

Club 13&Co is National non-governmental organization, which joins people with psychiatric experience, as well as their family members and professionals of mental health institutions. It was founded in March 1993 on the basis of the Department No 13 of Vilnius Republican Psychiatric Hospital by the head of the department psychiatrist Danguole Survilaite. Now it is open to all wishing to meet people with similar problems or just experienced in solving of those. *Club 13&Co* was the first organization of such type in Lithuania and started the users' movement in psychosocial rehabilitation in our country.

Aims of the organization:

- help in solving health problems and social rehabilitation of members with mental problems;
- mental users' advocacy;
- encouraging and supporting mental users for creative self-expression;
- organizing leisure time for mental users;
- communicating to society the issues of psychiatric patients;
- co-operation with similar organizations in Lithuania and abroad.

Club 13&Co has a status of National organization. It consists of free members governed by the elected Council of seven members. As volunteers, psychiatric professionals are also very welcomed in the Club. The organization has only one paid person for bookkeeping, who is not a member. Few user members are paid half-a-day for special services under certain projects of the Club.

Funding of the club is based on the financial support of Lithuanian governmental institutions and informal organizations of Lithuania and other countries, including worldwide companies of pharmaceutical industry, as well as international funds.

Since 1998 Club 13&Co publishes the quarterly magazine *The news of Club 13&Co*. Summary of some issues is available in English in the web page of the Club at www.club13.lt. Also, the Club has published several calendars with paintings of its members, as well as few collections of verses of the members.

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