



# MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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## I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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

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

### Capacity-building seminar for MHE members

A capacity-building seminar for all MHE members, including people with (a history of) mental health problems, will be organised preceding the MHE Conference 2008, on Wednesday 6 August 2008 in Aalborg.

MHE members will be provided with information about the EU policies and processes around the review of renewed Lisbon Strategy as well as highlight possibilities, to ensure that their voices are heard in the process of the preparation of the new National Strategies 2008-2011. The capacity-building seminar will also include a focus on strengthening the MHE members' ability to organise and run focus groups with people with (a history of) mental health problems in order to give a voice to them and to promote their participation in this process. The second part of the day will focus specifically on empowerment training for people with (a history of) mental health problems. The capacity-building seminar will be organised by the MHE Secretariat together with a suitable trainer (external consultant) and experts giving presentations.

More information will be made available to MHE members during the next weeks.

### MHE General Assembly 2008

MHE's General Assembly will take place in Aalborg, Denmark, on Saturday afternoon 9 August 2008, after the closing of the MHE conference.

The agenda for the General Assembly will soon be sent to MHE members.

### MHE contributes to the European Commission consultation on the EU budget review

In April, MHE responded to the European Commission consultation on "*Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe*". This consultation took place in the framework of the fundamental review of the EU budget, which the Commission was invited to undertake in the May 2006 Interinstitutional Agreement. The budget review is a unique opportunity for a thorough assessment of the EU budget and its financing, free from the constraints of a negotiation on a financial framework. It will take a long time horizon, to see how the budget can already be shaped to serve EU policies and to meet the challenges of the decades ahead.

In its contribution, MHE highlighted the many changes and situations that are at work in Europe, which can negatively affect the mental health and well-being of people: Stress at the work place has risen over the last years due to various insecurities concerning the below minimum-wage and below decent-life salaries, the increase in working hours, the demands and the competition at work etc. People who suffer from mental health problems are often discriminated against and denied jobs as a result of the stigma attached to mental illness. Young people with mental health problems, but also adults experience difficulties in equal access to education and training. This is especially the case in rural areas and areas that are most affected by poverty. The social implications of the changing roles of women and men have various consequences for their mental health and well-being. Connected to this is the matter of declining birth rates as well as child poverty. Mental illness is an under-recognised but significant contributory factor to child poverty. The increasing number of older people who live alone leads to a rise in higher rates of depression and other mental health problems. The institutionalisation of this group perpetuates their social exclusion and is, in itself, a violation of human rights.

MHE believes that segregating people, barring them from access to education and employment, denying them the right to choose where and how they live and with whom they associate, solely on the basis of a mental illness label, is unacceptable. And this does not only concern a small minority or only the most vulnerable groups, but it concerns society as a whole, the injustices that exist within and the social disintegration and conflict that results from it.

Thus, MHE made a strong plea in its contribution towards the European Commission to restore social equality and life chances, i.e. opportunities that enable individuals to improve their quality of life. Measures of EU budgetary reform should be targeted not towards the profit of a few but towards the prosperity of all. Unity, diversity and social cohesion can only exist under the condition that everyday life is satisfactory for all, that there are life chances for all and equality for all.

MHE believes that Europe possesses a great deal of knowledge about the above mentioned social challenges. What is needed now is to use the EU's resources, including its budget, to promote innovative solutions to meet these challenges and needs in order to prevent further growth of inequalities, rising poverty and social exclusion. EU policies and programmes must be strengthened that promote a better quality of life for all Europeans, that is on a large scale and with long-term impact.

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

#### MHE Briefing Meeting with Directors of MHE Mental Health Organisations, Brussels, 28-29 April 2008

On 28-29 April 2008 MHE organised a briefing meeting with the directors of mental health organisations that are part of the MHE network. The aim of the meeting was to provide MHE member organisations with an overview of recent developments in the field of EU social and health policy, and to discuss the establishment of MHE national focal points.

After a welcome by Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, and Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, Trude Eliassen from the European Commission, Unit E2: Social Protection and Social Inclusion, presented the Commission's PROGRESS Programme for Employment and social Solidarity. The presentation was followed by an overview of the EU Public Health Programme given by Mari Fresu, MHE Policy Officer. Christine Marking from Marking Public Affairs then gave a comprehensive introduction to lobbying the European institutions and highlighted ways for the MHE members to lobby and advocate for mental health and well-being at all policy levels.

The rest of the day was dedicated to presentations on examples of national focal points and networks of other organisations, at the European level (presented by the European Federation of Associations for the Homeless - FEANTSA) as well as at the national level (presented by Pro Mente Austria, Spanish Association for Neuro-Psychiatry - AEN, GGZ Netherlands). As a result of the following discussion, MHE together with its member organisations decided to appoint national focal points that shall support an enhanced and intensified flow of information on EU policies and processes in MHE's main areas of work. A national focal point is a representative from one of MHE's member organisations per country. Under MHE's work plan for the years 2008-2010 with the title "*Working together in the EU – Enhancing communication, collaboration and commitment in the fight against poverty and social exclusion of people with mental health problems*" – supported by the European Commission PROGRESS Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – a new mode of information exchange and consultation is envisaged involving national focal points that are in close contact with MHE on the one hand and with all MHE members in their country on the other hand. They will act as intermediaries between MHE and its member organisations in cases where a) information from the European level needs to be disseminated at the national, regional and local level, as well as in cases where b) MHE needs input from its members working at the local, regional and national level in order to report back to the European level on specific issues of consultation. Special trainings for the national focal points will support their ability to act in this capacity on behalf of MHE.

The meeting concluded on the next day with a visit to the European Parliament and a presentation of the Parliament's powers, set-up, organisation and decision-making.

