



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE
SANTE MENTALE EUROPE**

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Mental Health Europe is the EU Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE . 2	VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 7
NEW PROJECT! - Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of people with mental health problems. 2	New Health and Consumer Intergroup..... 7
PROJECT Mental Health Economics European Network II 2	Social housing week in the European Parliament 7
NEW PROJECT !: Child and adolescent mental health in an enlarged EU 2	IX. EUROPEAN COMMISSION 7
MHE Seminar on the WHO Action Plan on mental health-report available 3	DG HEALTH and CONSUMER PROTECTION..... 7
European Coalition on Community Living – recruits a Coordinator 3	Green Paper on mental health..... 7
MHE representation at various meetings..... 3	New EU Health Data published 7
II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS 3	Funded Project CORRELATION..... 7
STAKES–developments on the MINDFUL project 3	DG EMPLOYMENT and SOCIAL AFFAIRS 8
III. YOUR VIEWS COUNT! 4	Call for tender – mapping legislation on discrimination 8
Thoughts on voluntary work in mental health and social psychiatry in the new European countries and the former soviet republics..... 4	2006 – the European Year of Workers' mobility 8
IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS 4	X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE 8
EDF- Briefing on the ENGO Directors meeting 18 July 4	Draft Resolution-Improving the response to mental health needs in Europe 8
Social Platform devises 7 tests for the UK Presidency: Stand by your commitments! 5	Call for applications!! Study session on mental disability rights litigation 8
Health stakeholders’ perspectives on the new EU Health and Consumer Programme..... 5	XI. VARIOUS 8
V. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH..... 6	Inclusion Scotland Manifesto for Inclusion..... 8
World Mental Health Day – Information pack available in English, French and Spanish!..... 6	UN Disability Convention Committee forges ahead..... 8
VI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION..... 6	Special Session- UN NGO Committee on Mental Health 9
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policies and Plans..... 6	XII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS..... 9
VII. EUROPEAN UNION 6	XIII. PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS 11
Priorities of UK Presidency of the EU 6	New Book “New Thinking about Mental Health and Employment”..... 11
EU Luxembourg Presidency Conference on “Taking Forward the Eu Social Inclusion Process” - Follow-up 6	EC Annual Report 2005 - Equality and non-discrimination 11
A new EU Agency to protect fundamental rights 6	Book “Protecting children against corporal punishment” 11

I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

NEW PROJECT! - Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of people with mental health problems.

We are pleased to inform you that the European Commission agreed to co-finance a trans-national exchange project, led by Mental Health Europe.

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

Through trans-national exchange and comparison of effective practices, policy proposals to achieve social inclusion will be prepared.

The proposed objectives are:

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

The 10 partners in this project are:

- Vlaamse Vereniging voor Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg, Belgium
- Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill, Cyprus
- Czech Association for Mental Health
- Advocacy France
- Mental Health Ireland
- Associazione Italiana per la Salute Mentale (AISMe), Italy
- Coalition for Mental Health, Poland
- Slovak League for Mental Health
- SENT, Slovenian Association for Mental Health
- Penumbra, Scotland, UK

The project will start on 1 September 2005; co-financing has been agreed for the 1st year. A new request for co-financement for the 2nd year will be submitted in due time.

A first meeting with the 10 partner organisations will probably take place in October or November. More info to follow after this meeting!

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

PROJECT Mental Health Economics European Network II

The project is supported by the European Commission – DG Health and Consumer Protection and aims to gather and analyse information and knowledge in respect of mental health economics in EU Member states, EEA countries and EU accession countries. This is a second phase of a project that was carried out from November 2002 to August 2004, in 17 European Countries. The project is led now by London School of Economics – Health and Social Care, in collaboration with Mental Health Europe.

Several work packages are foreseen:

1. Overview across new partner countries;
2. Analysis of economic barriers and incentives;
3. Evidence on cost effectiveness of promotion and prevention interventions;
4. Analysis of utilisation and costs of mental health activities in small areas;
5. Training and capacity building in economics of mental health.

A first project meeting was held on 29 and 30 July in London, in which partners from 27 countries participated. The aim of the meeting was to look at opportunities that exist to shift balance of care away from hospitals, and to barriers and factors that are hindering the move from hospital-based care to community-based care.

Participants were invited to discuss more into depth the background of de-institutionalisation in their countries: changes over recent years, numbers of psychiatric beds, numbers of residents, policies that are in place regarding mental hospital closure, policies that address specifically community care, attitudes and perception of de-institutionalisation. They also debated issues like investment in mental health in the workplace, economics of mental health promotion, expenditure and funding descriptors.

The reflections and suggestions emerging from discussions will serve to the preparation of a questionnaire that will be circulated to MHEEN II partners in the coming weeks.

MHE was represented by Mary van Dievel and Roxana Radulescu at this meeting.

For further information: Roxana Radulescu, project co-ordinator, roxana.radulescu@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

NEW PROJECT !: Child and adolescent mental health in an enlarged EU

We are pleased to announce you that the project "Child and adolescent mental health in enlarged European Union: development of effective policies and practices" (CAMHEE) has been accepted for funding by European Commission, DG SANCO.

