



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Message from the Director

Dear readers,

We hope the New Year started well for all of you.

The Mental Health Europe team sends you its best wishes for a happy, healthy and most of all mentally healthy 2006.

The MHE team is now composed of:

- Benoit Broekmans, accountant
- Mari Fresu, project co-ordinator
- Fanny Muller, trainee
- Sogol Noorani, project co-ordinator
- Christine Terlaeken, administrative assistant
- Mary Van Dievel, director
- and our volunteers:
- John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser
- Joséé Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Adviser
- Xavier Van Quickenborne, administration.

The year 2006 will again be a year full of challenges for MHE: there is the consultation on the Green Paper on Mental Health "*Improving the mental health of the population: towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union*" in which we actively participate, the election of a new Board, the preparation of our conference 2007, the various projects to start or to bring to a good end, the preparation of 2007 "*Year of Equal Opportunities*", etc. etc.

Mental Health Europe's vision is of a Europe where mental health is given high priority, where people with mental health problems live as full citizens with access to appropriate services and support where needed, and where meaningful participation of people with mental health problems and their families and carers is guaranteed at all levels of decision-making and representation.

Our values are based on dignity and respect, equal opportunities, freedom of choice, non-discrimination, democracy and participation.

We find that the burden caused by mental illness for individuals, families and society, is too heavy, and that the stigma and taboos are too important to leave mental health developments only to politicians and professionals!

MHE is committed to the promotion of positive mental health, the prevention of mental distress, the improvement of care and advocacy and the protection of the human rights of people with mental health problems, and their families and carers.

We hope that we can count on you to help us realise our objectives!

NO HEALTH WITHOUT MENTAL HEALTH!

Mary Van Dievel,
Director

MHE Conference

Due to various circumstances, MHE's next conference cannot take place in Cyprus in May 2006 as was foreseen. We do apologize for any inconvenience caused. Negotiations re. the organisation of our conference in 2007 have started and we hope to inform you very soon about the exact dates, the venue, and not less import, the theme!

General Assembly and seminar!

Our General Assembly and a seminar for MHE members will take place in Brussels on 12-13 May 2006. The theme will be confirmed before the end of February. Please already pencil these dates in your diary! More info to follow soon.

Membership fees

All members should have received by now an invitation to pay their membership fee for the year 2006.

Organisations and individuals who did not receive this invitation are kindly requested to contact Christine Terlaeken at mc.terlaeken@mhe-sme.org.

We remind that those organisations that are interested in joining Mental Health Europe but cannot afford to pay the full fee, can always contact Mary Van Dievel at mvandievel@mhe-sme who will forward their request for a decreased fee to the Membership Committee. In particular cases, waiving of the fee will also be considered.

Just to remind you: all full member organisations have a vote in the General Assembly and can nominate a delegate for election as Board member.

Associate members do not have voting rights. Individual members can elect representatives in the General Assembly and the Board.

Election of the new Board.

By 12-13 May 2006, dates of our next General Assembly, the procedure for the election of a new Board for Mental Health Europe should be finished.

Mental Health Europe's Board is composed of:

1. 12 representatives from full member organisations
2. 3 representatives elected by the individual members.

The new Board will seat until spring 2009.

All full member organisations should have received by now an invitation to nominate a representative to the Board of MHE. Deadline for nominations is 24 February 2006.

Please contact us urgently if you are a full member organisation and have not received this information yet.

All individual members should have received the invitation to nominate themselves as one of the 10 Voting Individual Members to the General Assembly. Deadline for nominations is 3 February 2006.

These 10 Voting Individual Members to the General Assembly will elect between themselves the 3 Voting Individual Members on the Board of MHE.

Again, if you are an individual member but did not receive this information, please contact us urgently.

If all this is not clear to you, do not hesitate to contact Mary Van Dievel at the MHE secretariat (mvandievel@mhe-sme.org).

Good Practices to Combat Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems

The first phase of the project consists in an analysis of the current situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems in the involved countries, in access to health and social services, employment, education, training services, transportation, leisure as well as the protection of civil and human rights. To this

end, the ten partner organisations involved are currently in the process of contacting various stakeholders such as representatives from the governmental, non-profit/NGO and private sectors. Together with the stakeholders the partner organisations will first, analyse the current situation of social exclusion and, in the next step, identify good practices combating the social exclusion of people with mental health problems based on defined quality criteria.

A European Advisory Committee has moreover been established, consisting of members of European Networks active in various different areas such as mental health, poverty, ageing, disability, homelessness and other social issues. The Committee will help the partner organisations and MHE to identify and evaluate good practices as well as to disseminate information about the project and its outcomes. A first meeting of the European Advisory Committee is planned for May 2006 in Brussels (to be confirmed). The second partners meeting will take place 10-11 March 2006 in Paris.

For further information: Sogol Noorani, Project Co-ordinator, sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04

MHEEN Meeting on "Advances in Mental Health Policy and Economics in Europe" and 2nd meeting of the Mental Health Economics II project - Barcelona (Spain), 16-18 February 2006

A MHEEN II (Mental Health Economics European Network II) meeting on "*Advances in Mental Health Policy and Economics in Europe*" will be held on 16th February morning in Barcelona.

The meeting is organised by the Department of Health of the Catalanian Government with the support of the European Commission and in cooperation with the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation, MHEEN and RIRAG/PSICOST Research Networks.

