



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Sincere and very warm greetings for a very happy Winter Solstice, Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year 2007.

As 2006 passes away it is time to reflect upon the many developments and achievements in European Mental Health of the last year and our plans for the future. These include the impact of the Green Paper on Mental Health, the Anti-Poverty strategy, the Social Inclusion of people with disabilities in the larger European Union and the better understanding of societal mental health and well being which are now being reflected in the National Action Plans of many European member states.

I hope that the commitment of European non governmental organisations (NGOs) to create a better, just and civil society is visible in the activities undertaken by MHE in its many projects and partnerships to share good practice and to advance the needs of those who experience mental ill health, discrimination or social exclusion.

2007 is going to be very significant for MHE. The Vienna Conference "*No Health without Mental Health – from the Slogan to Reality*" in May/June in partnership with Pro-Mente Austria will be a significant forum for raising awareness, advancing understanding and sharing good practice related to a range of aspects of societal Mental Health and Well Being.

It is my hope that the positive vision of MHE will be reflected in the policies and programmes of European member states so that many vulnerable groups, including children and families, carers and the elderly will be able to live a better and healthier life in the expanding new Europe.

As we welcome Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union our aim is that they can build upon the experiences of the recent Accession Countries in advancing their plans for the development of positive Mental Health services including community care provision and de-institutionalisation.

I wish to thank all those who support Mental Health Europe, including the many members in so many countries, including service users and ex-users, families and carers; we value your support!

I also wish to thank all the members of the MHE Board and the Executive Committee who share their skills, time and energy in order to advance our commitment to positive Mental Health in the new European Union.

I wish to thank all MHE staff, in particular our Director Mary Van Dievel, in their work in the MHE headquarters in Brussels. Their work is central to the achievement of our vision of enabling MHE to become the leading European Mental Health voice.

I particularly wish to thank John Bowis MEP (Member of the European Parliament) for his commitment to Mental Health issues in Europe and for giving MHE the opportunity to share the principles of Societal Mental Health and Well Being at the European Parliament meeting in September 2006. I feel very positive about the future of MHE's work and the potential for further collaboration with a range of European partners.

I thank all my colleagues and friends for their support, challenge and encouragement.

Most of all I wish to thank all those people who experience mental ill health, discrimination and social exclusion in their daily lives who teach us so much about the impact of social disadvantage and I wish them and their families a healthier New Year and with the hope for continuing improvements in their lives.

All the best for the New Year 2007,

Malgorzata Kmita

President, Mental Health Europe

MHE develops "Test for the German EU Presidency on Mental Health"

Germany, who will take over the EU Presidency from Finland on 1st January 2007, presented recently its priorities for its 6 months term. These priorities include: to take up the issue of the future of the European Constitution, to bring the EU closer to the citizens, and to prepare a declaration for March 2007 (50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty) expressing the objectives and hopes of European construction of the next half century. In the area of Health, the German Presidency has three key issues: Health Promotion, Innovation, and Access to Healthcare. The Presidency is aiming to finalise the health action programme until 2013, to develop a Community framework on health services and co-operate with WHO on health promotion.

The German Presidency will work closely with the following two Presidencies, the Portuguese and Slovenian Presidency, with a view to best achieving the objectives set out in the programme. To this end they will also cooperate with the other institutions of the European Union and in particular with the Commission and the European Parliament on the basis of their respective competences.

Mental Health Europe has prepared a "Test for the German EU Presidency on Mental Health" that may help the European Union to move towards a more social Europe respectful of the fundamental rights of all, especially those who experience mental health problems.

To view the test (in English and German): http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/Our_work_4.htm (the French version will be available soon)

To access the German EU Presidency website: <http://www.eu2007.de>

For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

MHE representation at various meetings

On 1 December, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, represented MHE at the 4th meeting of the DG SANCO Stakeholder Involvement Peer Review Group, which took place in Brussels.

On 5-6 December, Malgorzata Kmita, President, Mary Van Dievel, Director, Elisabeth Muschik, Vice-President, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, Information Officer, attended the Social Platform Annual Conference, "Social Values and Democracy: Renewing the guiding principles of the European Union" in Brussels (Belgium).

On 6 December, the MHE Executive Committee met in Brussels. It was attended by Malgorzata Kmita, Elisabeth Muschik, Colette Versporten, Board member, Josée Van Remoortel and Mary Van Dievel.

