



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE
SANTE MENTALE EUROPE**

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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

REMINDER MHE General Assembly 3-4 June

MHE's Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place during **3-4 June 2005**, in Brussels.

The AGA will be linked with a seminar on how mental health NGOs can get involved in the implementation of the WHO/EURO Declaration and Action Plan on Mental Health in their countries. This seminar will be organised in the framework of the EU funded project "Coordination of capacity building, the fight against discrimination, and awareness raising in the mental health field: a European challenge!»

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

REMINDER: MHE Conference 2006

The Conference will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from **11 to 13 May 2006**.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you be interested in participating in and contributing to this conference: info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Seminar on European Policies- Report available

The report on the Seminar "European policies towards the integration of people with mental health problems" which was organised by MHE on 4 February 2005 is now available.

Should you wish to receive the report, please contact: MHE Secretariat, info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Participation in EMIP Project

A meeting of the Executive Board and of the National Partners involved in the project "Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies" (EMIP) was held on 16-17 March in Brussels. The project is supported by the European Commission from the EU Public Health Programme 2003-2008. It aims at building a European strategy to initiate and implement actions on mental health promotion and disease prevention in the EU Member States and applicant countries.

The national partners presented a short report on the situation in their countries. One of the key points emerging from discussions was the extremely diverse situation in participating countries, in terms of mental health promotion and disease prevention.

Colleagues from the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (FIOSH) in Dortmund, who are in charge with the coordination of the project, introduced first the activities of the Institute and then made a briefing on the objectives of the project and on the implementation road-map.

With the help of 7 international Consortium Partners and in co-operation with 13 national partners, workshops will be held in the 13 participating countries in order to assess the current mental health situation. The focus will be laid on finding the most appropriate ways to foster implementation of mental health policies and strategies and putting forward mental health promotion and disease prevention in the years to come.

A Manual with Guidelines on the project was elaborated to serve for national partners as a tool in organising, structuring and evaluating the National Workshops that will have a crucial role for the success of the project.

The national partners meeting was followed by a Consortium meeting where future steps in the development of the project were discussed, as well as ways of cooperation with other networks and projects (like IMPHA).

Mary van Dievel, John Henderson and Roxana Radulescu attended this meeting on behalf of MHE.

For further information: Matthias Roos, Project Coordinator, 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.ephpa.org/>

Participation in IMPHA Project

A third partner meeting on the project "Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action" (IMHPA) was held in Brussels during 14 and 15 March.

The duration of the project has been extended until 1 August 2005, to ensure that all products can be delivered to the Commission.

After August, the project will continue with a second phase, which has a broader aim and which intends to develop a European Platform for Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention.

Participants discussed the products developed in the framework of IMPHA project:

- the short policy document "Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention. A policy for Europe" that was launched at the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health. The background technical document is being finalized and will be published in August 2005.
- the IMHPA Database – an international database of mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention programmes and policies. At the moment the database is on line (www.imhpa.net) and presents the programmes submitted by 5 countries.
- The IMPHA Training Manual for Primary Health Care Professionals has been piloted in the Netherlands and Slovenia. The course was received very positively.

A questionnaire on mental health promotion was developed in the framework of the project and, so far, information has been gathered from Scotland, Norway, Poland and England.

In the ensuing discussions partners split into groups to debate on the questionnaire and on the process of creating country coalitions on mental health promotion.

Further on, the information was given that the European Commission was preparing a Green Paper on Mental Health - a draft policy presenting evidence-based options in mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention - which calls on Member States to develop policies and stimulate action. The intention is to launch the Green Paper before summer and consecutively, a one-year consultation process will take place, from September 2005 and until September 2006.

John Henderson attended this meeting on behalf of MHE.

For further information, please visit the project website: <http://www.imhpa.net>.

