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Heinz Katschnig, MD., Professor emeritus of Psychiatry of the Medical University of Vienna, was Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy there from 1991 to 2007, and Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Social Psychiatry in Vienna from 1978 to 2014. Since 2014 he has been CEO of IMEHPS.research - Research Institute for Social Psychiatry (www.imehps.at). He trained in psychiatry and epidemiology in England and Austria and has a longstanding research record, on among others the topics of health services research, epidemiology, public health, quality of life and life change events with a focus on mental health and physical comorbidity. He was work package leader of several EU-funded projects on mental health (e.g. MINFUL, ITHACA, REFINEMNET, CEPHOS-LINK) and of the current Austrian COMET project DEXHELPP (Decision Support for Health Care and Planners and Politicians). His list of publications comprises more than 400 items, including several books published in German, English, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. He was and is member of national (e.g. Advisory Board for Mental Health of the Austrian Ministry of Health), and international committees (WHO, European Commission, World Psychiatric Association) related to mental health policy and planning. From 2007 to 2009 he was Resident Twinning Advisor in Bucharest for the EC Twinning Project "Support for the development of community mental health services and the deinstitutionalization of persons with mental disorders".