



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE
SANTE MENTALE EUROPE**

Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000 Brussels
Tel *32-2-280.04.68 - Fax *32-2-280.16.04
E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org
Web site: http://www.mhe-sme.org

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Mental Health Europe is the EU Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion.

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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee of MHE held a meeting on 23 May to look at the accounts per 30 April 2005 and to discuss the cash flow forecast in preparation of the Board meeting on 4 June.

Colette Versporten (Treasurer), Mary van Dievel (Director), Benoît Broekmans (accountant) and Marie-Christine Terlaeken (administrative assistant) participated in this meeting.

For further information: MHE Secretariat info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Mental Health Economics II - first partners meeting

A first partners meeting in the project Mental Health Economics II will be held in London, on 29-30 July 2005. The project is a continuation of the previous project Mental Health Economics I, completed by MHE, in collaboration with 17 country partners and the LSE Health and Social Care, in August 2004.

Supported by the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection, Mental Health Economics II is led by London School of Economics, Health and Social Care.

This 24 month project has a number of complementary and interlinked objectives:

- ❑ The primary overarching aim is to gather and analyse information and knowledge in respect of the economics of mental health to contribute to the promotion and protection of public health across Europe.
- ❑ The proposed work would build upon the work of the existing Mental Health Economics European Network (MHEEN) by deepening the work in the 17 current partner countries, and extend the Network into 14 new countries (the 10 new member states, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Liechtenstein).
- ❑ Links would be further strengthened with groups connected to the EC Mental Health Working Party, such as the International Mental Health Promotion Action Network, and the European Workplace Health Promotion Network, as well as other groups including the mental health economics group at the World Health Organisation.

MHE is in charge with the day-to-day co-ordination of the project and will provide support for partners, monitor activities and take a role in the analysis and synthesis of data collected. MHE will also have a role in generating awareness of the project, linking with other initiatives and support an effective dissemination of project results.

For further information: roxana.radulescu@mhe-sme.org.

MHE representation at various meetings

Mary van Dievel, MHE Director, represented MHE at the follow-up meeting of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on mental Health, organised by the WHO/EURO, in Copenhagen, on 12 May 2005.

On 25 May, Roxana Radulescu, Project co-ordinator, attended the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy Coordination Meeting, held in Brussels.

Mary van Dievel attended the meeting of the EC European Social Inclusion Network on 26 May, in Brussels.

Mary van Dievel participated in the General Assembly of the European Disability Forum (Barcelona, 28 May).

Colette Versporten- MHE Treasurer- and John Henderson attended the EC Mental Health Working Party meeting, held in Luxembourg, on 30 and 31 May.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

SMES Europa- 9th Seminar, 6-8 October 2005

In the framework of the project "Dignity and Health", SMES Europa will hold its 9th Seminar during 6-8 October in Berlin. The theme is "Access for all to rights and services. A person only exists when his/her voice is heard".

Within this project, partners from 11 European countries had exchanged information about local health, social systems in relation with National Action Plans for Social Inclusion and visited a wide-range of activities, from street-level housing services, to job training for the most vulnerable citizens (mentally ill, homeless people, migrants). They will meet in Berlin in October, to share experiences and information on several specific themes:

1. social and health care- access for all to rights and services;
2. beneficiaries of services: involvement and active participation in the process of integration of excluded people;
3. external evaluation and study for ensured quality and efficiency of programmes and services;
4. social situation and National Actions Plan – increasing poverty in Europe.

For further information: www.smes-europa.org

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

Social Platform launches report on EC financial regulations

The European Union's Regulation contains all the rules relating to EU grants, which are made to NGOs. Many social NGOs – both at the European and national level – have long felt that the EU's grant-funding process should be made more efficient, less bureaucratic, and more effective in achieving the EU's aims.

In order to make positive suggestions, the Social Platform (of which MHE is a member), together with the European Policy Centre, with Solidar, Concord and the European Women's Lobby, commissioned a study examining the financial relation, and making detailed proposals that would improve the relationship between NGOs and the European Commission.

This study, entitled "*Striking a Balance: Efficiency, Effectiveness and Accountability*" was launched on 26 April in Brussels.

