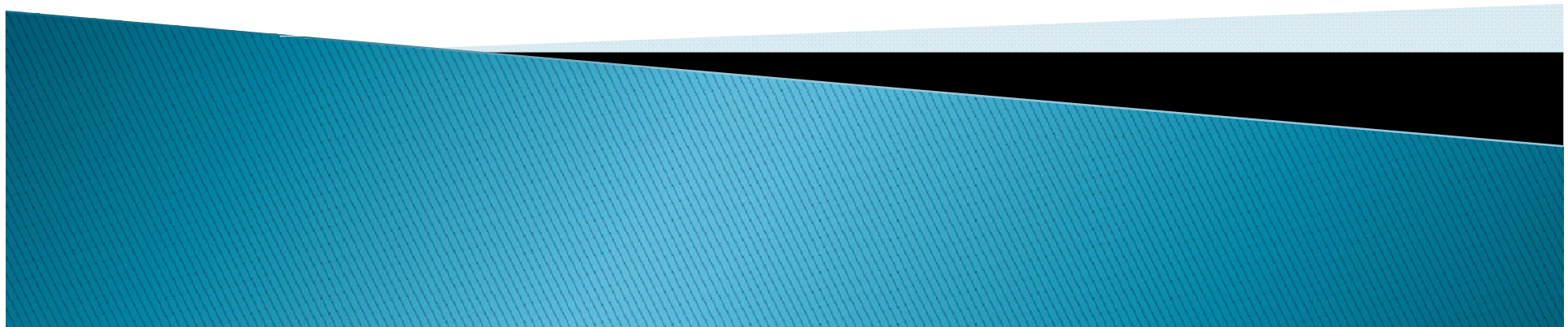


Lifelong Learning Empowerment and Social Inclusion – AN EMILIA Perspective

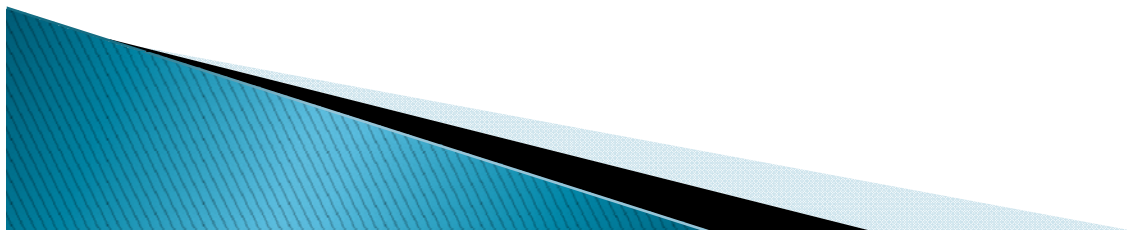
Professor Peter Ryan

February 10th 2010, Paris



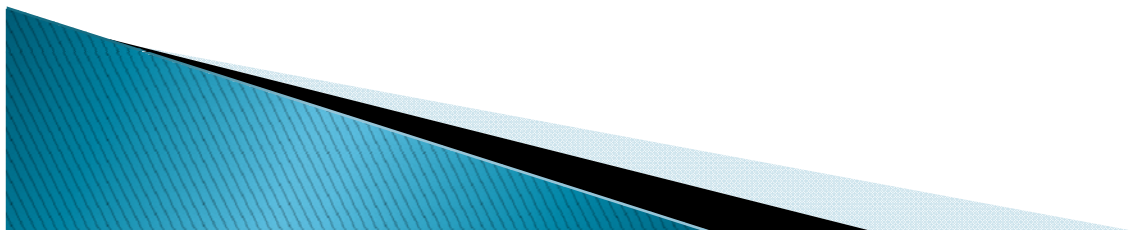
Who or What is EMILIA?

