Fostering and strengthening approaches to reducing coercion in European mental health services:

Where are we now and where might we be soon?

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Doing a PhD, being a researcher...

- Science and subjectivity
- Nurses’ reactions to danger and assault
- Confrontive coping: «take the bull by the horns»
- Higher rates of touching

Cycles of violence and coercion

Factors in coercion

Psychological

Other dimensions
Ethical
Historical
Political
And…?
Where are we now?

The concept of coercion

"use of a certain kind of power for the purpose of gaining advantages over others (including self-protection), punishing non-compliance with demands, and imposing one's will on the will of other agents" (SEP)

"a person receiving mental health care (i.e. a patient or service user) is compelled through physical force or threat to accept care or treatment against their will" (Szmukler, 2015)

Dimensions of coercion

- Service user
- Hospital
- Practitioner
- Community
- Formal
- Informal
- Legitimate
- Illegitimate

Patients / service users

Staff

Legitimacy? Approval of in-patient coercion measures (England, 2016)

Source: Duxbury et al. (2019)
Exercise 1

• What are the top 3 things that you hope to gain from your time at this Training School?

• What role can research evidence play in reducing and/or eradicating the use of coercion?
But...

- Variation
- Fragmentation
- Implementation (lack of...)

Variation: CTOs

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Variation: scrutiny

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Fragmentation
Implementation (lack of...)

Where might we be soon?

Exercise 2

Consider the Council of Europe Recommendation unanimously adopted in 2019:

“We must immediately start to transition to the abolition of coercive practices in mental health settings”

Do you agree with the exact words in this statement?
What is the first thing we should do to make it happen?
FOSTREN objectives

- Advance understanding of the processes underlying the use of coercion
- Advance understanding of successful interventions for reduction
- Summarize knowledge on implementation and service transformation
- Exchange knowledge: Multiplicity of service contexts, European mental health services
- Research co-ordination
- Capacity building: Build a network of researchers and practitioners, Set best practice standards, Communicate best practice to multiple stakeholders

COST Member countries signed up:
- 31

COST Member countries not signed up:
- 7
  - Bosnia Herzegovina
  - Iceland
  - Israel
  - Lithuania
  - Luxembourg
  - Serbia
  - Slovenia

Dissemination and Exploration of New Understanding

Pick Factors for coercion
Alternative Interventions
Recovery & Outcomes
Implementation Science

Doing a PhD...

...the best of times, the worst of times...
Charles Dickens (1859)
References


Council of Europe. from https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/home.


