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## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

### ***Reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter: Engage in the new round of reports!***

Dear MHE members,

Last year several of you took part in the reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter, which was carried out for the first time by Mental Health Europe. The activity has been a success and the contribution of MHE members has been acknowledged and praised by Council of Europe's officials engaged in the activity.

MHE strongly encourages you to continue this good work and engage together with us in the new round of reports. The initiative is still led by the Council of Europe (CoE) European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping.

➤ *Why it is important for you to be part of the reporting activity?*

The reporting activity consists in checking whether the national reports sent by the States Parties of the European Social Charter (ESC) – that is to say the States that ratified the Charter - to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the body responsible for monitoring compliance in the States Parties to the ESC, reflect the situation on the ground.

The reports are one of the means available to NGOs for monitoring the honouring of commitments entered into by the countries that had signed the European Social Charter.

***If you participate in this activity you will have an opportunity to denounce the existing violations of the rights of people with mental health problems plus a powerful mean to put pressure on your national governments.***

Last year, MHE members commented on Article 15 of the Charter (Right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation) and Article 20 (Right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on the ground of sex).

Amongst others, their reports pointed out:

- the absence of relevant statistical data and the impact of poor interconnection between employment and social services and healthcare systems on the practical exercise of the rights of people with mental health problems to vocational training, rehabilitation and social resettlement;
- the high scale of health inequalities experienced by people with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities in accessing primary health care services.

Should you wish to read last year's contributions, please do not hesitate to contact Fanny Muller at the MHE Secretariat: Email [fmuller@mhe-sme.org](mailto:fmuller@mhe-sme.org)

**This year MHE decided to focus on Article 11 (Right to protection of health) and Article 30 (Right to protection against poverty and social exclusion).**

For more information on the reporting activity and on the European Social Charter, please read the enclosed briefing note and visit:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/PresentationIndex\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/PresentationIndex_en.asp)

➤ *What will concretely be your task in this reporting activity?*

MHE will take care of forwarding you the relevant reports, as soon as they are published on the Council of Europe website - this should start at the end of October. For example, the report produced by the Polish government will be sent to the participating MHE members from Poland, etc.

**The participating members will be in charge of carefully reading specific parts of the reports** (the members' task will be facilitated since the MHE Secretariat will take care of forwarding to them only the relevant parts for their work), **assessing the situation on the ground and report on it**. All the comments will then be collected by MHE, assembled in a single document and sent to the European Committee of Social Rights' Secretariat.

➤ *What are the deadlines?*

**We expect the organisations willing to engage in this report activity to answer to this call for participation before 31 October 2008 at the latest.**

**We expect the organisations to read the reports and send their comments to the MHE Secretariat before the end of December at the latest.** This will leave us enough time to draft a final document and to pass it on to the European Committee of Social Rights' Secretariat, which will start reading the reports in the beginning of February 2009.

➤ *Who is the contact person for this reporting activity?*

If you have any questions about this initiative and to engage in the reporting activity, please contact **Fanny Muller, Information and Human Rights Officer**: Email [fmuller@mhe-sme.org](mailto:fmuller@mhe-sme.org), Tel +32 2 280 04 68.

*Once again:  
We really count on your engagement!  
We need your support!*