



## RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**Project**      **Institutional Treatment, Human Rights and Care (ITHACA)**

**Location:**    15 European countries

**Duration:**    May/2007 – May/2009 (36 months)

**Donors(s):**   the European Commission (EC) - after the Programme of  
Community Action in the Field of Public Health (2003-2008)

King's College London is the leading organization; Global Initiative on Psychiatry - Sofia is one of the 15 partners in the project

The strategic objective of this project is to contribute to the improvement of conditions in institutions in Europe for people with mental ill health, mental disability or dependency.

The focus of the project, which runs from 2007 until 2009, is to use multiple channels of knowledge transfer to identify and disseminate best practices to improve the protection of human rights and dignity and successfully make the results of the project available to all those able to benefit from them in EU member states and in pre-accession states.

### **Main activities:**

- Establish a European network of 15 sites committed to the envisaged actions
- Pilot and finalize an usable method of assessing best practice in institutional settings in relation to (a) human rights and dignity, and (b) general health status
- Ensure that these methods are suitable for wider EU use
- Gather comprehensive data at the national and the local levels on factors necessary to ensure that practice is (a) brought up to minimally acceptable levels, and (b) then subject to continuing quality improvement



## RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Every society, accordingly, has a special obligation to establish a comprehensive, integrated system for providing ethical, humane and individualized treatment, care, and rehabilitation, and to counteract stigmatization of, and discrimination against, people with mental disorders or histories of mental health treatment.

However, practice reveals that these aspirations are not attained everywhere, and that the rights and needs of persons with mental disorders are particularly vulnerable to infringement and neglect, which logically necessitates an initiative, directed to procuring a realistic picture of the present situation, determining the “gravity of the condition,” through quantitative and qualitative indices by way of various analytical methods.

Results of the project will identify the problem areas and issues, which, in turn, would lay grounds for and substantiate the development of a number of projects, aiming at combating the “sore spots”.