On 7 December, Elisabeth Muschik represented MHE at the Social Platform Steering Group, which was held in Brussels.

On the same day, Fanny Muller participated in the Social Platform Media Training for Press and Information Officers, organised also in Brussels.

On 13 December, Mari Fresu, represented MHE at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels.

On 14-15 December, Elisabeth Muschik took part in the Social Platform study visit to Slovenia.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

New "Watchdog activity CAMH" Project in Czech Republic

The Czech Association for Mental Health started in September 2006 a pilot project financed with the support of the Open Society Fund - Prague, which is called "Watchdog activity CAMH". The project aims at fortifying the prevention of discrimination of people with mental disease and at pointing out discrimination approaches.

The output for this year-long project will consist in case studies, both in Czech and English. These case studies will describe the work, based on fundamental documents, that is being carried out by responsible institutions to improve the care of people with mental disease.

The Czech Association for Mental Health will, within this project, and from November 2006 on, publish a Newsletter focusing on events linked to the issue of mental health care, relevant legislation and other close themes.

*For more information: contact person, Klara Malikova, from the Czech Association for Mental Health, E-mail klara.malikova@capz.cz, or visit the association's website, <http://www.capz.cz>
Thanks to Klara Malikova for this contribution.*

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

III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

Bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and the Social Platform, 14 November 2006.

The second 2006 bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and the Social Platform took place on 14 November 2006 in Brussels (Belgium).

The meeting was chaired by Anne-Sophie Parent, President of the Platform, and Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Director in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Director General Nikolaus Van der Pas (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) opened the meeting by reassuring social non governmental organisations (NGOs) of the European Commission's (EC) awareness of their major concern, which is the rising disconnection, since the revision of the Lisbon Strategy, between the economic and competitive side and the social side of the social EU. The Commission is, indeed, working on the reconciliation of both sides and the striking of a right balance.

Progresses have already been made so far thanks to the Open Method of Coordination, which proved productive in the end regarding pensions systems or economic sustainability. The current work of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union in this respect will be continued and widened by the next German and French Presidencies.

Mr. Van der Pas' speech was followed by reactions from members of the Social Platform, who insisted on the fact that despite what has been declared, NGOs still feel that the EC approach is unbalanced and that the economic side is prevailing. According to them, it is not enough to say things, actions have now to be undertaken.

The issue of unemployment and low wages, especially amongst the youth, is a major source of worry. Social NGOs hope that it will be included in the upcoming EC Communication on minimum income.

The following presentations were very diverse and informative. Discussions related to the new EC Sustainable Development Strategy, EC's work to combat social exclusion and replace the old welfare model, the consultation regarding Community action on health services, children's rights and the efficiency and equity in European education and training systems.

Mary Van Dievel, Director, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, Information officer, represented MHE at the meeting.

For more information: the Social Platform Secretariat, Tel +32 2 511 37 14, E-mail platform@socialplatform.org, or visit the website, <http://www.socialplatform.org>

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Coalition for Community Living

Community-based services for disabled children in Europe

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL) called the European policy makers to ensure that all disabled children can live in the community, and to put an end to the practice of placing them in segregating residential institutions. In a report entitled "*Focus on the Right of Children with Disabilities to Live in the Community*", ECCL recommended what action must be taken to ensure that families of children with disabilities receive the support they need. This would allow children with disabilities to grow up in their families and together with other children.

While many disabled children need a range of professional support services throughout their lives, ECCL believes there is no justification for providing such services in an isolated or segregated environment. No matter what the nature of child's disability is, all services must be provided in the family home, foster care or small community homes. The right to live in the community is protected by the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child and the new draft UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Focus Report on the Right of Children with Disabilities to Live in the Community was launched at the European Day of People with Disabilities conference on the 4-5 December 2006 in the Charlemagne Conference Centre, Brussels.

To download the report: ECCL website, <http://www.community-living.info/documents/ECCL-AR-2006-FINAL.pdf>

Printed copies can be obtained from the MHE Secretariat.

European Public Health Alliance

Final Conference of the project "Building the Health Community across Europe"

EPHA is organising the closing conference of its current project "*Building the Health Community across Europe*". The conference will be held in spring 2007 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The topic of the conference is Health and Enlargement.

