



# MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### Tribute to the late Knud Jensen, former MHE board member

MHE is very sad to announce that former MHE Board member Knud Jensen, from Denmark, recently passed away.

Our sincere condolences go out to Knud's family, relatives and friends.

Below is our tribute to Knud Jensen.

#### *Remembering Knud Jensen, by Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Officer*

At the beginning of March Knud Jensen passed away. Many of you will remember Knud as a quiet and friendly Danish psychiatrist, fighting for a place for users, for human rights, for partnership and social justice.

He became active on the European scene after the first successful European Congress on "Alternatives to Mental Hospitals" organised by Edith Morgan and myself in Gent (Belgium) in 1980. A small group of enthusiastic volunteers set up the European Regional Council of the World Federation for Mental Health. Knud was one of them and became its second President in 1985.

Knud continued to serve the Board until 2004 and was during many years the editor of our Newsletter. He also chaired the MHE (successor of the European Regional Council of the WFMH) Committee on Human Rights

Knud Jensen was also very active in Denmark. He worked in the university psychiatric hospital of Odense and developed many innovative projects, such as alternatives to mental hospitals.

In addition, Knud was also a source of inspiration for many of his younger colleagues and he set up, together with Brian Glanville (Ireland) and Pino Pini (Italy), a "User evaluation Questionnaire". This was an innovative European project giving users a voice in the evaluation of the mental health services.

As a human rights activist Knud organised in 1985 in Copenhagen (Denmark) a European Conference on "Commitment and civil rights of the mentally ill". This challenging conference promoted a change in the mental health legislation in order to ensure that people with mental health problems are granted the same rights as other citizens.

Together with A.J. Vrijlandt (Netherlands) and J. Connolly (Ireland) he set up a European network for the prevention of seclusion in mental health hospitals, another example of his efforts towards greater respect for the rights of people with mental health problems.

Those last years Knud was less active due to health problems and he retired from the European mental health scene.

He was a remarkable man, with his hearth on the right place. He was committed to the people who are the most excluded from society and to the cause of mental health.

We will remember him not only as a colleague but also as a kind, good friend.

#### *A testimony from Pino Pini, MHE Board member*

For me Knud Jensen has been more a friend than a colleague. I met him about 20 years ago when I became part of the MHE Board (at that time ERC-WFMH). I like to remember Knud Jensen involved for many years with me and other friends in the so called "European Service User Satisfaction" project. Through this project we could meet plenty of users, professionals and managers in different European countries. The "European Service User Satisfaction questionnaire" which was part of the general project has been translated in more than ten languages. The international user movement ENUSP, established in 1991, had many links with this project; the project stimulated the creation of new user groups interested in evaluation and contributed to giving more confidence to people for active participation in projects that were generally considered as exclusive for the professionals.

Without the support of Knud the project would have had difficulty even in the MHE board. Edith Morgan, another dear friend, was sometimes stressing the fact that it would have been better to have a completely independent evaluation project run only by users. But we all knew the good relationship between Knud and the users, especially within SIND, the Danish mental health association; that was enough to guarantee the good quality of the project. We have been working with him in Odense, in his hospital, and then in his own house nearby the sea, writing down the user evaluation questionnaire, professionals and users together, working hard, but also having a very good time in a wonderful atmosphere.

Knud was not at all an anti-psychiatrist. Sometimes I did not understand how he could combine his commitment in the research of innovative projects with his institutional practice.

He never gave an answer to this contradiction to my eyes. He loved to work in the psychiatric hospital as I love to work within the community. He did not understand why I was so critical against the psychiatric hospitals. But we accepted each other and also our differences. We were both very interested in the good quality of the relationships among people and in the users' involvement in services. During the last MHE board meetings that he attended, about ten years ago, he appeared worse and worse, a really suffering person. Then he disappeared totally from MHE. We heard from Danish colleagues that he was not well at all, and now he passed away.

I regret we did not have the chance to see each other again. Knud, I guess that I have not been clever enough to help you when you needed! This thought makes me a little sad.

Ciao

#### NEW MHE PUBLICATION: From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems

Mental Health Europe (MHE) has a history and plays an important role in raising awareness and in combating the taboos, stigma and prejudices associated with mental illness. Mainstreaming mental health in the field of social inclusion has become a principal activity of MHE and a major area of concern for people with chronic mental health problems. In 2007, MHE carried out its work programme in the field of social inclusion under the title *"From Exclusion to Inclusion: Making Social Inclusion a Reality for People with Mental Health Problems in the European Union"* supported by the European Commission Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion 2002-2006. The programme aimed at increasing efforts to raise awareness at all levels and among all actors of the current challenges and needs faced by people with mental health problems who are experiencing social exclusion.

The results of the work programme have been collated in MHE's new publication *"From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems"*. The report presents an overview of the situation of social inclusion of people with mental health problems across 27 Member States of the European Union.

Despite the prevalence of mental health problems in all the European countries and the magnitude of stigma, discrimination and social exclusion faced by people who experience a mental illness, there seems to be great need to strengthen the general understanding and recognition of this issue. This report aims to explain the specificity of mental health and mental illness, and to highlight the mechanisms that prevent people with mental health problems in many cases to be active citizens who can participate and contribute to the community and society in which they live. Moreover, it sets out concrete suggestions that can help professionals and policy makers to strengthen the framework for national strategy development and policy coordination within and between the Member States in Europe on issues relating to this particularly vulnerable group.

MHE hopes that the report can be a helpful instrument, for policy and practice alike, in the promotion of the social inclusion of people with mental health problems. The aim is to work towards a European society in which all people enjoy a high level of mental health, live as full citizens and have access to their human rights and to appropriate services and support when needed, through a better integration of mental health issues into the social inclusion process at the local, national, regional and European level.

