



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE SANTE MENTALE EUROPE

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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

NEW PROJECT - Best practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems

Officially started on the 1st September, the project is supported by DG Employment and Social Affairs and gathers 10 partner organisations:

- 5 in the new EU Member States - Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill (Cyprus), Czech Association for Mental Health, Coalition for Mental Health (Poland), Slovak League for Mental Health, Sent (Slovenia).
- and 5 in old EU Member States - Flemish Association for Mental Health – VVGG (Belgium), Advocacy France, Mental Health Ireland, Italian Association for Mental Health - AISMe (Italy) and Penumbra (Scotland).

A first partners meeting will be held in Brussels on 14 and 15 October.

The aim of the project is to demonstrate the link between mental illness and social exclusion. The project will focus in particular on existing best practices that can contribute to tackling the inequalities that people with mental health problems encounter, in access to health, employment and education and training services as well in the protection of their civil and human rights.

More specific objectives are:

- to identify, collect and analyse the best practices against social exclusion of people with mental health problems in the participating countries;
- To assess which practices are transferable to other European countries, taking into account the major existing socio-economic and cultural differences;
- To organise exchange visits with the partner countries in order to meet with the policy makers, regional stakeholders and civil society;
- To establish an on-line database as a section of an on-line Directory of best practices in tackling social inclusion of people with mental health problems;
- To organise consultation at the European level with the European NGOs active in the field of social inclusion in order to benefit from their experience and mainstream awareness on mental health issues (EuroHealthNet, European Disability Forum, European Social Platform, the European Network of (ex) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, EUFAMI, the European Anti Poverty Network);
- To organise a European conference in order to raise the awareness of the policy makers and ensure that our findings are taken up in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion;
- To disseminate the results and to raise awareness at all levels: local, regional, national and European.

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

EMIP Project

The project EMIP (“Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies”) is progressing. As you know, the project is supported by the European Commission DG Health and Consumer Protection and is managed by the Federal Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in Dortmund, in collaboration with 7 European Consortium partners (among which Mental Health Europe) and 13 national partners.

A series of national workshops exploring the state of art of mental health promotion and mental disease prevention policies and ways to strengthen them will be organised in the countries participating in the project. For October and November, workshops are planned in Estonia, Poland, Slovenia, Finland, Hungary, Germany, Austria and Romania.

A group of experts, with extensive experience in mental health promotion and mental disease prevention policies joined the project team and will support the national partners for the preparation of the national workshops. They had a meeting in Dortmund on 16 September to discuss the best ways to include their contributions into the project.

Moreover, an information leaflet on the project was prepared by EuroHealthNet and Mental Health Europe and will be soon available for distribution.

The next Consortium meeting will be in Vienna (9-10 December 2005) and a Baseline Conference is foreseen for 22–25 March 2006 in Budapest

For further information: Matthias Roos, Project Co-ordinator, FIOSH, tel. +49 2319071-2711/ -2303, fax +49 2319071-2537, e-mail

Roos.Matthias@BAuA.bund.de.

Please visit also the project website:

<http://www.mentalhealth.epha.org/>

“Training Centres for Mental Health” Project

Supported by the European Commission, DG Education and Culture (Grundtvig line), the project started in January 2005, under the co-ordination of Estuar Foundation in Bucharest, Romania. MHE is one of the partners in the project. The aim is to develop and test a training course for mental health for staff working in the field of mental health, for representatives of local administration (especially public social services), for graduates of social science universities, for volunteers and for mental health service users and their family members.

During a meeting in June in Prague, the partners agreed on the topics to be included in the training package: (1) the risk of social exclusion and discrimination, (2) employment, (3) stress management, (4) effective care co-ordination, social services available, (3) working with mental health problems, (7) risk factors for mental health problems, (8) motivational interviewing, (9) mental health information for primary care staff, (10) supervision in social care work.

Several Training of trainers sessions are planned to be organised in each participating country: Romania, Poland, Czech Republic UK and Belgium.

For further information: Luminita Costache, Estuar Foundation, luminita.costache@estuar.org or MHE website http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/projects_trainingcenter.htm

MHE representation at various meetings

Claude Deutsch, MHE President, participated in the biannual world congress of the World Federation for Mental Health - "Equity and Mental Health", which took place from 4 to 8 September in Cairo, Egypt (more info page 5)

Elisabeth Muschick, MHE Board member, attended the Social Policy Working Group at the Social Platform, on 6 September, in Brussels. She also represented MHE at the 18th CEFEC (Confederation of European Social Firms, Employment Initiative and Cooperatives) Conference - "Social Economy-Innovative Approaches to Employment", held during 8-10 September in Novo Mesto, Slovenia.

