



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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## NEWSLETTER N°2/2009

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## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### Mental Health reform in the EU: the Case of Greece

European Parliament, Brussels , 29 January 2009

Mrs Evangelia Tzampazi MEP, Rapporteur on the European Parliament Report on Mental Health and a Greek citizen, hosted a meeting in the European Parliament on the serious funding situation in the mental health sector in some European countries, and in particular in Greece. She presented the Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on Mental Health (2008/2209(INI)) which was adopted at the European Parliament on 22 January 2009 (56 pro, 0 con, 0 abstentions). You can find it under:

[http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/Motion%20for%20Resolution Text%20adopted%2022%20Jan.pdf](http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/Motion%20for%20Resolution%20Text%20adopted%2022%20Jan.pdf)

Mental Health Europe actively contributed to this Report.

Already at the end of November 2008 Mental Health Europe disseminated a press release which called on the Greek government to put an end to the severe financial situation in the Mental Health sector, bringing to the attention of Greek and European policy-makers that the last 3 years the state has systematically failed to maintain the values and direction of the mental health reforms in Greece, and that this has created a series of problems and roadblocks regarding the transition of patients from institutional to community care. [You can find it under:](#)

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/Press%20release%20MHE%20calls%20on%20Greek%20government%20to%20put%20an%20end%20to%20the%20dramatic%20situation%20in%20the%20Mental%20Health%20sector.pdf>

At the EP meeting, John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Adviser presented the background and the challenges for Mental Health Reform in Europe. It will be soon available under the section – “publications”.

Stavros Lambrinidis MEP, head of the Greek Socialist Delegation in the European Parliament, presented the Greek socialist priorities in the field of mental health. Dimitris Vartzopoulos, representative of the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity spoke about the Greek mental health policy and the Psychargos programme proposals. Professor Michael Madianos, President of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation addressed the mental health reform in Greece, its background and future challenges. John Tsiantis, Scientific Director of the MHE member Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents presented the reform of children and Adolescent mental health services in Greece, the link with the EU mental health Policy objectives and the current problems for Child and Adolescent services Menelaos Theodoroulakis, President of the Network of NGOs "ARGOS" for Mental Health and Psychosocial Rehabilitation spoke about the contribution of the NGOs to the implementation of national mental health policies and focused on the current difficulties in Greece.

MEPs John Bowis and Mario Matsakis presented their views and concerns, as did the representative of the European Commission and the European mental health NGOs present.

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, asked how this meeting could possibly contribute to the improvement of the situation of the Greek mental health NGOs, the providers of community mental health care, whose staff had not received any salary during the last 5-7 months.

Stelios Stylianidis, Associate Professor of Social Psychiatry and Board member of the Network of NGOs for Mental Health and Psychosocial Rehabilitation "ARGOS" , excellent co-moderator of the meeting together with Mrs Tzampazi MEP, summarised as follows:

- the European Community is now aware of the problems of the decrease in attention for and financing of community mental health services, which is not only occurring in Greece
- there is a political will at the European level to overcome the problem

- a positive outcome is that there is a shared belief that the role of mental health service users and their families and carers is are essential partners in mental health policy-making and implementation process.
- that separation of the mental health needs of children/young people, adults and older people should be made
- that continuity of care from institution to community should be ensured

#### Changes in the MHE staff

Lucy Vallis joined the MHE team on 9 February 2009 to work as DAPHNE Project Coordinator. Lucy is English and holds a B.A. in Applied Social Science. She has trained in Equality and diversity and keeping children safe (borders and immigration), she has also trained in anti bullying and harassment.

Before joining MHE, Lucy worked in the United Kingdom as a Civil Servant firstly in the area of Forensic mental health and recently in the area of Borders and Immigration, where she took an interest in the area of people trafficking, specifically the trafficking of women and children. We warmly welcome Lucy to the MHE team. To contact Lucy: Email [lucy.vallis@mhe-sme.org](mailto:lucy.vallis@mhe-sme.org)

#### REMINDER - MHE General Assembly 2009 and capacity-building seminar for MHE members

MHE's General Assembly 2009 will take place in Brussels on Saturday 13 June 2009.

The day before, on Friday 12 June, a capacity-building seminar for MHE members will be organised. The theme for the capacity-building seminar hasn't been decided so far. Your suggestions are most welcome.

