



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE**



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**July - August 2011**

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For Mental Health Europe, July and August provided an interesting mix of action and downtime. It was a time of carefully planning ahead, but also of taking a stance when situations called for it.

MHE is preparing a host of interesting events in the following months. Our extraordinary General Assembly will provide an opportunity to discuss proposed changes in membership categories, while our 2012 Conference, which will take place in Split, Croatia on June 14-16, 2012 will address a complex topic – social determinants of mental health.

MHE will also begin a new project, which will focus on employment for young people with mental health problems. As the project is still developing, MHE welcomes input from members, especially regarding information on programs aiming to integrate young people with mental health problems in the labour market.

A lot of challenges ahead...but also a lot of opportunities!

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director

## I. MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### MHE NEWS AND POLICY WORK

#### Extraordinary General Assembly to take place on November 5

Mental Health Europe would like to invite members to an **Extraordinary General Assembly**, which will take place on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9.30 – 12.00. During the event, the proposed changes in the MHE membership categories and the consequent changes in the MHE Statutes will be presented. The second part of the Extraordinary General Assembly will be dedicated to an information session on the Joint Action for Mental Health.

For more information please contact MHE at [secretariat@mhe-sme.org](mailto:secretariat@mhe-sme.org)

#### MHE 2012 conference to address social determinants of mental health

**Unfair** and **avoidable** – the terms used by the World Health Organization (WHO) to describe the social determinants of health are both grim and hopeful. They underline the need to act on the conditions that so deeply impact the length and quality of people's lives, but they also offer hope that inequalities can indeed be tackled.

Mental Health Europe (MHE) has decided to dedicate its 2012 Conference to engaging with the social determinants of mental health, in a bid to emphasize the role society plays in both reinforcing and addressing inequalities. The MHE conference, **"From individual to collective responsibility – The social determinants of mental health,"** organized in Split, Croatia between June 14-16, 2012, will bring together experts from the European Commission, the WHO and the United Nations to present different methods for improving the social environment in schools and workplaces, encouraging inclusion within the community, and developing strong and supportive networks which can have a positive impact on mental health. Grass roots experts will also contribute with examples of good practices found throughout Europe.

A special satellite symposium for participants from Balkan and Eastern European countries will be held on Thursday, June 14, and will address **"The challenge of networking for mental health and well-being in the Balkans and Eastern Europe"** and well as **"Post-traumatic stress disorders and their impact on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations."** Recognizing the lack of services and support for people with mental health problems in Eastern Europe, Mental Health Europe chose Croatia as the place of its conference, hoping this will increase media coverage of disability issues in the area, and encourage policy development.

For more information, please contact MHE at [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org) or Sto Koluri at [direktorica@stokoluri.org](mailto:direktorica@stokoluri.org)

#### Train, Improve, Reduce reaches second phase

MHE's project **Train, Improve, Reduce! Diminish the mental health and psychological consequences of violence against women by dismantling prejudices of law enforcement agents** has now reached its second phase. Since April 2011, Mental Health Europe and its partners have been collecting information about the situation of domestic violence, legislation, police intervention in cases of domestic violence, projects on domestic violence and police trainings in the partners' specific countries. This information will serve as a basis for discussion during the next project meeting, which will take place on September 20-21 in Brussels and will include members of the Advisory Committee. During the following

phase, spanning from September to December, partners will develop the training modules which will be used to coach law enforcement agents.

MHE has also launched the project's new website, <http://trainimprovereducer.wordpress.com/>

*For more information, please contact MHE Daphne Project Coordinator Karina Huberman at [karina.huberman@mhe-sme.org](mailto:karina.huberman@mhe-sme.org)*

### **Lack of employment damages youth mental health**

On International Youth Day Mental Health Europe decided to publish a press release stressing the bidirectional relationship between youth mental health problems and lack of employment. Young people with mental health problems find it exceptionally hard to find meaningful employment, while unemployed youth are in turn more likely to develop mental health problems themselves. A 2010 study by The Prince's Trust in the UK has revealed that almost half of unemployed young people believed joblessness to have caused them mental health problems such as self-harm, panic attacks or insomnia. Moreover, the same study pointed out that more than 41 % of young people not in work, education or training claimed to have felt suicidal.

