

# **Dr. Ledia Lazeri**

Head of World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Office



## **Short introduction**

Dr. Ledia Lazeri is a Medical Doctor, specialized in psychiatry and psychotherapy, with experience in clinical work and teaching assignments in her native country Albania and beyond. She got involved with WHO since 2000 when she joined a large programme of mental health reform in Albania, later being involved with mental health projects in the Balkan countries as part of the Stability Pact Initiative for the South Eastern Europe and later on in Turkey as the mental disability programme coordinator. Her portfolio with mental health programmes included work with mental health policy, service and workforce development, along with empowerment of and advocacy for mental health service users and carers. Among her achievements as a WHO mental health expert, she highlights the closure of many psychiatric residential care units, the establishment of many innovative community care units for people with mental health issues and intellectual disabilities, the contribution to mental health policy and plans at both country level and at the European level as well as a series of communication materials that served for training of mental health professionals, advocacy with policymakers, and empowerment of service users and carers in countries she served and beyond.

In 2014 Dr Lazeri expanded the scope of her engagement with health policy in serving as WHO Representative and Head of Country Office in Albania, Uzbekistan and now in Hungary since 2017.