



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000 Brussels

Tel + 32 2 280 04 68

Fax + 32 2 280 16 04

Email: info@mhe-sme.org

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

**NEWSLETTER N°1 /2010
JANUARY 2010**

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

TABLE OF CONTENT

I. MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE	3
II. EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES.....	8
III. EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION	10
IV. NEWS FROM OTHER (E)NGOs.....	12
V. PUBLICATIONS	12
VI. CONFERENCES	13

Remembering John Henderson

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of John Henderson. He passed away peacefully at home in Scotland on the 4th of January 2010.

Tracing John's longstanding commitments on mental health is impossible... After his training as psychiatrist, John worked as superintendent in different hospitals and became Principal Medical Officer in mental health at the Scottish Home and Health Department in Edinburgh.

From 1976 onwards he was WHO Adviser for mental health for South Asia in Delhi, India and in 1980 he went to Copenhagen to take up the post of WHO Adviser for mental health in Europe.

In 1985 he became the Medical Director of St. Andrews Hospital in Northampton and in 1993 he joined the Mental Health Foundation in London as Director for Grants.

Since 1980 - already 30 years ago - John started working with MHE. Our "official" collaboration started when John was Adviser for the reform of psychiatric care in Leros and elsewhere in Greece. This reform process was supported by the EU and the European Social Fund.

John joined the Board of the European Regional Council of the World Federation for Mental Health (ERC-WFMH, the predecessor of Mental Health Europe) in 1992; he was elected President of MHE and Vice-President of the World Federation for Mental Health in 1993, and I became Executive Director.

Together we were able to make some important achievements. MHE was officially recognised as international non-governmental organisation (INGO); we set up our Secretariat in Brussels, employed our first paid staff. We also obtained the consultative status with the Council of Europe and were recognised as coordinating NGO in the field of mental health within the EU HELIOS Programme.

After his term as President, John accepted to continue his involvement with MHE as Senior Policy Adviser. He was not only inspiring colleagues all over Europe with his knowledge and experience, but also raised critical comments when projects were not in accordance with our objectives. He had a clear vision on mental health and human rights.

He was a remarkable man in every way. He believed in the importance of sharing, learning and networking, also with mental health service users, and treated everybody with dignity and respect.

He played a crucial role in many negotiations with the European Commission, the World Health Organization and other European and national agencies.

John was a true European, deeply believing in the benefits that come with partnerships and collaboration in Europe.

John will be remembered by all those who had the opportunity and the privilege to know him, as a warm and extraordinary person with a great sense of humour.

I am proud to have known him and to have worked with John.

We will all miss him so much.

Josée Van Remoortel
MHE Senior Policy Adviser.

I. MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

MHE NEWS AND POLICY WORK

MHE – payment of membership fees 2010

Invitations to pay the membership fee 2010 are being sent to Mental Health Europe members (all 3 categories) by postal mail these days.

Please inform the MHE secretariat should you not have received your invitation within a reasonable delay.

Mental Health Europe Conference 2010, Brussels

Mental Health Europe will hold its annual Conference 2010 "Challenging Poverty – Creating Hope. Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Mental Health Problems".

The Conference will take place on 22-23 October 2010 in Brussels, and is organised in the frame of the European Year 2010 against Poverty and Social Exclusion, in collaboration with the Institut Wallon pour la Santé Mentale and the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Geestelijke Gezondheid, and with the support of the Ligue Bruxelloise pour la Santé Mentale.

Research has shown clear bidirectional links between mental health and poverty. People experiencing poverty are particularly vulnerable towards developing mental health problems. Conversely people with existing mental health problems are more likely to experience poverty. Mental Health Europe will present the results of a survey that was conducted among its members prior to the conference, with a focus on poverty and mental health problems of children and young people, women, older people and migrants.

MHE invites field workers and experts from various European countries to present and exchange their experiences and good practices on overcoming the vicious cycle of poverty and mental health problems.

Please contact info@mhe-sme.org by 20 March if you would like to share your experience with a large European audience.

To see the first announcement and call for contributions, please visit the MHE website at www.mhe-sme.org/en. More information will be available soon!

MHE Conference 2010 – Message for MHE members

MHE members will receive soon information about organisational details regarding their participation in the MHE 2010 Conference, Capacity-building Seminar and General Assembly.

New National Focal Point training round 2010

Mental Health Europe is organising a new round of trainings for its National Focal Points.* During a 1 ½ day seminar, the latest developments in the EU institutions and policies, in particular relating to the Mental Health Pact as well as social and human rights policies will be presented and participants will be exchanging best practices from their respective countries. Further items on the agenda are the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, cooperation with the newly elected European Parliament and communication strategies.