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, was present at the launch.

The 90 pages report by Paul Firth states that "the creative partnership between NGOs and the European Commission is being jeopardised by a rigid application of the regulations which govern the financing of NGO activities. The European Commission has over-emphasised adherence to procedures at the cost of damaging the effectiveness of their programmes, so spending a great deal of money on unnecessary and ineffective bureaucracy. The Commission could have avoided many problems caused by their Financial Regulations had they consulted NGOs. Now that the Regulations are being revised, they are at risk of compounding their mistakes by once again not consulting with NGOs."

The report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/StrikingaBalance.pdf>.

EDF - Annual General Assembly

The EDF held its Annual General Assembly in Barcelona, on 28-29 May. More than 150 leaders of the European disability movement from 29 countries participated in this meeting.

New Governing bodies were elected: for the category "ordinary members" to which MHE belongs, two people from the mental health field were elected as Board members: Josée van Remoortel (MHE Senior policy Advisor) and Igor Pavel (Chair of CEPEC – Confederation of Employment Initiatives and Social Firms). This is very important for the European mental health movement, since they will ensure that mental health issues are taken into account in all EDF activities and policies.

Future priorities and work of the EDF were determined. The discussions focussed on key issues for the European disability movement such as: the structural funds, the European Action Plan on Equal Opportunities for Disabled People, the United Nations Convention on the rights of disabled people and the European policies in the field of transport and accessibility. The national disability councils from UK and the Netherlands asked special attention for mental health and ethnic minorities in the work programme of EDF.

Mary Van Dievel attended the meeting on behalf of MHE.

ENUSP (the European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) was represented by Mary Nettle, while Nadine Weyts-Fossion attended the meeting on behalf of EUFAMI (The European Federation of Family Organisations).

For further information: Helena Gonzalez-Sancho Bodero, EDF Communication and Press Officer, Tel. +32 2 282 46 04, e-mail communication@edf-feph.org.

EDF Project for vulnerable road users

The EDF is participating in a new project called VOICE - Vulnerable road user organisations in co-operation across Europe. The principle aim of this project is to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable road users among European politicians. Every year more than 50000 people are killed on EU roads, whilst more than three million are injured. The project therefore

addresses EU policy makers and tries to highlight good and bad practices.

Should you be aware of examples concerning the protection -or lack of protection- of persons with mental health problems in road safety policy in the different European countries, please contact Josée van Remoortel, info@mhe-sme.org.

Inclusion Europe Conference

Inclusion Europe and its member in Czech Republic - SPMP -organised a conference on community-based services for people with intellectual disability in Europe, during 19-21 May in Prague.

Statistics by 10 leading disability campaign bodies (www.inclusion-europe.org/documents/1471.pdf) show that over 160 000 people with disabilities in Europe are still housed in large-scale institutions. The plenary and focus groups sessions concentrated on legislative changes needed for funding community-based services, on assessing service needs and quality and on person-centred planning.

We have the right to live as anybody else," said a disabled person from Úpetov in Czech Republic. "(...) To find a place is not easy. There are few possibilities and it costs a lot. Most of us would like to live with our partners or on our own. We would like to show everybody that we are able to look after ourselves as we can do it, we just need the opportunity to prove it." For further information: www.europeinaction.org.

MDAC protests against Czech Republic legalize human rights abuse

The senate of the Czech Republic adopted on 5 May an amendment of the law on social care legalising the use of restraints – including cage beds – in Czech social institutions.

The Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) together with the League of Human Rights issued a press release protesting against this abuse of human rights. The Czech Association for Mental Health also supported their position.

The press release highlights that over 17 000 Czech adults and children with mental health problems, intellectual disabilities or substance abuse problems currently live in social care. These homes are not medical institutions and none of them have full-time doctors. They are custodial institutions where people often spent their entire life and are subject to the legal use of restraints – cage beds, leather straps as well as sheets and towels.

Article 89a of the new Act purports to regulate restrain use in all social care institutions. However, the law regulates the use of restraints inadequately.

