



# MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000 Brussels

Tel + 32 2 280 04 68

Fax + 32 2 280 16 04

Email: info@mhe-sme.org

Web site: http://www.mhe-sme.org

## NEWSLETTER N°11/2008 NOVEMBER 2008

This Newsletter is published with the support of PROGRESS, the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission. The Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained in this Newsletter. Mental Health Europe is the EU Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion.

### TABLE OF CONTENT

I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE .....	2	Results of the consultation on the EU budget reform are out.....	12
MHE has new website!!! .....	2	Call for Proposals 2009 .....	12
New Human Rights Officer.....	2	DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL.....	12
MHE Newsletter .....	2	Demography Forum.....	12
Study visit in Poland – 4-8 November.....	3	Employment in Europe report 2008 .....	12
Horatio European Festival in Malta .....	3	DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO.....	13
“Fighting Stigma and Combating Social Exclusion” ..	3	Mental Health Briefing Facts Sheets and Activities in Member States – page updated .....	13
Elisabeth Muschik receives an important prize.....	4	Video on the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being .....	13
Congress of Health First Europe (HFE) .....	4	IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.....	13
The Citizen’s Agora .....	5	Social rights.....	13
MHE representation at various meetings .....	5	Internet dangers.....	13
II. MENTAL HEALTH AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY.....	6	X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE.....	13
Older migrants .....	6	Recommendations from the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner.....	13
III. NEWS FROM MHE MEMBERS .....	6	XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION .....	14
British Psychological Society .....	6	Annual Report 2008.....	14
IV. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2008.....	7	State of the World’s Health .....	14
Šent.....	7	XII. UNITED NATIONS .....	14
Finish Association for Mental Health .....	7	UN Disability Rights Convention.....	14
MIND.....	8	Implementation of the UN Convention .....	14
V. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS.....	8	Universal Children Day.....	14
EASPD – European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities.....	8	XIII. VARIOUS.....	15
Position on the Article 13 Directive.....	8	GREECE - Sotiria Hospital eHealth Unit .....	15
Transposition of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive into national law .....	9	Makshivim .....	15
ECCL – European Coalition for Community Living.....	9	UK’s Foresight Programme.....	15
Report: “Living Independently and Being Included”. ..	9	XIV. PUBLICATIONS .....	15
Eurochild.....	9	FEANTSA: “The Right to Housing: The Way Forward” .....	15
Conference on Including Children .....	9	Children maltreatment.....	16
IAPO – International Alliance of Patients’Organizations ..	10	Mental Health and Environmental Exposures Fact Sheet.....	16
Launch of Patient Safety Advocacy Toolkit.....	10	Equality in Action .....	16
MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Centre .....	10	“Dachverband Gemeindepshychiatrie” .....	16
Reflections on institutionalisation.....	10	XV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION .....	16
Social Platform .....	10	EFSC changes website .....	16
Social Platform annual conference on Civil Dialogue: How can we shape the Europe we want? .....	10	FEANTSA’s database.....	16
New publication from Social Platform: 9 recommendations to improve the EU’s social and health services .....	11	Movement for Global Mental Health.....	17
VI. EUROPEAN UNION .....	11	European Social Network new website .....	17
European Ombudsman reaches out to civil society organisations .....	11	XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....	17
VII. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION .....	11		
Presidential conference on Alzheimer and related diseases.....	11		
VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION .....	12		
Commission Work Programme 2009.....	12		

## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### MHE has new website!!!

The website of Mental Health Europe has been modified and restructured to make it more complete and user-friendly. The layout has also been changed: it is now lighter and, we hope, nicer.

Please feel free to explore the different sections of the site. It will provide you with a wealth of knowledge about MHE's activities and projects, MHE members in Europe, and MHE's main areas of work - Mental Health Promotion and the Prevention of Disorders, Social Inclusion and Mental Health, Disability and Mental Health, Human Rights and Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups. The website also displays information on European policies and events relevant to people with mental health problems and their families, as well as useful publications and web links. A new search engine should facilitate your researches.

The website can be consulted in English or French and, whenever it is possible, we try to publish documents in other EU languages.

The MHE website is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).

Check out the website at <http://www.mhe-sme.org>

Since the restructuring of our website is not totally finished yet, your comments and ideas are welcome. Please send your remarks to Roselyne Bourgon at [Roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org](mailto:Roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org)

### New Human Rights Officer

- Fanny Muller, who has been working at MHE as Information and Human Rights Officer, left the MHE Secretariat at the end of November to start a new job at the European Commission (DG Education and Culture). Fanny joined MHE in October 2005 as an intern, and she then took up the position of Information and Human Rights Officer. As regards information, she was mainly responsible for the editing and publication of the MHE Newsletter and, more recently, worked on the restructuring of the MHE website. As a Human Rights Officer, she strengthened and supported MHE's actions and activities in the field of human rights and non-discrimination. In particular, she was dealing with the reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter and MHE's actions on the new EU anti-discrimination directive.

We would like to thank her for her work and commitment and wish her all the best for her future career.

- On 1 December, MHE welcomed Roselyne Bourgon to take up the position of Human Rights Officer within the MHE Secretariat. Roselyne is not new to MHE, as she worked as a trainee in MHE since May 2008.

Roselyne graduated from the Faculty of Law of Strasbourg (France), where she specialised in Human Rights and Ethics. She is French and speaks English and German.

Replacing Fanny Muller, she will mainly be in charge of human rights and non-discrimination issues, the coordination of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Human Rights and the management of the MHE website. She will as well take over the work initiated on the European Social Charter and the EU anti-discrimination directive.

We wish Roselyne a good start at MHE in her new position.

To contact Roselyne: [roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org](mailto:roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org)

### MHE Newsletter

As from 1 December, Isabel Mendes, MHE's new Assistant to the Director and Information Officer, will take over the editing and publication of the MHE Newsletter.

Isabel started working in the MHE Secretariat in July 2008 as Assistant to the Director.

She is Portuguese and she speaks English, French, Dutch and a little bit of Polish and Russian.