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

#### MHE involved as collaborating partner in new European project: DETERMINE

The European Consortium for Action on the Socio-economic Determinants of Health - DETERMINE (2007-2010) is a EU wide project that aims to stimulate action and raise awareness on the socio-economic determinants of health inequalities. It brings together a Consortium of over 50 health bodies, public health and health promotion institutes,

governments and various other organisations from 26 European countries (MHE is one of them), with the Czech National Public Health Institute acting as the contract holder. The overall objective is to promote greater knowledge about health equity amongst decision makers and to build capacity to take action in this area.

The Consortium's second meeting was held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 7-8 May 2008 and the final event is envisaged for March 2010 in Brussels.

During this meeting, partners were able to build closer liaisons with the WHO (World Health Organization) Commission on Social Determinants of Health and to agree on the tasks to complete during the first year of the project's work, which is divided into work groups led by partners that are due to report during summer.

*For more information: visit the project website, <http://www.health-inequalities.eu/>*

*Source: DETERMINE*

#### MHE welcomes new stagiaire

At the beginning of May, Roselyne Bourgon joined the MHE Secretariat, where she will work as a stagiaire until the end of September.

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

She will, amongst others, assist Fanny Muller with the coordination of the MHE Human Rights Committee.

You can contact Roselyne by email at [roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org](mailto:roselyne.bourgon@mhe-sme.org)

We wish her a warm welcome!

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 5-6 May, Sogol Noorani, Policy Officer, attended the European Commission Conference, "*Developing an EU Agenda for Opportunities, Access and Solidarity*", which was held in Brussels.

On 6 May, Fanny Muller, Information and Human Rights Officer, participated in a meeting of the Social Platform FRAND (Fundamental Rights and Non Discrimination) in Brussels.

On 7 May, Sogol Noorani represented MHE at the second preparatory meeting for the Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion, which will take place on 15-16 October in Marseille (France).

On 8 May, Sogol Noorani gave a presentation on the methodology of MHE's "Good Practices" project at the Agenda Workshop on the exchange of best practices in suicide prevention, focusing on young people, organised by the Liaison agency Flanders-Europe

On 14 May, Roselyne Bourgon, stagiaire, participated in the Disability Intergroup Public Hearing on "*Future anti-discrimination legislation: what are the specificities of the 'disability' ground?*", which was organised in the European Parliament in Brussels. (see p. 13)

On 15 May, Olivia Merlet, stagiaire, and Roselyne Bourgon attended a CEDAG Conference on "How to foster Civil Dialogue in Europe", which was held in the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

On 22-25 May, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the Slovenian Presidency Conference on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in Slovenia. She also attended the European Disability Forum (EDF) Board meeting and General Assembly.

On 24 May, Mary Van Dievel attended the AEN (Asociacion Espanola de Neuropsiquiatria, MHE member) Conference in Girona (Spain). She presented the MHE Work Programme 2008 and MHE past activities.

On 26-27 May, Fanny Muller participated in the ERA (Academy of European Law) Seminar "*The EU Anti-Discrimination Directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 in Practice: an In-Depth Analysis*" in Trier (Germany).

On 27 May, Mary Van Dievel and Sogol Noorani represented MHE at the Social Platform bi-annual meeting with the European Commission in Brussels.

On 29 May, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, and Sogol Noorani took part in a meeting of the Social Platform Social Policy Working Group in Brussels.

On 30 May, Mary Van Dievel attended the EU Health Policy Forum which was organised in Brussels.

## II. MENTAL HEALTH AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

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

### Human Trafficking - Slavery in Modern World.

Modern slavery is a global trade in human trafficking. It is a business with huge profits for traffickers and organised criminal groups. Trafficking happens because there is a demand for women, men and children to be used for sexual exploitation world wide.

Male human trafficking is rife in the Middle East and the Gulf States.

Young boys are sold for prostitutes and for work as camel racers, crop pickers and other related jobs.

The United Nations estimates the global figures for sex trafficking at over one million women and children a year.

In 2006 Police Operation Pentameter UK saw the rescue of over 80 young women and children from Malaysia, Thailand, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Brazil, Pakistan and Russia.

Modern slavery, exploitation and human trafficking represent the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of sexual and economic exploitation. Human Rights legislation informs us that we all have a right to live our lives free from slavery and exploitation.

Slavery and human trafficking are clear violation of HUMAN RIGHTS.

Human Trafficking is based on three core elements: movement of a person; deception or coercion; entering a situation of exploitation.

There are five common patterns of recruitment into trafficking: complete coercion through abduction or kidnapping; deception by offers of employment; deception through offers of marriage; deception about working conditions; deception about potential earning and wealth without sex industry connotations.

Human trafficking is rife because there are huge profits to be made, there are low risks of detection and there are high opportunities to control victims.

How can we begin to address the issues of trafficking?

- by raising awareness (locally, nationally and internationally)
- address and prevent demands
- ensure that justice and legislation are implemented
- provide safe housing and support
- work in the countries of source
- ensure compliance with human rights and the international co-operation between all countries involved
- involve all local partners and communities; Police, Local Authorities, Churches and Communities of Faiths, NGO's, Health care providers, Youth Services, Social Services and Employers.

The Palermo Protocol came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 2003, in Palermo, Italy, the protocol was signed by many nations and it requires states to fight the trafficking business and to support victims. It supplements the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organised Crime. All states are required under article 6 of the Palermo Protocol to consider

implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking.

