



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### EC Green Paper on Mental Health – MHE’s Response: An EU Strategy on Mental Health and Well Being

MHE invited many organisations and people (MHE members, other organisations active in the field of mental health, and a variety of stakeholders in civil society) to have their say on the European Commission Green Paper on Mental Health.

A synthesis of the responses received was sent to the European Commission on 30 May and circulated for information to a large audience.

The full text of MHE’s response and a summary of the reactions received will be soon posted on the MHE’s website. We will keep you informed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

In brief:

MHE welcomes the objectives of the Green Paper and strongly believes that the EU needs to develop a comprehensive strategy on the mental health of the population. In particular MHE would like to comment on the title of the proposed Strategy by introducing the title of “*EU Strategy on Mental Health and Well Being*” for all populations. MHE believes it is important to ensure a public health approach to positive mental health for all in the EU.

MHE believes that a holistic and more coherent approach to public mental health will add value to existing and envisaged initiatives. MHE endorses the priorities set out in section 5 of the Green Paper and makes a number of considerations.

MHE also believes that the initiatives proposed in sections 6 and 7 are appropriate and puts forward some recommendations.

We want to send a sincere “thank you” to those organisations and individuals who took the time to formulate their view on this important issue.

But most of all we do hope that our comments will be taken into account in the future EU Strategy on Mental Health and Well Being.

*For more information: contact person, Mari Fresu, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-Mail [mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org](mailto:mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org)*

### MHE has a new Board and Executive Committee!

At MHE’s General Assembly held on 13 May 2006 in Brussels, the election of the new Board for Mental Health Europe was confirmed.

The new list of Board members is as follows:

- Victor Aparicio Basauri, Asociacion Española de Neuropsiquiatria, Spain
- Claude Deutsch, Advocacy France
- Sandra Grant, InterMinds, Scotland
- Brian Howard, Mental Health Ireland
- Marianne Carisius Kastrup, SIND, Denmark
- Luigi Leonori, SMES-Europa, Belgium
- Malgorzata Kmita, United Kingdom
- Nace Kovac, SENT, Slovenia
- Elisabeth Muschik, Pro Mente Austria
- Petr Nawka, Integra, Slovakia
- Pino Pini, AISMe, Italy
- Marita Ruohonen, the Finnish Association for Mental Health
- Kristina Salonen, Finland
- Dimitris Tataridis, Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health, Greece

- Colette Versporten, Belgium

At the Board meeting following the General Assembly, the new Executive Committee members were elected:

- President: Malgorzata Kmita
- Vice-President: Elisabeth Muschik
- Secretary: Nace Kovac
- Treasurer: Colette
- 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee member without portfolio: Brian Howard.

Ex officio:

- John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser
- Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Adviser
- Mary Van Dievel, Director.

Our warmest congratulations to the new Board members and Executive Committee!

### Joint Meeting European Advisory Committee and Partners of the Project Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems

The third project meeting was organised in Brussels, on 12 May. It was attended by all the partner organisations, the members of the European Advisory Committee – representatives from AGE, CEFEC, EAPN, EDF, ENUSP, EuroPsy-Rehabilitation, InterMinds – as well as the MHE team consisting of Josée Van Remoortel, Mary Van Dievel, John Henderson, Malgorzata Kmita and Sogol Noorani.

Josée Van Remoortel gave an introduction to the aims and objectives of the meeting. It was intended to serve as an opportunity for the project partners to present some of the identified good practices and to evaluate them together with the members of the European Advisory Committee as well as to discuss ways how and where to look for further good practices combating the social exclusion of people with mental health problems. The aim of the meeting was also to discuss future strategies and possibilities of collaboration in the area or social inclusion between MHE and its project partners and the Advisory Committee.

After an introduction round of all the participants, Sogol Noorani gave an overview of the project and the activities that have been carried out so far, followed by the presentation of good practices identified by the project partners in each country. The presented good practices cover a range of initiatives such as early awareness raising activities, a user-led and self-funded social club offering various activities, user-led anti-stigma activities using the media as a tool, a “social firm” employing people with mental health problems and placing them on the open market, or a therapeutic community initiative preparing people with mental health problems for life in the community.

In the following discussion of the good practices and future strategies of work it was agreed that with regard to the upcoming June Summit of the European Council the discussion of social inclusion of people with mental health problems should be intensified on a political level through collaboration with other European networks that carry out projects in this field such as AGE, EAPN and the Social Platform. The special challenge in the area of mental health and social inclusion is that the issue related to all sorts of dimensions, age, ethnicity, poverty etc. This interconnection needs to be communicated to the policy makers.

There are existing good practices in all countries, but often these are one-shot projects that are being carried out in isolation. Thus, it is important not only to strengthen the connection between different sectors in one country but also between good practices and projects and to support their collaboration.

For more information: Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail [sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org](mailto:sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org)

#### MHE seminar "The EC Green Paper on Mental Health: Time for Action!"

This seminar held in Brussels on 12 May 2006 aimed at taking stock of and to discuss the various reactions that MHE received from its member organisations and other stakeholders. MHE stressed once more the importance of promoting and maintaining good mental health and well being, and to stress the importance of a Public Health approach to positive mental health for populations in the Member States of the European Union.

The seminar also provided the participants a general overview of the work and activities carried out by the European Coalition for Community Living, the Europe-wide initiative working towards the social inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting the provision of comprehensive, quality community-based services as an alternative to institutionalisation.

The third and last session of the seminar was devoted to a debate on involuntary treatment in the community and included interesting contributions from a mental health organisation, an organisation of mental health professionals and last but not least, from (ex)users of mental health services.

The full report of this seminar will be posted on Mental Health Europe's website and will probably be available from the end of June on. We hope to give you the link in our next Newsletter.

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

#### MHE General Assembly

The MHE General Assembly was held in Brussels on Saturday 13 May.

The usual business agenda was covered (adoption of accounts, balance, budget, annual report, programme of activities for 2006-2007) and the amount of the membership fees for 2007 was set.

MHE's revised internal rules were presented and discussed and the final version was approved.

Elisabeth Muschik presented MHE's next conference to be held in Vienna on 31 May-2 June 2007. Theme of the conference will be "No Health without Mental Health - From Slogan to Reality".

MHE members were strongly encouraged to attend this conference and to send their suggestions for workshops and speakers.

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

#### 19th MHE Board meeting

A Board meeting was held after the General Assembly. First point on the agenda was the election of the new Executive Committee (cf above).

The Membership and Accreditation Committee (Paul Arteel, Belgium; Athena Frangouli, Greece; Mariano Hernandez, Spain; Vesna Svab, Slovenia) was re-elected, with Inge Schoeck (Germany) as new member, replacing Kristina Salonen. José Van Remoortel was reconfirmed as Chair of this Committee.

The programme for the MHE Vienna conference was further discussed and plans were made for the MHE 2008 conference.

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

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 3 May Mari Fresu, project coordinator, attended the European Public Health Alliance Policy Coordination meeting.

The MHE Finance Committee, including Colette Versporten, Treasurer, José Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Adviser, Benoit Broekmans, accountant and Mary Van Dievel, Director, met on 4 May to discuss accounts and balance 2005 and budget 2006 and to prepare the comments to the financial situation and the report of the Finance Committee.

On 11 May Mary Van Dievel met successively with John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser, Claude Deutsch, MHE President and Brian Howard, MHE Board member and member of the MHE Finance Committee.

On 12 May the Executive Committee members, Sogol Noorani, project coordinator, and Mary Van Dievel met with the partners of the "Good Practices to combat social exclusion" project and the European Advisory Committee for this project (cf above)

On 12 and 13 May, the Seminar, General Assembly and Board meeting were held (cf above).

On 15 May Elisabeth Muschik, Vice President, attended the Social Platform Steering Group meeting in Brussels.