The event will provide a framework for exchanging views and experiences on the recent steps ahead in the field of the mental health and the economic impact of mental health policies in Europe. Key representatives from the Catalan Council of Mental Health and from the Spanish Commission of Mental Health Officers will take part in this meeting.

Ms Marina Geli i Fàbrega, Health Minister of Catalunya, will deliver the opening speech for the second partners meeting of the Mental Health Economics II project (MHEEN II). The event will take place in Barcelona from 16th to 18th February.

John Henderson, Mary Van Dievel and Mari Fresu will take part in the meetings.

For more information: contact person, Mariantonietta Fresu, mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04

MHE Committee on Human Rights

The committee was established in the framework of the EU Co-ordination Non Discrimination Programme, and had a first meeting in November 2004.

It is aimed at reacting on various documents related to human rights issues concerning people with mental health problems, plus formulating position papers on certain matters that MHE wishes to bring to the attention of policy makers and other bodies.

The committee held its last meeting on 25 November 2005. Committee members' worked on different topics, such as the follow-up of the Council of Europe Recommendation on the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder, the implications of the likely introduction of compulsory care in the community, and the allocation of personal budget in the EU Member States.

MHE will try to find funding to set up a permanent secretariat for this committee.

Next meeting of the Human Rights committee is planned for May-June 2006.

For further information: Fanny Muller, fmuller@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68; Fax +32 2 280 16 04

Consultation on the Green Paper on Mental Health

MHE launched the consultation on the Green Paper on Mental Health "*Improving the mental health of the population: towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union*" already early December.

Not only MHE's member organisations received an invitation to comment on this Green Paper, but also all stakeholders in the mental health field and representatives of civil society.

On the basis of the outcomes of the consultation process, the European Commission will prepare a proposal for a EU strategy on mental health, which would be presented by the end of 2006.

You will appreciate that this consultation process is of utmost importance and a golden opportunity for all of us. As many organisations and individuals as possible (including the public at large) should be encouraged to have their say and to comment on this Green Paper.

Please consult your membership, your contacts, your friends and colleagues, and send your findings to your national, regional and local governments as well as to the European Commission, BUT ALSO TO MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE!

The Green Paper has been translated in the 20 languages of the European Union, so you have no valid excuse not to participate in the consultation process!

You can find these 20 texts at the following link:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/lif_e_style/mental/green_paper/consultation_en.htm

Background information has been prepared by MHE in 3 languages: English, French and German.

Deadline for the European Commission is **31 May 2006**.

We look forward to hearing from you by **15 April 2006** at the latest. This gives us 6 weeks time to collate the reactions we will receive.

We thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you!

Report on the CHES Roundtable on the Commission Green Paper on Mental Health

A Roundtable, organised in partnership by the Centre of Health and Ethics in Society (CHES) and Mental Health Europe (MHE-SME), was held on 23 November 2005 to address the recent publication of the Commission Green Paper on Mental Health

The Roundtable offered a genuine opportunity for stakeholders in mental health matters across the European Union (EU) to make their voices heard and to come forward with concrete suggestions for priority actions, thereby ensuring that it will make a concrete

and positive contribution towards the development and implementation of an effective EU strategy on mental health.

The aims of the Roundtable were threefold:

- to be informed of the content of the Commission Green Paper and the consultation process
- to analyse and comment on the scope and planned activities of this initiative
- to exchange views and ideas in relation to the themes, priorities and actions of a future EU mental health strategy.

The report on the Roundtable is now available.

To receive copies of the report, please contact the MHE secretariat: Tel. +32 2 280 04 68, Fax. +32 2 280 16 04, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

1st Thematic Meeting in the framework of the consultation procedure on the Green Paper on Mental Health – Luxembourg, 16-17 January 2006

MHE was invited by the European Commission, Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection (DG Sanco), to attend the first thematic meeting which was held as part of the consultation. This meeting addressed the theme of "Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health".

John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, addressed the audience at the opening session about "Promotion and prevention: a responsibility for society".

MHE (John Henderson and Mary Van Dievel) participated in the working sessions of the "EU Platform on Mental Health", chaired by Clive Needle, together with the European Network of (ex) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, EUFAMI, and a wide variety of stakeholders: workplace health promotion, doctors, age platform, migrants, education, health platforms, pharmaceutical industry ...

As many other stakeholders could not be present at the Luxembourg meeting, Mr Needle decided to invite them to a second meeting in Brussels early March to further discuss the issue of Prevention and Promotion in mental health and to present a full report to the European Commission afterwards. A first summary of the discussions of the January meeting is available from the MHE secretariat upon request.

A second thematic meeting will take place in Vienna on 16-17 March 2006. The theme will be Social Inclusion and Human Rights.

MHE representation at various meetings

On 11 January Mary Van Dievel, Director, was invited to a cocktail at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels. This event was organised to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the European Disability Forum together with the 25th anniversary of the EP Disability Intergroup.

On 16-17 January Mary Van Dievel and John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser, attended the first thematic meeting on the "Promotion and prevention of mental health", hosted by the European Commission in Luxembourg. (see above)

On 25 January Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, represented MHE at the

meeting of the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy Group, held in Brussels.

On 26 January Sogol Noorani participated in the Info-Day on the call for proposals Science-and-Society-19, organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS, ACTIVITIES AROUND WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

9th SMES Berlin Conference

All the documents of the 9th SMES (Mental Health Social Exclusion) Berlin Conference on "Dignity and Access for all to Rights and Services", that took place during 6-8 October in Germany, are now available on the SMES Europa website.