For further information:

http://www.mdac.info/documents/Cage_Beds.pdf

Applications for the Roma Diplomacy Programme

The European Roma Information Office and DiploFoundation invite applications for the upcoming Roma Diplomacy Programme, which is due to start in July 2005.

This is a yearlong educational programme for professionals from Eastern European countries working in the field of Roma and human rights, and consists of a combination of workshops and online learning.

The programme aims to:

- Create a strong group of Roma “public diplomats”, with the ability to use the gap between the Roma civil society and governments/EU institutions;
- Create and extend the existing Roma rights networks, to facilitate access to diplomatic channels when they are required;
- Facilitate the sharing of research and experience of Roma and human rights activists with a focus on diplomacy;
- To build practical capacity among Roma rights activists, through participation in conferences and internships in various institutions.

Participants must be currently working in the Roma rights' field, hold an undergraduate University degree or have at least three years relevant work experience, have a sufficient command of English, unrestricted access to Internet and be prepared to attend the 10 day workshop in Bucharest, in July 2005.

Full funding is available for 20-25 participants. Preference for funding will be given to Roma applicants.

Deadline for applications is the 15th of June 2005

For further information: roma@diplomacy.edu

Letter of protest from civil society against anti-Gypsyism in Romania

In a letter of protest addressed to the Romanian Presidency, several European NGOs strongly condemned the position of the mayor of Craiova (Romania), who used unacceptable insulting words when talking about gypsies (“stinky ugly gypsies”, “shits”, “jerks”, “dirty”, “hooligans”) and who talked openly about a war against gypsies and his wish to deport them out of the city.

His words were quoted in an article published by *Guardianul* (The Guardian), one of the top ten newspapers in Romania, on 4 May 2005.

The protest letter emphasises not only the shocking statements, but also the fact that this has been published in one of the mainstream newspaper in Romania, without any comment about “open anti-Gypsyism and the abysmal situation of Roma in Romania”.

The NGOs signing the letter call on the Romanian government to set up clear measures to combat such attitudes and to make a public statement condemning Craiova mayor's comments.

The letter reminds that several statements of this type were made by various public Romanian personalities in the past and recalls that the Romanian government is still hesitant in addressing the genocide of Roma during the second World War and the over 500 years of slavery of Roma on the Romanian territory.

The NGOs invite Romanian government to present formal apologies and to make a clear gesture of reconciliation.

Moreover, the letter mentions the recent resolution of the European Parliament on the situation of the Roma in the European union recognising the strong European anti-Gypsyism and calls on the European Commission not only to encourage Member States to act against racism, but also to find concrete ways to promote measures to combat anti-Gypsyism in Europe.

The letter was initiated by the European Roma Information Centre and was signed by more than 15

European NGOs (among which Mental Health Europe) and also by a large number of Roma NGOs, mainly from Romania.

For further information: Valeriu Nicolae, Deputy Director, European Roma Information Office, valeriu.nicolae@erionet.org, tel. +32 2 733 34 62, fax; +32 2 7333875.

IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Participation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The WFMH had an active participation at the 49 Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which took place at UN Headquarters, in New York, from 28 February to 11 March 2005.

The two-week session was an opportunity for governments to review the progress made since the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing. The session was also an important NGO event. More than 2600 non-governmental representatives attended from all regions of the world.

The WFMH UN representatives have been attending the annual sessions of the CSW since 1991, contributing to discussions in regard to women and mental health. At the 2005 session, the WFMH delegates organised two separate panels of experts: The first program, *Promoting Mental Well-Being for Asian Women* discussed best practices in mental health that promote healthy lifestyles. In the second programme, *Mainstreaming Mental Health as Integral Strategy for the Advancement and Empowerment of Women and Girls*, the speakers focused on the promotion of psychosocial well-being and the improvement of mental health as a strategy for addressing a broad range of women's concerns.

WFMH also joined with the International Association of Schools of Social Work to present an open dialogue on the tsunami and the psychosocial needs of women. Speaking about the situation of women following the disaster, panel members noted that sexual violence was widespread and seldom acknowledged by officials. They reported that women wanted to take control of their own lives, to have their expertise recognized, and did not want psychiatric interventions and to be told what to do by outsiders.