On 16 May, José Van Remoortel attended the European Disability Forum Task Force on Community Living.

On 17 May, José Van Remoortel, John Henderson, Claude Deutsch, Fanny Muller, Information Officer, Sogol Noorani and Mary Van Dievel attended the workshop organised by the European Coalition for Community Living "The Right to Live in the Community - Towards a European Strategy on de-institutionalisation of people with disabilities". (report to follow)

On 18 and 19 May, John Henderson attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thematic meeting on the EC Green Paper on "Data and Knowledge in mental health".

On 23 May Mary Van Dievel attended the symposium on management of change and leadership in mental health organised in Ellecom (Netherlands) in honour of Aart Jan Vrijlandt's retirement from the mental health

institution GGNet. Aart Jan Vrijlandt is a former Board member and President of MHE.

On 24 May Mary Van Dievel met with Diana Andersen from the North Denmark region to discuss the possibility of organising MHE's 2008 conference in Denmark.

On 26-28 May, Josée Van Remoortel attended the European Disability Forum's General Assembly and Board meetings in Rome, Italy.

On 27-28 May Malgorzata Kmita represented MHE in Mental Health Ireland's annual conference in Wexford.

On 30 May Mary Van Dievel attended a meeting organised by the Austrian Chamber of Employment in Brussels on "Anti-discrimination and equal opportunities: where is Europe heading?".

On 31 May Mari Fresu attended the press conference organised by EUFAMI and Rethink in European Parliament in Brussels, on the EC Green Paper on Mental Health.

The same day, Mary Van Dievel attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> preparatory meeting for the Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion to be held in Tampere, Finland, in October 2006.

## II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Up-dating of the Partnership for Children's website (UK)

An article on the problem of self-harm among teenagers has been recently posted on the Partnership for Children's website. In this article, one of Partnership for Children's trustees, Mette Ystgaard, discusses her research into this worrying issue. "We need to help these young people to develop other ways of coping with their feelings, instead of cutting themselves or putting pills into themselves," she declared.

To read this interview:

<http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/docs/latestnews.html>

On top of that, the section of the website that relates to funding, and, in particular, the various ways in which people can support the organisation's work, has been revised. This includes the new Friends scheme, for people who can give a regular donation, which helps to keep the organisation's costs down.

To read more about this:

<http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising.1.html>

### An up-dated Mental Health Foundation's website (UK)

The Mental Health Foundation's (MHF) website has been recently up-dated, with the adjunction of recent MHF's initiatives and documents.

You will find, for instance, information on the Mental Health Action Week – Alcohol and Mental Health, the final report by the National Inquiry into self-harm among young people, MHF's response to the Green Paper on Mental Health, press releases, various articles on different topics...

To directly access the website:

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

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

## III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

### European Disability Forum

#### Seminar in Serbia on advocacy and participation of disabled people in decision making process

A Seminar has been held in Serbia on 9-10 May in the framework of the CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) project financed by the Directorate General Enlargement of the European Commission: "Capacity building of disabled people's umbrella organizations throughout the CARDS region" led by EDF. This seminar gathered representatives from the Serbian government as well as from the Serbian umbrella organisations for disabled people and representatives from EDF.

This seminar aimed at discussing the development of a human rights approach to disability as well as to present the new Serbian anti-discrimination legislation, which is one of the most advanced legislations in the region. The conference also had a session on advocacy and participation of Serbian disabled people organisations in the decision-making process. It was a very constructive meeting which emphasized the need for a strong and unified disability movement to fight discrimination and improve the visibility of disabled people in the political life in Serbia. This seminar is part of a whole strategy of EDF to provide organisations from the Western Balkans with advice and assistance to strengthen their capacity.

For more information: contact person, Aurélie Baranger, Tel +32 2 286 51 83, E-Mail [aurelie.baranger@edf-feph.org](mailto:aurelie.baranger@edf-feph.org)

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

#### EDF draft position paper re. the revision of the Directive on TV without Frontiers

EDF is currently drafting a position paper to be used as an EDF lobbying tool during the EU negotiations on the revision of the Directive on TV without Frontiers.

Accessibility of audiovisual media services is an important part of the proper functioning of the internal market. People with disabilities and/or older people, to whom the issue of accessibility is crucial, represent a significant share of consumers of audiovisual services.

Among other proposals for amendments, EDF proposes the insertion of a new article which should include an obligation for the Member States to take all appropriate measures to ensure accessibility of digital television for disabled people and to report on the steps taken to ensure accessibility.

EDF addresses in particular the accessibility needs of hearing and visual impaired people as well as people with intellectual impairment.

The draft position paper was sent for consultation purposes to the EDF Universal Access Network.

For more information: contact person, Janina Arsenjeva Tel +32 2 282 46 02, E-mail [janina.arsenjeva@edf-feph.org](mailto:janina.arsenjeva@edf-feph.org)

Source: EDF Weekly Flash

## Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

### Videos on the situation of people with mental disabilities in Bulgaria

Two short Sky News programmes on the situation of people with mental disabilities in Bulgaria, which highlight the work of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC), have been released.

MDAC is collaborating with the BHC on strategic litigation of human rights abuses against people with mental disabilities in Bulgaria, and the two groups are together taking cases to the Bulgarian courts and to the European Court of Human Rights. Additionally, MDAC is preparing a collective complaint under the European Social Charter on the right to education of children with mental disabilities in Bulgaria. The litigation is funded by Doughty Street Chambers, London.

MDAC is also conducting its guardianship assessment project in Bulgaria, through which it will provide reports later this year on guardianship laws and practices. The guardianship project is funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust and the Open Society Institute (Budapest).

To access the News programmes:

[http://www.sky.com/skynews/video/videoplayer/0,,31200-kids\\_p11850,00.html](http://www.sky.com/skynews/video/videoplayer/0,,31200-kids_p11850,00.html)

For more information: MDAC website,

<http://www.mdac.info>

Source: MDAC

## Social Platform

### Social NGOs call Austrian Presidency to slow down on the Fundamental Rights Agency

In April 2006, the Social Platform, together with human rights and development NGOs sent a letter to the Austrian Chancellor urging the Presidency to slow down the pace of negotiations on the Fundamental Rights Agency.

There is concern that the Austrian Presidency is rushing the negotiations in order to be able to sign a political compromise before the end of June that would put at risk the protection of fundamental rights in Europe and the future effectiveness of the Agency.

Social NGOs are extremely worried that at such a pace, Council officials will not take adequate time to consider crucial issues around the independence of the Agency. Furthermore, there is a clear risk that the European Union's Agency will fail to respect United Nation's Paris Principles on pluralism, which are aimed specifically at institutions that should protect and promote human rights.

A more structured involvement of civil society organisations in both the negotiations and in the future work of the Agency is necessary for its effectiveness, stated the organisations in the letter.

For more information: the Social Platform website,

<http://www.socialplatform.org/code/en/hp.asp>

Source: Social Platform Press Release

### Social NGO's message to the European June Council 2006

Since June last year EU leaders have held a period of reflection on the EU constitutional treaty. Along with many others, Social Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are concerned that this period of reflection has been so far more about killing time before forthcoming

national elections than inviting people across Europe to constructively reflect on what an improved constitutional treaty should look like.

This approach goes against Social NGOs' belief in the need for more participatory forms of democracy. Elections are key democratic moments for the EU (providing that Europe is on the agenda) but democracy is also about providing a regular dialogue with civil society and involving as many people as possible throughout the decision making process.

In a resolution to the June Council on the period of reflection adopted on 15 May the Social Platform calls on EU leaders to:

- Initiate an open, structured and visible discussion process, clearly aimed at achieving an agreement on the constitution and respecting the principle of participatory democracy;
- Ensure that the discussions on the future of the constitutional text take the needs and aspirations of people in the EU into account;
- Address the widely held concern about how to better mainstream social objectives across all EU policies.