*The publication "From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems" can be downloaded from the MHE website under:*

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/From%20Exclusion%20to%20Inclusion-Final%20version.pdf>

*For further information: contact the MHE Secretariat, Email [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org), Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04*

#### GET INVOLVED! Participate in the 2008-2011 round of national reporting on social inclusion policies and programmes

The first cycle 2006-2008 of the integrated Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on Social Protection and Social Inclusion is about to be concluded. The integrated process has resulted in the publication of National Strategy Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (short National Strategic Reports) including National Action Plans (NAPs) in the three areas of Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long Term Care.

The EU Member States are currently in the process of implementing the measures outlined in their 2006-2008 National Strategic Reports. Moreover, preparations have started to take further the common objectives and into the next cycle of National Strategic Reports for each of the three areas for the period 2008-2011. The deadline for the submission of the new National Strategic Reports is 15 September 2008.

If you would like to get involved in the preparation of the National Strategic Reports in your country over the next few months to draw attention to mental health policy developments, please do not hesitate to contact the person responsible for the report in your country. The contact details are available on the European Commission website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/contacts\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/contacts_en.htm).

On the Commission website, a Glossary can moreover be found, which explains and provides further information and links around the social inclusion process:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/glossary\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/glossary_en.htm).

In this context, the recent MHE publications "From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems in Europe" (<http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/From%20Exclusion%20to%20Inclusion-Final%20version.pdf>) and "Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems" (<http://www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org/publications.html>) may be useful resources for promoting social inclusion of people with mental health problems at the national level.

For further information please contact Sogol Noorani at the MHE Secretariat: Email [sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org](mailto:sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org), Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04

**REMINDER:** MHE conference "Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing. An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue", 7-9 August 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)

**MHE members and other interested organisations and people are kindly invited to submit their contributions at [abstracts@mhe-aalborg.dk](mailto:abstracts@mhe-aalborg.dk) – make this event your event! Deadline: 1 May 2008.**

For more information: the MHE Secretariat, E-mail [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org), Tel +32 2 280 04 68, or visit the Conference dedicated website, <http://www.mhe-aalborg.dk/>

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 5 March, Mari Fresu participated in the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.

On the same day, Sogol Noorani and Clara Gomez attended a debate on the impact of migration on intercultural dialogue, which was organised in Brussels by the European Commission and the European Policy Centre (EPC).

On 6 March, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, represented MHE at a meeting of the Social Platform Steering Group in Brussels.

On 7 March, the MHE Executive Committee took place in Brussels.

On 8 March, the MHE Board met in Brussels.

On 12 March, Mary Van Dievel and Mari Fresu participated in the Info Day 2008 on the 2008 Call for Proposals under the Health Programme 2008-2013, which was organised by the European Commission in Luxembourg.

On 13 March, Mari Fresu represented MHE at the EuroHealthNet Seminar on the EU Health Strategy in Brussels.

On the same day, Mary Van Dievel attended a preparatory meeting with the European Commission and the French authorities in Brussels for the 7<sup>th</sup> Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion.

On 18 March, Sogol Noorani participated in a preparatory meeting for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, which was organised by EAPN (European Anti Poverty Network) in Brussels.

On 27-30 March, Mari Fresu represented MHE at a meeting of the HELPS Project in Günzburg (Germany).

## II. MENTAL HEALTH AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

*In line with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, MHE has created a new section on "Mental Health and Ethnic Diversity" in order to promote increased awareness about the situation of all the people in Europe, in particular ethnic minorities, who often face difficulties in becoming a full part of the economic, political, cultural and social lives of their countries. MHE wants to work towards ensuring quality mental health care and social services, human rights and equal opportunities that are accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society. This will also be the focus of the MHE Conference 2008 "Diversity in Mental Health and Well-being – An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue", which will take place in Aalborg (Denmark) on 7-9 August 2008 (for more information: <http://www.mhe-aalborg.dk/>).*

### WFMH Center for Transcultural Mental Health

The WFMH (World Federation for Mental Health) Center for Transcultural Mental Health was established in December 2006 as an ongoing program within the WFMH Secretariat. The Center focuses attention on issues related to the increasingly multi-cultural aspects of mental health awareness, service delivery, and the need for developing culturally responsive systems of mental health services in countries and communities around the world.

Of the 6.5 billion people in the world, there are more individuals living outside their country of origin than at any other time in history. One person out of 35 is an international migrant – 3% of the global population. We can find dramatically different languages, religions, family relationships and values, as well as views on health care and treatment wherever we go, including in our own respective countries. A female mental health professional born and trained in India may have moved to the United Kingdom and is seeing a male client born and raised in Ecuador – how do they communicate and how do each view the same mental illness? Culture may influence many aspects of mental health, including how individuals from a given culture communicate and manifest their symptoms, their style of coping, their family and community supports, and their willingness to seek treatment. Likewise, the cultures of the clinician and the service system influence diagnosis, treatment, and service delivery. Cultural and social influences are not the only determinants of mental illness and patterns of service use, but they do play important roles. If a therapist is not aware of a consumer's cultural norms, mistakes in diagnosis and treatment may be made.

Of special interest to those involved with the ethnic minority work of Mental Health Europe, WFMH's Center for Transcultural Mental Health focuses attention on issues related to the increasingly multi-cultural aspects of mental health awareness, service delivery, and the need for developing culturally responsive systems of mental health services in countries and communities around the world. Resources are listed on the website (and suggestions for more are welcomed!) as well as Best Practices in transcultural mental health.

WFMH's 2007 World Mental Health Day packet on the theme of "Mental Health in a Changing World, the Impact of Culture and Diversity" relates to the focus of this Center. (This is also available for free download from the website or on CD upon request.) The Center will be organising international symposia in connection with other organizations and independently. This work began in October 2007 when a conference on "Transcultural Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global Response" was organised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Materials from that conference are also available on the website. Exploration is underway for a consultation program and an International Survey of Mental Health Advocacy Groups doing transcultural work. Collaboration with those working in transcultural mental health issues is welcomed.