The invitation and programmes for both events will be forwarded to MHE members in April. MHE will be able to cover the travel and subsistence costs of a good number of MHE members. *More information to follow with the invitation in April.*

*Please already pencil these dates in your diary and make sure you can join us in Brussels in June!*

#### REMINDER - MHE elections for General Assembly and Board

The invitation for the nomination of Voting Individual Members to the General Assembly has been sent to all MHE individual members on 9 January. Deadline for receiving nominations is 9 February 2009. Please contact us should you not have received an invitation.

The 9 Voting Individual Members will then between themselves elect 3 Voting Individual Members to the MHE Board. These invitations will be sent out at the beginning of March 2009. And last but not least, also at the beginning of March, an invitation to nominate candidates for the Board from the Full Member organisations will be sent out.

If you are a MHE member and would like to have a say in the MHE Board and influence MHE's policies and activities, do not hesitate to nominate yourself. We need fresh blood in the MHE Board!

The election procedure should be finalised by the beginning of May 2009; the new Board will be presented at the General Assembly on 13 June 2009.

#### REMINDER - Membership fees 2009

All MHE members have received an invitation to pay their membership fee for 2009. Please contact the MHE Secretariat should you not have received this invitation or should you wish additional information.

*Keep in mind that MHE members will need to have paid their membership fee if they want to nominate themselves for the Board elections and if they want to participate in the capacity-building seminar and General Assembly in June!*

#### MHE contributed to the FRA consultation regarding 2010 Work Plan

MHE was invited by the FRA to contribute to the elaboration of the Work Plan for 2010. The Fundamental Rights Agency promised that it would send to the civil society representants a draft version of the Agency's work programme 2010 in order for the Fundamental Rights Platform panel to provide feedback. The Agency undertook a consultation exercise with civil society on the Agency's Work Programme 2009 during July and August 2008. The Agency

indicated that the results of that consultation would feed into the drafting of its Annual Work Programme 2010. The draft Annual Work Programme 2010 therefore already reflected some of the suggestions made during the consultation exercise. Mental Health Europe's contribution will be available soon on our website under <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/our-work/human-rights-and-mental-health.html>

*To read more on the FRA, please see the FRA website:*

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home\\_en.htm](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm)

#### MHE representation at the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe

MHE was represented at the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe for the Winter session meeting on 26-30 January 2009. The Plenary session of the Conference took place on the 29 January and the themes of discussion were diverse including the finalization of the long process regarding revision of the rules of procedure and the election of a new President, Jean-Marie Heydt (European Association of Training Centres for Socio-Educational Care Work (FESET) with three new Vice Presidents, Mr Gérard Greneron, Ms Iamsi Totvi and Mr Alain Mouchoux. Ms Sophie Dimitroulias, Mr Taras Poljanec, Mrs Maritchu Rall and Ms Jenny Schuler were elected Rapporteurs. Other issues linked to non discrimination or to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities were raised during the Plenary Session and during the meeting of the Human Rights Commission especially. Further studies on these issues will be conducted by the Conference in the next session which will take place in April.

The report on the winter session of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe will be available soon on our website in the section dedicated to the INGO Conference meeting reports

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/reports-sessions-council-of-europe-ingo.html>

*To read more about the INGO Conference, see <http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO/Public/>*

#### Staff representations

On 10 February, Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer, attended the Disability Intergroup meeting at the European Parliament on the European elections and disability.

On 11 February, Mari Fresu, Health Policy Officer, attended the meeting of the working group on health determinants organised by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) in Brussels.

On 12 February 2009, Mary Van Dievel and Josée Van Remoortel met with Mr Silvio Grieco, DG EMPL, Disability Unit, to discuss how the work of MHE can feed in to the work of the EC Disability Unit.

On the same day, Mary Van Dievel and Josée Van Remoortel, attended the 20th anniversary celebration of MHE's member organization the Flemish Association for Mental Health.

On the same day, Eléonore Van Haute attended "Eradicating child poverty" organized by Eurochild at the European Parliament.

On the 13th February 2009, Lucy Vallis attended European Disability Forum Training on Gender Equality.

On 17 February, Mari Fresu and Roselyne Bourgon attended a debate event of a movie on the Italian psychiatric reform ("Si può fare") at the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 18th of February, Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer, attended the Preparatory Meeting at the Social Platform aiming the preparation of the meeting at the European Commission on the preparation of the 8th Round Table on anti poverty and social exclusion. In the same day, she attended the meeting at the European Commission on the preparation of the 8th Round Table on anti poverty and social exclusion which will take place in Stockholm in October under the EU Swedish Presidency.

