



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Meeting with EU Commissioner for Health Androulla Vassiliou

A Mental Health Europe delegation composed of Malgorzata Kmita, President, Elisabeth Muschik, Vice-President, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, was received by the EU Health Commissioner, Mrs Androulla Vassiliou on 23 July 2008. Michael Huebel, Head of Unit C4 – Health Determinants at DG Sanco (Health and Consumer Protection) and Georgina Georgiou, responsible for mental health at the Commissioner's Cabinet, were also present.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the way forward for the Mental Health Pact for Europe, and how Mental Health Europe can contribute to this process and support the European Commission in its actions.

It was a very constructive meeting and we hope that MHE - together with other European NGOs in the mental health field - will be given the opportunity to contribute to achieving a better mental health for all in Europe.

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

MHE Capacity-Building Seminar, Aalborg (Denmark), 06 August 2008

A capacity-building seminar for MHE members, including people with mental health problems, was organised on 06 August 2008. The aim of this seminar was to provide information about relevant EU policies and processes, and to strengthen the MHE members' capacity to make their voices heard in the policy- and decision making processes at the European, national and local level. Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, welcomed all the participants and Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, gave an introduction into the aims and objectives of the day. Then Trude Eliassen from the European Commission, Unit E2: Social Protection and Social Inclusion presented the latest developments in EU social policy with a particular focus on the Renewed Social Agenda and the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy.

The following sessions focused on practical ways on how MHE members can get involved in EU policies and processes. Per K. Larsen from the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) in Copenhagen (Denmark) presented an action-oriented approach to feeding into the OMC (Open Method of Coordination) on Social Protection and Social Inclusion from the mental health perspective at the national level. The emphasis of his presentation was in particular on establishing contact and collaboration with the Social Protection Committee (SPC) members; providing input into the OMC process and the National Strategic Reports 2008-2011; and monitoring the implementation of the National Strategic Reports. Sogol Noorani, MHE Policy Officer, then presented in more detail the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy, including a historical overview of developments in this field as well as the timeline for the EU Institution's actions in 2008. MHE's work and contribution to the 2nd European Commission Communication (October 2007) was highlighted and the questions were raised what should be the main elements of MHE's message regarding the active inclusion of people with mental health problems, and how can MHE and its members promote best a common vision of active inclusion of people with mental health problems. This was followed by a presentation by Mari Fresu, MHE Policy Officer, on the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being. The Pact was launched at a High-Level Conference on Mental Health and Well-being organised by the European Commission on 13th June 2008 in Brussels, and it will put into practice through a series of thematic conferences on each of the pact's priority areas during 2009-2010. Following the presentation, MHE members had the opportunity to exchange their views and ideas about the MHE Action Plan 2008-2010 for the implementation of the Pact through effective actions at the European, national and local level.

The final session of the capacity-building seminar had a focus on the empowerment of people with mental health problems. Gregor Henderson - Independent Consultant in Mental Health and Advisor to Mental Health Europe, formerly Director of Scotland's National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing - led through an interactive session dealing with issues around involvement, participation, collaboration/exchange/learning and the role of MHE in this process. Participants went into smaller working groups where they discussed in depth the policy issues currently of high relevance to MHE, such as the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy and the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being; they discussed the methods by which the different levels of policy making (local, national, EU) can be best bridged and

messages most effectively delivered; and they drew an action plan that lays down the process that will lead the way for the implementation of actions for promoting MHE's concerns in Europe.

The whole day and especially the last session of the capacity-building seminar put special emphasis on establishing the means for involvement and participation of people with mental health problems in EU policies and processes.

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

New publication from the EMIP Project

New publications from the EMIP Project (Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries), which ended in 2006, are now available online:

- the EMIP Final Report: <http://www.emip.org/publications.html>
- the National Project Reports, which provide an analysis of mental health promotion/prevention in each of the partner countries, together with the findings from the national workshops:
http://www.emip.org/national_reports.html

MHE was one of the project's partners.

For more information: visit <http://www.emip.org/index.html>

Latest changes in the MHE Staff

MHE has recruited an additional staff member for its Brussels-based Secretariat. Since the beginning of July, Isabel Mendes is our new Assistant to the Director.

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

To contact Isabel: Email Isabel.mendes@mhe-sme.org

In July, MHE also welcomed a new stagiaire for a three-week traineeship. Robyn Pointer, an English student, did a brilliant job at MHE. Her help was particularly appreciated, especially for the improvement of the MHE members' database. Robyn left the MHE Secretariat at the end of July.

We would like to warmly thank her for her very efficient work, and we wish her every success for the future.

MHE representation at various meetings

On 3-5 July, Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, participated in the 2nd World Mental Health Advocacy Leadership Forum in Toronto (Canada). (see p.6)

On 23 July, a MHE delegation composed of Malgorzata Kmita, Elisabeth Muschik, Vice-President, and Mary Van Dievel was received by the EU Health Commissioner, Mrs Androulla Vassiliou. (see p.2)

On 6 August, the MHE Capacity-Building Seminar took place in Aalborg (Denmark). (see p.2)

On 7-9 August, the MHE Annual Conference 2008, "Diversity in Mental Health and Well-being – An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue", was held in Aalborg (Denmark).

On 9 August, the MHE General Assembly took place in Aalborg (Denmark).

II. REPORTS ON VARIOUS EVENTS

European Consortium for Action on the Socio-economic Determinants of Health met in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 7-8 May

DETERMINE (2007-2010) is an 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, with the Czech

National Public Health Institute acting as the contract holder. MHE is acting as an observer in the project.

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 meets three times in conjunction with EU Presidencies: its second meeting was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 7-8 May and the final event is envisaged for March 2010 in Brussels.

During its first year, the Consortium has focused on what the EU and its Member States are doing to address socio-economic determinants of health inequalities, particularly by exploring existing collaboration between health and other sectors. DETERMINE's partners have also identified innovative approaches in their countries, such as public-private partnerships and social marketing, that succeed in changing health related behaviours amongst vulnerable groups. Three small scale pilot projects that apply innovative approaches will be selected and implemented during the course of this year. A consultative process engaging policy makers from sectors other than health has also recently begun, aimed at raising awareness and building capacity to enhance cross-sectoral action to address health inequalities.

The work of DETERMINE complements the findings of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008).

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

Source: DETERMINE

Conference on "Social Inclusion and the Transformation of Mental Health Services: Transatlantic Perspectives"

On 12-14 June the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh organised a policy conference with the title "*Social Inclusion and the Transformation of Mental Health Services: Transatlantic Perspectives*". The conference was supported by the University of Pittsburgh European Union Center of Excellence, the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and the Center for Mental Health Services/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with additional support from the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh.