Participation in the project "Investment in Quality – Training Centres for Mental Health"

The first meeting of the project was held in Bucharest, between 25 February and the 1 March. The project is coordinated by ESTUAR Foundation in Romania and is financed by the European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Socrates Programme – Grundtvig line for adult education. Partners organisations are: The Institutes for Education Sciences (Romania), The Czech Association for Mental Health, the Association for Child and Family Mental Health (Poland), Interminds (UK), Opportunity Associates (Romania) and Mental Health Europe.

The overall objective of the project is to develop a training package in mental health in order to improve knowledge about mental health troubles, to share experiences and finally to improve the impact of social services offered to people with mental health problems. The target groups are: staff employed in mental health settings, representative of local administration, people working in social services, in police administration, in hospitals and in universities, volunteers and mental health service users and their families.

The project idea started from a high need in the participating countries, especially Romania, Poland and Czech Republic for a specific training in mental health in order to increase the quality of services and the capacity of coping with the very specific requests of people suffering of mental health problems.

The intention is to train a group of 15 trainers from the partner countries, able to work in international teams, and to design, to test and deliver training in the field of mental health. A Manual will be elaborated, as well as brochures on specific topics.

At the first project meeting, the partners proposed a few themes to be included in these brochures, such as: mental health problems and social exclusion; crisis interventions; social support services; mental health problems in schools; mental health problems in primary health care; burn out and stress management; depression; substance misuse; effective care co-ordination; users' involvement; community care services.

The themes will be further discussed by partners and adapted according to needs and priorities in each country.

Roxana Radulescu participated in this meeting.

For further information, *Giorgiana Nicula*, Project coordinator, Estuar Foundation, tel. +40 21 3322910, +40 21 33 22 910, email giorgiana@estuar.org, www.estuar.org.

MHE representation at various meetings

Mary van Dievel, John Henderson and Roxana Radulescu represented MHE in the EMIP project meeting (National partners meeting), on 16 March.

Mary van Dievel participated also in the Consortim meeting on 17 March.

John Henderson participated in the IMPHA project meeting, 14-15 March.

Roxana Radulescu attended the European Health Policy Forum meeting on 11 March. She also represented MHE at the first meeting of the EC Grundtvig project "Investment in Quality – Training Centres for Mental Health", in Bucharest, during 25-28 February.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

ESTUAR – Briefing on Supported Housing in Bucharest

Since 1993 the Estuar Foundation has been offering supported accommodation to 12 persons with long-term mental health needs, in 4 flats in Bucharest. These people are offered stimulation and support for adaptation at every-day life, for self-management, for establishing relations with the other tenants, with social care staff and with community representatives. They are given support to continue taking their medication, and to manage the contact with medical institutions and family members. They are also encouraged to develop abilities of social self-representation and to develop their own skills. Since their inclusion in the Estuar supported housing, 4 of the 12 tenants haven't used services of psychiatric hospitals anymore.

At national level the Government development strategy aims to create a system of supported housing for persons with social problems, with disabilities, or persons being at risk of social exclusion.

The law to combat social exclusion mentions explicitly the need for creating supported living for young people who leave orphanages, who are at risk for delinquency and abuse.

About 80% of these young people have mental health and behaviour problems. Moreover, it is estimated that about 25% of hospital admissions are « social cases », people who come to hospitals because they lack housing or can't afford paying their bills. Illness pension is about four times smaller than the minimum salary.

In Bucharest there is only one night centre, which offers temporary accommodation to adults, but not to those with mental health problems.

In this context, the pressure on Estuar's supported housing is very high, the waiting list being currently of more than 150 persons.

The new mental health law and the National Strategy for Disabled People push the system for a change. Estuar Foundation has already started collaboration with local and central authorities in order to develop the Programme of supported housing for adults with mental health problems. Now the state is financing two supported apartments in Bucharest.

Estuar Foundation has managed to keep its identity and to be recognised for its expertise, competence and experience.