The project is led by the State Mental Health Center (Vilnius, Lithuania) and is a broad partnership of 35 associated partners. MHE is one of them.

The aim of the project is to analyse the situation (context, resources, services, outcomes) in the field of child and adolescent mental health in new EE countries, in comparison with EU-15 countries, with development of guidelines for evidence-based child mental health policies.

Congratulations to our colleagues from the State Mental Health Centre in Vilnius who submitted the project application!

For further information: Dr Ona Davidoniene dona@vpsc.lt and Dr Dainius Puras dainius.puras@mf.vu.lt.

MHE Seminar on the WHO Action Plan on mental health-report available

The report of the European seminar "The WHO/EURO Declaration and Action Plan on Mental Health: the way forward", that MHE organised for its members and for European NGOs active in the mental health field, on 3 June 2005, is now available on MHE webiste:

http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/projects_coordination.htm

European Coalition on Community Living – recruits a Coordinator

The first meeting of the European Coalition on Community Living (ECCL) was held on 16 August in Brussels. The managing partners - Mental Health Europe (represented by Josée van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor), Inclusion Europe, the European Network on Independent Living and the Open Society Mental Health Initiative - agreed on the objectives of the coalition. These are: promoting community-based residential services as alternatives to institutions, monitoring the development of the living situation of people with disabilities throughout Europe, and cooperating with all European research, training or exchange projects in the area of de-institutionalisation. The partners also discussed about the expanding the ECCL to new members. A mission statement was adopted, including the definition of the term "institution": *"An institution is any place in which people who have been labelled as having a disability are isolated, segregated and/or compelled to live together. An institution is any place in which people do not have, or are not allowed to exercise control over their lives and their day-to-day decisions. An institution is not defined merely by its size."*

The Coalition seeks a Co-ordinator (full-time position, based in Budapest, Hungary), who will develop, together with the Management Partners, an Action Plan for the first year of operation, liaise with existing national or regional de-institutionalisation campaigns and apply for external financing for ECCL activities.

For the Application Pack and for further information, please contact MHE Secretariat: info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Deadline for application: 15 September.

Thanks to Josée van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor for this contribution.

MHE representation at various meetings

Colette Versporten, MHE Treasurer, attended the roundtable on Health stakeholders' Perspectives on the new EU Health and Consumer Programme. (cf page 5)

On 12 July, Roxana Radulescu attended the Seminar on minimum income organised by the Social Platform. She

also participated in the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy co-ordination meeting, held on 13 July.

Mary van Dievel attended the ENGO Directors meeting on 18 July.

On 26 July, Mary van Dievel and Roxana Radulescu had a meeting with Mathias Roos and Lucrecia de Leon from FIOSH (Federal Institute of Occupational Safety and Health - Germany) and with Kasia Jurczak and Margit Andreasen from Eurohealthnet to discuss the developments of the EMIP (Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Strategies) project.

Mary van Dievel represented MHE at the Consultation meeting with European NGOs on the Green Paper on mental health, organised by the European Commission on 27 July, in Luxembourg.

Mary van Dievel and Roxana Radulescu participated in the project meeting Mental Health Economics European Network II, held in London, on 29 and 30 July (cf page 2).

Josée van Remoortel, MHE Senior policy Advisor, attended the meeting of the European Coalition on Community Living on 16 August (cf page 8).

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

STAKES—developments on the MINDFUL project

MINDFUL (Mental health information and determinants for the European level) is a two-year project co-funded by the European Commission from the health information and knowledge strand of the Community action programme in the field of public health.

The project aims at expanding the scope of contemporary mental health monitoring and mental health information. The project consists of seven partnership projects each with an independent leader and collaborators in different EU Member States.

The work is firmly based on previous projects (funded from the Health Monitoring Programme of the EC), and it also links with many of the ongoing projects (co-financed from the Public Health Programme 2003-2008). The project's modular structure allows effective parallel development in a multitude of different areas.

The partnership projects focus on:

- (1) analysing childhood determinants of adult mental illness;
- (2) exploring and developing the relevant information systems in the new Member States;
- (3) monitoring positive mental health;
- (4) developing and delivering a training programme for implementation of mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention interventions;
- (5) establishing a system to monitor service utilisation data;
- (6) developing the contemporary survey and reporting methods; and
- (7) refining the set of mental health indicators and setting up the MINDFUL database.

All partnership projects will produce their individual reports at the end of the project. In addition, a proposal for a comprehensive mental health monitoring system can be regarded as the main

outcome of MINDFUL. This proposal, tentatively entitled "MINDFUL report" (to be published in the first half of 2006), will summarise and bring together all of the work conducted in MINDFUL and pave the way for further development in this area.

More information on the project is available on:
<http://www.stakes.fi/mentalhealth/mindful.html>

Thanks to Juha Lavikainen (STAKES-National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health in Finland, Mental Health Group, juha.lavikainen@stakes.fi) for this contribution.

