



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

An updated MHE Website

We are pleased to announce that the MHE website has been recently updated. Additional documents have been posted and are at present available both in the English and French versions:

- in the "Green Paper" section, you will find in the sub-section "MHE Contribution to the Green Paper" both the MHE's Response to the European Commission's Green Paper on Mental Health and the contributions to the consultation on the Green Paper that MHE received from its member organisations;
- in the "Publications" section, you will find a new sub-section called "MHE Positions Papers" collecting MHE's positions papers on various issues, such as MHE Reaction to the MDRI report about mistreatment of children in Romanian psychiatric institutions.

To directly access the MHE website: <http://www.mhe-sme.org>

MHE Executive Committee meeting

The first meeting of MHE's new Executive Committee will take place in Brussels on 15 July 2006.

Discussion points will include the priorities for MHE for the forthcoming years and the preparation of MHE's conference in 2007 and 2008.

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

MHE Board meeting

MHE's next Board meeting will be held in Florence on 6-7 November 2006.

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

1st International Conference of the ASKLEPIOS European Foundation "Social Inclusion in Europe: Perspectives and Developments in Social Psychiatry, Care for the Mentally Handicapped and the Elderly", 7-9 June, Athens, Greece

This European conference was organised by the ASKLEPIOS Foundation on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of our Greek member: the *Hellenic Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health*. Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, and Sogol Noorani, MHE Project Coordinator, were invited and attended the conference.

In the opening ceremony many speakers congratulated the Society of Social Psychiatry on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The conference started with Josée Van Remoortel's presentation on EU Instruments for the Promotion of Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems, followed by a presentation by the Greek Ombudsman Aim. Panagou. Then, some examples of interventions in the frame of the de-institutionalisation programmes in Greece were given.

In the following sessions and workshops (around 40!) presentations gave an overview of European good practices in the area of social inclusion- the topics ranged from the Mobile Psychiatric Units for remote areas and islands in Greece, to a de-institutionalisation project in Romania and the participation and integration of people with mental health problems in an urban environment in the Netherlands.

The last day of the conference was of very high quality, bringing more examples of effective good practices in mental health such as "The power of employment" (D. Robison and A. Cox) and "A Vision for the Delivery of High Quality Person-Centred Mental Health Services" (J. Forster Adams) – 2 UK examples of how work works! Very challenging was also the presentation of J.W. Duyvendak (Netherlands) on "Feeling at home in a "normal" neighbourhood". Investigations were done into the policy and practice of community care and into what is the meaning of feeling at home.

Finally, Sogol Noorani gave a very valued presentation on the EU Project "Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems".

The whole conference had a southern touch – warm, welcoming, nice lunches served by a sheltered catering project – and a good location. A small drawback was created by too many speakers sometimes leading to chaotic sessions. Chaos being a Greek word we could even enjoyed this.

For more information: contact person, Josée Van Remoortel, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 0468

Thanks to Josée Van Remoortel for this contribution.

Public Hearing on Mental Health in the EU

On 8 June 2006 an EPP-ED (Group of the European People's Party/Christian Democrats and European Democrats) Public Hearing on the Commission Green Paper on Mental Health took place at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event was opened and chaired by John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), who is the rapporteur for the European Parliament's response to the Green Paper on mental health.

Robert Madelin, Director-General of DG Health at the European Commission, gave an introduction to the Green Paper on behalf of the Commission. Antonios Trakatellis, MEP, chaired the session addressing the issue of current trends in mental health policy and practice, and Avril Doyle, MEP, chaired the session entitled "From Green Paper to Action". Žilvinas Padaiga, the Lithuanian Minister for Health, closed the event.

The Parliament is expected to adopt its response to the Commission Green Paper. The Commission is planning to produce a synthesis of all the responses to the consultation on the Green Paper by the end of 2006. This document is likely to form the basis for a White Paper, expected in the first quarter of 2007.

Mary Van Dievel, Director, Elisabeth Muschik, Board Member, and Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, attended the event on behalf of MHE.

The presentations of speakers can be downloaded from John Bowis' website at:

www.johnbowis.com/health_mentalhealth.htm

For more information, please contact Mari Fresu at mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

DG SANCO Stakeholder Involvement: Peer Review Group

DG SANCO (Health and Consumer protection) is currently working on how to improve the stakeholder consultation and participation processes.

Key SANCO Stakeholders (both industry and non governmental organizations - NGOs), consultation experts and Member States have been involved in the process through a Peer Review Group. This group will assist DG SANCO in reviewing its experience as regards stakeholder consultation in identifying best practices and loopholes in the existing consultation system.

The first Peer Review Group's meeting took place on 13 June 2006 in Brussels. The aim of this meeting was to review the draft of the DG SANCO's Preliminary Findings Report, which was drawn up taking into account the input provided by the different Directorates of DG SANCO – in particular those officials in charge of SANCO stakeholder networks – as well as other DGs, Member States and stakeholder consultation experts.

The group will end its work in December 2006. At the end of this project, SANCO Stakeholder Consultation guidelines will be developed, with the overall goals of:

- Improving the quality of DG SANCO policy-making;
- Empowering stakeholders and improve the dialogue with them;
- Providing SANCO policy officers with the most up to date tools necessary to better engage with stakeholders;
- Addressing the differences in access to information and resources between industry and NGOs.

Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, attended the first meeting on behalf of Mental Health Europe.

For more information, please contact Mari Fresu at mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

MHE representation at various meetings

On 1-3 June Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Board Member, took part in the Social Platform's networking visit to Sofia (Bulgaria). She met with Bulgarian mental health non governmental organisations (NGOs) and presented a contribution on networking.

On 7-9 June, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, and Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, participated in the Asklepios conference "Social Inclusion in Europe: Perspectives

and Developments in Social Psychiatry, Care for the Mentally Handicapped and the Elderly in Athens (Greece). (see p. 2)

On 8 June, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, Elisabeth Muschik and Mary Van Dievel, Director, attended a European Parliament Hearing on the Green Paper on Mental Health, hosted by John Bowis MEP. (see p. 3)

On 9-11 June, Mari Fresu represented the MHEEN (Mental Health Economics European Network) in both the ENMESH (European Network for Mental Health Service Evaluation) pre-conference workshop on *"Fighting stigma"* and in the 7th ENMESH International Conference in Lund (Sweden).

On 12-13 June, John Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor, took part in the management committee meeting for the European Coalition for Community Living.

On 13 June, Mari Fresu attended the 1st meeting of the Peer Review Group on *"Stakeholder Involvement"*, organised in Brussels (Belgium) by the European Commission's Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection. (see p. 3)
The same day Elisabeth Muschik participated in the Social Platform's Social Policy Working Group in Brussels.

On 19 June, Sogol Noorani went to the launch of Caritas Europa's 3rd Report on poverty in Europe, *"Migration, a journey into poverty? A Caritas Europa Study on Poverty and exclusion of immigrants in Europe"*, which took place in Brussels.