On 19-20 February, Astrid Mechel and Mary Van Dievel organized a training in Athens for the MHE National Focal Points from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Romania and Spain.

On 25 February, Mari Fresu and Mary Van Dievel contributed to an information session in Florence, organized by Italian MHE member organization AISMe, on the EU Pact on Mental Health and Well-being.

## **II. WFMH – WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

### WFMH just moved

The new contacts for the World Federation for Mental Health are as follows:

Secretariat:

NOTE NEW ADDRESS

12940 Harbor Drive

Suite 101

Woodbridge, VA 22192

USA

Phone: 703.494.6515

Fax: 703.494. 6518

Email: [info@wfmh.com](mailto:info@wfmh.com)

Office of Promotion and Prevention:

The Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital

P.O. Box 6815

Baltimore, Maryland 21285-6815

USA

Fax: +1.410.938.3183

Email: [eberger@wfmh.com](mailto:eberger@wfmh.com)

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

### **EAPN – European Anti-Poverty Network**

#### European Year 2010: guidelines for Member States now available in all languages

Following the adoption of the Decision Establishing the European Year 2010 for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Commission published a Strategic Framework Document setting up guidelines for Member States' preparation (financial envelope, timing, priorities, and dialogue with civil society...).

MHE participates actively in the preparations of the EY 2010 for combating poverty and social inclusion.

*The Strategic Framework Document has now been translated in all EU languages and can be downloaded at: <http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/744/29/lang,en/>*

#### EAPN special issue on the preparation of "2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion" is out!

The special issue of Network News of EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) looks at the preparation of 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The 2010 European Year will be all the more special for EAPN as it will mark the deadline the EU set itself to "make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty" and EAPN's 20th anniversary.

EAPN believes 2010 is an opportunity to strengthen dialogue between NGOs and public authorities – especially in those countries where civil dialogue is still lacking or in development. Providing a clear "hook" for new, stronger coalitions, it will also provide a platform for promoting a better understanding of the reality of poverty and deconstructing well spread stereotypes.

We also hope that 2010 will be an opportunity for the EU and its Member States to go beyond self-celebration, review progress made in the last decade and give a new impetus to the fight against poverty.

The success of the Year will depend to a great extent from national contexts and from the openness of the main political actors. If we want to make 2010 a success, it is crucial for EAPN to see it not as an institutional event, but as our Year, as an opportunity for people experiencing poverty to make their voice heard, be visible and put their issues on top of the EU agenda.

*To read EAPN special issue: <http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/713/34/lang,en/>*

*Source: EAPN*

## **EDF- European Disability Forum**

### **EDF met UN Officials to profile disabled people organisations' participation in the implementation of the UN Convention**

EDF Director, Carlotta Besozzi and Ask Andersen, policy officer, were in Geneva on 28-29 January to meet officers from the United Nations dealing with the implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD). The purpose of the visit was to learn about the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which has been established under the UN Convention and of the Office of the High commissioner on Human Rights and to see how organisations of persons with disabilities could influence that work. The first meeting of the Committee should take place on 23-27 February in Geneva. The Committee will need an active input from organisations of disabled people in many fields of the work of the Committee like for example the definition of issues to be considered in the report by countries. The themes of discussion have been diverse and concentrated on the future work of the Committee particularly when regarding the implementation of the Convention at national and European level.

*For more information on the meeting of EDF with UN Officials, please contact Ask Andersen, Policy Officer at EDF: [ask.andersen@edf-feph.org](mailto:ask.andersen@edf-feph.org)*

*For more information on the UN Convention itself, please consult the UN website on the Convention <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>*

## **Eurochild**

### **European seminar on child well-being indicators**

Eurochild participated in a European seminar on child well-being indicators, organized by ChildONEurope and hosted by UNICEF Innocenti Research center in Florence. This event brought together researchers, analysts, policy makers, public authorities and stakeholders to assess the work done in the identification of well-being indicators on childhood at the international level, discuss recent developments and exchange good practices within the European Union.