III. YOUR VIEWS COUNT!

Thoughts on voluntary work in mental health and social psychiatry in the new European countries and the former soviet republics

Jo Lucas, former Director of Hamlet Trust and a longstanding collaborator of MHE, shared with us some thoughts on volunteering in the field of mental health and social psychiatry in the new European countries and the former soviet republics, in which she has got an extensive work experience:

"(...) As the societies and economies of these countries are slowly changing, and survival is no longer the issue it was for many people in the early 90s, there is more free time and space for people to think about volunteering. Whether this takes the form of "giving back" in the Western European sense of contributing to society through community groups and civil organisations, or as a way to get back into society – some form of rehabilitation - is an interesting question. There is still not an enormous amount of spare time or money in the countries of central and Eastern Europe and there are still plenty of people to whom the new wealth has not yet trickled down as the IMF and World Bank have been predicting for so long. This makes the sense of giving back a little difficult to embrace as there is also not much of a sense of the state as being worth giving back to. There is a clear sense of national pride, but that is distinct from pride in the state".

Jo Lucas talks about three ways of envisaging volunteering:

1. Volunteering to create a change – developing your own NGO – "There are, and always have been, plenty of people who are keen to make changes and develop new ideas and programmes, who can see that something is wrong with the traditional mental health services (...) Few of these are paid directly for this work and so are necessarily volunteers, though they would probably not describe themselves as such. The vast majority of the mental health NGOs in these countries were established by either professionals or carers seeking new ways to do things. They also recognized that the only way to access international funds was through the registration of an NGO".

2. Volunteering as part of the development of civil society

"Many international NGOs see the development of NGOs, the third sector, as critical to the development of civil society especially in the former soviet states. There is a view that one of the reasons the Georgian revolution was so successful was that so much had been invested in community development immediately

prior to the election which Sheverdnadze and his followers tried to convince people he had won. People had the confidence to travel to Tbilisi and demonstrate against what they knew was wrong. Much of the investment of the major international funders has been focussed on the development of NGO resource centres and NGOs with a more or less explicit aim to create civil society".

3. Volunteering as rehabilitation - developing new skills

"Volunteering as part of the process of rehabilitation or linking back into society for people who have experienced mental health problems is a slightly different activity. The levels of stigma experienced by people who have been in psychiatric hospital in most of these countries is still very high- much as it was in the UK 40 or 50 years ago. The general public are frightened of and ignorant (in the true meaning of the word) about what mental illness is and what it means to people. Volunteering in the sense of doing things like working in charity shops as many people in the UK do is not an option. There are not the same kind of opportunities in organisations and no history of volunteering as a recognised form of activity. However many people, users and ex-users of psychiatry, are very engaged in volunteering, running self help groups, being advocates, organising exhibitions of art work, maintaining 'trees of support' for friends in crisis and so on. Again they would probably not identify this as volunteering and would prefer to be paid for some of it but recognise or at least accept there are simply no funds for most of these activities and they are very important. There is no doubt that these kinds of activities can have a profound effect on peoples self confidence and self image and so enable people to move on from being passive patients and victims to being active members of their community and later their society".

According to Jo Lucas, "the key thing in the post soviet countries is that the kinds of activities that people get involved in to create changes either in their own lives or their professions or both, are rarely recognised or described as 'volunteering' - whatever that word comes to mean when it is translated. People do things because they need to or have to or want to. There is little notion of contributing back to society that has developed in wealthier western European societies. At the same time there are fewer structured opportunities for people to volunteer- in charity shops, in other NGOs, in environmental activities or community centres".

Thanks to Jo Lucas for this contribution. A copy of the full article is available at MHE Secretariat.

For further information: Jo Lucas, Kastanja Consulting, Jo.lucas74@btinternet.com

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

EDF- Briefing on the ENGO Directors meeting 18 July

The European Disability Forum (EDF) organises meetings with the directors of European Non Governmental Organisations (ENGOS). The objective of these meetings is principally to exchange information on ongoing European policy developments in the field of disability.

Mental Health Europe is an "ordinary member" of EDF and a very active member ("ordinary members" are associations for people with disabilities, while "full members" are organisations of people with disabilities). As mentioned in an earlier edition of our Newsletter, José Van Remoortel has been re-elected as Board member of EDF. Mary Van Dievel participates in the monthly informative sessions.

Due to the summer holiday period, there was no real "hot" news, except that that Karin Joens MEP's report on the new PROGRESS Programme – the programme that will replace all current community programmes in the field of disability, was adopted and will now be discussed and voted in the Plenary session in the autumn. Ms Joens proposes 90% funding and the inclusion of transnational exchange programmes.

At the meeting dd. 18 July, it was decided to organise these meetings not longer monthly but quarterly, and to focus on one or two topics that are of particular importance at that moment.

A first session is scheduled on Monday 26 September 2005 and will be dedicated to the problems of fundraising for ENGOs, linked to the revision of the European Commission's Financial Rules.