The WFMH representatives were also responsible for drafting and coordinating a written statement on women and mental health, submitted as part as the official documentation of the CSW. They also worked on incorporating mental health and psychological response into **two resolutions** adopted by the CSW, one on **Gender issues and the Tsunami Recovery process**, and the other on **Trafficking**.

The most significant outcome of the meetings was a **Declaration** reaffirming the governments' commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/documents/Declaration%20issued%20by%20the%20CSW%20as%20revised.pdf>

For further information: www.un.org/womenwatch

Preparations for the WFMH World Congress

The 2005 WFMH World Congress takes place on 4-8 September 2005 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Cairo, Egypt. This year's theme of the congress, chaired by the former WFMH President Ahmed El Azayem, is Equity and Mental Health.

Highlights of the programme include lectures by Professor N. Sartorius, who will speak on the continuing impact of stigma and discrimination as a barrier to improving the global climate for mental health services, promotion and prevention.

As the secretary of the Iraqi Society of Psychiatrists, Numan S. Ali will address the mental health implications of war, trauma and conflict in Iraq.

Beverly Long is going to draw attention to the international need for measures to include scientifically-based prevention in public health. Ahmed Gamal Abou El Azayem will outline his conclusions in the prevention and treatment of substance dependence.

Special symposia on consumer/caregiver issues, will pay due recognition to consumer and caregiver involvement in treatment and continuing care.

An additional special symposium will be organised by Emeritus Professor B. Robertson on the mental health consequences of HIV/AIDS. The Member Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 7 September. The slate of Officers and Directors for 2005-2007 Board of Directors will be presented on this occasion.

For further information : www.wfmh2005.com

(Extracts from WFMH newsletter, first Quarter 2005, pages 5-6)

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Follow-up meeting of the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health

The meeting took place in Copenhagen, on 12 May 2005 and was the first follow-up meeting of the Helsinki conference of last January.

The meeting was attended by Mental Health Europe, EUFAMI, the European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Global Initiative for Psychiatry, the Hamlet Trust, the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, the Open Society Mental Health Initiative and the Mental Health Foundation, all European-wide networks except for the Mental Health Foundation.

Matt Muijen, WHO Regional Adviser for Mental Health, expressed his gratitude for the support he received from the NGOs in the preparation of the Helsinki conference and at the conference itself. He said it was a real opportunity for interaction between the governmental and the non-governmental level.

Matt Muijen presented the 7 development areas selected for the implementation the WHO/Euro Action Plan on Mental Health:

- 1) Stigma and discrimination
- 2) Mental Health Promotion
- 3) Prevention and Suicide
- 4) Service development
- 5) Workforce
- 6) Information and dissemination
- 7) Empowerment

For the 6 first areas, WHO has already selected an organisation that would develop the topic. These

organisations should not work on their own, but should set up a Network and make sure they are backed by their government.

For the 7th area – empowerment – WHO wanted to discuss with the NGOs present how to proceed. It was agreed that the Mental Health Foundation (UK) would for maximum 1 year offer part time resources to further develop this issue, in collaboration with the organisations present at the meeting.

Hedinn Unnsteinsson, "Civil Society Officer" at WHO/Euro presented the ICS (Inclusion of Civil Society) project for which he could obtain a grant from an Icelandic charity. He will set up a pilot project on the inclusion of civil society in 3-4 countries, to show how people with mental health problems, their families and carers, professionals and governments can work together to further the interests of people with mental health problems.

Hedinn Unnsteinsson will also be closely involved in the work of the group that will develop the empowerment issue.

Mary Van Dievel attended this meeting on behalf of Mental Health Europe.

World Health Report 2005: Let every mother and child count

The report focuses on those developing countries where progress in maternal and child health is slow, stagnating or has even gone into reverse in recent years. It says that the resulting death toll could be sharply reduced through wider use of key interventions and a "continuum of care" approach for mother and child, that begins before pregnancy and extends through childbirth and into the baby's childhood.

According to the report, mental ill-health in pregnancy appears to be more common than previously recognized. Although pregnancy has been regarded as a period of general psychological well-being for women, high rates of psychiatric morbidity in pregnant women have been reported. Pre-existing psychological disturbances can easily surface as depression, substance abuse or attempts at suicide, particularly when combined with pregnancy that is unwanted.