You will find a summary of the statements and recommendations that were adopted in plenum and during the workshops by the 160 participants, as well as a presentation of the proceedings of the conference.

To access this website: http://www.smes-europa.org/9sem_smes_proceedings.htm and http://www.smes-europa.org/9sem_statements_recommendations.htm

Celebration of World Mental Health Day in Finland

In Finland this year (2005) Mental Health Day was celebrated in conjunction with the Zero-tolerance campaign, which included important mental health organisations.

The main event was organised centrally in Helsinki as an open event, where residents of the Helsinki area were invited to come and enjoy themselves. Along with music and singing, visitors were also offered information about the organisations' activities.

Moreover, the national media were challenged to take part in a public discussion about abolishing the stigmatisation and discrimination aimed at mental health consumers, rehabilitators and families, and the message was carried by dozens of magazine and newspaper articles, as well as radio and TV spots. Local mental health associations organised their own events throughout Finland.

This year the Finnish Association for Mental Health chose to give a mental health award to Professor of Education, Kari Uusitalo of the University of Helsinki, who has taken a bold public stance in support of Finnish comprehensive schools as the facilitator of equal learning opportunities throughout Finland. He has repeatedly expressed concern about supporting not only gifted students, but also those who lack self-esteem.

In November the Finnish Association for Mental Health received an award from the communication association Yhteiskunnallisen viestinnän yhdistys for the mental health day campaign of 2004, in which *Helsingin Sanomat*, the largest newspaper in Finland, was the co-operation partner.

Thank you to Kristina Salonen and Jaana Arho, from The Finnish Association for Mental Health, for this contribution.

For further information, contact Kristina Salonen, kristina.salonen@mielenterveysseura.fi, or see the Finnish Association for Mental Health's website www.mielenterveysseura.fi

News from FEMASAN's staff

Please take note that the new Coordinator of FEMASAN (Federación Madrileña de Asociaciones Pro Salud Mental) is Mrs Diana Torres Ruiz.

Address:

FEMASAN, Federación Madrileña de Asociaciones Pro Salud Mental

C/ Manuel Fernández Callebero. 10 local

S-28 019 Madrid

E-mail: femasan@femasan.org

New premises for Advocacy France

Please take note that Advocacy France is now located:

5 place des Fêtes

F-75 019 PARIS

Advocacy France's phone number and E-mail address remain:

Tel +33-1 46 07 18 18

E-mail advocacyparis@wanadoo.fr

Your activities and initiatives are important! They may also inspire others!

Please send us a brief description of the activities that you have undertaken around 10 October, the World Mental Health Day.

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Anti-Poverty Network

New framework for the OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion

On the eve of the Informal Meeting of the Employment and Social Affairs Ministers, on 19-20 January in Villach (Austria) the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) reacted to the Commission's proposals for a new framework for the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

On 22 December 2005, the European Commission adopted a Communication entitled "*Working together, Working better*", which sets out the Commission's proposals to create from Autumn 2006 a streamlined framework for further development of the OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. According to Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN, "*at a time when large sections of the population believe that the over emphasis on the internal market regulations and competitiveness are undermining social protection systems, the Communication must be judged against its ability to address these concerns and to restore confidence in the EU project amongst the citizens*".

To access the Commission Communication "*Working together, working better: A new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies in the European Union*" - COM (2005) 706: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/com_2005_706_en.pdf

For the full EAPN response to the Communication: http://eapn.horus.be/module/module_page/images/pdf_publication/EAPN%20Publications/position/PP01-06%20Streamlining_en.pdf

Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

Russian Appeal Court Declares State's Denial to Provide Services to Children with Disabilities Unlawful

In December 2005, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Karelia (north west Russia) acting as a court of supervisory review, agreeing with legal arguments by the Mental Disability Advocacy Center, found that the Russian government is obliged to provide children with disabilities access to specialized preschool education.

The case concerned three families who had children with complex disabilities including cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities.

In November 2005 the Supreme Court held in its judgment that in order to ensure social integration of children with disabilities, the Russian law "*On education*" must be interpreted to impose positive obligations on the State to provide access to specialized educational facilities. The court further held that the law "*On Social Protection of People with Disabilities*" explicitly stipulates that the State must establish specialized preschool facilities for disabled children who cannot attend general schools.

Thousands of children across Russia are still labeled as "uneducable" and sent to custodial institutions which disregard a child's fundamental right to education. MDAC continues to work on social reintegration issues and in January 2006 will begin a two-year project with the NGO "*Citizens Watch*" to combat social exclusion of people with mental disabilities in St. Petersburg.

For more information, contact Oliver Lewis at Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) Budapest, Tel. +36 30 343 6732, E-mail mdac@mdac.info

Social Platform

Social Platform invited to the Troika meeting on 19 January

The Social Platform received an invitation to participate in the Troika meeting preceding the Informal Council meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers in Villach, Austria, on 19 January. This meeting gathered Ministers from the three Troika countries (Austria, Finland, Germany), plus representation from the European Commission and Parliament. The Social Platform was invited to discuss the two themes of the meeting: flexicurity and the streamlining of social protection and social inclusion processes.

The presidency prepared two background papers, on which Platform members have already given comments, and a draft position paper was prepared in advance to an open meeting that took place on 16 January at the Social Platform to discuss the presidency paper and to finalise the Platform contribution. On 18 January, a written contribution was sent to Employment and Social Ministers, European Commission and European Parliament, in advance of the meeting.

