

in: Kostas Bairaktaris (ed.): "Proceedings of the European Congress against Discrimination and Stigma, for User-Orientated Reforms in Psychiatry and the Right to Alternatives", Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki 2010, p. 55

Welcome Speech

by Ioannis Mylopoulos, Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and Professor of the School of Civil Engineering,

on the occasion of the awarding of an Honorary Doctoral Degree to Peter Lehmann

**Old Building of Philosophy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
September 28, 2010**

Today is a very special day for the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The wealth of our University, both scientific and spiritual, is enriched today by this honorary doctoral, awarded to the social pedagogue Peter Lehmann. Peter Lehmann's actions focus on the promotion of human rights for people with psychiatric experience, to a professional and also humanistic level. His overall work is multidimensional. Its various dimensions are professional, political and social, as it includes the writing of books and articles as well as the creation of structures and organizations that fight for the rights of people with mental health problems. Peter Lehmann's systematic interest in the rights of people with mental health problems, the actions against psychiatric arbitrariness and his opposition to psychiatric drugs as a means of chemical repression, are well recognised internationally, in both an academic and a practical level. I strongly believe that this honorary doctorate award will facilitate the promotion of the self-help movements of people with psychiatric experience and their fight for human rights. It will also support the promotion of rights to the people with psychiatric experience in Greece where this is still at a very early stage. Mr Peter Lehmann, thank you for accepting to be part of our academic community. Welcome.

Thank you all for your attention.