On 20 June, Mari Fresu gave a presentation on MHE's activities at the 12th EDF (European Disability Forum) Study Visit meeting with delegates of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) from the Western Balkans.

On 20 June, Mary Van Dievel met with Donatella Miccinesi and Pino Pini in Florence (Italy), to prepare the next partners meeting of the EU project on *"Good Practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems"* and MHE's next Board meeting.

On 21 June, Sogol Noorani, Mari Fresu and Fanny Muller, Information Officer, had an interview in the MHE office with Ms Dace Beinare, Director of the Latvian Crisis Center *Skalbes*, to give her some information on MHE's activities and actions.

On 22 June, Mari Fresu and Colette Versporten, Treasurer and Board Member, participated in the World Health Organization – Europe's event on *"Health gaps in the wider Europe: 10 health questions about the EU's neighbour"* held in Brussels. (see p. 9-10)

On 27 June, Sogol Noorani represented MHE at the EDF Cocktail with delegates of DPOs from the Western Balkans, which was held in Brussels.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

2nd belgo-senegalese conference organised by the Ligue Bruxelloise Francophone pour la Santé Mentale

This conference, which will be held in Dakar on 7-9 November 2006 on the theme *"Désarrois et Constructions – Les intervenants face aux nouveaux contextes"* (*"Helplessness and Building – Players facing new backgrounds"*), is organised by the Ligue Bruxelloise Francophone pour la Santé Mentale, the Moussa Diop Clinic of the National Hospital of Fann, the Association Sénégalaise de Thérapie Familiale Systémique, the Institute of Family and Human Systems Studies and the Mental Health Service of Brussels University, in collaboration with the Françoise Minkowska Centre and with the support of the French Community Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region.

The first belgo-senegalese meeting, in December 2004, showed how much clinical practices are facing growing and diverse changes.

In Africa as in Europe, ways of life are changing. Economic constraints, social contingencies and new emerging cultural references are giving rise to these changes, which are not similar on both continents. Whereas their scale is different, they have in common to act on the people's physical and mental health, especially on the most vulnerable.

The practitioner's helplessness goes hand in hand with the individuals' helplessness: what is the limit for intervention, shall we pretend to be unaware of the system's misfits, how shall we take care of those who are not asking for care, are there some needs which have priority in public health, what are the possibilities and limits of partnership work, where does the carer's responsibility stop...?

This second belgo-senegalese meeting will be an opportunity to discuss these phenomena's with sociologists and anthropologists. It will also be an occasion to highlight some innovative and inventive projects of care made up by practitioners who decided to take their responsibility for welcoming and taking care of people suffering from exclusion and segregation.

Five workshops will be organised on the themes: "*Expression of pain and new frameworks of intervention*", "*Coercion and institutional incoherencies: impact on professionals and recipients*", "*New cultural references and changes of the social link*", "*Family and couple's alterations*" and "*Migrations and breakings*".

For more information: the conference's secretariat, Tel +32.2.511.55.43, E-mail emessens@skynet.be

IASP's activities for 2006 World Day for Suicide Prevention

10 September 2006 is World Day for Suicide Prevention. Every year the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), in association with the World Health Organization (WHO), take advantage of this event to raise awareness among communities on the importance of suicide as an avoidable early death cause.

The theme of this year is: "*Knowledge brings new hopes*", with an emphasis on the implementation of scientific knowledge in the field of suicide prevention and on programs and activities aiming at reducing suicidal behaviours and saving lives.

The general public, organisations, communities, searchers, practitioners, workers from the field, policy makers, volunteers, surviving relatives, and every person or organisation interested are invited to joint their efforts for this World Day for Suicide Prevention.

This event aims at developing knowledge regarding suicide and to improve suicide prevention programmes. This year the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) will collaborate with IASP to promote suicide prevention activities.

For more information: the IASP website, www.iasp.info, or the WFMH website, www.wfmh.org
Thanks to Pierre Belpaire for this contribution.

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

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Disability Forum

EDF General Assembly, Rome (Italy), 27-28 May

There was a very large attendance at this 2007 General Assembly. All the European Union Member States (25), Norway, Iceland, the new accession countries, the Balkan states, and European non governmental organisations (NGOs) were invited!

More than 200 delegates were present and 7 languages were spoken.

After the adoption of the annual report and the election of a new Board Member (Pierre Mertens from the International Federation *Spina Bifida*), the first major discussion was about the new EU regulations on the Structural Funds: the Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, and the Cohesion Fund. The Structural Funds are the main EU funding instrument, with EUR 380 billions allocated for the period 2007-2013, and a critical funding tool for new EU Member States and accession countries regarding employment, infrastructures

and services. Member States are starting to discuss the national operational programmes and it is important that Disability Organisations get involved in order to ensure that disability issues will be a priority.

Further the final accounts, work programmes and budget were approved.

Another difficult issue was the review of the financial strategy and the increase of the membership fees. The principle to raise 20 % of own funds through the membership fees was adopted by a majority vote (a number of European NGOs – including Mental Health Europe – were not in favour). It was stressed that membership income is the only way to prove the European role of ENGOs towards the European Union.

An easier discussion was the strategy for the 10th anniversary of EDF. A strategy and declaration were adopted, re-launching an ambitious awareness raising strategy for the next 10 years.

The discussion regarding EDF position for the final session of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee for the International Convention on the rights of people with disabilities was long and difficult. Some members were questioning the need to give a definition of disability. It was adopted with a majority vote.

The last point on the agenda was the discussion on a policy paper on community living which was introduced by Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor and EDF Board and Task Force on Community Living member.

Many reactions were received, ranging from very conservative ideas on community living to ideas supported by Mental Health Europe: the right of a person to choose where to live and the creation of qualitative alternatives in the community.

This policy document needs to be reworked. Comments are expected by 1 July.

The next General Assembly will be held in the autumn of 2007.

For more information: the EDF Secretariat, Tel +32 2 282 46 00, E-mail info@edf-feph.org

Thanks to Josée Van Remoortel for this contribution.

EDF response to the EU consultation on actions to promote the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market

In March, the European Commission (EC) launched a consultation on actions at EU level to promote the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market. EDF very much welcomed this consultation which, for the first time, drew a link between activation measures and measures to support and provide a decent living for people unable to work.

In cooperation with the EDF Committee on Social Policy, EDF submitted its response to the consultation calling for an improvement of the existing instruments to fight social exclusion, and for the establishment of minimum requirements at European level, including:

- separation between health condition/disability/family status and minimum income;
- life-long learning for all people able to work, including short-term contracts and unemployed;
- measures to favour job retention;
- access to services for all: health, long-term care and personal support, social housing, assistive devices and mobility equipment;
- good governance and involvement of representatives of the groups concerned in policy elaboration;
- accessibility to the EU Structural Funds for target groups identified by the last Spring Summit, including people with disabilities.