To download the Platform draft positions: <http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/AustrianPresidencyTracker.doc>

For further information, please contact the Social Platform Secretariat:

Kathleen@socialplatform.org,
roshan.dipuppo@socialplatform.org
samara.jones@socialplatform.org

IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

World Mental Health Day 2006

The World Mental Health Day 2006 will be dedicated to *"Building Awareness - Reducing Risk: Mental Illness and Suicide"*.

To view the theme and sign up to receive the information pack: World Federation for Mental Health website, <http://www.wfmh.org/>

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHO's report, "Changing the face of violence prevention"

The World Health Organization's report, *"Changing the face of violence prevention"*, was launched on 19 October 2005 during the 2nd Meeting of Milestones in a Global Campaign on Violence Prevention in San Francisco, United States of America.

The meeting aimed at describing country level achievements in the implementation of the recommendations of the *"World report on violence and health"* and planning next steps.

The reports clearly showed the catalytic effect of the *"World report on violence and health"* on national violence prevention activities including the development of national policies, data collection, improvement of services for victims, primary prevention, and advocacy. Decisions were made on how to further develop the Violence Prevention Alliance, and a special workshop involving representatives from global and national media agencies and public health programmers addressed the feasibility of establishing a global media initiative for violence prevention.

The meeting concluded with a summary of the day's proceedings and thoughts on the way ahead.

To download WHO's guide to implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health:

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/924159207_9.pdf

To have copies of the 2nd Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention meeting report, please contact Claire Scheurer, Tel. +41 22 791 20 64, E-mail scheurer@who.int

VI. EUROPEAN UNION

Ombudsman pursues inquiry into action taken by Commission to integrate people with disabilities

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has called for more information from the European Commission regarding the actions it has taken to ensure the integration of people with disabilities. This follows the extensive response from members of the public, non-governmental organisations and national ombudsmen to the Ombudsman's own-initiative inquiry into the issue. The Commission should submit a report

to the Ombudsman by 31 January 2006, on its actions in areas such as employment, accessibility of its premises and information policies.

In its response to the inquiry, the Commission stressed the high priority it attached to promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities. It listed a number of initiatives it had taken in recent years, including the revision of the Code of Good Practice for the Employment of People with Disabilities.

The Ombudsman then invited comments from the public and received a total of 56 contributions. The concerns expressed in the replies are now taken up in the follow-up questions to the Commission.

To read a summary of the Ombudsman's latest request to the Commission, and to view other documents related to the inquiry, please visit: <http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/disabilities/en/default.htm>

For information about this inquiry, contact person: José Martínez Aragón, Tel. +33 3 88 17 24 01

VII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Landmark regulation on the rights of disabled air passengers'

In December 2005 the European Parliament unanimously adopted a landmark regulation, which will radically change the lives of the millions of disabled air passengers who have been facing discrimination and humiliation for countless years.

The new initiative, in line with the common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers and recently published European blacklist of unsafe airlines, aims to reinforce the rights of persons with reduced mobility and disabled persons. This includes individuals who are inter alia, blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, or who have an intellectual disability.

For further information, contact Maria Nyman at the European Disability Forum: Tel +32 2 286 51 84, E-Mail maria.nyman@edf-feeph.org, or see the European Parliament website,

http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/062-3828-349-12-50-910-20051216IPRO3827-15-12-2005-2005--false/default_en.htm

VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

"Unlocking Europe's full potential": the European Commission's work programme for 2006

In October 2005, the European Commission adopted its Work Programme for 2006, setting out its key priorities for the next year. The Commission Legislative and Work Programme for 2006 takes full account of current economic and political trends and where Europe stands on several key strategic dossiers.

Jose Manuel Barroso commented: *"This Work Programme allows Europe to pursue competitiveness and social justice, to protect its citizens and promote their freedoms, to work inside Europe and to promote its values in the world beyond."*

The 2006 Work Programme focuses on the key strategic objectives which the Commission has set out at the start of its mandate: prosperity, solidarity, security and Europe as a world partner.

Social justice, cohesion and safeguarding the quality of life for future generations are the goals of the second major objective (solidarity). Initiatives will be taken to tackle the ageing of Europe's population, as well as to streamline the open method of coordination in the social area and launch cooperation on health and long-term care, "in order to reinforce the support the EU provides to Member States in their efforts to modernize social protection systems and tackle social exclusion".

A mid-term review of the Work Programme in summer 2006 will allow the Commission to take stock and, where appropriate, to amend the priority list.

The Commission Legislative and Work Programme 2006 can be uploaded on http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0531en01.pdf

The Commission's Work Programme website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

7th Framework Programme

The European Commission has set out the details of its proposal for a new Programme to fund research and development from 2007 to 2013. The Specific Programmes proposed by the Commission put into effect the broad outline proposed by the Commission in April 2005, known as the Seventh Framework Programme, composed of 4 main elements: Co-operation, Ideas, People and Capacities. These will be discussed with the European Parliament (first reading is planned for March 2006), before being decided by the Council.

"What is important now is to allocate sufficient funds to allow this project to achieve its objective of greater competitiveness for Europe and a better quality of life for its citizens", said Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research.

The four major Specific Programmes proposed today are:

- **Co-operation:** the Cooperation Programme is designed to gain leadership in key scientific and technological areas by supporting cooperation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities across the European Union as well as the rest of the world;
- **Ideas:** the Ideas Programme will establish a European Research Council, a pan-European mechanism to support the truly creative scientists, engineers and scholars;
- **People:** the People Programme looks to strengthen the human resources available to science and research across Europe, both qualitatively and quantitatively;
- **Capacities:** the Capacities Specific Programme will enhance research and innovation capacity throughout Europe.