On 8 September, Mary van Dievel, MHE Director, attended the Social Platform meeting on Strategic planning.

Roxana Radulescu, project co-ordinator, attended the policy coordination meeting organised by EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) on 7 September in Brussels.

Mary van Dievel, MHE Director, participated in the meeting of the Intergroup on Ageing at the European Parliament on 20 September, in Brussels (more info page 6). She also attended the meeting of the Health Intergroup (focussed on mental health) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, on 28 September (for more information page 6).

Josée van Remoortel, MHE Policy Advisor, attended the meeting of the Membership and Accreditation Committee of the Social Platform, held on 15 September, in Brussels.

Colette Versporten, MHE Treasurer, participated in the meeting "Putting informal care on the EU policy agenda" organised by the Madriaga European Foundation on 20 September, Brussels.

Paul Arteel, Director of the Flemish association for Mental Health, which is a MHE member- represented MHE at a training seminar on disability non-discrimination law, organised by the European Disability Forum during 20-24 June 2005, in Maastricht.

Request for information from Babylon Medical College

MHE received a request for information materials from a colleague psychiatrist at the Babylon Medical College in Irak, who expressed the wish to receive English written publications on mental health that would be useful for his students.

Should you wish to share some information materials, please send them to:

Dr Abd-UI-Amir K.Al-Ganimee
Psychiatrist
Babylon Medical College
P.O. Box 108
Karbala - Iraq

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

MIND (UK) launched 2005 Manifesto

The MIND manifesto 2005 was launched at MIND Annual conference in March 2005. It calls on the government to recognise that mental health is not simply a medical issue, but a social, economic and cultural issue too and to deliver mental health policies that benefit us all. In particular, it calls on the government to:

- Make mental health a top health priority;
- Combat the social exclusion and stigma faced by people with mental health problems;
- Ensure people with mental health problems receive the help they need at the earliest opportunity;
- Ensure full and easy access to crisis care and produce new mental health legislation that respects the dignity and human rights of individuals;
- Protect consumers through more stringent regulation of prescription drugs.

The manifesto was sent to all sitting MPs, members of the House of Lords, local MIND associations, Mind In Action members, Mind Link members and other individuals and groups in Minds' networks.

Copies of the manifesto can be obtained from Daphne Phillips d.Phillips@mind.org.uk.

Norwegian Council for Mental Health- involved in mental health education in the Middle East

A major objective of the Norwegian Council for Mental Health (NCMH) is the advancement of mental health on the international level. In its main strategy 2004 – 2007, NCMH has included international involvement among its four key objectives: The Council will seek to support the development of local networks of user- and family-based organizations and, in cooperation with humanitarian organizations and authorities, will identify and support development projects focussing on the needs of traumatized children and youth living in conflict areas.

On the basis of experiences from humanitarian work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and aware of psychological distress and trauma resulting from permanent conflict, occupation and closure, NCMH has got now involved in a project the Middle East, working with the Beirut-based Arab Resource Collective (ARC) to develop educational tools (printed and web-based material) for students and teachers.

Although, psychological distress and suffering is widespread in the region, for various reasons – including psychological and cultural obstacles - mental health issues are habitually taboo. There is a lack of awareness of mental health problems and a lack of comprehension of mental health issues in general. Consequently the objective of NCMH is to contribute to genuine pioneering efforts to develop resources for mental health for a new generation of children and young people.

Thanks to Arne Ørum (International Relations Advisor - arne.orum@psykiskhelse.no) and to Tor Øystein Vaaland (Secretary General -

tor.oystein.vaaland@psykiskhelse.no) for this contribution.

For further information:

<http://www.psykiskhelse.no/english.asp>

AESM Spain – new President, new email address

AESM the National Association of mental Health Nursing has a new president: **D. Marciano Tomé Alonso** and a new email address: anesm1@gmail.com.

For further information: www.aesm.net

Stockholm Health Economics – change of address

As from the 1st of August, Stockholm Health Economics AB has a new mail and visitor's address:

Vasagatan 38

SE – 111 20 Stockholm

Sweden

For further information:

<http://www.healthconomics.se/>

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL NGOS

European Disability Forum

Meeting with Commission Vice-President Frattini

In a meeting held on 15 September with a delegation from the European Disability Forum, Commissioner Franco Frattini (Commission Vice President and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security) showed his commitment to disability issues under a Human rights approach and demonstrated his openness to include a disability dimension in the field of justice and home affairs. In particular, Frattini announced the publication of a new European Commission Communication on human trade and his intention to include in this key document proposals against trafficking of disabled people. He also showed a particular interest on the situation of disabled people in institutions, access to justice, and the mistreatment of people with disabilities in prisons, a field in which he is planning to take action.