What are the mental health consequences of Trafficking?: feeling of loss and displacement; depression, hopelessness, post traumatic stress disorder; trauma of abuse; trauma of violence; eating disorders; suicidal tendencies; depersonalisation and desensitisation; self harm; personality difficulties; isolation, fear, and marginalisation; loss of meaning and a sense of being devalued; social exclusion and feeling of hopelessness and fear of people and life.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETSNo197) 2005, encourages countries to adapt or strengthen legislative, educational, social, psychological and cultural measures to raise awareness about trafficking and the consequences of trafficking. It also calls for developing measures to reduce demands. The Convention also calls for the establishment of support measures to assist victims in their physical, psychological and social recovery.

Article 13 of the Convention states that each country shall provide in its internal law a recovery and reflection period for victims, this ought to be for at least 30 days in order to help their recovery and escape the influence of traffickers. During this period it should not be possible to enforce any expulsion order against the person who was trafficked.

Not all EU countries have signed up to the Convention.

According to the Anti-Slavery Society, although there is no longer any state which recognises or which will enforce a claim by a person to a right of property over another, the abolition of slavery does not mean that it ceases to exist.

There are millions of people throughout the world – mainly children in conditions of slavery as well as in various forms of servitude which are in many respects similar to slavery. There may be at least 27 million people in the world who can be regarded as slaves.

In December 2005 Kofi Annan then the UN Secretary said: *"Many forms of slavery persist; including forced and bonded labour, child labour and slavery for ritual and religious purposes. The world is now wrestling with a new form of slavery – trafficking in human beings, in which many vulnerable people are virtually abandoned by legal and social systems into a sordid realm of exploitation and abuse"*.

*Many thanks to Malgorzata Kmita, United Kingdom, for this contribution.*

### III. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

SLOVENIA - 10th EURO-PSY Rehabilitation festival, "La ronde des cultures", 23-25 September 2008, Ankaran (Slovenia)

SENT – the Slovenian Association for Mental Health (MHE member), with the cooperation of EURO-PSY Rehabilitation, organizes, in the frame of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, a rehabilitation festival, with the title "La ronde des cultures" (the circle of cultures). This festival will include several workshops and round tables, on issues linked to culture, art and sport, as well as the cooperation between users, carers (parents) and professionals.

*For more information (see in June): the festival dedicated website,*

<http://euro-psy2008.sent.si>

SLOVENIA – Ozara Association collaborates in the Research Monitoring Positive Mental Health Environments

Institute of Public Health Maribor invited the Ozara association to participate in the research project of the European Commission, which main objective will be the comparison of the different mental health promotion strategies in several regions of the European Union, aimed at developing an instrument that will help the policy designers in planning successful promotion strategies. The project is coordinated by Professor Agustin Ozamiz from the Deusto University in Bilbao, in cooperation with the Finnish National Research and development Centre for Welfare and Health.

*For more information: visit the Ozara website, [www.ozara.org](http://www.ozara.org), or send an email to [info@ozara.org](mailto:info@ozara.org)*

*Source: Ozara*

## IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

### **ACN – Active Citizenship Network**

2nd European patients' Rights Day, 18 April 2008, Gorizia (Italy)

In 2002, ACN together with a group of European citizens' organisations drafted a European Charter of Patients' Rights. The 14 Patients' rights seek to make the fundamental rights mentioned in the Charter of Nice, applicable and appropriate to the current transition process in health services. These rights all aim to guarantee a "high level of human health protection" (Article 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights) and assure the high quality of services provided by the various national health services.

For more information: visit the ACN website, [www.activecitizenship.net](http://www.activecitizenship.net)

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

Special issue on the EAPN campaign for adequate minimum incomes schemes

The new issue of Network News gives an overview of the EAPN campaign on minimum income.

To download the new issue of Network News:

[http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=3390](http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3390)

For more information on the EAPN campaign on minimum income schemes: EAPN website,

[http://www.eapn.org/code/en/news\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=3130](http://www.eapn.org/code/en/news_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3130)

EAPN puts forward a strategy for strengthening the OMC

EAPN proposals on strengthening the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) highlight their key concerns and recommendations on this regard. The draft communication is being currently prepared by the Commission as one element of the revised Social Policy Agenda Package which will be subject of a parliamentary report.

To read the full report: [http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=3425](http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=3425)

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

"Living Independently and Being Included: Understanding the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", ECCL Seminar 2008, 12–13 September 2008, Oslo (Norway)

The objective of ECCL's Annual Seminars is to promote good practice in the development and provision of quality community-based services for people with disabilities.

The Seminar Programme and registration form should be available soon on the ECCL website: [www.community-living.info](http://www.community-living.info)

Advocacy Manual: Developing a Strategy for Community Living

The European Coalition for Community Living is in the process of writing an advocacy manual, which aims to assist organisations in their work to improve the situation for people with disabilities. In countries where community-based services for people with disabilities are scarce or non-existent and many disabled people still live in long-term residential institutions, the manual will help organisations think about what they can do to change the situation and provide them with a variety of tools and ideas.

The manual will present examples of good practice in different areas of advocacy in the form of case studies. It will explain how advocacy tools, such as lobbying, campaigning, awareness raising and media work can be used to support the development of quality community-based services for people with disabilities.

The manual will be launched at the ECCL Seminar in Oslo, Norway on 12 – 13 September. A workshop will be organised for a smaller group of participants on 13 September.

ECCL is collecting examples of advocacy activities from local or national organisations to include in the manual as case studies. These can be examples of lobbying activities, campaigns, awareness raising activities, partnerships with the local authorities, media work, coalition building and others. If you would like to contribute, please include a short description of your activity (one paragraph) and send it to [coordinator@community-living.info](mailto:coordinator@community-living.info)

## **EPF – European Patients' Forum**

### EPF Spring Conference on health literacy, 8-9 April 2008: conclusions and recommendations

The main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the two days' discussions have just been finalised. These recommendations focus upon: the need for further research; the importance of setting up an EU level Health Literacy Network; wider distribution of health information and information to patients that meets core quality criteria; patient and health professional education and productive dialogue between patients and healthcare providers; the meaningful involvement of patients. Collectively, these recommendations should be used to strengthen the 'health literacy' component of the EU Health Strategy – 'Together for Health'.