For more information: the EDF website, <http://www.edf-feph.org>

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

Homelessness highlighted as a clear EU priority at FEANTSA's Seminar

Fighting homelessness is fighting against social exclusion and EU action has to help making this fight a successful one. European decision makers have sent this clear message to local authorities and organisations providing services to people experiencing homelessness who came together on 11 May at the FEANTSA European Seminar "Globalisation of homeless

policies" in the Committee of the Regions to discuss most effective strategies to combat homelessness.

"We have to generate a debate to making homelessness a clear priority on the European agenda", said Lady Hanham, Member of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and member of the committee of the Regions.

The commitment of political stakeholders is in line with the decision of the Council of European Social Affairs Ministers (EPSCO Council) of March 2005 that identified the treatment of the phenomenon of homelessness as a priority of EU anti-poverty policies.

To find information on the follow-up of the FEANTSA seminar: visit <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=571>

For more information: the FEANTSA website, <http://www.eapn.org>

Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing

Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe's Annual Conference, 18-20 May 2006, Brussels

At Inclusion Europe's annual conference, participants stressed the role of education as the key to inclusion, non-discrimination and social justice. They demanded more and better life-long learning programmes for people with intellectual disabilities.

More and more governments recognise the importance of life-long learning. Gisèle Mandaila, Belgian State Secretary for Families and People with Disabilities, stressed: "Life-long learning programmes are very important as they can bring more autonomy to people with intellectual disabilities. People become stronger because they gain a better understanding of their environment and the mechanism of their daily lives." This was confirmed by Patrick Gohet, the French Interdepartmental Representative for People with Disabilities, who outlined the inclusive policies of the French government in this sector.

The 250 participants discussed the objectives and needs of adult education for people with intellectual disabilities based on the four pillars of UNESCO's definition of adult education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. The following recommendations were endorsed by all participants:

- life-long learning programmes should target all citizens, including adults with intellectual disabilities;
- the programmes should not only focus on vocational training, but on all topics that are important to gain autonomy and self-esteem as well as contributing to the inclusion of people into society;
- life-long learning should offer a broad range of choices in terms of topics and ways of learning, both formal and non-formal education must be available;
- learning programmes must be of good quality and meet the needs of the learners in today's society;
- awareness raising about the learning abilities of adults with intellectual disabilities is necessary among family members, professionals, employers, disabled people themselves and within the community as a whole.

Members of Inclusion Europe and the participants of the conference will now use these recommendations to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the life-long learning process, to all relevant stakeholders at national and European level.

For more information about the conference: contact person, Nathalie Moyersoer, information@inclusion-europe.org, or see Inclusion Europe website, www.inclusion-europe.org

Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

Czech appeal court confirms psychiatric diagnosis does not equal dangerousness

Non governmental organisations (NGOs), the League of Human Rights, the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) and Kolumbus (a civil association of users and ex-users of psychiatric services), applaud a recent judgment of a Czech regional court which declared their client's detention in a psychiatric hospital unlawful.

The regional court found that the lower court, which had approved the man's psychiatric detention, had violated his rights because he was not legally represented during the court hearing and his alleged dangerousness was not proven. The regional court's finding condemns

the common Czech medical practice of simply assuming that a person with a psychiatric diagnosis is dangerous and should be detained in a psychiatric hospital.

The regional court held that the district court should not have uncritically accepted allegations of dangerousness from treating psychiatrists. In a detailed judgment, the appeal court held that *"dangerousness as a general term follows from the circumstances or facts comprehensible to both doctors and (critically thinking) lay persons and cannot be established by the courts simply on the basis of the opponents' allegations."* The regional court went on to explain that psychiatrists have a duty to prove, rather than merely to conclude, the alleged dangerousness of people given psychiatric diagnoses. Consequently, courts have a duty to objectively evaluate, in adversarial proceedings, allegations of dangerousness, and to ensure that the person whose detention is in question is properly represented by a lawyer or a representative chosen by the person.

Czech psychiatrist and chair of the MDAC Board, Dr. Jan Pfeiffer, commented, *"this case successfully challenges the widespread practice of equating mental illness with dangerousness, an approach which is contrary to Czech and international human rights law. MDAC will inform all relevant Czech courts about this important ruling."*

As part of a peer advocacy project, the association's members visit psychiatric hospitals in the Czech Republic and provide users with psycho-social support.

For more information: contact person, Jan Fiala, Tel +36 1 413 2730, or visit MDAC website <http://www.mdac.info>

Source: MDAC Press Release

Social Platform

Choosing the Social Platform's Annual Theme

One of the key elements of the Social Platform's Strategic Plan is the proposal to structure a large part of its work around an annual theme. As the strategic plan makes clear, this is to respond to demands from members that the Platform finds ways of responding to various challenges:

- looking to the longer-term, and focusing upon big issues for social NGOs;
- being more proactive, not simply responding to the EU Institutional agenda;
- stimulating debate at national level - via the Platform's members - on key issues by producing materials which can be widely disseminated across civil society.

Each theme will also form the focus for the Platform's annual conference, which will present the results of its work during the year.

The Social Platform now needs to choose an annual theme for 2007. Members are invited to submit proposals, and the Management Committee has adopted a set of criteria to help the Platform's team judge what would make a good theme. The deadline for submitting proposals is **31 July**.

MHE members which may be interested in submitting proposals can send them to the MHE Secretariat at info@mhe-sme.org

You can find details of what they are looking for, and how to make a proposal in the document "Choosing the Annual Theme" at

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/ChoosingTheAnnualTheme.doc>

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

IV. UNITED NATIONS

United Nations General Assembly elects first members to new Human Rights Council

On 9 May, the United Nations General Assembly elected 44 of the 47 members of the newly established Human Rights Council to replace the much criticized and now defunct Human Rights Commission, with a second round of voting expected later to decide the full quota of representatives from Eastern Europe.

All regions - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and Other states - obtained or exceeded the required 96-vote majority needed to fill their allocated number of members, except the Eastern European States, where only the Russian Federation, Poland and the Czech Republic won seats with the other three remaining vacant.

Ghana topped the voting for the 13 African seats, which also included South Africa and Algeria, while India received the most votes for the 13 Asian seats, which also included China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Russian Federation received the most votes for the six Eastern European seats, with a second round of balloting to be held involving Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania and Hungary to decide the three vacant seats in this group.

Brazil received the most votes for the 8 Latin American and Caribbean seats, which also included Cuba and Uruguay, while Germany received the most votes for the 7 Western European and Other States region, which included France and the United Kingdom.

Once the full 47 members of the Council are confirmed, it is scheduled to hold its first meeting in Geneva on 19 June.

The United States was among only four countries that voted against setting up the Human Rights Council in a resolution in March that passed with 170 countries in favour and three abstentions, with the US saying that the new body does not go far enough in its reforms.

Despite its "no" vote however, US Ambassador John Bolton has pledged that Washington will work cooperatively with other Member States to make the Council as effective as possible

For more information: the United Nations website,

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=18411&Cr=rights&Cr1=council>

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

Ombudsman for Children to tell UN of problems in Irish child psychiatric services

The Irish Ombudsman for Children, Emily Logan, is to brief the United Nations (UN) on the urgent need to end the placing of Irish children in adult psychiatric units at a briefing in Geneva next month.