*For more information: visit WFMH website, [www.wfmh.org](http://www.wfmh.org), and go to the Center for Transcultural Mental Health, or contact Ellen Mercer at [emercer@wfmh.com](mailto:emercer@wfmh.com)*

*The information contained in this article does not necessarily reflect MHE's position or opinion.*

## III. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

FINLAND - The ELECT project promotes access to education

Most people who suffer from periods of mental ill health would like to work or study. According to a report published in the United Kingdom, nearly 70% of them had aspirations to undergo education or training, but only 18% were actually in education ("*New thinking about Mental Health and Employment*", Radcliffe Publishing, Oxford 2005).

The Elect project (European Learning Communities for Training of People with Mental Illness, 2007-2009) sets out to strengthen Clubhouses as learning communities and to promote access to education and the labour market for people recovering from mental illnesses. The ELECT consortium includes Clubhouses, Clubhouse Coalitions and Training bases from seven European Countries. STAKES, the National Research and Development Centre of Welfare and Health (a MHE member from Finland), will act as the project coordinator. The project has been funded through the support of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.

Clubhouses provide an alternative training setting and learning possibilities for people recovering from mental illnesses. Clubhouses can improve learners' basic skills and learning-to-learn abilities by activating and motivating them to take part in different kinds of short courses, e.g. on career guidance, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and languages. Clubhouses help identify learners' educational goals and enable them to follow individual learning pathways.

The project enhances co-operation and awareness raising between Clubhouse learning-communities and educational institutes in consortium countries. The project creates a set of supported educational methods for Clubhouse members who have aspirations to study in educational institutes and for students whose studies have been interrupted because of mental illness. Supported education improves the possibilities to begin and continue studies successfully in educational institutes.

In the final phase of the project, ELECT will organise a Supported Education pilot course that will summarise the project's experiences and preliminary outcomes.

*For more information: contact person, Ville Grönberg, Project Manager, Email [ville.gronberg@stakes.fi](mailto:ville.gronberg@stakes.fi), or visit the project's website (shall be published on 21 April 2008), [www.elect-project.eu](http://www.elect-project.eu)*

*Thanks to Ville Grönberg, STAKES Project manager, for this contribution.*

#### FRANCE - Advocacy France auditioned by the National Consultative Committee on Human Rights

On 24 January, the French organisation Advocacy France has been auditioned by the National Consultative Committee on Human Rights. The French National Consultative Committee on Human Rights is an official body working for the Prime Minister and is responsible for providing advice on human rights issues to the government, especially when it comes to very topical issues and/or bills stating the government's position on a specific question and where human rights are concerned.

This has been the case in France where the Minister for Home Affairs of the previous government, Nicolas Sarkozy, passed a piece of legislation on "Security and Freedom". Some of the new provisions included therein challenged the old legislation of 27 June 1990 on the conditions of forced hospitalisation. Public opinion forced him to withdraw these provisions. However, when he became President he supported the Justice Minister's bill on detention for public safety reasons and criminal irresponsibility.

This was an occasion for Advocacy France to issue a position on both issues. The organisation asked the French government to respect people's human rights and comply with international conventions, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding forced hospitalisation, Advocacy France considers that if it cannot be avoided, this measure should remain exceptional and adopted only when all other means of negotiation have been exhausted. It has to be based on the evaluation of the situation and NOT the person.

Regarding criminal irresponsibility, Advocacy France agreed with the proposed removal of criminal irresponsibility because of the principle of equal access to justice for all.

Advocacy France's representatives felt that their arguments were well considered by the National Consultative Committee on Human Rights. They are indeed reflected in the Committee's report of the audition.

*For more information: contact person, Claude Deutsch, Email [deutschclaud@neuf.fr](mailto:deutschclaud@neuf.fr)*

*Thanks to Claude Deutsch for this contribution.*

FRANCE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Advocacy France European Forum, "Choisir sa vie: l'égalité des chances pour une vie indépendante" ("Choosing how to live your life: Equal opportunities for Independent Living"), Paris (France), 27-29 February 2008

The 2008 Advocacy France Forum was organised against the backdrop of the EU Anti-Discrimination Policy. It aimed at promoting independent living as a means and an objective in the fight against discrimination of people with mental health problems. Users of mental health services were asked to give evidence of the reality and success of the fight against discrimination.

Following 12 years of activity in this field, Advocacy France established that for users «nothing could be done without the involvement of users». Experience demonstrated that one could be mentally handicapped but capable.

Mental health users have played a key role in the organisation of this year's Forum, which gathered 500 participants: people coming from the Advocacy "Friendship and Citizen Houses" (Espaces Conviviaux Citoyens), self-help groups for mental health, students, professionals, journalists as well as interested and active members of the civil society. About 40 people came from countries other than France, among them 4 Senegalese people (including a representative of the Ministry for Social Affairs) and people from different European countries.

The Forum's opening session started with presentations from Philippe Guérard, Advocacy France President, and Florence Leroy, Advocacy France Deputy Secretary and past-President, who talked about their own stories and how they struggled to live in the community, to live both a family life and a professional life and to have children. Martine Dutoit, Advocacy France Director, made a presentation on the impact of stigma on the various facets of our personality. The 28 February marked the Forum's highlight. Participants were invited to interactive circuits based on the users' experiences, which were created and chaired by the users themselves. It was a huge success.

The Forum's conclusions were also presented by the users: Mary Nettle, ENUSP (European Network of (ex)users and survivors of psychiatry) President, summarised the main achievements, Dominique Laurent presented the situation in France and Anna-Ritta Norri talked about the experience of Finland.

But the Forum could not end without any prospects for the future: this was the aim of the round table chaired by Claude Deutsch, with the participation of Maria Zuber (European Commission), Thérèse Kampeneers (EDF – European Disability Forum), Mary Nettle (ENUSP) and Josée Van Remoortel (MHE). Drawing on the presentation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities made by Maria Zuber the roundtable pointed out to the need for synergies between actions on the ground and political orientations for human dignity and the dignity of mentally handicapped people.