Moreover, he reacted very positively to the various proposals of the EDF, such as the need to integrate disability issues in the European Union Annual Human Rights Report, just as the United Nations are adopting a Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.

Although he recognised the importance of a structured dialogue with civil society in the field of Human rights and in the context of the creation of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, disappointingly, Frattini remained reluctant to extend this dialogue to the recently established Group of Commissioners dealing with discrimination and fundamental rights.

Following the fruitful meeting, the EDF will present concrete proposals to the work programme of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, as suggested by the European Commissioner.

For further information: *Helena González-Sancho Bodero*, EDF Communication and Press Officer: Tel: +32-2-282.46.04 E-mail: communication@edf-fehp.org

Report on a training seminar on disability non-discrimination law

This training was organised by the European Disability Forum (EDF) in Maastricht, during 20-24 June 2005, with the support of the European Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination. This programme was established to support the effective implementation of new EU anti discrimination legislation. 19 representatives of 16 national associations and 3 representatives of European associations (MHE, Autisme Europe and the European Network for independent Living) participated at the seminar. The main aims was to inform participants of the actual (international) legislation on disability rights (EU Constitution, UN Disability Convention, Directive of Council of Europe) and to train participants on strategies to implement non discrimination laws.

Case studies on the UK, Dutch and Irish legislation were completed with an exhaustive survey of the recent action of Autism Europe to change French government policy by a successful collective complaint action at the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe.

All participants were activists who were themselves disabled, or representing disabled people, embracing the widest spectrum of impairment.

The MHE representative (Paul Arteel – lawyer and Director of the Flemish Association for Mental Health), supported by two other colleagues from UK and the Netherlands who represented organisations of people with mental health problems, raised the issue of the psycho-social and mental disability and made it possible to discuss at several occasions the specific problems and discriminations related to mental illness. Let's hope that as a result of this training seminar, organisations of disabled people – including mental health associations – will bring international conventions to life. The changing of the laws was the first step to take, now there is a dire need to raise awareness and take action to improve conditions for disabled people and to stop discrimination. The participants of the seminar should be ready to start action in their countries.

Thanks to Paul Arteel, info@vvgg.be, Flemish Association for Mental Health for this contribution.

Social Platform

Conference "Building Social Policies on Fundamental Rights"

This European Conference will take place in Brussels, during **11-12 October 2005**. Following years of campaigning by Social NGOs, trade unions, and others, an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights was adopted in 2001. The Charter has now been incorporated in the Constitutional Treaty signed by EU leaders in Rome in 2004, and awaiting ratification. Yet, in spite of these advances, a rights-based approach to EU social policy has not been adopted. Indeed, economic objectives have increasingly come to dominate the evolution of European social policy – at the very same time as the EU has recognised the equivalence of social rights with political and civil rights within the EU Charter. So, how can the shifts towards fundamental rights be built upon to put social rights at the heart of social policy?

The conference features eight innovative seminars coordinated by member organisations of the Social Platform on themes relating to fundamental rights. These seminars, based on the experience of European networks in particular fields, will provide a forum to look at the rights-based approach and ask how and whether social policies are linked to fundamental rights.

Themes:

1. Rights of undocumented migrants;
2. Minimum income: A fundamental right in the EU;
3. The right to housing assistance: what does it mean?
4. Towards rights-based social policies for persons with complex dependency needs disabilities;
5. Empowering migrant women living in Europe
6. Implementing the right to access to employment for people with disabilities;
7. The right to health and the right of access to healthcare.

For the detailed programme and registration:
www.socialplatform.org

Meeting on Strategic Planning

The first (of three) meetings with members on the development of a future Social Platform's Strategy took place on 8 September. The aim was to contribute in establishing the Social Platform's targets and priorities for the years to come. With 8 Platform members in attendance, the meeting was facilitated by the consultant steering the strategy process.

Based on the background papers, participants discussed what challenges social NGOs will face over the next 5 years, and how we should respond to these challenges. The discussions brought up some interesting questions including around how our strategies to influence European policies will need to change, the roles of the Secretariat and of the members, and how to set clear goals for what we want to achieve together. The outcome of this meeting (and of the two coming meetings, which will be on related issues) will feed into an options paper to be presented to the Platform's Steering Committee in December.

Mary Van Dievel participated in this meeting.