The conference will be a 2-day event with 2 plenary sessions and parallel workshops on the following themes:

- Mental Health;
- Alcohol and drugs;
- Nutrition (including childhood obesity);
- Common Agricultural Policy and health in CEE region;
- Health services, patients and health professionals mobility;
- Environmental Health;
- Tobacco;
- Any other relevant topics that fit the aim of the conference.

The conference will be attended by EPHA member organisations, public health non governmental organisations (NGOs) from the new member states (potential new EPHA members), academia and policy makers. The conference will produce policy recommendations that will be communicated by EPHA to the EU institutions.

MHE is considering organising a workshop in the frame of this conference.

For more information: EPHA website,

http://www.eph.org/IMG/ppt/EPHA_conference_call_wksp_leaders200610.ppt

Mental Disability Advocacy Center

European Union countries should more effectively monitor human rights in mental health care institutions

At a major conference in Budapest (Hungary), held on 25 November, attended by over 80 people from ten European countries, the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) launched its report "*Inspect!*" and called on European Union countries to better respect human rights of people with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities.

Keynote speaker of the conference was Dr. Silvia Casale, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT). Her message was clear: "*The experience of the CPT is that countries have not yet put in place adequate national monitoring mechanisms. It is imperative that people deprived of liberty be free from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Independent inspection and complaints bodies are crucial for ensuring that protection.*"

Over 80 conference delegates of various disciplines exchanged information on best practice on how governments can better ensure protection of the rights of people with psycho-social disabilities and intellectual disabilities. Recognising the vulnerability to abuse and neglect of those within closed institutions, the participants of the conference focused upon the vital importance of their formal public scrutiny. Consequently, of particular interest was the effectiveness and specific form of this scrutiny which implicated the necessity of independence from the State of inspectorate bodies, their adequate financing and solid structures.

For more information and to download MDAC report: MDAC website, www.mdac.info.

V. EUROPEAN UNION

EU job situation improves

The employment situation in the European Union (EU) continued to improve in 2005 despite a temporary slowdown in economic growth, according to the "*Employment in Europe 2006*" report, published by the European Commission today. Reforms are producing results. Unemployment in the EU fell by almost half a percentage point (to 8.7% from 9.1% in the previous year) while employment growth almost doubled to 0.9%. Nevertheless, the Union continues to under-perform both in terms of employment and productivity growth in relation to EU targets. A stronger drive to implement comprehensive reforms is a matter of urgency.

For more information: the Commission's website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=185

Source: European Commission

VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

German EU Presidency website

As of 1 January 2007, the website of the German Presidency of the European Union will be accessible online in three languages (English, French, and German) at the web address <http://www.eu2007.de/info/en/index.html?null>

The website will include a calendar, a comprehensive media service with press programmes for major events, a photo service, newsletters, route planners and weather forecasts, as well as all official statements of the German EU Presidency.

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Social partners' bitter reaction to the EC Green Paper labour law

On 23 November 2006 the Commission launched a public consultation on "*Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century*". The presentation of the Green Paper that is the basis of the consultation was preceded by a behind-the-scenes row which went on for

several months between employers, trade unions, member states and Commission services. The conflict was about the paper's alleged pre-empting of the consultation's results and what UNICE, the European employers' association, called "*an implicit agenda of harmonisation of labour law*" throughout the EU. Taking such criticism into account, the paper was re-drafted and is now more employer-friendly than earlier drafts.

However, employers, trade unions and non governmental organisations remain very critical of the process as well as the content of DG Employment's consultation on labour law, announcing they want to shift the emphasis to issues they consider important.

The Social Platform, which represents social NGOs across Europe, criticised the Commission's road map towards the adoption of common principles on flexicurity in 2007, because "*the only open consultation that is presently taking place is on labour law, neglecting many other facets of flexicurity such as the need for solid social infrastructures, public support, supportive activation policies, minimum income or investment in life-long learning*". However, the Social Platform welcomed what it called a "*timely consultation on labour law to address gaps in protection of workers and the issue of European social standards*." It called for the consultation "*to mark the opening of a structured debate on the impact of social dumping in the EU*".

The consultation will remain open for four months, until 31 March 2007. It will be followed by a Commission communication on flexicurity in June 2007.

For more information: the Commission's website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/labour_law/green_paper_en.htm

Source: EurActiv

DG Employment and Social Affairs

New on the anti-discrimination website

The Equality and non-discrimination annual report, new language versions of the "*Putting equality into practice*" brochure and key information pages in 20 languages have all been added to the European Commission's anti-discrimination website.