The trainings will take place between February and June 2010 in five regional groupings:

- 11-12 February 2010 in Ljubljana: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia
- 11-12 March 2010 in Bucharest: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Romania
- 15-16 April 2010 in Madrid: Belgium (2 Belgian organisations), France, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain
- 6-7 May 2010 in Stockholm: Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden
- 10-11 June 2010 in Tallinn: Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, UK

* NFPs are intermediaries between MHE and its member organisations and other stakeholders in their respective country 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 inputs 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.

For further information, please contact Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, at astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org

MHE Response to EU-2020 Consultation on Future EU Strategy

The European Commission had launched a consultation on the European Union's Strategy which will frame the policy directions leading up to the year 2020. The launch of the new EU 2020 Strategy is planned for the European Council Summit in March 2010.

Mental Health Europe responded to the consultation and pointed out that one of Europe's main goals should be to ensure social cohesion in the European Union and to reduce inequalities. This includes combating the negative effects of the economic and financial crisis and growing unemployment which had a considerable impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the population since more and more people face financial difficulties, fear and uncertainty about the future.

MHE emphasised that a stronger significance of the question of health and well-being of the population should be incorporated in the EU 2020 strategy. Health determines the wellbeing of the citizens and affects their involvement in society and the labour market. It therefore has an impact on the social cohesion and also the productivity of a society. Targets should be set to improve the health care systems of the EU Member States in order to create equal opportunities for all. The European Pact for Mental Health and Wellbeing, which was concluded between the EU Member States in 2008, should be mainstreamed into policy-making on all levels such as health, social policies, housing, employment, training etc.

To read MHE response to the EU 2020 consultation, please go to <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html>

For further information, please contact Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, at astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org

EU Thematic conference "Prevention of Depression and Suicide – Making it Happen", 10-11 December 2009, Budapest

About 200 people – mental health professionals, representatives of EU Member States, researchers and a few mental health service users and family representatives– attended this thematic conference jointly organised by the Hungarian Ministry of Health and the European Commission's Directorate of Health and Consumers with the support of the Swedish EU Presidency and in collaboration with the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe.

The conference was structured around following sub-themes:

- Determinants and Risk Factors of Depression
- Determinants and Risk Factors of Suicide
- Building Partnership with other Policies and Sectors
- Mainstreaming Mental Health in Health Disciplines
- e-Health, Internet and Media
- Improving the Knowledge Base

Presentations endorsed the key actions and the messages highlighted in the conference background documents.

After the conference, the key actions paper will be revised according to feedback from the conference and summarised in the final conference report. This report will be used in a summary of the outcomes of all thematic conferences in 2011, and the preparation of a Commission paper (status to be defined) on promoting mental health and well-being in the European Union.

At this conference Mental Health Europe was represented by Nace Kovac, President, Stijn Jannes, Senior Policy Adviser, Tamas Barnabas, Board member, Laszlo Lahtavari, National Focal Point for Hungary, and Mary Van Dievel, Director.

Nace Kovac was invited to give Mental Health Europe's views on the theme and on the conference during the closing session. He referred to the report written by a group of experts in 2004, at the request of DG Sanco's Director General Robert Madelin: "Actions against depression" and expressed MHE's fear that the current economic and financial crisis will be "misused" by those who have the power – financially, economically and politically – and called for a more ethical attitude, especially in the field of employment.

He called on the EU leaders to take real leadership, to make sure that the EU Pact on Mental Health and Well-being be implemented, by the EU Member States and at all levels. Indeed, as already stated in the 2004 report mentioned above: The cost of not taking action on depression is too great. Doing nothing is not an option!.

MHE's statement can be read at <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html>

The document "Key actions on Prevention of Depression and Suicide" is available at http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/ev_20091210_bgdocs_en.htm

European Health Property Network 2009 Workshop, 21-23 September 2009, Durham, UK

The 2009 European Health Property Network (EuHPN) workshop took place at Durham University, from 21st to 23rd September 2009, with two main themes: infrastructure for mental health services and design for dementia care.

It is interesting to see that an important association of Architects, Engineers and Economists involved in health infrastructure like EuHPN has chosen to dedicate the 2009 workshop to mental health.

EuHPN has been established ten years ago and has organised important initiatives all over Europe on different issues connected with health services.

In the workshop many aspects of mental health have been discussed. The issues of hospital and community based services were discussed also in relation with the different typologies of disorders and users needs. The different care models and health services were analyzed according to the specific culture of the EU countries.

Pino Pini, representing MHE, introduced the workshop focusing on the general process of deinstitutionalisation in Europe. Following the deinstitutionalization process, the system of psychiatric hospitals is going to be reduced or abolished and replaced by community based services. The new role of users and relatives in all mental health issues was mentioned. Special attention was paid to people with dementia.