To contact Isabel: [isabel.mendes@mhe-sme.org](mailto:isabel.mendes@mhe-sme.org)

We would also like to remind you that you can use the MHE Newsletter to announce your events, and/or highlight your actions and activities.

Just send your contributions, in English or/and French, to [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org) or [isabel.mendes@mhe-sme.org](mailto:isabel.mendes@mhe-sme.org).

The text should not be longer than 400 words.

#### Study visit in Poland – 4-8 November

Sandra Gant, MHE Board Member, represented MHE on a study visit to Poland on the 4-8 November. She was invited by The Association for Child and Family Mental Health in Rzeszow and the Association for Community Mental Health Service Development, based in Krakow.

In Krakow, under the auspices of the Association for Community Mental Health Service Development, she visited an "ambulatory ward" (acute day hospital), two rehabilitation employment projects, a day centre and a social enterprise hotel run by people with mental health problems, so that she could put the issues in local context (Krakow being seen as leading the way in community care in Poland).

The title of the Conference was *Looking for a Good Model of Community Mental Health Services and the Social Rehabilitation of People with Mental Illness in the Podkarpacie Region*. She talked about the "Institutional context, good practices and service users" drawing on her Mental Health Europe experience and Scottish experience. She referred to the MHE Good Practices on Combating Social Exclusion and the recent WHO/EU report Policies and practices for mental health in Europe - meeting the challenges. She then shared some examples from Scotland, including a large city comparable to Krakow and a small rural area, more similar to most of the region.

*Many thanks to Sandra Grant for her contribution.*

#### Horatio European Festival in Malta

The Horatio European Festival for Psychiatric Nursing, *"The Age of Dialogue"*, was held in Malta from 5-9 November 2009.

The Conference was very well attended with approximately 400 participants, not only from Europe, but also from Australia, Canada, USA. The scientific programme included 10 plenary sessions and nearly 200 participants contributed in the workshops and symposia.

Mrs. Catherine Gonzi, wife of Malta's Prime Minister, opened the Conference and welcomed all participants to sunny Malta.

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, was invited to speak about "The work of Mental Health Europe and the need for international dialogue" at the plenary session on Wednesday 5 November. She spoke about the EU Mental Health Pact and MHE's work programme in the field of social inclusion of people with mental health problems. At the end of her presentation she emphasized the role the psychiatric nurses can and should play in the process of empowerment of mental health service users and support to their families.

A big thank you to the Board of Horatio, the Malta Association of Psychiatric Nurses, and especially to Martin Ward for a very interesting, varied, enjoyable and joyful festival.

All presentations will soon be available on Horatio website: <http://www.horatio-web.eu/festival-psychiatric-nursing.html>

#### "Fighting Stigma and Combating Social Exclusion"

Mental Health Europe (MHE) representatives took part in the roundtable discussion on "Fighting Stigma and Combating Social Exclusion" on 6 November at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event was hosted by Ms Evangelia Tzampazi MEP, rapporteur for the report on Mental Health on behalf of the Committee for the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

The roundtable provided participants with the opportunity to discuss a key priority of the European Pact for Mental Health and Wellbeing, namely the fight against stigma and social exclusion of people living with mental health problems.

The debate was moderated by Prof Jan Scott, Professor of Psychological Treatments Research from the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. Keynote speakers included Mr. Jürgen Schefflein, Project and Policy Officer at the European Commission's Health Determinants Unit (DG SANCO), Ms. Kahlil Thomson-Coyle from Schizophrenia Ireland, Ms. Sigrid Steffen, President of EUFAMI, and Guadalupe Morales, Secretary General of GAMIAN-Europe.

Many relevant points were raised on the actual implementation of the European Pact for Mental and Wellbeing. Among other issues, the debate highlighted the crucial role that the NGOs can play in fighting stigma and social exclusion. In particular, NGOs are fundamental to the empowerment and involvement of people with mental health problems and their families in the decision making process. The key role of the media was also stressed in that media have the power to influence the public image of people with mental health problems and thus to change the general public's attitudes. Given their delicate function, it is important that the

media make appropriate and sensible use of the terminology when addressing mental health topics.

Mental Health Europe welcomes this roundtable as a positive initiative taken towards the implementation of the Mental Health Pact. As stated at the Roundtable by Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, MHE would like to point out the need of putting the sensitive issue of the protection of human rights for the people living with mental illness on the political agenda. It is unacceptable that EU disability policies and the new UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities do not include people with mental illnesses and are therefore not applicable to people with mental health problems. Furthermore, there are still many gaps to be filled for combating stigma and social exclusion of people with mental health problems and a holistic approach is needed. MHE is therefore calling for more community-based initiatives and deinstitutionalization of care systems.

In the frame of the activities taking place for the achievement of the Mental Health Pact's priorities, Mental Health Europe is organising a policy debate on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. The event, taking place on 3 December at the European Parliament, will be hosted by Mr Poul Nyrup Rasmussen MEP and Mr Giovanni Berlinguer MEP. See related article below to know more about the MHE event.

*For more information on the MHE position and activities around the Pact, please contact Mari Fresu, Health Policy Officer, at [mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org](mailto:mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org)*

#### Elisabeth Muschik receives an important prize

Elisabeth Muschik, Board Member of Mental Health Europe, has been awarded with the Hans-Strotzka-Prize for Social Psychiatry on 8 November 2008 at the Johannes-Kepler-University in Linz, Austria.

The Hans-Strotzka-Prize for Social Psychiatry is awarded to persons with outstanding achievements in the field of social psychiatry. Elisabeth Muschik has been active in the field of social psychiatry since 25 years as initiator of new and innovative psychosocial methods and was one of the pioneers to set up Pro Mente Vienna.

*For more information (in German):*

<http://www.pmooe.at/sitex/index.php/page.242/action.view/entity.detail/key.1139>

#### Congress of Health First Europe (HFE)

Mental Health Europe was invited to participate in the congress of Health First Europe (HFE), an alliance of patients, healthcare workers, academics, healthcare experts and the medical technology. The event was chaired by Mary Banotti, Honorary President of HFE and former Member of the European Parliament.