The "*Equality and non-discrimination annual report*" highlights the progress on implementing the 2000 Equality Directives and also features a section on the forthcoming 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. The publication is available in English. Translations will follow in the 19 other official EU languages.

To access this document:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm#pol

"*Putting equality into practice*" takes a thematic approach to the Community Action Plan. The latest edition includes features on legal advice, training schemes and awareness raising. It is now available in all 20 EU languages to order or download.

To access this document:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm#broch

Detailed information on the Equality Directives, rights and obligations, and work to combat discrimination has also been made accessible to a wider audience thanks to translation, in all 20 EU languages, of key information pages on the anti-discrimination site.

For more information: the anti-discrimination website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm

DG Health and Consumer Protection

Responses to the Green Paper consultation – Summary report

On 14 October 2005, the European Commission published its Green paper "*Improving the mental health of the population. Towards a strategy on mental health for the EU*". Following publication the Commission launched a wide consultation process, including both a thematically structured series of consultation meetings, as well as an open consultation process.

A report summarising the responses to the open consultation is now available on the Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/green_paper/mentalqp_report.pdf

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary report on the situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union

Around 50 million Europeans – almost 10% of the population – have some form of disability and 1 in 4 have a disabled family member. A recent parliamentary report said that improving access to public transport and making websites more usable are two vital steps in tackling unemployment among disabled people. In its role as legislator, the European Parliament has always tried to raise awareness of disability and ageing issues. In 2003, the "*European Year of people with disabilities*", it hosted a Parliament of people with disabilities from all over Europe. The aim was to discuss ways in which improvements at a local, national and European level could be made. They adopted a manifesto for the 2004 EP elections.

The report adopted by Parliament's Employment Committee last November calls for more opportunities for disabled people in education and the job market. As well as improving access to public transport it wants better websites – a vital tool in finding a job – 80% of public websites, including those in the European institutions, are not accessible to disabled people.

According to British Liberal Liz Lynne who drafted the report: "*non-discrimination in access to goods and services must be guaranteed for every EU citizen...*". She called for a specific European disability directive.

To access the Liz Lynne report: the European Parliament's website, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/620/620913/620913en.pdf

Source AGE - the European Older People's Platform

IX. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Improving Mental Health, Reducing Poverty

WHO (World Health Organization) is a lead partner on the new "*Mental Health and Poverty Project: Improving Mental Health, Reducing Poverty*" (MHaPP). This DFID (Department For International Development)-funded initiative, coordinated by Cape Town University, is part of an important effort to understand the relationship between mental ill-health, poverty and development, and is initially being conducted in Ghana, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. WHO is working alongside governments, national academic and research experts as well as international partners in order to develop and evaluate policy interventions and ultimately break the negative cycle of poverty and mental ill-health. MHaPP partners met in November to discuss results of the Project that have been achieved.

For more information: MHaPP dedicated website, <http://workhorse.pry.uct.ac.za:8080/MHAPP>

Source: WHO e-Update

X. VARIOUS

Launch of a Europe-wide petition to protect services of general interest

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), on 28 November 2006, launched a campaign to collect one million signatures to put pressure on the Commission to present a framework directive for the safeguard of services of general interest (SGI). Services such as schools and hospitals, clean water and safe public transport systems, are being undermined by liberalisation, privatisation and the introduction of free market rules, ETUC argues.

SGI were excluded from the scope of the final version of the controversial Services Directive and in October Parliament adopted a report on the Commission's White Paper on SGI, which calls on the Commission to adopt "*appropriate legislative initiatives*" to guarantee the high quality and affordability of public services.

However, the approach advocated by ETUC of a framework directive establishing common safety, consumer protection and environmental standards for all SGI, was dropped in the EP report in favour of a sector-specific approach, following pressure from liberals and democrats which believe that the market is capable of providing excellent services – as they say is the case for telecoms, electricity and gas - and that a "*one-size-fits-all solution for Europe*" goes against the principle of subsidiarity.

To sign the petition: <http://www.petitionpublicservice.eu>

For more information: ETUC website, <http://www.etuc.org/a/3093>

Source: EurActiv

Wales fights stigma of mental illness

Wales wants to reduce the stigma and discrimination that is too often associated with mental health problems and promote social inclusion.

Two important documents to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people in Wales have been unveiled by Health and Social Services Minister, Brian Gibbons, on World Mental Health Day (10 October).