At a time when only a decade is left to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) the report serves as a reminder that these goals underline the importance of improving health. Especially the health of mothers and children, as it is an integral part of poverty reduction.

For further information:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr16/en/index.html>

VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Public hearings on women and health

The European Parliament Women's Rights Committee hold a public hearing on women and health, which is currently the subject of a report prepared by the vice-president of the Committee, Eva-Britt Stevansson (Sweden). The link between women's health and their socio-economic situation and psychological condition was emphasised. Cancer, alcoholism, smoking, drugs,

bad health, depression, suicidal tendencies are some of the examples that illustrate the inequality between men and women in terms of public health.

For further information:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/default_en.htm

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EC Working Party On Mental Health

The third meeting of the Working Party on Mental Health took place in Luxembourg on 30-31 May 2005.

An update was made on membership and observer status in the Working Party, as well as on recent policy developments regarding the Strategy on Health and Consumer Protection (2007-2013). The Green Paper on Mental Health, the Council Conclusions on Mental health Action Plan and preparations for the Work Plan 2006 were also considered.

Group discussions explored the following topics:

1. how to ensure policy-relevance of mental health projects supported by the Public Health Programme;
2. what measures are needed to improve dissemination of projects results?
3. How to ensure sustainability of project achievements after the end of the project?

Short presentations were given on projects recently completed or on new projects supported by DG SANCO:

- Health Indicators for People with Intellectual Disability;
- Placement and Treatment of Mentally Ill Offenders – Legislation and Practice in EU Member States;
- The Status of Mental Health in the European Union;
- European Policy Information Research For Mental Disorders;
- European Platform for Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention: Indicators, Interventions and policies;
- Monitoring Suicidal Behaviour in Europe;
- Mental Health Economics II.

MHE was represented by John Henderson (Deputy Chair of the Group) et par Colette Verspoten (MHE treasurer) who was invited as observer.

Further information will soon be available on the Public Health website:

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

Appointment of the new Deputy Director - General for Employment and Social Affairs

The European Commission has decided today to appoint Lenia Samuel as the new Deputy Director – General for Employment and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Cypriot Lenia Samuel will take up her post in the coming weeks after having hold the position of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance in her native country.

For further information:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/497&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Communication on European policies concerning youth

The European Commission adopted on 30 May a Communication on *European policies concerning youth*. This text is a follow-up to the adoption of the European Youth Pact by the European Council in March 2005, which made young people a key part of the renewed Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs and which proposed taking action for young people in the fields of employment, integration and social advancement, education and training, mobility, and reconciling family and work life.

The Communication sets out how the Pact can be put into operation, defines the priorities of the Youth Open Method of Coordination, addresses a youth dimension in other policies, lists relevant European programmes and examines how to further involve young people in the political process.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index_en.html

VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Call for nominations for the Council of Europe's 2005 North-South Prize

The North-South Prize has been awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures who are recognised for their deep commitment to rights protection or defence of pluralist democracy. The North-South Centre invites you to name individuals, a group of individuals or an organisation whose activities are considered worthy of distinction. The jury, made up of the members of the Bureau and the Secretary General will meet in Lisbon on 27 June to decide this year's prize winners.

Deadline for presenting nominations: 15 June

http://www.coe.int/T/E/North-South_Centre/

Report on conditions of detention in Latvia

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) published the report on its visit to Latvia in September/October 2002, together with the Latvian Government's response. These documents have been made public with the agreement of the Latvian authorities.

During this visit, the CPT's delegation reviewed the measures taken by the Latvian authorities following the recommendations made by the Committee after the 1999 visit. Particular attention was paid to the treatment of persons detained by the police and border guards, as well as the conditions of detention of life-sentenced prisoners and of juveniles on remand held in prison. For the first time in Latvia, a visit was carried out to a social welfare home.