The conference included more than fifty participants from Europe and from the U.S., but also participants coming from Asia, Australia, Canada and New Zealand who added an additional perspective. The participants had been identified as active participants in addressing social inclusion in mental health. For Mental Health Europe Sogol Noorani, MHE Social Policy Officer, took part in this conference and presented the European perspective on mental health and social inclusion.

The conference had been organised to examine the concept of social inclusion and its role in recovery and mental health promotion. It addressed the questions of how, in the European Union, public practices and policies based on the concept of social inclusion foster recovery and promote the opening of opportunities in the community for people with psychiatric disorders. With a view on establishing a transatlantic perspective, it was discussed how such practices and policies might be translated into the U.S. context, implemented and evaluated; how we can best learn from each other across international boundaries; and how practice and policy, governmental action and philanthropy can be best informed by international learning.

The goal of the conference was to expose health professionals, practitioners, and policy makers in the United States to the experience in the European Union addressing social inclusion/exclusion in mental health and consider its meaning for public and philanthropic policy in the U.S.; foster the development of a transatlantic network to continue the exploration and sharing of information on this topic; and to elaborate means for the successful translation of health and public policy across international boundaries.

Additional background information on the conference can be found at the conference website at the European Union Center of Excellence:

<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/events/conferences/SocialInclusion.html>

For more information please contact sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org, +32 2 280 04 68

Mental Health Europe at the 2nd ProMenPol Conference, Berlin, 19 - 20 June 2008

ProMenPol held its second annual conference in Berlin (Germany) on 19-20 June 2008 with mental health promotion practitioners and other experts from ten European countries. The

first day of the conference focused on supporting implementation of mental health promotion in the three settings of education, workplace and older people's residences. The second day of the conference was devoted to the practitioners' perspective on the implementation of policy objectives regarding the EU Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being. On this occasion, Mary van Dievel (MHE Director) and Chris O'Sullivan (SUPPORT project) gave a presentation on the European Pact on Mental Health and Well-Being and its development process.

The Conference was hosted by the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BauA) and provided the participants with an overview of ProMenPol's activities to date. During the workshops, practitioners shared their experiences of and prospects for implementing Mental Health Promotion tools through lively and enlightening discussions. Ethical issues in mental health promotion were addressed too. Participants also discussed possibilities to foster mental health promotion at EU-level in the future as well as highlighting important lessons from practice that are of interest to and can be used to influence policy makers.

The Second ProMenPol Conference turned out to be a resounding success, not only because of the great response to the project related initiatives but also due to the qualitative and constructive practitioners' feedback to the European Pact. This practitioners' feedback will be carried forward to European policy makers at the Second ProMenPol Policy Workshop, which will take place in December 2008.

The presentations associated with the 2008 ProMenPol Conference are now available on the website (www.mentalhealthpromotion.net), whereas a full conference report will be published shortly.

The next ProMenPol Policy conference will take place in Brussels on 11 December 2008. This conference will be targeted at senior policy-makers such as European Commissioners, Members of European Parliament, members of national governments, etc.

Would you like to be kept informed on the ProMenPol news and events? Register to the ProMenPol Newsletter at <http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/?i=promenpol.en.newsletter> ! For more information on the ProMenPol project: write to Mari Fresu, MHE Health Policy Officer, at mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

21st CEFEC Conference, "Social Firms, Employment and Quality of Life in Europe: common strategies for social inclusion"

CEFEC is a European Network NGO representing Small and Medium Enterprises, NGOs and organisations that all share the objective of creating paid work for disabled and disadvantaged people in Social Firm businesses.

CEFEC held its 21st Annual Conference in Lisbon from 26-27 June 2008; it was organised by ARIA, CEFEC's Portuguese member organisation. The morning session on 26 June was dedicated to presentations around 10 Years of Social Firms in Portugal.

The afternoon session started with welcome addresses from the official representatives of the Portuguese government, Lisbon's Lord Mayor and the university in which premises the conference was held.

In the first plenary session, "*Employment as a Strategy to Social Inclusion*", Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, presented the MHE report, "*From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems in Europe. An analysis based on national reports from MHE members in 27 EU Member States*," and highlighted especially the employment issues in the different member states.

On 27 June, Mr. Guido Lissens contributed to the Plenary Session 2 and spoke on behalf of Mental Health Europe about "*Recovery as a new paradigm in mental health care. Consequences for vocational rehabilitation*".

All the conference contributions will be posted on the CEFEC website.

The 2009 CEFEC Conference will take place in Prague (Czech Republic), from 10-12 September. Theme of the conference will be "*Social Firms - A New Dimension of Enterprise*". It will be organised by Fokus, the Association for Mental Health Care, and Fokus Praha.

Fokus invites all interested people to send them suggestions for topics to be discussed at this conference. *Please send your comments to Pavel Novak at novak@fokus-prha.cz*

CEFEC held its General Assembly after the Conference. Important news from this meeting is that they decided to change their name into "Social Firms Europe – CEFEC".

For more information: visit CEFEC website, <http://www.cefec.de/>

2nd World Mental Health Advocacy Leadership Forum

The second World Mental Health Advocacy Leadership Forum took place in Toronto (Canada,) from 3-5 July 2008. The event was hosted by the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders.

As last year, the Chairs and Directors/Secretary Generals of Mental Health Europe, EUFAMI, Gamian Europe, the World Federation for Mental Health and the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders were invited and attended the event.

A full report will be made available later this year.

For more information: contact the MHE secretariat, Email info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

III. 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/>).

Eurobarometer survey on discrimination in the European Union - Perceptions, experiences and attitudes

This new EU-wide survey tracks perceptions, experiences and attitudes of people in Europe with regard to discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

The European Union has every reason to be proud of its anti-discrimination legislation which is among the most extensive in the world. In 2000, the European Union adopted two very wide-ranging laws to prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. As far as racial and ethnic origin is concerned, this legislation extends to other aspects of daily life, such as education and social services. These texts come in addition to numerous laws that have been adopted at EU level since 1975 to promote equality between women and men in the workplace.

However, calling for equal rights and adopting laws to promote and protect them is not enough to ensure that equal opportunities are enjoyed by everyone in practice. 2007 was therefore designated as the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All". It was an initiative leading the way to a bolder strategy seeking to give momentum to the fight against discrimination in the EU. The aim of this European Year was to inform people of their rights, to celebrate diversity and to promote equal opportunities for everyone in the European Union. With more than 430 national actions and over 600 events spreading the messages of the Year in the 30 participating countries, significant gains were made in this respect.

