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THE DEMOBINC STUDY IN PORTUGAL: DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST RESULTS

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The DEMoBinc study's main objective is to develop an instrument for assessing the living conditions, the quality of care, and the human rights of long-term mentally ill patients in psychiatric and social residential care. It started on March 2007, with 11 centres and 10 countries participating.

The Portuguese centre has carried out a national literature review of mental health legislation, standards of care related with residential care for mental patients, and mandatory procedures for physical restraint and seclusion.

A three-round Delphi exercise with four groups of experts - advocates, mental health professionals, service users, and carers - was also developed. In the first round the participants were asked to state the ten more important components of care helping recovery in institutional care for the long-term mentally ill. The results were sent back to be rated for their importance on a 5-point scale. Finally, the participants were asked to confirm or change their own scores in comparison with the calculated group median. Between twelve and 18 participants by group were contacted, and the overall rate of participation was 73%.

A pilot study using the first draft of the DEMoBinc instrument was done, and refinement of the instrument is being carried out in twenty institutions and will be completed during the next months.

The results of the Portuguese centre on the national literature review, the Delphi exercise, and the first phase refinement of the DEMoBinc instrument will be presented and discussed.