Few would doubt the critical importance of developing child poverty and well-being indicators because without reliable data the situation of children is obscured. But the next crucial step is whether better research and data on children's well-being are used for improving childhood policies and action. The discussion – such as that which took place during the seminar – is neither far-reaching nor ambitious enough to make children more visible in the EU policy making, making the link between policy measures and outcomes stronger, and strengthening the practical use of child-centered indicators in the mapping and assessment of the childhood condition.

*For further information: contact [agata.daddato@eurochild.org](mailto:agata.daddato@eurochild.org)*

*Source: Eurochild*

## **FEANTSA**

### **Homelessness And Housing Exclusion To Be Theme Of EU "Light Year" 2009**

The social affairs ministries from 27 countries, which are represented in the intergovernmental body called the Social Protection Committee, have decided that "homelessness and housing exclusion" are to be a priority theme in the EU social inclusion strategy in 2009. This means that all countries will carry out stocktaking exercise to collate information on their homeless policies, homeless data, and governance issues in tackling homelessness.

The results of this stocktaking exercise will be available at the end of the year and will feed into a Joint Report on social inclusion to be published by the European Commission and the Council of Ministers early 2010. In addition, there will be small research seminars organised on this theme during the course of 2009 as there is currently research underway: one study is focusing on the relation between housing exclusion and the labour market, while the MPHASIS project is focusing on developing methodologies to build capacity of EU countries to measure homelessness.

For further information: visit <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=1150>  
Source: FEANTSA

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

#### **MDAC calls on UK Government to Ratify Disability Rights Convention without Reservation or Delay**

On the 23rd January 2009, MDAC sent a public letter of concern to Gordon Brown, the British Prime Minister, urging the UK Government to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). MDAC has asked the Prime Minister not to enter any reservations to this important international human rights treaty, which entered into force in May 2008. As of today, 46 UN Member States had ratified the CRPD.

For further information: visit: <http://www.mdac.info/en/node/175>

Source: MDAC

## **IV. EUROPEAN UNION**

#### **The Fundamental Rights Agency has a new website!**

The Fundamental Rights Agency launched its new website by the end of January 2009. The website is available only in English. *This communication tool is available under* [http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home\\_en.htm](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm)

## **V. EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

#### **Information Day on the 2009 Calls for proposals in the Health Sector: 18 March 2009**

On 18th March, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) will organise Information Day on the 2009 Calls for proposals. This will be an opportunity to learn about the Health Work Plan for 2009, to take part in small-size workshops aimed at sharing experience and knowledge and to know how to fill in the application forms including technical, financial and IT-related information. Participants will also have the possibility to discuss with their national focal points, European Commission officials and EAHC staff and receive guidance on project writing and management .

The EAHC, based in Luxembourg, implements the EU Health Programme, the Consumer Programme and the Better Training for Safer Food initiative of the European Commission.

For more information: visit <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/infoday.html>

To register go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/infoday\\_register.html](http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/infoday_register.html)

#### **Commission adopts Lisbon Strategy recommendations to build a lasting recovery**

On 28 January, the Commission adopted its recommendations under the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy. The report includes country chapters which aim at providing guidance to Member States.

The recommendations also seek to ensure that the European Economic Recovery Plan adopted last December will help respond to the economic crisis. The country chapters analyse progress in each Member State in implementing the Growth and Jobs Strategy, taking account of the crisis. The report includes formal recommendations that will be proposed for endorsement by the Spring European Council. The Commission has also adopted reports on the overall implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in the macro and micro-economic and employment fields.

For more information visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/146&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: AGE

### How to obtain support from the European structural funds for more family-friendly living and working conditions

The European Commission has published a guide on how to obtain support from the European Structural Funds for partnerships for more family-friendly living and working conditions. Better reconciliation of family and professional life needs to be achieved primarily on local/regional and workplace levels. The European Union has tools to support initiatives in favour of families: the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). The brochure is addressed to local communities and companies to support a more family friendly environment.

*The guide is available in English only at:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/families/docs/eul\\_1414\\_family\\_081023\\_web\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/families/docs/eul_1414_family_081023_web_en.pdf)

Source: AGE

### The European Commission has published its legislative and work programme for 2009

Of particular interest to us will be its efforts to help the European Parliament and Council move forwards on its proposals on anti-discrimination and reconciliation of work and family life, an examination of the EU's role in reducing health inequalities across Europe, an assessment of the EU's preparedness for demographic change, and preparations for the post-Lisbon (growth and jobs) and post-Hague (freedom, security and justice) programmes.