In anticipation of this Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity Opportunities commissioned a survey about discrimination and inequality in Europe, conducted in the summer of 2006. The survey tracks how perceptions and opinion in this field have changed in the intervening year. Several new questions are also asked in the current survey, for example dealing with the subject of 'multiple discrimination'. Both surveys were carried out by TNS Opinion & Social network – the current one between February 18th and March 22nd, 2008. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate General for Communication ("Research and Political Analysis" Unit).

To read the full report:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/eurob08_en.pdf

To read a summary of the report:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/eurob08sum_en.pdf

For more information: visit the Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm#stud

IV. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

AUSTRIA- Training to become a licensed gerontopsychiatric senior specialist

Gerontopsychiatry is a specialist area of psychiatry. It is based on the research findings of gerontology and geriatrics. Gerontopsychiatry has developed specific preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative strategies. It deals with older people and their mental illnesses.

The main patterns of illness in gerontopsychiatry are dementia, delirium, depression and schizophrenia. Psychiatric treatment and care of mental health problems in older people is based on outpatient, partly-inpatient (day care) and inpatient care.

Objectives of the training course: Instruction in holistic counseling and care, which is individually tailored to the needs of patients/clients and their families/carers. The participants of the training learn to efficiently assess situations in the institutional settings with a view to provide informed support.

The training will take place from 22 September 2008 to 21 January 2009 in Vienna (Austria).

For more information and registration: contact the pro mente Akademie, Tel +43 1 513 15 30 113, Email info@promenteakademie.at, or visit www.promenteakademie.at

FRANCE - Martine Dutoit to address a meeting on psychological handicap

The French legislation of 2005 covers "psychological handicap", but no definition or compensation mechanisms are foreseen. During the last years, the concept of psychological handicap has been gradually replacing the notion of "mental illness", highlighting the fact that mental disorders may be potentially disabling. The term psychological handicap describes a situation where a disability results from an interaction between mental disorders and the environmental constraints stemming from a variety of high expectations as regards the so-called "normal behaviour" in professional and social life. But the concept of handicap is itself unclear because it is linked to the notion of mental disorders and to a consensus on the level of seriousness to be taken into account. Another peculiarity of the mental field is the difficulty to reach a consensus among the professionals on the criteria for judging behaviours too distant from the average population or the normal limits and for considering them as handicaps.

Furthermore, the intensity of the disorder can vary over time and it is, for many people, difficult to detect the existence of a mental disorder. The carers and families of people affected by mental disorders may sometimes be reluctant to admit it. For all these reasons it is, in this field more than in others, very complicated to set the limits between situations which can be considered as "normal", at the limit or a handicap.

Martine Dutoit, Advocacy France Director, will talk about these issues during the meeting on psychological handicap organised in Paris on 25 November by the CTNERHI (Centre technique national d'études et de recherches sur les handicaps et les inadaptations). She will also describe the methodologies and practices for advocacy that are used in France to involve people concerned by psychological handicap and mental health.

For more information: contact Martine Dutoit, Email mdutoit@erenis.fr

GERMANY - 7FP grant for members of the EAAD

Members of the EAAD (European Alliance Against Depression) successfully won a grant in the 7th framework programme of the EU for the project "*Optimised suicide prevention programs and their implementation in Europe*" (OSPI-Europe). The aim of OSPI is to provide EU Member States with an evidence based prevention concept, concrete materials and instruments for implementing, running and evaluating enhanced EAAD interventions. The outcome of OSPI will be a manual-like guide for suicide prevention in EU-countries.

The groundwork for OSPI has been laid by a multifaceted intervention programme for suicide prevention that was first implemented in the city of Nuremberg in Germany (Nuremberg Alliance Against Depression). The intervention that proved to be effective was then adopted by many regions in Germany. It also expanded to other EU countries, which then formed the European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD).

In the OSPI work the EAAD consortium will revise the current EAAD-intervention. Based on international experiences with multilevel interventions and systematic evaluation of the EAAD-experience in particular, it will develop an evidence-based state-of-the-art intervention

concept for the prevention of suicidality. This intervention will be implemented and evaluated in four pilot regions (Ireland, Portugal, Hungary and Germany). Further, differences in suicide rates among European countries will be analysed and recommendation for harmonisation of the procedures for definition, assessment and evaluation of suicidality will be developed. OSPI will be coordinated by Professor Ulrich Hegerl at the University of Leipzig (Germany).

Partners are:

- Austria: Pro Mente Tirol
- Belgium: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- Estonia: the Estonian-Swedish Mental Health and Suicidology Institute
- Germany: Bayerische Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, GABO (Gesellschaft für Ablauforganisation): milliarium mbH & Co. KG, and Leipzig University
- Hungary: Semmelweis University Budapest
- Ireland: National Suicide Research Foundation
- Netherlands: Trimbos Institute and Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction
- Portugal: Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
- Slovenia: IVZ Institute of Public Health and University of Primorska
- UK: London School of Economics and University of Stirling.

For more information: visit www.eaad.net

Many thanks to Katrin Gottlebe, from the European Alliance Against Depression, for this contribution.

NETHERLANDS - Latest changes in the Horatio team

Ber Oomen, General Secretary of Horatio (the European Association for Psychiatric Nurses), has been elected in the board of ESNO, the European Specialist Nurses Organisation as secretary.

Roland van de Sande, Horatio's Vice Secretary, has taken over most of his tasks.

For more information: send an Email to info@horatio-web.eu, or visit the Horatio website, <http://www.horatio-web.eu>

V. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

AGE – The European Older People's Platform

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – 15 June 2008

In the framework of the 3rd annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2008, launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), AGE called for action from the European Commission and the Member States to raise awareness of the issue of elder abuse, and to adopt a comprehensive EU strategy to prevent elder abuse and ensure quality of long-term care for older people.

For more information on AGE position on elder abuse: AGE website, http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_Leaflet_AGE_mauve.pdf

CEFEC – European Social Firms

Why there should be more Social Firms in Europe: "Linz Appeal 2007"

The "Linz Appeal" issued at the 20th Conference of CEFEC (European Social Firms) in Linz (Austria) in October 2007 represents a milestone for describing the development of the movement of social firms for disabled persons in European countries.

These organisations operate on the open market in all economic branches, including the service industries and high technology. They employ a substantial proportion of disabled persons and, amongst them, people with mental health problems are the most prominent group.

