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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

MHE Conference 2007, "No health without mental health: from slogan to reality", Vienna (Austria), 31 May-2 June 2007

The MHE conference 2007 will focus on the outcomes of the consultation process of the European Commission's Green Paper "Improving the Mental Health of the Population" and the upcoming strategy for the next years.

The focus of the conference will be on the connection and the coherence between European policies and the impact they have on the mental health of the population.

Lectures, round-table discussions and workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also exchanging best practices.

Participants coming from all European countries will be encouraged to discuss the possibilities of implementing strategies on mental health throughout the whole life-span and to initiate cooperation between the different organisations and institutions working on mental health issues at the national and European level.

The very nice social programme will include a reception at the Vienna Town Hall, an "Art Brut"-Exhibition, etc. Additionally, MHE's annual General Assembly will take place at the end of the conference.

You can also contribute by sending us your ideas for workshops you would be interested in.

The conference will be organised by the Austrian Federation of Mental Health - Pro Mente Austria - which is a national umbrella organisation and member of MHE-SME.

For further information please contact: office@promente-wien.at or info@mhe-sme.org

MHE seminar "The EC Green Paper on Mental Health: Time for Action"

This seminar is organised by MHE on Friday 12 May 2006 (14.00-18.00) in the Conference Centre Amazone, rue du Méridien 10-14, 1210 Brussels.

The seminar aims in the first place to take stock of and discuss the various reactions that Mental Health Europe received from its member organisations and other stakeholders. Mental Health Europe would like the participants to share its belief in the importance of promoting and maintaining good mental health and well being, and to stress the importance of a Public Health approach to positive mental health for populations in the Member States of the European Union.

The seminar second objective is to foster the debate around involuntary treatment in the community. The British government is, indeed, currently examining some controversial proposed amendments to the UK's 1983 Mental Health Act which include the introduction of "supervised treatment in the community". This issue has also been or is being discussed in other EU countries, and met fierce opposition as it can be seen as a violation of the patient's privacy. In addition, evidence from other countries elsewhere will be taken into consideration.

To finish the seminar will provide the participants a general overview of the work and activities carried out by the European Coalition for Community Living, the Europe-wide initiative working towards the social

inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting the provision of comprehensive, quality community-based services as an alternative to institutionalisation.

This seminar is open to anyone interested in the mental health of all citizens.

For more information and registration: info@mhe-sme.org - Tel +32 2 280 04 68

MHE General Assembly

The annual General Assembly will take place on Saturday 13 May 2006 (9.30 - 13.00), also in the Conference Centre Amazone in Brussels. The General Assembly is of course in the first place organised for MHE's members but other interested persons are kindly invited as observers.

For more information and registration: info@mhe-sme.org - Tel +32 2 280 04 68

2nd Partners Meeting of the EU Project "Good Practices for Combating Social exclusion of people with mental health problems", Paris (France), 10-11 March 2006

At the beginning of the meeting Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator gave a presentation on the Social Inclusion Process in the EU. The key message was that the current European Social Inclusion Process based on the Open Method of Coordination and the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (which will be submitted next time in September, for the period 2006-2007) provide an important opportunity for mental health organisations to get their voice heard. It is therefore crucial for individual NGOs to raise political awareness of social exclusion of people with mental health problems and to lobby national governments to include mental health organisations in the preparation of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion on those areas that directly affect people with mental health problems.

Next, the project partners presented their analysis of the situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems in their countries. A common point in all reports was the lack of transparent communication, exchange of information and well coordinated cooperation between the different stakeholders in all the partner countries, especially between the users (and their families and carers) and NGOs on the one hand and governmental players on the other hand.

The project partners moreover presented the good practices they had identified so far in their countries. As a result of the presentations several criteria were agreed that shall guide the search for good practices:

- 1) the practices should exist at least for 1 year;
- 2) they should be user-led or provide a high level of user involvement;
- 3) they should bring together stakeholders that are active in the area of care or mental health care with those active in other areas such as education/training, employment, housing etc.;
- 4) the practices should be local initiatives and not large-scale national programmes.

Once the good practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems are identified in each partner country and in each of the areas relevant to the project, they will be evaluated in focus groups. The focus groups will include the users and family members, and they will be held between April-June 2006. Moreover, the identified good practices will be

evaluated during a joint meeting with the European Advisory Committee, which will take place on 12 May 2006 in Brussels.

For more information: Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

EMIP website

The EMIP (*Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries*) website is finally up and running!

Visit the website at <http://www.emip.org/index>

MHE Newsletter now on line

Dear Readers,

We are now pleased to inform you that an online edition of our newsletter is now available at:

http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publication_1.htm
(English version)

http://www.mhe-sme.org/fr/publication_1.htm
(French version)

MHE representation at various meetings

On 29-30 March 2006 Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, and Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, represented MHE at the Conference "Learning together – Lessons drawn from the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion" which took place in Brussels (Belgium). (see p.6-7)

On 10-12 April 2006 Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, participated in a training seminar on mental health promotion in Barcelona (Spain).

On 27 April 2006 Mary Van Dievel, Director, Sogol Noorani and Mari Fresu had a meeting in MHE premises with Marcus Roberts and David Stone, two representatives of MIND, the National Mental Health Association for England and Wales.

II. CALL TO OUR MEMBERS

Call for information on European programmes linking physical activity to mental illness recovery

MHE would like to call its member organisations to help with the request of Ms Myriam Hamel, a fourth year student on Sport Science and Health in Dublin City University (Ireland). She is currently devising a physical activity intervention for individuals suffering from schizophrenia, depression and bipolar affective disorder.

The project is a partnership between the Health Service Executive in North County Dublin (DCU) and the National Learning Network, which is a group who provides support and training to individuals in the early stages of recovery from mental illnesses.

It is proposed that the programme will run for 6 months, with one physical activity session per week linked to a stress management and personal development module, which is already in place.

Ms Hamel is looking for information on programmes of this sort currently running in Europe, which she might

be able to gain some advice from on models of best practice.

Many thanks in advance for your collaboration!

Please send your information at:

myriam.hamel2@mail.dcu.ie

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

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Disability Forum

EDF Board meeting, Vienna (Austria), 25-26 February 2006

Vienna hosted the bi-annual Board meeting of the European Disability Forum (EDF) on 25 and 26 February 2006.