Thanks for this contribution to Mariana Armean, coordinator of supported accommodation, and to Giorgiana Nicula, Services Director, Estuar Foundation.

For further information: www.estuar.org e-mail, estuar@dnt.ro, tel. + 40 214 11 08 885.

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

Social NGOs meet Commission President Barroso

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, received a delegation from the Social Platform, composed of the leaders of three prominent European NGOs, on 15 March. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the European Commission proposals in view of Spring Council focusing on the Lisbon Strategy review and to voice the civil society concern on the EC proposal to limit the priorities for the Lisbon Strategy to "jobs and growth", thus marginalizing social cohesion.

The NGO delegation was composed of the President of the Social Platform, Anne Sophie Parent, as well as its Director, Simon Wilson; Giampiero Alhadef, Secretary General of Solidar and Carlotta Besozzi, Director of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

"The European Commission must be consistent with its commitment to become the champion of human rights and leader in fighting discrimination. Jobs and growth alone will not be sufficient to deliver inclusion for discriminated groups, such as the 50 million Europeans with disabilities", said Carlotta Besozzi.

EDF stressed that disability can rapidly lead to social exclusion, unemployment, lack of education and poverty and called on José Manuel Barroso to implement the necessary measures that will guarantee social inclusion and non-discrimination in the EU-25, in accordance with the objectives of the new European Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental rights.

The Platform representatives asked for guarantees that the Lisbon Process would continue to focus not only on "growth and jobs", but also on social and environmental objectives. "It is impossible to ignore the negative feelings people have for the EU. If the EU does not associate itself with a positive message on social cohesion, by clearly including the joint inclusion and social protection report as part as the Lisbon process, we might see the consequences on the referenda on the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty" said Anne-Sophie Parent.

"It is a fact that economic growth, employment and social cohesion are not automatically linked" replied President Barroso. "The European Union must have the necessary means to develop social cohesion in Europe. I call on the Member States to reflect on this key issue, particularly in the revision of the EU financial perspectives", he added.

(source: Social Platform Press Release 15 March, EDF Press Release 16 March)

For further information: www.socialplatform.org,

EDF - High Level Disability Group meeting

On the 7th of March, the European Disability Forum participated in the meeting of the High Level Group of EU Member States' Representatives on Disability. The meeting included a presentation on the negotiations on the UN Convention on the Human Rights of People with Disabilities and a briefing on the results of a study carried out on the "after us" stage, which is the stage when parents or other family members of a disabled

person no longer can perform their role as care-givers (<http://www.stpauls.it/cisf/default.htm>).

Moreover, the UK Presidency of the EU (2nd semester of 2005) informed the High Level Group members about the organisation of a conference in London in November 2005, with the theme "Improving Life Chances of Disabled People".

For further information:

<http://www.strategy.gov.uk/output/Page5046.asp>

(Source: Weekly mailing 07/2005)

Geneva Initiative of Psychiatry – change of name

Since the 4th of March 4, 2005, which marked the 25th anniversary, Geneva Initiative of psychiatry has changed its name into "Global Initiative on Psychiatry" (GIP). GIP's goal will continue to be the promotion of the issue of mental health and human rights.

This will be done globally, both in an all-encompassing manner by taking all aspects and factors into account, and on a global basis, no longer limiting to Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States.

Robert van Voren's e-mail has changed into rvvoren@gip-global.org.

For further information: www.gip-global.org

European Society for Mental Health and Deafness

The European Society of Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD) will organise its third **Mental Health and Deafness World Congress** from Wednesday, **26 October until Sunday, 30 October 2005**, at one of the worlds leading Institutions for the Deaf in **Worcester, South Africa**.

The theme of the Congress is "Mental Health and Deafness in a Caring Society". This follows the successful completion of the first Africa Workshop for Mental Health and Deafness, which led to the "Africa Declaration on Mental Health, and Deafness" during September 2004.