*Presentations from the Conference should be available soon on the EPF website:*

<http://www.eu-patient.eu/index.php>

*Source: EPF*

### EPF new telephone contact details

EPF has installed new telephone and fax numbers:

- Tel + 32 (0) 2 280 23 34
- Fax +32 (0) 2 231 14 47

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

### FEANTSA toolkit for developing an integrated homeless strategy

FEANTSA's toolkit for developing integrated homeless strategies is now available in four languages: English, French, Polish and Italian.

*To access the toolkit: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=797>*

## **Inclusion Europe**

### Inclusion Europe Champions Supported Decision-Making

On 12 May 2008, in New York the United Nations celebrated the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Being the first human rights document of the century, it demands a full recognition of persons with disabilities before the law. However, people with intellectual disabilities still experience discrimination under systems of legal guardianship in Europe, contrary to Article 12 of the new Convention.

To address this disparity, Inclusion Europe has launched a Position Paper that explains the operating principles of a system which supports disabled people in making decisions, but ensures their full legal capacity to act. The Position Paper on Supported Decision-Making identifies eight key elements that should be considered in the process of implementation of Article 12, in order to make it a tool that effectively promotes the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Europe takes a holistic approach to these questions. As well as undertaking essential law reforms, Inclusion Europe encourages States Parties to:

- promote self-advocacy and self-determination of disabled people,
- promote the use of adapted communication methods for those who cannot speak,
- create processes for the selection, registration and training of supporters, and
- to implement safeguards as protection from abuse.

*To download the Position Paper: Inclusion Europe website,*

[http://www.inclusion-europe.org/documents/Position\\_Supported\\_Decision\\_Making\\_EN.pdf](http://www.inclusion-europe.org/documents/Position_Supported_Decision_Making_EN.pdf)

*Source: Inclusion Europe*

### Final Conference of the European Study "The Specific Risks of Discrimination Against Persons in Situation of Major Dependence or with Complex Needs", 4 - 5 June 2008, Brussels

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the results of this study, led by Inclusion Europe, and further action with the researchers and with the members of the Policy Committee of the Study. Representatives of national governments and of the European Commission will contribute their views on how the rights and interests of people with severe disabilities or with complex needs can be better protected.

Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE in the Policy Committee of the Study.

To read the Conference Programme and for more information: Inclusion Europe website, <http://www.inclusion-europe.org/main.php?lang=EN&level=1&s=83&mode=nav1&n1=159>

## **MDRI – Mental Disability Rights International**

### **K-MDRI and MDRI Victorious in Shaping Kosovo's New Constitution to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative (K-MDRI) and Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) have succeeded in changing language in the newly drafted Kosovo constitution to fully protect persons with disabilities. Their efforts will assure that there is no separation of persons with physical, mental and other disabilities from the rest of the society and that persons will not be subjected to segregation or unwarranted detention because of a disability – giving all citizens the right to liberty and security.

MDRI and K-MDRI have been working tirelessly since 2002 to change government policies leading to the closing of Shtime Special Institute, where hundreds of persons have been illegally detained for years, and to build support for a community integration system for person with disabilities.

The proposed constitution will soon be presented to the Assembly of Kosovo for approval.

To read more about Kosovo's Constitution: visit <http://www.kushtetutakosoves.info/?cid=2,1>

For more information: MDRI website, <http://www.mdri.org/>

Source: MDRI

## **V. EUROPEAN UNION**

### **The EESC invites you to the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an EU-level consultative assembly representing the economic, social and civic components of organised civil society in the Member States. Its members' main task is to draw up opinions for the EU institutions, tapping into their pool of experience in the field, with the aim of shaping the institutions' decisions towards the public's hopes and expectations. Over 80% of EESC opinions have an impact on the European Commission's work, giving it a very visible role in EU participatory democracy.

This year, the EESC is holding a series of cultural events to celebrate its anniversary.

For more information: visit the EESC website,

[http://eesc.europa.eu/eesc-50/index\\_en.asp?id=100150en](http://eesc.europa.eu/eesc-50/index_en.asp?id=100150en)

### **New statute for the European Ombudsman**

On 22 April 2008, the European Parliament voted in favour of the changes to the Ombudsman statute. The most important ones include: Ombudsman full access to EU documents during its inquiries (all EU institutions and bodies will have to provide the information and documents required); facilitated co-operation with his national counterparts and international institutions; and improvement of the service provided for citizens, thus strengthening their trust in the EU and its institutions.

For more information: European Commission,

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=EO/08/4&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **VI. EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

### **Commission wants to encourage civil society's involvement in EU enlargement process**

On 17 and 18 April 2008, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement hosted a conference in Brussels on '*Civil Society Development in Southeast Europe: Building Europe Together*'. The conference's main aim was to offer civil society organisations from the EU and the candidate countries a platform for networking, exchanging best practice and building partnerships. The Commission also provided information about funding available under the preaccession instrument (IPA) and other EU programmes to support the

development of civil society. Civil society has a vital role to play in the integration of EU candidate and potential candidate countries, and turning them into modern European democracies.

*For more information: the Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/civil-society-development/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/civil-society-development/index_en.htm)

*Source: AGE – The European Older People's Platform*

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

### The EU's Social Agenda Forum

On 5 and 6 May a Social Agenda Forum took place in Brussels where the forthcoming "renewed" Social Agenda was discussed. The Social Agenda is to become the roadmap for the EU's Social Policy priorities for the coming years.