MHE fully supports the Platform's resolution to the June Council.

The resolution in English can be downloaded at:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/06-05-15ENResolutionperiodofreflection.pdf>

For more information: contact person, Roshan Di

Puppo Tel +32 2 508 16 34,

[roshan.dipuppo@socialplatform.org](mailto:roshan.dipuppo@socialplatform.org).

Source: Social Platform

## **IV. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

### Sudden death of WHO Director-General

Dr Lee Jong-Wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has died in the end of May. He was 61.

Dr Lee, a national of the Republic of Korea, had been WHO Director-General since 21 July 2003. He had worked for WHO for 23 years, at country and regional levels, and at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva.

All the WHO staff extended their most sincere condolences to Dr Lee's family.

Condolences can be sent to: [DrLee-tribute@who.int](mailto:DrLee-tribute@who.int)

From now on, Dr Anders Nordström will serve as Acting Director-General.

Dr Nordström was appointed by the Director-General as his deputy in November 2003.

For more information: contact person, Christine McNab, Tel +41 79 254 6815, E-mail [mcnabc@who.int](mailto:mcnabc@who.int), or the WHO website, <http://www.who.int>

### World Health Report 2006 – Working together for health

In April 2006, the World health Organization released its "World Health Report 2006 – Working together for health". This report underlines that a serious shortage of health workers in 57 countries is impairing provision of essential, life-saving interventions such as childhood immunization, safe pregnancy and delivery services for mothers, and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. This shortage, combined with

a lack of training and knowledge, is also a major obstacle for health systems as they attempt to respond effectively to chronic diseases, avian influenza and other health challenges.

More than four million additional doctors, nurses, midwives, managers and public health workers are urgently needed to fill the gap in these 57 countries, 36 of which are sub-Saharan Africa, says the report, which was highlighted by events in many cities around the world to mark World Health Day (7 April 2006). Every country needs to improve the way it plans for, educates and employs the doctors, nurses and support staff who make up the health workforce and provide them with better working conditions, the report concludes.

The World Health Report sets out a 10-year plan to address the crisis. It calls for national leaderships to urgently formulate and implement country strategies for the health workforce. These need to be backed by international donor assistance.

To tackle this crisis, more direct investment in the training and support of health workers is needed now.

The report finally calls for prompt and innovative initiatives to improve efficiency. For example, HIV/AIDS, TB (tuberculosis) and other priority disease programmes have implemented ways for health workers with limited formal training to successfully carry out specific health tasks. These experiences should be drawn upon to develop national health workforce strategies.

For further information: WHO website, <http://www.who.int/en>

Source: WHO Press Release

## V. EUROPEAN UNION

### EU Structural Funds

After two years of intensive negotiations, a political agreement on the EU Structural Funds was finally reached on 5 May 2006 at Council level by the EU Ministers of Economy and Finance.

Structural Funds have contributed to main investment projects in the environment, employment and services, knowledge society, infrastructure transport, urban renewal, training, education and culture. Despite the fact that in principle, disabled people can benefit from the EU funds as anyone else, the lack of specific provisions, such as accessibility, prevents them to do so.

The final compromise includes the five Regulations constituting the cohesion policy legislative package and representing one third of the Union's overall budget, the equivalent to 336.1 billion euros.

In particular, article 14 of the General Regulation, establishing the criteria for the allocation of the Funds, includes the first specific reference to the accessibility for disabled people as a requirement to use EU public funding.

The EDF (European Disability Forum) has expressed its extreme satisfaction with the decision, which is the result of an intensive lobbying campaign that will be now carried at the member states level. EDF's President Yannis Vardakastanis stressed that EDF's task "is now to guarantee that the operational programmes to be developed in the 25 Member States will respect the accessibility and non-discrimination principles included in the Regulation".

The ECOFIN's agreement will be voted by the European Parliament in July 2006. The regulations should enter into force by the end of the same month, followed by the discussion and approval of the Community strategic guidelines. The discussions and Commission's approval of the Member States' operational programmes is expected by November 2007, putting and end to the procedure.

For more information: contact person, Helena González-Sancho Bodero, Tel +32 2 282 46 04, E-mail [communication@edf-feph.org](mailto:communication@edf-feph.org), or see the EDF website, [www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org)

Source: EDF Press Release

### Most citizens complain about lack of transparency in the EU institutions

The European Ombudsman, P.Nikiforos Diamandouros, received 3,920 complaints from EU citizens, companies, non governmental organisations and associations in 2005. "The rate of complaints still stands at the record high level attained in 2004", said Mr. Diamandouros at the presentation of his Annual Report 2005 in Brussels.

Most of the inquiries in 2005 concerned the European Commission (68%), followed by the European Personnel Selection Office, the European Parliament and the Council. Among the alleged types of maladministration were refusal of information, unfairness, abuse of power, discrimination, procedural errors or avoidable delays. Following the Ombudsman's intervention, the EU institutions settled bills, paid interest, released documents, remedied injustices and apologised for mistakes.

Spain produced the greatest number of complaints (20% of the total), followed by Germany (11%), France (10%) and Poland (9%). But relative to their population, most complaints came from Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg. "Many citizens do not know that I can only investigate alleged maladministration by EU institutions and bodies, and not complaints against national or regional authorities in the Member States, even if they involve Community law," said Mr. Diamandouros. "Two thirds of the complaints are therefore still outside my mandate". However, the European Ombudsman was able to help over 75% of complainants, by opening an inquiry, transferring complaints to the competent body, or giving advice on where to turn.

The Ombudsman's *Executive Summary and Statistics 2005* is available in all official EU languages and contains summaries of cases, background information and statistics.

It can be downloaded at the following web address:

<http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/report/en/default.htm>

The full Annual Report in English is also available at this web address. It will be available in all the 20 official languages in July.

For more information: the Ombudsman's website, <http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int>

Source: the Ombudsman's Press Office

### Launch of the "eu" domain name

The launch of the "eu" domain name and its first steps into cyberspace seem to have been a success. Over 700,000 Europeans raced to register their new .eu

internet domain name within four hours after it opened to the public on 7 April according to EURid, the non-for-profit body responsible for overseeing registration. As of today that total had shot up to 1.5 million domain names registered, with the Germans, Brits and Dutch being the most enthusiastic new users.

For more information and if you would like to get a .eu domain: <http://registrar.eurid.eu/en/registrar>

Since 9 May, the domain name of the EUROPA website, which was formerly <http://www.europa.eu.int>, is: [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu).

The e-mail addresses of the staff working in the European institutions were also changed:

- for the staff working in the European Commission: [firstname.name@ec.europa.eu](mailto:firstname.name@ec.europa.eu) (formerly: [first\\_name.name@cec.eu.int](mailto:first_name.name@cec.eu.int))
- for the external staff working for the European Commission (consultants, etc): [firstname.name@ext.ec.europa.eu](mailto:firstname.name@ext.ec.europa.eu)

A transition phase is planned to last 12 months, so that the old addresses will still work in the meantime.

### Estonia ratifies the European Constitution

On 9 May, Estonia has become the 15th European Union member state to ratify the union's constitution. The Baltic state's parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of the text.

Deputy speaker of parliament Maret Maripuu announced that "the EU constitution has been ratified with 73 votes for and one against".

The EU constitutional treaty has to be endorsed by all 25 members of the enlarged bloc before it comes into force.

Initially, the deadline for all member states to ratify the constitution was set for November this year, but after voters in old member states France and the Netherlands voted against it in referendums last year, EU leaders agreed to a "period of reflection" on the treaty.

The constitution is aimed at setting new ground rules and streamlining decision-making in the EU, which swelled to 25 members when 10 newcomers, including Estonia, joined in May 2004.

Fifteen member states have ratified the treaty so far, including eight of the newcomers.