Promoting mental health in the workplace and new initiatives including Mental Health First Aid are the key themes of the Mental Health Action Plan, which has been launched for consultation.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based programme to develop people's skills in recognising and taking appropriate action when they encounter someone in mental distress.

The Prison Mental Health Pathway for Wales has also been launched. Director of Mental Health, Phill Chick, said: "*Prisoners are, on the whole, a socially excluded group who experience many health and social inequalities. There is considerable research to suggest that the prison population is at greater risk of developing mental health problems compared with people of a similar age and gender in the community.*"

For more information: News Wales website,

<http://www.newswales.co.uk/?section=Health&F=1&id=9595>

Source: News Wales

XI. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

The German Federal Government's new European Portal

The German Federal Government's new Europe website is now on-line. The site provides background information and up-to-the-minute news on the European Union (EU), with many interactive features. Visitors, for example, will be able to vote in polls on current European issues.

The new site does not just offer the latest information on the German Federal Government's European policy. It also provides answers to questions about the EU and its institutions, EU policies and the unification process.

Special dossiers on such topics as the Services Directive or the European Constitution will give concise information on current EU policy issues, and a European Lexicon explains EU terms from A to Z.

This site heralds the launch of a communication campaign on Europe as the German presidency of the EU approaches.

For more information: the German Federal Government website,

http://www.bundesregierung.de/nn_6538/Content/EN/Artikel/2006/10/2006-10-27-ankuendigung-neue-europaseite.html

TSI - Training in Systematic Instruction

Systematic instruction is the brainchild of Marc Gold, a pioneer in developing the "try another way" approach which has been used to teach people with significant disabilities. The system is underpinned by Marcs values, one of them being that, "*anyone can learn if we can figure out a way to teach them*". The essential role of teachers and trainers is to discover the best ways to convey information to the unique individual learner.

The Systematic Instruction Organisation upholds these values and provides a range of training programmes to enable individuals to join us as fully participating members of society.

The organisation is led by Geoff Warner who has had many years of experience in the field of disability.

The organisation's range of current training programmes aims at enabling disabled people and people with learning problems to live in the community (job finding, enhancement of domestic skills...).

To access the Systematic Instruction Organisation's website:

<http://www.systematicinstruction.org/index.php?categoryid=1>

XII. PUBLICATIONS

Civil Dialogue, making it work better

The Civil Society Contact Group has published the study "*Civil Dialogue, making it work better*," which reviews and assesses NGOs' participation in the European project.

Based on case studies analysing key moments of the EU public debate (such as the constitutional process and the Service Directive), the study is intended as a contribution to the heated debate on how to better connect the EU to its citizens.

The study identifies three main challenges:

- Making it happen beyond Brussels: strong campaigns around the Service Directive or the Constitution have highlighted that involving civil society can be a channel to take citizens on board of the EU project, but this is a difficult process that needs time and commitment, including from the Member States. They clearly stress the need to find a better transmission belt between Brussels and the national, regional and local level.
- Turning the talks into results: consultation without clear accountability from decision-makers can create an enormous amount of frustration.
- The need for a better balance between public and private interests: consultations limited to business are much too frequent in fields where public interest is directly at stake, such as industry, trade or public health. This bias is a major threat to citizens' trust in the EU and should be tackled urgently by more transparency.

To download the study: Civil Society Contact Group website,

<http://act4europe.horus.be/module/FileLib/Civil%20dialogue,%20making%20it%20work%20better.pdf>

Minority Rights Jurisprudence - Digest

Minority rights jurisprudence digest is a comprehensive yet analytical classification of cases on international and regional jurisprudence on minority rights and, at present, it is the only digest of judicial practice in the area of minority rights. It provides a comparative approach to the study of minority rights jurisprudence and details the emerging international and regional standards in this field. The work covers the principal international bodies that have issued authoritative statements on issues of relevance to minorities.

To place an order directly: Council of Europe Publishing,

http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2072

EDF issues Toolkit on mainstreaming disability in the Structural Funds

EDF produced a toolkit to assist disabled people's organisations at national level to understand the new Structural Funds legislation and to use it in order to maximize the benefits of the European regional policy for people with disabilities.

The Structural Funds constitute the most important financial instrument at EU level for social and economical development from 2007 to 2013. In many European regions they will represent the most important source of public funding. Through intensive lobbying, EDF managed to secure that non-discrimination on the grounds of disability and accessibility would be major requirements for funding.