During the opening session, key EU and national decision-makers supported the EDF campaign for a proper implementation of the European Employment Directive, as well as for further non-discrimination legislation in Europe.

"The European Union needs to be serious when it comes to the implementation of existing legislation" said Stefan Olsson, Head of the Non-discrimination Unit of the European Commission. "If we don't guarantee a proper implementation of the European Directive for Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation, how can we be credible when trying to develop new legislation in the years to come?", he stressed.

Addressing EDF Board assembly composed of 29 countries' disability movement leaders and representatives of disability specific European Non Governmental Organisations, the Austrian Minister for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, Ursula Haubner, highlighted the need to protect disabled people from discrimination not only in employment, but also in all fields of life. "The European values of integration and solidarity should be applied on daily basis. This will highly contribute to reinforce citizens' trust in the EU integration process and institutions", said the Austrian Minister. Ms Haubner also highlighted the importance of mainstreaming disability at all policy levels and the need for a coherent approach in all sectors.

The President of the European Disability Forum, Yannis Vardakastanis, welcomed the presence of the Austrian Minister and high EU representatives at this important Board session. "Disabled people are the first discriminated in all areas of life. Therefore, the United Nations Convention on the Human Rights of disabled people, together with complementary EU legislation, is vital. We need support at all levels, not only for people with disabilities, but simply to improve significantly the European and national political systems."

Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, participated in this meeting.

For more information: EDF Secretariat, info@edf-feph.org, Tel +32-2-282.4603, or visit EDF website, www.edf-feph.org

Source: European disability Forum

Mental Disability Rights International

Abusive Practice of "unmodified" electroshock treatment abolished at main psychiatric facility of Turkey

Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) announced in March 2006 that the use of electroconvulsive or "shock" treatment (ECT) without the use of anesthesia and muscle relaxants (known as unmodified ECT) has been abolished at Bakirköy, one of Turkey's largest psychiatric hospital, located in Istanbul.

MDRI's report, *"Behind Closed Doors: Human Rights Abuses in the Psychiatric Facilities, Orphanages and Rehabilitation Centers of Turkey"*, documented the use of unmodified ECT on both adults and children at the state-run Bakirköy. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture called on Turkey to terminate the practice in 1997. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also called for a worldwide ban. Despite this, unmodified ECT was used until the release of *Behind Closed Doors*, which garnered international media attention in Turkey as the country began its accession talks with the European Union (EU). MDRI's findings were cited as a concern in the November 2005 EU Commission's report on human rights in Turkey.

While praising Turkey for this development, MDRI has expressed concerns. In a letter transmitted to the Turkish Ministry of Health, MDRI Executive Director Eric Rosenthal stated that, to MDRI's knowledge, *"there remains no legal ban on unmodified ECT in Turkey. (MDRI) calls on the government to adopt an enforceable law to prevent such abuse in the future"*. MDRI also expressed concerns about the use of unmodified ECT in other parts of Turkey and called for a public report on the practice.

MDRI's report *"Behind Closed Doors"* is available in English and Turkish at www.mdri.org

Social Platform

Social Platform welcomed the EC revised proposal for the Services Directive

In a press release issued in April 2006, the Social Platform welcomed the European Commission's (EC) revised proposal for the Services Directive published on 4 April 2006, which excludes social services.

The broad exclusion of social services is crucial to ensure that social services users are not put at risk by a directive not suited to the nature of social services sector, stressed the press release.

Meanwhile, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) had a first opportunity to react to the Commission's revised proposal in Strasbourg, when Commissioners Charlie McCreevy (DG Internal Market and Services) and Vladimir Špidla (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) outlined their new draft to the House. There was widespread agreement that the Commission had closely followed the position adopted by Parliament at its first reading vote in February. The next stage of the process is for Member States to come to a common position in the Council.

For more information: the Social Platform website, <http://www.socialplatform.org>

Source: Social Platform

IV. UNITED NATIONS

Online petition urging national political leaders to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The United Nations (UN) is currently negotiating a treaty to ensure that human rights standards are extended to people with disabilities. The creation of this historic treaty, known as the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, would be a crucial step towards protecting the human rights of all persons and would bring international attention and legitimacy to the disability rights movement.

Now is a critical time to act in support of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities because UN Member States will decide over the next few months whether or not to sign and ratify the Convention.

In order to help promote the adoption of the Convention, the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) has launched *"ConventionYES!"* as a project of IDEAnet's disability rights community. The ConventionYES! webpages are designed to bring people together to raise popular and governmental support for the Convention and to provide information, resources and communication and advocacy tools through which to support the adoption of the Convention.

CIR invites you to take a moment to add your name to the online petition. The goal is to demonstrate mass support for the Convention by collecting 10,000 signatures by August 2006.

For more information and to sign the online petition: the IDEAnet website,

<http://www.conventionyes.org/content.cfm?id=585C76&iu=5B5D7571544D>

Creation of the UN Human Rights Council

On 15 March 2006 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the Human Rights Council.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council is an essential element in further strengthening the UN human rights machinery and represents an important step in the UN reform process. According to Louise Arbour, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, it represents *"a historic opportunity to improve the protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms of people around the world"*.

Heads of State and Governments resolved last year to create a Human Rights Council as part of the reform process of the United Nations, to replace the former Commission on Human Rights. In line with the United Nations Charter, leaders considered that human rights form one of the fundamental pillars of the United Nations system, together with security and development. To this end they decided to double the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and started negotiations to put in place a reinvigorated human rights body.

The resolution contains several elements which will help to improve the credibility and effectiveness of the UN human rights system.

Mrs. Arbour said the Council was more than a *"new and improved"* Commission on Human Rights, the

body it is replacing. She recalled that in addition to retaining some of the best elements of the Commission, such as the system of independent investigators and the broad participation of civil society, the new body boasted some significant features, including that candidates for membership would have to make commitments on human rights; elected members would be first in line for scrutiny under a universal periodic review of their human rights records; and members that committed gross and systematic violations of human rights could be suspended. Members would also commit to cooperate with the Council and its various mechanisms.

However, Mrs Arbour underlined that *"Fulfilling the promise of the Council will require a change of culture as much as institutional transformation. Countries must demonstrate the political will to put the defense of human rights above narrow interests. Human rights are neither a weapon nor a shield. They are the birthright of all people everywhere"*.