For more information: the *European Constitution's* dedicated website, <http://www.yes-campaign.net>

Source: AFP

## **VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### Finnish Presidency to increase transparency of EU decision-making

The Finnish Ministry of Justice announced in March 2006 that one of the objectives of the Finnish Presidency, which will start in July 2006, is to increase the transparency of the proceedings of the Council: "Means of achieving this include promoting access to documents, ensuring efficient communications and enhancing the transparency of decision-making".

Finland intends to prepare for the publication of a Commission Discussion Paper on the revision of the Regulation regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents during the year. Finland is also taking steps to promote

discussion on the issue during its Presidency. For instance, the Presidency website will feature the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) and working party agendas, as well as agendas and background papers of the Councils of Ministers. Finland also intends to boost the number of public sessions of the Council on all key issues and matters of interest to citizens. At the end of the Presidency period, Finland will assess progress made towards public discussions. The official website for Finland's EU Presidency will be opened on 31 May 2006 at [www.eu2006.fi](http://www.eu2006.fi) and [www.ue2006.fi](http://www.ue2006.fi).

For more information: the Finnish government's website, <http://www.government.fi/eu/suomi-ja-eu/2006/en.jsp>, or the Commission Transparency Initiative website, [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/kallas/transparency\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/kallas/transparency_en.htm)

Source: EAPN Flash

### Priorities for the German EU presidency of 2007

During its EU Presidency, Germany will not be pushing the revival of the EU constitution, said Chancellor Angela Merkel in a governmental declaration in Berlin on 10 May 2006. She warned that, although Germany supports the EU constitution, rushing into action might result in setbacks.

Following the no votes in France and the Netherlands last year, the agreed period of reflection on the constitution is now coming to an end.

Merkel acknowledged the situation was "complicated" and a decision on how to proceed should be taken "at the right time".

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso looks set to agree with Merkel and is expected to urge member states to declare an intention to seek agreement on institutional reform in the future – probably in June 2007 with substantive proposals in 2008.

Germany will take over the EU presidency from Finland in January 2007.

So not the constitution, but energy will top the German agenda with Merkel stressing the need for a common EU energy policy "to assure access to resources for the next decades".

She also intends to cut EU bureaucracy suggesting that during each parliamentary election, laws that have not been finalised should be scrapped.

Furthermore, Merkel called on the EU to create "European champions" in business, indirectly criticising the rise in economic nationalism recently displayed by France and Spain.

For more information: [eupolitix.com](http://www.eupolitix.com) website, <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200605/3883b79c-14d9-4607-896b-d6c931d166c5.htm>

## **VII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

### Members of Parliament's (MP) debate on Europe's future

Around 200 members of the national parliaments and around 70 members of the European Parliament (EP) gathered in Brussels (Belgium) on 8-9 May to discuss the Future of the European Union.

The conference came ahead of a EU June Summit debate of EU leaders on the future institutional shape

of Europe and the European Commission contribution for the June Summit. The Commission's document, issued on 10 May, presents the outcome of the Commission's Lanaken brainstorming and presents a "positive, policy-driven" agenda that should lead to a "Europe of results".

The MP debates have focused on four main issues:

1. European Union in the world and the borders of the Union;
2. Globalisation and the European Social and Economic Model;
3. The prospects for the area of freedom, security and justice;
4. The future financial resources of the Union.

The meeting was co-chaired by the President of the EP, Josep Borrell and the Austrian Nationalrat President Andreas Khol and meant to provide an input for the "reflection period".

*For more information: the special website produced for this occasion,*

<http://www.futurdeleurope.euoparl.europa.eu/future/cms/lang/en/pid/1>

Source: EMI Newsletter

## VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### EC open consultation on the European Transparency Initiative

The Green Paper on the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) was launched by the European Commission on 3 May. The Green Paper brings together three aspects of the ETI in one document covering transparency in lobbying activities, feedback on the application of the minimum standards for consultation and the disclosure of beneficiaries of EU funds.

A public consultation on these topics has now open and will close on 31 August 2006.

Measures adopted following the consultation may affect the Commission's relations with civil society and so, the ways in which non governmental organisations can participate in shaping Commission policy proposals.

The consultation will be run via a dedicated website, where you can download the Green Paper, find out more about the issues involved, read other participants' contributions and submit your own contribution.

*To directly access the consultation's website:*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/eti/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eti/index_en.htm)

*For more information: the EC Civil Society website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/civil\\_society/civil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/civil_society/civil/index_en.htm)

### DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

#### EC Communication on Social Services

As social services modernise in many EU Member States, often in partnership with the private sector and non-profit organisations, all involved need clarification on how European law affects this evolving situation. A new Communication adopted on 26 April 2006 by the European Commission addresses this issue and the rapid changes in "social services of general interest". The Communication presents for the first time a list of these services' specific characteristics and reviews the support which they receive from various existing community instruments. It also opens up a process of wide consultation, open to all actors of the sectors,

Member States, Social Partners, non governmental organisations and operators of social services, through which the Commission will better take into account the specificities of those services when implementing EU legislation. These services differ from country to country, but can include sectors such as social housing, childcare or services towards families and persons in need. However, it does not deal with health services, which will fall under a separate initiative from the Commission.

In a press release, the Social Platform welcomed the Communication on social Services, but recognised that the Commission should have taken bolder steps towards advancing legal instruments in a context of urgent modernization of social services in member states. The Social Platform called for a legal instrument on social services of general interest to clarify how they are treated in EU rules, as well as for more in-depth reflection about how to respond to the challenge facing the sector.

*For more information: the European Commission's website,*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=153](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=153)

*To read the full version of the Commission's Communication:*

[http://www.feantsa.org/files/Month%20Publications/EN/Articles\\_and\\_documents\\_related\\_to\\_the\\_Flash/06\\_04\\_flash/com\\_2006\\_177\\_en.pdf](http://www.feantsa.org/files/Month%20Publications/EN/Articles_and_documents_related_to_the_Flash/06_04_flash/com_2006_177_en.pdf)

#### European Commission launches new call for proposal

The European Commission has launched a call for proposal for National Awareness Raising Actions on Social Inclusion and Social Protection. The general objectives of this call for proposals are to improve information and raise awareness about the relevance of the EU social inclusion and social protection process and to promote the involvement of concerned stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the two strategies. For the inclusion strand of the strategy, the Commission is looking for proposals promoting the participation in decision-making and mainstreaming a concern with poverty and exclusion into national planning. Applicants must be from organisations registered in either one of the 25 Member States, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)/European Economic Area (EEA) countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and/or the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania). An amount of approximately 2.600.000 euros will be available for this call and it is envisaged that 10 to 15 projects will be selected. The Community's financial contribution will thus represent 150.000-250.000 euros per project. The deadline for submitting proposals is **30 June 2006**.

*For more information: the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders\\_en.cfm?id=305](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=305)

#### News from the Anti-Discrimination Unit

- *Commission announces new calls for tender:*

The European Commission has posted three new calls for tender in the field of anti-discrimination. The calls are to:



1. Carry out a study on collecting data to measure progress in anti-discrimination policies;
2. Organise and run training seminars for NGOs and social partners;
3. Conduct a study on multiple discrimination in the EU.

The deadline for sending offers for the two studies is **12 June 2006**. Responses to the call for training must be submitted by **26 June**.

For more information: the Anti-Discrimination Unit's website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/callspt/calls\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/callspt/calls_en.htm)

- *SOLID training in legal issues:*

The SOLID project, which works for the effective transposition and implementation of the EU Race Equality Directive, will be holding new training events in May (for non governmental organisations' (NGOs) representatives from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania) and September (for Cyprus, Greece, the Netherlands, Ireland and Slovenia). The training will address standards of the Directives and use of litigation at national level. SOLID is also currently looking for national facilitators with experience of NGO activism on racial equality and knowledge of laws on race discrimination in their country.

