisciplinary Dialogues

PUBLICATIONS THAT WE RECOMMEND:

ISMU Foundations:

- **XXV ISMU Report on migrations:**

<http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Attualita/Notizie/Pagine/XXV-Rapporto-ISMU-sulle-migrazioni.aspx>

Rome Papers:

- **News on “no land”, VII Report:**

<http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Attualita/Notizie/Pagine/Notizie-senza-approdo-VII-Rapporto-di-Carta-di-Roma.aspx>

According to the Italians, intolerance towards migrant citizens has increased:

- **Censis Report 2019:**

<http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Attualita/Notizie/Pagine/Secondo-gli-italiani-è-aumentata-l'intolleranza-verso-i-cittadini-migranti.aspx>

Action Aid and OpenPolis: The security of exclusion:

- <https://www.actionaid.it/informati/pubblicazioni/la-sicurezza-dellesclusione>

Amnesty International:

- **“I sommersi dell'accoglienza: conseguenze del decreto legge 113/2018 sul sistema di accoglienza italiano”:**

<https://www.amnesty.it/decreti-sicurezza-modifiche-urgenti-contro-ghettizzazione-e>

KEY POINTS

Sicily Region. In **Palermo**, we met some operators and volunteers from organizations strongly committed to the protection and reception of forced migrants, including the **Centro Astalli**, the **Arci Porco Rosso club** and **Borderline Sicilia**. It is common opinion among the interviewees that the theme of mental discomfort is becoming more and more relevant in the area, intertwined with the matter of pathological addictions, which is in substantial increase. Institutions that historically have worked for the reception and social inclusion, for this reason, are increasingly confronted with the mental health of guests, and are facing real emergencies.

With the closure of many structures and the first effects of the **security decree**, many people found themselves excluded from the reception process, even in serious vulnerability conditions. In **Palermo** there are various emergency solutions, but in such contexts people are welcomed in a situation of absolute precariousness and promiscuity, they are not followed up in their specific needs and when cases of mental discomfort emerge they easily become a danger for themselves and for others.

Even when they have documents in order, access to services is inclined to encounter many obstacles: some of a bureaucratic nature, others more clearly linked to the prejudice and distrust of operators. Even the language often becomes an insurmountable obstacle, both for the actual unavailability of interpreters and mediators and the lack in resources to pay for their service, and because of the attitude of some services and professionals, who sometimes seem to hide behind the excuse of the language, so not to take charge of the situations which present further difficulties to treat.

The work behind the networking, which is continuous and intense among the operators in the third sector, still makes it possible to carry out a good monitoring of the situation and in several cases to ensure effective prevention, which has prevented some critical cases which could have led to serious problems.

However, there is a strong need to make collaboration between services, public as well as private social, more fluid and effective, at a time when the rapidly changing context poses important challenges.



Picture taken in
front of
**Agrigento
Town Hall**

GOOD PRACTICES

Palermo. The **Penc Center**, based in **the Municipality of Palermo**, at the **Guarantor of Childhood and Adolescence**, has been carrying out systematic work on the training of mediators for years. There are moments before and after each session, which explain the therapeutic plan and ideally the plan for the specific session; at the end a comparison takes place. Team meetings happen on a weekly basis. To a training part (on the interview techniques, for example), a terminological session follows in which the most common terms are explained through a further comparison that takes place between the mediators themselves. A better translation is followed focusing on the concepts and expressions which occur more often during the therapeutic interviews.

Trapani. Between July 2016 and June 2018, **MSF** opened an intercultural psychotherapy clinic in collaboration with **mental health department of Trapani hospital**; as a complementary activity of a project launched in April 2016, to assist asylum seekers in conditions of psychological fragility in 32 **CAS** present in the territory. The clinic dealt with cases reported by CAS. **MSF** oversaw a capacity building project focused on CAS operators, creating a signaling path between reception centers and local health services, in particular towards those relating to women and addiction rehabilitation services. Most of the patients treated by the clinic were asylum seekers whose application had been rejected beforehand.



Projects across the territory
Projects financed with **European funds** are currently underway to strengthen the capacity of local services to adequately identify and take charge of international protection holders affected by specific vulnerabilities in the various regional contexts.

Footprints project, involving the **Ministry of Health**, in partnership with the **Italian Society of Migration Medicine (SIMM)** and the **Association of Permanent Conference of Council Presidents** of the master's degree course in **Medicine and Surgery (APCCLMC)**
For further info go to: <https://progettofootprints.it/>.

I.C.A.R.E. project-Integration and Community Care for Asylum and Refugees in Emergency, co-financed by the **Internal Security Fund or Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union**, which has the **Emilia Romagna Region** as its leader and involves the **Lazio Region**, the **Tuscany Region** and the **Sicily Region**, with various experimental activities in the individual healthcare companies.
For further info go to: <http://www.centrosaluteglobale.eu/progetti-corsi/icare/>

AN ADVOCACY ACTION THAT INVOLVES ALL

This **initial study** seems to bring into evidence an increase in the difficulty that the public health service encounters with respect to providing mental health care for migrants, especially forced migrants. In the coming months the project will offer the opportunity to deepen the investigation paths that emerged so far.

We are convinced that in order to support the improvement of the territorial mental health services offered to migrants, we need to engage in **advocacy** that involves all the actors involved in this field at national level.

This **newsletter** is an opportunity and an invitation to actively participate in this effort.



Contact Us!

We will be pleased to receive your opinions and/or comments!
Please write to

M.GAMMON@IPRS.IT

