Walking through the Portuguese Forensic System

Joana Melim¹, Rafael Araújo¹, Sofia Fonseca¹, and Susana Almeida¹


Abstract

Introduction: Forensic psychiatry is becoming progressively, as time passes by, an essential area in psychiatry, having evolved from a lawless sector to an extremely over regulated process while maintaining some grey areas in need of attention.

Methods: Review of the Portuguese law published in Diário da República, applied to the mental health sector.

Results: The European law is by no means homogeneous and different forensic systems co-exists. This report intends to summarize the Portuguese legislation on mental health that have some specificities compared to other European systems.

Discussion and Conclusions: Having the awareness on different legislation across Europe, allows us not only to improve by learning from positive expediencies and outcomes, but also by realizing some disabilities and try to optimize them through a structured and shared learning process.

Supplementary material: Complete presentation available at http://ijcnmh.arc-publishing.org

¹Hospital Santo André, Centro Hospitalar Leiria, Leiria, Portugal
Correspondence: joanamelim@gmail.com

Citation: Melim et al. Walking through the Portuguese Forensic System. IJCNMH 2015;2(Suppl. 1):P73
Published: 20 June 2015

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