The annual CEFEC Conferences in various countries have helped to establish national legal frameworks which support the implementation and running of the businesses, for instance aiming to top up salaries of disabled employees and helping with the overheads.

The Linz Appeal is a guideline for regional organisations, especially in new EU countries, which want to start social firms.

Amongst CEFEC member (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), some have started to translate the Linz Appeal into their home language (such as Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic). They use it as an information tool on social firms and display it at conferences and seminars.

For more information: visit www.cefec.org

Many thanks to Christiane Haerlin, CEFEC delegate for Germany, for this contribution.

Join the free online discussion forum International Social Firms Alliance (ISFA)

Social Firms Europe (CEFEC) and Social Firms UK invite you to consider joining the free online discussion forum for all those around the world who are interested in job creation through enterprise for people who are excluded from the labour market through disability or disadvantage.

If you would like to gain entry: send an email to info@socialfirms.co.uk and mention who you are, what your organisation does and what you would like to contribute/get out of ISFA

For more information about the aims and objectives of ISFA: visit <http://www.cefec.org/>

COFACE - Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union

COFACE celebrates its 50th Anniversary

On 3 June, during an event held in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels, several European high officials expressed their congratulations to the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (COFACE), on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

In his closing keynote speech, Robert Anderson, from the Dublin Foundation, highlighted issues that, in his opinion, would be the future priorities relating to families at EU level. They were: improved flexible work arrangements and job quality, as they impact on family life; greater involvement of men in family responsibilities, also underlining the role of grandparents; necessary development of community services and their quality, in particular childcare and out-of-school activities, as well as elderly care; affordable quality housing.

A brochure relating the history of COFACE, as well as future prospects, has been published for the occasion. It can be obtained free of charge at COFACE's Secretariat or downloaded from the COFACE website

www.coface-eu.org

Families speak up for active European Citizenship

On 4 June, the final Conference of the COFACE project funded by the "Europe for Citizens" programme took place. The event presented the conclusions and recommendations of 8 study days that were organised by COFACE member associations on issues as diverse as reconciliation, the role of men in the family, families and the EU, migrant families, violence between partners, families with dependent members – disabled or elderly.

The Conference report is available on the COFACE website: www.coface-eu.org

EDF – European Disability Forum

EDF participated in the EU Disability High Level Group

The last meeting of the EU Disability High level Group, which gathers representatives of EU Member States responsible for disabilities issues, took place on 12 and 13 June 2008 in Brussels. EDF representatives attended the first day of the meeting also open to civil society.

The Slovenian Presidency presented the Presidency conclusions of the ministerial meeting on disability held on 22 May in Kranjska Gora, which had also been approved by other delegations.

The European Commission informed the High Level Group that the proposal for conclusion of the European Communities on the UN Convention was finalised and was due to be adopted before the end of June by the College of Commissioners, and that it would be presented to the Cohom (the Council Working Group for Human rights) for decision during the French Presidency.

The group was also informed of the launch of a study on "*Challenges of good practices in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*", by the

European Commission early May. The objective of the study is to analyse in detail the obligations of the Convention, and to gather information about the various practices in its implementation.

To access the study:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_tenders_en.cfm

There was also a presentation of the European Day of people with disabilities 2008, which will take place in Brussels on 1-2 December. The theme that has been agreed between EDF and the European Commission is "Acting Locally for a society for all".

The High Level Group also adopted a timeframe for the consideration of a draft document on supported employment. The general outline of the proposal was presented, and the following issues were raised: the need not to confuse supported employment, which are measures or services aimed at employment in the mainstream labour market with sheltered employment, the need to address this issue in the context of labour relations, and ensuring participation of persons with disabilities in all forms of employment.

There was finally an interesting presentation by the United Kingdom of their strategy on Independent Living, which has been drawn in close cooperation with disabled people's organisations.

For more information on the UK strategy on Independent Living:

<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/working/whatweareworkingon.asp>

For more information on the EU Disability High level Group: contact the EDF Secretariat, secretariat@edf-feph.org, Tel + 32 2 282 46 00

Source: EDF

EPHA – European Public Health Alliance

Register to the new EU NGO Directory

EPHA is undertaking an NGO mapping project. The aim is to create a directory of NGOs in Europe working in the field of health.

The new European health NGO Directory is a directory that will contain information on all European and national level NGOs working in the field of health. The development of the directory has been funded by the European Commission who sees this as an invaluable tool for consulting civil society. This directory will be accessible via the EU health portal.

The easily searchable database will contain the contact details, specialisations and cross referencing of NGOs working with health issues at national and European level. Once finished, the database will increase the visibility of NGOs to EU institutions and the European Commission will use the database as part of its public consultations and dialogue with civil society.

MHE members who would like to be included in the Directory should register directly through:

<http://epha.ttp.eu/civicrm/profile/create?reset=1&qid=2>

The Directory will go live later this year.

Inclusion on the database is free of registration or annual fees.

If you have any questions, send an Email to ngodirectory@epha.org

EUFAMI - European Federation of Associations of Families of Persons with Mental Illness

EUFAMI has new President Designate and Executive Committee members

At the EUFAMI Board of Directors meeting held in Leuven (Belgium) on 23-25 May, three new members were elected to the EUFAMI Executive Committee. They are Kridtiina Aminoff (Finland), Connie Magro (Malta) and John Saunders (Ireland).

At the same meeting Inger Nilsson from Sweden announced that she would be stepping down from the position of President on 1st September, having completed her term in office. She will be succeeded by Vice President Sigrid Steffen, from Austria, who was selected as President Designate.

For more information: contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

EUFAMI launches new online resource for mental health advocacy in Europe

EUFAMI, working together with Bristol-Myers Squibb, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Europe Ltd, and the International Longevity Centre-UK, have developed Implementis, an online resource for mental health advocacy in Europe.

Implementis is an easy-to-use resource designated to help support service users, carers, and advocacy groups to review existing mental health policies and services, and lobby for change. It contains useful information to help users develop materials for the media and elected representatives, and provides suggestions on how to target mental health campaigns, and who to involve.

It does so by providing key evidence-based data, arguments and references to support advocacy across 10 areas for action for severe mental illness, including "Tackling stigma" or "Dedicated and sustainable funding for mental health".

Each area for action aims to provide: Key facts and issues; Tools and resources; Questions to ask; Footnotes.