For more information on how to apply: the SOLID Project's website, <http://www.solid-eu.org>

- *Spotlight, Anti-discrimination & diversity training – good practices and future needs:*

The May *Spotlight* on the European Commission's anti-discrimination website reports back on the Community Action Programme's Annual Conference, which was held in Warsaw on 24-25 April. The event showcased some of the best examples of anti-discrimination and diversity training, and specialists from all 25 EU countries shared their experiences. The article provides links to all conference presentations.

For more information: the Anti-Discrimination Unit's website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/spot/may06\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/may06_en.htm)

## **DG Health and Consumer Protection**

### **Commission launches new Health Portal**

In 2005 at least one third of the European adult population, 130 million EU citizens, browsed the web in search of information on health. However, searching for health-related information is not always easy. Researchers can be confronted with thousands of sites, many of them complex, and it can be hard to know which are reliable or up to date. To help European citizens answer their health questions, the Commission has launched the "*Health-EU Portal*" on 10 May. The launch event took place in Malaga, Spain, within the Commission-sponsored "*eHealth*" conference. The Health-EU Portal is a gateway to simple and sound information on 47 topics that range from babies' health to bio-terrorism, and from infectious diseases to health insurance. It contains a special section devoted to mental health, where users will find a link to the MHE website.

The Health-EU Portal is aimed at citizens, patients, healthcare professionals and scientists alike. Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said: "*The Health-EU Portal is a very large project*

*bringing together all EU Member States as well as European Free Trade Association's nations, international organisations and non governmental organisations. Web surfers will have access to over 40,000 links to trustworthy sources. The translation of the Portal into all 20 official EU languages means that up to 1.5 billion people worldwide can use it to help them to make healthy choices."*

To directly access the new Health-EU Portal: [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm)

### **List of National Focal Points**

National Focal Points (NFPs) related to the Public Health Programme calls for proposals have been established in a number of EU Member States and participating countries.

They have been designated by their respective authorities to act primarily as national information relay points for the beneficiaries at large, through disseminating information on and from the programme and providing local support to potential applicants. The NFPs form an interacting network that increases the EU dimension of the programme.

Their precise mandate varies from one country to the other but as a rule, the services provided would cover - totally or in part - the following areas: information on the call for proposals, distribution of documentation, advice and assistance on procedures and contractual issues, help in partner finding, proposal clinics, etc.

To directly access the list: DG Health and Consumer Protection's website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/health/ph\\_programme/National\\_Focal\\_Points/nfp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/health/ph_programme/National_Focal_Points/nfp_en.htm)

### **Evaluation of the EU Public Health programme 2003-2008**

The Public Health Programme is undergoing an external evaluation during the course of 2006. This evaluation was foreseen in the Decision taken by the European Parliament and the Council establishing the programme.

The purpose of the evaluation is to obtain independent, evidence based information on the implementation and achievement of the programme during its first three years (2003 - 2005).

The aim of the evaluation is to assess:

- the impact the programme has achieved on health in the EU by providing European added value, complementing Member State health measures, and its ability to reach citizens and stakeholders;
- efficiency of the use of resources together with effectiveness and sustainability to meet the programme objectives;
- consistency and complementarity with other relevant programmes, actions and initiatives carried out by the European Commission.

The results of the evaluation will be used to provide feedback for future Commission initiatives in the field of Public Health.

The report will be available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_programme/evaluation/2003\\_2008\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/evaluation/2003_2008_en.htm)

## IX. EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

### Germany condemned for failing to transpose the EC's Directive on equal treatment

The European Court of Justice has criticised Germany for failing to transpose the EU's Employment Framework Directive (2000/78/EC) on time. In a ruling of February 2006, the Court found that Germany had failed to create the proper legal framework for equal treatment on the basis of religion, disability and sexual orientation. The EU legislation – dating from 2000 – should have been introduced into national law in all EU Member States by December 2003. Germany must now take the necessary steps to comply with the Directive.

*For further information (currently in French and German only):*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/legis/lqinfringe\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/legis/lqinfringe_en.htm)

## X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

### Council of Europe membership proposed for the EU

Jean-Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, has proposed that the EU become a member of the Council of Europe, in a bid to strengthen ties between the two organisations. The Luxembourg leader on 11 April proposed a series of concrete ideas to revamp ties between the two organisations, which are sometimes seen as competing in the area of fundamental rights.

The Council of Europe was established in 1949 as the first political form of European co-operation after World War II, but later developed into a loose network of what are now 46 states focusing on human rights. The current EU has developed from the economic European Coal and Steel Community in 1951 into a political organisation, which now has its own plans to set up a European Fundamental Rights Agency. Observers have pointed to the risk of overlap and competition if the EU keeps expanding its interest into fundamental rights.

Mr Juncker states in his report that the Council of Europe should still have clear primacy over the EU in human rights. The EU's planned human rights agency should deal with respect for fundamental rights solely in connection with the implementation of European Community law.

But the most far-reaching proposal in Mr Juncker's report is that the EU becomes a member of the Council of Europe, next to the individual EU member states which are already members of the human rights watchdog. The EU according to its present treaties has no "legal personality" which is needed to enter international organisations. The EU Constitution, rejected by French and Dutch voters in referendums last year, proposes to change this, for the first time providing the Union with a legal personality.

The Juncker report states that Council of Europe membership for the EU could be achieved by 2010, as by then "the debate on changes in the EU treaties will have moved ahead".

*To directly access the Juncker's report:*

[http://www.gouvernement.lu/salle\\_presse/actualite/2006/04/11conseil\\_europe/english\\_mod.pdf](http://www.gouvernement.lu/salle_presse/actualite/2006/04/11conseil_europe/english_mod.pdf)

Source: Eurochild's e-News Bulletin

## XI. VARIOUS

### Back into work, back into society: More social inclusion for people with mental health problems in United Kingdom

A new drive to help people with mental health problems get back on their feet and back into work was launched in March 2006 by the British Health Minister Rosie Winterton.

She published four sets of new guidance for commissioners of services designed to better re-integrate people that have suffered with mental health problems into society.

The guidance covers vocational services, day services, direct payments and women's only day services.

The guidance has been drawn up following the report of the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) "Social Exclusion and Mental Health", published in June 2004. The report sought to reduce the barriers to employment and community participation experienced by people with mental health problems. It identified further development of vocational services, day service modernisation and improved provision of direct payments for as key to reducing such barriers.

Launching the guidance, Ms Winterton said: "These sets of guidance will help patients through different stages of the patient journey. Direct payments can give people with mental health problems control over their own lives by providing an alternative to social care services provided by a local council. They give the person flexibility to find "off the peg" solutions, leading to increased opportunities for independence and social inclusion. The guidance on day services and vocational services complement this by refocusing efforts on providing opportunities for people with mental health problems to access more community services and also gain employment."

The new guidance on vocational services for people with mental health problems recognises that being in employment improves mental health outcomes, prevents suicide and reduces reliance on mental health services. It refocuses guidance on helping people back to work being a key part of their recovery and rehabilitation, rather than waiting for them to be fully recovered.

The vocational services guidance outlines measures to place people in employment settings consistent with their abilities and interests. It has been written in conjunction with the British Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus.

*For more information: the website of the British Department of Health,*

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/Home/fs/en>

*To download the SEU report "Social Exclusion and Mental Health",*

<http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/page.asp?id=257>

### Green light to mistreatment of disabled children in Portugal

In a shocking verdict, Portugal's Supreme Court ruled in April 2006 that corporal punishment of children with mental disabilities in a children's institution is not illegal.

Physical punishment is unacceptable in and of itself, "but is much more alarming and deeply repugnant

when it is defended by a court of law", said Humberto Santos, the president of the Portuguese Association of Disabled Persons (APD).

