



National Focal Point Training
January - April 2009

**INTRODUCTION MHE WORK PROGRAMME 2009 AND
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS**

Mary Van Dievel
Director
Mental Health Europe (MHE)

*The training is made possible thanks to the support of PROGRESS, the European Community
Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).*

Outline



Part I:

Mental Health Europe Work Programme 2009

Part II:

Role of the National Focal Points

Mental Health Europe (MHE)



A European non-governmental organisation committed to:

- the promotion of positive mental health and well-being
- the prevention of mental distress
- the improvement of care
- advocacy for social inclusion
- protection of human rights for (ex)users of mental health services, their families and carers

MHE work programme 2008-10 (funded under PROGRESS, DG Employment)



"Working together in the EU – Enhancing communication, collaboration and commitment in the fight against poverty and social exclusion of people with mental health problems"

Key objectives

- Develop and strengthen MHE's activities and that of its member organisations, including (ex)users of mental health services, to **inform and influence employment and social policy at the local, national, regional and European level**
- **Actively participate and effectively contribute** to the development, implementation and monitoring of the **National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion**, and in particular the **National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion**
- **Build the capacity of MHE members and empower (ex)users of mental health services** to become involved in activities aimed at reinforcing the social dimension of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs at the local and national level.



“... to develop and strengthen MHE’s capacities and that of its member organisations, including people with mental health problems, who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, to inform and influence employment and social policy and processes at the local, national, regional and European level with a view to better reflecting the needs of people with mental health problems.”

Annual Theme 2009: “Active Inclusion for people with (a history of) mental health problems”



What are the MHE National Focal Points?

- New form of information exchange and consultation
- Set up in 2008
- Representative from one of MHE’s member organisations in a given country
- Appointed for 2 years, rotation system suggested (can be handled flexible according to specific needs)
- Intermediary between MHE and its national and local member organisations



Objectives of National Focal Points

- Close contact with MHE on the one hand and with all MHE members in their country on the other hand
- Enhanced and intensified flow of information on EU policies and processes
- Ensure that MHE members, including people with mental health problems, are informed, at all times, about the relevant EU policies and processes and have the capacity to express themselves and to act, at the local, national and regional level, with a view to influencing the policy agenda
- To increase the knowledge of MHE members about EU policies and processes around the review of renewed Lisbon Strategy



Role as intermediaries, in cases where:

- Information from the European level needs to be disseminated at the national, regional and local level:
 - Ensure that the information reaches all MHE members and other stakeholders and interested parties in the country
- MHE needs input from its members working at the local, regional and national level in order to report back to the European level on specific issues of consultation
 - Ensure a more efficient way in acting upon initiatives and requests for information from the European level

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (4/7)



Tasks

- Be in continuous contact with all MHE members in a country – and possibly with other stakeholders – through an e-mail distribution list (and possibly through meetings)
- To help with the dissemination of information coming from MHE – about EU initiatives, actions, consultations, events, etc. at the local, regional and national level through the e-mail distribution list, and if possible to provide a short summary translation of the material to be disseminated
- To send back input gathered from MHE members, and possibly other stakeholders, from the local/ regional/ national level to MHE
- Compile an annual report on their activities

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (5/7)



Activities in 2008

- Consultation on the draft of the Active Inclusion Recommendation
- Lobbying their respective governments in the preparation process of the National Strategic Reports 2008-2010
- Consultation about mental health issues in the NSRs 2008-2010
- Disseminate relevant information on EU policies, translation of documents into the respective national language where considered appropriate and necessary



Activities in 2009

- Respond to consultations coming from the European level
- Lobbying MEP candidates (before the June 2009 elections)
- Lobbying elected MEP in your country
- Disseminate relevant information on EU policies, translation of documents into the respective national language where considered appropriate and necessary



Targeted training

- One training session per year
- Capture and communicate the voices and needs of people with mental health problems
- Measures and strategies to promote mental health and well-being and the social inclusion of people with mental health problems from the local/ regional/ national level to the European level



How does MHE support the National Focal Points?

- Provide a list of all MHE members in the respective country
- Provide a list of MEPs who are active in the field of health, social affairs and human rights, so that they can easily be contacted when appropriate
- Preparation of all materials for dissemination
- Training

Useful links:



- European Commission's website on mental health: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm
- European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/>
- Website on the European Pact on mental health and wellbeing: <http://ec-mental-health-process.net/index.html>
- MHE policy position on promoting mental wellbeing in employment: www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html

For further information



Mental Health Europe – Santé Mentale Europe

Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000, Brussels

Tel. +32 2 280 04 68

Fax +32 2 280 16 04

E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org

www.mhe-sme.org