Stanislava Panova, Director of the Healthcare Department at the Czech Ministry of Health explained that the main motto of the Czech Republic's EU Presidency will be "A Europe without barriers".

Former EU Commissioner for Health David Byrne addressed the audience in a video and drew attention to the vast demographic changes, financial burden of health care and other challenges that countries have had to face in recent years and will increasingly be confronted with in the future.

Elisabeth Lynne chaired the session on "The patient perspectives on the future of healthcare". Speakers included representatives of the Pelvic Pain Support Network, the International Alliance of Patients' Organisations (IAPO), the European Network for Patient Safety and DG Health and Consumers.

The European Network for Patient Safety (EUNetPaS), launched February 28-29 2008 in Utrecht, Netherlands, was presented by Margaret Galbraith. The project, aims to establish an umbrella network of all 27 EU Member States and EU stakeholders to encourage and enhance collaboration in the field of Patient Safety.

MHE members and other groups of people with mental health problems might be interested in getting involved in this project at their national level. More information can be found on: <http://90plan.ovh.net/~extranetn/>. Contact person for the project is Margareth Galbraith ([m.galbraith@has-sante.fr](mailto:m.galbraith@has-sante.fr)).

Indeed, as the focus of the session was predominantly on physical issues, Mary Van Dievel who represented MHE, made a plea to include people with mental health problems in all

European activities, projects and EC policy work in the field of access to care and patients safety as they are too often forgotten and their needs are seldom taken into account. Two other sessions were devoted to "Innovation in healthcare" and "Healthcare professionals". Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou gave her view on "Patient Safety and Healthcare associated infections."

For more information: [info@healthfirsteurope.org](mailto:info@healthfirsteurope.org)

#### The Citizen's Agora

The Citizen's Agora is promoting the dialogue between European citizens and the European institutions, giving relevant stakeholders from the civil society the opportunity to engage in the European debate and to come up with concrete proposals for related policies. The Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament is deciding this month whether to continue with the Agora in the future.

Given the existing gap between European institutions and citizens active in associations, as well as the unsatisfactory degree of participation in the European elections, the need for new forms of dialogue aimed to institutionalize citizens' involvement in EU issues and to strengthen civil dialogue around issues of broad common/European interest is undeniable. Therefore Mental Health Europe wrote a letter to the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament to express support for the continuation of the Agora.

To read the letter: visit <http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/MHE%20support%20letter%20for%20Agora%20to%20Poettering%2013%20Nov2008.pdf> or contact [astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org](mailto:astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org)

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 3 November, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, and Astrid Mechel, Policy Officer, attended the bi-annual meeting with the European Commission which was organised by the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 4 November, Astrid Mechel attended the bi-annual meeting with the European Parliament which was organised by the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 4-8 November, Board Member Sandra Grant represented Mental Health Europe on a study visit in Rzeszow and Krakow, Poland. (see p. 3)

On 5-6 November, Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, participated in the *"Horatio (European Association for Psychiatric Nurses) European Festival of Psychiatric Nursing: The Age of Dialogue"* in Malta. She made a presentation on *"The work of Mental Health Europe and the need for international dialogue"*. (See p. 2)

On 9 November, John Henderson, Senior Policy Officer, and Mari Fresu, Health Policy Officer, attended the Conference of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association (BPA). They took part in a panel discussion on *"Psychiatric profession and the 'new' mental health services"* where John talked about recent policy developments in the mental health field, whereas Mari presented the activities of MHE.

On 12 November, Mary Van Dievel participated in the Health First Europe Congress *"Tackling the healthcare challenges of today for a healthier tomorrow"* held at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

On 13-14 November, Colette Versporten participated in the WHO "Health in Prisons" project's conference on "Health of Women in Prisons" in Kiev, Ukraine where she gave a presentation on the mental health of women in prisons (more information in Newsletter N° 12 - December 2008).

On 14-16 November, Josée Van Remoortel participated in the European Disability Forum's Board meeting in Paris, France.

On 18 November 2008, Elisabeth Muschik and Astrid Mechel participated in the Social Policy Working Group Meeting, organised by the Social Platform.

On 19-20 November, Alberto Fernandez Liria, MHE member, represented MHE at the "2<sup>nd</sup> European Patients, Innovation and Technologies Congress" which was organised in Madrid (Spain) by the European Institute of Health and Social Welfare (WHO collaborating Centre).

On 24-25 November, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, participated in the conference "The role of civil society in the Accession process to the European Union" organised by the Social Platform in Zagreb.

On 28 November, Mary Van Dievel was present at the "Etats-généraux de la santé mentale en Wallonie" (developments in the mental health field in Wallonia) in Namur, Belgium.

On 28 November, Astrid Mechel participated in the Meeting with PROGRESS - supported Key EU Networks on the presentation of the outcome of the working group on the performance monitoring system for EU networks. The meeting was organised by the European Commission's DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Social Inclusion Unit.

## 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 was also the focus of the MHE Conference 2008 "Diversity in Mental Health and Well-being – An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue", which took place in Aalborg (Denmark) on 7-9 August 2008 (for more information: <http://www.mhe-aalborg.dk/>).*

### Older migrants

In Europe, older people's migration can be seen from two different perspectives: older retired people who migrate to another EU member state to live during their retirement years and older third country nationals' migrants who usually migrate with their families for economic reasons. In both cases the challenges of accessing health and long-term care services are immense and even though their needs might be similar, the way to meet those needs may be different. In fact, the term older migrant "hides a plurality of very different situations, biographies and backgrounds (...) it is therefore important to define and contextualise each time what is meant exactly within this concept, in order to understand what his/her care needs might be".

In its document AGE points out the main barriers of older migrants and access to health and long term care services and outlines recommendations to the European Union as a whole and to Member States in particular to facilitate access to health and social care of their older migrants.