Later in the year the European Commission will make a proposal relating to the Rules of participation in the various Specific Programmes. These proposals will be important in terms of the Commission's simplification efforts, aimed at making the Programme more accessible and straightforward for its users.

Link to the FP7 Programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm

Link to the website of the DG Research: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/>

New measures to help the "active inclusion" of people with disabilities in the EU

In December 2005 the European Commission announced it will put forward concrete measures designed to improve the lives of disabled people in the European Union during the 2006-2007 period. The Communication's overall aim is to improve the "active inclusion" of disabled people through a range of initiatives and measures, including raising disability awareness among small and medium sized companies, reviewing how the European Social Fund can help support employment, training and equal opportunities for disabled people and promoting the concept of independent living for disabled people. These measures will be outlined at European Day of People with Disabilities conference in Brussels, which will be held under the theme of "living together in society".

The EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Vladimir Spidla drew attention to the fact that in 2006, all Member States will be obliged to prohibit discrimination in employment on the grounds of disability - in line with the provisions of Directive 2000/78/EC (establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation).

The new Communication places a strong emphasis on "active inclusion" of people with disabilities into society and the economy through independent living. One of the main priorities is raising disabled people's employment and activity rates.

The Communication suggests that the best way for disabled people to enjoy this "active inclusion" is through independent living. The EU approach to independent living is that people with disabilities should have the right to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community.

For further information, the European commission website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/emplw_eb/news/news_en.cfm?id=96, or contact Katharina von Schnurbein Tel. +32 2-29.81.408

New calls for proposals and tender

The European Commission plans to launch a number of new calls for proposals and calls for tender during the course of 2006 - under the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination.

Calls for proposals will be issued for:

- an EU-level organisation representing and defending Roma, to provide support towards its operating costs: this call will be published during the first quarter of 2006 and represents a re-issue of the call originally issued in 2005;
- awareness-raising activities developed by national authorities: this call will only be addressed to the relevant national authorities (EU Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey) and will be issued in the first quarter of the year;

Calls for tender will be issued for:

- a study on multiple discrimination;

- a study on socially disadvantaged ethnic minorities;
- a study on developing indicators to measure the extent and impact of discrimination;
- non-discrimination training for NGOs and social partners in EU Member States, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and European economic Area (EEA) countries.

More information – as well as the calls themselves, when published – is available on:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/callspt/calls_en.htm

New head of anti-discrimination unit

Stefan Olsson has been appointed as the new head of the European Commission's anti-discrimination unit. He replaces Barbara Nolan, who has moved to head up the communication unit in the Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG.

We warmly welcome Mr. Olsson and hope for a fruitful collaboration.

For further information: European Commission website, http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment_social/staffgui/org_en.pdf

Retirement announcement at DG Sanco

Fernand Sauer, who worked at the service of Health in Europe (DG SANCO-Health and Consumer Protection), left the Commission at the end of 2005.

We would like to thank Mr. Sauer for his interest in mental health issues and to wish him good luck.

E-mail fsauer@wanadoo.fr

IX. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Health and social priorities under the Austrian Presidency of the EU

From 1 January to June 2006, Austria will assume the role of Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Operational Programme of the Council for 2006, jointly drawn up by the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies, sets out the main objectives for this year's work of the Council.

In the field of public health, attention will particularly be paid to:

- developments in healthcare for European citizens, with a special focus on nutrition and physical activity, the Alcohol Strategy Communication, mental health, diabetes and women's health;
- the decision establishing a Programme of Community action in the field of Health and Consumer Protection (2007-2013).

The Council will continue or start working on legislative proposals, such as regulation on medicinal products for paediatric use and revision of the legislation on medical devices and advanced therapies.

Due attention will also be devoted to the activities of the World Health Organization (negotiations on protocols to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, enforcement of the new International Health Regulations, particularly the Children's Environmental Health - the Budapest process) and to communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS).

In the field of social policy, issues such as health care and long-term care, social inclusion, and pension system, will be addressed.

For further information: the Austrian Presidency's website, <http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>

X. VARIOUS

In Good Health Conference, 8-9 December 2005, Edinburgh (Scotland)

The conference "In Good Health: Linking Social Inclusion and Health from Practice into Policy" was organised jointly by NHS Health Scotland and EuroHealthNet to mark the end of the EuroHealthNet project "Tackling Health and social Inclusion in Europe". It was an associated event for the UK Presidency of the EU 2005.

Over 100 professionals from the health and social field gathered in Edinburgh to discuss health and social inclusion. The conference gave them new approaches and ideas for the way forward. Participants gained knowledge and understanding of the situation of health and social inclusion in different parts of Europe as well as within and around the EU institutions.

The participants adopted a set of recommendations to use in their work to raise awareness about how health and social inclusion are interlinked, and what measures must be taken to combat social exclusion and ill health.

Among other issues the recommendations stressed the importance of trans-national exchange, a theme further explored in the report "Health and Social Inclusion in the EU: the value of trans-national exchange", presented at the conference.

Thank you to Patrick Little, from Penumbra (United Kingdom) for this contribution.