Another topic proposed for a future meeting was working with the media. Since MHE will hopefully be involved in a European project on the portrayal of people with mental health problems in the media led by FEFES, Spain, (if accepted for funding by the European Commission), such a session will certainly be useful for MHE.

(Mary van Dievel, MHE Director).

Social Platform devises 7 tests for the UK Presidency: Stand by your commitments!

The Social Platform welcomed Tony Blair's commitments of "making poverty history" and "making Social Europe work" and devised 7 tests upon which to assess the performance of the UK Presidency in six months time.

"The Presidency must recognise that economic growth and increased employment do not automatically lead to greater social cohesion, social justice and reduced social exclusion - it depends on the kinds of policies put in place. Growth and employment need to be pursued in a way that ensures that they do "make for social cohesion" stressed President of the Social Platform, Anne-Sophie Parent.

"In the context of the revised Lisbon agenda, the UK Presidency should proactively work to ensure that the revised Integrated Guidelines and the National Reform Programmes contribute to achieving social inclusion, and that the key messages from the reinforced OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion feed into the future implementation of the Lisbon agenda.

The UK's record on involvement of civil society in all areas will be closely scrutinized by social NGOs. Another front on which social NGOs will test the Presidency is the Services Directive, on which the Parliament will give its opinion during the UK Presidency. Social services - which play a key role in promoting social inclusion and access to rights - could be severely compromised by the directive, and NGOs will be looking to the UK to take this problem seriously as Council discussions proceed.

Other challenges include ensuring that a new EU framework strategy on gender equality is put in place; taking forward the debate on the role of the EU in promoting fundamental rights; promoting good and healthy working conditions in the debate over the Working Time Directive and strengthening the EU's social inclusion strategy.

Source: Social Platform mailing

For further information: www.socialplatform.org

Health stakeholders' perspectives on the new EU Health and Consumer Programme

The Centre for Health & Ethics in Society (CHES) organised a roundtable on 7 July 2005, addressing the perspectives of health stakeholders on the recently proposed EU Health and Consumer Strategy. The Programme proposes to double the size of the current health actions by adding three new action strands, and also reinforces actions in the area of consumer protection. The proposed programme was generally received favourably by those present at the meeting. However, some critical questions were raised in relation to whether the programme will be able to deliver what it sets out to deliver, whether funding will be sufficient, whether civil society will be involved in a relevant fashion, whether the rules for participation will be workable and whether the focus on informed and educated consumers will be strong enough.

Tamsin Rose (EPHA) stressed that even with the proposed doubling of the budget for health actions under the new programme, the average amount of money spent per EU citizen will be 37 eurocents/person! She also warned of the dangers of "consumerisation" of health, which turns citizens into users of health care.

In relation to increasing consumer participation, campaigns, surveys and conferences, Rodney Elgie (European Patients Forum) pointed out that NGOs are usually not in a position to finance these, and that it was unclear in what way the programme would be able to support this.

Isabel de la Mata (Permanent Representation Spain with the EU) criticized the combination of health and consumer affairs, since health touches on a great variety of policy areas (social affairs, education, etc). She also stated that health policy development should precede project funding.

Henrik Hammar (Federation of Swedish County Councils and Committee of the Regions) strongly recommended building synergies with other current EU initiatives, such as the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in health and long term care and the Committee of the Regions.

Source: minutes of the meeting

Colette Versporten, MHE Treasurer, attended this meeting on behalf of MHE.

V. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

World Mental Health Day – Information pack available in English, French and Spanish!

The theme of the 2005 World Mental Health Day (10 October) is **“Mental and physical health across the life span”**.

An information packet is now available in **English, French and Spanish!** Including the following sections:

- Section 1: A Healthy Start to Life;
- Section 2: Growing Up Well: Paying Attention to the Teen and Tween Years;
- Section 3: Physical and Mental Health in Adulthood;
- Section 4 : WFMH Special Projects Relating to Mental and Physical Health;
- Section 5 : Primary Care and Mental Health.

To receive a 2005 World Mental Health Day Packet, please send an email with your full address to: wmhday@wfmh.com.

For further information : www.wfmh.org

VI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policies and Plans

This module is part of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package, which provides practical information for assisting countries to improve the mental health of their populations. The purpose of the guidance package is to assist policy-makers and planners to:

- develop a policy and comprehensive strategy for improving the mental health of populations
- use existing resources to achieve the greatest possible benefits
- provide effective services to persons in need, and
- assist the reintegration of persons with mental disorders into all aspects of community life, thus improving their overall quality of life.

The module on “Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policies and Plans” demonstrates the need to promote the development of all children and adolescent, whether or not they have mental health problems. It proposes steps to develop a child and mental health policy, to develop a child and adolescent mental health plan, and to implement policies and plans, with the aim to:

- enable countries to develop and implement appropriate, evidence-based policies and plans for child and adolescent mental health
- inform those ultimately responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating mental health policies, plans and programmes for children and adolescents of the unique challenge of working on behalf of these age groups
- share workable solutions to common problems experienced by many people
- identify other resources that offer additional tools or information.