The toolkit is composed of three main parts. The first part tries to give a general framework and explanation of the funds. The second focus on some key elements and definitions of concepts that have to be carefully understood by all organisations and finally, the third part is proposing an action plan at national level to lobby on the implementation of the main elements of the EU regulation.

The role of the national disability organisations should be to influence the policy making at national level on the design, adoption and monitoring of the Structural Funds.

To download the toolkit: the publications list of the EDF website, <http://www.edf-fehp.org/en/publications/publi/publi.htm>

Health in All Policies. Prospects and potentials

This volume, published in the context of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union (EU), aims to highlight how and why the health dimension can and should be taken into account

across all government sectors. Particular emphasis is placed on the unique mandate and obligation of the EU to protect health in all its policies. The topic is explored from the perspectives of available methods and different levels of policy-making, and examples are included from specific policy areas and health issues.

To download the document: the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies website, http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/20060915_2

FEANTSA European Report on Access to Health for People who are Homeless

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with People who are homeless. In 2006, FEANTSA had its annual theme on the Right to Health for People who are Homeless. This meant that the theme was at the core of FEANTSA's work for the year. The organisation undertook an in-depth examination of this theme through a research project with its members. A questionnaire was circulated and national reports were sent from the member organisations. On this basis FEANTSA drew up a European Report examining the health situation of homeless people across the EU. It covers the following areas:

- Health profiles of people experiencing homelessness;
- Social protection: healthcare entitlements of people experiencing homelessness;
- Access to quality healthcare for people experiencing homelessness;
- Training courses to equip professionals to better meet the health needs of people experiencing homelessness;
- Networking, cooperation and inter-agency working;
- Data Collection on the health situation of people experiencing homelessness;
- Some reflection on the right to health for people experiencing homelessness.

You can read FEANTSA's European Report (in English or French) on the organisation's website at: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=35> The national reports and the resources from FEANTSA's conference on the same theme are also available on the same page.

For further information: contact Dearbhal Murphy, E-mail dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org

XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

30-31 January 2007

1st Equality Summit and Opening Conference of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, Berlin (Germany)

The first Equality Summit is to be held by the German Presidency of the European Council in Berlin on 30 and 31 January 2007. At the same time, the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All will be inaugurated in collaboration with the European Commission.

This will be the first time that high-ranking representatives from the Member States, the social partners, civil society and European anti-discrimination bodies come together to discuss the promotion of equal opportunities in Europe.

For further information: the conference office of the agency Steinrücke+ich, Tel +49-30-400 44 590, E-mail berlin@steinrueckeundich.de

NEW!! 7-8 February 2007

Conference on the Sustainability of Healthcare Financing in the EU, "Sustainable Healthcare Financing: New Approaches for Better Outcomes", Helsinki (Finland)

The Helsinki Conference is endorsed by the Ministry of Health of Luxembourg and the Finnish National Fund for Research and Development (Sitra).

The Conference aims to inspire EU policy makers with a two-fold approach: it will present the results of a year's investigation into the main issues impacting on healthcare expenditure, and it will also launch an ambitious multi-partnered programme of workshop activity in Europe which will be led by Sitra.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.sustainhealthcare.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.

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

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

9-11 March 2007

Conference "Investing in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research" – Venice (Italy)

The 8th International Workshop on costs and assessment in psychiatry "*Investing in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research*" is taking place in Venice on 9-11 March 2007. The event is organised by the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics (ICMPE) with the support of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) - Section on Mental Health Economics.

For further information and to download the abstract and registration forms: the ICMPE webpage <http://www.icmpe.org/test1/events/events.htm>

17-21 March 2007

15th European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid (Spain)

This annual congress is organised by the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP).

The theme of the congress will be: "*European Psychiatry – Science and Art*".

The aim of the congress is to open new perspectives on the Science and Art of psychiatry and on issues related to treatment and patient care. The state-of-the-art lectures, plenary lectures and core symposia will provide a full update on the most important aspects of treatment in psychiatry and on the latest achievements in this field.

For more information: the congress website, <http://www.kenes.com/aep2007/welcome.asp>, or send an e-mail at aep2007@kenes.com.