For further info: www.socialplatform.org

International Association for Suicide Prevention

World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September

At simultaneous press conferences in Durban (South Africa), Cairo (Egypt) and Oslo (Norway) the International Association for Suicide Prevention announced the Third World Suicide Prevention Day, on 10 September.

Numerous national and local events such as conferences, meetings, concerts and events with spiritual or cultural content have been organised all over the world in order to increase the public awareness that "Prevention of suicide is everybody's business".

"Suicide is one of the world's largest public health problems and more lives are lost to suicide than in all wars and homicides worldwide every year. There are three times more suicides each year than the enormous

and catastrophic loss of human lives in the tragic Tsunami disaster in South East Asia in December 2004. More lives are lost to suicide every day than the loss of lives in the terrorist attack on New York 9.11.2001", said Professor Lars Mehlum, the President of the IASP. "Fortunately, there are many ways in which suicide can be prevented", stated Professor Mehlum who explained that suicide is the result of a complex interaction of causal factors, including mental illness, poverty, substance abuse, social isolation, losses, relational difficulties and workplace problems

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) was founded in Vienna in 1960 as a working fellowship of researchers, clinicians, practitioners, volunteers and organisations of many kinds. Hence, IASP believes that suicide prevention should be put on the agenda for global and regional collaborative programmes.

Examples of activities held on this day in different countries are posted on the IASP web site:

www.iasp.info.

IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

World Congress on Mental Health

The World Federation for Mental health held its biannual congress "Equity and Mental Health" in Cairo, Egypt, during 8-10 September.

Among the numerous dynamic interventions, we noticed the contribution of the Taiwan delegation, in the plenary and in workshops, and a presentation by Professor Norman Sartorius against stigmatisation of people with mental illness.

European delegates were quite well represented. Four of us are now members of the Board of Directors of the WFMH: John Copeland (UK), Claude Deutsch (MHE President and regional vice-president), Brian Howard (Ireland) and Bjorn Njaa (Norway).

MHE and the WFMH will continue their collaboration in the future.

Thanks to Claude Deutsch, MHE President, for this contribution.

For further information on the Congress:
<http://www.wfmh.org/>

World Mental Health Day – 10 October!

10 October - the World Mental Health Day: "Mental and physical health across the life span"

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

Please send us a brief description of the activities that you have undertaken around the WMHD (at info@mhe-sme.org).

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mental Health Atlas 2005 – Revised edition

WHO launched Mental Health Atlas – 2005 the revised version of the first et of publications from the Project

ATLAS titled "Atlas: mental health resources in the World, 2001" and "Atlas: Country Profiles on mental Health resources in the World 2001". All information has been revised and updated and additional information has been provided where none was available earlier. One significant addition is the inclusion of information on epidemiology of mental disorders for all low and middle income countries.

For each country, the information includes: general information, epidemiology, mental health policy, substance abuse policy national mental health programme, national therapeutic drug policy, essential list of drugs, mental health legislation, mental health financing, mental health facilities, psychiatric beds and professionals, non-governmental organisations, information gathering system, programmes for special population, etc.

To order a copy: bookorders@who.int, www.bookorders.who.int, WHO Press, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

The European WHO report 2005

The WHO Regional Office for Europe has released the new European health report 2005 – *Public health action for healthier children and populations*.

The report has a special focus on children's health, highlighting that health in childhood determines health throughout life and into the next generation. It argues that the period between birth and 5–6 years of age is critical and that ill health or harmful lifestyle choices in childhood can lead to ill health throughout life, which creates health, financial and social burdens for countries today and tomorrow.

The report summarises the major public health issues facing the Region, particularly its children, and describes effective policy responses.

For further information: <http://www.who.dk/ehr2005>

VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Health and Consumers Intergroup Meeting

On 28 September 2005, a meeting of the Health and Consumers Intergroup (HeCo Intergroup) at the European Parliament was dedicated to the Green Paper on Mental Health, which will officially be launched on 10 October 2005. The consultation process on the Green Paper will start on 24 October, at a meeting at the European Commission in Luxembourg.

Speakers were:

- Eva Jané-Llopis, leader of the WHO European Region programme on mental health promotion, mental disorder prevention and stigma: Prevention and promotion of mental health. Recommendations and actions
- Jürgen Schefflein, European Commission, DG Sanco: Presentation of the Green Paper for Mental Health.

9 Members of European Parliament were present at this meeting, as well as Yves Charpak, WHO representative at the European Union, some assistants of MEPs and a few NGOs. The MEPs present expressed their deep interest in the Green Paper and urged the European Commission to include the European Parliament in the consultation process.