Logan is understood to have already raised a number of her concerns about child and adolescent mental health services in a submission sent to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The lack of in-patient beds for children with psychiatric problems has already been raised by Amnesty International, the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy and the Irish College of Psychiatrists.

These groups have called for improved health promotion, early intervention services and increased psychiatric bed numbers for children, and particularly for the 16-18 age group – many of whom have been placed in adult centres.

"We have concerns that they are a group whose voice won't easily be heard because of the stigma of having children with mental health problems," Ms Logan told Medicine Weekly.

The Ombudsman for Children's Office has been contacted directly by many children who have been placed in adult psychiatric units, where they reported experiencing *"feelings of fear and distress"*.

Since Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, the Government has been obliged to submit progress reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, outlining how the State is fulfilling its commitments to young people.

The first report was made in 1998 and the UN Committee is due to review the Government's second periodic report in September, but has already received the Ombudsman's own independent report on Ireland's progress.

For more information: the Ombudsman for Children's website, <http://www.oco.ie>

Source: Irish Examiner, forwarded by Frank Mulcahy, from the Irish Council of People with Disabilities

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHO/Euro event "Health gaps in the wider Europe: 10 health questions about the EU's neighbours"

On 22 June 2006 a WHO - Euro event took place to launch the latest WHO/Euro book *"10 health questions about the new EU neighbours."*

This book is the follow up of the 2004 *"10 health questions about the 10"* book and provides a general overview of health and health systems in the EU's neighbours. It compares the key health indicators – including mental health – in each EU neighbour country to 3 averages for the EU: for its 25 current members, the 15 members before May 2004 and the 10 new members. It also provides a short description of each health care system.

Dr Marc Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, opened the event talking about the political dimension of some existing health gaps in the wider Europe. An overview of the diversities in health status was made by Dr Nata Menabde, WHO/Europe Deputy Regional Director. An outline of how national health systems differ was presented by Josep Figueras, Director of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies – WHO European Centre for Health Policy.

Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, and Colette Versporten, Board Member, attended the event.

To download the online version of the book: WHO website,

http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSources/Publications/Catalogue/20060224_1

VI. EUROPEAN UNION

Barroso's three step plan to new EU Constitution

In April European Commissioners spent two days brainstorming the future of Europe in Lanaken (Belgium). The discussion bear fruit in a May 10 policy paper drafted by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, which set out proposals on how to best proceed. The policy paper is to be debated by EU leaders at the June summit.

Barroso is urging heads of state and government to sign a political declaration of intent to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1957 founding EU Treaty of Rome.

He then sees parallel but linked negotiations in 2008 tying together a review of EU's financing to policy priorities and institutional forms.

Five year mandates expire in 2009, during June for the European Parliament and December for the Commission and Barroso is confident a post-Nice Treaty settlement will be ready.

But the key rendez-vous year for Barroso will be 2008 and the beginning of a review of EU spending, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the United-Kingdom's rebate, agreed at a summit last December.

Another key factor will be a new French government and a Paris EU presidency in the last half of 2008.

Another meeting, gathering Europe's foreign ministers, was organised in the end of May in Klosterneuburg (Austria), where it was agreed that the EU should have a new treaty in 2009.

The German EU Presidency, beginning in the first half of 2007, is to contribute by proposing a substantial plan in June 2007. Ministers also agreed to make entry conditions for new EU members tougher in the future.

For more information: the Europa website dedicated to the Constitution,

http://europa.eu/constitution/index_en.htm

Source: EUpolitix.com

New EU Programme to encourage active citizenship

On 6 April 2005 the Commission adopted a proposal for a programme to encourage active citizenship in Europe entitled "Citizens for Europe". The programme will cover the period 2007-2013 and has a total budget of EUR 207 million.

The proposal aims to address one of the key issues on the EU agenda at the moment: the increasing gap between citizens and the EU and how to reduce it.

Under the new programme cooperation between citizens and their organisations in different countries will be encouraged. It is thought that intercultural exchanges of this sort will improve citizen's knowledge of the culture and history of European people and highlight their common heritage.

Commission proposed three actions: "Active citizens for Europe", "Active civil society for Europe" and "Together for Europe".

The Commission's proposal was presented on 23 May to the Education, Youth and Culture ministers of the EU. Ministers welcomed the Commission proposal and recognised the added value provided by such programmes.

The programme was also discussed at the European Parliament (EP) (EP rapporteur is Mr. Hannu Takkula, ALDE - Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Finland). MEPs gave broad backing to it. They suggested to change the title of the programme from "Citizens for Europe" to "Europe for citizens", following the EU attempt to get closer to its citizens. They also added a fourth action, "An active European memory", consisting of support for projects to commemorate the victims of Nazi and Stalinist mass deportation and mass

extermination. To finish, MEPs stressed that encouraging active citizenship is crucial in the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance, and in promoting integration, cohesion and democracy.

The programme is now to be finally adopted by the Council of ministers.

For more information on the programme: the Europa portal,

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l29015.htm>

Source: UEF (Union of European federalists) and EP Press Release

EU-wide Citizen Survey

The European Parliament should have just one seat in Brussels, according to an EU-wide opinion poll commissioned by European Voice, the leading EU newspaper, and carried out by Penn, Schoen and Berland (PSB), a research-based communications consulting firm.

The survey, carried out at the beginning of May, explores the views of 1,000 citizens from the 25 member states on issues ranging from the seat of the European Parliament, the respective influence of business and non governmental organizations (NGOs) in Brussels, and which languages should be used in the EU institutions.

The key findings include:

- 79% of respondents believe the EU is strongly influenced by business, while NGOs are seen as less influential;
- more people believe the EU should be involved in areas such as the environment (86%), food safety (82%), energy (78%), trade (73%), health (72%), immigration and foreign affairs than do competition policy (54%), tax (49%) and culture (47%);
- people trust the EU more than their own governments (37% trust the EU, 22% their own government); this is more so in the new member states (49%-11%);
- while 56% of those polled believe EU membership has had a positive effect on their country only 37% believe it has had this effect on them personally; however, 82% believe that the EU institutions communicate poorly with them;
- 68% of respondents believe the European Parliament should have just one seat - and 76% of those believe that seat should be in Brussels;
- people are in favour of multilingualism, with 59% believing all meetings should be interpreted into all EU languages.

To download the results of the survey:

http://www.europeanvoice.com/downloads/Survey_of_EU_Citizens_-_Results.pdf

For more information: the European Voice website, www.europeanvoice.com.

VII PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Finnish Presidency logo and website

The Finnish government has launched the website and logo for its EU presidency, which begins at the beginning of July.

The main pages of the website will be in English and French, as is traditional, but the Finns have bowed to requests for more language versions and will include news and other documents in all available languages.

The design of the site and the logo is meant to reflect the dynamic changes underway in the EU, and represent the way the values of the enlarged EU dovetail together to form a unified whole.