Mental Health Europe also took the opportunity to introduce its three-year campaign for the inclusion of young people with mental health problems into the labor market. MHE believes there is no reason for young people with mental health problems not to have a chance at obtaining meaningful employment, in line with their skills and objectives.

*To read our press release, please go to [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/youth\\_employment.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/youth_employment.html)*

*For more information on MHE's project, please contact Network Development Officer Yves Brand at [yves.brand@mhe-sme.org](mailto:yves.brand@mhe-sme.org)*

### **MHE addresses prejudice in coverage of Norway killings**

The killings in Norway have left 77 people dead and a whole world mourning. In a shocking attack on humanity and the values Europeans hold dearly, Anders Behring Breivik has demonstrated the dangers of extremism, be it religious or political. Breivik can be called many things - a murderer, assailant or plotter - but Mental Health Europe believes it is unfair and irresponsible to call him a madman, at least until any mental health problem he might suffer from is duly proven in court.

In a press release, Mental Health Europe argued that labeling Breivik a madman, a politically incorrect term obviously preferred by sensationalist media, is offensive towards people with mental health problems, who already face daily discrimination and stigmatization. Moreover, instantly assuming that Breivik must have mental health problems in order to commit such hideous crimes is another serious problem, as mental health problems alone generally do not lead to violent acts. Other risk factors, such as childhood abuse, substance use, or past violent behavior are far more reliable predictors of future violence.

*To read our press release, please go to [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/norway\\_killings.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/norway_killings.html)*

*For more information, please contact MHE's Information and Communications Officer Silvana Enculescu at [silvana.enculescu@mhe-sme.org](mailto:silvana.enculescu@mhe-sme.org)*

## **MHE welcomes UN report and announces future publication on deinstitutionalization**

In an attempt to stimulate discussion on the need for governments to develop community based alternatives to institutional care, the United Nations (UN) Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights issued an important account of the human rights standards relevant to people with disabilities. Mental Health Europe (MHE) thoroughly welcomes the **"Forgotten Europeans, Forgotten Rights"** report, which is undoubtedly a useful tool for both lobbyists and policy-makers.

Mental Health Europe, with the support of the Open Society Institute Mental Health Initiative, is currently in the process of developing its own publication on deinstitutionalization, providing valuable insight on the state of institutional care in Europe, and the number of people living in institutions in each European country. This unique report is scheduled for the beginning of next year.

You can find the *Forgotten Europeans* report at: <http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/publications/reports/OHCHR%20Forgotten%20Europeans%202011.pdf>

To read our press release, please go to [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/forgotten\\_europeans.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/forgotten_europeans.html)

To find out more about the future MHE report on deinstitutionalization, please contact MHE Human Rights Officer Gabor Petri at [gabor.petri@mhe-sme.org](mailto:gabor.petri@mhe-sme.org)

## **Expert Group on Deinstitutionalization focuses on EU funds**

In late June, the European Expert Group on Deinstitutionalization held an open meeting, inviting officers of the European Commission. European NGOs, including Mental Health Europe addressed the present and future usage of European Structural Funds with special regard to deinstitutionalization. Recent researches show that nearly 1.2 million European citizens still live in institutionalized settings, where their human rights are often violated. NGOs highlighted the need for an improved European legislation where no EU money can be spent on renovating or building institutions.

At the meeting, MHE Senior Policy Adviser Josée van Remoortel highlighted that, unfortunately, in many member states governments do not include psychiatric care settings, hospitals and care homes when developing deinstitutionalization policies. MHE emphasized that the EU should take appropriate measures to make EU member states change this practice and start developing policies covering the mental health field.

The new European legislation on Structural Funds will be opened for public consultation in the autumn of 2011 and MHE will follow the process closely.

For more information on MHE's work on structural funds, please contact MHE Human Rights Officer Gabor Petri at [gabor.petri@mhe-sme.org](mailto:gabor.petri@mhe-sme.org)

## **World Mental Health Day**

Mental Health Europe would like to inform members that the theme for the **2011 World Mental Health Day**, which will be celebrated on October 10, is "The Great Push: Investing in Mental Health." MHE would also like to invite members to inform us about their planned activities for World Mental Health Day and to send us a brief report after the events.

