

Overview and summary.

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General conclusions

- The green paper **by itself** is very useful because it stimulates thinking and discussions involving governments, NGO's, the academic community and others playing roles in the promotion of mental health

General conclusions

- The examination of the green paper has already drawn attention to several important issues
 - The concepts used in mental health policies and guidelines – such as successful outcome, community care and mental health institution need to be reviewed and clearly and jointly defined.
 - Any strategy that might be developed needs to take prevailing socioeconomic and cultural conditions and differences among people into account
 - There are many forms of mental illness producing different needs and requiring different types of support

General conclusions

- The success of the strategies or programmes in the field of mental health depends on the development of interpersonal, interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and intergovernmental collaboration and coordination.

Specific conclusions

- Social inclusion is important for medical, social and economical reasons: but it is above all an ethical imperative
- A central obstacle to social inclusion is the stigma attached to mental illness. Its roots are profound and its reduction or prevention requires a concerted and long-lasting effort
- Efforts to ensure social inclusion must go hand in hand with efforts to prevent exclusion from social groups.

Specific conclusions

- An enhancement of social capital (that will result from reducing stigma and social exclusion) will be useful not only to those with a mental illness but also to many others – near and far from them.
- Stigmatization can cause discrimination and a loss of self-esteem: if one can not be removed the others might.

Specific conclusions

- Coordination among those concerned at country level in ensuring social inclusion should be reflected in coordination at the level of the EU governing and executive bodies
- There are examples of successful action concerning these matters in the countries of the EU: they are neither sufficiently well evaluated nor known.

Specific conclusions

- Costs for care do not go away: they are in recent times shifted to others. If mental health care is to be improved it will be necessary to make appropriate funds available and introduce legal provisions and education that will support transfer of responsibility for care and other elements of the reforms.

Specific conclusions

- The evaluation of success of measures aiming to ensure social inclusion, prevent exclusion from society, diminish stigma and reduce discrimination should not stop at surveys of attitudes and opinions: they should be measured in changes of behaviour and quantitative outcome indicators.

Specific conclusions

- Social inclusion should be viewed and enhanced in conjunction with efforts to protect fundamental rights of people with mental illness
- At present legislation focuses on averting danger and on compulsory detention: many other areas are less often discussed or covered by appropriate laws

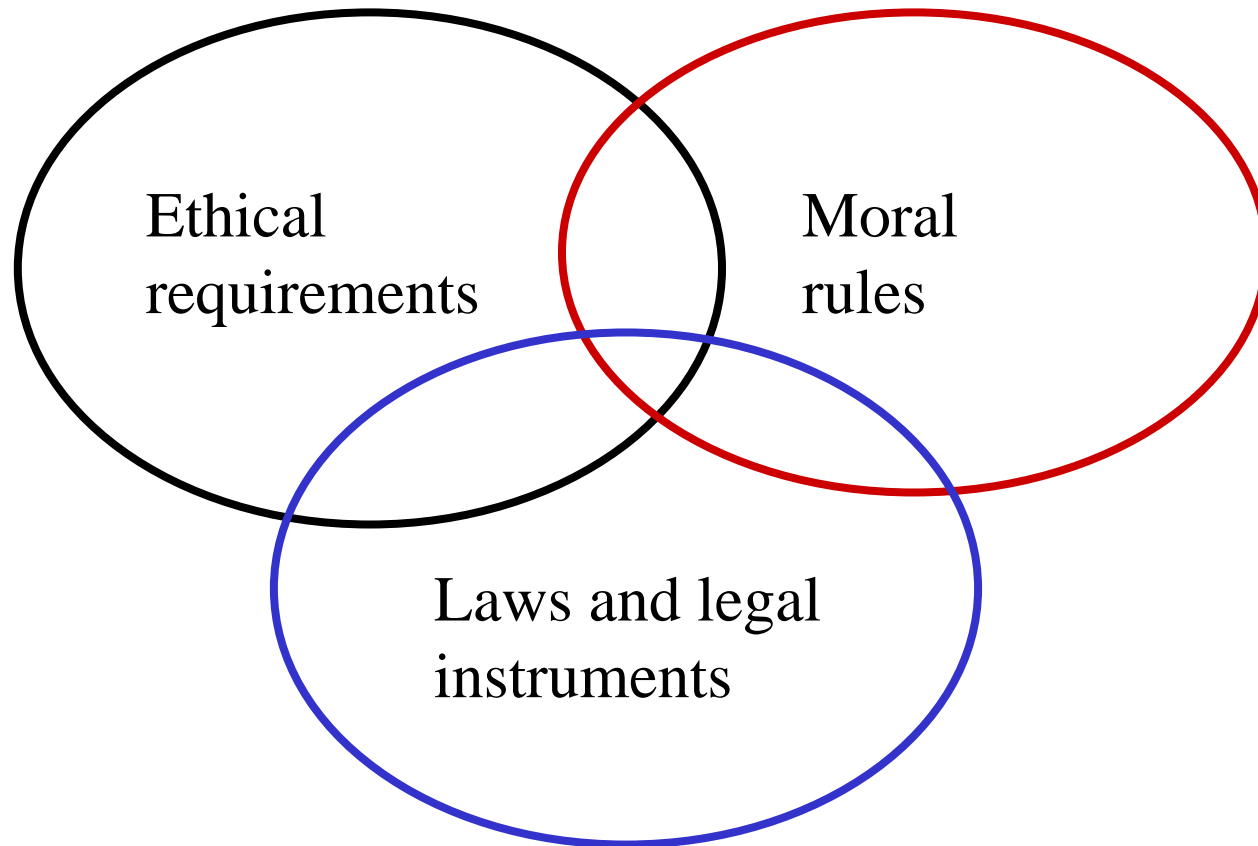
Specific conclusions

- The steps necessary for the protection of integrity and liberty are not sufficiently well spelled out: nor are those two basic requirements sufficiently well protected
- The legislation does not make sufficient allowance for differences depending on the severity of the illness, the personality, age and social conditions of the patient and relies too exclusively on diagnostic statements.

Specific conclusions

- The consideration of rights should be linked to the consideration of responsibilities and the principle of reciprocity
- There are vast differences in the legislation concerning mental illness in the EU countries: adherence to certain general principles would be most beneficial

Specific conclusions: undesirable disparity



Specific conclusions

- In its effort to monitor the protection of human rights of people with mental illness the EU and national authorities should seek collaboration with persons who suffer from mental illness, with their families and other carers, with professional organizations and the academic community engaged in research on this matter.

Specific conclusions

- People with mental illness may need support in realizing the rights which laws and other regulations give them
- To make fundamental rights of people with mental illness a reality it is not sufficient to improve the mental health service system: other services and the society as a whole must be involved.

Specific conclusions

- Among tasks for the immediate future could be
 - the development of indicators that will make the evaluation of success or failure more easily possible and communicable.
 - The establishment of a lasting mechanisms of consultation and information exchange
 - A meaningful analysis of currently available information
 - A glossary of terms relevant to the improvement of mental health care to be used in EU countries

Specific conclusions

- This meeting as well as others in the series have demonstrated that countries, NGO's and other stakeholders have useful experiences and evidence that is not sufficiently well communicated to all concerned.

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