The target audience are:

- policy-makers and public health professionals in ministries of health or health departments of countries and large administrative divisions of countries (regions, states or provinces)
- international, regional and national policy and advocacy organisations such as consumer groups, service providers, WHO regions and professional organisations

professionals in child and adolescent mental

The publication can be obtained from :

- http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/
- *Marketing and Dissemination, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Genève 22, Tel +41 22 791 2476 – fax +41 22 791 4857 – e-mail: bookorders@who.int*

VII. EUROPEAN UNION

Priorities of UK Presidency of the EU

The United Kingdom (UK) Presidency of the EU began on 1 July and will last until 31 December 2005.

The main general priorities of the UK Presidency will be: economic reform, security, climate change and Africa.

The health priorities of the UK presidency will center around two themes: **Patient safety** and **tackling health inequalities**.

During the UK Presidency a number of issues that have been dominating the general EU agenda will be dealt with in the Health Council. The expected policy work in the Council include among other things:

1. Green paper on mental health in September – will be launched on 24 October 2004
2. Communication on emergency preparedness and pandemics in early September
3. Green paper on nutrition, diet, physical activity in October

(Source: EPHA Newsletter – June 2005 issue)

EU Luxembourg Presidency Conference on “Taking Forward the Eu Social Inclusion Process” - Follow-up

In MHE June Newsletter, we presented some information about this conference, which was held in Luxembourg City, on 13 and 14 June. Josée van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, had represented MHE at this meeting.

The report of this Conference is now available on:

- the Luxembourg Ministry for Family and Integration website (www.fm.etat.lu), which commissioned the project
- CEPS/INSTEAD Research Institute website (www.ceps.lu/eu2005_lu/inclusion), to which the whole scientific coordination was entrusted.

For further information on the Conference (programme, list of participants, speakers’ interventions)- CEPS/INSTEAD, Isabelle Bouvy, B.P.48, L-4501 Differdange, Tél. +352 58 58 55 513 Fax +352 58 55 60, e-mail : isabelle.bouvy@ceps.lu

A new EU Agency to protect fundamental rights

On 30 June, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation establishing a **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**. The Council

will negotiate over the proposal and the European Parliament will be consulted on it. According to the proposal, the Agency should be operational as from 1 January 2007.

The Fundamental Rights Agency will be an independent centre of expertise on fundamental rights issues through data collection, analysis and networking, which currently does not exist at European Union level. The Agency will advise the European Union Institutions and the Member States on how best to prepare or implement fundamental rights related European Union legislation.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/fsj/rights/fsj_rights_agency_en.htm

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

New Health and Consumer Intergroup

The Health and Consumer Intergroup has been established within the European Parliament thanks to the support of the Socialist, the EPP (European People's Party) and the Greens/FFA (European Free Alliance) groups. The Intergroup received signatures from more than 100 MEPs. The Health Intergroup has been active since 1994 and the Consumer Intergroup since 1989.

BEUC (the European Consumers' Organisation) and EPHA (the European Public Health Alliance) will act as the Secretariat of the Health and Consumer Intergroup.

The next meeting of the Intergroup will be on 28 September, in Strasbourg, and will focus on the Green Paper on Mental Health and an update on the Health and Consumer Programme. MHE, which is member of EPHA, is contributing to the preparation of this meeting. Further information will be sent in the September issue of our Newsletter.

For further information on the Health and Consumer Intergroup : <http://intergroup.eph.org/>

Social housing week in the European Parliament

CECODHAS - The European Liaison Committee for Social Housing will organise a social housing week in the European Parliament. During 10 -14 OCTOBER 2005. On Tuesday 11th October at 18.00 The «Housing Europe» exhibition will be launched, covering themes like housing and integration of immigrants/housing for special needs/ tenant participation. The exhibition presents how the social housing sector contributes to European goals: social cohesion, sustainable development of cities, integration of the most vulnerable, access to services for all. The exhibition has been organized with the support of MEP Struan Stevenson.

For further information: Sorcha Edwards, CECODHAS, Tel. + 32 2 534 61 21, e-mail: sorcha.edwards@yahoo.com

IX. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HEALTH and CONSUMER PROTECTION

Green Paper on mental health

On 24 October 2005 the Commission will organise a launch event for a **Green Paper on Mental Health** (cf

page 10). This shall trigger a broad consultation process, which is expected to lead to the establishment of a Commission proposal for an EU-strategy on mental health by the end of 2006.

The Green paper will build on three elements: (1) activities under past and current EU-Public Health Programmes; 2) Six mental health-related Council documents since 1999; 3) The WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental health and its results. Several initiatives that could become components of a future Eu Strategy on mental health will be proposed:

1. a Council Recommendation on the promotion of mental health;
2. a Council Recommendation on the reduction of depression, suicide and suicide attempts;
3. Guidelines for training and care in institutional and residential settings for people with mental ill health, mental disability or dependency resulting from neuro-psychiatric conditions;
4. the establishment of an interface between policy and research on mental health.

The consultation process on the Green paper will last from its date of publication (24 October) until 30 April 2006.