## **UPDATE ON NEW ITEMS ON MHE WEBSITE**

The MHE website has been updated with new information in the following sections:

- Home page - The poster for our Daphne project now links to the project's new website, <http://trainimprovereducer.wordpress.com/>. The website is still under construction, with more information coming soon.
- Press releases - MHE published three press releases in the last period. The MHE press release on the Norway killings is available at [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/norway\\_killings.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/norway_killings.html), the press release on the UN Forgotten Europeans report can be found at [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/forgotten\\_europeans.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/forgotten_europeans.html), while press release written on the occasion of the International Youth Day is online at [http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/youth\\_employment.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases/youth_employment.html)
- National Focal Points - All the reports and presentations from our National Focal Point training sessions are now available at [http://www.mhe-sme.org/publications/reports-from-mhe-seminars-and-other-mhe-events/national\\_focal\\_points\\_training\\_2011.html](http://www.mhe-sme.org/publications/reports-from-mhe-seminars-and-other-mhe-events/national_focal_points_training_2011.html)

## **MHE REPRESENTATION AT VARIOUS MEETINGS**

On July 11, Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, represented MHE at the meeting of the Alliance for the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations in Brussels.

On July 12, MHE Social Policy Officer Astrid Mechel, MHE Network Development Officer Yves Brand and MHE Information and Communications Officer Silvana Enculescu participated in the training day on persons with disabilities who require more intensive support, organized by the European Disability Forum in Grimbergen. MHE Senior Policy Adviser Josee Van Remoortel was a speaker at the event.

On July 4-15, MHE Human Rights Officer Gabor Petri took the "Mental Disability Law in Practice" course, held at the Central European University in Budapest.

## **NEWS FROM MHE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

### **Mind campaigns to protect UK's Equality Act**

Mind, the leading mental health charity in England and Wales, has been campaigning to ensure the UK's fledgling Equality Act is not scrapped or watered down in the Coalition Government's 'Red Tape Challenge' process. This crowdsourcing exercise seeks to canvass the views of the public, business and other stakeholders on which of the UK's 21,000 regulations could be repealed or simplified, to 'cut red tape'.

The Equality Act came into force in Autumn 2010, bringing together the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), Race Relations Act and Sex Discrimination Act, in order to simplify and extend protections for a range of groups, including people with mental health problems. During the passage of the bill, Mind and other equality organisations lobbied hard to ensure existing protections in the DDA were not weakened and to secure further protection where possible. Mind's biggest win was a new clause prohibiting the use of pre-employment health questionnaires, to help bring to an end the discriminatory practice of employers surreptitiously screening out job applicants with a mental health history or other hidden disability.

Given the cross-party support for the Equality Act when it was passed, Mind and other charities were shocked to find the Act listed on the 'Red Tape Challenge' website as a potential target for the Coalition Government's drive to cut red tape. In asking the question whether the Act should simply be 'scrapped altogether,' the website was seriously misleading, as obligations under EU and international law mean that it cannot be repealed or substantively changed in such an informal way. It also missed the point that the Equality Act is not a regulation, but primary legislation, and has in fact already cut red tape, by streamlining and simplifying previous laws.

Still more worrying, suggesting the Act could be scrapped appears to ignore the wealth of evidence about the extent of discrimination that still exists, as outlined in the World Health Organisation's recent 'World Report on Disability.'

Mind and other equality organisations have lobbied ministers and civil servants to raise concerns, and galvanised supporters to engage with the 'Red Tape Challenge' process. At last count, over 5,500 responses were posted, with around 98 per cent strongly in favour of the Equality Act – and vehemently opposed to any changes.

Since then, Mind has received verbal and written assurances from various ministers that the Equality Act will not be scrapped. Yet, they will continue monitoring developments closely and will remain vigilant, as the need to make the argument for robust equality protections enshrined in law still remains.