To download AGE's document:

<http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf AGE Health and Older Migrants FINAL.pdf>

Source: AGE

## III. NEWS FROM MHE MEMBERS

### British Psychological Society

The discussion paper on Socially Inclusive Practice was published by the British Psychological Society.

For most people, social inclusion is about being accepted and respected within the communities they live in. Many of those with mental health difficulties do not feel integrated within society, overwhelmed by feelings of being different and not understood.

For more information: visit

[http://www.bps.org.uk/the-society/organisation-and-governance/professional-practice-board/ppb-activities/social-inclusion/social-inclusion\\_home.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/the-society/organisation-and-governance/professional-practice-board/ppb-activities/social-inclusion/social-inclusion_home.cfm)

Many thanks to Nigel Atter, from the British Psychological Society, for this contribution.

#### **IV. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2008**

##### Šent

This year's campaign on the World Mental Health Day was led by ŠENT, the Slovenian Association for Mental Health, under the title "Mental Health as Global Priority: Strengthening of Services through Civil Advocacy and Action." At the presentation of the programmes special emphasis was given to the advocacy program run by ŠENT on two levels. The first part is legal advocacy carried out in cooperation with PIC – Legal Information Centre of non-governmental organizations of Slovenia. The second level is self-advocacy - Relatives' forum and Users' Council – who represent two key advisory boards for our Association.

ŠENT tries to improve the quality of services and policy in the field of mental health indirectly by organizing several round-table discussions and other public conferences. In Novo mesto, on October 10, Šent organized a round table titled "Systematic Care in the Mental Health Field in our Environment". Its purpose was achieved: to review the previous help and to continue with the development of assistance network for the people in distress in Dolenjska region.

Šent Centre for Gorenjska region took advantage of this day to present its new daily centre in Škofja loka to the local community. Quite a lot of interest was gained by the presentation of their programme in the local media and by a promotional booth put up in the Social Work Centre of Škofja loka.

Other Šent Centres throughout Slovenia also made advantage of the World Mental Health Day to draw public attention to the questions regarding mental health stigma. They organized open-door days with cultural and entertaining programmes, put up booths for promotion and sales of hand-made goods in the town centres and several public places (libraries, trade centres, etc.). They caught attention of many passers-by as well as our supporters. By public discussions we contributed to the opening of taboos and doing away with prejudice which are still deeply rooted especially in smaller Slovenian places. These events were covered by local media, some of them also on the national level.

*Many thanks to Mateja Trošt for her contribution.*

##### Finish Association for Mental Health

A whole day seminar was organised in Helsinki Fair Centre for invited guests and media. The seminar focused on loneliness in society. Loneliness is seen either voluntary or obligatory. Everybody feels oneself sometimes lonely, but loneliness becomes a burden when a person is forced to be alone against his own will. This is the situation especially with people who suffer from mental or physical illnesses or older people who live alone without anybody to contact with. It is estimated that there are even hundreds of thousands of lonely older people in Finland nowadays.

If unemployment causes loneliness so is the situation also with youngsters who are compelled to move from their native home from countryside to bigger cities to find work.

Also children and young people can feel loneliness. The constant competition and demands of the modern society depart parents from children, who can feel themselves alone too often.

The purpose of the day was to rise up discussion on promotion of mental health and prevention of the problems as well as the good care of patients and the position of one's next of kin. The aim was to diminish prejudices and stigma, which still are strongly related to mental illness.

A year ago FAMH made a survey about loneliness. Nearly 300 people contacted us and told us how they experienced the loneliness. Many reasons were found. Loss of next of kin, family members living far away and drifting apart from each other. Losses in life such as divorce and financial problems. Problems in communication, when there is a lack of common language, especially with immigrants.

FAMH wants to challenge all Finnish people to think what they could do in order to diminish the loneliness in society.

The year 2008 Mental Health Reward was granted to a famous Finnish Dramaturg and Playwriter Outi Nyytäjä who has affected to the activities of society by writing books, columns and plays on social discrimination.

Local mental health societies organised happenings throughout Finland.

Seminars, writing- and drawing contests for children, open house happenings, sports and singing gatherings. Also many of the societies granted their own mental health rewards.

*Many thanks to Janna Arho for this contribution*

## MIND

This year's World Mental Health day marked the launch of Get Moving, England's first ever mass-participation event to bring a national focus on mental and physical health. Olympian Phillips Idowu and actor Joe McGann joined the thousands who 'walked a mile for mental health' by leading walks in Battersea Park, London.

Get Moving is an annual mass participation series of events taking place in the run up to the Olympics, with the aim of including 250,000 people in 2012. The campaign is inclusive of all activities to have a wide appeal, with walking, team sports and even pastimes such as salsa dancing and gardening featured. In the recent pilot week, over 12,000 people took part in 400 events around the country, from bulb-planting to martial arts.

This innovative approach uses physical activity to draw people together from diverse backgrounds, promoting inclusion and social contact between people with similar interests but different mental health experiences. It has been proved that the single most important factor for influencing public attitudes and behaviour towards people with mental health problems is personal contact. By engaging people with and without experience of mental distress together in fun activities, Get Moving aims to break down barriers and combat mental health discrimination.

Discrimination surrounding mental health problems, and the isolation it can perpetuate, have been well documented as barriers to participation in leisure and activity programmes. As a result, people with mental health problems often have poor physical health and are one of the most sedentary groups in England today. On average people with the most severe forms of mental health problems die ten years younger and have increased incidence of diabetes, strokes and coronary heart disease.

However, there is evidence that exercise is proven to reduce feelings of depression and increase self-esteem. A recent study carried out by Mind found that after just one country walk, 71% of people reported a decrease in depression and 90% had increased self-esteem. By raising awareness of the mental health benefits of physical activity, Get Moving will help promote better mental wellbeing for everyone, whether they experience a mental health problem or not. Mind is asking everyone to pledge to do more exercise this year to boost their own mental and physical wellbeing. You can pledge at

<http://www.getmovingweek.org.uk/pledge/>

Get Moving is one strand of Time to Change, England's most ambitious initiative ever to at last tackle public attitudes towards mental health issues. Fronted by the leading organisations working in the field of mental health - Mind, Rethink, Mental Health Media and the Institute of Psychiatry, the ground breaking awareness programme aims to create a 5% positive shift in attitudes and a 5% reduction in discrimination by 2012. The time is right to end the stigma, discrimination and poor physical health that too often act as barriers to social inclusion and recovery for people with mental health problems.