Late last year, a juvenile court convicted a caregiver in a children's home for mistreating children in her care between 1990 and 2000, and sentenced her to 18 months in prison. The case, which revealed that she regularly slapped mentally disabled children and locked them into a dark pantry, caused a public commotion.

But in the decision it handed down, the Supreme Court considered slaps and spankings not only "legal" and "acceptable", but stated that failure to use these methods of punishment could even amount to "educational neglect". In addition, the Court said that locking children into dark rooms is a normal form of punishment "by any good parent".

Santos added that because of the gravity of the case, it should be considered by the European Court of Human Rights.

The bar association described the verdict as "dangerous".

Carlos Antunes, a member of the bar association's human rights commission, said the legal decision is unacceptable and "extremely serious, because it sets an appalling precedent and transmits a very dangerous message, which did not come from just any court, but from the high court itself".

Government officials have not yet pronounced themselves on the verdict. Cornered by journalists, Minister of Social Welfare José Vieira da Silva merely stated that in the children's institutions that answer to his ministry, "physical punishment is strictly prohibited, with no exceptions".

The Supreme Court ruling also runs counter to the international legal obligations of Portugal, which ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child - legally binding on signatory countries in September 1990.

For more information: contact person, Anne Hoel, [anne@epha.org](mailto:anne@epha.org), Tel. +32 2 233 38 89, or visit the EPHA website at [www.epha.org](http://www.epha.org)

Source: EPHA

#### Civic participation in EU-funded medical research

The European Commission is being petitioned by organisations that are seeking to persuade it to take steps to involve civil society in research—and, in fact, the Commission is becoming increasingly open to these requests.

A seminar held at an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Brussels-based umbrella group European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), in December 2005, provided an excellent illustration of the process in which citizens' organisations are voicing concerns to government bodies.

At the seminar, Claudia Neubauer, of the Parisbased Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, presented a case for citizens' involvement in the framing of the EC's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), an initiative that will fund research activities in Europe during 2007-2013. Viviane Willis-Mazzichi, of the Science and Society Directorate of the European Commission's Research Directorate General, outlined some current EC attitudes to the concept of citizen involvement in research.

For more information: PatientView's website, <http://www.patient-view.com>

Source: HSCNNews International, issue 28 (April 2006)

## XI. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

### Online resource on men's health

It seems that mental health services are often not appropriate for men and need to be developed in the areas of identification of men with mental health problems, communication with men on this issue, treatment of men and information for them and their families.

The reality is that:

- suicide is the most common cause of death for young men and men over 70,
- men's depression is severely under diagnosed and many men with this disease are not treated,
- men very heavily misuse addictive drugs, especially alcohol.

It is of great importance to recognise men's special needs in these areas in order develop a better understanding of men's attitudes to mental health and to invest in "male sensitive" approaches to mental health.

Ahead of June's Men's Health Week 2006, Svend Aage Madsen, Chief Psychologist at Copenhagen University Hospital (Denmark) and European Men's Health Forum (EMHF) board member, welcomed the focus on men's mental health and wellbeing. Men's use of services and information seems, indeed, to be especially poor when it concerns mental health.

The EMHF website provides an online resource for the sharing of knowledge and practice relating to the development of men's health in Europe. It is primarily aimed at policy makers, health professionals, patient NGOs, academics, the media, and men's health organisations across Europe.

To access the EMHF website:

[http://www.emhf.org/index.cfm/item\\_id/1/CFID=7324228&CFTOKEN=78492262](http://www.emhf.org/index.cfm/item_id/1/CFID=7324228&CFTOKEN=78492262)

### New online directory on disability

A new directory of key information resources on disability, inclusion and development, is produced by the Source International Information Support Centre and Handicap International.

The directory presents details of over 300 information resources, organised by topic and including clear abstracts and details of distributors. Most entries include links to the full resource online.

For people with limited access to the Internet, the directory is available in print with a CD-ROM, which holds the full text of many resources.

Topics include disability and society, Management issues and Rehabilitation and health (mental health included).

To directly access the directory:

[http://www.asksources.info/res\\_library/disability.htm](http://www.asksources.info/res_library/disability.htm)

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

## XII. PUBLICATIONS

### Latest issue of the Communicator Mental Healthcare Magazine

The spring issue of the *Communicator Mental Healthcare Magazine* (UK) has just been published.

It contains contributions from top international and national organisations, which are regular editorial contributors, and gives the readers the best possible mental health coverage.

You can follow the work of mental health charity Mind (MIND), HelpAge International - which has more than 70 affiliate organisations located in 50 countries -, the Chinese Mental Health Association - which is the charity that serves the Chinese community in the UK -, and the Department of Health's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

To download the spring issue:  
<http://www.communicatormentalhealth.org/magazine3.htm>

#### Mental health at the crossroads: the promise of the psychosocial approach

A new book, "Mental health at the crossroads: the promise of the psychosocial approach", has just been published; it is edited by Shulamit Ramon and Janet E. Williams.

The 19 contributors of this book, most of them social scientists or mental health practitioners including a few psychiatrists are united in their belief that a paradigm shift in mental health is needed. In short: the dominant bio-medical, diagnosis driven model should be replaced by the psychosocial approach, in which recovery, consumer involvement, emotional involvement of practitioners ('hands-on' approach) are central ingredients.

The book consists of four parts:

- in part one the conceptual framework of the psychosocial model is outlined;
- part two describes the political context of mental health policy and service development in the UK, Australia and the USA;
- part three is organised around the theme "paradigm shift in psychiatry", and de-institutionalisation is seen as the process that will inevitably lead to the paradigm shift;
- in part four a number of experiences with the psychosocial model are described, such as self-help groups, informal caring, mental health promotion and spirituality.

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

#### Transitions – Young Adults with Complex Needs

The Social Exclusion Unit (United-Kingdom) launched its final report for 2005 "Transitions – Young Adults with Complex Needs".

The report looks at the section of the population which has not yet benefited to the same extent than the rest of the population from the major programme of investment in public services: young adults with complex needs.

The period of transition from childhood to adulthood is becoming increasingly complex, difficult and risky. Most young people, supported by parents, friends and school, manage the transition successfully. But for some young people the process is fraught with difficulties. Without effective intervention, social exclusion in youth can continue long into adulthood and be passed down to the next generation. The transition to adulthood is more difficult if you also have to deal with one or more of the following issues: poor housing;

homelessness; substance misuse; mental health issues; poor health; poor education or long-term unemployment.

This report therefore aims to identify how services can best fit the needs of 16- to 25-year-olds with complex needs as they make the transition to adulthood. It examines the problems faced by young people as they move from adolescence to adulthood; it explores the areas of thinking and behaviour, age boundaries and holistic services and the trusted adult and sets out the principles of effective service delivery for young adults. The report ends by outlining the actions the British Government will take to address the problems of service delivery to young adults with complex needs.

To download the report: the Social Exclusion Unit's website,

<http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/downloaddoc.asp?id=785>

#### Final report of the EU funded project "Framework for Promoting Mental Health in Europe"

Health promotion has become part of European Union (EU) action. Within health promotion, the role of mental health has recently been emphasized by the Commission. By supporting projects related to mental health, the Commission has thus signalled to Member States that mental health issues are important and that all countries should be aware of the challenges and possibilities related to mental health and its promotion.

The report "Framework for Promoting Mental Health in Europe" is the result of a one-year project supported by the European Commission and coordinated by STAKES (the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland).

The main aim of the project was to outline the key concepts and a framework for the action needed to promote mental health in Europe. The framework is required in planning, implementing, evaluating and monitoring national and transnational mental health promotion and prevention programmes and policies. The document stresses that mental health and issues related to it call for our special attention because they affect everybody and because they cannot be left to the responsibility of mental health care alone.