*For more information, please contact MIND Senior Policy and Campaigns Officer Amy Whitelock at [a.whitelock@mind.org.uk](mailto:a.whitelock@mind.org.uk)*

## **Psychological approaches effective in obesity treatment**

A new report on obesity published by **MHE** member British Psychological Society has highlighted the added value psychological and therapeutic approaches can provide when integrated effectively in obesity treatments. Chartered Psychologist Dr Julie Waumsley, Chair of the working group, said the comprehensive report offers new insights to help individuals struggling with weight problems and plug gaps not filled by current obesity interventions.

**"Obesity in the UK: A psychological perspective,"** published by the Society's Professional Practice Board, is the result of cross-discipline working group including clinical, educational, health, counselling and sport and exercise psychologists.

*To download the report, go to [www.bps.org.uk/obesity](http://www.bps.org.uk/obesity)*

## **Depression must not be excluded from General Practice Quality Framework say UK mental health organisations**

Mental health charities and professional groups united to express concern that family doctors may no longer have to improve support for patients with depression under the system that rewards practices for the quality of care they provide.

MHE members Mind and the British Psychological Society, along with the Centre for Mental Health, the Mental Health Foundation, the Mental Health Providers Forum, , Rethink Mental Illness and the Royal College of Psychiatrists called on the UK Secretary of State for Health to take action to ensure that next year's Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for primary care continues to include measures for how General Practitioners support patients with depression.

The call follows the publication of an Independent Advisory Committee from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of its recommendations for indicators in the QOF for

2012/13. It concludes that the current three indicators for depression should be retired from next year's framework because there is not enough evidence to support them.

The said organizations are extremely concerned that retiring the existing indicators for depression without replacing them with new measures of equal weight would have very damaging consequences for people with depression. It would remove the main incentive for family doctors to manage the care of patients with depression and to support the mental health of patients with diabetes and heart disease.

### **HORATIO to determine role of psychiatric nurses**

MHE member HORATIO, the European organisation of psychiatric and mental health nurses, is organising a consultation process among its members. Horatio's Board prepared a position paper called "The Turku Declaration". In this document psychiatric and mental health nurses determine what their role in the community can and should be, regarding the inclusion agenda, the workforce agenda and the professional agenda. Psychiatric and mental health nurses across Europe are invited to comment on the document which can be found on the Horatio website at <http://www.horatio-web.eu/downloads/Position-statement-The-Turku-Declaration-19-11-2010.pdf>

For more information, contact Ber Oomen at [ber.oomen@live.nl](mailto:ber.oomen@live.nl)

### **GGZ Nederland gets new director**

Mr Jos de Beer left GGZ Nederland (Mental Health Care Netherlands) where he worked for eight years as Director of the organization. Mr Paul van Rooij, who has been working in the health insurance sector since the year 2000, succeeded him in this function. Mental Health Europe would like to wish them both good luck in their endeavors.

## **II. EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES**

### **Call for Proposals on innovative policies to support active ageing**

The European Commission has published a call for proposals on innovative policies to support healthy, active and dignified ageing and to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of spending on social, health and long-term care services and benefits. Financial support will be provided to projects aimed at designing better policies for healthy, active and dignified ageing for countries participating in the PROGRESS programme (EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, EU candidate countries: Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey as well as Serbia). Projects may focus on different stages of policy development ranging from the identification of potential benefits of healthy and active ageing for sustainable social protection and social cohesion in ageing societies to the design of new policies, their implementation and evaluation. Particular attention should be paid to specifically vulnerable social groups and to parts of the EU where poor health is most prevalent (as assessed by measures such as healthy life expectancy) and where many people are at risk of not receiving appropriate care for a life in dignity. Proposals shall be presented by the competent ministry. Applicants may involve project partners which can bring in expertise in the required field (e.g. universities or research institutes, international organizations, and non-governmental stakeholders). The deadline for the submission of proposals is 26 September 2011.

MHE invites its members to contact their ministry (social affairs/ employment) in case they are interested in getting involved.

To access the Call for Proposals, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=316&furtherCalls=yes>

## **Social Protection Committee report on the social dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy**

The Social Protection Committee has published its report on the social dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. The main messages of the report were formally adopted by the Council of Ministers in March 2011.