For further information: EuroHealthNet website, http://www.eurohealthnet.org/EuroHealthNet/default.asp?http://www.eurohealthnet.org/EuroHealthNet/Site/EuroHealthNet/Projects/Phase_II.html

New address of the EFN

Please take note that the EFN (European Federation of Nurses Associations – Fédération Européenne des Associations Infirmières) is now situated:

Clos du Parnasse 11A
B-1050 Brussels
Tel +32 2 512 74 19
Fax +32 2 512 35 50
E-mail efn@efn.be
Web www.efnweb.org

XI. WEBSITES/ ONLINE INFORMATION

Quick guide to EU employment and social policies

An online "Quick guide to EU employment and social policies" is now available (English version only) on the European Commission's website. This "quick guide" examines how the EU contributes to the European social model.

A set of policy briefs looks at what the EU is doing to create more and better jobs, ensure social protection and promote equal opportunities for all. They also underline the role of the different policy instruments of EU social policy. The final brief explains what the EU is

doing to promote the social dimension worldwide and how the European social model offers lessons for global policy players.

To access the "quick guide" directly:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_model/index_en.html

The Implications of Demographic Ageing on the Quality of Life, Health Promotion and Health Care

The CESEP's (Centre for European Social and Economic Policy) study on "The Implications of Demographic Ageing on the Quality of Life, Health Promotion and Health Care" has been published by the European Commission. The study analyses the potential and cost-effectiveness of health promotion and other preventive policies to improve the health status and quality of life of the elderly and to avoid the negative socio-economic impact of ageing. It presents also projections for 2030 concerning disability and health care costs.

To download the executive summary:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_situation/docs/lot5_health_summary_en.pdf

To download the full report:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_situation/docs/lot5_health_finalreport_en.pdf

2nd issue of the European network of legal experts' biannual law review

The European network of legal experts has recently published its 2nd bi-annual law review, covering the development of anti-discrimination law and policy up until July 2005.

The review includes contributions from the Advocate-General of the European Court of Justice, as well as an article from a leading employment lawyer on referring cases to the European Court of Justice. The regular sections on EU policy, European Court of Justice Case Law, and European Court of Human Rights Case Law provide an update on developments at European level, while the section on news from the EU Member States documents changes at a national level.

The Commission has set up a network of legal experts in anti-discrimination to support its work by providing independent information and advice on relevant developments in the Member States.

The review is available on-line in English, French and German at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/legnet/05lawrev2_en.pdf

Website on the Health Inequalities Summit

The United Kingdom Presidency of the European Union held its summit, "Tackling Health Inequalities: Governing for Health", in London on 17-18 October 2005.

Since then a new website has been set up to make available the speeches and presentations from the summit, altogether with two expert independent reports, "Health Inequalities: Europe in Profile" and "Health Inequalities: A Challenge for Europe" and "The Health Inequalities Section of the UK Presidency Information Note" and "The Summit Proposals for Action" are also presented.

To access the website:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/International/EuropeanUnion/EUPresidency2005/fs/en>

XII. PUBLICATIONS

DREES Study on Competition and Healthcare systems

The introduction of competitive mechanisms within healthcare systems is one of the trends followed by the reforms in Europe since the establishment of the Thatcher reform in the United Kingdom and the Dekker project in the Netherlands at the end of the 1980's. With the exception of Austria that does not plan to introduce market dialectics into its social protection systems, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany have chosen to focus their recent reforms on the idea of competition between health insurance departments or between those offering cares that until now have been nascent. The study by the Department for Research for Evaluation Studies and Statistics (DREES, France) focuses more particularly on competition as a key trend in the latest reforms launched by the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland.

To download the study (in French):
<http://www.sante.gouv.fr/drees/etude-resultat/er445/er445.pdf>

"Housing Rights & Human Rights", FEANTSA's new book

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, has just published a new book, entitled "Housing Rights & Human Rights", that sets out how to launch court cases based on human rights legislation. It aims to strengthen a rights-based approach in order to ensure decent housing for all at a national level.

The book is priced at EUR 10 and is available in French and in English from FEANTSA by emailing your order to mary.fay@feantsa.org

WHO Atlas on "Psychiatric Education and Training across the World 2005"

The Psychiatric Education and Training Atlas Project, like the other Atlas projects, is a systematic attempt to collect information from countries on existing psychiatric training and education. The themes covered include: presence of psychiatric training programmes and their infrastructure, training curricula and teaching methods, evaluation of training, super-specialization and bilateral arrangement, licensing and roles of national institutions along with a case study comparing two countries.

The primary purposes of this report are to provide an overview of the current situation on psychiatric education both globally and at country level and to stimulate health and medical education departments of countries to the enormous need for developing plans to establish or reform psychiatric training in their countries.

"The Psychiatric Education and Training Atlas" is the result of a collaboration between the World Health Organization and the World Psychiatric Association.

To order a copy online (Price: 18 US dollars):
<http://www.who.int/bookorders>
E-mail: bookorders@who.int

XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9-11 February 2006

Digital Inequality and New Spaces of Informal Education for Young People International Conference, Bielefeld (Germany)

The main focus of the conference is the question: "What implications does unequal internet use according to social inequalities have in terms of education and participation in society and which challenges are politics, science and practical work facing in this context?"

For further information and registration: Dr. Nadia Kutscher, Tel +49 (0)521 106 3297, Fax +49 (0)521 106 8047, E-mail: kib.conference@uni-bielefeld.de
Conference Website: www.kib-bielefeld.de/tagung/engl/

NEW!! 22-24 February 2006

Global Patients Congress, Barcelona (Spain)

The Global Patients Congress will bring together patients organizations across the world along with other high level stakeholders. It is open exclusively to patient organizations who are IAPO (International Alliance of Patients Organizations) members.