The Congress promises to be a landmark event for disabled people discussing and sharing ideas on human rights for mental health and deafness. Deaf people who need to access mental health services in order to pursue a happy and meaningful life are faced with communication barriers and gross inequality. This congress aims to contribute towards an accessible society - a caring society.

Participants are invited to submit abstracts for plenary sessions/workshops or summaries for poster presentations for assessment and possible selection. The presentation must be Deaf friendly and organised, so that it is easily understood by an audience with varied expertise.

The preliminary programme and information on registration and on call for papers and abstracts can be downloaded from the Congress website:

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

ESMHD has also launched its new website: <http://www.esmhd.org/>. The website is accessible in 6 languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch) and provides information on various events, projects and publications.

France - Campaign against prejudices about mental troubles

The National Federation of Associations of Psychiatric Patients (Fnap-Psy), the National Union of Families of People with Mental Troubles, Mayors Association of France (AMF) and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Mental health in Lille (CCOMS) launched a public campaign with the theme "Accepting the difference, this is also about mental troubles".

The campaign aims to be a message of tolerance and to raise public awareness on discrimination suffered by people with mental troubles and their families. It aims also to stimulate partnerships between various stakeholders in the field, especially within local communities.

Mental troubles (anxieties, depressions, alcohol and drugs dependence and psychotic troubles) concern about 30% of persons in France. About 37% of French people have already taken psychotropic medication and mental health troubles are the second cause of interrupting work.

The campaign was launched on 15 March in the press and will continue from 15 June with a posters campaign.

For further information:

http://actu.voila.fr/Depeche/depeche_sante_05031510_2413.1n6wfxos.html

IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

World Mental Health Day 2005

The WFMH is currently working to produce the World Mental Health Day global mental health education planning and materials packet for 2005. The campaign theme for 2005 is "Physical and Mental Health across the Life Span".

The selection of this theme reflects that, although the 2004 campaign ("The Relationship between Physical and Mental Health") has had a substantial impact, WFMH recognizes that much more efforts will be required to change policy, practice and service delivery systems to ensure mental health needs and concerns receive the level of priority necessary to reduce the burden of disease associated with serious mental disorders. WFMH also recognizes, even as new and effective methods of treatment are being introduced to treat mental illness, resistance to incorporating them into general medical practice continues from a variety of sources.

In an expanding effort to maximize the benefit and utilisation of the 2005 campaign materials and to enhance the recognition of the World Mental Health Day, the WFMH will be developing a more formal media promotion strategy and prepare a media packet for distribution of major electronic and print media outlets in advance of October 10.

For further information:

<http://www.wfmh.org/wmhd/abt.html>

World Congress 2005

We would like to remind you that the "Call for Abstracts" deadline for workshop and poster sessions

at the 2005 WFMH World Congress "Equity and Mental Health" (Cairo, Egypt) is **30 April**.

For further information:

<http://www.wfmh.org/2005Congress.htm>.

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

World Health Day 2005

WHO has dedicated the World Health Day 2005 to healthy mothers and children. This is also the subject of the *World Health Report 2005*, which will be launched on World Health Day, on 7 April 2005.

The slogan for World Health Day 2005 is "Make every mother and child count", which reflects the reality that today the health of women and children is not a high enough priority for many governments and the international community.

For more information on how to organize World Health Day 2005 events and for related advocacy material, please visit:

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2005/en/index.html> or contact: whd2005@who.int

NEW Modules - Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package

Two further modules of the Guidance Package are now available on the WHO website:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/

1. The module **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policies and Plans** highlights the significant burden of mental health problems in children and adolescents and emphasizes the need to promote mental health of all children and adolescents regardless of whether or not they suffer from mental health problems.

It draws attention to the importance of reducing risk factors and enhancing the effects of protective factors. The module outlines a series of steps that countries can take to develop and implement appropriate mental health policies and strategic plans in order to improve the mental health of children and adolescents.