- ▶ Empowerment of Mental Illness service users: Life Long Learning, Integration and Action
- ▶ European Framework 6 – funding 3.4 million Euros
- ▶ 16 centres across Europe
- ▶ 8 demonstration sites – Athens, Barcelona, Bodø, Paris, London, Warsaw, Tusla (Bosnia), Stroestrum (Denmark)



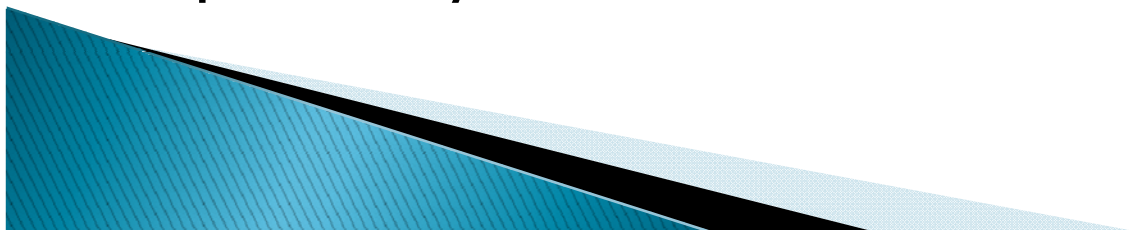
Lifelong Learning

- ▶ “Learning undertaken throughout life... improving knowledge, skills, and competences within a personal, civic social or employment perspective”.
- ▶ “Process of changing one’s attitudes, values, feelings and goals, skills and roles” (EU Commission of the European Communities (2001) Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning).



Lifelong Learning – EU Context

- ▶ National policies on lifelong learning in the eight EMILIA demonstration site countries accord broadly with the Lisbon and Copenhagen policy goals.
- ▶ **BUT** there is little evidence of specific lifelong learning provision that addresses the needs of mental health service users OR other socially excluded groups.
- ▶ Particular contribution of EMILIA is to do precisely this.



EU Lifelong Learning Policy

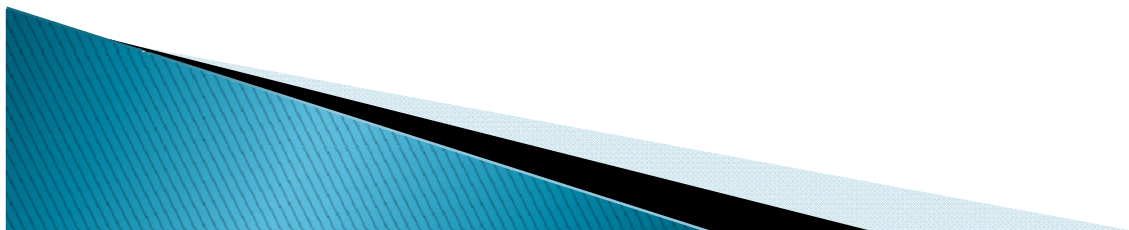
1. WP4 – Partnership Working Across the Learning Spectrum

Developing the demonstration sites the capability to function as learning organisations.

2. WP5 – Insight into Demand for Learning

Extensive consultation with service users on each site to assess learning needs, service users as designers of lifelong learning training material

- ▶ *Service users as trainers .*



EU Lifelong Learning Policy

3. WP6 – Analysis, Generation and Development of Adequate Learning Resources for the Task

Coordinating the development of appropriate training packages geared to assist the development of new employment opportunities for service users in the demonstration sites .

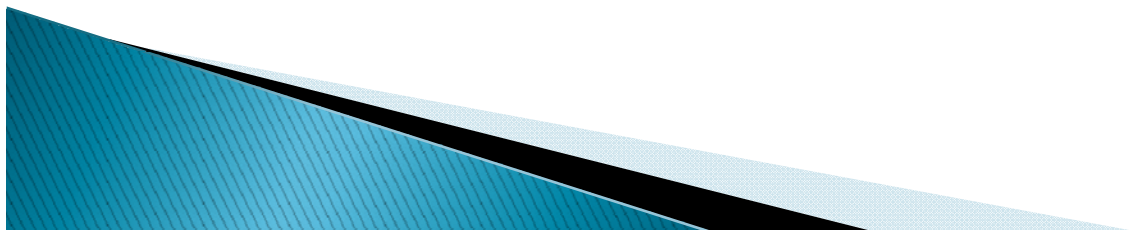
4. WP7 – Facilitating User Access to Learning and Work Opportunities

Activating the user employment strategy on all demonstration sites (IPS – place and support approach) and ensuring an appropriate support system is in place.