For more information: the United Nations website, <http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/0/335B04BC437FC02FC1257133002DC229?opendocument>

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Second meeting of the WHO Europe NGO Empowerment Network

The meeting was held in Leuven (Belgium) on 2 March 2006, and was hosted by the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI). Matt Muijen, Regional Advisor-Mental Health Programme-WHO EURO welcomed all participants and stressed the importance of this Network for the World Health Organization (WHO) because it is the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that are "out there", that know what is happening at the grass-root level. To establish a closer collaboration with NGOs is one of the core activities of WHO. MHE is a member of this Network, together with EUFAMI, ENUSP, MDAC, Mental Health Foundation, Open Society Mental Health Initiative, Global Initiative on Psychiatry and Hamlet Trust.

Since the first meeting of the Network the Network members have sent information on their organisations and projects for the mapping exercise. Moreover, a website has been set up, which will function as an open forum for all Network members: for exchange of information; with background information on the Helsinki Declaration; with a database that holds information on the Network member's organisation and projects; also as a platform for working with WHO lead collaboration centres. In the initial 6 months the website will be accessible for the Network members only, but might later on be opened to the public.

Regarding the WHO NGO Empowerment Network work plan suggestions for activities that can be carried out by the Network were:

- to discuss the issue of de-institutionalisation in the form of a discussion paper prepared together with the Open Society Institute;
- to develop criteria for de-institutionalisation;
- to develop tools for users that can be used to lobby national governments;
- to do something in the area of training;

- in the area of capacity-building, to collect stories/good practices and make them available.

It was decided to continue working on the idea of the bench marking study *"What were the aims and objectives agreed to in the Helsinki Declaration and what have we achieved so far?"*, as well as a discussion paper on *"What do users/carers expect from mental health services? And what follows out of this for the empowerment process?"*.

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, and Sogol Noorani, MHE Project Coordinator, attended this meeting.

For more information: the MHE Secretariat, info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

School Health Promotion

A new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Evidence Network shows that health promotion in schools can improve children's health and well-being.

The Health Evidence Network's (HEN) synthesis aimed to provide answers to the following questions: *"What is the evidence on school health promotion in improving health or preventing disease and, specifically, what is the effectiveness of the health promoting schools approach?"*.

It identified studies that covered mental health, aggressive behaviour, healthy eating, physical activity, substance use and misuse, or driver education. However, no studies evaluated the cost-effectiveness of the programmes or interventions.

The report concludes that sound evidence of school health promotion as improving health or preventing disease exist and their effectiveness has also been reviewed and assessed. Most notably, some of the most effective programmes are those that promote mental health, healthy eating and physical activity.

On the contrary, the synthesis confirmed that programmes on preventing substance use are among the least effective of school health promotion programmes.

Among the factors that contributed to efficiency, HEN identifies long term multifactorial interventions (e.g. programmes that involve teaching health knowledge in the classroom, as well as changing the physical environment of schools, enhancing the role of parents, personal skills development, etc) as particularly effective.

However, the majority of the studies included in the synthesis were carried out in the United States and therefore the relevance to European patterns must be considered.

For more information: WHO Health Evidence Network website,

http://www.euro.who.int/HEN/Syntheses/healthpromotion_schools/20060224_7

Source: EPHA – European Public Health Alliance

VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Rejection of the EC's proposal to merge health and consumer protection programmes

On 6 April 2005 the Commission adopted a health and consumer protection strategy and a proposal for creating the Community Programme for Health and Consumer Protection 2007-2013.

This was the first time that a merger of these (previously separate) two programmes has been proposed. The aim of the Commission was to improve the existing synergies in these two areas to make the distribution of funds more efficient and to simplify administration.

However, the European Parliament (EP), while in favour of pooling administrative resources, decided that the two areas, which come under different legal bases in which the European Union has different powers, should be split into two separate programmes. Although healthcare services are run entirely by the individual Member States, the European Union has a complementary role in health issues and the Parliament wants the EU to play this role to the fullest.

In March 2006 the EP adopted in plenary session a legislative report allocating € 1,500 million over seven years to the new community Action Programme on Health.

Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou, speaking in plenary, welcomed many of the amendments introduced by Parliament but cautioned Members of Parliament (MEPs) that the budget for the programme is likely to face major cuts following an agreement on the 2007-2013 financial perspectives.

The EP sees health as an extremely important area, one where the public has much to gain from an ambitious European policy, even if the organisation of healthcare and the funding thereof lies in the hands of the individual Member States. The new EU programme is designed to protect the public against threats to health, to make national healthcare systems more effective and to encourage healthy lifestyles.

MEPs also believe that a higher standard of health protection should be a goal of all EU policies. They wish to reduce inequality between and within Member States by guaranteeing access to healthcare for all according to comparable standards and without discrimination, and they wish to facilitate patient mobility.

It is now up to the Council of Ministers to decide its position on the amendments adopted by MEPs on this first reading.

For more information: the European Parliament website,

http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_pae/066-6140-075-03-11-911-20060310IPR06061-16-03-2006-2006-true/default_en.htm

EP's call on the Council to open more debate to the public

In the beginning of April 2006, the European Parliament (EP) called on the Council to open more of its debates to the public. Parliament's vote followed the European Ombudsman's special report, submitted in October 2005, which called on the Council to review its refusal to meet publicly whenever it is acting in its legislative capacity.

In December 2005, the Council agreed to open proceedings under the co-decision procedure (whereby the EP adopts legislation jointly with the Council) to the public. *"However, it seems the Council still intends to keep some legislative debates secret. I hope that the political pressure from Parliament will encourage the Council to ensure full transparency"*, the Ombudsman said.

For more information: the Ombudsman's full special report, <http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/special/en/default.htm>

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EC Annual Policy strategy for 2007

On 14 March 2006 the European Commission adopted its Annual Policy Strategy for 2007 *"Boosting trust through action"*.

This is part of the Commission's strategic planning and programming cycle. Each year the Commission's annual work programme translates the annual policy strategy into policy objectives and an operational programme of decisions to be adopted by the Commission. It sets out major political priorities and identifies legislative initiatives, executive and other acts that the Commission intends to adopt for the realisation of these priorities, and forms the basis for the dialogue with the Council and the European Parliament.