To access Implementis: www.implementis.eu

EWL – European Women's Lobby

EWL Resource Kit on Institutional Mechanisms for the Promotion of Equality between Women and Men (May 2008)

The EWL Resource Kit presents information about existing public institutions dealing with equality between women and men at international, European and national level. It aims at helping NGOs and other interested actors to evaluate and influence international and European institutions as well as their national governments and enable them to strengthen weak or inefficient institutional mechanisms dealing with women's rights and gender equality.

To download the Resource Kit: EWL website,

http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2201&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=&parentCat=15

Inclusion Europe

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

The European Study on the Specific Risks of Discrimination Against Persons in Situation of Major Dependence or with Complex Needs was financed by the European Commission and led by Inclusion Europe. MHE Senior Policy Officer Josée Van Remoortel was involved in the study as an expert.

On 4 and 5 June 2008, the results of the study were unveiled at a conference in the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union in Brussels.

MHE was amongst the Conference's main speakers.

All the statements and presentations made during the event, including the MHE Statement "Towards Future Actions for the Improvement of Living Conditions of People with Severe Disabilities or Complex Needs", are now available on the Inclusion Europe website.

To download them:

<http://inclusion-europe.org/main.php?lang=EN&level=1&s=83&mode=nav2&n1=159&n2=771>

Social Platform

Social Platform calls for equal access to available and affordable and quality social and health services

Last June, the Social Platform Steering Group adopted the Social Platform Common position on quality social and health services.

In this common position the Social Platform calls upon the EU and its Member States to ensure to all people living in Europe an equal access to available, affordable and quality social and health services in conformity with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the new provisions and protocol on Services of General Interest of the Lisbon Treaty. The Social Platform stresses that quality services call for a holistic approach based on a supportive economic and legal environment and a bottom-up participatory approach to quality.

The Social Platform is also committed to nine "golden quality principles" for social and health services of general interest.

To download the Social Platform Common Position on Quality Social and Health Services: http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Services_of_General_Interest/08-06-12%20Final%20common%20position%20on%20quality%20social%20and%20health%20services.pdf

Social Platform met Fundamental Rights Agency

At the end of June, members of the Social Platform met with Morten Kjaerum, the newly-appointed Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), and Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the FRA Management Board.

The meeting was a good opportunity to exchange recent and future developments of FRA, and to link back to FRA's activities from 2007 when FRA organised several events to consult civil society on the future Fundamental Rights Platform. This platform will be established within FRA and should facilitate dialogue with civil society.

Discussions with Ms. Crickley and Mr. Kjaerum covered a range of issues from social rights to dialogue with civil society, as well as FRA's role in the light of recent serious human rights infringements in Europe including discrimination against Roma, homophobia and violations of the rights of migrants.

The FRA also adopted in June its annual report for the year 2007. It covers information, events and developments related to racism and xenophobia in the EU for last year, which was the Agency's focus of work prior to the adoption of its Multiannual Framework in February 2008.

To read FRA's annual report and for more information: FRA website, http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=4860badc7f08

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Source: Social Platform

VI. EUROPEAN UNION

Increase of psychological burdens at the workplace: MoveEurope campaign makes employees strong in the fight against stress

Fundamental changes have been observed in the working environment over recent years that have led to a shift from physical to psychological and mental demands at work. Psychosocial stress now predominates, caused by a bad working climate, bullying at work, fear of job loss and the psychological and mental stress caused by excessive workload, pressure to perform and pressure of time. In facing these and other similar situations employees feel stressed and threatened.

In response to these and other problems, the activities in the second half of the Move Europe campaign will focus on this issue at the beginning of 2009.

For more information: <http://www.enwhp.org/index.php?id=582#888>

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work launches the new "Healthy Workplace campaign"

"Reducing work-related accidents and illness through better risk assessment": that is the message of the new Europe-wide information campaign *"Healthy Workplaces: Good for you. Good for business. A European campaign on Risk Assessment"*.

The campaign was launched on 13 June and focuses especially on high-risk sectors such as construction, healthcare and agriculture, and on the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will run over two years and contributes to the objectives of the Community Strategy related to Health and Safety at Work (2007-2012), which aims to cut work-related accidents by a quarter across the EU.

Backed by the EU Presidencies, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the social partners, the campaign is running in all EU Member States and beyond.

For more information: DG Employment webpage, http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=400

New Regulation opens air space for persons with disabilities

The European regulation on the rights of air passengers with disabilities enters into application on the 27 July. This regulation includes a number of rights for disabled persons when travelling by air, such as the right to non-discrimination, assistance and compensation in case of damaged mobility equipment.

The European Commission has worked together with the European Disability Forum (EDF) and other stakeholders in producing an information video, targeted at persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, containing information about the relevant provisions of the regulation. This video is available in all official EU languages.

To download the video: visit

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/videos/transport/2008_06_prm_en.htm

Source: EDF

Council of Europe and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights sign cooperation agreement

In June, the Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights signed a cooperation agreement which is intended to reinforce complementarity and avoid unnecessary duplication in the field of human rights protection in Europe.

The agreement will also provide opportunities for joint activities to promote human rights.

It will be soon available on the website of the Agency: <http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

Source: Social Platform

First meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform

The first meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) will take place on 7-8 October in Vienna (Austria). The Platform is set to create a structured and fruitful dialogue and close cooperation between the FRA and all relevant civil society stakeholders.

This first meeting will focus on discussing suggestions to the FRA Work Programme 2009 and giving feedback and suggestions for follow up on the FRA Annual Report 2008. In addition, the meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the future communication tools and models of the Fundamental Rights Platform.

MHE will be represented at the meeting.

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

VII. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Health priorities of the French Presidency

On Tuesday 1 July, France has taken over the EU Presidency for the next six months.

In term of health policy, the French Presidency will have the following priorities:

- preparedness of the EU against external health threats, such as pandemics and bioterrorism, as outlined in the Commission's 2007 White Paper "Together for Health";
- continuing reform and development of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC);
- working towards a Europe for the benefit of patients, under the guiding principles of the Commission's strategy of universality and equality in health for European citizens: expected Directive on Crossborder Health Services, consultation on patient safety as well as support to the continuing work on rare diseases, expect conferences to be organised on both health security and patient health issues;
- in line with the Commission's focus on the ageing population of Europe, the recognition that it is not only physical health that is of importance but also particularly mental health, and following on the high level conference on mental health organised in June, mental health will be moved up the EU agenda: the French Presidency will host a conference on Alzheimer's disease in September.

For more information: visit the French Presidency website,

<http://www.eu2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil>

Achievements of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council

As the Slovenian Presidency has come to an end, the Slovenian Government has issued a publication with the major achievements under their Presidency.