EU Lifelong Learning Policy

5. WP8 Striving for Excellence through Service Improvement

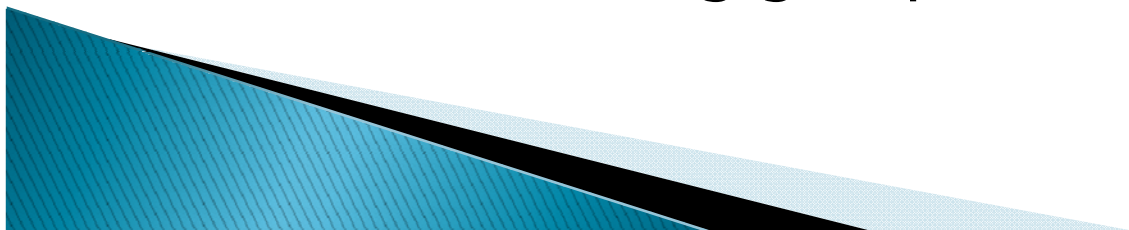
Pulling everything together and ensuring that the key Lifelong Learning strategies are implemented effectively AND evaluated on the demonstration sites.



Lifelong Learning and Empowerment

Empowerment is ...the process of taking control and responsibility for actions that have the intent and potential to lead to fulfilment of capacity. This incorporates four dimensions:

- ▶ Self-reliance;
- ▶ Full participation in decisions;
- ▶ Dignity and respect;
- ▶ Belonging and contributing to a wider community (WHO\EU Working group on Empowerment, 2009).



Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion

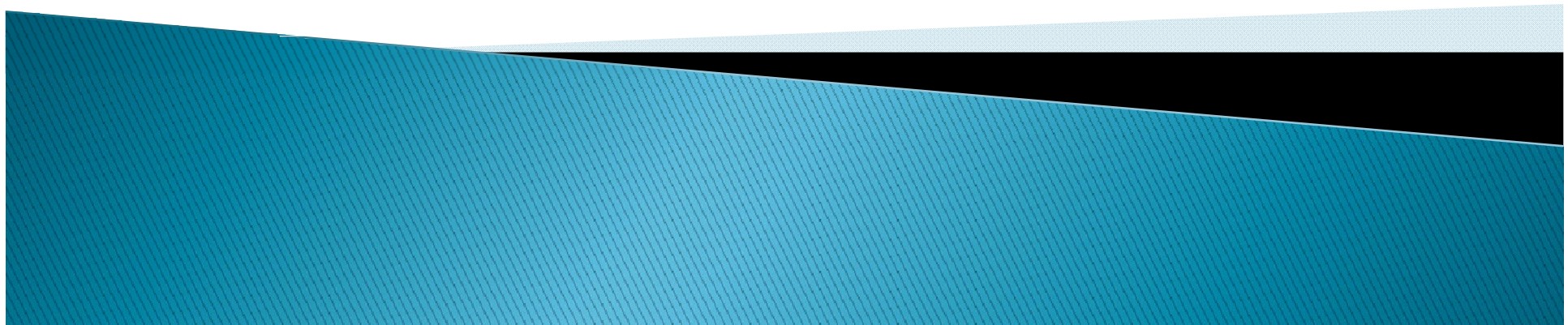


- ▶ "Social exclusion affects an individual's opportunity to find a good job, decent housing, adequate health care, quality education, safe and secure living conditions as well as their treatment by the legal and criminal justice systems" (*EU Commission of the European Communities Joint Report on Social Inclusion, 2001*).
- ▶ *EMILIA aims to use a lifelong learning process to facilitate the **social inclusion** of mental health service users – increased employment and/or voluntary meaningful activities.*



The EMILIA Project is:

“Committed to the involvement of service users in all aspects of its organizational functioning, to acting responsively to service user feedback, and to providing the necessary support systems to optimize their contribution. In order to achieve this, it facilitates the learning of all its members and has woven a continuous capacity to learn, adapt and change into its culture”



EMILIA Life Long Learning packages

- ▶ Developed by service users for service users
- ▶ Taught by service users
- ▶ No entry requirements

- ▶ Recovery *
- ▶ Strengths Approach*
- ▶ User Leadership – Powerful Voices*
- ▶ Research Skills*
- ▶ Teaching Skills *
- ▶ * *Accredited courses at Middlesex University*

- ▶ Working with post traumatic stress (PTSD)
- ▶ Social Network Support
- ▶ Suicide Prevention
- ▶ Social and community Competences
- ▶ Dual Diagnosis
- ▶ Employers and Colleagues
- ▶ Working with Families

- ▶ Personal Development Planning online
- ▶ Training the Trainers
- ▶ Website