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

New EU Health Data published

The first set of EU-wide health data from the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) project has been published on the Commission's Public Health website. The aim of ECHI is to produce better and more comparable data that will enable policy makers to track developments in the health status of EU populations. The ECHI indicators aim to cover the 25 MS, the EU Candidate Countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey), the West Balkan Countries, the USA, Canada and Japan and the data they contain is available in English, French, German and Spanish. The ECHI pages on the Public Health website will be developed over the coming months and updated on a regular basis.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_information/diss/eminat/echi/echi_en.htm

Funded Project CORRELATION

The project CORRELATION (European Network on Health and Social Inclusion) focuses on developing and implementing effective strategies to provide health and social services to marginalized groups and to persons who show risk behaviour. The key words are migration, drugs, youth, sex work in the European Union and Eastern Europe. The main aim is to set up an expertise centre that will establish and share researched based models of good practice for health care, health promotion and health policy on drug demand reduction and infections prevention strategies. The network will provide a forum for service providers, self help organisations, researchers and decision makers in order to identify the most effective health strategies on different levels and to disseminate the outcomes on trans-national level. It will contribute to the enlargement process and the inequality agenda.

The leader organisation is AMOC (Amsterdam Centrum for Assistance to Migrants), contact person: Eberhard Schats, eschatz@amoc.demon.nl.

For further information:

file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/Roxana/Loca l%20Settings/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content .IE5/G1ARW517/Health%20Promotion%20health%20de terminants.htm#1

DG EMPLOYMENT and SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Call for tender – mapping legislation on discrimination

"Mapping study on existing national legislative measures and their impact in tackling discrimination - outside the field of employment and occupation - on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

The main purpose of this call for tenders will be to provide the Commission with independent and authoritative information on national measures to combat discrimination in fields where Community legislation has not been introduced such as: social protection (including social security), social services and advantages, education, and access to and supply of goods and services. The contractor will also look at the application and impact of existing anti-discrimination legislation.

Deadline for sending offers: 12 September 2005.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/callspt/calls_en.htm

2006 – the European Year of Workers' mobility

The European Commission named 2006 the European Year for mobility of workers. The year aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of the benefits of both working abroad and in a new occupation. It is the first European year which combines the issues of mobility and workers.

Of the year's € 6 million budget, around €4.3 million will be dedicated to mobility awareness raising projects, to be submitted in a September call for proposals.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2005/jun/eymob_en.html

X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Draft Resolution-Improving the response to mental health needs in Europe

On 24 June 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on mental health encouraging governments to put more money into mental health services and, specifically, that care provided in the community often gives a better quality of life to patients, if sufficient resources are provided to make it work.

There is a particular reference in the Recommendation to member states in point 16 (iv) to:

"(...) make available the budget needed to implement such a policy by identifying the proportion of overall health expenditure earmarked for mental health, particularly for the community-based provision of care and services

To download the draft Resolution 1460(2005):
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/ERES1460.htm>

We would like to encourage MHE members to call on their governments to bring into practice the items pointed out under article 16.

Call for applications!! Study session on mental disability rights litigation

The Council of Europe (Directorate General of Human Rights) and the NGO Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) are organising the second annual study session for lawyers providing legal assistance to people with mental health problems and people with intellectual disabilities (17 -19 October 2005, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg).

The session will provide participants with practical examples of how to use the European Convention on Human Rights in applications on behalf of people with mental disabilities, focusing on issues of legal (in)capacity and guardianship.

Participants should be practising lawyers involved (or interested) in representing people with mental disabilities in any of the Council of Europe member states. Lawyers from Central and Eastern Europe are particularly encouraged to apply. The working language will be English. Travel and subsistence costs for selected applicants will be covered.

Please send a CV and a letter of interest (in English) detailing your prior experience in guardianship litigation (if any) and citing what you hope to gain from your participation.

**Applications should be sent by email to :
mdac@mdac.info with the subject line**

"Strasbourg", or by fax to +361 413 2739.

Applications will be considered as soon as received, either until 5 September 2005 or until places have been filled.

XI. VARIOUS

Inclusion Scotland Manifesto for Inclusion

Inclusion Scotland, who has recently become an Associate Member of the European Disability Forum, would like to share their manifesto for Inclusion, which was written by disabled people themselves. Whilst all the issues raised in the manifesto may not be current in all countries, the document can be used as useful tool to assist groups across Europe in their struggle for inclusion.

To visit the Manifesto For Inclusion:

www.inclusionScotland.org/about/manifesto

UN Disability Convention Committee forges ahead

The General Assembly Committee held its 6th session at the beginning of August and progressed in drafting the first-ever treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Assembly conducted a second reading of articles 15 through 20 and 24 bis, which deal with living independently and being included in the community, women with disabilities, children with disabilities, education, participation in political and public life, personal mobility and international

cooperation. The leaders of the global disability movement, themselves persons with disabilities attended this section.