The forum gathered together some 300 participants from social NGOs, national governments, local and regional authorities, universities and the EU institutions. In three workshops stakeholders discussed "new policy responses to changing challenges", "a changing configuration of roles and responsibilities of actors" and "the role of the EU in delivering opportunities, access and solidarity". Debates were lively and summed up in a plenary session with high profile keynote speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Slovene EU Presidency, and representatives from employers' organisations, trade unions and social NGOs, amongst them Mental Health Europe.

The social NGOs, represented in the final plenary session by the newly elected Social Platform president Conny Reuter (Secretary General of Solidar) insisted at this meeting that the renewed Social Agenda must take into account their views, and that the EU's priorities must be shifted from the narrowed 'growth and jobs' vision to a social and sustainable future. Reuter also stressed that social policies are essential to the *raison d'être* of the EU and build its legitimacy.

In his closing speech however, Commission's President Barroso made it clear that there will be no significant shift in EU policy making. He underlined that "a healthy economy is the foundation for prosperity" and that the renewed Social Agenda is to implement the "growth and jobs strategy" by focusing on "opportunities, access and solidarity".

The final Social Agenda of the European Commission shall be adopted at the end of June 2008, together with other social policy measures in a so-called "social package".

Sogol Noorani, MHE Policy Officer, represented MHE at the Forum.

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

### New call for proposals to promote quality of Social Services of General Interest – **Deadline: 18 July 2008**

The European Commission has recently published a call for proposals on promoting quality of Social Services of General Interest (SSGI).

The objective of this call for proposals is to support bottom-up initiatives aimed at developing mechanisms for the definition, measurement, assessment and improvement of quality of SSGI. Preference will be given to initiatives having a trans-national character.

The projects will be financed under the Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS. PROGRESS was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

*For more information: visit the Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders\\_en.cfm?id=2965](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=2965)

### Child Poverty and Well-Being in the EU. Current status and way forward

In January the Social Protection Committee adopted a new report on "*Child Poverty and Well-Being in the EU. Current status and way forward*".

In the EU, one child in five lives under the poverty threshold, and in most countries they face a greater risk of poverty than the rest of the population.

Using commonly agreed indicators, the report identifies the predominant factors affecting child poverty in each country. The report also reviews the national monitoring and evaluation systems in place and draws 15 recommendations to better assess and monitor child poverty and the multiple dimensions of child well-being across the EU.

The report clearly underlines that health and mental health are key dimensions of child well-being, both impacting on their current well-being and future life chances.

To read the report: the European Commission website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/publications/2008/ke3008251\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/2008/ke3008251_en.pdf)

#### Commission report on quality and quantity of long-term care services

The European Commission's report – '*Long-term Care in the European Union*' – analyses the main challenges Member States face in the field of long-term care, their strategies for tackling them and presents possible solutions. It draws on the national reports submitted as part of the EU's system of common objectives, assessment and reporting for social protection and inclusion. It identifies the main challenges for national governments as:

- Ensuring access for all to long-term care services;
- Securing financing for long-term care through an adequate mix of public and private sources of finance and potential changes in the financing mechanisms;
- Improving coordination between social and medical services, often involved in the provision of long-term care services;
- Promoting home or community-based care rather than institutional care to help dependent people remain in their own homes for as long as possible;
- Improving the recruitment and working conditions of formal carers and supporting informal carers.

The report was discussed at a conference on intergenerational solidarity organised by the Slovenian EU Presidency on 28-29 April in Brdo (Slovenia).

To read the full report: the Commission website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2008/apr/long\\_term\\_care\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2008/apr/long_term_care_en.pdf)

To read the special Eurobarometer survey on health and long-term care:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_283\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_283_en.pdf)

#### Three new films on Europe's social concerns

The Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has produced three new video releases on social issues. The clip "*Protecting the dignity of our older people*" throws light on the abuse of elderly people, which has become a serious problem in our society. The film shows good examples of tackling poor treatment, neglect and abuse of dependent elderly persons and preventing similar abuse in the future. Another film focuses on the gender pay gap in Europe and shows how a number of EU countries are taking actions to try to end discrimination against women in the workplace. On average women earn 15% less than men throughout the European Union. The third film deals with the problem of tackling child poverty.

The films have been broadcasted on Europe by Satellite and have been placed in their shorter 3-minute versions on EUTube - the European Commission's channel on popular video-sharing website YouTube.

To watch the film on elder abuse: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rfvckKQMGU>

To watch the film on the gender pay gap: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ItyTeurhWc>

To watch the film on child poverty: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfVsb6u2NPw>

Source: AGE – The European Older People's Platform

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

##### Proceedings of the Children's Workshop, Luxembourg, 20-21 November 2007

The proceedings of the Children's Workshop organised by the European Commission – DG Health and Consumer Protection, in Luxembourg on 20-21 November 2007 are now available on DG Sanco webpage. You will also find the presentations made during the event, such as a contribution from Prof. Jorma Piha (Finland) on "*Child mental health. A major component in child health*" or a contribution by Deborah Olszewski (EMCDDA) on "*Drug use and related problems among very young people*".

To access the documents:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/implement/wp/lifestyle/ev\\_20071120\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/implement/wp/lifestyle/ev_20071120_en.htm)

#### IMHPA Project online training resources

The training section on the Imhpa (European Network for Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention) website ([www.imhpa.net](http://www.imhpa.net)) has been recently updated. A section has been added with a selection of internationally available training in mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention.

This information system is aimed at European professionals with an interest in mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention who are looking for training activities to increase their knowledge of mental health promotion/mental disorders prevention and related topics.

MHE members who are aware of any other training activity in their country, Europe or at the international level are invited to send the information (with a web link if available) to the Imhpa Management Team at [imhpa@gencat.net](mailto:imhpa@gencat.net).