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

## **VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

### Find out all about the 2009 European Elections

The outcome of the European elections in June will affect all 500 million people in the EU. To help prepare for this poll in 27 countries the European Parliament has launched a new "elections" part of the site. It will have all the information you need to find out about the election in your country and across the EU.

You can find out about your MEPs and their work, take part in online debates and use the multimedia functions. The site also contains a section called "why vote?" which looks at some reasons to get involved in this election. The first link below takes you to the site.

*Elections section:* <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/default.htm?language=EN>

*"Why vote?" :*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/whyvote/default.htm?language=EN>

### Evangelia Tzampazi on the "invisible enemy" of depression

Mental health problems can affect our "daily life, family, school, work and leisure" and early diagnosis and treatment is the best way to avert personal catastrophe, according to Greek Socialist Evangelia Tzampazi, who is preparing a report on the subject. Mental illness affects millions of Europeans and is linked to 90% of all suicides.

For more information: visit [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/066-48731-040-02-07-911-20090206STO48710-2009-09-02-2009/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/066-48731-040-02-07-911-20090206STO48710-2009-09-02-2009/default_en.htm)

### MEPs urge for structured civil dialogue

The European Parliament adopted last week a report by Polish Socialist Genowefa Grabowska MEP, urging for a more structured dialogue between European Union institutions and civil society. The report has the purpose to set new inter-institutional agreements and ameliorate methods for organizing the consultation process and the funding of civil society, if the Lisbon Treaty is ratified.

In the Lisbon Treaty, participatory democracy is enhanced through the right of the citizens' initiative, which allows citizens to ask the Commission to take a specific initiative if they introduce at least a million signatures from a relevant number of member states.

Main points of the report include:

- Enhanced, streamlined access to Council documents
- Better inter-institutional methods on consultations with civil society.
- New channels, methods and opportunities for communicating with citizens

- Appropriate funding of civil dialogue  
MHE welcomes the European Parliament decision to recognize the importance of civil society in shaping EU policies. Provided that the Lisbon Treaty is ratified, enhancing civil dialogue will be a primordial step forward in contributing to a democratic decision-making process at the European level.

For more info visit: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/meps-push-structured-dialogue-eu-citizens/article-178503>

EMPL Committee adopted the draft opinion on the directive proposal regarding equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion, disability, age or sexual orientation

On the 20th of January, during the Employment Committee of the European Parliament meeting, MEPs adopted the draft opinion made by Elizabeth Lynne regarding the directive proposal on equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion, disability, age or sexual orientation. The draft opinion was adopted by 28 votes to 11 with 7 abstentions. Important amendments in the draft were adopted including the amendment n°21 regarding the obligation to compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability provisions. Other important amendments have been adopted on provisions regarding multiple discrimination.

To read more about the draft opinion, see the following link to the European Parliament website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-416.647+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

## VII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

PACE Calls for People with Disabilities to Be Full Members of Society

Strasbourg, France - The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) asked member states to include disability issues in all areas of policy-making and allocate sufficient funds to them. To speed up the integration of people with disabilities into society and respect for their rights, the Assembly called on governments to give them equal access to education, sustainable employment and health care, and to facilitate access to public areas and transport.

For more information: visit <http://www.community-living.info/index.php?page=233&news=328&pages=archive=>

## VIII. PUBLICATIONS

Supporting Independent Living for Disabled People

In October 2005, the Papworth Trust commissioned RAND Europe to support an evaluation strategy that would assess the successes and challenges of the FfL (Foundations for Living) initiative, lead to strengthened accountability arrangements, and provide lessons that could then be applied to other services run by both the Papworth Trust and other providers elsewhere in the UK and beyond (Stages 1 and 2 of the evaluation). This report sets out the findings of Stage 3 of the evaluation which has focused on evaluating the impact of Foundations for Living, and on examining interventions run by other organisations which are comparable to Foundations for Living.

For more information: visit [http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/TR616/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR616/)

Source: ECCL

Promoting the human rights of people with disabilities

The Harvard Project on Disability (HPOD) works to promote the human rights of people with disabilities worldwide. Their central mission is to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This human rights treaty mandates that persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as all other persons. The HPOD works to empower all people to make the changes needed in their communities to promote disability human rights. They offer publications that explain the Convention and the rights it

contains. Their training materials include the handbook "Change Your Life with Human Rights" and "Human Rights Yes!", a human rights training manual developed for people with disabilities and their representative organizations.