The theme of this year's congress is "Together we can...", reflecting the strong feeling at the inaugural Congress in February 2005 that together we can more effectively work for patients worldwide.

This year's programme includes:

- high quality training in two broad areas: "Advocacy & Communication", and "Maximizing your Resources" (led by professional trainers and experienced staff from IAPO members and partner organization);
- high level multidisciplinary panel presentations and roundtable discussions to explore key issues on this year's policy focus on Patient safety;
- new ways to tackle the challenges you face to implementing patient-centred healthcare in your country or disease area as part of global community;
- networking training to maximize the benefit of exchange of skills, knowledge and expertise embodied within IAPO's membership.

Details of the full Congress Programme can be found at <http://www.patientsorganizations.org/congress>

23-25 February 2006

Catalan Congress on Mental Health: "Needs and responses in mental health: the construction of treatment", Barcelona (Spain)

The Congress will promote the value of the human being and the integrity of the person who is assisted. The therapeutic practice is not a professionals' exclusive property, it must be a multidisciplinary cooperation between carers and patients.

Info: <http://www.fccsm.net/3ccsm.html>

2-3 March 2006

2nd International Conference on Prison Healthcare, "Principles and Practice to meet current needs", London (UK)

This conference, organised by MA Healthcare Limited, is coming at a time when governments worldwide are becoming increasingly aware of the need to address the

health of prisoners, both from the point of view of human rights, and also of the impact of the health of prisoners on the health of the public.

The aims of the conference are:

- to provide an opportunity for those engaged in prison health care to meet together and learn from their mutual experiences;
- to examine reform processes taking place across the world;
- to examine some of the more prevalent health problems encountered in prison populations and their management;
- to examine the problem of maintaining high ethical standards within the prison setting, particularly equivalence of care.

Contact: conferences@markallengroup.com, Tel +44 20 7738 5454

For further information: MA Healthcare website, www.mahealthcareevents.co.uk

NEW!! 3 March 2006

EASPD Conference, "Together against abuse", Brussels (Belgium)

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) is organising the final conference of the project "Safeguarding people with learning disabilities against sexual abuse - with particular reference to the experiences and insights of the families", supported by the Daphne programme of the European Commission, DG Justice and Home Affairs. The conference will be held in Brussels on 3rd March 2006.

The conference will share the findings from partners in Denmark, Germany, Hungary and UK from their work with families, professionals and policy makers about how to increase awareness and prevent sexual abuse of persons with learning disabilities.

Deadline for registration is 17th February 2006.

For further information, contact person: Dorina.luga@easpd.be, or EASPD website, <http://www.easpd.org/>

13-18 March 2006

7th International health film festival (Liège, Belgium)

The main objective of **Imagé Santé** - the International Health Film Festival of Liège is to promote health education and information through any audiovisual means and to present current developments in the field of new media, medical informatics (CD-ROM, Internet, Telemedicine and imagery in general).

Info: www.imagesante.org

NEW!! 29-31 March 2006

World Health Care Congress-Europe, Chantilly (France)

Following the remarkable success of the first annual World Health Care Congress -Europe, the event reconvenes in 2006 over 400 health care leaders from key organisations in Europe including providers, payers, suppliers, customers, policy-makers and health officials.

The Congress will be held on 30-31 March 2006 at Château Les Fontaines in Chantilly (near Paris), France with a welcoming dinner and special evening session dedicated to Chronic Disease Management on Wednesday 29th March 2006.

A two-day networking opportunity, the event features visionary keynote addresses, controversial debates, dynamic panel discussions, case studies, tutorials and informal roundtable discussions.

Four summits (Chronic Disease and Long-Term Condition Management, Patient Safety, Electronic Health Records and IT Innovation, Performance Improvement) give attendees a unique opportunity to discuss pertinent issues in depth and to determine actionable plans with their colleagues.

To register or for more information: Tel 00 800 2664 7377 (from France, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Spain), +1 781 939 2649 (from all other countries), Fax +1 781 939 2495, E-mail wcreg@worldcongress.com

For further information: the World Health Care Congress 2006 website, www.worldcongress.com/europe

10-13 May 2006

XXIII Congress of the Spanish Association of Neuropsychiatry, "Abriendo claros, construyendo compromisos" (Bilbao, Spain)

This triennial congress will gather several multidisciplinary groups, in order to make them work on three papers related to:

- psychopathology of the psychotic symptoms
- continuity of mental health care
- consequences of the psychiatric reform in Spain.

The aim is to cover a broad range of current academic and scientific contents, as well as various orientations and professional interests.

Since the scientific committee of the congress has not finalized the program, people interested in presenting an activity (debate, conference...) can fulfil an online reply form.

Info: <http://www.ome-aen.org/23CongresoAEN/>

24-26 May 2006

14th International Conference on HPH, "Integrating health promotion, prevention, treatment and care for chronic diseases across the health system", Palanga (Lithuania)

The conference will be hosted by the Lithuanian Network of Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH).

The main topics of the conference will be:

1. the need for action on chronic diseases
2. integrating treatment, care, prevention and health promotion for chronic diseases within hospital services in order to achieve an optimum outcome
3. integrating health care interventions on chronic diseases across levels of services
4. integrating action on wider determinants of chronic diseases across settings.