For more information: visit [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) or contact: [press@mind.org.uk](mailto:press@mind.org.uk)

**What have you done for World Mental Health Day? Send us your contributions!**

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

### **EASPD – European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities**

Position on the Article 13 Directive

EASPD, the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities, has published a position paper assessing the European Commission's proposal for a directive implementing the principle of equal treatment (the Article 13 Directive). EASPD feels that the proposed text of the Directive marks a significant step forward in effectively combating discrimination in all areas outside of the workplace. However, it stresses the necessity to aim for the full translation of the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into European legislation.

In particular, EASPD joins in with MHE to request that a definition of multiple discrimination is included in the directive, as well as a clear definition of disability. This would improve legal clarity and ensure that the same level of protection is provided in all Member States, and that there are no differences in protection based on the different interpretations of 'disability' used in each country.

For more information please visit:

[http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Equality\\_and\\_non-discrimination/EASPD%20Position%20Paper\\_Article%2013%20Directive.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Equality_and_non-discrimination/EASPD%20Position%20Paper_Article%2013%20Directive.pdf)

Source: Social Platform

## **EDF – European Disability Forum**

### Transposition of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive into national law

Accessing the Information Society and information and communication technologies, which includes access to the content, is a fundamental right for people with disabilities. At the European level, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (the ex-TV without Frontiers Directive), adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 11 December 2007, constitutes the European framework for broadcasting activities.

During its review between 2005 and 2007, EDF and its members lobbied hard to improve the Directive and succeeded. Clear references regarding access to the content of audiovisual media services and the use of the images of disabled people in audiovisual commercial communications were added.

To continue this action, EDF prepared a toolkit aiming at supporting EDF members and other relevant organisations to discuss and negotiate the transposition of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive in the EU Member States law.

To download the toolkit: [http://www.edf-feph.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=13391](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13391)

For more information:

contact person, Nadège Riche, Email [nadege.riche@edf-feph.org](mailto:nadege.riche@edf-feph.org), Tel + 32 2 282 46 05

Source: EDF

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

### Report: "Living Independently and Being Included"

The third annual seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living took place in Drammen, Norway on 12 – 13 September 2008. The topic of the Seminar was 'Living Independently and Being Included: Understanding and Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' ("the Convention"). The aim of the Seminar was to discuss how we can use the Convention to facilitate the development of quality community-based services for people with disabilities in Europe. The Seminar also created opportunities for exchange of good practice in community living, especially between Northern European countries and countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

For more information: visit <http://www.community-living.info/?page=236>

Source ECCL

## **Eurochild**

### Conference on Including Children

On 6 November, Eurochild - a network of organisations and on individuals promoting the rights and welfare of children in Europe - in partnership with Family, Child and Youth Association (Hungary) opened its 5th Annual Conference in Budapest, Hungary. The theme of the conference was: "Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being".

160 participants from 23 EU countries, including experts, civil organizations and young people from 4 countries participated in Eurochild's 5th Annual Conference.

The event aimed to highlight how EU instruments – and in particular the EU's social inclusion process - can support government efforts to develop long-term, comprehensive children's strategies and to reduce child poverty.

The Eurochild conference took place just one month after the deadline for Member States to submit their 2008-2010 National Strategy Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NSRSPSI) to the European Commission. Despite identifying child poverty as a priority, there is a huge gap between aspiration and reality on the ground. Statistics show that child poverty is not falling in most of the member states, in fact it is growing. Already some 72 million European citizens live in or on the edge of poverty, an estimated 19 million of them are children.

The social inclusion strategies do not have child specific targets to reduce child poverty in Europe. They do not frame children's health, education or welfare in terms of their rights. Very few countries take a child rights approach and refer to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Child poverty has a multi-dimensional nature and it is not always acknowledged. Some member states offer a more complete set of indicators to measure child well being, acknowledging the multi-dimensional nature of child poverty. In most countries however, targets are still almost exclusively income based.

If EU Member States are to take children's rights seriously, they need to involve them directly in the decision making processes. At its 5th conference, Eurochild invited children and young participants to express their views on the national situations.

Contact person: Jana Hainsworth at [secretarygeneral@eurochild.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@eurochild.org)

Source: Eurochild

## **IAPO – International Alliance of Patients' Organizations**

### Launch of Patient Safety Advocacy Toolkit

IAPO launched an advocacy toolkit for patient groups to inform and support their activities, advocating for improved patient safety, at a regional meeting of patient groups in Uganda. The toolkit, "Addressing Global Patient Safety Issues: An Advocacy Toolkit for Patients' Organizations", is the first multi-issue resource for patient groups, providing the means for patients and patients' organizations to engage in the provision of healthcare and contribute to a quality and safe healthcare system, and a reduction in harm to patients.

For further information, visit: <http://www.patientsorganizations.org/showarticle.pl?id=964>

## **MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Centre**

### Reflections on institutionalisation

The first in a series of occasional 'reflections' is out. This first piece focuses on institutionalisation of persons with disabilities. It has been prompted by the views of Thomas Hammarberg, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. This week he issued a Viewpoint entitled "Human Rights and Disability: Equal Rights for All". He also issued an Issue Paper which draws on much of MDAC's work. The Commissioner is the chief human rights spokesperson of the Council of Europe a forty seven Member State intergovernmental organisation entirely separate from the European Union, and an organisation to which MDAC has participatory status. The Commissioner heads an office in Strasbourg of around twenty staff members who work on a huge range of human rights topics. Mr Hammarberg has been a vocal advocate for the rights of disabilities since he became Commissioner in April 2006.

This article was written by Oliver Lewis and published on MDAC's Newsletter.