To read the Programme of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council - What We Achieved:
http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/download_docs/June/0630dosezki.pdf

VIII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Main outcomes of the informal meeting of the ministers for labour, employment and social affairs

On 11 July the 27 European Labour and Social Policy Ministers who met in Chantilly (France) insisted on the need for social Europe to become more concrete and more visible in the eyes of its citizens and for it to improve its ability to rise to the challenges of globalisation and climate change. Europe must therefore be able to face up to globalisation by anticipating change and the requirements of the labour market. A European mobility framework must include the fight against poverty and discrimination as well as an enhancement of equal opportunities.

A delegation of the Social Platform attended the meeting. The Platform outlined its call for a 'Social Pact' – a Council commitment to integrate social concerns in all EU policies.

For more information: visit

http://www.eu2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-07_2008/PFUE-11.07.2008/reunion_informelle_des_ministres_du_travail_de_l_emploi_et_des_affaires_sociale_4514

IX. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL

Commission adopted Renewed Social Agenda

On 2 July, the Commission put forward a comprehensive package of initiatives. It represents a new commitment to social Europe and consists of an integrated approach bringing together various policies. The renewed social agenda seeks to "empower and equip Europeans, in particular also young people, to deal with rapidly changing".

For more information: visit <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=547&langId=en>

(By clicking on the various links you will be led to webpages addressing specific topics and you will find all relevant documents. It is also possible to discuss the EU's renewed social agenda and to see videos relating to the renewed social agenda)

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

For more information: visit <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=553&langId=en>

Tighter coordination of social policies

There is no instant European solution to the social challenges of the 21st century, but there is a need to work together and to share our knowledge and expertise. The EU has set itself common goals, complete with timetables and indicators. The experience of the European employment strategy, which was launched ten years ago, has shown that such schemes can make a difference. The open method of coordination (OMC) has enabled us to set common goals, but it has been less successful in stimulating political efforts to achieve these goals. The method needs to be tightened up and geared more towards implementation. This is the central aim of the Commission's communication on the OMC, which was adopted on 2 July and forms part of the new social agenda.

Four priority areas have been identified:

1. enhancing the method's visibility at the political level: increased use of quantified targets should give the OMC a new impetus in the area of social policy;

2. closer ties with other EU policies, in particular the strategy for growth and jobs, and greater consideration of social impact when formulating EU policies
3. developing analytical tools: the creation of a database of comparable data at the European level is vital in order to define effective public policy;
4. encouraging greater ownership and implementation by the Member States.

A stronger OMC will allow us to achieve better results for the 2008-2010 period and will pave the way for the introduction of a sound framework post-2010.

For more information: visit <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=550&langId=en>

European Commission publishes study on situation of social and health services in the EU

The European Commission has published the synthesis report of a study on the situation of social and health services in the EU. The study is part of the consultation process on social services launched by the Commission in 2006. It was commissioned by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to a consortium led by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna. The consortium partners of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in this project were the International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy, Liège (CIRIEC) and the Institute for Social Work and Social Education (ISS), Frankfurt/Main.

To read the synthesis report of the study on the situation of social and health services in the EU:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/docs/social_protection/2008/study_social_health_services_en.pdf

Source: Social Platform

Europe-wide truck tour brings anti-discrimination message to 20 cities

Commissioner Vladimír Špidla launched on 21 June the 2008 the "For Diversity. Against Discrimination." truck tour as part of the EU's Europe-wide anti-discrimination information campaign. The tour will kick off at the United Islands of Prague music festival (Czech Republic), where 20,000 visitors are expected – before going on to visit 20 cities in 10 different EU countries over the next four months. The initiative – now in its fifth year – aims to raise awareness of the right to a life free of discrimination and has so far reached half a million people.

The campaign aims in 2008 to build on the success of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, to which its activities last year were closely linked.

For more information: visit the "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" website,

<http://www.stop-discrimination.info/>

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

New DG Sanco's online resources on mental health

The DG Sanco website has been recently updated to display various resources relating to the High Level Conference on Mental Health and the launch of the "European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being".

You will find:

- an updated Mental Health webpage:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm
- relevant press releases:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/press_mental_health_en.htm
- the official speech of Commissioner Vassiliou on the occasion of the High Level Conference on Mental Health (13 June 2008, Brussels):
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/speech_mental_health_en.htm
- Speeches and presentations (videos are also available) made during the High Level Conference on Mental Health, including the presentation of Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, titled "From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems":

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_conference_en.htm

- *updated mental health briefing sheets – facts and activities in Member States:*
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/ms_overview_en.htm

Commission adopted proposal for directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

As part of the Renewed Social Agenda, the Commission adopted on 2 July a proposal for a directive to facilitate the application of European patients' rights in relation to cross-border healthcare, as well as a Communication on improving co-operation between Member States in this area. Despite several clear European Court of Justice rulings confirming that the EU Treaty gives individual patients the right to seek healthcare in other Member States and be reimbursed at home, uncertainty remains over how to apply the principles of this jurisprudence more generally. With this proposal the Commission aims to provide legal certainty on this issue. This follows calls from both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers for the Commission to propose a specific initiative on cross-border healthcare, in a way explicitly adapted to, and respecting, the unique nature of the healthcare sector. In addition, the proposed Directive provides a solid basis to unlock the huge potential for European cooperation to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all EU health systems.

To download the draft directive on application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/healthcare/cross-border_healthcare_en.htm

For more information: visit

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/healthcare/news_en.htm

PHEA becomes Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) is the new name of what has been until now Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA). On 20 June 2008, the European Commission took a decision to prolong the mandate of the Agency until 2015, entrust it with implementation of new EU Health Programme, and give it responsibilities in the field of consumer protection and food safety.

To read the Commission's decision:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:173:0027:0029:EN:PDF>

New Health Programme attracted significant interest from applicants

More than 220 applications for funding have been submitted to the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) as a result of the first call for proposals in the framework of the new EU Health Programme.

The multi annual Programme for years 2008-13 that was adopted by a decision by Parliament and the Council on 23 October 2007, provides more diversified financing opportunities - funding for projects, operating grants, support for conferences in the field of public health as well as tenders and joint actions with the Member States.

The applications sent to the EAHC are proposals for projects in the field of public health, especially actions tackling health determinants, such as smoking, drug abuse, alcohol or promoting physical activity and healthier nutritional habits. A number of proposals seek improvement in health security, better preparedness and response to health threats and help to improve risk assessment.

In addition, the EAHC has received 26 applications for operating grants and more than 40 requests for co-funding of conferences. The EAHC estimates that the total funding requested is 126 403 062 Euro and involves partners from all Member States and countries associated to the Programme.

