



**Dr. Athena Frangouli**

## **SOCIAL COOPERATIVES OF LIMITED LIABILITY (SCLL)**

**To combat poverty : the Greek model of social firms for people with psychosocial problems.**

**Moving from de-institutionalisation to social integration and job creation**

V. Chronopoulos, S. Koupidis

The purpose of this study is to present the Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability (KOISPE) as the leading model of Social Firms for people with psychosocial problems.

Psychiatric Reform in Greece, after a period of many struggles, nearly 40 years, seems to remain in a critical point. Regrettably, despite the very important work that has been achieved, the crucial deficits and the dysfunctions of the political and the health system, have never been addressed properly and with a specific operational design. As a consequence of that we have witnessed that the efforts of the transition from institutional to community based care have been disputed or even annihilated. In addition to that, the unstable and fragmented applied policies regarding mental health and the lack of proper coordination between the relevant stakeholders have resulted to serious problems in the organization, operation and planning of the services. As a consequence, all the stakeholders (the service users, the families and the experts) are “locked and lost” in a totally fragmented mental health system. This is due to serious problems of financing and due to the lack of stable political will: social policies are not a priority in countries under austerity measures, although needed more than ever.

The Greek Law 2716/1999 created by the Greek ministry of Health and Social Solidarity aims at the growth and modernization of the services for people with psychosocial problems. The KOISPE are the heart of the psychiatric reform in Greece. Pararerly, they are the cornerstone of Social Economy in Greece, because they combine commercial interests with the social objective of providing employment for people threatened by exclusion. Today, there are 23 KOISPE, one in each catchment area, coordinated by the Federation, POKOISPE, creating jobs in the areas of agriculture, small scale animal breeding, bee keeping, fishery, forestry, commerce, social – cultural – educational services, industry, manufacturing tourism.



The political – socio – economic crisis in Greece is seen, by the writers, as an opportunity and a challenge for the KOISPE to play a role at combating poverty, by creating jobs for the vulnerable groups of people who are the majority in the unemployment rate.

In this workshop we will have the opportunity to discuss the perspectives that the KOISPE offer.

### **Brief profile**

Athena Frangouli, Ph.D. Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology and Applied Social Studies. Engaged in continuing education on issues of Management and Human Resources. Expertise in working with vulnerable groups. Vice President of the Society of Social Psychiatry & Mental Health. Chairperson of the Institute of Mental Health for Children, Adolescents and Adults.

Deals with research, studies, writing of articles to combat stigmatization of marginalized groups of people, participates in psycho-education projects for citizens, families and users of mental health services.

Involved in : Social economy projects, Research, Training of trainers, Lobby and advocacy, Promotion and networking, Working with volunteers. Trainer in a number of conferences and seminars dealing with topics of speech and language therapy, community education on health issues, management and evaluation of services, work integration of disadvantaged and disabled people in the mainstream market on alternative work opportunities such as social firms and cooperatives.

Chairperson of the KOISPE “diadromes” and member of the Executive Committee of the POKOISPE, as well as the SFECEFEC, since its function, 1987.