*For more information: visit the Advocacy France website, <http://www.forum.advocacy.fr/>*

*Thanks to Claude Deutsch, from Advocacy France, for this contribution.*

UK - "In the red: poverty, debt and mental health", Mind Annual Conference 2008, 16-17 June 2008, Brunel University (UK)

This year's Mind Annual Conference is tied with the Mind Week theme and report.

The Mind Week (10-17 May 2008) will focus on the relationship between poverty, debt and mental health and the impact one has on the other. Mind will be publishing a new report that will highlight how:

- Financial worries can lead to serious mental health problems – 62 % of people seeking debt advice from a consumer advice service reported that debt problems had led to stress, anxiety or depression (Edwards, 2003);
- People who have mental health problems are more likely to live in poverty – 1 in 4 people with mental health problems in Britain report debt and arrears (Office for National Statistics, 2002);
- Some mental health problems can cause financial problems, e.g. during a manic phase, people with bipolar disorder may spend recklessly with credit they cannot repay;
- Lenders should offer better protection, not exclusion – the majority of people with mental health problems have the skills and capacity to manage their own finances.

The conference will be taking place over 24 hours, starting and finishing at 5 pm.

Free places will be available – applicants being asked to tell Mind why they feel they should be offered a free place to this event.

For more information: the Conference Secretariat, Email [conferences@mind.org.uk](mailto:conferences@mind.org.uk), Tel +44 844 448 4450, or visit Mind website, <http://www.mind.org.uk/Information/Conference+and+training/In+the+red.htm>

#### **IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS**

##### **ECCL - European Coalition for Community Living**

ECCL addresses letter to Czech Prime Minister on ill-treatment of disabled children in social care homes

On 31 January 2008, the European Coalition for Community Living forwarded a letter to Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek raising its concerns about the treatment of children with intellectual disabilities and mental health problems in several social care homes in the Czech Republic, following a BBC programme on the issue (broadcast on 16 January).

ECCL acknowledged the steps taken by the Czech authorities to prevent further violations of the rights of people with disabilities living in social care homes by outlawing the use of cage beds in 2007. However, this piece of legislation remained unimplemented in all long-stay institutions for people with disabilities in the Czech Republic, which also failed to develop adequate services for people with disabilities in the community, which would allow for the closure of institutions.

ECCL urged the Czech government give all people with disabilities in the Czech Republic, regardless of their level of disability, the opportunity to decide how, where and with whom they will live their lives and to meaningfully participate in society. This includes providing access to housing, inclusive education, employment and the ability to participate in other aspects of community life, in accordance with Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

For more information: contact person, Ines Bulic, Email [coordinator@community-living.info](mailto:coordinator@community-living.info)  
Source: ECCL

##### **FEANTSA – European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless**

EU social policy terms explained in the new FEANTSA glossary

FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless) offers a glossary of European social terms, which is available on the FEANTSA website at:

<http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=956>

It is divided into two parts, a general glossary on social policy of European Union and a glossary focusing on social inclusion terms. This social inclusion glossary lists terms related to the organisation, the functioning, the objectives and the policy tools in the field of social inclusion and social protection. These terms are used in various reports, documents and research in EU documents on poverty and social exclusion.

For more EU terms, see the general glossary of the EU institutions at:

[http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index_en.htm)

##### **MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Center**

MDAC challenges forced detention in social care institutions for people with disabilities in Bulgaria

The persistent and arbitrary forced detention in social care institutions and the denial of access to justice for people with disabilities in Bulgaria has been challenged by MDAC before the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, France).

The arbitrary imposition of guardianship in Bulgaria and its often cruel consequences are frequently overlooked by the government. This may account for the ease with which people subject to guardianship proceedings have social isolation and vulnerability to abuse imposed upon them without the guarantee of a fair trial and without the opportunity to challenge that imposition.

It should be difficult to imagine a situation where a person who has committed no crime can be detained within an institution for many years without adequate medical examination, effective legal representation and without the ability to appeal or seek a remedy. Unfortunately for many in Bulgaria - now a member State of the European Union - this is their reality.

As Barbora Bukovská, Legal Director of MDAC points out: *"As Bulgaria appears unwilling to end this situation, these (people) have no choice but to formally challenge the practice before the European Court of Human Rights."*

For more information: visit MDAC website, <http://www.mdac.info>

Source: MDAC

## V. EUROPEAN UNION

### Lisbon Treaty Ratification

France, Romania, Malta, Hungary and Slovenia have already successfully concluded the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty signed by the 27 Heads of State of the EU Member States, on 13 December 2007. The ratification of the treaty is the top priority of the Slovenian EU Presidency, which believes that the majority of the EU Member States will have completed the ratification process by the end of its six-month term.

For more information: the Treaty dedicated webpage,

[http://europa.eu/lisbon\\_treaty/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm)

### FRA gets its first Multiannual Framework and Agreement with CoE

On 28 February, the Justice and Home Affairs Council, after consulting the European Parliament, decided on both the Agency's Multi-Annual Framework (MAF) and the Agreement on cooperation between FRA (EU Fundamental Rights Agency) and the Council of Europe (CoE).

MAF covers the first five years of FRA's existence (2007-2012) and determines the thematic areas of the Agency's work, including discrimination based on sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and against persons belonging to minorities and any combination of these grounds (multiple discrimination).

The Justice and Home Affairs Council also approved the Agreement between the European Community and the Council of Europe on cooperation between FRA and the CoE. The agreement establishes regular meetings between both bodies, arranges the exchange of information, and provides for coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication of work.

For more information: visit FRA website, <http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

Source: FRA

### Morten Kjærøum becomes first Director of Fundamental Rights Agency

Morten Kjærøum from Denmark has been designated as new Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Meeting on 6-7 March 2008, the Agency's Management Board decided to appoint the Dane who has extensive experience in the field of fundamental rights. The Board thus followed the opinion of the Council and the European Parliament that Morten Kjærøum best fulfilled the conditions for this post, based on his personal merit, experience in the field of fundamental rights and administrative and management skills.

