

Program of Bologna Conference

# Transforming Mental Health Through Lived Experience

(7-8 May 2026)

Casa di quartiere Katia Bertasi\* | via Fioravanti, 18/3 | Bologna (Italy)

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

14:30	<p><b>Greetings from the Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ President of Navile District, Bologna (Federica Mazzoni)</li><li>▪ Representatives of the Joint Action MENTOR (Dace Vintere, Project Coordinator, National Centre of Mental Health, Latvia; Gemma Calamandrei WP5 Coordinator, Italian National Institute of Health)</li><li>▪ WHO Europe (Ledia Lazeri, Regional Adviser for Mental Health at WHO Regional Office for Europe)</li><li>▪ Emilia-Romagna Region, Department of Health Policies (Massimo Fabi)</li><li>▪ AUSL Bologna Mental Health Department (Fabio Lucchi)</li><li>▪ European Mentor Project/Task 5.3. (Jorg Utschakowski and Giuseppe Salamina)</li></ul>
15:00	<p><b>Transforming mental health through lived experience</b> Michael Ryan (Head of Mental Health Engagement and Recovery, Ireland) The role of Lived Experience in creating a Recovery Oriented Service (with reference to the "WHO Europe's Roadmap for integrating lived and living experience practitioners into policy, services and community" / European framework / the case of Ireland)</p>
15:30	Discussion
15:40	Coffee break
16:00	<p>Participants will be divided in small groups in presence (one group will be online), one facilitator per group, discussing on the following topic: <b>Are the actions in the WHO Road map the correct ones for your country/ organisation?</b> See WHO Roadmap at: <a href="https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2025-12307-52079-79927">https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2025-12307-52079-79927</a></p>
17:00	Plenary Q&A
18:00	



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

9:00	<b>Making Lived Experience Count</b> Lecture by Emma Watson (Programme Lead for Research, Evaluation, Publications and Development, Imroc)
9:30	<b>Implementation of the PLE in mental health services</b> At the level of psychiatric services, the implementation of PLE offers a variety of opportunities and challenges, which are to be discussed in this workshop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>European Experience:</b> Jorg Utschakowski, Janni Kniep (Berlin), Nina Eck (Iceland)</li><li>▪ <b>Italian Experience:</b> Elena Faccio, Michele Rocelli, Ludovica Aquili (University of Padua), Luca Negrojno, Monica Maretti (Bologna), 1 representative of AIPESP (Italy) (4 contributions in total, 20 minutes each)</li></ul>
10:50	Coffee break
11:00	<b>Group work on the following topics (one group online), one facilitator per group:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The role, identity and functions of PLE today, inside and outside of services.</li><li>▪ Employment of PLEs: a change of the entire organization</li><li>▪ Contextual conditions that favor or limit the implementation</li><li>▪ Comprehensive strategies to strengthen recognition and increase the influence of PLE on the planning, delivery and evaluation of mental health services</li></ul>
12:00	Plenary Q&A
12:30	Light Lunch
13:30	<b>What was my research journey? Reflections of researchers with lived experiences</b> By researchers with lived experiences from European countries
14:15	<b>Advancing involvement, transforming knowledge: How and why we do service user/survivor and lived experience research</b> Lecture by Sarah Carr (Vice-Chair of the UK National Survivor User Network UK)  Time for Q & A
15:00	Coffee break
15:30	<b>Mapping lived experience research</b> Five mini-inputs on themes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social Empathy as a framework for peer-led social innovation</li><li>▪ Establishment of a research institute for lived experience in Norway</li><li>▪ Trauma, Violence, and Mental Health: Integrating Survivor-Led Knowledge within Lived Experience Research</li><li>▪ Self-advocacy organizations and lived experience research</li><li>▪ Rethinking Mental Health Practices and Recovery Pathways Through Citizenship in the Catalan Mental Health Context</li></ul> Panel discussion

16:30	<b>Dialogical input on collaborative research</b> Sebastian Von Peter and Jenny Ziegenhagen by members of the Co-Lab Medical School Brandenburg <a href="https://www.mhb-fontane.de/en/mental-health">https://www.mhb-fontane.de/en/mental-health</a>  Time for Q&A
17:10 17:30	Resume and farewell

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - Departures

Please fill out the online form to apply for participation in the MENTOR International Conference by March 31: <https://bit.ly/Mentor-Bologna>



**INFO:** [minguzzi@cittametropolitana.bo.it](mailto:minguzzi@cittametropolitana.bo.it)

\* The Katia Bertasi Neighborhood House is open to all residents and associations, offering welcoming spaces that host events, courses, workshops, and services. The House is a place of culture, socializing, and relaxation, where spontaneous connections are fostered between people of different ages and backgrounds.

In collaboration with  
the Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Under the patronage of



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

**m**  
**iu**  
Città metropolitana di Bologna  
Istituzione Gian Franco Minguzzi



Comune  
di Bologna

Quartiere  
Navile



Regione Emilia-Romagna