

## Summary

### of the OPCAT NPM Workshop held on April 11, 2018, in the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights



On April 11, 2018, the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights organized a workshop for the external experts of the OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism. The proper training of the persons participating in the visits, including the external experts, is of major importance. The training's objective was to ensure the uniform application of standard operating procedures by both the NPM's colleagues and the members of the Civil Consultative Body (CCB) in order to guarantee the consistency of working methods and the adequate sharing of knowledge among all those concerned. The event was attended by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, the Secretary General, the staff members of the OPCAT NPM Department, as well as external experts, physicians, dietitians, and the members of the CCB.

The following persons held presentations during the first session of the program:

Representing the Office:

1. Gergely Fliegauf, Head of the OPCAT NPM Department – *“Brief presentation of the activities of the OPCAT NPM; the methodological, ethical, and organizational aspects of the visits”*
2. Katalin Haraszti, Deputy Head of the OPCAT NPM Department – *“Brief presentation of the activities of the OPCAT NPM; the legal framework”*

Representing the external experts:

3. György Purebl, Deputy Director of the Institute of Behavioral Sciences of Semmelweis University, former President of the Hungarian Association of Psychiatry – *“Presentation of the patients’ rights [leaflet](#)<sup>1</sup> on emergency admissions; the leaflet’s significance”*
4. Zsolt Petke, Head of Department of the National Psychiatric and Addictology Institute of the Nyíró Gyula Hospital – *“The visits conducted by the OPCAT NPM, through the eyes of an external expert; the lessons learned”*
5. Felicitász Szemán, judge, head of a judicial panel – *“The practices of the judiciary appraisal of persons under emergency medical treatment”*

During the second session, the participants discussed issues relevant to the topics touched upon in the presentations.

Anikó Kussinszky, a staff member of the Department for Equal Opportunities and Children’s Rights, informed the participants that two reports had been published on the right to legal remedy of persons under emergency medical care (AJB-305/2017 and AJB-344/2018). She also spoke about the history of these cases and the difficulties of preparing the patients’ rights leaflet. She pointed out the importance of preparing a simplified, more accessible version of the patients’ rights leaflet.

She thanked Károly Oriold, founder of the Lélekben Otthon Foundation, for his contribution to the preparation of the patients’ rights leaflet. She also pointed out that the leaflet could play a very useful role in the future as it provides security in day-to-day practice and builds the essential element of trust in therapeutic work.

István Éger, President of the Hungarian Medical Chamber, also commented on the difficulties in emergency care and shared his thoughts as regards its modernization.

Useful and proactive comments were made also by internist, geriatrician, and gastroenterologist Ádám Lelbach; forensic psychiatrist Krisztina Baraczka; János Réthelyi, Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of Semmelweis University, and his colleagues, Brigitta Baran and György Szekeres.

Experiences and thoughts as regards the prevention of ill-treatment were shared by Lilla Hárdi, Medical Director of the Cordelia Foundation; Dominika Milánovics and Eszter Jovánovics of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union; Eszter Kirs of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, and Barbara Méhes of the Validity Foundation - Mental Disability Advocacy Center.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the leaflet is only available in Hungarian language; it is published on the webpage of OPCAT NPM.