

Roberto MEZZINA, psychiatrist, is currently the Director of the Department of Mental Health in Trieste, Italy. He contributed from 1978 to the experience in Trieste, which inspired the Italian Mental Health Reform Law of 1978, with the closure of the psychiatric hospital and the creation of a network of totally alternative community based network of services. As Director of Department, he ended up the process of reconversion of all former psychiatric hospital facilities in Trieste toward independent living; he has opened the first open door forensic unit in Italy in 2015. From 2009 he was the Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training at the Department of Mental Health, Trieste, which aimed to support the deinstitutionalization and development of community-based services worldwide and to support National Governments for reform policies (UK, Denmark, Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia, France, Palestine among others). He also promoted from 2001 the International Mental Health Collaborating Network, of whom he is currently the President. He has been invited as teacher, keynote speaker and expert in hundreds of conferences and courses hold by Scientific Institutes, Universities, Mental Health Services in Italy, Europe and overseas (eg. USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Iran, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Korea). He was prized for Innovative Practice as regards to article 19 of CRPD by Zero Project at UN in Vienna, 2014, and is the European personality of the Year for Gamian Europe in 2017.