Mental Health Europe was represented by its Director Mary Van Dievel. Unfortunately there was no time for interventions from the floor (the meeting lasted only 1 hour!) but MHE will follow up with the MEPs present.

Ageing Intergroup Meeting

A meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup on Ageing – "Employment of Older Workers: examples of good practices" - was held at the European Parliament on 20 September.

The meeting was organised by AGE (The European Older People's Platform) and chaired by Philip Bushill-Matthews, co-president of the Intergroup and Parliamentary rapporteur on the Green Paper: "Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations".

The aim of the meeting was to examine good practices in integrating older workers into the labour market in the EU. Speakers included representatives from the Dublin Foundation for the Improvement of Living & Working Conditions, the Government of Finland, UNICE and the ETUC, AGE and the European Commission.

"People often talk about the Lisbon Agenda, stating that the objective of the EU was to become the most competitive economy in the world by 2010. This is only part of the story. One of the key objectives also agreed at Lisbon was that 50 per cent of workers over the age of 55 should still be in employment by 2010 - instead of being encouraged to retire early" said Philip Bushill-Matthews.

"The greatest challenge we have is to make diversity the starting point of policy and to change the mentality of employers and employees regarding employment of older workers" concluded Bart de Steur, Vice-President of AGE and Chairman of AGE Employment Working Group.

Mary van Dievel attended this meeting and stressed that the mental health aspects of keeping older people at work should be kept in mind, as well as the sometimes severe mental health problems that workers who have been made redundant suffer from.

Next Intergroup on Ageing - "Older People and Priorities for Long-term Care in the European Union" will be held on 19 October 2005.

For further information: Secretariat of the Intergroup on ageing - Jyostna Patel jyostna.patel@age-platform.org or Tel: +32 (0) 2.280.14.70 and <http://www.age-platform.org/>

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Consumer Programme (2007-2013) – the legislative process

As we informed in previous Newsletters, a proposal for a new Health and Consumer programme (2007-2013) was issued by the Commission in April this year. The proposal is going now through a co-decision process. The European Parliament (EP) and the Council will have to debate and to agree on the content of the programme before it is adopted. This process is expected to take around 18 months.

The EP has started its first reading of the programme proposal in September 2005. During a meeting of the

Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, several Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were in favour of a separation of health and consumer issues in the new programme, so that consumer issues maintain their independence. However, from the perspective of the Commission and health stakeholders, a joint programme is essential to create synergies as well as opening for core funding of health NGOs.

The Council held an initial debate on 2 June, when delegations stressed the need to enhance the added value of the common actions in this area, in particular, that it would be useful to improve cooperation between Member States' health systems and to improve the way in which cross-border health threats (pandemics) are addressed.

The Committee of the Regions appointed Mrs Bente Nielsen (PES DK) rapporteur for the programme and a discussion of the report in the Commission for Economic and Social policy was held on 29 June.

The Economic and Social Committee appointed Mr Paolo Braghin, president of the study group on health and consumer protection, the rapporteur for the programme. A public hearing was held on 16 September 2005.

For further information: www.epha.org.

Equality and non-discrimination–European Commission Annual Report 2005

The 2005 Annual Report on Equality and non-discrimination is now available for download in English, French and German (with all other languages to follow). The report looks at the progress, which has been made over the last year in anti-discrimination legislation and policy both at EU and Member State level. Part one of the report looks at where Member States are in implementing the anti-discrimination Directives. It also presents a user guide to the Directives looking at the different forms of discrimination covered, where exceptions are allowed and what the Commission can do, if a member state falls to properly implement the laws. Part two looks at the situation of the Roma population, now the largest ethnic minority in EU.

To download the report: <http://v1.dpi.org/lang-en/resources/details.php?page=311>

Equal Rights in Practice: Key Voices 2005

The Commission has also recently published a brochure having as main theme "Access to Justice". It includes articles from different actors involved in the practical application of the Article 13 Directives. The brochure provides practical examples of how the Directives are being applied in practice. The brochure is available in the 20 official languages.

To download the brochure:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/publications/2005/ke6605006_en.html

VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Youth Ministers' Declaration on the prevention of everyday violence

The Youth Ministers of Council of Europe member states, meeting in Budapest on 23 and 24 September, adopted a final declaration setting out several

measures to curb and prevent all forms of violence, of which young people may be either the victims or the perpetrators.

The Ministers stressed the need to promote education for intercultural dialogue to counter racist violence, to include equal opportunities for women and men in youth programmes to prevent gender-based violence, and to establish good practices to reduce violence in mass media products (and on the Internet).