One goal of the negotiations is to achieve a broad, flexible treaty. The Committee Chairman, Ambassador Don MacKay of New Zealand, stressing the need to move forward and achieve consensus. He reminded participants that "perfect is the enemy of the good" and that "you don't have to love everything, you just have to be able to live with it".

The draft of the convention is available at:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahcwgrep_ortax1.htm

Special Session- UN NGO Committee on Mental Health

The NGO committee on mental health, which includes Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, will have a special program for the 8 September opening meeting: "*From the Borderlands of Insanity and Evil - Mental Health and Human Rights in Conflict /Post-Conflict Countries: Some Public and Community Mental Health Perspectives from Recent Experiences in Different African Contexts*" (The Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, New York).

This will be presented by Dr. Soeren Buus Jensen, Senior Mental Health Advisor at WHO, who will focus on some of the lessons learned and the heavy challenges ahead to promote interest among donors, organizations, politicians and health professionals to integrate mental health- in its broadest sense- in general emergency and long term programs in conflict/post conflict countries, as well as in health development programs in countries undermined by poverty.

*For further information: mentalhealthngo@earthlink.net
<http://www.ngocongo.org/ngosubs/mentalhealth.htm>*

XII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4-8 September 2005

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

9-10 September 2005

The 2nd Conference of Mental Health of Child and Adolescent (Bucharest, Romania)
*Info: [Iuliana Dobrescu iulianadobrescu@hotmail.com](mailto:Iuliana_Dobrescu_iulianadobrescu@hotmail.com),
[Laura Mateescu laura_mateescu@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura_Mateescu_laura_mateescu@yahoo.com)*

10 September - The World Suicide Prevention Day

Info: <http://www.med.uio.no/iasp/wspd/menu2005.html>

13-16 September 2005

XXII World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention - "Scaling the Summit. Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures 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

22-23 September 2005

European Conference on Child and Adolescents Mental Health in Educational Settings (Paris, France)

Info: www.tavi-port.org

NEW!! 23 September 2005

Conference "Health Insurance: from payer to player" (Prague, Czech Republic)

Demographic ageing, medical technological developments, as well as the changed expectancies of "health consumers" are challenging the financial sustainability of our universal health systems. The increasing variety of treatment options is increasing the need for selecting the best and most cost-effective care. Health insurers and other purchasing bodies are bound to play a vital role in directing patients through the labyrinth of care, while guaranteeing quality of care and maintaining financial balance.

The conference is organized by AIM (Association Internationale de la Mutualité) and will address issues like:

- How will the increased diversity produced by the above mentioned developments turn out for the fundamental values of solidarity?
- Is equal access to health care still an option for future health policy?
- What tools do health insurers need for ensuring quality and controlling costs?
- Should their focus be managing health or rather managing health care?
- Should they reward healthy life styles or rather concentrate on taking care of sick people?

Info: www.aim-mutual.org

23-25 September 2005

From Children to Parents: The impact of parental mental illness on their children" (Athens, Greece)

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: <http://www.man.ac.uk/rcn/diary/nprn28sep05.pdf>

29 September –2 October 2005

14th annual Volunteer Europe Conference on Volunteer Action (Berlin, Germany)

Info: <http://www.volonteeurope.org.uk>

3-4 October 2005

Promoting Resilience in Young Children Looked After by Local Authorities

Info: <http://www.apsa-web.info>

6-8 October 2005

International Congress-Intelligence in Child- *Clinical and theoretical aspects, assessment issues* (Paris France)

Info: <http://www.intelligence-enfant-2005.org/>

6-8 October 2005

5th European Congress Mental Health in Mental Retardation (Barcelona, Spain)

Info: <http://www.mhmrbarcelona.com/ing/index.htm>

6-8 October 2005

9th SMES-EUROPA Seminar : « Dignity and health – A person only exists when their voice is heard » (Berlin, Germany)

Info: <http://www.smes-europa.org/>

10-11 October 2005

Social Platform Conference - Building Social Policy on fundamental rights (Brussels, Belgium)

Info:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/code/EN/abou.asp?Page=692>

20-21 October 2005

4th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry (Vienna, Austria)

Info:

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/violence/index.html>

NEW!! 24 October 2005

Launch of the Green Paper on Mental Health, Luxembourg

The event is organised by the Commission in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The purpose is to explain the Green paper and to set in place the structures for the consultation process, particularly three consultation bodies: "Dialogue with member States", "EU-Platform for Mental Health", "Information, Data and Knowledge System on Mental Health". A targeted audience of around 100 member state representatives, experts from health and non-health sectors and civil society organisations will be invited to participate.

Further information will be soon available on the EC Public Health website.

26-30 October 2005

The 3rd Congress of the European Society of Mental Health and Deafness (Worcester), South Africa.

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

27-28 October 2005

FEANTSA's conference on Social Emergency and Crisis intervention in EU cities (Paris, France)

Info:

<http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=31>

NEW !! 31 October - 1 November 2005

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

The seminar is organised by the European Institute of Public Administration in collaboration with Maastricht University (Faculty of Law) and is a follow-up to – a Summer School held from 13 to 22 June.