NEW!! 22-23 March 2007

Foundation Congress of HORATIO - European Psychiatric Nurses, "Mental Health in Europe: the contribution of psychiatric nursing practice and science", Arnhem (The Netherlands)

Since October 2005 representatives of a number of national psychiatric nursing organisations have taken the initiative to start a network which has now been officially transformed into the above mentioned association "*Horatio*". This two day Congress will be the Official founding congress of Horatio and will be followed the next day by the first General Assembly and the formal launch of Horatio as approved by the current membership.

This founding congress will be the first biennial congress in Europe where participants can exchange knowledge and share information and inspiration. It will be the opportunity for leaders - managers - educators - practitioners - clinicians - researchers - theorists - advocates - representatives and others within the field of psychiatric nursing to attend lectures, exchange information, network, promote international collaboration, and serve as a platform for discussion and reflection about the way psychiatric nursing as a profession should develop within Europe for the benefit of our consumers.

For further information: the congress website,

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/horatio/index.html?1160844320109>

25-27 March 2007

6th International Conference "Public benefit for the Disabled", Cracow (Poland)

Due to unpredicted circumstances, the conference has been rescheduled from 26-28 November 2006 to 25-27 March 2006.

The conference will take place in connection with ceremonial inauguration of 2007 – *European Year of Equal Opportunities for All*.

Debates will proceed about oncoming matters:

- obtaining the status of organisation of public benefit and organisational and administrative service;

- cooperation of national and local governments with non-governmental organisations on the base of legislative regulations and disability laws;
- impact of laws, concerning non-governmental organisations, on: rehabilitation, accessibility, transport, education, etc... of disabled people; anti-discrimination activities and equal opportunities for all; mass media as instruments exposing activities of non-governmental organisations...
- practices of non-governmental organisations of public benefit (or their counterparts in other European countries) and their influence on activities for equal opportunities for all.

For more information: the website of the Polish Association of Disabled People's website, www.pson.ip.krakow.pl

NEW!! 13-14 April 2007

Pre-Announcement: 2nd Graz Psychosis Days, "Illnesses in the schizophrenic sphere", Graz (Austria)

Presentations at this even will cover topics such as the influence of psychopathology and medication, schizophrenia and suicide, transcultural aspects of psychosis etc...

For further information contact the congress secretariat: Tel +43 316 385 8634, Fax 0043 316 385 3560, Email psychosentage@meduni-graz.at

NEW!! 26-27 April 2007

Conference on "Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings", Oslo (Norway)

For the first time mental health and humanitarian work is set on a conference agenda in Norway. Humanitarian organisations and researchers as well as local partners have come to realise that psychological distress and trauma is a recurrent problem in complex emergencies and disaster situations. In many disaster- and emergency situations helpers often have to cope with their own distress prior to helping others in environments where mental health issues are habitually taboo.

The Norwegian Council for Mental Health wants to bring about changes and to challenge major actors, national authorities, aid agencies and international organisations to include mental health in their thinking as well as in concrete activities.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to increase awareness of why it is important to take care of mental health in humanitarian settings;
- to place mental health higher on the agenda of international humanitarian organisations, non governmental organisations and governments;
- and to include mental health in humanitarian programmes.

For more information: the conference dedicated website,

<http://www.copewithcrisis.no/english/index.html>

10-12 May 2007

Europe in Action Conference, "Citizens' Rights for All – Full citizen's rights and legal protection for people with intellectual disabilities", Warsaw (Poland)

During the European Year of equal Opportunities 2007, people with intellectual disabilities, family members, legal professionals and policy makers will discuss at this event the following main themes:

- Support in decision-making and legal representation;
- Full citizenship and legal protection;
- Withdrawal of legal capacity and its consequences.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.EuropeInAction.org

NEW!! 24-26 May 2007

International Congress of the Ligue Bruxelloise Francophone pour la Santé Mentale (LBFMS), "Jusqu'ici tout va bien... mais il ne faut pas s'inquiéter", Brussels (Belgium)

The project of the organisers is to foster thinking on background questions (Mental Health and new life styles, Mental Health and Public Health, The notion of resistance...), organised in transversal themes, from clinical practices and the reading received from sociology,

anthropology, philosophy, law and other disciplines that are nowadays associated with mental health.

For more information: the LBSM Secretariat, Tel +32 2 511 55 43,
E-mail emessens@skynet.be

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.

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.

