

European Congress of Psychology - ECP 2015

Invited symposium

PROACTIVE PSYCHOLOGY RELIES ON ITSELF. ENPAP PROJECT FOR INVESTING IN THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY

9th July 2015 – h. 11,35 – Aula U6-30

University of Milano-Bicocca - Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo, 1 – Milan

Convenor

Felice Damiano Torricelli, President - ENPAP

Presenters

Lisa Barclay, Director - Social Finance

Lucia Martina, Secretary General - Fondazione Lang Italia

Giovanna Melandri, President - Human Foundation

Massimo Santinello, Professor Social and Community Psychology - University of Padova

Introduction & Objectives

For years, public policies, in Italy and in Europe, have been cutting funds to social prevention and consequently a lot of professional services performed by Psychologists have been reduced or deleted. These policies, while allowing a saving immediately, then oblige public administrations to spend a lot more to intervene in situations that become, over time, emergencies and needs, sometimes dramatic.

Aware of the overall condition of the economy in the Italian and European context, ENPAP - the body in charge of the social welfare and pensions of the Italian Psychologists - wants to give its contribution to address this situation and to support both the income and the working continuity for Psychologists.

The idea is to invest a part of the collected savings in social prevention projects involving Psychologists that entail social and economic benefits (for example, in terms of cost savings) for the welfare state, ensuring, at the same time, the future of Psychologists pensions. Supporting the national welfare system through projects involving Psychologists on the territory can reactivate the virtuous cycle of prevention, put at the heart of prevention activities the professional competence of Psychologists, improve the life quality of citizens and support the development of the country.

We have identified in the Social Impact Bond (SIB) developed in the UK, a highly interesting tool to pursue this goal. We are therefore working to develop, also in Italy, a similar financial mechanism able to draw social and economic impact investments thanks to the direct involvement of professional Psychologists.

During the Symposium we will focus on the evolution of the project, the evaluation models of social and budgetary impacts that support it, the reflections and the experiences in progress in Europe activated through the same principles.

Abstracts of presentations

ENPAP project for investing in professional Psychology

Felice Damiano Torricelli

The Professional Psychology cannot exist out of the market that requests its services and for too long the market of social prevention public services has been suffering a setback. The project we propose aims to boost welfare actions in Italy through the private funding of projects of prevention applied Psychology that lead to a consistent saving in public funds.

Social Impact Bonds: a model for funding prevention

Lisa Barclay

In the UK, we set up a Social Impact Bond to fund Multi-Systemic Therapy for adolescents at risk of being taken into State care due to behavioural problems. Social investors have committed £3m to fund the service delivery over a five year period. The local government will repay investors according to the level of success achieved in preventing care entry.

A Roadmap to Social Impact Investing

Lucia Martina

Effectiveness in achieving results and impact measurement are the key words at the base of Social Impact Bonds. The intervention will highlight the developments taking place in philanthropy and social investing to envision the available options to go beyond grants in order to create relevant outcomes for the community in a more sustainable way.

Effectiveness and challenges of working as a psychologist in prevention programs: closing the gap between research and practice

Massimo Santinello

There is increasing evidence about the effectiveness of preventive programs and strategies in relation to mental health problems (e.g., for depression, smoking, alcohol abuse, etc.). Moreover, empirical data show the economic impact (e.g., in terms of cost-effectiveness analysis) of using a preventive approach for some specific problems. Implications about the lack of these strategies in Italy are discussed.