The report analyses actions focusing on sustainable and adequate reforms of social protection systems, active inclusion strategies, benefits for families and groups at risk, long-term financial sustainability of pensions systems and increased effectiveness of health care and long-term care. The Social Protection Committee acknowledges that more efforts are needed to ensure universal access to quality care for all to maintain an efficient health sector. The report therefore calls for an increase of the effectiveness, sustainability and responsiveness of health care and long-term care in the context of austerity and ageing, for example through innovative and coordinated health and social care delivery. It is furthermore pointed out in the report that investing in health promotion and disease prevention including mental health problems can bring high returns in both in social and economic terms.

Mental Health Europe was one of the organizations which was consulted by the Social Protection Committee and gave its view on the aspects of mental health and social inclusion for the report.

The full report can be downloaded at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1053&furtherNews=yes>

## **News from other ENGOS**

### **European Disability Forum launches campaign for web-accessibility**

In an increasingly digitalised society, more and more essential information and services are available online. However, to access them, persons with disabilities require websites designed according to web-accessibility standards that operate correctly with their assistive technologies. Unfortunately, most of the websites, including public websites, do not respect these standards and are inaccessible to a vast majority of the population.

This is why the European Disability Forum launched a campaign for the improved accessibility of websites. The Digital Agenda for Europe, one of the flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 both mention a legislative proposal that would "ensure that public sector websites and websites providing basic services to citizens are fully accessible by 2015."

Web-accessibility would not only mean more accessible websites for the blind, but would also include the simplification of web pages. As one of the contributors of the EDF campaign said: "Internet is great but I cannot access my bank account online because it is too complicated to log on to the bank website."

For more information on the campaign, go to : [http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=27623](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=27623)



## **ENIL to hold Freedom Drive in Strasbourg**

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) will hold its fifth Freedom Drive in Strasbourg on September 14, 2011. The Strasbourg Freedom Drive has been held every two years since 2003 and provides an opportunity for members of the Independent Living Movement and for Members of the European Parliament to meet for inspiration and the promotion of Independent Living issues.

For more information, go to <http://enil.eu/>

## **EAPN to organize major conference**

On September 23, The European Anti-Poverty Network will hold a major conference aiming at analyzing and raising awareness on the social impact of the crisis and of the austerity measures in all EU countries and the EU role. *Getting out of the crisis together: alternative approaches for an inclusive recovery* will be a unique opportunity to learn from the ground, to develop alternative approaches and to strengthen alliances.

For more information on the conference, go to [http://www.eapn.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2493:23092011-eapns-conference-on-the-crisis&catid=46&Itemid=77&lang=en](http://www.eapn.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2493:23092011-eapns-conference-on-the-crisis&catid=46&Itemid=77&lang=en)

## **The 2008 recession took its toll on mental health**

The recent financial crisis and the subsequent increase in unemployment may play a significant role in the increased rate of suicides across Europe, new research suggests.

A study in *Lancet* journal, *Effects of the 2008 recession on health: a first look at European data*, links the rise in European suicide rates to the current financial crisis. The report focused on suicide rates in Austria, Britain, Finland, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia and Romania. Of the countries examined, only Austria saw a decrease in suicide rates since the beginning of the financial crisis. Every other country showed an increase of at least 5%.

By 2009, with 35% more job losses than in 2007, the steady downward trend in suicide rates was found to have reversed. The countries experiencing the most extreme economic depression also has the biggest increase in suicides. For example, the annual suicide rate in Greece rose by 17%, while in Ireland it went up by 13%.

The authors argued that strong social safety nets, as those found in Austria, were important tools in preventing suicide in times of crisis.

The full article is available at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)61079-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)61079-9/fulltext)

### III. EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING 2011

*The year 2011 has been proclaimed as the European Year of Volunteering. The aim of the European Year 2011 of Volunteering (EYV 2011) is to increase the popularity of volunteering and raise awareness of its societal value in the European Union. Activities for the EYV 2011 include awareness-raising initiatives such as conferences and seminars for the exchange of best practices.*

*As a member of the NGO Alliance for the European Year 2011 on Volunteering (EYV 2011), Mental Health Europe will pursue common activities with the Alliance and put emphasis on the dimension of volunteering for and by people with mental health problems.*

EY 2011 website: <http://europa.eu/volunteering>

Website of the European Year 2011 of Volunteering NGO Alliance: <http://www.eyv2011.eu>

*For information on MHE's work on volunteering and social inclusion, please contact Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, at [astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org](mailto:astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org)*

#### **Pro Humanis develops project for and with migrants**

The Austrian mental health organization Pro Humanis has launched a project based on an innovative idea - "Pro.Mi," their project which started in October 2010 is not only for migrants, but also carried out together with migrants. Pro Humanis is a social not-for-profit association with five permanent employees and about 330 volunteers who accompany people with mental health problems.