Contact person: [mdac@mdac.info](mailto:mdac@mdac.info)

## **Social Platform**

### Social Platform annual conference on Civil Dialogue: How can we shape the Europe we want?

The conference will be organised on 9-10 December in Brussels by the Social Platform.

The objectives of this conference are to assess the current structures and processes of civil dialogue at European level and to agree concrete recommendations on how to improve these structures and processes.

For more information: visit <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=19506>

#### New publication from Social Platform: 9 recommendations to improve the EU's social and health services

The Social Platform has just published a set of recommendations titled '9 Principles to Achieve Quality Social and Health Services'. This short, illustrated document proposes a starting point for an EU quality framework to give the people of Europe social and health services that function well and are accessible to all who need them. This publication was based on the common position adopted last June on Quality social and health services.

For more information please visit: <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=19224>

Contact person: [ariella.degennaro@socialplatform.org](mailto:ariella.degennaro@socialplatform.org)

## **VI. EUROPEAN UNION**

### European Ombudsman reaches out to civil society organisations

The European Ombudsman has developed a two-page-information sheet targeting NGOs and explaining how they can use the Ombudsman to complain about maladministration in the EU institutions and bodies.

It explains what we can complain about (and what we can't), tells us where to get more information and gives examples of cases that the European ombudsman has handled. It's available in 23 languages.

To read the information sheet: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/infosheet/en/default.htm>

For more information: visit the website of the European Ombudsman, <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/home/en/default.htm>

## **VII. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### Presidential conference on Alzheimer and related diseases

On 30-31 October, the French Presidency organised a European Conference on Alzheimer and related diseases.

The event brought together politicians, experts and patient organisations and facilitated discussion of the essential aspects of the fight against Alzheimer and related diseases, such as caring for patients, which requires combining care and social support, developing specific skills and adapting professions based on patient needs and knowledge development, and lastly, research, by coordinating ongoing research programmes in various European countries.

At the closing of the conference, President Sarkozy stressed that "*the fight against Alzheimer's disease and degenerative illnesses is one of the main priorities of European health policy. All Member States are increasingly faced with the twofold challenge of an ageing population and caring for dependent patients*". The French Presidency and the Commission would like to prepare a European plan against Alzheimer which would be structured around three main lines: Research; Care and quality of life; Ethics and legal aspects.

The French Presidency will submit a proposal to be included in the conclusions of the December Council.

MHE was represented at the event by Dr. John Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor.

For more information on the conference: visit

[http://www.eu2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10\\_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/maladie\\_d\\_alzheimer\\_et\\_maladies\\_apparentees](http://www.eu2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/maladie_d_alzheimer_et_maladies_apparentees)

To read the Council Conclusions concerning a common commitment by the Member States to combat neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/newsWord/en/intm/103067.doc>

To read the Dementia Plan 2015 of the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services:

<http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/HOD/Dokumenter%20KTA/DementiaPlan2015.pdf>

## VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### Commission Work Programme 2009

The European Commission has published its work programme for 2009, with its strategic and priority initiatives, among them a proposal for the post-Lisbon Agenda in December 2009.

To read the work programme: visit

[http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_en.pdf)

### Results of the consultation on the EU budget reform are out

On 12 November, the European Commission released the results of the consultation on the EU budget.

According to the European Commission, the main priorities of the EU budget must be climate change, EU competitiveness and energy security. The European Commission will now draft a proposal to reform the EU budget.

For more information: visit [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/issues/issues\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/issues/issues_en.htm)

## **DG Education and culture**

### Call for Proposals 2009

The Lifelong Learning Programme enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe.

The LLP is open to practically everybody who is involved in education or training, including not-for-profit organisations, voluntary bodies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

For more information and to find all core documentation: visit

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm)

and [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2009/call\\_lifelong\\_learning\\_2009.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2009/call_lifelong_learning_2009.htm)

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

### Demography Forum

The Commission will organise its 2nd European Demography Forum offering policy makers and stakeholders from all over Europe an opportunity to discuss recent developments in the fields of active ageing and family policies.

In time for the Forum, the Commission will present the 2008 Demography Report which provides the latest facts and figures that are needed for assessing where Member States stand in responding to the challenges of demographic change.

The Commission will also present the results of a Eurobarometer on family life and the needs of an ageing population. The survey asked Europeans how they feel about their family life today, the problems they face and their opinions about policies that could help improve their situation. In addition, the needs of an ageing population are examined under various aspects (retirement, health, housing, volunteering).

For further information, visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=121&furtherEvents=yes>

### Employment in Europe report 2008

The Employment in Europe Report has been produced annually since 1989. It is the main tool for the analysis of employment performance and labour market developments in the European Union, the Acceding and the Candidate Countries. It provides the basic analytical and statistical background to underpin the Joint Employment Report as well as other instruments key to the European Employment Strategy which helps European Union countries to create more and better jobs. Objectives, priorities and targets are agreed at EU level. Governments then coordinate their efforts to promote employment.

Giving an overview on the current labour market situation in Europe, this year's edition of the Employment in Europe report has a particular focus on immigration, post-enlargement intra-EU labour mobility, quality of work and the link between education and employment.

For download, please go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=415&furtherNews=yes>

More information on Employment in the EU:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/employment\\_strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/index_en.htm)

Commissioner Špidla's website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/spidla/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/spidla/index_en.cfm)

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

Mental Health Briefing Facts Sheets and Activities in Member States – page updated

For seeing the updated page: visit

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/ms\\_overview\\_en.htm#1](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/ms_overview_en.htm#1)

Video on the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being

The video highlights examples of successful mental health initiatives such as the European Alliance against Depression and initiatives promoting corporate social responsibility in the workplace. The video also reports on the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being, launched by Commissioner for Health, Ms Androulla Vassiliou in June 2008 at an EU high-level conference.

For more information: visit

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/press/index\\_en.htm?updated#ph](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/press/index_en.htm?updated#ph)

## **IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Social rights

Social rights are under real threats in the Catania report on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU. Both EPP and ALDE groups want to suppress most of the parts dealing with poverty and social rights.