The annual Policy Strategy for 2007 centres around prosperity, solidarity, security and freedom, Europe as a world partner and European governance and better regulation in action. In particular, a key action in social solidarity will be the European Strategy on Information and Communication Technologies to promote social inclusion and independent living in an ageing society.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

To download the Annual Policy Strategy for 2007:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0122en01.pdf

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Conference "Learning Together – Lessons drawn from the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion", Brussels (Belgium), 29-30 March 2006

The aim of the conference was to make visible what has been achieved under the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion (2002-2006) and to learn lessons from this for the future.

Nikolaus Van Der Pas, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, welcomed the participants by explaining 4 reasons for the good timing of the conference:

- 1) politically, the Lisbon Strategy addressing poverty and social exclusion is being addressed at the highest EU level;
- 2) following the new Streamlined Strategy, Member States are currently in preparation of the next round of National Action Plans (NAPs)-Inclusion;
- 3) 2006 is the final year of the Community Action Programme to combat Social Exclusion; we must therefore learn from each other's experiences regarding this programme;
- 4) the European Union is currently in the process of agreeing or planning the new PROGRESS programme for the years 2007-2013.

Kari Välikmäki, Representative of the future Finnish EU Presidency, which is organising the 5th Round Table on

Poverty and Social Exclusion in Tampere, stressed the fact that with regard to the issue of poverty and social exclusion it is necessary to evaluate the effect of social cohesion strategies on other policies, such as economic and employment policies. According to him, the Finnish Presidency will adopt a holistic approach to the issue of poverty and social exclusion in order to achieve more equity.

Several speakers presented key lessons that can be drawn from the Community Action Programme from their specific point.

The conference then presented three working sessions, each divided in four parallel workshops. The results of the workshops all confirmed that there were many contributions made by the Community Action Programme, but that there are also a lot of lessons to be learned for the future PROGRESS programme, including: mutual learning; stronger focus on policy; stronger focus on results; strategy driven; follow-up synergy vs. targeted approach (the old social exclusion strategy was following a targeted approach; the new programme should concentrate on synergies and mainstreaming of social exclusion, economy, health, pensions etc.).

The conference ended on the note that the PROGRESS programme does not stand alone, but alongside the NAPs process and the structural funds, all having social exclusion as the one priority.

Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, and Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, represented MHE at the conference.

For more information: MHE Secretariat, info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

European Commission's 2006 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion

A joint analysis and assessment of the National Action Plans submitted by the Member States is made by the European Commission and the Council in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC). The annual Joint Reports assess progress made in the implementation of the OMC, set key priorities and identify good practice and innovative approaches of common interest to the Member States.

Two Joint Reports on Social Inclusion have been adopted, in 2002 and 2004, drawing respectively upon the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion of 2001-2003 and 2003-2005.

In 2005, in order to streamline the OMC process, an annual Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion started to be published.

The 2006 report is based on plans and policy guidelines submitted by the Member States in 2005 on social inclusion, pensions and healthcare.

To feed in the preparation of this overarching report, the Commission services publish separate and more in-depth reports focusing on the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion or on the Joint Inclusion Memoranda (JIMs).

To download the new 2006 joint Report: the European Commission website,
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/jrep_en.htm

Latest issue of the news review of the Action Programme to combat discrimination

The latest issue of "Equal Rights in Practice" (Spring 2006) – the news review of the Action Programme to combat discrimination – is now available. The Spring 2006 edition features an interview with the new head of the European Commission's anti-discrimination unit on the European Year of Equal Opportunities 2007.

It also includes a profile of the high-level group set up to advise the European Commission on the social inclusion of ethnic minorities, and a round-up of news from the "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" information campaign.

This issue's special focus is on workplace diversity, highlighting some examples of good practices by employers. The guest editorial is provided by Philippe de Buck, Secretary General of UNICE – the European employers' federation.

The newsletter can be downloaded in English, French and German.

To download the newsletter:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/nl5_06_en.pdf

EUROPA Employment Social Website User Survey

The thematic website "Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities" is one of the largest thematic EUROPA websites, covering very broad policy areas such as labour law, gender equality, social dialogue or the European Social Fund. In view of future improvements of the website, the European Commission invite you to tell them what your opinion is on the website as a whole, not focussing on any Employment Social subwebsite in particular.

To access the user survey:

<http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=websurvey&lang=en>

DG Health and Consumer Protection

Call for Proposals 2006: Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health (2003-2008)

The Commission has launched the Call for Proposals 2006 to implement the priority actions defined in the Work Plan 2006 of the Public Health Programme (2003-2008).

The Commission is seeking proposals from bodies active in the field of public health to implement the priority actions defined in Decision 1786/2002/EC and the 2006 Work Plan.

In addition to the 25 Member States of the European Union, the call is also open to participation by Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and by the EFTA-EEA (European Free Trade Association-European Economic Area) countries within the context of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). Organisations from any of these countries can submit a project as the main partner, or act as an associated partner in any project.

The deadline for submitting applications is **19 May 2006**.

For more information on the call for proposals and on the application procedure: the European Commission website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/ho_wtoapply/call_for_propal_en.htm#1

Background documents on the Green Paper on Mental Health Second thematic meetings

The second thematic meetings held in the framework of the consultation on the Green Paper on Mental Health took place in Vienna, during 16-17 March 2006, focusing on "Social inclusion and fundamental rights in mental health".

The agenda and the working papers are now available on DG Sanco website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/ev_20060316_en.htm

Evaluation of the Open Health Forum

The second Open Health Forum for health stakeholders was organised by the European Commission together with health non governmental organisations on 7 and 8 November 2005 in Brussels (Belgium). The conference attracted some 370 participants from regional, national and European organisations as well as from the European Institutions. They represented the main partners for health in Europe, including policy makers, industries, patients, health professionals or academia. An online evaluation form was sent to participants of the conference.

The results are now available on the Commission's website. They give indications of what was done well and what areas for improvement there are for the next Open Health Forum.

To access the evaluation report:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/health_forum/open_2005/ev_20051107_eval_en.pdf

VIII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

2006 Spring Summit Conclusions

The 2006 Spring Summit (23-24 March 2006) resulted in the recognition, by European Union leaders, of the central role for social cohesion in the European Union's objectives.

In particular, the Heads of State and Government agreed on new objectives and working methods to enhance social cohesion in the framework of the Strategy for Growth and Jobs adopted in 2005 for the period 2005-210.