Imhpa is an international network of expert partners in 30 European countries and 7 international networks (of which MHE) and professionals who share the aim of supporting the development and implementation of mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention action across Europe.

To access the Imhpa website: [www.imhpa.net](http://www.imhpa.net)

#### Final report of the EU project 'Closing the Gap: Strategies for Action to tackle health inequalities in Europe'

Numerous scientific studies show that low socio-economic status is associated with poor health over the life course: In adult age, the risk of chronic diseases like depressive disorders is two- to three times higher as compared to persons with a higher socioeconomic status.

The 21 participating agencies, who formed a 'Partnership for Equity in Health' assessed how health inequalities are currently being addressed in their countries, and developed Strategic Initiatives outlining further steps that can be taken to improve this situation. In addition, project partners identified over 90 good practice projects and programmes that are contributing to the reduction of health inequalities in their countries. 'Closing the Gap' also looked at how policies and programmes deriving from the EU can have a positive or negative impact on health inequalities in EU Member States.

For more information and to read the final report: DG Sanco webpage,

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_projects/2003/action3/action3\\_2003\\_15\\_en.htm#3](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2003/action3/action3_2003_15_en.htm#3)

## **VII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

#### New Written Declaration on the Discrimination and Institutionalisation of Children with Disabilities in the EU

The Written Declaration 0024/2008 on the Discrimination and Institutionalisation of Children with Disabilities in the EU was opened for signature at the European Parliament on 9 April.

The Declaration, submitted by MEPs Kathy Sinnott, Bastiaan Belder, Els de Groen, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou and Richard Howitt, calls for the allocation and monitoring of EU funds to ensure that all Member States can provide appropriate and inclusive care for children. Furthermore, it asks the Commission and the Member States to support deinstitutionalisation through alternatives like community based services, including education and recreational facilities, and to prevent future violations of fundamental rights of children in state care.

A minimum of 393 MEP signatures are required before 15 July 2008 for the Declaration to be officially adopted by the European Parliament.

You can lobby your country's Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to sign the Written Declaration by sending them an e-mail or a letter. The names of your country's MEPs and their full contact details are available on the website of the European Parliament [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu) (under Your MEPs). Many MEPs also have their own websites, with contact details in their home countries. A short e-mail or a letter to your MEPs saying that it is important they sign the Declaration might be enough to get their support.

To download the full text of the Declaration: *ECCL website,*

<http://www.community-living.info/documents/Written%20Declaration%20Deinstitutionalisation.doc>

Source: European Coalition for Community Living – ECCL

Public Hearing on "Future anti-discrimination legislation: What are the specificities of the "disability" ground?" 14 May 2008, European Parliament, Brussels

The public hearing opened with a short presentation of the antidiscrimination directive which should be elaborated by the European Commission. MEP Richard Howitt, President of the EP Disability Intergroup, stressed the fact that the legislation has to be a good legislation. The debate also focused on how to make antidiscrimination legislation.

The first part of the event was dedicated to the EDF (European Disability Forum) campaign in favour of a EU legislation to combat discrimination towards persons with disabilities which is linked to the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Lisa Waddington, EDF Chair in European Disability Law, talked about how to address disability discrimination in an Article 13 EC Directive. She explained what should be the content of such a directive from the EDF point of view.

Daniela Bankier, Legal Questions Unit, DG Employment, highlighted the failures of the existing directives. Her Unit is currently thinking of a better way to elaborate this new piece of legislation. However, the benchmark has to be the 2000 Racial Equality Directive. She also underlined the fact that the EU competences were not growing and that the Commission had to deal with these limited competences.

Liz Lynne was the rapporteur for a EP report which advocated for a single directive under which all grounds could fall, even those which were not initially foreseen. According to her the implementation of the directive is a key issue, not the legislation it contains.

The other participants were all asking for a single antidiscrimination directive.

Cveto Ursic, representing Slovenia, stressed the fact that Slovenia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people and supports the idea of a new antidiscrimination directive on disability.

Roselyne Bourgon, stagiaire, represented MHE at the public hearing.

For more information: visit the Disability Intergroup website,

<http://www.disabilityintergroup.eu/index.htm>, or send an Email to the Intergroup's Secretariat, [janina.arsenjeva@edf-feph.org](mailto:janina.arsenjeva@edf-feph.org)

3rd meeting of the EP Special Interest Group on Carers, 15 April 2008, Brussels

On 15 April the third interest group meeting on Eurocarers discussed the topic '*The Open Method of Coordination: the 2008 Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion*'. The meeting was chaired by Kathy Sinnott (MEP) and the main speakers were Jérôme Vignon, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, a representative of the Slovenian Ministry of Social Affairs, Baroness Jill Pitkeathley and MEP Marian Harkin. The main discussions addressed the need of improving governance, effectiveness and access to long term care; the consideration of (in)formal carers as real experts in long term care; the need to show more respect to the carers e.g.: increase of their salaries and job satisfaction; the need of stronger solidarity between generations; and the European Care Certificate.

The next meeting of the Interest Group on Carers will take place on 12 June. It will be focused on mental health.

Mari Fresu, MHE Health Policy Officer, represented MHE at the meeting.

For more information: contact Christine Marking at the Interest Group on Carers Secretariat, email [cmarking@skynet.be](mailto:cmarking@skynet.be)

European Parliament discusses the future of a new EU anti-discrimination directive

On 20 May the members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted a resolution on "*Progress made in equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the EU*". The resolution is based on a report produced by MEP Elisabeth Lynne and adopted by the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on 17 April 2008. The resolution clearly urges the European Commission to stay committed to the Commission's work plan for 2008 and to come out with a proposal for one 'horizontal' anti-discrimination directive covering all grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation.