It is said to be inspired by the lines and colours of the Nordic landscape and suggests the green of a burgeoning forest, the sweep of the horizon and the blue of water shimmering the sun.

To visit the website, http://www.eu2006.fi/en_GB

Source: EUPolitix.com

VIII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Budgetary framework and cohesion policy package for 2007-2013

On 15 May the Council endorsed a provisional agreement reached on 4 April with European Parliament on the EU's budgetary framework for the 2007-2013 period. The new inter-

institutional agreement (IIA) will enter into force on **1 January 2007**. The Parliament approved the IIA and various joint declarations on 17 May. Two points can be highlighted:

- Level of spending: EUR 864 billion over the 2007-13 period (only EUR 2 billion higher than that in the European Council's December agreement);
- Flexibility in the allocation of spending: spending reserves outside the financial framework are provided for, including a Globalisation Fund *"to assist workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade as regards retraining and their efforts to find new jobs"*; this fund will be financed up to EUR 500 million annually.

Ten days before, the Council had reached a political agreement on proposals for five regulations of the EU's structural funds and cohesion fund for the period 2007-2013. These will focus on three redefined objectives:

- Convergence (EUR 251 billion): this objective covers Member States and regions whose development is lagging behind;
- Regional competitiveness and employment (EUR 49 billion): this objective will help regions to anticipate and promote economic change in industrial, urban and rural areas; it is also aimed at helping people *"to anticipate and to adapt to economic change by supporting policies aimed at full employment, quality and productivity at work and social inclusion"*;
- European territorial cooperation (EUR 7.8 billion): this is a new objective building on the experience of the initiative on interregional cooperation (Interreg).

The texts of the five draft regulations will be sent to the European Parliament for its assent or second reading, depending on the regulation concerned (vote expected for beginning of July). Once the decision-making process is completed, the Council will formally adopt strategic guidelines on the basis of which each Member State will prepare, in dialogue with the Commission, a national reference document on its development strategy, which will constitute the framework for preparing operational programmes.

The five regulations are available in all Community languages.

To directly access the IIA: the Council's website,

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st08/st08594.en06.pdf>

Source: EAPN Flash

IX. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment and Social Affairs

Commission commits to promotion of decent work, which is factor in justice, social cohesion and economic performance

On 24 May, the European Commission committed itself to decent work for all to combat poverty and promote fair globalisation. The College, with broad consensus, adopted the communication *"Promoting decent work for all - The EU contribution to the implementation of the decent work agenda in the world"*.

Drawn up on the initiative of Vladimír Špidla (Social Affairs) and supported by Louis Michel (Development), Peter Mandelson (Trade) and Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations), the communication does not limit itself to promoting minimum working rights: it gives clear guidance on how to promote decent work, notably through job creation, improvement in governance, social dialogue and tackling corruption.

This follows up on the Commission communication on the social dimension of globalisation and the social agenda. The communication is a contribution to the efforts on decent work at the meetings of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva on 6 June and the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 3-5 July.

Meeting journalists, Mr Špidla acknowledged that the idea of *"decent work"* (formulated by the ILO and accepted by the UN) was not, in fact, very well defined and that it was more of an *"open"* idea. *"By placing the emphasis on employment, the quality of employment and appropriate social policies, the promotion of decent work is a factor not only in justice and social cohesion but also in economic performance. The endorsement of social objectives cannot under any circumstances be used for protectionist purposes. The objective is to achieve*

social progress across the board and ensure that it is spread fairly for the benefit of all," he said.

He gave examples of activities which promote decent work, mentioning in particular trade union freedom and the promotion of collective bargaining; combating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking; the fight against child labour; the protection of indigenous peoples; the protection and integration of migrant workers; the promotion of corporate social responsibility; and social protection for the vulnerable.

For more information: the Commission's website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=158

Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing

European year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007 gets green light

At the very beginning of June, the European Commission welcomed the decision by the Council and Parliament to designate 2007 as "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All". The year will aim to make Europeans aware of their right not to be discriminated against, to promote equal opportunities in areas from work to healthcare, and to show how diversity makes the EU stronger. The year will have four themes: rights, representation, recognition and respect, with a total budget of EUR 15 million for the 12 months activities.

The year's budget will be spent on, inter alia, an EU-wide information campaign, new Eurobarometer surveys on discrimination and attitudes towards it, as well as hundreds of national initiatives such writing competitions for schools on the theme of respect and tolerance or prizes for companies with the most effective diversity training. There will also be the first ever Equality Summit gathering together ministers, equality bodies, civil society and social partners.

Most activities will be coordinated nationally to ensure that they take place as locally as possible. The EUR 7.6 million dedicated to national, local and regional activities will be matched by co-financing from national public and private sources.

For more information about the Year: its dedicated website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm

DG Health and Consumer Protection

Consumer and public health action programmes 2007-13

On 24 May, the Commission adopted proposals for action programmes in health and consumer protection for 2007-13, as part of the wider financial perspectives package:

- *Consumer protection*: The proposal for an EU Consumer Action Programme was adopted with a budget of EUR 156.8 million for the period. The programme enables the EU to support consumer organisations, to enforce EU consumer legislation, and to financially support projects in the Member States that contribute to these aims.
- *Public Health*: The proposal for an EU Public Health Action Programme was adopted with a budget of EUR 365.6 million for the seven-year period. The proposal addresses key issues, such as healthy ageing, health inequalities across the EU, gender-related health issues and patient mobility. The Action Programme helps the EU to implement its aim of "protecting and improving public health" by financially supporting projects in the Member States that seek to address these issues.

Following adoption by the Commission, the proposal will go to the European Parliament and the Council, for adoption through the co-decision procedure.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2007_2013_en.htm

Source: EC News, forwarded by John Henderson (MHE)

X. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A petition for a single seat of the European Parliament

A wide coalition of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) has launched a petition for a single seat of the European Parliament (EP). Due to a provision in the Treaties the actual work of the EP is split among three cities: Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg. Most of the

criticism towards the current arrangement comes because of its expense and its complication for the actual work of the deputies.

The petition's aim is to collect 1 million signatures, as stipulated in the Article 47 of the Constitutional Treaty.

To access the online petition: <http://www.oneseat.eu>

Source EMI Newsletter

XI. EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

ECJ ruling on the right to be reimbursed for treatments received abroad

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that national health services must refund hospital treatments provided in another member state if patients waited longer than medically acceptable.

The ECJ addressed the case of Yvonne Watt, a British national resident, who needed a hip surgery. Having to wait one year to undergo the surgery, Ms Watt requested a E 112 scheme, which is submitted to prior authorisation from the Primary Care Trust in the UK. Her request was refused on the ground that the delay was within the "UK government National Health Service Plan targets". In other words, it was not considered as an undue delay.

After a deterioration of her health condition, Ms Watt went to France to undergo a hip replacement operation and asked the NHS to refund the costs, which was refused.