The European Council has instructed the Commission and Council to include, in the Joint Report they present to each Spring European Council, information on progress made in the area of social protection and social inclusion. It was also decided to link action on social inclusion and social protection with the reforms on jobs and growth and to introduce annual reporting on social protection and social inclusion. This will enable citizens to assess better what the EU is doing to respond to their most pressing concerns. It is indeed important "to involve citizens more in the process in order to increase the understanding of how timely and properly implemented reforms will contribute to greater and better shared prosperity".

Besides, the Council reaffirmed that steps have to be taken to make a decisive impact on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion by 2010, and that it will focus on youth unemployment.

The Gender Pact was adopted.

To access the Conclusions of the Spring European Council 2006:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/89013.pdf

Conference on "Social Inclusion and Fundamental Rights in Mental Health", Vienna (Austria)

A two-day European Union (EU) expert conference on "Social Inclusion and Fundamental Rights in Mental Health" took place in Vienna on 16-17 March 2006. Experts and representatives of interest groups from the EU Member States and other countries joined representatives of international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) in discussing how to reduce the still-widespread stigmatisation and discrimination of persons with mental disorders. A further topic was how human rights can be guaranteed and social integration supported.

"At present mental illness afflicts every fourth adult in the European Union", Health Minister Maria Rauch-Kallat reported when opening the conference organised by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the EU Presidency. "Especially noteworthy in this regard is the particular risk to women, who suffer from depression two to three times as frequently as men. At least one out of five women experiences a clinically defined depression during her lifetime." For this reason it is important to improve further the early detection and gender-related treatment of mental disorders. "The issue at hand is how mental illness can be better combated in the EU and how we can more effectively promote mental well-being", stated Ms Rauch-Kallat.

The point of departure for the conference is the Green Paper on Mental Health adopted by the European Commission in October 2005 and bearing the title: "Improving the Mental Health of the Population: Towards a Strategy on Mental Health for the European Union".

The Viennese conference is an important element of this consultation process. The goal was to initiate the drafting of a strategy proposal (White Paper on Mental Health) by the European Commission by the end of 2006.

The European Commission's Green Paper and the WHO Action Plan for Mental Health endorsed by the Health Ministers of all European countries in January 2005 document the growing acknowledgement of the importance of mental health for the overall health of the population.

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

IX. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Pan-European campaign to combat domestic violence

The Council of Europe will launch by the end of 2006 a pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) will organise the parliamentary dimension of this campaign under the title "Parliaments united combating domestic violence against women".

A preparatory meeting to discuss the modalities of the campaign, organised by the PACE's sub-committee on violence against women, took place in Stockholm on 30 March 2006.

The campaign seeks to denounce domestic violence as a human rights violation, as well as elicit public debate on the issue in Europe. It also seeks to encourage national parliaments to become actively involved in combating domestic violence through the implementation of this pan-European campaign.

For more information: the Council of Europe website, www.coe.int/press

Council of Europe's Disability Action Plan 2006-2015

On 7 April 2006, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation addressed to all 46 member states on the Council of Europe's "Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation in society of people with disabilities: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015".

The Council of Europe Disability Action Plan seeks to translate the aims of the Council of Europe with regard to human rights, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, full citizenship and participation of people with disabilities into a European policy framework on disability for the next decade. It promotes the paradigm shift from a health-related to a social and human rights-based approach to disability: from the patient to the citizen.

The Plan is intended to serve as a roadmap for policy makers, enabling the design, adjustment and implementation of appropriate programmes and innovative strategies. It has a broad scope covering all key areas for people with disabilities, reflected in 15 action lines including participation in political, public and cultural life, education, information and communication, employment, accessibility of the built environment and transport. It also draws attention to the needs of women and children with disabilities and severely disabled people in need of a high level of support.

The Disability Action Plan promotes the essential concept that disabled people and their representatives need to be consulted as stakeholders in decision-making processes which affect their lives. In this respect, the Committee of Ministers clearly recommends that governments co-operate with civil society, involving, in particular, non governmental organisations of people with disabilities.

The Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 will be launched in September 2006 at a European Conference in St. Petersburg (Russia), organised under the aegis of the Russian Federation Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, in co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers under its Norwegian Chairmanship.

To access the full text of the recommendation: the Council of Europe website, <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=986865&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75>

X. VARIOUS

New European Initiative for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development Cooperation

On 8 March 2006, a new and unique European initiative was launched to break the cycle of poverty and disability in developing countries. This action brings

together, for the first time, 12 major organisations of disabled people and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to develop instruments for European Union (EU) Member State Governments and non-state actors to include the disability dimension in their development cooperation instruments. The partners will act to coordinate and pool relevant data on the issue for use by decision makers across the EU.

The Initiative is fully backed by the European Commission, through Directorate General Employment, and by the European Parliament, which adopted a Resolution on Disability and Development (19 January 2006), urging the Commission and Member States to include disability in all future EU geographical and thematic initiatives for development cooperation.

Besides, this action comes at a time when the United Nations (UN) are deciding on how to include a specific Article on International Co-operation in a new UN Convention on Disability Rights.

Only 3-4 % out of the 500 million persons with disabilities in developing countries are included in development cooperation initiatives. The vast majority remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and disability. People with mental health problems are not included at all.

For further information: contact person, Isabelle Wahedova from Light for the World, Tel:+322 275 0085, Email: isabelle.wahedova@light-for-the-world.net (or) wahedova@centrum.cz

Source: European disability Forum

Mad Pride Events for 2006

Plans are under way for several Mad Pride 2006 events in Ireland, the United States of America (USA), Canada, France and even in Africa (Ghana).

Mad Pride celebrates the creativity, strength and resilience of the human spirit. It provides an opportunity to empower psychiatric survivors and raise public consciousness through various activities such as art, theatre, music, poetry, protests, vigils and more. This is the 6th year that MindFreedom, a non-profit human rights group, has helped promote Mad Pride events internationally.

Mad Pride helps to counteract some of the discrimination and prejudice often shown towards people who have experienced mental distress and difference. Mad Pride promotes the economic, social, environmental and cultural integration of users/survivors of psychiatry into the larger society. Observances of Mad Pride are often used to call attention to both past and current human rights violations in the mental health system.

Mad Pride can be celebrated anytime but is most often observed in the month of July, usually on or around July 14 -- Bastille Day. The 14th of July marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille in Paris (France) in 1789. For over the past two centuries, the storming of the Bastille has been a universal symbol of liberation. When the Bastille was stormed, two prisoners with psychiatric labels being detained solely for that reason were freed.