For further information:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/lva/2005-05-10-eng.htm>

IX. VARIOUS NEWS

Campaign for the visibility of women in the UN Convention

Since 2002 the United Nations Member States are negotiating "A comprehensive and Integral convention

on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities". The human rights of persons with disabilities are fairly well respected in the present draft, but the gender perspective is missing nearly throughout the document. The special needs and discriminations of women with disabilities are hardly mentioned or referred to.

The organisations NETZWERK ARTIKEL 3 and Sozialverband Deutschland (SoVD) started the campaign "Towards Visibility of Disabled Women in the UN Convention!"

You can support this campaign on: www.un-disabledwomen.org/

X. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1-4 June 2005

Best Practice for Better Health – 6th IUHPE European Conference on the Effectiveness and Quality of Health Promotion, (Stockholm Sweden).

Info : <http://www.bestpractice2005.se/>

9-12 June 2005

15th Alzheimer Europe conference: "Dementia matters" (Killarney, Ireland)

Info: http://www.alzheimer-conference.org/Home/Home_Page/

10-11 June 2005

International Conference on Mental Health: the Consumers' View (Milan, Italy).

The conference is a joint initiative of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR) and the City of Milan, with the support of the WHO.

Info: Angelo Barbato, President, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Via Eritrea 62, 20157 Milano, Italy, Tel +39 02 39014431, Fax +39 02 33200049, e-mail dirba@tin.it, barbato@marionegri.it.

NEW!! 15-17 June 2005

International Conference of European Union of Supported Employment (Barcelona, Spain)

Organised by AESE (The Spanish Association of Supported Employment), the 7th International Conference of the European Union of Supported Employment will address issues like: Supported Employment and self-advocacy; Research / innovation; Supported Employment in Europe; Personal Future Centered Planning and Personal Outcomes; Transition from school to work and Supported Employment, Social impact of Supported Employment; Quality systems and Results of Good Practices; Employers' point of view; Supported Employment for socially disadvantaged groups.

Participants will include professionals, researchers, people with special needs, family members, business people, politicians and anyone who is interested in Supported Employment and the inclusion of people with special needs in the work force.

Info : www.euseconference.org

18-21 June 2005

9th European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS), Stockholm (Sweden)

Info: <http://www1.stocon.se/ecots2005/9/12734.asp>

NEW!! 13-24 June 2005

Non-discrimination on Race, Ethnic Origin, Religion and Belief: Towards Effective Test Case Strategies

The European Institute of Public Administration is organising, in collaboration with Maastricht University, a new advanced seminar on Non-discrimination on Race, Ethnic Origin, Religion and Belief – Towards Effective Test Case Strategies.

The summer school is addressed to lawyers, legal advisers, to NGOs and law students and will give an introduction to the framework and concepts of the Race Directive and the Employment Directive.

For further information on the two-week course:

<http://www.rechten.unimaas.nl/racesummerschool>

4-6 July 2005

2005 European Social Services Conference- "Putting People First: Partnership and Performance in Social Care and Health in a Changing Europe", (Edinburgh, UK).

In the first days of the UK Presidency of the European Union, the 2005 European Social Services Conference will address how public services in Europe should respond to growing care and health needs in a challenging social and economic environment. This annual conference offers strategic and practical learning and networking opportunities for all those responsible for planning and implementing services: planners, politicians, managers and professionals. It is for all those with an interest in the future of health and social care services including, for example, elderly care, disability, children, youth and family and mental health services.

The conference is organised by the European Social Network and is held in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Info:

<http://www.socialeurope.com/edinburgh/index.htm>

7-9 July 2005

8th European Conference on Drugs and Infections in Prisons : « Unlocking Potential – Making prisons Safe for Everyone » (Budapest, Hungary)

Info : <http://endipp.net/index.php?pid=46>

11-13 July 2005

The International Mental Health Promotion Summer Institute - (Toronto Canada)

The Summer Institute is addressed to policy makers and professionals in health care, education and social services, as well as employers with major health promotion initiatives.

Info: katherine_lo@camh.net,

http://www.camh.net/health_promotion/ISI2005.html

4-8 September 2005

The 28th Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health – "Equity and mental health" (Cairo, Egypt)

Info: www.wfmh2005.com

9-10 September 2005

The 2nd Conference of Mental Health of Child and Adolescent (Bucharest, Romania)

Info: Iuliana Dobrescu iulianadobrescu@hotmail.com,

Laura Mateescu laura_mateescu@yahoo.com.