The European Court of Justice decided that the national health services must refund hospital treatments provided in another member state if patients waited longer than medically acceptable. It also concluded that the waiting time must not exceed a delay which is clinically acceptable, in light of the patient's medical conditions, course of illness, nature of disability, as well as the degree of pain. Besides, the definition of the waiting time must be flexible and be revised if the patient's condition deteriorates.

Furthermore, the Court concluded that the situation when a patient travels to another member state to receive treatment falls within the scope of the provision on freedom to provide services. Therefore, the system of prior authorisation constitutes an obstacle to the freedom of service provision. However, the Court also considered that this system is both reasonable and necessary "in the light of overriding reasons" - which must be defined.

To access the ECJ's ruling: [http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-](http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=Rechercher$docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-372/04&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100)

[bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=Rechercher\\$docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-372/04&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100](http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=Rechercher$docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-372/04&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100)

For more information: the ECJ website, <http://www.curia.eu.int>

Source: EPHA Newsletter

XII. VARIOUS

MindFreedom International's work for human rights in psychiatry

A coalition of more than 100 groups in 14 countries, MindFreedom was formed in 1988 to speak out against human rights violations in the mental health system, such as restraints, involuntary electroshock therapy, and forced medication. Many of its founders and members call themselves survivors of the system, and their experiences show that for some, "treatment" is not a road to recovery but a highway to hell.

Lately, the group has been campaigning against drug implants that are surgically inserted under the skin to release antipsychotic medicine slowly, over weeks or months. It is still good old drug therapy, not an electronic implant, but the method takes control away from the patient and gives it to the doctors. In this way, MindFreedom contends, it is another step toward curtailing the rights of some of society's most marginal members, the mentally ill. And as far as MindFreedom director David Oaks is concerned, it will also result in more invasive and heavy-handed methods such as electronic implants controlled by doctors. Apart from the rights implications of the new brain science, Oaks contends that many of the most touted treatment methods are based on what is still a crude understanding of the brain.

Oaks, who was diagnosed as psychotic and forced to take medication in the 1970s, contends that a more holistic model encompassing mind, body, spirit, and environment can lead to better treatment results and even full recovery for psychiatric patients.

In the United States, discussion of the ethical aspects of brain science has largely been relegated to groups like MindFreedom and the occasional academic or professional conference. But Europe is having a broader dialogue. Last year 126 citizens from nine countries were tapped to participate in a series of conversations, dubbed "*Meeting of the Minds*," that studied the issue with the help of researchers, ethicists, stakeholders, and policy makers. It was considered to be the largest public consultation on science, and the first such Europe-wide effort. The panel, which was coordinated by the Belgium-based King Baudouin Foundation, presented its recommendations to the European parliament in January 2006. Many of them focused on the potential misuses of brain science innovations and encouraged safeguards against rights abuses.

For more information: MindFreedom International web site: <http://www.MindFreedom.org>

Source: Utne Magazine

MDRI's report on the violation of the rights of infants and children with disabilities in Romania

Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) has found children with disabilities hidden and wasting away, near death, in Romania's adult psychiatric facilities. A report released on 10 May, "*Hidden Suffering: Romania's Segregation and Abuse of Infants and Children with Disabilities*," describes teenagers weighing no more than 27 pounds. Some children are tied down with bed sheets, their arms and legs twisted and left to atrophy.

Despite Romanian government claims that it has ended the placement of babies in institutions, MDRI found infants languishing in a medical facility so poorly staffed that the children never leave their cribs. Many of these children have no identity papers. Officially, they do not exist. These shocking revelations come at a time when Romania, in its effort to join the European Union (EU), is under pressure to reduce the number of children in institutions. Romanian officials admitted to MDRI that they had no idea how many children with disabilities are in adult facilities.

"We call on the government of Romania and the EU to put a stop to these abuses," said Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director of MDRI.

For more information: MDRI website, www.mdri.org.

Source: MDRI Press Release

"Integration between general practice and mental health services in Italy: guidelines for consultation-liaison services implementation"

Anxiety and depressive disorders, globally defined as common psychiatric disorders, frequently occur in the general population and are associated with high degrees of subjective distress and disability. The crucial role of general practice in the management of these disorders is receiving more attention from health service organisations, and a close co-operation between General Practitioners (GPs) and psychiatrists is underway in many countries, especially in the United Kingdom and in North America. In these countries, the GP has a key role in the management of mental illness.

In Italy, general practice is guaranteed to each citizen, but a formal primary health care service does not exist. GPs work individually instead of in group practices with little contact with other colleagues and without any kind of functional network.

Mental health care is provided by Community Mental Health Centres (CMHCs) with multi-professional teams (psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers and occupational therapists), which mainly take care of people with severe and enduring mental health problems.

Collaborative programmes between general practice and mental health were developed at the end of the 1990s. Single-sited spontaneous initiatives of co-operation and integration between general practice and psychiatry have been implemented in many regions. Recently, the Italian Health Care Government has begun to encourage integration between primary and secondary care for the management of mental health. This paper, realised by M. Menchetti, I. Tarricone, B. Bortolotti, and D. Berardi, from the Institute of Psychiatry of Bologna University (Italy), illustrates some guidelines for the implementation of Consultation-liaison services in contexts where GPs work alone. It presents some activity data they experienced in the period 1999-2004 and a critical evaluation of what works and what does not work.

It concludes that a consultation-liaison service like the one proposed in the paper could contribute to an efficient and fully-integrated collaborative management of common psychiatric disorders, reducing the use of mental health services.

To directly access the paper: the IJIC (*International Journal of Integrated Care*) website, <http://www.ijic.org>

Source: IJIC editorial Office

IDDC to promote the recognition of disabled persons in the new International Convention

The International Disability & Development Consortium (IDDC) is a consortium of 19 international disability non governmental organisations (NGOs) working on disability rights and inclusion in development cooperation with field presence in over 100 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

IDDC has a strong interest in the plans and designs of the EU in the field of human rights in third countries. The *Thematic Programme on Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide* is an instrument which has an impact both in practical terms on the ground, as well as in the shaping of EU decision making in the field of human rights. Disability rights are, and must be, inherent in all human rights activities including those advanced by the EU.

In the previous *European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights* (EIDHR) and the supporting policy document, "*The EU's Role in Promoting Human Rights and Democratisation in third countries*", no explicit recognition was given to persons with disabilities as one of the main groups vulnerable to human rights abuse and the denial of human and fundamental rights. This has been done, despite the efforts of the European Parliament, to include explicit reference to the need for the protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, within the EIDHR programme.

IDDC hopes that this new Thematic Programme will result in more concentrated attention on disability and lead to initiatives which result in the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the status of persons with disabilities in third countries by the EU.

This call comes at a time when the United Nations are in the process of drafting the *International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*, with its adoption anticipated for the end of 2006. This International Convention has been welcomed by the European Commission in its Communication of January 2003. The European Commission itself recognises, in the communication, the barriers disabled people face in respect to their human rights and the need to seriously address the barriers.