Mad Pride 2005 featured events in four nations including several theatre performances, the showing of a documentary film, mock screenings for "normality",

a musical event, a vigil and a parade, among many other activities.

Nations with Mad Pride events in recent years have included United Kingdom, France, Canada and the USA. To see photos and reports of these and other past Mad Pride events visit Mindfreedom website:

<http://www.mindfreedom.org/mindfreedom/madpride/index.shtml>

If you are willing to plan a Mad Pride event, please send Mad Pride announcements and news to

office@mindfreedom.org

Creation of a National Centre for Documentation on Disability in Norway

On 6 April 2006 took place the official opening ceremony of the new national centre for documentation on disability in Norway.

The National Centre for documentation on Disability was established in 2005 under the authority of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The Documentation Centre's objective is to collect data and disseminate information on the living conditions of people with disabilities.

The target groups for the activities of the Documentation Centre include decision-makers, organisations of disabled people, researchers and anyone else interested in these matters.

Its main objective is to increase knowledge on the situation of persons with disabilities.

For more information the National Centre for documentation's website:

<http://www.dokumentasjonssenteret.no/index.php/plain/english>

Source: European disability Forum

ULYSSE-MINKOWSKA Training in Brussels

ULYSSE asbl, a Service of Psychosocial Accompaniment for Exiled People (Belgium), in partnership with the Françoise MINKOWSKA Centre, organises a two-day training in Brussels, on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 May 2006, on the theme: "Mental health of exiled people in Europe. Training days on intercultural clinical practices".

This training will be provided in the premises of the Ulysse association, avenue Jean Volders 11, 1060 Brussels (Belgium).

It will consist of a dual approach on the proposed theme, through exchanges between two teams, one being French and the other one being Belgian. It will include an analysis of the issue, the mutual share of innovative practices, and the mutual building of an intervention pattern.

For more information: the Mental Health and Cultures web portal of the MINKOWSKA Centre,

http://www.minkowska.com/eng/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=5

XI. WEBSITES/ ONLINE INFORMATION

Internet debate on the future of Europe

The European Commission launched on 27 March 2006 an internet discussion forum on the future of Europe, in 20 languages.

This discussion, which all citizens are invited to join, is part of the Commission's "Plan D" for Dialogue, Debate

and Democracy in response to a call by the European Council for a period of reflection following the negative votes in France and The Netherlands on the proposed Constitutional Treaty.

For the time being the discussion has been grouped around three broad themes:

- Europe's economic and social development;
- Feeling towards Europe and the European Union's tasks;
- Europe's borders and its role in the world.

To join the debate on the future of the Union and take part in the discussion forum:

<http://europa.eu.int/debateurope>

Second ESNE-newsletter on Social Inclusion

The second edition of the European Social Network (ESN)'s e-newsletter, dedicated to promoting social inclusion, has been published.

It contains some examples of good practice in social inclusion, provided by ESN members in Sweden, France and Italy. It also focuses on the consultation processes for the National Action Plans for social inclusion.

To access the e-newsletter:

http://www.socialeurope.com/communique/ESN_Inclusion_newsletter_March06.htm

Human rights search engine

Mandat International, the Foundation for International Cooperation, has launched a new search engine for international human rights and humanitarian law. This extremely useful tool allows researchers to search over 250 international conventions analysed article by article. It provides direct access to key articles, individual country obligations, relevant customary law and reservations and the status of ratifications for each country.

The search engine is available at <http://www.whatconvention.org/>

The languages on the site are English, French and Spanish.

XII. PUBLICATIONS

Health Inequalities in Europe: key documents

Tackling health inequalities was a key health theme for the UK Presidency of the European Union in 2005. Almost all important health problems, and major causes of premature death such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, are more common among people with lower levels of education, income and occupational status. The health gap in life expectancy is typically 5 years or more. Narrowing this health gap within countries, and making good health a reality for everyone, is essential if we are to create a Europe of social justice as well as prosperity.

As part of the Presidency, the UK commissioned two reports:

- "Health Inequalities: Europe in Profile": the aim of this independent report is to review the evidence on the existence of socioeconomic inequalities in health in the EU and its immediate neighbours. It presents data on inequalities in mortality in 21 countries, on inequalities in self-assessed health in 19

countries, and on inequalities in smoking in 24 countries. The report makes clear that much progress has been achieved, but many challenges still remain.

- "Health Inequalities: a Challenge for Europe": this independent report aims at reviewing national-level policies and strategies that either have been or are in the process of being developed to tackle health inequalities. It shows that strategies to reduce the health gap within member states are at different stages and that, while much progress has been achieved, many challenges still remain.

To download these reports on DG Health and Consumer Protection website (in English):

"Health Inequalities: Europe in Profile":

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/so cio_economics/documents/ev_060302_rd06_en.pdf

"Health Inequalities: a Challenge for Europe":

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/so cio_economics/documents/ev_060302_rd05_en.pdf

Inclusion Europe report on Poverty and Intellectual Disability in Europe

A new report on "Poverty and Intellectual Disability in Europe" released by Inclusion Europe shows that people with intellectual disabilities and their families have a much higher rate of unemployment, a far lower income compared to the average population, as well as difficulties in accessing mainstream education and healthcare. Poverty and disability reinforce each other, contributing to increased vulnerability and exclusion for both the disabled individuals and their families.

The report also explores actions to be taken in view of improving the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families living in poverty. All stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels must contribute to the solution of this problem.

The report points out that poverty is a problem for people with intellectual disabilities and their families in all European countries, in the EU Member States as well as in candidate or non-EU countries. The members of Inclusion Europe report that the reasons for unemployment and social exclusion are not primarily to be found in a lack of skills of the disabled people, but rather in negative attitudes of employers and other citizens. Even when compared to other disability groups, people with intellectual disabilities are much more likely to be unemployed, to have little access to education, or to be excluded from the life of society.

The European report will be included in a "Global Status Report on Poverty and Intellectual Disability" to be released at the Inclusion International World Congress in Acapulco, Mexico, in November 2006.

To order copies of the report (available in English, French and Russian) contact Inclusion Europe at information@inclusion-europe.org

FEANTSA's Shadow Peer Review on Social Cooperatives

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, has recently released its Shadow Peer Review, "Social Cooperatives: A good model for the social integration through employment of people who are homeless with mental health problems?".