13-16 September 2005

XXII World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention - "Scaling the Summit. Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures " (Durban, South Africa)

Info: <http://www.interaction.nu.ac.za/IASP2005/>.

20-22 September 2005

34th International Hospitals Federation (IHF) Congress: "Hospitals and their challenges: Risk, quality, skills and research" (Nice, France)

Info: www.fih2005.com.

22-23 September 2005

European Conference on Child and Adolescents Mental Health in Educational Settings (Paris, France)

psychodynamic and systemic practice and training for
Info: *Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA, UK. Tel. +44 207447 3829, Fax +44 20 7447 3837, e-mail events@tavi-port.org. www.tavi-port.org*

23-25 September 2005

From Children to Parents: The impact of parental mental illness on their children" (Athens, Greece)

REMINDER: Abstract submission deadline **15 June 2005**.

Info: <http://www.parentsonchildren.gr>

NEW!! 28-31 August 2005

The International "Social Work and Society" Academy" Conference (Gdansk, Poland)

The international 'Social Work and Society' Academy (TiSSA) is an independent cross-national cooperation between universities, institutes and organizations. Its aim is to enhance and promote the international scientific and professional discourse about social work.

The topic for the 2005 TiSSA plenum, " Local Social Policy and Social Work-Perspectives, Activities, and Partners in Civil Society", highlights a central issue in contemporary discourses of social work and social policy.

Professionals, academics and PhD and high grade final year students from all over the world are invited to join the TiSSA Plenum in Gdansk/

Info : www.tissa.net

28-30 September 2005

11th conference of the International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research "Continuing our journey ... the next generation..." (Oxford, United Kingdom)

Info: *Annelie Guard, NPNR and Mental Health Programme Administrator, RCN Institute, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HE, annelie.guard@rcn.org.uk, Tel +44 (0)1865 224640, Fax +44 (0)1865 246787.*

<http://www.man.ac.uk/rcn/diary/npnr28sep05.pdf>.

NEW!! 29 September –2 October 2005

14th annual Volonteuropa Conference on Volunteer Action (Berlin, Germany)

The Volunteer Europe network consists of approximately two thousand individuals and organisations whose goal is to promote and strengthen the role of voluntary and community sector.

This year's Volonteuropa conference is entitled **Active Citizenship in Europe** and will focus on: Volunteer

Management and Episodic Volunteering ; Active Ageing; Social Inclusion; Corporate Social Responsibility and Employee Volunteering; Active Citizenship; Environment, Sports and Culture; Volunteering and the Public Sector.

The conference is suited to volunteers, volunteer organisers and trainers, researchers, sponsors public officials responsible for community development and policy makers concerned about social inclusion.

Info: <http://www.volonteuropa.org.uk>.

NEW!! 3-4 October 2005

Promoting Resilience in Young Children Looked After by Local Authorities

This conference organised by the Association for professionals in Services for Adolescents looks at how workers in a range of different roles and settings can help promote resilience in young people looked after by local authorities. It will help delegates identify what they can do to make a positive difference.

Of interest to social workers, carers, educationalists, counsellors, youth justice workers, mental health professionals, policy makers and all those who are concerned about the well being of young people in care.

Info: <http://www.apsa-web.info>

6-8 October 2005

International Congress-Intelligence in Child- Clinical and theoretical aspects, assessment issues (Paris France)

Info: *Jeannine Accoce, FFPP, Tél +33 1 43 47 20 75, Fax +33 8 71 74 84 01, email siege@ffpp.net <http://www.intelligence-enfant-2005.org/>*

6-8 October 2005

5th European Congress Mental Health in Mental Retardation (Barcelona, Spain)

Info: <http://www.mhmrbarcelona.com/ing/index.htm>

6-8 October 2005

9th Seminar of SMES Europa (Berlin, Germany)

"Dignity and Health: Access for all to rights and services"

(for further information, see page 2)

20-21 October 2005

4th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry (Vienna, Austria)

Info:

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/violence/index.html>

26-30 October 2005

The 3rd Congress of the European Society of Mental Health and Deafness (Worcester), South Africa.