For more information: the Europa Portal,

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/development/body/communications/thematic_programmes.htm, or visit www.light-for-the-world.org and www.iddc.org.uk

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

XIII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Online database assessing the health of prisoners in Europe

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the World Health Organisation - Europe Region have joined forces to build a database assessing the health of prisoners in Europe.

Among other issues, the database particularly intends to draw the attention on the prevalence of drug abuse within the target group.

Although the full database will only be available online as of July 2006, the first step of the project focuses on drug prevalence and entails a database on "*data collection to develop an inventory of social and health policies, measures and actions concerning drug users in prison in the recently incorporated Member States to the EU*". This has been compiled by the Scientific Institute of the German Medical Association in cooperation with the WHO and EMCDDA.

The EMCDDA has also carried out an "*inventory of European social and health policies, measures and actions concerning drug users in prisons*", looking at the "old" 15 Member States.

It aims to provide information on prison demographics and capacity, the legal status of prisoners, the influx and the staff profile. It also collects epidemiological data on the

prevalence of infectious diseases (especially HIV-AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases), as well as draws mental health indicators.

For more information: the EMCDDA website,

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nNodeID=2721&slLanguageISO=EN>

Source: EPHA Newsletter

Social Developments in the European Union 2005

"*Social Developments in the European Union 2005*" analyses the most significant events which took place on the political scene in that year: discussion of the European social model, the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact, the review of the Lisbon strategy and the question of further enlargement (Turkey, Croatia), the eleventh-hour agreement on the 2007-2013 budget.

Turning to social policy matters, it looks at three issues symptomatic of the changes underway at European level: the "better regulation" initiative of the Commission President, Mr Barroso, developments in the European social dialogue, and the open method of coordination as applied to pensions.

To download the document's table of contents and introduction, or to order a copy:

<http://www.ose.be/en>

Source: infoOSE newsletter

HSCNews International, issue 29 (May 2006)

Health and Social Campaigners' News International is a unique, monthly email news service designed to give members of the Health and Social Campaigners' Network practical information about the policies and activities of patient groups, disability groups, consumer groups, statutory groups, older peoples' groups, carers' groups, and family groups worldwide. This month's issue profiles the health campaigning movement in 2006, looks at campaigners' visions of healthcare in 2020, and returns to the subject of pharmaceutical funding.

To access issue 29 of *HSCNews International*: the Patient Views website, <http://www.patient-view.com>

XIV. PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the conference "Human Rights - Disability - Children: Towards international instrument for disability rights - The special case of disabled children"

Too many people with disabilities, particularly children, continue to experience isolation, stigma and social exclusion because they live in specialised institutions. The Conference "*Human Rights- Disability-Children: Towards international instrument for disability rights - The special case of disabled children*", organised by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (8-9 November 2004) under its Norwegian Chairmanship, reviewed current Council of Europe instruments to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities. It focused in particular on the right of children with disabilities to grow up within a family and in a community context. The event, attended by more than 100 participants from 34 Council of Europe member and observer states, clearly showed that strengthening the rights of children with disabilities within a non-discriminatory framework "from patient to citizen" is a pan-European issue. The concrete follow-up of the conference is provided by a multidisciplinary ad hoc group of experts who, in the framework of the forthcoming Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe (2006 2015), will draw up recommendations and guidelines for the de-institutionalisation of children with disabilities, promote the policy of community living and support families to care for their disabled children at home.

For more information and to place an order directly (Price: 30 €):

http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2026

HALDE's 2005 Annual Report on the state of discrimination in France

HALDE, the French authority in charge of the fight against discriminations and for equality (Haute Autorité française de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité), has published its first annual report.

During one year (from 8 March 2005 to 28 February 2006) HALDE studied 2365 cases, settled disputes out of court, referred some cases to tribunals or simply made it public as publicity acts as a deterrent. 40% of the cases related to discriminations on the grounds of ethnical origins, 14% on the grounds of health or disability, and 6% on the grounds of sex or age. While employment is first concerned, access to housing is also an important source of discriminations. For the moment HALDE is not going to punish, but rather establish an official statement, inform, and educate so that the practices can evolve. It wrote to the 150 most important businesses settled in France, to suggest them 8 concrete measures ranging from recruitment techniques to life-long learning promoting and generalisation methods.

To download the full annual report (in French): <http://www.halde.fr/rapport-annuel/2005/pdf/HALDE-rapport-annuel-2005.pdf>

For more information: HALDE's website, <http://www.halde.fr>

Source: EULogos Newsletter

3rd issue of the biannual law review now available

The European network of legal experts working with the European Commission has recently published its 3rd bi-annual law review, covering the development of anti-discrimination law and policy up until January 2006.

The review includes an examination of the Collective Complaints Procedure under the Council of Europe's Social Charter as a mechanism for combating discrimination. It also explores the potential of the Racial Equality Directive to effectively combat racial discrimination against Roma. Situation Tests as a means of proof in Europe are also highlighted.

Regular sections provide an update on developments at European level, while the section on news from the EU Member States documents changes at a national level.

Free hard copies of the review are available upon request from review@non-discrimination.net

The law review can also be downloaded in English, French and German.

For the English version:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/legnet/06lawrev3_en.pdf

New Series of 12 country reports on the rights of people with intellectual disabilities

The 12 monitoring reports have been published and launched by EUMAP (EU Accession Monitoring Program), in collaboration with the Open Society Mental Health Initiative. The reports monitor access to education and employment in the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom.

The EUMAP reports have highlighted limited or no access to employment and a lack of targeted employment programmes, resulting in reliance on (meagre) state benefits and family, and an inability to lead an independent life. In some countries, significant numbers of children with intellectual disabilities - particularly those in rural areas or with more severe disabilities - are still unable to access education at all. Across the countries monitored, those children with intellectual disabilities who do attend school mostly do so in segregated special schools.

All reports are published as bilingual volumes, in English and the national language.

PDF files are available online of all reports at <http://www.eumap.org/topics/inteldis/reports>

For more information: the EUMAP website, <http://www.eumap.org>

XV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

NEW!! 12 July 2006

Civil Society Contact Group's Conference, "NGO and the EU: Making civil dialogue work better"

Did non governmental organisations (NGOs) fail to take citizens on board of the European project? Should they be part of the dialogue with European Union (EU) institutions or of the contestation? What does "participatory democracy" really mean in the EU and how to link "Brussels" to the grassroots?

These questions have been high on the agenda over the last years and will increasingly be in the coming weeks, as the debate over the European Commission's Communication White Paper and the Transparency Initiative heats up.

The conference will provide space for common discussion over some of these key challenges. On this occasion, the Civil Society Contact Group will present the study "Civil Dialogue: making it work better", which assesses dialogue and consultations between NGOs and EU institutions in seven different policy areas, at EU and national level.

The aim of the conference is to bring together EU and national level NGO activists, giving them the opportunity to discuss the study's main outcomes and recommendations, based on their daily experience and difficulties. It will thus put a particular focus on participation through interactive workshops focusing on key aspects of the study: improving the way EU institutions consult, transparency and representativity, and linking "Brussels" to the grassroots.