The ALDE shadow rapporteur Guardans Cambó is apparently quite central in the debate and would be the one to be convinced that social rights are actually fundamental rights.

EAPN and its member organisations have taken actions to make sure that the European Parliament does not get rid of social rights when reporting on fundamental rights in the EU.

Timetable: shadow rapporteurs meeting on Tuesday 18 November to agree on a position.

For more information: contact person, Elodie Fazi, [elodie.fazi@eapn.eu](mailto:elodie.fazi@eapn.eu)

or visit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-409.461+03+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

Source: EAPN

Internet dangers

With the increasing availability of the internet, children are being exposed more and more to illicit images and content. A reported 74% of young people between 12-15 years use the internet at least 3 hours a day. Monday sees MEPs discuss new measures to increase the security of children who use the internet.

The report by Italian MEP Roberta Angelilli of the UEN group aims to create a "European Safer Internet Programme". Fellow Members of the cross-party Civil Liberties Committee have already thrown their weight behind the measures.

For more information: visit [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/039-39312-287-10-42-906-20081013STO39306-2008-13-10-2008/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/039-39312-287-10-42-906-20081013STO39306-2008-13-10-2008/default_en.htm)

## **X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Recommendations from the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner

Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner on Human Rights, published a "viewpoint" recognizing that more than 80 million persons are still neglected in Europe simply because of their disabilities. In addition to the UN convention on the rights of disabled persons

and the Council of Europe disability action plan 2006-2015, more inclusive policies must be implemented, stamping out social stigma and all kinds of barriers.

See article COE Human Rights Commissioner:

[http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/default_en.asp)

Source: COE

## XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

### Annual Report 2008

The World Health Organisation released its 2008 Annual report 'Primary healthcare – now more than ever' which assesses the way health care is organised, financed and delivered across the world. It highlights a number of shortcomings and loopholes, and notes that inequalities in health and access to care are much greater today than they were 30 years ago.

For further information: visit <http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html>

### State of the World's Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) published a new assessment of the Global Burden of Disease, a study that provides a comprehensive picture of the global and regional state of health. Drawing from extensive data across the Organization, it features comparisons between deaths, diseases and injuries whether by region, sex or country for the year 2004. It also provides projections of deaths and burden of disease by cause and region to the year 2030.

For more information, visit: [http://www.who.int/topics/global\\_burden\\_of\\_disease/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/global_burden_of_disease/en/)

## XII. UNITED NATIONS

### UN Disability Rights Convention

The first Conference of States Parties on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), taking place at the UN headquarters in New York, elected the new Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 3 November.

The Committee will be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD. It comprises seven men and five women, of which nine are persons with disabilities.

For further information, visit: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1443>

Source: EDF

### Implementation of the UN Convention

The Commission proposal for a directive provides for protection from discrimination on grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief beyond the workplace. This new draft directive aims to ensure equal treatment in the areas of social protection, including social security and health care, education and access to and supply of goods and services which are commercially available to the public, including housing.

Johan Ten Geuzendam, the Head of Unit for EU Integration of People with Disabilities at DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities at the European Commission, made a presentation at the Seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living on 13 September 2008 in Norway. This Commission study, based on solid data, will help Member States and stakeholders transform services for disabled people from institutions to services in the community.

For more information: visit <http://www.community-living.info/?page=236>

Source: ECCL

### Universal Children Day

The European Commission has just published a joint statement on the Universal children Day. The stress is put on the fight against child labour.

For further information, visit:

[http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/children\\_day/index.html](http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/children_day/index.html)

### **XIII. VARIOUS**

#### GREECE - Sotiria Hospital eHealth Unit

The E-Health Unit was established in 1999 in Sotiria Hospital, an 800 bed public teaching hospital in Athens (Greece), which serves a large number of elderly and chronic patients – the vast majority of them are socially disadvantaged elderly of low level of education and income; they usually suffer from more than one chronic condition with serious neglected co-morbidities, various degrees of disability, social isolation and depression.

The objective was to modernise the previously offered rehabilitation services for these patients through the incorporation of the emerging ICTs in the clinical practice. Since then, a gradual evolution of the services to "home and community based health and social integrated care and chronic care management" has been achieved. The patient-centric services, supported by ICT (Information and communication Technology) solutions customisable to each patient's needs, follow proactively the patient at any step he/she takes in the care delivery system, bridging and empowering all the points of care delivery. Through these services, holistic care delivery around individual care plans, as well as interventions by multiple collaborating professionals at the right time and place, become feasible in a well orchestrated and cost effective way. The project has resulted in: Patients' condition improvement; Significant cost reduction; Health and social care system decongestion.

*For more information: visit [www.sotiria-telecare.gr](http://www.sotiria-telecare.gr)*

*Source: [epractice.eu](http://epractice.eu)*

#### Makshivim

Makshivim is a website, Internet-based project for people with psychiatric disabilities. Through the project, consumers chat with each other, with professional counsellors from various disciplines and with the project's coordinators.

In this way they find friends among their peer consumers with common experiences and interests in a safe environment, raise awareness of mental illness and ease societal and self-stigma, practice social and communication skills, participate in study courses and art workshops, get vocational rehabilitation in the wider community and participate in social and recreational activities in the natural (non-virtual) environment.

The Basics: one of the places where consumers can cope with their problems is the Internet.

Makshivim is a milieu for people with psychiatric disabilities that allows them to create social ties with peers, 24/7, while maintaining anonymity and cultivating the feeling of being in a safe, secure place.

Makshivim goes global, which means they want to see a similar project concerned with consumer's social and vocational rehabilitation and well being, in every country around the globe.

For this purpose they offer consultation and accompaniment in the construction and operation of a local Makshivim project.

They urge NGO's, social firms and rehabilitation organizations to contact us and make use of our platform and knowledge to create their local Makshivim project.

*For more information: visit <http://www.makshivim.net>, or contact Eitan Klutch, Email [eitan@makshivim.net](mailto:eitan@makshivim.net)*

*Many thanks to Eithan Klutch for this contribution.*

#### UK's Foresight Programme

The aim of the Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing has been to advise the Government on how to achieve the best possible mental development and mental wellbeing for everyone in the UK in the future.