Contact person: Gabriele Bocek, hph.soc-gruwi@univie.ac.at, Tel +43 1 4277 48282

NEW!! 28 May-2 June 2006-01-25

4th International Congress of the French-speaking world on the prevention of suicide, Montreal (Canada)

This congress, mainly organised by the Canadian Association for the Prevention of suicide (AQSP), will be held under the theme "Suicide and Trauma: new prospectives".

Contributors in the field of suicide prevention should create privileged work alliances with other specialists from various disciplines, particularly these working in psycho-traumas.

The morning plenary sessions will be reserved to speakers coming from different disciplines, such as philosophy, psychology, anthropology... During the afternoons parallel sessions with suicide and trauma specialists, researchers on that area, contributors and clinicians will take the floor.

For further information, in particular concerning the registration's methods: congress' website, <http://www.aqps.info/>

15-17 June 2006

5th Nordic Health Promotion Research Conference (Esbjerg, Denmark)

Health promotion researchers, health economists, legal and political analysts, health impact assessors and others with a research interest in health and institutional change are invited to come to Denmark to exchange and share their insights on the conference theme.

Conference office e-mail: 5NHPRC@health.sdu.dk

For further information on the conference: <http://www.5nhprc.sdu.dk/>

19-21 June 2006

14th European Social Services Conference in Vienna (Austria)

The overall theme of the conference, prepared by the European Social Network, will be "Young and Old in a Changing Europe: the Demographic Challenge to Social Care and Health".

Workshops will be an important part of the meeting, which will emphasize practical, "hands-on" work and research projects that will be of direct interest to others employed in delivering services.

Contact person: Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 (0)1273 549817, Fax +44 (0)1273 549317, e-mail sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com

21-25 June 2006

6th CIVICUS World Assembly – "Acting Together for a just World" (Glasgow, Scotland)

Building on and continuing the success of past CIVICUS World Assembly events, the overall theme for the CIVICUS World Assembly 2006 is "Acting Together for a Just World". This overall theme will be explored through 4 sub-themes: Civic Justice; Political Justice; Economic justice; Social Justice.

All enquiries to civicassembly@scvo.org.uk

More information on CIVICUS website: www.civicus.org

NEW!! 8 September 2006

1st International Suicide Postvention Seminar, Portoroz (Slovenia)

This seminar that will be held as a one-day pre-event of the 11th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, 9-12 September.

It will bring together survivors, caregivers and researchers, and will offer a platform for dialogue. Participants will have the opportunity to meet people with similar interests.

The program will offer a state of the art review of the postvention field, including research, practice, and plans for future developments.

Selected experts will introduce specific topics, followed by subgroup discussions, thus allowing participants to fully engage in the discussion and to bring in their expertise and experiences.

A registration form is available on www.esssb11-slo.org and can be emailed to organising@esssb11-slo.org

For further information: seminar's website, www.esssb11-slo.org

18-24 September 2006

«Voile en tête 2006», between Marseille, La Ciotat, Les îles du Frioul, Martigues, Les Calanques... (France)

"Voile en tête" is a water sporting event of European standing, organised under the aegis of "Sport en tête", the Union of Mental Health Sport group.

If interested, application forms are now available.

For more information: http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06_gb.html

11-13 October 2006

Fourth World Conference on the promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, "Developing Resilience and Strength across the Life Span", Oslo (Norway)

The aim of this conference is to support professionals, scientists, advocates, user organisations and policy makers worldwide, in their collective effort to promote mental health and to prevent mental disorders in their communities and countries. Effective promotion and prevention in mental health requires the bringing together of good science, good policy, good practice and learning experience.

The conference is designed to incorporate contributions from a wide series of disciplines, cultures and backgrounds. Its success depends upon multi-dimensional presentation and debate.

Potential presenters at the conference are invited to submit abstracts of their proposed papers for consideration by the Program Committee. The length should be no more than 400 words and the abstracts must arrive no later than the 31st March 2006.

For more information: <http://www.worldconference2006.no/>

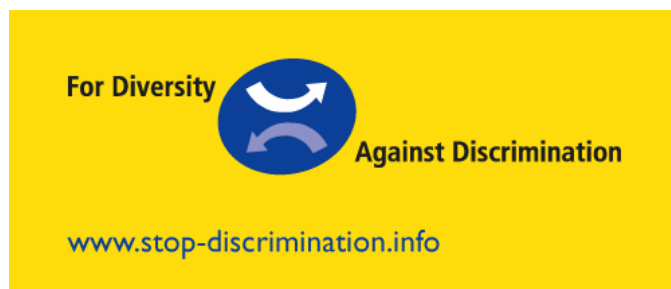
22-25 October 2006

ISQua's 23rd International Conference, "Improving Healthcare: The Challenge of Continuous Change" (London, UK)

With the theme of "Improving Healthcare: the Challenge of Continuous Change", this multi-disciplinary quality healthcare program will be of value to all health policy makers, planners, professionals, providers, patients and their representatives.

Enquiries only by e-mail: isqua@isqua.org , Tel +61 3 9417 6971, Fax +61 3 9417 6851

For further information: ISQua's website: www.isqua.org



Mental Health Europe is committed to:

the promotion of mental health and prevention of
mental distress
protecting the rights of people with mental health
problems
removing stigma and discrimination
ensuring a fair share of resources for mental health

Do you share our vision? Then join MHE now and you
will strengthen the voice for mental health in Europe.

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Completed form to be returned to: Mental Health Europe Santé Mentale Europe Boulevard Clovis 7, B – 1000 Brussels Fax: +32-2-280 16 04 E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org
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