The main aims of the seminar is to provide the participants with a profound knowledge of the concepts and the working of the Race Directive and the Framework Employment Directive as regards grounds of discrimination related to race, ethnic origin, religion and belief. Possible case strategies before national

courts in the different Member States and at the European level will be discussed intensively. Comparisons with other international instruments regarding race discrimination will be drawn.

The seminar is designed to offer lawyers, legal advisers to NGOs, civil servants and judges who are already familiar with the content and concepts of the abovementioned Directives, direct insights into possible litigation strategies, national implementations and legal problems.

Info: <http://www.ejpa.nl/default.htm>

9-10 November 2005.

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

The aim of the conference is to explore if children and young people are adequately supported and protected within the EU framework, and to share examples of good practice in working with and empowering young people. The event will feed into key EU initiatives such as a *Communication on implementation of children's rights*, the YOUTH PACT, a *Communication on the health of young people* and other EU activities that impact on children.

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

NEW!! 9-13 November 2005

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

The conference proposes to give a detailed and in-depth exposure of the best therapeutic techniques. With this intent, the Conference would consist of workshops and symposia which will put forward a detailed presentation of the most effective and efficient clinical, managerial and psycho-social intervention models, put together by great experts and creators in this field of study.

The Conference is open to: psychotherapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, general practitioners, social workers, psychiatric nursing staff, counselors, training coaches, teachers, consultants, psychology and medical students, students undergoing specialization in psychotherapy.

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

NEW!! 17-18 November 2005

Council of Europe Forum "Reconciling labour flexibility and social cohesion" (Strasbourg, France).

Through this event, the Council of Europe would aims to highlight the key issues raised by the debate concerning a possible reconciliation. This "reconciliation" may be governed by the rules of global market competition or by the principles of social cohesion and the need to ensure equal access to well-being. It accordingly concerns policy choices and power relations that must be rebalanced or brought under control. Programme details and the registration form can be found on the CoE website:

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

19-22 November 2005

Congress of the European Academy of Childhood Disability, Monaco

Info: www.eacd2005.org.

NEW !!1-2 December 2005

The European Day of Disabled People Conference, (Brussels, Belgium)

The conference is organised by the European Disability Forum and the European Commission. The theme of this year will be "Living together in a common society".

Topics on the agenda:

- Living together - fundamental rights and keys principles (definition of community living; a human rights- based approach; identification of the necessary services)
- Community living – practical aspects (role and responsibility of public authorities; role of services providers, disabled people and families; delivery mechanisms; towards de-institutionalisation)
- Futures challenges - The EU contributions (The Commission policy impulse; the Commission practical contributions)

Info: www.edf-feph.org

XIII. PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

New Book "New Thinking about Mental Health and Employment"

Until recently it has been assumed that people who experience severe and enduring mental health problems are unable to work, unless or until they recover. That assumption is now being challenged by international research demonstrating that, with the right support, people can succeed in finding and keeping a job even when they continue to need support from mental health services.

New Thinking about Mental Health and Employment draws together the research undertaken to date and combines it with mental health service users' perspectives on the workplace to validate key points. Vital reading at both policy and practitioner levels, this book will be of great value to mental health nurses, social workers, general practitioners, psychiatrists and occupational therapists. It will also be of interest to employment advisors, government departments, commissioners, and policy makers and shapers.

(Edited by Bob Grove, Jenny Secker and Patience Seebom; 184 pages, £24.95 plus Postage and Packing 10%). Bob Grove is the Director of the Sainsbury Centre for mental health and a longstanding Mhe member)

Info: *Radcliffe Publishing Ltd., 18 Marcham Road, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1AA, UK*

orders@radcliffemed.com, www.radcliffe-oxford.com, tel: +44 1235 528 820, Fax: +44 1235 528 830.

EC Annual Report 2005 - Equality and non-discrimination

The 2005 Annual Report on Equality and Discrimination is now available for download in English, French and German (with all other languages to follow). Published by the anti-discrimination Unit of the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs. The 36-page report looks at the progress which has been made

over the last year in anti-discrimination legislation and policy both at EU and Member State level.

To download the report:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm

Book "Protecting children against corporal punishment"

Edited by the Council of Europe, this publication describes how to raise awareness, primarily through campaigns to reduce corporal punishment, and goes on to discuss how child abuse can be prevented. Case studies of three successful awareness-campaigns in the United Kingdom, Poland and the United States are presented in detail. The case studies cover aspects such as working effectively with the media and pooling the work of the police, local authorities, teachers, parents and professionals. Three useful model questionnaires aimed at support services, children and professionals are included at the end of this publication. While this book will be of particular interest to specialists who work in the child protection field, it will also be of interest to teachers, parents and health-care professionals. (Authors - Monika Sajkowska, Lukasz Wojtasik; Price 10 €/ 15 \$ + 10% postage.)

To place an order directly:

http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=1858

or contact the Council of Europe Publishing -
Palais de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France, publishing@coe.int, Tel. +33 3 88 41 25 81, Fax : +33 3 88 41 39 10.

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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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Date: _____

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