For more information: visit <http://www.hpod.org/publications/human-rights-training>

#### International Review on Suicide

In late December 2008, Scottish Government published a systematic international literature review on risk and protective factors in suicide. The Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health, in partnership with the University of Edinburgh (Research Unit in Health, Behaviour and Change and General Practice Section) and the University of Stirling (Department of Applied Social Science and Department of Nursing and Midwifery), were commissioned to undertake a review of the literature on risk and protective factors for suicide and suicidal behaviour.

The review had two overarching aims: first, to describe and assess current knowledge regarding the societal and cultural factors associated with increased incidence of suicide (risk factors), and to delineate the population subgroups that are at increased risk of suicidal behaviour; and second, to describe and assess current knowledge regarding factors that promote resilience and healthy survival against suicidal behavior amongst people who are exposed to known suicidal risk conditions (protective factors).

For more information: visit

<http://www.eufami.org/images/eufami/main/file/@bulletin%20january%202009.pdf>

Source: Eufami

#### IAPO launches Patient Safety Toolkit

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations has launched an advocacy toolkit for patient groups to inform and support their activities, advocating for improved patient safety.

The IAPO Advocacy Toolkit contains background information, facts, and figures on key patient safety issues identified by IAPO's 200 patient group members as of immediate concern to them. These are: Medical Error; Taking Medicines Correctly, Hospital Acquired Infections, Quality and Safety of Medicines, Re-Use of Single Use Medical Devices, Injection Safety; Maternal and Child Health; and Participation in Clinical Trials. The Toolkit also provides detailed advice and tips on how to advocate and build partnerships to achieve patient safety goals and on communicating messages to patients and other health stakeholders.

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

Or contact: [roxana.radulescu@eu-patient.eu](mailto:roxana.radulescu@eu-patient.eu) or [jeremiah@patientsorganizations.org](mailto:jeremiah@patientsorganizations.org)

## **IX. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION**

#### New video on mental health

Breaking the stigma around mental illness is a priority of the EU Commission. This video, presented by the European Commission on the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2008, highlights examples of successful initiatives promoting corporate social responsibility in the workplace.

The video is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/press/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/press/index_en.htm)

## **X. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **17-18 February 2009-01-30**

#### **Conference: "Securing Europe's Healthcare Future", Prague (Czech Republic)**

For more information: visit <http://www.sustainhealthcare.org/>

#### **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)

**06-08 March 2009**

**XVI International Symposium about current issues and controversies in psychiatry "Suicidal Behaviour", Barcelona, Spain**

For more information: visit <http://www.geysec.es/controversias/>

**NEW!! 17-18 March 2009**

**Mental Health and well-being at the workplace. Protection and inclusion in challenging times. Berlin (Germany)**

For more information: visit <http://www.mental-wellbeing.net/>

**NEW!! 17-18 March 2009**

**WNUSP General Assembly and Conference 2009 - Making our Rights a Reality - Human Rights in the Age of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Kampala (Uganda)**

For more information: visit <http://wnusp.rafus.dk/>

**27-29 March 2009**

**9th 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 [lorisegr@unipg.it](mailto:lorisegr@unipg.it)

**06-08 May 2009**

**Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) Violi, Crete (Greece)**

For more information: visit <http://www.univie.ac.at/hph/creta2009/>

**27-29 May 2009**

**9th 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>

**NEW!! 4-6 June 2009**

**Annual Meeting of European Academy of childhood Disability "From Myth to Evidence". Vilnius (Lithuania)**

For more information: visit <http://www.eacd2009.com/>

**22-24 October 2009**

**6th European Congress Violence Clinical Psychiatry, Stockholm (Sweden)**

For more information: visit <http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/stockholm/ecvcp/Invitation.html>

**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)

**NEW!! 29-30 October 2009**

**7th European congress of community psychology "Common values, diverse practices" Paris (France)**

For more information: visit <http://www.eccp-paris2009.com/en/presentation-en.php>

**NEW!! 26-27 November 2009**

**The forgotten children. Major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of parents with mental illness, Vilnius (Lithuania)**

For more information: visit

[http://www.eufami.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=51&Itemid=75](http://www.eufami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=51&Itemid=75) or  
mail: [vilnius2009@eufami.org](mailto:vilnius2009@eufami.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)