FEANTSA has, indeed, been invited by the European Commission to be a part of this peer review, in order to bring the perspective of service provider organisations working with people who are homeless to the debate on the establishment of Social Cooperatives in Greece.

The report examines the following issues:

- the role of housing in relation to employment;
- the requirement of a diagnosed mental illness;
- the problem of dual diagnosis and multiple needs;
- the need for carefully constituted groups;
- the importance of avoiding the creation of a ghettoised employment market.

To download FEANTSA's Shadow Peer Review:

<http://www.feantsa.org/files/Health%20and%20Social%20Protection/Policy%20Statements/FINAL%20FEANTSA%20Shadow%20Peer%20Review%20sept%202026.doc>

XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12-13 May 2006-03-15

Conference "Europe with no Lunatic Asylums" (Hrastovec, Slovenia)

The Alpe Adria Association for Promotion of Mental Health, the International Mental Health Collaborative Network, the European Democratic Psychiatry, the Social Care Home of Hrastovec and the University of Ljubljana (Faculty for Social Work) are organising a conference on the theme "Europe with no lunatic asylums, Risk - an opportunity not a threat: Enhancing the risk taking capacities in community mental health". The event will take place in Hrastovec (Slovenia) on 12 and 13 May 2006.

For more information: Contact persons, Petra Hamersak (petra.hamersak@hrastovec.org) and Vito Flaker (vito.flaker@fsd.uni-lj.si)

NEW!! 15-16 May 2006

EU Austrian Presidency Conference "The challenges facing participatory democracy in an enlarged Europe", Vienna (Austria)

The Austrian Advisory Council for Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee, organises an international conference during the Austrian Council Presidency to debate around the notion of participatory democracy, the European Social model, and the role of social partners and representative organisations in this respect.

The Conference language will be German, English, and French.

To access the conference's draft programme: http://www.esc.eu.int/documents/programme_Vienne_15_05_06_en.pdf

For more information: the European Social and Economic Committee's website,

http://www.esc.eu.int/documents/programme_Vienne_15_05_06_en.pdf

17 May 2006

ECCL Seminar "The Right to live in the Community", Brussels (Belgium)

The seminar will provide an opportunity for participants to consider and discuss the key issues and challenges in the development of comprehensive,

quality community-based services for people with disabilities in Europe. It will be an occasion for those involved in the promotion, development or provision of community-based services to share experiences and models of good practice, identify existing obstacles and develop recommendations for the future strategy on de-institutionalisation.

For more information about the seminar: contact person, Ines Bulic, E-mail coordinator@community-living.info, Tel + 36 1 235 6184.

18-20 May 2006

Inclusion Europe Congress "Europe in Action 2006" (Brussels, Belgium)

This congress will allow the participants to share their ideas on continuing learning opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The conference aims at identifying the objectives and needs of life-long learning for adults. Several models of adult's education will be presented in order to get some inspiration and to give examples of good practices.

To find the up-dated programme, an application form and other information on the conference: see the conference website, <http://www.inclusion-europe.org/europeinaction/index.htm>, or contact the Inclusion Europe Secretariat, E-mail secretariat@inclusion-europe.org

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:

- the need for action on chronic diseases;
- integrating treatment, care, prevention and health promotion for chronic diseases within hospital services in order to achieve an optimum outcome;
- integrating health care interventions on chronic diseases across levels of services;
- 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

28 May-2 June 2006

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 perspectives".

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/>

NEW!! 31 May - 3 June 2006

Conference "Mental Health in Civil Society", Kaliningrad (Russia)

The aim of the Conference is to initiate a discussion regarding the conditions, history and future for psychiatry in different countries. One important item to work around is the document and the Action Plan approved at the World Health Organization (WHO) Ministerial conference in Helsinki in January 2005.

The Conference should be of interest to psychiatrists, other professionals and also to health care decision makers and journalists, especially in countries that presently undergo transition.

Plenary lectures will be translated into English and Russian. Group discussions will be simultaneously translated consecutively. Documentation shall also be available on the web.

For more information: the conference website, <http://www.phil.qu.se/sffp/kaliningrad.pdf>, or send an E-mail to mhconference2006@mail.ru

6-8 June 2006

WPA Thematic Conference on Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry, Dresden (Germany)

The main objective of this Conference is to provide the state-of-the-art in the different parts of this theme, and this will be done by plenary lectures, symposia, workshops, courses, and poster sessions.

Different thematic issues will be studied: epidemiology of different methods of coercive treatment; clinical issues of different coercive measure; use of coercive treatment measures in special (mental) health care settings; mental health legislation regarding coercive treatment; ethical aspects of coercive treatment...

For more information: the conference website, http://www.wpa2007dresden.org/frs_index.asp

NEW!! 6-16 June 2006

Disability Discrimination Summer School 2006, Galway (Ireland)

The second Annual Summer School on Disability Discrimination law will take place in the National University of Ireland, Galway, from 6-16 June 2006. It will be hosted by the Faculty of Law at the National University of Ireland, and co-financed by the European Commission.

The main focus of the Summer School is the European Union Framework Directive on Employment which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (among others) in the broad employment sphere. The Summer School appeals to lawyers and legal advisers to non governmental organisations (NGOs) interested in crafting test case strategies under the Directive on the ground of disability. It also makes the information accessible to non-legal audiences and has been successful in attracting NGOs interested in using the law to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

The course itself will be taught by leading practitioners in disability law who have experience in litigating the issues before a variety of courts, at international, European and national levels.

For further information: the Summer School website, www.eusummerschool.info

7-9 June 2006

1st International Conference of Asklepios Foundation (Athens, Greece)

The first International Conference of Asklepios Foundation will be held in Athens on the theme "Social Inclusion in Europe: Perspectives and Developments in Social Psychiatry", to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hellenic Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health.

The Asklepios Foundation is a European Partnership committed to the improvement, reform and promotion of quality health care in Mental Health and Disability. It supports the rights of all citizens to full social inclusion, and to be treated with dignity as an independent person within their Society.

For more information: contact person, Maria Margeti, Tel +30 210 7665822, E-mail maria@invgolf.com

NEW!! 8-9 June 2006

European Conference on Ageing and Disability, Graz (Austria)

In the framework of the Austrian EU Presidency, major European networks have come together with Austrian Umbrella Organisations to organise a European conference.