They endorsed the proposal to organise a **European campaign on diversity, human rights and participation** in 2006-2007, in keeping with the spirit of the 1995 "All different – All equal" youth campaign and encouraged member states to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking in Human Beings.

A **resolution** on the Council of Europe's youth sector priorities for 2006-2008 was also adopted at the end of the conference. The main thrusts of the resolution are human rights education and intercultural dialogue, youth participation and democratic citizenship, social cohesion and the inclusion of young people, and youth policy development.

For further information:

http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Press/News/NoteRedac2005/20050926_budapest.asp

IX. VARIOUS

Eurochild has launched its 2006 work programme

Eurochild was formally launched in the summer of 2004 as an international non-profit children's organisation actively contributing to the fight against child poverty and social exclusion at European and national levels. Eurochild has recently submitted its work plan for 2006 to the European Commission – "Consolidating and strengthening a child-specific approach of child poverty and social exclusion of children in the European Union". The programme aims to contribute at the improvement of policies addressing child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons at European and national levels and thereafter at regional and local levels.

For further information: www.eurochild.org

Protest against human rights abuse against children and adults with mental disabilities in Turkey

Following a two year investigation, Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) released its findings in a report detailing the human rights abuses perpetrated in Turkey against children and adults with psychiatric and developmental disabilities: *Behind Closed Doors: Human Rights Abuses in the Psychiatric Facilities, Orphanages and Rehabilitation Centres of Turkey*, describes the widespread use of electroconvulsive or "shock" treatment (ECT) on psychiatric patients – as young as 9 years old – without the use of anesthesia. The investigators also found evidence of children dying from starvation, dehydration and lack of medical care in so-called residential Rehabilitation Centres.

"These are Turkey's most vulnerable citizens. The inhuman and degrading treatment that they are forced to endure is intolerable in any society (...) The government of Turkey can bring an immediate end to

these abuses," said attorney Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director of MDRI and an expert on international human rights law. "As the European Union (EU) meets to begin the EU accession process on 3 October 2005, we ask them to demand action by the Turkish government to end these human rights violations."

MDRI is an international advocacy organization dedicated to the human rights and full participation in society of people with mental disabilities worldwide.

For further information: [Ivan Fišer ifiser@mdri.org](mailto:Ivan.Fisler@mdri.org), www.mdri.org.

X. WEBSITES/ ONLINE INFORMATION

"Co-Guide" website – employment for disabled people

CoGuide is a new free of charge internet tool designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities and those of European employers.

There are 50 million people with disabilities in Europe. They represent a huge pool of talent and motivation. Many of these people are unemployed or underemployed. The Co-Guide website provides information and learning resources for potential employers as well as employees. It consists of two guides:

1. **The EU Employers guide** - designed to assist employers in developing "Best Practice" around policies and procedures in the three main areas of employment and human resources:
2. **The EU Job seekers guide** - designed to assist potential employees in finding sustainable employment.

The web-page is jointly owned by the European partner organizations (Enable Ireland Cork; Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin; Anthropos Soc. Coop. Sociale A R.L.- ONLUS; CEPS -Projectes Socials; Slovenian Association of Disabled Students and Silent Partner: FES (First Employment Services).

For further information:

<http://www.coguide.de/en/about.html>

"Source" – a website for health and disability information

"Source" is an international information support centre designed to strengthen the management, use and impact of information on health and disability.

Source has a unique collection of around 25 000 health and disability information resources. These include books, journals, manuals, reports, posters, CD-ROMs, websites and information on organisations. Many materials are from developing countries and include both published and unpublished literature, not readily available elsewhere.

www.asksource.info/index.htm

Online Journal "Clinical Practice and Epidemiology in Mental Health"

Clinical Practice and Epidemiology in Mental Health is an open access, peer-reviewed, PubMed indexed, online journal that considers mental health and clinical studies in psychiatry and mental health care. It is aimed at researchers working to improve the knowledge surrounding frequencies and determinants of mental health conditions, and the knowledge base for the

diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of mental health conditions.

The journal considers the following types of article: research, book reviews, commentaries, debate articles, hypotheses, methodology articles, reviews, short reports and study.

A number of articles and protocols have already been published and the Journal invites those interested to submit their papers and articles.

The journal is freely available at

www.cpementalhealth.com

For further information about the journal and its publisher, BioMed Central

OSI EU Monitoring and Advocacy Programme - Infolist

The EU Monitoring and Advocacy Programme of the Open Society Institute (EUMAP) invites those who are interested to subscribe to their Infolist. EUMAP undertakes monitoring on a range of human rights and rule of law issues, including the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, broadcasting regulations, access to education by Roma. It also constitutes an online centre for comprehensive resources, news and analyses.