The final Project report together with the evidence base for the Project, including scientific reviews, is available on:

<http://www.foresight.gov.uk/OurWork/ActiveProjects/Mental%20Capital/Welcome.asp>

### **XIV. PUBLICATIONS**

#### FEANTSA: "The Right to Housing: The Way Forward"

Access to adequate housing can be considered as being a precondition for the exercise of most other fundamental human rights. Having a secure, adequate and affordable place to live is essential to the achievement of a decent standard of living and to the fulfillment of human life beyond simple survival.

This edition looks at the issue of the right to housing from a number of perspectives and gives practical information on the legal frameworks which promote the right to housing, explains the Council of Europe Collective Complaint mechanism, presents national case studies from Scotland, Finland, France and Spain and provides details on Housing Rights Watch

To download the publication, visit: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=35>

#### Children maltreatment

Making life a safe adventure – strengthening families of children with disabilities to prevent maltreatment is the title of booklet that is the result of a European Project aimed at preventing the maltreatment of children with disabilities in the domestic environment. Research evidence shows that these children are more at risk of maltreatment than children without disabilities.

To download the booklet, visit: [http://www.aiasbo.it/progetti/daphne/index\\_en.html](http://www.aiasbo.it/progetti/daphne/index_en.html)

#### Mental Health and Environmental Exposures Fact Sheet

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative (LDDI) has significantly updated and expanded its fact sheet on environmental contributors to mental health problems. With an emphasis on prevention, this fact sheet provides information on psychiatric symptoms and diagnoses related to each of the environmental agents discussed, as well as sources of exposure and actions that can be taken to reduce exposures.

For further information, visit: <http://www.iceh.org/>

Contact person: [lisette@env-health.org](mailto:lisette@env-health.org)

#### Equality in Action

This edition – online autumn 2008 – of the newsletter is designed to help readers access the various elements of the new social package, which was published by the European Commission on the 2nd of July 2008.

For more information:

Visit [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/pdf/news/ezine08\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/news/ezine08_en.pdf)

#### "Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie"

"Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie" (Germany, Federation for Community Psychiatry) published the outcome of its project on the engagement and mobilization of citizens for community-based institutions and associations for the care of persons with mental health problems. The report which will be available in a printed version soon, is presenting Good Practice Models in Europe with examples from Austria, Belgium, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Scotland and Switzerland. (In German only)

For further information on the project: contact Birgit Görres at [Goerres@psychiatrie.de](mailto:Goerres@psychiatrie.de)

## **XV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION**

#### EFSC changes website

The EFSC (European Federation for Street Children) website has been rebuilt to enable a more user friendly, better systematised and structured access to a more advanced information resource base. You will find a new section titled "Children in Progress" containing reports, comments, and position papers on EFSC activities and those of its member organisations active within the PROGRESS programme, training materials, as well as relevant EU news on poverty and social inclusion matters related to street children.

Browse the new website at: [www.efsc-eu.org](http://www.efsc-eu.org).

#### FEANTSA's database

A database containing judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) relevant to housing rights is now available in the section of FEANTSA's web site devoted to the right to housing.

To access the database: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=695>

For more information on housing rights in general, visit:

<http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=5>

#### Movement for Global Mental Health

The Movement for Global Mental Health (GMH) is a global network of individuals and institutions who are committed to furthering the goal of scaling up of evidence-based services for people living with mental disorders and protecting their human rights.

Visit the dedicated website to find out more about the background and future plans of the Movement.

For more information: visit [www.globalmentalhealth.org](http://www.globalmentalhealth.org)

#### European Social Network new website

The European Social Network launched a new website where one can catch up on all ESN activities past and present. This first edition of the new newsletter, among other things, highlights our recent work on active inclusion.

For further information, visit: <http://www.esn-eu.org/home/index.htm>

## **XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **NEW!! 11 December 2008**

**European Platform for Rehabilitation Event, "Modernisation of Disability Related Health and Social Services. The Way Ahead", Brussels (Belgium)**

For more information: contact person, Simona Giarratano, Email [simona.giarratano@epr.eu](mailto:simona.giarratano@epr.eu), or visit <http://www.epr.eu/index.php/event-list/details/15-public-affairs-event?equass=0>

### **21-23 January 2009**

**4<sup>th</sup> International Stigma Conference, "Together Against Stigma & Discrimination. Evidence for Action", London (UK)**

For more information: visit the Conference website, <http://stigma.iop.kcl.ac.uk>

### **24-28 January 2009**

**17<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychiatry - AEP 2009, Lisbon (Portugal)**

For more information: visit the Congress website, <http://www2.kenes.com/epa/Pages/home.aspx>

### **4-7 March 2009**

**XVII World IFTA Congress, "Reconciling Differences: Can Family Therapy Help Heal the World?", Portorož (Slovenia)**

For more information: visit [www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009](http://www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009)

### **NEW!! 27-29 March 2009**

**9<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry, "Quality and outcomes in mental health policy and economics", Venice (Italy)**

For more information: visit <http://www.icmpe.org/test1/events/events.htm>

### **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)**

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

**27-28 April 2009**

**6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Promoting Workplace Health, "HEALTHY WORK - HEALTHY LIFESTYLE – HEALTHY BUSINESS", Perugia (Italy)**

*For more information: contact the Conference Secretariat, Tel +39 0755 857 365, Email [loriseqr@unipg.it](mailto:loriseqr@unipg.it)*

**NEW!! 27-29 May 2009**

**9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Union of Supported Employment, Prague (Czech Republic)**

*For more information: contact the Conference Secretariat, Tel +420 224 942 696, or visit <http://www.euseconference2009.org>*

**27-31 October 2009**

**XXV World Congress on Suicide Prevention, Montevideo (Uruguay)**

*For more information: visit <http://www.iasp.info/>, or send an email to [info@iasp2009.org](mailto:info@iasp2009.org)*

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

**Please send your contributions to [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)**