To download the final report:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/health/ph\\_projects/1996/promotion/fp\\_promotion\\_1996\\_frep\\_15\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/health/ph_projects/1996/promotion/fp_promotion_1996_frep_15_en.pdf)

#### EAPN manual on the Structural Funds

The European Anti-Poverty Network's (EAPN) manual on the management of the European Union Structural Funds (2nd edition) is concerned with how non governmental organisations may best influence the management of the Structural Funds so that they may be effectively directed toward the reduction and elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Europe.

It can be downloaded from the EAPN website in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Hungarian and Bulgarian.

To download the manual or order hard copies in English and French:

[http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=1748](http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=1748)

## XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**6-16 June 2006**

### **Disability Discrimination Summer School 2006, Galway (Ireland)**

The second Annual Summer School on Disability Discrimination law will take place in the National University of Ireland, Galway, from 6-16 June 2006. It will be hosted by the Faculty of Law at the National University of Ireland, and co-financed by the European Commission.

The main focus of the Summer School is the European Union Framework Directive on Employment which prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (among others) in the broad employment sphere.

For further information: the Summer School website, [www.eusummerschool.info](http://www.eusummerschool.info)

**NEW!! 9-11 June 2006**

### **7th International ENMESH Conference "Mental Health Services Research: Challenges for the Future", Lund (Sweden)**

The event, organised by the Department of Health Sciences and the Department of Clinical Sciences of Lund University, in collaboration with the Vårdal Institute and Malmö University, will provide the framework to discuss some key mental health issues:

- Stigma and mental illness;
- Mental illness and issues of comorbidity;
- Occupation and rehabilitation;
- Implementation of evidence based services;
- Balanced care.

For further information: the ENMESH Conference webpage,

[http://portal.omv.lu.se/Portal/forskning/research\\_areas/04\\_area/0401\\_area/conferences/enmesh2006](http://portal.omv.lu.se/Portal/forskning/research_areas/04_area/0401_area/conferences/enmesh2006)

**12-16 June 2006**

### **15th International Congress for the Psychotherapy of the Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses (Madrid, Spain)**

The 15<sup>th</sup> ISPS (International Society for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses) International Congress will be held on the theme "Improving services and helping persons and families with psychotic problems". This will be the occasion to both celebrate the ISPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 100 years of schizophrenia psychotherapy.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +34 91 531 94 49, E-mail

[congresos.mad@viajesiberia.com](mailto:congresos.mad@viajesiberia.com), or see the conference website <http://www.ispsmadrid2006.com>

**15-17 June 2006**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Health Promotion Research Conference (Esbjerg, Denmark)**

Health promotion researchers, health economists, legal and political analysts, health impact assessors and others with a research interest in health and institutional change are invited to come to Denmark to exchange and share their insights on the conference theme.

Conference office e-mail: [5NHPRC@health.sdu.dk](mailto:5NHPRC@health.sdu.dk)

For further information on the conference: <http://www.5nhprc.sdu.dk/>

**NEW!! 19-20 June 2006**

### **5th ENWHP conference on promoting workplace health, Linz (Austria)**

The 5th ENWHP (European Network for Workplace Health Promotion) conference will focus on new strategies for maintaining and improving the health and employability of ageing workers. These strategies integrate different lines of action which concentrate on individual lifestyles, individual professional competence as well as on work organisation and work design.

Three specific issues will be addressed at the conference:

- Lifestyle Management: Supporting "active ageing";
- Improving lifelong learning and Employability;
- Work Organisation and Design to suit the Needs of Ageing Workers.

Two plenary presentations will take place for each of the three topics and will be followed by more in-depth discussions and presentations of models of good practice in four parallel discussion groups.

For more information: the ENWHP website, [www.enwhp.org](http://www.enwhp.org) or the conference's website [www.pegasus.at/enwhp2006.html](http://www.pegasus.at/enwhp2006.html)

**19-21 June 2006**

### **14th European Social Services Conference in Vienna (Austria)**

The overall theme of the conference, prepared by the European Social Network, will be "Young and Old in a Changing Europe: the Demographic Challenge to Social Care and Health".

Workshops will be an important part of the meeting, which will emphasize practical, "hands-on" work and research projects that will be of direct interest to others employed in delivering services.

Contact person: Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 (0)1273 549817, Fax +44 (0)1273 549317, e-mail [sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com](mailto:sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com)

**21-25 June 2006**

### **6<sup>th</sup> CIVICUS World Assembly – "Acting Together for a just World" (Glasgow, Scotland)**

Building on and continuing the success of past CIVICUS World Assembly events, the overall theme for the CIVICUS World Assembly 2006 is "Acting Together for a Just World". This overall theme will be explored through 4 sub-themes: Civic Justice; Political Justice; Economic justice; Social Justice.

All enquiries to [civicassembly@scvo.org.uk](mailto:civicassembly@scvo.org.uk)

More information on CIVICUS website: [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)

**NEW!! 25-27 June 2006**

### **1st European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, "Challenges and Solutions for a Safer Europe", Vienna, (Austria)**

The event is organized by EuroSafe (European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion) and supported by the European union, the World Health Organization, BMGF (Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen), Sicher Leben and the Consumer Safety Institute.

The conference is a response to the European Commission's initiative to have a Communication and Council Recommendation on this issue being adopted in 2006.

The conference will also contribute to the follow up of the Resolution (EUR/RC55/R9) on "Prevention of injuries in the WHO Euro region", adopted by the European Ministers of Health in the Regional Committee meeting of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. Both the draft EC-Recommendation and the WHO Resolution call on member states, and in particular their Ministries of Health, to ensure proper national plans and infrastructure for injury prevention are established.

Some of the issues that will be addressed are: safety of children and adolescents; safety for seniors; sport injuries; work safety; family violence; youth violence; and suicide prevention.

The conference will also look into issues such as understanding common risk factors such as alcohol abuse and deprivation, developing a knowledge base for good practices in injury prevention and networking and national plan development.

For more information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel + 31 20 511 4513, E-mail [secretariat@eurosafe.eu.com](mailto:secretariat@eurosafe.eu.com), or see the EuroSafe website, [www.eurosafe.eu.com/events](http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/events)

### **26-28 June 2006**

#### **Annual Social Firms UK Conference 2006, "Shaping the future: Supportive Employment - Successful Businesses", University of Warwick (United Kingdom)**

The annual Social Firms UK conference is an opportunity for those interested in good quality job creation through enterprise for disabled people and those disadvantaged through mental ill health to come together and to pool ideas and initiatives on Social Firm development.

For more information: Social Firms UK website, [http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/events/index.php/Event2\\_1.html](http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/events/index.php/Event2_1.html)

### **NEW!! 7-8 July 2006**

#### **UK National Conference, "Challenging Myths - Building Partnerships", Coventry, West Midlands (UK)**

The Survivors Trust's 2006 Inaugural Conference aims to bring together Government, Voluntary and Statutory services to explore and understand the social and health support needs of sexual violence/abuse survivors in an increasing climate of change for abuse service provision.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to challenge society's myths about victims and survivors;
- to present up-to-date research on practice and policy issues for working with victims and survivors of sexual violence;
- to bring together specialist voluntary sector and statutory sector services working with survivors and victims (included in the field of mental health) to explore working in partnership to meet victims' and survivors' needs.

For more information: the Survivors Trust, Tel +44 1788 550554, E-mail [survivorstrust@btconnect.com](mailto:survivorstrust@btconnect.com)

### **10-13 July 2006**

#### **2nd World Forum on Human rights, Nantes (France)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights will be held in Nantes, with an official opening on Monday 10 July, followed by three working days (from Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 July). This second edition of Nantes Forum will be organised by the International Convention Centre of Nantes, under the leading responsibility and with the financial support of Nantes Metropole, the urban area of Nantes.

Three main topics will be discussed:

- Discriminations and diversity in a worldwide context of diversity of cultures;
- Economic Globalisation and Human Rights;
- Responsibilities and solidarities.