2. An up-dated version of the module on **Mental Health Policy, Plans and Programmes** has also been issued. The module presents evidence-based guidance for the development and implementation of mental health policies, plans and programmes. The experiences of several countries are used and the information provided is considered relevant for various health systems, including those that are decentralized. The module provides examples of how policy, plans and programmes can be developed for countries with low and medium resource levels.

To download the modules:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/. Some of them are available in Greek and French.

Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems

During 1-2 December 2004, a WHO meeting was held in Milan on the WHO Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS).

WHO-AIMS is a new WHO tool for collecting essential information on the mental health system of a country or region. The goal of collecting this information is to

improve mental health systems and to provide a baseline for monitoring the change.

The meeting reviewed the pilot trial on WHO-AIMS, discussed the revised instrument and trained country participants in using the instrument. This revised instrument will be administered in 16 countries in 2005.

The recommendations of the *World Health Report 2001* are the foundation for WHO-AIMS. For each recommendation (domain of interest), items were generated and grouped in a number of facets (sub-domains). A pilot version of the instrument was tested in Albania, Barbados, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Latvia, Moldova, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Viet Nam. The instrument was used in Albania to generate baseline data to develop a national mental health plan.

With the help of WHO-AIMS - together with the relevant modules by the Mental Health Policy and Service Development team - the countries will be able to develop plans with clear base-line information and targets. Countries will also be able to monitor progress in three areas: implementing reform policies, providing community services, and involving consumers and families.

Info: Dr Shekhar Saxena (saxenas@who.int) or Dr Tom Barrett (Barrettt@who.int).

(Source: the Information sheet - March 2005 - from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, World Health Organization, Geneva)

Regional Advisor for Mental Health -confirmed

Dr Matthijs Muijen has been confirmed in his position of Regional Adviser for Mental Health for the WHO Regional Office for Europe, with immediate effect. He will now take responsibility for the implementation of the mental health strategy following the Ministerial Conference in Helsinki.

In the Declaration, WHO committed itself to take responsibility for action in the following areas:

- building and working in partnership
- producing health information
- production and dissemination of the best available evidence on good practice
- support policy and service development
- advocacy on behalf of service users and their human rights

These aims will require a partnership between Member States, WHO and NGOs.

Mental Health Europe congratulates Dr Muijen wishes him every success in his responsibilities.

For further information on the WHO/EURO Mental health Programme: www.euro.who.int.

VI. EUROPEAN UNION

European Council - Agreement on the Draft Directive of Services

EU leaders meeting in Brussels on 22-23 March 2005 for the Spring Summit have reached a compromise on the draft Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

The Luxembourg Prime Minister (currently holding the EU Presidency) Jean-Claude Juncker stated:

"We agreed that the internal market for services must become fully operational in order to be able to promote growth and employment and strengthen European competitiveness. However, the services market we wish to introduce must preserve the European social model."

The European Council requires that every effort is made within the framework to bring about a broad consensus which will meet all the objectives: opening the services market as well as respect for the European social model.

"The directive will not be withdrawn.(...) It must remain on the European agenda because the Lisbon Strategy, which speaks of growth, employment and competitiveness, requires us to open the services market (...) The drafting of the directive's text will take into account the double imperative of the opening of the services market as well as respect for the European social model in accordance with the motto: Yes to the liberalisation of services, no to social dumping" added Mr. Juncker.

For further information:

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/03/22conseurserv/index.html>

VI. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The European Social Agenda (2006-2010)

The Commission launched on 9 February its new Social Agenda for modernising Europe's social model under the revamped Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. The new agenda focuses on providing jobs and equal opportunities for all and ensuring that the benefits of the EU's growth and jobs drive reach everyone in society.

The new Social Agenda has two key priorities, (i) employment and (ii) fighting poverty and promoting equal opportunities.

The Agenda calls for partnerships between public authorities at local, regional and national level, employer and worker representatives and NGOs.

