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Newsletter on RECOVEU Final Conference

On the 3rd and 4th November the RECOVEU Final Conference took place at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus.

The two day conference served as a fertile ground upon which all who took part were able to plant ideas, question established practices and suggest new avenues regarding adults in addiction recovery. It was a two-day journey entailing critical discussion on recovery, re-definition of basic terms and clarifications of what the vision is regarding this field.



Recovery was the core theme from which discussions stemmed to create a friendly yet constructive atmosphere in the room. The wide background of the participants allowed for discussions and knowledge transfer to take place in a diverse array of contexts- sociological, political, practical, psychological and experiential. All of which triggered thought-provoking ideas and an exchange of views with the aim of developing an in-depth understanding of what is needed in this area.



Day 1 entailed a series of practice and policy reviews by all five partner countries followed by a demonstration of the RECOVEU E-Learning platform. We also had the privilege of having Ann-Marie Ward (Faces and Voices of Recovery, UK) give a talk on her own journey

through recovery. Our keynote speaker, Jean Demars, spoke about a project he is working on in Brixton in the UK. The first phase of this project has focused on a critique of the database systems from the perspective of the staff delivering addiction treatment services. As such it is looking at drawing knowledge from people in addiction and recovery about what information may be helpful to them and the ways information is exchanged.



This was followed by the RECOVEU Community Workshop which sparked a discussion on what elements represent a strong recovery community and what needs to be done to create that across Europe.



On Day 2 the panel consisting of Dr Jane Rowley, Ann-Marie Ward, Dimitris Petrillis, Paul Lennon, Claudia Varga and Elena Zarouna allowed for a review of the policy paper presented by the RECOVEU partners. Suggestions were made around four main themes: Social Reintegration, Treatment and Interventions, Opportunities for Learning and Exchange of best practices. This discussion proved extremely useful and will be used to inform and guide the final policy paper to be drafted by the RECOVEU Consortium.



All in all, this conference served as a space for implementing a multi-faceted approach to recovery. We all felt inspired by the discussions being insightful, experiential-based, political and practical. Thank you to all for such a constructive experience!