Morten Kjærøum is scheduled to take up his post on 1 June 2008. His term of office will be five years, which may be extended once for a period of not more than three years.

For more information: FRA website,

[http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp\\_cat\\_content&catid=47cbbcb857c73&contentid=47de388647615](http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=47cbbcb857c73&contentid=47de388647615)

Source: FRA

## VI. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

### Council adopts resolution on the situation of disabled persons in Europe

Thanks to the impulse of the Slovenian Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Marjeta Cotman, who chaired the meeting of the Council on Employment, Social Policy, Health and

Consumer Affairs on 29 February 2008, the Council adopted a "Resolution on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union – European Action Plan 2008-2009".

The latest disability specific resolution adopted by the Council was in 2003. This newly adopted resolution is thus a new step forward in the commitment of the EU Member States to make disability a priority in the political agenda at national and European level.

In its Resolution, the Council considers accessibility as a priority issue enabling disabled citizens to enjoy an independent and active social and economic living which will only be achieved through the full implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of disabled persons and through the development of instruments to ensure full participation of disabled persons in society.

The resolution, a legally non-binding instrument, responds to the Commission's communication on this subject, which sets out the priorities for 2008-2009 in the context of the European Disability Action Plan (2003-2010). It invites the Member States and the Commission to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights in full, and that employment, education and training, mainstream goods, services and infrastructure as well as information and communication technologies are better accessible for persons with disabilities, as this is a precondition for their autonomy and their inclusion and participation.

*To read the Resolution: the European Council website,*

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=79&LANG=1&cmsid=351](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=79&LANG=1&cmsid=351)

*Source: EDF*

## **VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

### European Commission priorities for 2009

The European Commission has adopted its Annual priorities for 2009. At a first glance, social issues have received a poor attention from the Commission services.

2009 is a year of change: it will bring a new European Parliament and a new European Commission. In addition, the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon is foreseen, should all Member States have ratified it by then.

2009 being the last year of the current Commission's mandate, they have decided that most of the legislative initiatives will have to be tabled by the end of 2008 so that the Commission concentrates on reaching agreement on the most important pending proposals. It also aims to focus on the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* and the management of the financial framework programmes 2007-2013.

They also plan to prepare the next financial framework with the follow-up of the EU budget consultation.

In the area of public health, a number of initiatives will be put forward as part of implementation of the EU Health Strategy adopted in 2007 – but nothing specifically on mental health.

*To read the Communication of the Commission on its annual priorities for 2009: the European Commission website, [http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/doc/aps\\_2009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/doc/aps_2009_en.pdf)*

*Source: Social Platform*

### **DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL**

#### Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008 is out!

The Commission adopted on 30 January the proposal for the Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion 2008. This fourth Report examines a set of themes identified in last year's edition: Child poverty; Health inequalities, access to health care and evolving long-term care needs; Longer working lives and privately managed pensions.

The report also outlines envisaged improvements of the working methods of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion which should further reinforce the efficiency of the process.

The Social Protection Committee transmitted it to the EPSCO Council on 29 February for adoption. It was then submitted to the Spring European Council (13-14 March 2008) to inform Heads of State and Government on the progress in the area of social protection and social inclusion.

To read the joint report: the EUR-Lex website,  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0042:FIN:En:PDF>  
Source: European Commission

## **DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO**

### Health Programme 2008-2013: Call for expressions of interest for a list of experts

A call for expressions of interest was launched on 9 February 2008 to draw up a list of experts to assist in the activities in connection with the second programme of Community action in the field of health (2008–2013), which are the following: Improve people's health security; Promote health; and Generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

Applicants must fill in and submit an online application form which is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/phea/phea\\_ami/](http://ec.europa.eu/phea/phea_ami/)

The deadline for submission of candidatures is **30 October 2010**.

For more information: DG Sanco website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/ami/ami\\_036831\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/ami/ami_036831_en.htm)

### Public Health Programme call for proposals 2008: New funding opportunities for you!

On 29 February 2008 the European Commission published its 'Call for proposals 2008' which allows organisations to participate under a variety of financing mechanisms in the frame of the Public Health Programme 2008-2013.

The 2008 financing mechanisms include:

- cofinancing of **projects** intended to achieve a Programme objective (call for project proposals);
- cofinancing of the operating costs of non-governmental organisations or specialised networks (**operating grants**);
- cofinancing of conferences intended to achieve a Programme objective (**call for conference proposals**);
- **joint actions** by the Community and Member States as well as other (third) countries participating in the Programme;
- **tendering of actions** to achieve a Programme objective.

The deadline for submission of proposals to the calls is **23 May 2008**.

If interested in submitting a proposal, you are encouraged to contact your National Focal Point. National Focal Points (NFP) have been set up in the EU Member States and participating countries to provide local support to potential applicants. They disseminate information on the calls for proposals and tenders, distribute documentation and provide advice on contractual issues. The NFPs together form a Europe-wide network, through which they can help applicants find project partners in other countries.

To find your National Focal Point, please check the list of National Focal Points:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/agency/docs/nfp\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/agency/docs/nfp_en.pdf)

For more information on the call for proposal: visit the Commission's Public Health webpage,

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/howtoapply/call\\_for\\_proposal\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/call_for_proposal_en.htm)

## **VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

### Update: Written Declaration on ending Street Homelessness

The cross-party written declaration on ending street homelessness, registered in December 2007 and open for MEP signature until March 2007, has already gathered 293 signatures.

This encouraging result seems to suggest that there is a genuine interest and commitment among MEPs to end street homelessness in Europe. However, more efforts are needed. In order to be successful, the declaration has to be signed by the majority of MEPs (approximately 400).

MHE was one of the 14 major European networks which signed a common letter calling on MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) to commit to ending street homelessness and sign the written declaration.