A few key issues :

- Creating a European labour market, through enabling workers to take pension and social security entitlements with them when they work in a different Member States;
- Supporting young people and women in (re-) entering the labour market;
- Analysing the impact of ageing populations by launching a Green Paper on demography
- Tackling discrimination and inequality
- Fostering equal opportunities between women and men, for example by setting up a gender institute;

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_policy_agenda/social_pol_ag_en.html

NEW - European Institute for Gender Equality

On the 8th of March, Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities announced that a new **European Institute for Gender Equality** would be set up.

Hailing the decision, Mr Spidla said: "What better way to celebrate International Women's Day than to propose the creation of a specific agency dedicated to equality for women and men? Gender equality is a fundamental right under the Treaty and a priority policy of the Union. The Institute will play a vital role in providing the expertise needed to develop equality policies across the EU-25. We know that, although progress has been made, more needs to be done, for example, to tackle the gender pay gap which still stands at 15 per cent."

The Institute will be an independent centre of excellence at European level. It will gather, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable research data and information needed by policy-makers in Brussels and in the Member States. It will have a documentation centre and a library, which will be open to the public.

The creation of an institute for gender equality was requested by the European Council in June 2004 and has also been demanded by the European Parliament. It will start operating twelve months after the regulation establishing it has been adopted by Parliament and Council and should be up and running in 2007.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2005/mar/genderinstitute_en.htm

DG HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

REMINDER - Call for Proposals 2005 –15 April!

The deadline for submitting applications for the Call of Proposals 2005 within the Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health (2003-2008) is **15 April 2005**.

For further information:

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

European Health Policy Forum

The first 2005 meeting of the EU Health Policy Forum (EHPF) took place in Brussels, on 11 March. The Forum is a multi-stakeholder group of health actors established by DG SANCO in November 2001 and serves as an information and consultation mechanism for civil society.

In the first part of the meeting, Commissioner Kyprianou presented his views on his health mandate, pointing out four key priorities: **mental health, fight against tobacco use, effective health of young people** with specific focus on children and adolescents and a **healthy nutrition**. He called for youth organisations to work on de-glamourising unhealthy lifestyles and making it "cool" to be healthy.

He also stressed the importance of partnership, underlying that the Commission cannot simply legislate and that there was a need to mobilise the wider community of health stakeholders.

On mental health, he informed that a Green Paper would be launched in June 2005 to be followed by a Communication by the end of 2006.

Mr Robert Madelin, Director General of DG Sanco, gave an overview about recent developments in EU Health Policy. The Commission has proposed a much larger allocation for the new Health and Consumers programme within the debate about the future EU budget (Financial perspectives 2007-2013). But the debate now moves to the Council (Member States) and to the Parliament.

He explained that currently there is a strong call for the EU budget heading 3 (which includes health) to focus on security issues, border policies, visa and policing cooperation. Therefore he stressed the need for active lobbying by health organisations to support the higher budget allocation and invited NGOs to write letters to Members of the European Parliament, Finance Ministers in their countries and key national policy makers.

The new merged Health and Consumers programme will be adopted by the Commission on 6 April. It is expected that it will increase administrative efficiency and will reduce the burden on scarce Commission resources.

In the second part of the meeting, the EHPF members discussed the two papers drafted by the working groups: (1) The Paper on Information to Patients and Professionals and (2) the Paper on Health Services.

The Working Group on Health Services had been established in December 2003 and worked specifically on the White Paper on Services of General Interest and the Proposal for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

Other discussions and presentations looked at the Paper on Health, Trade and Services and an update on the Open Method of Co-ordination.

The next meeting of the EHPF will be on **14 October 2005**.

Roxana Radulescu attended this meeting on behalf of MHE.

Presentations and draft papers are available at

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/sanco/ehf/library>

VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Website on the European Social Charter

The Council of Europe launched its website on the European Social Charter.