Subscription is free and your email address will not be disclosed to other subscribers, nor distributed to any other third party.

www.eumap.org

XI. PUBLICATIONS

"Mental Disorder as a major challenge in prevention of work disability"

The report is published by the Social Insurance Institution in Finland and addresses the challenging role of mental disorders as causes of sickness absenteeism and disability pension retirement. It shares experiences from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden and highlights that this aspect is expanding in many European countries. The report seeks to interpret how the factors behind the trends are discussed in each of the four countries and to explore what is known of the effectiveness of preventive measures on mental ill-health.

To order the report: the Social Insurance Institution Research Department, Tel. +358 20 434 64 11, Fax +358 20 434 64 00; publ@kela.fi, www.kela.fi/research

"Ethics and Drug Addiction"

This new publication in the "Ethical eye" collection of the Council of Europe has been written by doctors, psychologists, legal experts and drug addiction specialists working in Europe.

Whether out of choice or social necessity, trying to "make people happy against their will", in this case by depriving them of a product they do not necessarily want to give up, raises moral issues, whether one considers the protection of the individual or of society.

The publication addresses the issues of prevention, screening and confidentiality, and goes on to review the policies of a number of countries. Some of them have concentrated, as Russia did until October 1993 and Sweden is still doing today, entirely on compulsory

treatment, but are finding that such methods are completely or partially ineffective: as this book points out, through numerous examples, individual consent is the basis of successful treatment.

The publication tackles the problem of drug addiction in the workplace, with all that it entails in terms of safety at work, but also the issue of medical secrecy in the light of the public interest. Substantial coverage is given to drug addiction among minors, particularly at school, their access to treatment and its confidentiality, not least as far as their families are concerned, and care for pregnant women and young mothers who are addicted to drugs.

Info:

<http://book.coe.int/EN/index.php?PAGEID=15&lang=EN&idactu=101>

XII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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>

11-12 October 2005

Social Platform Conference "Building Social Policies on Fundamental Rights" (Brussels) – cf page

NEW!! 12-13 October 2005

Conference Best Practice in Forensic Settings (London, UK)

The aim of this conference is to update forensic practitioners about the latest treatments for psychiatric. The organisers are the Forensic Psychiatry Home Office Teaching Unit / Department of Mental Health Science at the Institute of Psychiatry and Kings College London.

Media images of violent mentally ill people fuel public outrage at isolated incidents of severe violence by the psychiatric patients and the response from the public is usually for more social control and longer periods of institutionalisation rather than a call for increased availability of better treatments and management.

The advances in the treatment and management of psychiatric disorders are often slow to be translated into clinical practice. The same is true within forensic mental health disorders and how these treatments can be adopted within forensic psychiatry to help patients with histories of violence. These treatments will help to facilitate the management of the risk that forensic patients pose to themselves and others

Info: Sophie West or Lisa Coward + 44 20 7848 0694

0624, ForensicTeachingUnit@iop.kcl.ac.uk

<http://forensic.iop.kcl.ac.uk/teachingunit>

<http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/iopweb/events/internal/?event>

NEW !! 17-18 October

Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion, (Glasgow, United Kingdom)

The Round Table is a conference organised by the UK Government, which currently holds the Presidency of the European Union (EU) and by the European Commission. It also benefits from the support and involvement of the Scottish Executive, Glasgow Council and a wide range of stakeholders from across the EU.

The Round table will bring together all those who have an interest in the field of poverty and social exclusion, in particular, the EU institutions; national regional and local government; the voluntary and community sector; grassroots organisations; and people experiencing poverty. The structure of the Round Table aims to reflect the seven key priorities set out in the Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion: (1) increasing labour market participation; (2) modernising social protection systems; (3) tackling discrimination in education and training; (4) eliminating child poverty; (5) ensuring decent accommodation; (6) improving access to quality services; and (7) overcoming discrimination and increasing the integration of people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and immigrants.

Malgorzata Kmita, MHE Vice-President will attend this meeting on behalf of MHE.

Info: www.eventsforce.net/roundtable2005

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>

31 October - 1 November 2005

"Advanced seminar on "combating discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion and belief - towards effective test case strategies" (Maastricht, the Netherlands)

The seminar is organised by the European Institute of Public Administration in collaboration with Maastricht University (Faculty of Law) and aims to provide the participants with information on the Race Directive and the Employment Directive and to discuss possible case strategies before national courts in the different Member States and at the European level.