For more information: visit the webpage dedicated to the written declaration on the FEANTSA webpage, <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=963>

### European Parliament's call for ending child homelessness

The European Parliament recently adopted a report on "An EU strategy on the rights of the child" which calls for the EU to set itself the objective of ensuring that there are no homeless children or street children in the EU. The own-initiative report, drafted for the Civil Liberties Committee by Roberta Angellili is the European Parliament's response to the Commission Communication of 4 July 2006 titled "Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child".

The report restates the European Parliament's opposition to all forms of violence against children and calls for a specific budget heading for their rights, with which to fund work required by the strategy.

The report calls for appropriate and targeted measures to be taken to assist homeless children and street children, since most of them are badly traumatised and socially excluded, do not receive formal education or health care, are particularly vulnerable to becoming the victims of human trafficking (such as prostitution, organ trafficking and illegal adoption), drug addiction and crime or are often forced to beg. As a result, these children suffer from impaired physical, intellectual and/or psychological development which is often irreversible.

To read the report: the European parliament website,

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0367:FIN:EN:PDF>

## **IX. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

### New International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights

The International Diploma, which has been developed by WHO in collaboration with the ILS Law College, will be launched in October this year in Pune, India.

Based on WHO materials and tools, the Diploma provides students with the opportunity to develop essential knowledge and expertise in the area of mental health, human rights and law.

By the end of the course students will have acquired the skills necessary for supporting countries to put in place human rights oriented mental health laws and policies, and the confidence to effectively advocate for improved conditions for people with mental disabilities.

For more information: the International Diploma, <http://www.mentalhealthlaw.in/index.html>

Source: WHO

### New issue of Eurohealth

This issue reports on the work of the Mental Health Economics European Network (MHEEN) which suggests that interventions can be highly cost effective and can promote social inclusion. Mental Health Europe was one of the main partners in the Mental Health Economics European Network.

To download the issue: WHO website,

[http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/Eurohealth13\\_3.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/Eurohealth13_3.pdf)

### New Euro Observer

This issue focuses on migration and health in EU health systems.

To download the issue: WHO website,

[http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/EuroObserver\\_Winter2007.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/EuroObserver_Winter2007.pdf)

## **X. UNITED NATIONS**

### Update - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

As of 26 March 2008 there are 17 ratifications of the Convention, so 3 more ratifications are needed for it to enter into force. The Optional Protocol has now received 11 ratifications. It will therefore enter into force at the same time as the Convention.

Currently, there are 126 signatories to the Convention and 71 signatories to the Optional Protocol.

For more information: visit the Convention dedicated website,

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

### ILO to Produce Advocacy Kit on Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities

The ILO (International Labour Organisation) is producing an advocacy kit on decent work for persons with disabilities. The kit, which will be completed in March 2008, will provide its partners and interested stakeholders with elements needed to manage campaigns to promote a more inclusive workplace. Key elements of the kit include a special report highlighting presentations and recommendations by leading disability experts and international activists on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2007. In addition, it contains a special message by Academy Award winning actress Marlee Matlin on decent work and more rights for persons with disabilities.

*Ms. Matlin's video message can be viewed on ILOTV, YouTube, and on the ILO website:*

[http://www.ilo.org/global/About\\_the\\_ILO/Media\\_and\\_public\\_information/Broadcast\\_materials/Video\\_News\\_Release/lang--en/WCMS\\_088117/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Broadcast_materials/Video_News_Release/lang--en/WCMS_088117/index.htm)

*Source: ENABLE*

### ITU and G3ict Forum 2008 on "The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Challenges and Opportunities for ICT Standards", Geneva (Switzerland), 21 April 2008

The Forum will explore the likely impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the evolution of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) standards with the active participation of industry, Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and other interested parties.

*For more information: send an Email to [tsbworkshops@itu.int](mailto:tsbworkshops@itu.int), or visit the Forum dedicated webpage,*

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/accessibility/200804/index.html>

*Source: UN announcement*

### Seven EU countries approached for survey on ratification process of UN Convention

The Center for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (VIKE) is conducting a survey on the processes of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in seven European states. The chosen states are Finland, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The main focus of this survey is to analyse both the official information of the governments and the feedback of NGOs and human rights institutions. The views of the civil society are an important source for finding information on the weaknesses and development of the ratification process.

The report on the CRPD Survey will be published in English as a comparative analysis at a seminar in Helsinki on 20-21 May 2008. The speakers of the seminar are human rights specialists from Finland and abroad. The programme of the seminar will be released on the VIKE's website. The survey is carried out within a project entitled "CRPD Survey". The project is financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland.

*For more information: VIKE website, [www.vike.fi](http://www.vike.fi)*

*Source: VIKE*

## **XI. VARIOUS**

### SCOTLAND - Developing national Mental Health and Well-Being Indicators

Improving mental health is a national public health priority for Scotland. Until now, Scotland has not had a set of reliable, valid and useable indicators to monitor the state of mental health at a national level. To address this gap, NHS Health Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government's National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-being has established a national set of adult mental health indicators for Scotland

A mixed approach (taking into account current data, policy, evidence and theory) was used to obtain measurable, meaningful indicators relevant to the policy making process and for which, as far as possible, data are available nationally. The 55 indicators cover both mental health outcomes – positive mental health and mental health problems – and the risk and protective factors of mental health across individual, community and structural levels. The majority of these use existing data, although 20 use data that will be new to Scottish surveys from 2008. Further work is required for four of the indicators.

*The final report and briefing paper, which list the indicator set, as well as other documents from the work are available on the NHS Health Scotland website:*

[www.healthscotland.com/understanding/population/mental-health-indicators.aspx](http://www.healthscotland.com/understanding/population/mental-health-indicators.aspx)

Also available is information on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS). This is a new scale designed to assess population positive mental health of adults and validated for use in the UK. WEMWBS has been included in several Scottish national surveys and is being widely used in the UK. It is also being used as a high level Scottish Government indicator.