Info: http://www.deafnet.co.za/misc/30_1

27-28 October 2005

FEANTSA's conference on Social Emergency and Crisis intervention in EU cities (Paris, France)

Info:

<http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=31>

19-22 November 2005

Congress of the European Academy of Childhood Disability, Monaco

XI. PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITES

Report on Health-related Stigma and Discrimination

The report is the result of a workshop on Research on Health-related Stigma and Discrimination organised by the Royal Tropical Institute in Soesterberg, during 29 November – 2 December 2004. More than seventy researchers and experts in the fields of leprosy, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, Buruli ulcer, mental health care, epilepsy and physical disability participated in the workshop. Together they represented 55 academic institutes, organisations and health projects in Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America.

The workshop had three main themes:

- creating a model for health related stigma;
- establishing a methodological approach to measuring health related stigma;
- identifying effective interventions to help diminish health-related stigma.

Stigma is a complex construct, is disease specific, culture-specific and contributes to the 'hidden burden' of disease. Stigma has an impact on the affected person by increasing personal suffering, affecting access to health care, and often also affecting human rights.

The message of the report is that, by pooling research findings and experiences, it would be possible to find commonalities in stigma theories, measurements and interventions and identify disease, culture and situation-specific features.

The report highlights that social structures are an integral to a study of stigma: those who are stigmatised are in part exploited, and in part oppressed. Therefore, stigma can be reduced by three different types of change:

- operational - can be achieved by health professionals within the health care system;
- political - requires action by governments;
- and structural - involves shifts at the level of social structures like relations of class, command, gender, ethnicity and age.

However, although it is in the interest of public health to work to reduce stigma, a conceptual tension may exist between public health management of disease and stigma reduction (for example, exclusionary measures can be experienced as stigmatising, but are often based on rational public health control strategies).

The report also argues that the concept of stigma has been overstretched, and, because of that, is at risk of becoming meaningless. Therefore, it is important to identify the domains of stigma relevant to health and to clarify that stigma is a process, not a thing.

A major finding of the workshop was that social and societal consequences of stigma and discrimination are very similar across the different healthcare disciplines, as well as across different countries and cultures.

The report proposes a list of potential indicators of stigma (indicators for institutional discrimination, for interpersonal discrimination, for policy, political and legal discrimination, and some potential interventions).

The report can be obtained from Dutch Mental Health Association GGZ Netherlands (Clemens Huitink, Chuitink@ggz nederland.nl).

Study on substitution treatment in European prisons

On behalf of the Cranstoun drug services the researchers L. Hennebel, H. Stover, J. Casselman and E. Spacca carried out a study on policies and practices of substitution treatment in prisons of 18 European countries. The study covers obstacles to the introduction of substitution treatment and explores limitations that prisoners encounter, when attempting to access these services. Prison systems were found to be slow in responding to epidemics of viral infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis, as well as injection drug use. Substitution treatment was often seen as a response to the dangers encountered by opiate dependent inmates. The research suggests that offenders participating in substitution treatment display increased productivity and lower readmission rates overall. Yet, the studies indicate that continuity of care is required to maintain any benefits acquired. Further substantial efforts need to be made, to improve the quality of these services. And the links and continuity of care between prisons and the range of community based services need to be improved. The study is available at www.endipp.net.

For further information: www.cranstoun.org

Pogled- The View

Acta Suicidologica Slovenica- The Journal for multidisciplinary study and prevention of suicide - publishes original scientific articles on different problems concerning suicide approaching from the multidisciplinary perspective.

The authors are suicidologists and other professionals dealing with the problem of suicide prevention and intervention.

Should you be interested in sending contributions, please contact zalozba@zrc-sazu.si.

www.zrc-sazu.si/zalozba

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Editorial Committee: Mary van Dievel.

Should you have any questions or should you wish to make a contribution, please do not hesitate to send us an e-mail at info@mhe-sme.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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Mental Health Europe
Santé Mentale Europe
Boulevard Clovis 7, B – 1000 Brussels
Fax: +32-2-280 16 04
E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org