For more information: the forum's website, [http://www.forum-humanrights.org/index\\_e\\_2006.php](http://www.forum-humanrights.org/index_e_2006.php)

### **NEW!! 13-14 July 2006**

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

Europe's employment structure has changed: one of the most important changes over the last 10 years is the increasing diversification of forms of employment. Around 18% of the total EU working population work *part-time*. The trend towards temporary agency work, fixed-term work, etc., is also increasing.

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

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

### **NEW!! 17-20 July 2006**

#### **International Conference on Racism and Child Abuse, London (UK)**

The International Conference on Racism and Child Abuse will fight and interrogate the growing social vices. Child Abuse and Racism are taking place in urban centers, towns and villages the world over. The Conference will bring together Youths, Religious Organisations, Youth Leaders, Performers, Educators, Artists, Scholars and Researchers, psychologists and therapists, Health Professionals, Business professionals, Youth workers, Activists, and Community organisers to showcase what need to be done to win this war.

Events are scheduled to commence in Florida, USA and come to an end in London UK. It is a two-tied event in which all the participants and educators shall partake in both conferences.

It will represent an incredible opportunity to network with like-minded Individuals and organisations in the promotion and development of pro-active youth associations and non governmental organisations in our communities.

For more information: contact person, Martina Rogers, [martina\\_rogers007@yahoo.com](mailto:martina_rogers007@yahoo.com)

### **8 September 2006**

#### **1st International Suicide Postvention Seminar, Portoroz (Slovenia)**

This seminar that will be held as a one-day pre-event of the 11th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, 9-12 September.

The program will offer a state of the art review of the postvention field, including research, practice, and plans for future developments.

Selected experts will introduce specific topics, followed by subgroup discussions, thus allowing participants to fully engage in the discussion and to bring in their expertise and experiences.

A registration form is available on [www.esssb11-slo.org](http://www.esssb11-slo.org) and can be emailed to [organising@esssb11-slo.org](mailto:organising@esssb11-slo.org)

For further information: seminar's website, [www.esssb11-slo.org](http://www.esssb11-slo.org)

### **18-24 September 2006**

#### **«Voile en tête 2006», between Marseille, La Ciotat, Les îles du Frioul, Martigues, Les Calanques... (France)**

"Voile en tête" is a water sporting event of European standing, organised under the aegis of "Sport en tête", the Union of Mental Health Sport group.

If interested, application forms are available.

For more information: [http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06\\_gb.html](http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06_gb.html)

### **1<sup>st</sup> October 2006**

#### **European Symposium "Improving the Lives of Young People with Intellectual Disabilities in the areas of Health, Social Inclusion and Sport", in conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games (Rome, Italy)**

In conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games – Rome 2006, a European Symposium is being organized to present and discuss the key issues facing young people with intellectual disabilities in the areas of health, social inclusion (with an emphasis on inclusive education) as well as sport and physical education.

For information about the symposium, including registration: contact person, Michel Deurinck, Tel. +32 2 538 80 68, E-mail [MDeurinck@specialolympics.org](mailto:MDeurinck@specialolympics.org), or see the Special Olympics Games website, <http://www.specialolympicsevg.org/indexeyg.php>

### **5-7 October 2006**

#### **9th Conference on Drugs and Infection Prevention in Prison, "From the Principle of Equivalence to the Practice of Care: Bridging the Gap" (Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

This year's conference is structured to provide opportunities for dialogue on the development and implementation of effective drug prevention and health promotion policies and services for those who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

Participants will include practitioners, policy makers, prison managers, researchers and academics, lawyers, judges, police, NGOs and representatives of service users' organisations.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +48 (0) 22 640 82 71, E-mail [info@endipp.net](mailto:info@endipp.net), or

see the conference's website

[http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55](http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55)

### **11-13 October 2006**

#### **Fourth World Conference on the promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, "Developing Resilience and Strength across the Life Span", Oslo (Norway)**

The aim of this conference is to support professionals, scientists, advocates, user organisations and policy makers worldwide, in their collective effort to promote mental health and to prevent mental disorders in their communities and countries. The conference is designed to incorporate contributions from a wide series of disciplines, cultures and backgrounds. Its success depends upon multi-dimensional presentation and debate.

For more information:

<http://www.worldconference2006.no/>

### **18-21 October 2006**

#### **7th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, "Globalisation and Equity: Consequences for Health Promotion Policies and Practices" (Budapest, Hungary)**

This conference will focus on different aspects of globalisation and of inequalities in health. A major goal of the conference is to provide a platform for review, analysis and discussion of tackling health inequalities at the global and community levels to key players in health promotion and health education from across Europe. Over the course of four days, participants and attendees will have the chance to share information about health promotion policy issues, on-going research, existing evidence and practical experience.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +36 1 311 66 87, E-mail [congress@motesz.hu](mailto:congress@motesz.hu), or see the conference website [www.motesz.hu](http://www.motesz.hu)

### **19-20 October 2006**

#### **3rd Three-Country Convention Care in Psychiatry – "Wissen schafft Pflege – Pflege schafft Wissen: Psychiatrische Pflege als Praxis und Wissenschaft", Vienna (Austria)**

The aim of this convention is to impart and promote current knowledge with regard to psychiatric healthcare and nursing: contributions on the application of theory and research, on research about problems in practice and interventions, innovative practices and other contributions.

You are welcome to send abstracts for own contributions and to register for this event.

Contact person: Nico Oud, [nico.oud@freeler.nl](mailto:nico.oud@freeler.nl), Tel +31 (0)20 409 0368

For further information: the conference website, <http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/dreilander/index.html?1140446978484>

### **22-25 October 2006**

#### **ISQua's 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference, "Improving Healthcare: The Challenge of Continuous Change" (London, UK)**

With the theme of "Improving Healthcare: the Challenge of Continuous Change", this multi-disciplinary quality healthcare program will be of value

to all health policy makers, planners, professionals, providers, patients and their representatives.

Enquiries only by e-mail: [isqua@isqua.org](mailto:isqua@isqua.org) , Tel +61 3 9417 6971, Fax +61 3 9417 6851

For further information: ISQua's website: [www.isqua.org](http://www.isqua.org)

### **16 February 2007**

#### **EAP-SFU European Symposium "PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences", Vienna (Austria)**

The European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), in collaboration with the Sigmund Freud University (SFU), organises a European Symposium on the theme "PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences" at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna.

The EAP represents 128 organisations from 41 European countries and more than 120.000 psychotherapists. Based on the "Strasbourg Declaration on Psychotherapy of 1990" the EAP represents high training standards for a scientifically based and stands for a free and independent practice of psychotherapy.

To register to the conference: send an E-mail at [eap.headoffice@europsyche.org](mailto:eap.headoffice@europsyche.org)

For more information: EAP website, <http://www.europsyche.org>

### **NEW!! 31 May-2 June 2007**

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

The MHE conference will focus on the outcomes of the consultation process of the European Commission's Green Paper "Improving the Mental Health of the Population" and the upcoming strategy for the next years.

The focus of the conference will be on the connection and the coherence between European policies and the impact they have on the mental health of the population.

Lectures, round-table discussions and workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also for exchange of best practices.

Participants coming from all European countries will be encouraged to discuss the possibilities of implementing strategies on mental health throughout the whole life-span and to initiate cooperation between the different organisations and institutions working on mental health issues at the national and European level.

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

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

You can contribute by sending us your ideas for workshops you would be interested in.

The conference will be organised by the Austrian Federation of Mental Health - Pro Mente Austria - which is a national umbrella organisation and member of MHE-SME.

For further information please contact: [office@promente-wien.at](mailto:office@promente-wien.at) or [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)



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

**Please send it to [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto: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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Family name:

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Address:

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation                      or                      organisation:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank details: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed form to be returned to:

Mental Health Europe  
Santé Mentale Europe  
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