For further information please contact: office@promente-Wien.at or info@mhe-sme.org

13-15 June 2007

8th European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) Conference, Belfast (Northern Ireland)

The Conference, "Supported Employment – Working for All?", aims to promote good practices in Supported Employment as well as exploring how the model can be used with other disadvantaged groups. The Conference will also pose the question "Is Supported Employment working for all?" and if not, why not?

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.euseconference2007.org>

18-19 June 2007

15th European Social services Conference, "Opportunity for All: the challenge for social and health services in a diverse Europe", Berlin (Germany)

This conference is organized by the European social network in cooperation with the German Presidency of the European Union. It brings together 400 delegates from key national and European public and private welfare organizations to learn together about maximizing potential for all, young or old, no matter their disadvantage or disability. With over 30 presentations, workshops and debates this conference will bring Europe's best practice together in one comprehensive event.

For more information: contact person, Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 1273 549817, E-mail sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com

19-23 August 2007

World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, Hong Kong (China)

The 2007 Congress will bring together international and local experts with diverse backgrounds including mental health practitioners, community partners, as well as users and carers of mental health services, to address a wide variety of topics of significant interest in mental health.

This year's congress theme is "Impact of Culture on Mental Health: East meet West".

For more information: the Congress Secretariat, Tel +852 2778 7173, Fax +852 2770 9345, e-mail info@wmhc2007.com, or the congress dedicated website, www.wmhc2007.com

25-29 August 2007

13th International Congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "Bridging the gaps – Integrating perspectives in child and adolescent mental health", Florence (Italy)

The 13th International Congress of ESCAP will be designed to offer clinicians, researchers, health workers, and others interested in the welfare of children and adolescents with a genuine appreciation of contemporary and appropriate methods of assessment and intervention. The program will be especially sensitive to the fact that the developmental periods of childhood and adolescence represent a crucial time for timely diagnostic evaluation and for the implementation of effective treatments.

For more information: contact person, Cecilia Sighinolfi, E-mail cecilia.sighinolfi@azzurro.it, or visit the conference dedicated website, http://www.escap-net.org/web/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=148

NEW!! 31 August, 1-2 September 2007

"A world of possibilities", 8th International Congress of Autism Europe, Oslo (Norway)

The Congress will consist of an integrated programme of symposia and poster sessions, focusing on a broad exchange of knowledge, information, experience and ideas. All presented papers will be published in the proceedings and/or on CD.

The aim of the Congress is to clarify the practical outcomes, values and implications of research in terms of its contribution to the quality of life and development of persons with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). All presentations should reflect this aim.

For further information: the Congress website, <http://www.autismcongressoslo.org/comweb.asp?ID=1&segment=1&session=>

18-21 November 2007

SMES-EUROPA 10th Conference, "After 15 years...", Rome (Italy)

15 years ago (1992), in Rome, a first seminar was organised to mark the beginning of the SMES' movement.

The aim of the conference is:

1. A retrospective evaluation: "...*what is the situation after 15 years?*," what has been changed in a positive or a negative way?
2. Perspectives and proposals for the future, for absolute priorities in right and access to health and social services for homeless people.

For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007_10conf_SMES_UK.htm

19-21 June 2008

World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference, "Depression and relevant psychiatric conditions in primary care", Granada (Spain)

Depression will be second to cardiovascular disease as a global cause of disability by 2020.

PREDICT is the European Commission 5th Framework Study of the predictors of depression in general practice attendees in six European and one Latin American country.

The results of this ground-breaking research will form the basis of this conference, with the following key objectives:

- To present new data on predictors of depression;
- To debate their significance for health promotion and prevention of depression in family practice;
- To promote inter-professional exchange between mental health and primary care professionals on management of depression and other common mental disorders in family practice.

For more information on the conference: contact person, Dr. Francisco Torres- González, E-mail ftorres@ugr.es, or visit the conference dedicated website, <http://www.wpa2008granada.org>

For Diversity



Against Discrimination

www.stop-discrimination.info

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

Please send it to info@mhe-sme.org

Mental Health Europe is committed to:

- the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental distress;
- protecting the rights of people with mental health problems;
- removing stigma and discrimination;
- ensuring a fair share of resources for mental health.

Do you share our vision? Then join MHE now and you will strengthen the voice for mental health in Europe.

First name:

Family name:

Address:

City:

Country:

Tel.:

Fax:

E-mail:

Occupation or organisation:

Date:

Account number:

Bank details:

Completed form to be returned to:

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