The resolution states, that the European Parliament *"reiterates the political, social and legal desirability of putting an end to the hierarchy of protection against the different grounds of discrimination; strongly believes that it does not make sense to outlaw discrimination in one area whilst allowing it in another and therefore welcomes the Commission's intention to draft a comprehensive directive to combat discrimination under Article 13 of the EC Treaty as provided in its 2008 work programme."*

This resolution from the European Parliament in favour of a comprehensive directive echoes the calls for a directive covering all the grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief made by numerous social and human rights NGOs, trade unions, equality bodies and businesses. They strongly believe that one directive covering all grounds of discrimination is the best way to address enduring inequalities in legal protections. A multi-ground directive will not only end the hierarchy of protections and rights, but it is also the adequate and appropriate way of addressing the issue of multiple discrimination.

To read the full text of the European Parliament resolution: the EP website,

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2008-0159&language=EN&mode=XML>

ILGA-Europe are organising a 'non-scientific' and purely popular poll to see what people believe the Commission will do. To take part in the poll *"Your prediction"*, go on the ILGA-Europe home page, just underneath the main menu on your left hand side: [www.ilga-europe.org](http://www.ilga-europe.org)

Source: ILGA-Europe

## VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2008 Spring Session of the Council of Europe INGOs Strasbourg (France), 14-17 April 2008,

The Spring Session of the Council of Europe (CoE) INGOs (International Non Governmental Organisations enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe) was mainly dedicated to solving fundamental questions regarding the pending reorganisation of the Conference of INGOs, which aims at reinforcing its visibility and effectiveness. During the forthcoming summer session (23-26 June 2008) the new internal rules for implementing this reorganisation will be presented, debated, and adopted.

Participants also got information and debated on various issues such as the draft memorandum of partnership on relations between NGOs and local and regional authorities in CoE member states, the cooperation between the INGO Conference and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Platform, and Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue.

Fanny Muller, MHE Information and Human Rights Officer, represented MHE at the Conference. A full report of the Conference will be posted on the MHE website at the beginning of June, in English and French.

For more information: visit the INGO Conference webpage,

<http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO/Public/>

The Conference was followed by meetings of the INGO Thematic Groupings. Of particular interest was the meeting of the European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping, where Mr. Régis Brillat, Executive Secretary of the European Social Charter, made a statement on the collective complaints mechanism of the European Social Charter. Mr. Brillat also thanked members of the Grouping who submitted contributions on the implementation of the European Social Charter to the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR). MHE was one of the major contributors, thanks to the active and excellent participation of MHE members Pro Mente Austria, FOKUS (Czech Republic), Dr Jozsef Racz and László Lajtavári (Hungary), and MIND (UK). MHE also benefited from the help of ECCL Coordinator Ines Bulic and ECCL member organisation Somato (Moldova).

MHE will certainly engage in the next round of the reporting activity on the implementation of the European social Charter, to be started this autumn.

For more information on the reporting system: visit

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human\\_rights/esc/3\\_reporting\\_procedure/](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/esc/3_reporting_procedure/)

On top of that, MHE contributed recently to the drafting of a list of issues that are specific to disabled people and people with mental health problems. This list should be used each year by the European Committee of Social Rights when scrutinising the national reports on the implementation of the Social Charter. It is meant for the Committee to pay more attention to

the special needs of disabled people and people with mental health problems, starting with the next round of national reports.

Both activities were initiated and coordinated by the Grouping Vice-President, Ms Marie-José Schmitt.

*If you are interested in receiving more information and/or taking part in the reporting activity, please contact Fanny Muller at the MHE Secretariat: Email [fmuller@mhe-sme.org](mailto:fmuller@mhe-sme.org), Tel +32 2 280 04 68*

More information to follow in our next Newsletters!

## **IX. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

### New resources on combating Stigma

Health Scotland has gathered a wealth of experience in dealing with the stigma related to mental illness and is now committed to sharing these experiences and resources with other countries planning campaigns or related activities.

On 24 April, Health Scotland hosted a developmental seminar in Edinburgh (Scotland, UK), supporting Member States in developing their anti-stigma programmes, and launched a European Briefing Paper and Guidebook for Action produced in partnership with WHO Europe.

*A link to the material is available on the WHO mental health website:*

[http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/20080428\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/20080428_1)

## **X. UNITED NATIONS**

### UN Human Rights Council adopts a resolution on human rights of persons with disabilities

The Human Rights Council, UN organ responsible for "promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinctions of any kind and in a fair and equal manner", adopted at its 7<sup>th</sup> session a resolution entitled Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council reaffirmed the need to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and called upon governments to prevent and prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities and to ensure their full and effective participation and inclusion.

The Council also welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and expressed the hope that those States and regional organisations which have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as a matter of priority. The Council further encouraged the UN bodies and the States to include the disability perspective at all stages of their work, and involve national human rights institutions and NGOs representing persons with disabilities in such consultations.

*To download the UN resolution: the UN website,*

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/7session/index.htm>

## **XI. VARIOUS**

### UK - Are you close to boiling point?, Mental Health Foundation campaign about anger and mental health

We all get angry. It is one of the most basic human emotions. But for some people anger can become a problem. Problem anger has been linked to a range of physical, mental health and social problems.

The Mental Health Foundation is now publishing a report which shows that problem anger is largely left untackled in the UK, despite widespread concern about aggression, family breakdown and physical and mental health problems linked with anger.

*The report and information about how to deal with anger is available to download on the Foundation's website: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/anger>*

*You can also visit the campaign website: <http://www.yourboilingpoint.org.uk/v1/Default.aspx>*

*Source: Mental Health Foundation*

### UK - Mental Health in Complex Emergencies: a new 6-day course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has recently launched a new 6 day course on Mental Health in Complex Emergencies. The training, which will run from 1 to 6 September 2008, is organised in collaboration with Fordham University's Center for International Health and Cooperation, HealthNet TPO, and International Medical Corps (IMC).