Existing data for these indicators has also been analysed. The report on Scotland's adult mental health, which populates the indicator set with the latest available data, will be available at [www.scotpho.org.uk](http://www.scotpho.org.uk) (spring 2008). Where possible, analysis of trends over the last decade and analysis by age, gender and area deprivation will also be presented.

The development of a set of mental health indicators for Scotland is a significant milestone. It is a recognition of the importance of positive mental health to a 'flourishing' Scotland and the need for data on the extent of positive mental health, in addition to mental health problems. The current indicator set is not the final answer to creating a summary profile of Scotland's mental health. It provides a firm basis on which to develop a greater understanding of the causes and consequences of mental health and how these can best be measured.

Work is now focusing on establishing a national set of mental health indicators for children by Spring 2010.

*For more information: contact person, Dr Jane Parkinson,*

*Email [jane.parkinson@health.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.parkinson@health.scot.nhs.uk)*

*Thanks to Dr Jane Parkinson, Public Health Advisor at NHS Health Scotland, for this contribution.*

#### Join the campaign for a European Depression Day!

In 2001, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that by the year 2020, depression would be the leading cause of disability world-wide after cardiovascular disease, it seemed as if a time bomb had landed on many of us in the mental health community.

Depression has become a major public health problem and is more and more recognised as such. In fact, as the world becomes increasingly aware of the massive burden associated with depression, the need for accurate and up-to-date information is crucial. Urgent action is required to relieve the burden of depression and provide adequate resources to meet present and future needs.

This is why a small group of non-profit organisations and institutions working in the field of depression decided to meet in 2003 to found the non governmental organisation "European Depression Association" (EDA) with headquarters in Brussels. Their main aim is to promote a day dedicated to raising awareness of depression in all European countries.

Since 2004, European Depression Day (EDD) has targeted general practitioners, psychiatrists, other health professionals, patient organisations and the general public in six European countries (Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland) on and around the second Thursday in October. This has been possible through the involvement of interested local organisations (such as the European Alliance Against Depression), mobilisation of the media and elected officials.

This may sound like a major challenge, but EDD is designed to make everyone (professionals, users and the lay public) more aware of the importance of prevention, early and accurate diagnosis, and optimal treatment as well by working at all these levels.

If your organisation would like to participate in the celebration of EDD this year, please contact the EDA Secretariat. They need your support, come and join them! Only together can we meet the WHO challenge by 2020.

*For more information: EDA Secretariat, Tel +32 2 734 29 80, Fax +32 2 734 21 35,*

*Email [info@eddas.org](mailto:info@eddas.org), or visit EDA website, [www.eddas.org](http://www.eddas.org)*

*Thanks to Stéphanie Wooley, President of the Association France-Dépression, for this contribution.*

#### Get published in the West online Journal

On Tuesday 12 February, West (<http://www.west-info.eu/west-info/?&lang=eng>), a new online and free of charge Journal was launched.

West publishes news relating to EU, national and local social and health policies. News is published in real time and chronological order, without opinions or comments, both in Italian and English.

Information is accompanied by a short abstract and by the relevant documents (directives, laws, judgments, investment plans, programmes and events, etc.) coming from the EU, national, regional and local governments in the following fields: Governance and Social Policy Funds; Immigration and Asylum; Equal Opportunities; Family; Poverty and Social Inclusion; Older People; Youth and Children; Persons with Disabilities; Addictions; Corporate Social Responsibility; Civil Society.

West is intended to be accessible at anytime to anybody. But it provides no assistance to individuals or associations on specific questions or problems.

It is a networking system, which was conceived as a support to the exercise of the right to information, in particular for more marginalised citizens.

MHE members willing to send information on their own events and activities (seminars, meetings, research, publications, projects, etc.) are welcome to send it to the West editing team:

- either directly, by sending an email to [editing.EU@west-info.eu](mailto:editing.EU@west-info.eu);
- or through the use of the West Journal's front page:  
<http://www.west-info.eu/west-info/?&lang=eng>

For more information: contact person, Gloria Congedo, West Brussels Desk,  
Email [gloria.congedo@west-info.it](mailto:gloria.congedo@west-info.it)

## XII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Get involved in the creation of a new website for people living with bipolar depression

PatientView, in association with the World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH) and GAMIAN-Europe, as well as the European family and carer federation (EUFAMI), are working on a new initiative for patients which will lead to a better understanding of Bipolar Depression (BPD). They are calling on you to provide expertise for the creation of a global website for people living with bipolar depression. The intention is that the website will be designed by people with BPD themselves.

You are invited to complete an online survey – it should take no more than 10-15 minutes.

To access the online survey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HUisU1tNJVjlkEmdcNGOjQ\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HUisU1tNJVjlkEmdcNGOjQ_3d_3d)

The survey is due to close on Monday **30 June 2008**.

For more information: contact person, Louise Oatham, Tel +44 1547 520 965,  
Email [info@patient-view.com](mailto:info@patient-view.com)

Infosuicide website

The Infosuicide website, open since 10 May 1998, is an initiative from a medical and psychological centre in Paris specialised in suicide prevention and in the fight against isolation. This website is a forum for the exchange of information between all stakeholders involved in suicide prevention and the fight against isolation, mainly: professionals, researchers, students, organisations, institutions. The aim is to react to current issues through debate, dialogue, understanding and action.

To visit the website (in French only): <http://www.infosuicide.org/>

## XIII. PUBLICATIONS

Means of communication, stigmatisation and discrimination in mental health: elements for a reasoned strategy

This article provides an overview of current knowledge on the role of communication in reproducing negative social attitudes towards persons suffering from severe mental disorders, and indicates the possibilities and the limitations of any attempt to alter these messages.

For more information: CTNERHI – Centre Technique National d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Handicaps et les Inadaptations,

<http://www.ctnerhi.com.fr/ctnerhi/pagint/ctnerhi/missione.php>

### The Labour Market Situation of People with Disabilities in EU25

The European Centre for social welfare policy and research recently published a Policy Brief acquainting with the main findings, conclusions and policy agenda of the research project "Study of the Compilation of the Disability Data from the Administrative Registers of the EU Member States".