The number of ageing people and disabled ageing people in Europe is increasing rapidly. The European Commission is, therefore, devoting more and more attention to this topic and has recently published a Green Paper on demographic change. One thing becomes particularly clear: the efforts of all European Member States need to be stepped up if we are to meet the challenges posed by our increasingly ageing population. This is especially the case for people with disabilities whose needs are not always met by existing services.

The conference "Ageing and Disability - disabled people are ageing, ageing people are getting disabled" is targeted at representatives of persons with a disability and their families, to service providers and qualified personnel, concerned authorities at all levels, researchers and politicians.

The aim is to give an overview of the state of play in Europe on the topic, to point the way forward, to exchange models of good practice and to launch a declaration of Graz.

The conference will start from a global perspective of ageing and disability and then go more in depth of the situation of people with intellectual disability.

For more information: the conference website, <http://www.ageing-and-disability.com/aad/index.php?&lang=en>

12-16 June 2006

15th International Congress for the Psychotherapy of the Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses (Madrid, Spain)

The 15th ISPS (International Society for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses) International Congress will be held on the theme "Improving services and helping persons and families with psychotic problems". This will be the occasion to both celebrate the ISPS 50th Anniversary and the 100 years of schizophrenia psychotherapy.

In this forum participants will be able to explain, make known and report the great variety and growing interest and enthusiasm for more global views of

schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and for the creation and development of more extensive, complete and effective psychotherapeutic and psychosocial programs.

Mental health professionals and members of involved and interested associations are welcome.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +34 91 531 94 49, E-mail

congresos.mad@viajesiberia.com, or see the conference website <http://www.ispsmadrid2006.com>

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 civicusassembly@scvo.org.uk

More information on CIVICUS website: www.civicus.org

NEW!! 26-28 June 2006

Annual Social Firms UK Conference 2006, "Shaping the future: Supportive Employment - Successful Businesses", University of Warwick (United Kingdom)

The annual Social Firms UK conference is an opportunity for those interested in good quality job creation through enterprise for disabled people and those disadvantaged through mental ill health to come together and to pool ideas and initiatives on Social Firm development. The 2006 conference offers an opportunity for a wide ranging discussion about Social Firms and other social enterprises within the broader provision of employment services for disabled people.

Although the majority of the programme will focus on the future, there will be an opportunity for delegates to review and learn from the growth of the Social Firm sector with stories from successful and not so successful businesses. Amongst other relevant topics we will share the findings of the franchising and replication programme that Social Firms UK has been operating as well as ideas for future growth initiatives. The programme is diverse and comprehensive and will attract a number of audiences: Social Firms UK members, social enterprises, employment service providers (supported employment agencies, supportive businesses, Jobcentre Plus) and entrepreneurs.

For more information: Social Firms UK website, <http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/events/index.php/Event21.html>

10-13 July 2006

2nd World Forum on Human rights, Nantes (France)

The 2nd World Forum on Human Rights will be held in Nantes, with an official opening on Monday 10 July, followed by three working days (from Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 July). This second edition of Nantes Forum will be organised by the International Convention Centre of Nantes, under the leading responsibility and with the financial support of Nantes Metropole, the urban area of Nantes.

Three main topics will be discussed:

- Discriminations and diversity in a worldwide context of diversity of cultures;
- Economic Globalisation and Human Rights;
- Responsibilities and solidarities.

For more information: the forum's website, http://www.forum-humanrights.org/index_e_2006.php

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.

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 available.

For more information: http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06_qb.html

1st October 2006

European Symposium "Improving the Lives of Young People with Intellectual Disabilities in the areas of Health, Social Inclusion and Sport", in conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games (Rome, Italy)

In conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games – Rome 2006, a European Symposium is being organized to present and discuss the key issues facing young people with intellectual disabilities in the areas of health, social inclusion (with an emphasis on inclusive education) as well as sport and physical education.

For information about the symposium, including registration: contact person, Michel Deurinck, Tel. +32 2 538 80 68, E-mail MDeurinck@specialolympics.org, or see the Special Olympics Games website, <http://www.specialolympicsevg.org/indexeyg.php>

5-7 October 2006

9th Conference on Drugs and Infection Prevention in Prison, "From the Principle of Equivalence to the Practice of Care: Bridging the Gap" (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

This year's conference is structured to provide opportunities for dialogue on the development and implementation of effective drug prevention and health promotion policies and services for those who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

Participants will include practitioners, policy makers, prison managers, researchers and academics, lawyers, judges, police, NGOs and representatives of service users' organisations.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +48 (0) 22 640 82 71, E-mail info@endipp.net, or see the conference's website

http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55

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. 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.

For more information:

<http://www.worldconference2006.no/>

18-21 October 2006

7th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, "Globalisation and Equity: Consequences for Health Promotion Policies and Practices" (Budapest, Hungary)

This conference will focus on different aspects of globalisation and of inequalities in health. A major goal of the conference is to provide a platform for review, analysis and discussion of tackling health inequalities at the global and community levels to key players in

health promotion and health education from across Europe. Over the course of four days, participants and attendees will have the chance to share information about health promotion policy issues, on-going research, existing evidence and practical experience.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +36 1 311 66 87, E-mail congress@motesz.hu, or see the conference website www.motesz.hu

19-20 October 2006

3rd Three-Country Convention Care in Psychiatry – “Wissen schafft Pflege – Pflege schafft Wissen: Psychiatrische Pflege als Praxis und Wissenschaft”, Vienna (Austria)

The aim of this convention is to impart and promote current knowledge with regard to psychiatric healthcare and nursing: contributions on the application of theory and research, on research about problems in practice and interventions, innovative practices and other contributions.

You are welcome to send abstracts for own contributions and to register for this event.

Contact person: Nico Oud, nico.oud@freeler.nl, Tel +31 (0)20 409 0368

For further information: the conference website, http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/dreilander/index.html?1_140446978484

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

NEW!! 16 February 2007

EAP-SFU European Symposium “PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences”, Vienna (Austria)

The European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), in collaboration with the Sigmund Freud University (SFU), organises a European Symposium on the theme “PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences” at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna.

The EAP represents 128 organisations from 41 European countries and more than 120.000 psychotherapists. Based on the “Strasbourg Declaration on Psychotherapy of 1990” the EAP represents high training standards for a scientifically based and stands for a free and independent practice of psychotherapy.

To register to the conference: send an E-mail at eap.headoffice@europsyche.org

For more information: EAP website, <http://www.europsyche.org>

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

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