Info: Cosimo Monda, j.groneschild@eipa-nl.com,

<http://www.eipa.nl/default.htm>

NEW!! 3-4 November 2005

European Forum on Volunteering: "Shared challenges in the EU-25", Valencia Spain

The Euroforum is organised by the Centre for European Volunteering and by the Foundation for Solidarity and Voluntary Work of the Valencian Community and aspires to be a platform for reflection

and coordination between public bodies both European and non-European and Non-profit Organisations. It plans to accommodate a large number of actors on a local, regional, European and International scale in order to jointly present their analysis about the current reality and future situation of voluntary work in Europe, and those who carry out their functions in an extensive scope of activities (social exclusion, disability, unemployment, aging, sports, young people, etc.)

- Public Sector: representatives from local, regional and national entities; Labour unions and Universities
- Private Sector: Companies and mass media organizations
- Non-profit Organizations: international organizations, volunteer centres and social associations
- Individuals: male and female volunteers, students and researchers

Info :

<http://www.solidaridadvoluntariado.org/euroforum/>

9-10 November 2005.

EPHA Conference on health and well-being of children and young people (Brussels, Belgium)

The aim of the conference is to explore if children and young people are adequately supported and protected within the EU framework, and to share examples of good practice in working with and empowering young people.

Info: [Sidsela Nyebak, intern1@epha.org](mailto:Sidsela.Nyebak@epha.org), www.epha.org

9-13 November 2005

2nd European Conference of Brief Strategic and Systemic Therapy European – “Ways of Brief Therapy, Best Practices, Best teaching” (Arezzo, Italy)

The conference gives an opportunity to share information on the best therapeutic techniques and clinical, managerial and psycho-social interventions

Info: <http://www.bsst.org/>

NEW!! 14 November 2005

Eurochild 2nd Annual Conference: The Position of the Child in the EU social policy process (Brussels, Belgium)

The conference will start on a debate about the issue of children's rights within the European Commission and then focus on social exclusion and poverty of children. Representatives of the European Commission, as well as from other networks working in the area of social exclusion and poverty are going to be invited at the event.

Info: www.eurochild.org

17-18 November 2005

Council of Europe Forum “Reconciling labour flexibility and social cohesion” (Strasbourg, France)

<http://www.coe.int/socialcohesion/forum2005>

19-22 November 2005

Congress of the European Academy of Childhood Disability, Monaco

Info: www.eacd2005.org.

NEW!! 19-22 November 2005

EUROCITIES Conference (Lyon, France)

The theme of the Conference is “European cities open up the world” and will focus on the key role played today by cities in international cooperation. The following themes will be examined during the two main working sessions of the conference: (1) City practices around the world: how and why cooperate with European cities; and (2) Local government: a key partner in international cooperation.

Mayors and representatives of the European Union will debate the roles that the cities can play in defining and implementing international cooperation policies.

For registration and further information:

www.eurocities2005.lyon.fr

NEW !! 24 November 2005

MIND Conference “Coping with coming off psychiatric drugs” (London, UK)

MIND is organising a one-day conference to debate the way forward for professionals prescribing psychiatric drugs and for individuals taking them. Over the past two years MIND's “Coping with coming off project” has researched people's experience in coming off psychiatric drugs – what happens, what helps, what the effects of withdrawal may be. The conference will report service users' views and experiences of coming off psychiatric drugs, will explore implications for clinical practice and service provision, will address concerns about risk, will focus on access to information, will explore choice, control and coercion and will look at strategies and models of support for coming off medication.

For further information: www.mind.org.uk

1-2 December 2005

The European Day of Disabled People Conference, (Brussels, Belgium). The conference is organised by the European Disability Forum and the European Commission. The theme of this year will be “Living together in a common society”; towards de-institutionalisation”.

Info: www.edf-feph.org

NEW!! 13-18 March 2006

7th International health film festival (Liège, Belgium)
The main objective of **Imagé Santé** – the International Health Film Festival of Liège is to promote health education and information through any audiovisual means and to present current developments in the field of new media, medical informatics (CD-ROM, Internet, Telemedicine and imagery in general).

The organisers are launching a call for films, CD-ROMs and websites. The deadline is 1 November 2005. The following audiovisual production is eligible to compete:

1. Videograms intended for a medical or paramedical audience
2. Videograms dealing with health or health education
3. Films produced with the support of commercial companies

All should be produced after 1 January 2001.

For further information and technical specificities:

www.imagesante.org

11-13 May 2006

MHE Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus)

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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.

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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E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org