At the beginning of 2009, the Austrian province of Styria, which is home to the project, counted 123.605 migrants, or 10.2% of its population. Migrants often faced a strenuous journey before arriving in Styria and, once there, suffer from a higher propensity of mental health problems due to stress and insecurity, often resulting in panic attacks, depression and substance abuse. Consequently, their needs for security, relationships/contacts, self esteem and work need to be addressed in an appropriate way.

Accompanying migrants as a volunteer involves organizing common activities and providing assistance to help them cope with everyday life. In return, the Pro Humanis volunteers benefit from free trainings, supervision and the affiliation to an attractive association. The aim of Pro.Mi is to involve 10 persons with a migratory background as social companions in both 2011 and 2012. For migrants, becoming volunteers at Pro Humanis furthers their integration in society and can have a positive effect on the psycho-social care of fellow migrants as well.

*For more information, please contact Pro Humanis at [office@prohumanis.at](mailto:office@prohumanis.at)*

#### **German Dachverband project on volunteering**

The German Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie (community-based psychiatric services) is involved in a project on "Volunteering as a way of employing people with Mental Illnesses." The project runs from 2011 - 2013 and is commissioned by the Ministry of Health. The aims of the project are to identify good practice models, to verify the transferability of these models and to create a nation-wide working and steering group.

*For more information on this project, please contact the Dachverband at [Dachverband@Psychiatrie.de](mailto:Dachverband@Psychiatrie.de)*

**If you would also like to share a good practice in the field of volunteering and mental health, please contact MHE Social Policy Officer Astrid Mechel at [astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org](mailto:astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org)**

### **Upcoming events in the field of volunteering**

- Eurodiaconia Seminar and Exhibition on Volunteering and Social Exclusion on November 7– 8 in Brussels
- European Social Action Network Conference on social action and volunteering on September 18 in Paris
- European Youth Forum Volunteering Convention on September 6-11 in Brussels
- Volonteuropa 20<sup>th</sup> annual Volonteuropa Conference, "Make a difference by volunteering" on October 20-23 in Edinburgh
- European Voluntary Center (CEV) Symposium on "Volunteering and Active Citizenship - two sides of the same coin?" on October 19-21 in Berlin

Schedule for the EY 2011 Volunteering Tour through Europe:

[http://europa.eu/volunteering/sites/default/files/EYV\\_Schedule\\_OK.pdf](http://europa.eu/volunteering/sites/default/files/EYV_Schedule_OK.pdf)

## **IV. CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS**

**"Possibilities for rehabilitation and social integration for people with special needs" - University of Medicine from Chernivtsy, Ukraine. November 17-19.**

*For more information, please email [zuljevicj@promenteooe.at](mailto:zuljevicj@promenteooe.at) or [conference2011.ua@gmail.com](mailto:conference2011.ua@gmail.com)*

**Know and Pol – European End Users High Level Seminar – "Formulation, dissemination and implementation of Mental Health policies and practices in Europe : what do we need to know?" Lille, France. September 1-2.**

*For more information, please contact [IMHCN@epsm-lille-metropole.fr](mailto:IMHCN@epsm-lille-metropole.fr)*

**Seminar: Down and Out in Europe – "Homelessness and Free Movement" Copenhagen, Denmark. October 6.**

*For more information, please contact Jane Laustsen at [jl@udenfor.dk](mailto:jl@udenfor.dk)*

**XIX International Symposium about Current Issues and Controversies in Psychiatry – "New approaches in Depression." Barcelona, Spain. March 22-23, 2012**

*For more information, go to <http://www.geyseco.es/controversias/index.php?idioma=en>*

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

*Please send your contributions to [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)*