To download the study: the European Centre website,  
[http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1201610451\\_25081.pdf](http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1201610451_25081.pdf)

Source: EDF

### Work-related stress: more and more people face psychosocial risks at work

A new report by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA) shows that the main psychosocial risks are related to new forms of employment contracts, job insecurity, work intensification, high emotional demands, violence at work and a poor work-life balance.

To download the report: OSHA website, <http://osha.europa.eu/publications/reports/7807118>

For more information: OSHA website,  
[http://osha.europa.eu/topics/stress/index\\_html/view?searchterm=work-related%20stress](http://osha.europa.eu/topics/stress/index_html/view?searchterm=work-related%20stress)

## **XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **NEW!! 23-25 April 2008**

#### **European Stigma Event 2008 "Approaches: taking action against stigma across Europe", Edinburgh (Scotland)**

The objectives are: to showcase and compare significant and strategic country-level work in the European Region; to communicate how work on stigma in Scotland has been developed, delivered and assessed; and to situate Scotland's stigma work in the wider context of an integrated approach to mental health and public health work, and demonstrate the benefits of this.

For more information: visit the event dedicated website,  
[www.regonline.co.uk/EuropeanStigmaConference2008](http://www.regonline.co.uk/EuropeanStigmaConference2008)

### **10-14 May 2008**

#### **Grundtvig training course 2008, "Committed Parents - Training course to work with migrant parents in family education", Wuppertal (Germany)**

For more information: contact person, Nina Stücker, [nina.stuecke@paritaet-nrw.org](mailto:nina.stuecke@paritaet-nrw.org), Tel +49 202 28 22 338, or consult the Paritätische Akademie website, [www.paritaetische-akademie.de](http://www.paritaetische-akademie.de)

### **14-16 May 2008**

#### **16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals, "Hospitals and health services in the health society: Quo vadis, HPH?", Berlin (Germany)**

For more information: the conference dedicated website, [www.univie.ac.at/hph/berlin2008](http://www.univie.ac.at/hph/berlin2008)

### **23-25 May 2008**

#### **ENMESH (European Network for Mental Health Service Evaluation) Conference 2008, "Good Practice, Good Outcome?", Krakow (Poland)**

Further information about this conference, including registration forms, are available on the conference dedicated website: [www.enmesh2008.pl](http://www.enmesh2008.pl)

### **4-6 June 2008**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Community Psychology, "Building Participative, Empowering and Diverse Communities - Visioning Community Psychology in a worldwide perspective", Lisbon (Portugal)**

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.2iccp.com/>

### **11-12 June 2008**

#### **Employment Week 2008, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition, Brussels (Belgium)**

For more information: the Week dedicated website, <http://www.employmentweek.com/>

**19-21 June 2008**

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

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

**26-28 June 2008**

**21<sup>st</sup> CEFEC Conference, "Employment and Quality of Life in Europe: Common Strategies for Social Inclusion", Lisbon (Portugal)**

For more information: CEFEC (Confederation of European social Firms, Employment initiatives and social Co-operatives) website, <http://www.cefec.org/>

**NEW!! 30 June - 4 July 2008**

**33<sup>rd</sup> ICSW Global Conference, "The dynamics of social welfare in globalization: Lessons from the past, challenges for today and tomorrow", Tours (France)**

The Conference will focus on three domains of social welfare: social work, social protection and social development.

For more information: the Conference dedicated website, <http://www.icsw2008.org/en/>

**2-4 July 2008**

**16<sup>th</sup> European Social Services Conference, "Shaping the future of local services in Europe", Paris (France)**

For more information and registration: the conference dedicated website, <http://esn-eu.org/paris/eng/>

**9-11 July 2008**

**ICCHP 2008 – 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs, "eQuality: A Global Challenge - Equal Access to the Information Society as a Global Challenge", Linz (Austria)**

For more information: the Conference website, [www.icchp.org](http://www.icchp.org)

**7-9 August 2008**

**MHE Conference 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)**

For further information and to sign up for the MHE2008 Newsletter, please visit: [www.mhe-aalborg.dk](http://www.mhe-aalborg.dk), or contact the MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)

**27-30 August 2008**

**12<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Suicide and suicidal Behaviour, "Working Together to Prevent Suicide: Research, Policy and Practice", Glasgow (Scotland)**

For more information: contact the Conference organizer, E-mail [organising@esssb12.org](mailto:organising@esssb12.org)

**10-12 September 2008**

**"From Margins to Mainstream", 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, Melbourne (Australia)**

For more information: the conference office, Email [info@margins2mainstream.com](mailto:info@margins2mainstream.com), Tel +61 3 9370 1265

**22-24 September 2008**

**Ifdm 2008, 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Disability Management, "Breaking down barriers together", Berlin (Germany)**

For more information: the Forum dedicated website, <http://www.disability-manager.de/e/ifdm2008/index.html>

**26-28 September 2008**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of Transcultural Psychiatry in the German speaking Countries, "Refugees – Women and Children – Everybody is a stranger all over the world", Vienna (Austria)**

For more information: visit the website [www.transkulurellepsychiatrie.de](http://www.transkulurellepsychiatrie.de),

or contact [alexander.friedmann@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:alexander.friedmann@meduniwien.ac.at) and [solmaz.golsabahi@marienhospital-hamm.de](mailto:solmaz.golsabahi@marienhospital-hamm.de)

**NEW!! 16-19 April 2009**

**12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of IFPE, "Well being and mental disorder: epidemiological tools in the global village", Vienna (Austria)**

Apart from the main theme of the Congress, research reports from all other aspects of psychiatric epidemiology, including service planning and service evaluation, pharmaco-epidemiology and clinical epidemiology, will be presented.

*For further information: visit the Congress dedicated website, <http://www.ifpe2009.at/>*

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