Complementing the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter sets out rights and freedoms and establishes a supervisory mechanism guaranteeing their respect by the States Parties. It was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996. It's the role of the European Committee of Social Rights to ascertain whether countries have honoured the undertakings set out in the Charter.

The website provides information about latest developments concerning the Charter, the rights guaranteed, examination of national reports regularly submitted by States Parties and collective complaints raised alleging violations of the Charter.

To visit the website:

http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Esc/1_General_Presentation/default.asp#TopOfPage

2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education

The Council of Europe has decided to proclaim the year 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education Good citizenship is in all our interests. It strengthens and consolidates democracy, enabling us to live together more harmoniously on a long-term basis. The Council of Europe invites Europe's INGOs to seize the opportunity of Citizenship Year to mobilise more strongly, raise public awareness for people everywhere to take responsibility for their futures and play a full part in the lives of their communities, regions and countries, to take new action and build on what they have already done. « We must all demonstrate very visibly and forcefully all the work we are already doing everywhere and everything we hope to achieve together!

For further information:

http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/education/E.D.C/

IX. VARIOUS NEWS

Report on young adults with troubled lives

The Social Exclusion of Unit (UK) launched « Transitions - an interim report on young adults with troubled lives ». The interim findings show that all too often young adults lose continuity in treatment and support when making the transition between adolescent and adult services.

The report also calls for a renewed focus on the 16-25 age group, a focus on the 'invisible' early twenties - the age at which youth policies have tended to end -; for the need for all young adults to have a trusted adult in their life to help negotiate their way around different agencies and for a need to promote continuity of service from teen-hood to adult-hood.

Should you be aware of projects that relate to these key themes, please send an email to youngadults@odpm.qsi.gov.uk, for the next stage of - he report. Any comments on the interim report are welcome.

The report can be downloaded from <http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/trackdoc.asp?id=703&pld=563>.

YouthNet - Call for partnership

YouthNet is a UK charity that provides internet advice for 16-24 year olds on a range of issues - relationships, general and sexual health, drugs, housing, legal matters, jobs. They reach 300,000 people globally every month.

YouthNet wishes to find projects in Europe - local and national - that work online with young people and their mental health.

Should you have information and experiences to share, please contact Leon Clowes Development Manager Trusts & Statutory, YouthNet UK 2-3 Upper Street Islington London N1 0PQ, tel: 020 7288 7312 Fax: 020 7226 8118 Email: leon@youthnet.org Web: www.youthnet.org www.TheSite.org www.do-it.org.uk

OECD Social Indicators - 2005 Edition

Should OECD governments spend more on tackling child poverty and less on unemployment benefits? Or focus on pension reform and the need for family-friendly policies to help parents, in particular mothers, balance a career with bringing up a child?

These are among the social policy challenges spotlighted in the latest edition of the OECD's Society at a Glance.

For further information:

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,2340,en_2649_33729_2671576_1_1_1_1,00.html

Recruitment – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Applications are invited for several positions in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control The Centre is located in Stockholm, Sweden and is expected to start operations by May 2005.

For further information :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/strategy/ecdc/recruitment_ecdc_en.htm

X. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

20-22 April 2005

“Mental Health Promotion – Going from Strength to Strength” (Dublin Castle, Ireland)

Info : www.charity.demon.co.uk/dublin

NEW !! 28 April 2005

Launch of the European Forum for Primary Care, Brussels

Strong primary care produces better health outcomes against lower costs. However, strong Primary care does not emerge spontaneously, it requires appropriate conditions at the health care system level and in actual practice. There is a strong need to collect and share information about what structures and strategies matter and therefore a European Forum for Primary Care will be launched. The Forum intends to support practitioners, researchers and policy makers. The first forum meeting will take place at the European Parliament on 28 April and will offer the opportunity to launch a recent study on European primary.