The training targets health/mental health and other professionals wishing to gain a better understanding of what it entails to address mental health and psycho-social issues in the context of complex emergencies.

The course focuses on the specific context of conflict and post-conflict settings. It provides practical orientation and training to equip participants with skills necessary to establish and organise programmes in the mental health and psychosocial domains and strengthen applicable skills in complex humanitarian emergencies.

*For more information: visit the School's website, [www.lshtm.ac.uk/courses](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/courses), or contact Dr Egbert Sondorp at [egbert.sondorp@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:egbert.sondorp@lshtm.ac.uk)*

### The Independent Living Institute launches new version of its Accessible Vacation Home Exchange service for people with disabilities

The Independent Living Institute Accessible Vacation Home Exchange service has been greatly improved. It is now possible to add, delete, and revise your own entry, as well as add photos. Swapping homes with other persons with similar needs, in other parts of the world, is a low-cost and practical alternative. You can find out in advance how accessible the vacation home is, since you can ask your swap partner relevant questions. And, unlike most other tourists, you will have an infrastructure of neighbours and local contacts in place as you arrive.

*For more information: visit [www.independentliving.org/vacswap.html](http://www.independentliving.org/vacswap.html) or contact Miles Goldstick at [miles.goldstick@independentliving.org](mailto:miles.goldstick@independentliving.org)*

## **XII. PUBLICATIONS**

### EU Funding Guides for NGOs

ECAS, a large cross-sectoral European NGO whose mission is to enable other NGOs and individuals to make their voice heard within the EU, has produced two funding guides on how to access funding from the world's largest donor: the EU institutions and associations.

*For more information and to place an order: ECAS website,*

*[http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=category&sectionid=7&id=14&Itemid=145](http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=7&id=14&Itemid=145)*

### UNCCAS guide for developing local social action in Europe

UNCCAS (National Union of Social Action Community Centres) has published a guide for developing local social action in Europe. It explains how the different European institutions operate and provides an overview of the different possibilities offered by the European Union for developing projects at local level.

There are also a number of appendices to be found in the Europe section under the European funding heading. The appendices contain direct links to the information sources mentioned in the guide, to funding programmes, and to examples of existing projects.

*To download the guide: <http://www.unccas.org/publications/docs/Guide-Europe-EN.pdf>*

## **XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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

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

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

### **18-20 June 2008**

#### **AIGS Congress on "Psychosocial rehabilitation, let's open the borders", Liege and Eben-Emaël (Belgium)**

*For more information: visit the Congress website (in French), <http://www.rehabpsy.be/>*

**19-21 June 2008**

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

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

**26-27 June 2008**

**AFASER, ARFI and ARFIE European Seminar, "Intellectual Disability and Mental Health Issues – Reflections and Practices", Paris (France)**

*For more information: contact person, Véronique Lafontaine, Email [apemh-euroformat@skynet.be](mailto:apemh-euroformat@skynet.be)*

**26-27 June 2008**

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

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

**30 June - 4 July 2008**

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

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

**2-4 July 2008**

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

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

**9-11 July 2008**

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

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

**7-9 August 2008**

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

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

**NEW!! 18-24 August 2008**

**6<sup>th</sup> TiSSA Plenum & PreConference, "Politics - Power - Practice: Advancing Social Work Agenda in Times of Uncertainty", Riga (Latvia)**

*For more information: visit the Conference website, <http://www.tissa.net/>*

**27-30 August 2008**

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

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

**10-12 September 2008**

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

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

**NEW!! 12–13 September 2008**

**ECCL Seminar 2008, "Living Independently and Being Included: Understanding the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", Oslo (Norway)**

For more information: the ECCL website, [www.community-living.info](http://www.community-living.info)

**NEW!! 19 September 2008**

**FEANTSA European Research Conference, "Good governance: the key to effective homelessness policies", The Hague (Netherlands)**

For more information and to send abstracts (until 30 June): send an email to [w.m.edgar@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:w.m.edgar@dundee.ac.uk)

**20-25 September 2008**

**XIV<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Psychiatry, "Science and Humanism: For a Person-Centered Psychiatry", Prague (Czech Republic)**

For more information: the conference dedicated website, [www.wpa-prague2008.cz](http://www.wpa-prague2008.cz)

**21-27 September 2008**

**Summer School on Korczak's ideas and contemporary children and youths problems, Warsaw (Poland)**

For more information: visit the dedicated website, [www.aps.edu.pl](http://www.aps.edu.pl), or send an email to [UNESCO-chair@aps.edu.pl](mailto:UNESCO-chair@aps.edu.pl)

**22-24 September 2008**

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

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

**26-28 September 2008**

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

For more information: visit the website [www.transkulturellepsychiatrie.de](http://www.transkulturellepsychiatrie.de), or contact [alexander.friedmann@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:alexander.friedmann@meduniwien.ac.at) and [solmaz.golsabahi@marienhospital-hamm.de](mailto:solmaz.golsabahi@marienhospital-hamm.de)

**NEW!! 29 September - 1 October 2008**

**IFCW (International Forum for Child Welfare) World Forum 2008, "Early Intervention and Prevention", Cardiff (Wales, United Kingdom)**

For more information: the conference dedicated website, [www.worldforum2008.org](http://www.worldforum2008.org)

**NEW!! 19-22 October 2008**

**ISQua 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Quality in Health Care, Copenhagen (Denmark)**

For more information: visit the ISQua website, <http://www.isqua.org/isquaPages/copenhagen08.html>

**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/>

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

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