MHE applied for co-funding of conference (on children and adolescents' mental health) and as collaborating partner in a few project applications.

The Call 2008 is now closed. The deadline for submission of applications passed on 23 May 2008.

For more information: visit http://ec.europa.eu/phea/calls/call_for_proposals_en.html

Source: EAHC

European Community Health indicators (ECHI) Indicator: Hospital beds updated

To directly access the data:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/echi/echi_en.htm?echisub=31#echi_4

DG Research – DG RTD

Call for experts to evaluate the Seventh Research Framework Programme – DEADLINE: 31 July 2013

For more information: visit

<https://cordis.europa.eu/emmp7/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome>

X. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European Parliament sets out expectations for 2010 European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion

In June the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010). The resolution is part of the process of adopting an EU decision to designate 2010 as the "European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion".

In the resolution, the EP reaffirms that the strengthening of social cohesion and the eradication of poverty and social exclusion must become a political priority for the EU. The EP underlines that the 2010 year's aim is to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty. It further stresses that the fight against poverty and social exclusion must be pursued both within the European Union and externally, in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals to which the European Union and the Member States have subscribed.

The Parliament also underlines that the fight against poverty requires multi-dimensional policies at national, regional and local level which ensure a balance between economic and social policies and targeted strategies for groups or people in particularly vulnerable situations. On the implementation of the 2010 European year, the EP calls upon the Commission to conduct a regular exchange of views with stakeholders including those working with people living in poverty, particularly at European level, on the design, implementation, follow-up and assessment of the European Year.

The allocated budget for this thematic year - €17m - represents the highest budget ever granted to a European Year, thus demonstrating its high political importance.

To read the full text of the EP resolution:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0286+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Source: Social Platform

XI. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Advocacy is the theme for World Mental Health Day – 10 October 2008

World Mental Health Day (WMHD) 2008's campaign theme is "*Making Mental Health a Global Priority – Scaling Up Services Through Citizen Advocacy and Action*". The campaign will highlight the messages contained in The Lancet series released in September 2007 about the urgent need for improved mental health care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

This year's campaign will encourage renewed attention to the need for well-informed mental health public policy advocacy to address:

- the existing gaps in mental health services;
- persistent stigma and discrimination, a barrier to accessing services;
- inequitable levels of funding by most governments for mental health services and wellness promotion; and
- the need to integrate mental health more fully into the general public health system.

The WMHD campaign materials are available in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic on the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) website: www.wfmh.org

To obtain a CD-ROM of the material in these languages, or for further information, please send an Email or fax at the WFMH: Email dmaquire@wfmh.com, Fax +1 703 313 8683

XII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

World Health Organization establishes a Taskforce on Disability

The WHO Director-General, acknowledging that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will change the way WHO does work, established a Taskforce on Disability to lead the organisation's efforts. The Taskforce, which includes representatives from all levels of WHO, aims to ensure that WHO policies, programmes and projects are designed and implemented taking into account persons with disabilities. The Taskforce will also continue developing ways for persons with disabilities to take full advantage of WHO's employment opportunities, information and premises. Persons with disabilities will be fully involved in the process.

For more information: contact person, Alana Officer, Email officera@who.int

Source: ENABLE

Launch of the Trecin Statement on Prisons and Mental Health

The Trecin Statement draws the attention of all countries in Europe to the essential need for greater focus on mental health problems among people in custodial settings. The Statement highlights that without urgent and comprehensive action, prisons will move closer to becoming twenty-first century asylums for the mentally ill, full of those who most require treatment and care but who are held in unsuitable places with limited help and treatment available.

The Statement is a product of the WHO Health in Prisons Project work during 2007 where the focus was on mental health in prisons across the European Region. The project organised a mental health conference in Trecin (Slovakia) in October 2007 where the Statement was adopted by the 28 European Member States that were present at the conference.

Colette Versporten, MHE Board member, participated in the redaction of the Statement.

For more information and for access to the Trecin Statement: visit

http://www.euro.who.int/prisons/20080428_4

Source: WHO Europe

Upcoming reports on mental health from the WHO Regional Office for Europe

The mental health programme at WHO Regional Office for Europe is producing a number of documents which will be ready for distribution in the autumn of 2008:

- Policies and practices for mental health in Europe - meeting the challenges – available 10 October 2008
- Mental health, resilience and inequalities - available 10 October 2008
- Stigma – an international briefing paper – available now
- Stigma – a guidebook for action - available now.

For more information, visit the WHO Mental Health website:

<http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth>

XIII. UNITED NATIONS

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December 2008

The 2008 theme of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is "*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us*". Dignity and justice for all persons are established universal principles. Since its inception, the United Nations has recognised that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world. 2008 is a significant year in the international human rights movement given the entry into force on 3 May of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, legally binding instruments which set out the legal obligations of States to promote and

protect the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

For more information on the International Day: visit

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109>

Source: ENABLE

XIV. VARIOUS

NETHERLANDS - Dutch government invests 4 million euro in e-mental health

The Netherlands' Ministry of Health has granted the Trimbos Institute financial support worth EUR 4 million to accelerate technological developments for ICT-supported disease management in depression. The project is called "*Mentaal Vitaal*", which would roughly translate as "*Mental Fitness*". The idea is to build a portal where people can access a range of e-health interventions supporting them in the self-management of depressive disorder. The interventions are offered at different levels of intensity such that people can step up to more intensive treatment levels should it be required. The portal will also give access to a number of adjunctive interventions that people may find helpful to cope better with topical issues such as stress, time-management, assertiveness and mindfulness. It is envisaged that in the future these interventions will be expanded to include modules for co-morbid conditions such as depression in patients with diabetes.

For more information: contact the Trimbos Institute, Email info@trimbos.nl, Tel +31 30 297 11 00

Source: Trimbos Institute

UK - Surrey & Hampshire Foundation Course in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice

The course offers a multi disciplinary training in the concepts and skills that come from Systemic Family Therapy and is suitable for practitioners working in health, education, and social care settings. For entry onto the course a core professional qualification or equivalent is required. The closing date has been extended to Friday 19 September 2008.

For more information: contact the course administrator, Email gillian.spouse@shb-tr.nhs.uk, Tel +44 1483 782136, or visit <http://www.surrey-camhs.org.uk/>

Your help is requested for compiling the 2008 EuroHealth Consumer Index

For the fourth year running, Health Consumer Powerhouse (HCP) is asking health campaigners across Europe to help it compile the annual EuroHealth Consumer Index. The Index is designed to measure the user-friendliness of national healthcare systems across Europe.