If you wish to participate to the launch of the Forum, please contact Brigitte Domittner b.domittner@niwz.nl, tel. +31 30 2306 413. There are only a limited number of place available.

2 -13 May 2005

Congress, “Balanced Care. Innovative Perspectives on Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Geel, Belgium

Info:

http://www.opzgeel.be/en/nieuws/htm/congress_2005.asp

9-12 June 2005

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

Info: Conference Organisers Ltd, Clifton House, Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel. +353 1 662 01 25, Fax +353 1 662 01 26, e-mail info@conferenceorganisers.ie; http://www.alzheimer-conference.org/Home/Home_Page/

18-21 June 2005

9th European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS), Stockholm (Sweden)
 Info: <http://www1.stocon.se/ecots2005/9/12734.asp>

7-9 July 2005

8th European Conference on Drugs and Infections in Prisons : « Unlocking Potential – Making prisons Safe for Everyone », Budapest, Hungary
 .Info : <http://endipp.net/index.php?pid=46>

4-8 September 2005

The 28th Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health – “Equity and mental health” (Cairo Egypt)
 Info: www.wfmh2005.com

NEW!! 9-10 September 2005**The 2nd Conference of Mental Health of Child and Adolescent (Bucharest, Romania)**

The conference programme will include information on children and adolescents mental health in Romania, from various perspectives: from biology to social aspects - underlying both quantitative and qualitative aspects, from epidemiology to treatment.

The conference is organised under the auspices of the Romanian League for Mental Health, the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department of the University of Medicine in Bucharest, The Institute of public Health from Bucharest and the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research.

Should you wish to participate in the conference and share your experiences and activities, please contact Dr Iuliana Dobrescu iulianadobrescu@hotmail.com or Dr Laura Mateescu laura_mateescu@yahoo.com.

13-16 September 2005

XXII World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention - “Scaling the Summit. Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures” (Durban, South Africa)
 Info: <http://www.interaction.nu.ac.za/IASP2005/>.

20-22 September 2005

34th International Hospitals Federation (IHF) Congress: “Hospitals and their challenges: Risk, quality, skills and research”, Nice, France
 Info: www.fih2005.com.

23-25 September 2005

From Children to Parents: The impact of parental mental illness on their children”, Athens, Greece,
 REMINDER: Abstract submission deadline **15 June 2005**.
 Info: <http://www.parentsonchildren.gr>

28-30 September 2005

11th conference of the International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research “Continuing our journey ... the next generation...” (Oxford, United Kingdom)
 Info: Annelie Guard, NPNR and Mental Health Programme Administrator, RCN Institute, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HE, annelie.guard@rcn.org.uk, Tel +44 (0)1865 224640, Fax +44 (0)1865 246787.
<http://www.man.ac.uk/rcn/diary/npr28sep05.pdf>.

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

19-22 November 2005

Congress of the European Academy of Childhood Disability, Monaco
 Info: www.eacd2005.org.

XI. REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS“Promoting mental health: concepts, emerging evidence, practice”

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in collaboration with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and the University of Melbourne.

The report describes the concept of mental health and its promotion. It tries to arrive at a degree of consensus on common characteristics of mental health promotion as well as variations across cultures. The Report also positions mental health promotion within the broader context of health promotion and public health. The evidence provided for some of the health and non-health interventions for mental health benefits is likely to be useful to health policy planners and public health professionals. The emphasis, however, is on the urgent need for a more systematic generation of evidence in the coming years, so that a stronger scientific base for further planning can be developed.

Prevention of mental disorders and promotion of mental health are distinct but overlapping aims. Many of the interventions discussed in this Report are also relevant for prevention. However, the scope of promotion as well as the target audience is considered much wider for mental health promotion. For this reason, WHO is releasing this report on promotion separately from and before another report on evidence for prevention of mental disorders.

To download the report :

http://www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/en/promoting_mhh.pdf

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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:

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E-mail:

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–

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Bank details: _____

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