

**Summary
of the
OPCAT Conference & Workshop
held in the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights on May 10, 2016**



On May 11, 2016, the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights held a conference and workshop on the experiences gained from the NPM's visits to places of detention accommodating persons living with disabilities and psychiatric patients. At the event Gergely Fliegaufer, Head of the OPCAT NPM Department, welcomed the participants, and keynote speeches were made by Krisztina Izsó and Sándor Gurbai, staff members of the Office. Additional presentations were made by Aranka Joó, representing the General Directorate of Social Affairs and Child Protection, then by the representative of the National Healthcare Service Center, Chief Medical Director of the National Psychiatric and Addictology Institute of the Nyíró Gyula Hospital, Attila Németh. In their presentations they made some remarks concerning the recommendations made by the National Preventive Mechanism in his reports, and described the measures taken by their respective institutions in the wake of the visits. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Human Capacities. Of the heads of the visited institutions, Ferenc Sendula, Director of the Platán Home for the Elderly operating under the Directorate of Health and Social Care Institutions, and Péter Müller, Chief of Medicine of the Unified Szent István and Szent László Hospital and Outpatient Care Clinic, reflected shortly on the recommendations made in the reports.

In the afternoon, two workshops were held during which keynote issues raised in the morning session and some other experiences gained from the visits were discussed with the participation of civil society organizations representing the interests of persons living with disabilities and psychiatric patients. Participants of the first panel were the following: Gábor Gombos, independent expert on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), former member of the CRPD Committee; Károly Molnár, President of the Hungarian Psychiatric Association; Barbara Méhes, legal expert of the Mental Disability Advocacy Center Foundation, and János Vizi, Head Physician of the Legal and Forensic Department of the National Psychiatric and Addictology Institute of the Nyíró Gyula Hospital. The discussion was moderated—on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights—by Sándor Gurbai. Participants of the second panel were the following: Judit Harangozó, psychiatrist specialist, Head of the Ébredések (*Awakenings*) Foundation; Stefánia Kapronczay, Managing Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, and Zsolt Petke, Head Physician of the Addictology Department of the National Psychiatric and Addictology Institute of the Nyíró Gyula Hospital. The discussion was moderated—on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights—by Krisztina Izsó.