This year's questionnaire is short — only ten questions — and should take no more than about 5 (or, at most, 10) minutes of your time to complete. All responses will be anonymous.

To thank you for contributing, and to allow you to read the results, PatientView, the survey manager, will send you the weblink to the EuroHealth Consumer Index upon publication in October 2008.

The survey's closing date is 1 October 2008.

To directly access the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=xq61paxvFwsxH7cipdxafw_3d_3d

XV. PUBLICATIONS

Advocacy: A way for mental health users to actively participate

Advocacy France (MHE member) was set up in 1996. The association aims to promote the active participation of mental health users. After a ten-year leadership, Martine Dutoit wanted to comment on her approach to advocacy. Her book is focused on action and practice and it contains a broad series of testimonies, experiences and intervention methods.

For more information: visit

<http://www.presses.ehesp.fr/social-medicosocial/politiques-interventions-sociales/391-advocacy>

Welcoming and integrating an employee with psychiatric disorder into the company: reflections and propositions

This guide aims to inform and raise the awareness of professionals working in businesses confronted with integrating and assisting employees with psychiatric disorders throughout their professional life. It suggests ideas and reflections on how to improve the integration of these employees.

To read the publication: CTNERHI (Centre Technique National d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Handicaps et les Inadaptations) website,

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

FRA Annual Report 2008

The FRA report summarises the findings of the Agency's on-going data collection through its RAXEN National Focal Points (NFPs) in each of the 27 Member States of the EU, highlighting also examples of good practice in employment, education, housing and health care.

For more information:

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=4860badc7f08
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New issue of HSCNews International

HSCNews International, issue 43, June 2008, focuses on patients' rights in Europe.

It looks at the groundswell of opinion on the subject of patient rights, and examines why the increasing mobility of patients across national borders has brought the topic of patients' rights to the attention of various EU agencies.

To receive the report: contact PatientView at info@patient-view.com

XVI. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

New website about depression in young adult

A new website aimed at young adults (15-30) has been recently launched by Depression Alliance Scotland, a Scottish NGO.

The site is part of a wider initiative in the Lothian region of Scotland (UK), combining social marketing with short life self-help groups and online CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) based support.

To access the website: <http://www.lookokfeelcrap.org/index.php>

EAPN has new website

The new EAPN website is better suited for informing everyone who is interested in Social Europe about poverty and social exclusion in the European Union as well as the EAPN activities and the policy issues EAPN keeps under close review. This new website will be further developed with new content and options in the near future.

To access the website: <http://www.eapn.eu/>

XVII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

20-25 September 2008

XIVth 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

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, or send an email to UNESCO-chair@aps.edu.pl

22-24 September 2008

Ifdm 2008, 4th 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>

23-25 September 2008

10th EURO-PSY Rehabilitation festival, "La ronde des cultures", Ankaran (Slovenia)

For more information: the festival dedicated website,
<http://euro-psy2008.sent.si>

NEW!! 24-26 September 2008

Werkstätten:Tag 2008, "Putting People First. Future – Opportunity – Work", Bremen (Germany)

For more information: visit www.werkstaettentag.de

26-28 September 2008

2nd 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,
or contact alexander.friedmann@meduniwien.ac.at and solmaz.golsabahi@marienhospital-hamm.de

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

NEW!! 1-2 October 2008

CECOP conference, "Worker ownership: the synthesis between entrepreneurial development and social inclusion", Brussels (Belgium)

For more information: contact person, Olivier Biron, Email cecop@cecop.coop, Tel +32 2 543 10 33

1-4 October 2008

11th European Health Forum Gastein, "Values in Health: From Visions to Reality", Salzburg (Austria)

For more information: the Forum dedicated website, <http://www.ehfg.org/>

NEW!! 1-9 October 2008

Scottish Mental Health Art and Film Festival, Edinburgh (Scotland, UK)

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

NEW!! 6-7 October 2008

EFSC conference "Street children as a challenge to social policies and the renewed Lisbon Strategy: The role of the civil society as a catalyst for the social inclusion process for children at high risk and street children", Lisbon (Portugal)

For more information: contact person, Anna D'Ambrosio, Email anna.dambrosio@efsc-eu.org,
or visit

<http://www.efsc-eu.org/index.php?pid=81&id=&PHPSESSID=06c8bb26dace9782247f2d8b14e06b58>

7 October 2008

Second Annual Recovery Conference, "From Here to Recovery – Transforming the Journey", Newmarket (UK)

For more information: contact person, Alison Wigginton, Email a.wigginton@herts.ac.uk, Tel +44 1707 284951

NEW!! 8-9 October 2008

Social Platform Annual Conference, "Civil Dialogue – how can we shape the Europe we want?," Brussels (Belgium)

For more information: see the Conference announcement,

http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/MembersRoom/Annual_Conference/Conference%20announcement%202008%2007%2002.doc

NEW!! 16-17 October 2008

LOGOS European Days, « Enfermements et mises au secret. Crises et chuchotements dans les cuisines de l'institution...», Perpignan (France)

For more information: send an Email to contact@logos66.com, or visit www.logos66.com

19-22 October 2008

ISQua 25th International Conference on Quality in Health Care, Copenhagen (Denmark)

For more information: visit the ISQua website,

<http://www.isqua.org/isquaPages/copenhagen08.html>

22-24 October 2008

1st International Conference on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector, 'Together, Creating a safe Work Environment', Amsterdam (Netherlands)

For more information: the Conference's website,

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/WorkplaceViolence/index.html>

5-7 November 2008

Eurochild Annual Conference, 'Including children: a child rights approach to child well-being', Budapest (Hungary)

For more information: visit the Eurochild website, <http://www.eurochild.org/>

5-9 November 2008

Horatio European Festival of Psychiatric Nursing, 'The age of dialogue', Malta

For more information: Horatio website, <http://www.horatio-web.eu/>

NEW!! 13-14 November 2008

FEANTSA European Conference "People who are homeless can be housed: An insight into successful practices from across Europe", Cardiff (UK)

For more information: contact Christine Lambert, Email Christine.lambert@feantsa.org, or visit the FEANTSA website, www.feantsa.org

NEW!! 24 November 2008

Course on recent developments and innovations in the Dutch health services, Utrecht (Netherlands)

For more information: contact person, Clarine Sies, Email C.P.Sies@umcutrecht.nl, Tel +31 88 756 88 82

16-19 April 2009

12th 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?

Please send it to info@mhe-sme.org