To register: contact person, Raluca Petrescu, E-mail assistant@act4europe.org

For more information: the Civil Society Contact Group's website, <http://www.act4europe.org/code/en/hp.asp>

13-14 July 2006

International Seminar "Part-Time Work and New Forms of Employment – Ways to Bring Employment to More People?", Milan (Italy)

The seminar, organised by The European Training Centre for Social Affairs and Public Health (EIPA-CEFASS), will be divided in three sessions. It will first provide an analysis of all relevant social, economic and legal aspects. Practitioners will then give examples of specific country experiences. On the second day, future perspectives will be discussed. The focus will be on the question of whether the new employment trends have potential to increase employment rates and thus economic growth.

For more information: contact person, Roger Hessel Tel. +39 02 67 100 600, r.hessel@eipa-it.com, or see the EIPA website, <http://www.eipa.nl>

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_gb.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.specialolympicseyg.org/indexeyg.php>

NEW!! 4-7 October 2006

9th European Health Forum, Gastein (Austria)

The 2006 Gastein Forum, "Creating a better future for health in Europe", will be held under the general theme "Health without barriers". In various fields, challenges will be assessed and potential solutions developed in discussion with delegates.

In addition to following the traditional Gastein approach of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, a particular focus will be given to involving and serving citizens in Europe.

Those participating in the event include senior policy and decision-makers representing politics and government at EU, national and regional levels; business and industry; health care funders and service providers; civil society; as well as experts and researchers in health care and public health.

For registration and for more information: the Health Forum's website,

<http://www.ehfg.org/typo3/index.php?id=69&L=2>

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/>

NEW!! 12-15 October 2006

WARP IX World Congress of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Athens (Greece)

WAPR (World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation) was established in 1986 in Lyon from a group of inspired mental health experts of the international psychosocial rehabilitation community and soon expanded. Today there are over 40 Branches in 40 countries. The main goals of WAPR are the promotion of rehabilitation services and staff training in Africa, Asia, Europe, America and the Pacific region through regional seminars and conferences as well as

the improvement of the quality of life of individuals and families suffering from mental disorders throughout the world.

In Athens will be celebrated WARP's 20th anniversary, in a country serving as a paradigm of the rapid reform of its traditional mental health care system to a modern community based one.

The main theme of the conference is the globalisation phenomena and its impact on the implementation of rehabilitation programs in the various geopolitical areas of the planet.

For more information: the WARP website, <http://www.wapr.2006athens.gr/en/>

NEW!! 18-20 October 2006

CEES-ENA International Colloquium, "The right to employment of disabled workers in Europe: Some worthy examples for the public services?", Strasbourg (France)

The treaty on the European Union lays down as a principle in Article 13 the fight against any discrimination, based among other things on "disability". A Council Resolution of 15 July 2003 on promoting the employment and social integration of people with disabilities invites the Member States and the Commission, within their respective competences, to undertake new concrete measures to promote the employment and social integration of people that are said to be "disabled".

What do the policies of fight against discriminations in the professional sector provide for at the international and European level?

How do governments and public administrations in Europe tackle these new obligations and what provisions do they provide for?

What experiences and good practices are found in the EU member States?

How can public institutions encourage the whole of society to better interact with all its citizens?

What coordinated action plans can be established by the States and the European institutions to encourage employment in the public sector of people recognised as disabled?

The colloquium, organised by the CEES-ENA (Centre des Etudes Européennes de Strasbourg – Ecole Nationale d'Administration), will attempt to take stock of these questions by inviting to Strasbourg national and international experts coming from the research field and administrative practice as well as from the civil society.

The objectives of the colloquium are information and exchange of innovative practices but also the creation of new inter-administration and multidisciplinary networks aiming at harmonising the efforts in this field and at thinking about an approach that would target the challenges of a society evolving with diversity.

For more information: contact person, Agnès Bucaille-Euler, Tel +33 3 88 21 45 31, Fax +33 3 88 21 45 41, or visit the CEES website, <http://www.cees-europe.fr/fr/formations/agenda.php#handicap>

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?1140446978484>

NEW!! 19-21 October 2006

19th CEFEC Conference, "The social economy and employment of people with mental health problems", Seville (Spain)

Each year the CEFEC (Confederation of European Social Firms) conference is organised by a different European city. This year it is organized in Seville, in cooperation with FAISEM (Andalusian Foundation for the Social Integration of the Mentally Ill). The conference brings together employees (users of mental health services), members, mental health professionals and managers to exchange views and practices on social issues, the promotion of community awareness, the employment of people with psychosocial problems, and the organisation, management and financial issues of Social Firms and social co-operatives.

Its programme includes housing, occupational and recreational facilities and employment initiatives: vocational orientation and training, Social Firms and supported employment programmes.

For more information: CEFEC website, www.cefec.org and FAISEM website, www.faisem.es

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!! 18-21 November 2006

SMES-EUROPA 10th Conference, "After 15 years...", Rome (Italy)

15 years ago (1992), in Rome, a 1st seminar was organized to mark the beginning of the SMES' movement.

Today discrimination and stigmatisation, marginalization and poverty touch more and more people, extreme exclusion makes more and more victims... Why?

From 1992 to now on all the efforts against exclusion and discrimination, in order to promote citizenship do not have given the expected results. Why?

The aim of the conference is:

1. A retrospective evaluation: "...what is the situation after 15 years?," what has been changed in a positive or a negative way?
2. Perspectives and proposals for the future, for absolute priorities in right and access to health and social services for homeless people.

For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, http://www.smes-europa.org/ROME2007_10CONF_SMES-EUROPA.htm

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>

31 May–2 June 2007

MHE conference 2007, "No Health without Mental Health: from slogan to reality", Vienna (Austria)

The MHE conference 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 for exchange of 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.

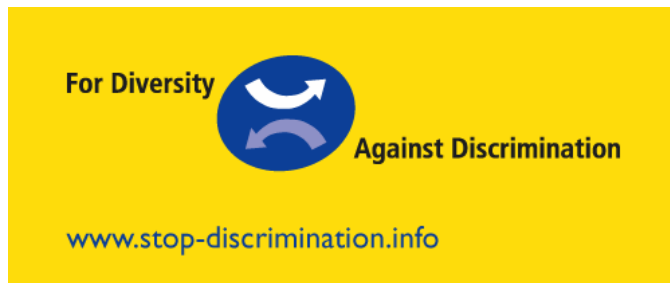
The social programme will include a reception at the Vienna Town Hall; an "Art Brut"-Exhibition; etc.

Additionally, MHE's annual General Assembly will take place at the end of the conference.

You can 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



Do you wish to share information, announce something or make a contribution to the MHE Newsletter?

Please send it to 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.

First name:

Family name:

Address:

City:

Country:

Tel.:

Fax:

E-mail:

Occupation or organisation:

Date:

Account number:

Bank details:

Completed form to be returned to:

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