All the workshop presentations are available at <http://www.euhpn.eu/resource/euhpn-annual-workshop-durham-2009>

In memory of Judi Chamberlin

MHE is very sad to announce that Judi Chamberlin died at the age of 65.

Judi was a long-time leader of the Mad Movement and activist for the protection of users' rights. For more than 30 years she travelled around Europe and the rest of the world to champion the empowerment of users and survivors of psychiatry.

She also wrote a book, "On Our Own: Patient-Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System".

She will be missed, not only by the users' movement.

NEWS ON PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN WHICH MHE IS INVOLVED

"Violence and harassment against women at work...Let's talk about it!"

The 2nd project partners meeting will take place in Brussels on 26th February 2010 with the main topic of discussing being the National press conferences in the partner countries and the final European conference towards the end of the year.

As the project moves into the 2nd year of implementation it has emerged that there is a real need for awareness raising campaigns. The information gathered has been insightful and extremely illuminating and will hopefully contribute to a more pleasant working environment for women.

Speak out. Tell someone. Awareness of your situation. Report it. Talk to your union S.T.A.R.T. to stop violence and harassment against women at work.....Work should not hurt!

For further information on the project please visit www.mhe-sme.org or contact the Secretariat at info@mhe-sme.org

The ProMenPol toolkit is now available online!

The ProMenPol toolkit is now available online on the English part of the website. The toolkit consists of 4 inter-related manuals on how to implement mental health promotion. Each of the manuals can be downloaded as a PDF document. A Generic Manual is also available online as a means of navigating through the tools database.

To download the manuals, please see

<http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/?i=promenpol.en.promenpol-tool-kit>

UPDATE ON NEW ITEMS ON MHE WEBSITE

The MHE website has been updated with new information in the following sections:

- About MHE/ Contact us
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/about-mental-health-europe/contact-us.html>
- *NEW SECTION:* Our work/Cross-themes lobbying and advocacy activities
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/our-work/lobbying-advocacy.html>
- Publications/ MHE Position papers
 - MHE message for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (21 January 2010)
 - MHE response to the European Commission EU 2020 Strategy consultation (14 January 2010)
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html>
- News and events/ MHE Press releases
Press release on MHE message for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases.html>

French Version:

- Notre travail
 - Promotion de la santé mentale et prévention des troubles
 - Inclusion sociale et santé mentale
 - Droits de l'Homme et santé mentale
 - Activités de lobbying et de plaidoyer
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/fr/notre-travail.html>

MHE REPRESENTATION AT VARIOUS MEETINGS

On 19 January, Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, and Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer, attended the European Year 2010 Press Conference in Brussels.

On 19 January, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, participated in the last meeting of the "Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care" organized by the Spidla Cabinet in Brussels.

On 21 January, Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, participated in the Launch of the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid.

On 25-27 January, Roselyne Bourgon attended the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

On 27 January Mary Van Dievel participated in the Caritas European Year 2010 launch at the European Parliament in Brussels.

On the same day, Mary Van Dievel attended the Inaugural Cocktail of the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament and Astrid Mechel participated in the Volonteur Europe Seminar in Brussels.

On 29 January Mary van Dievel, Stijn Jannes, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, and Yves Brand, MHE Health Policy Officer, had a meeting at DG Sanco in Luxembourg.

NEWS FROM MHE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Advocacy France's training course on pair advocacy

The association Advocacy France, in collaboration with the Institut Internationale de Recherche-Action (2IRA), is organizing a training course on pair advocacy. The course will start on February 2010.

For more information, please visit www.advocacy.fr or send an email to siege@advocacy.fr

General Assembly of the Institut Wallon pour la Santé Mentale, Belgium

The Institut Wallon pour la Santé Mentale (IWSM) organised its General Assembly on 14 December 2009. The members approved the priorities proposed by IWSM together with the project and activities planned for the year 2010.

The work will be developed around four priority axes: (new) problems in the field of mental health; (new) practices and initiatives; reflection on the users' involvement; visibility of the work in the field of mental health.

To know more about the General Assembly, please read http://www.iwsm.be/institut-wallon-sante-mentale-confluciel_select_print.php?id_confluciel_num=25&org=news

II. EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES

Investiture Procedure of the 2009-2014 Commission - Hearings of the Commissioners designate at the European Parliament

Before the new European Commission can take office the proposed new Commissioners must pass Question and Answer sessions in front of Members of the European Parliament. Each committee questions the candidate on issues ranging from the CV to the political views. The Hearings took place in Brussels on 11-19 January. The Commissioners designated in the field of Health, Social Affairs and Fundamental Rights, respectively John Dalli from Malta, László Andor from Hungary and Viviane Reding from Luxembourg, were heard by the relevant Committees at the European Parliament.

During his hearing John Dalli stated that the underlying theme of his work will be "Patients First, Consumers First". His main vision is that the life-expectancy and quality of health of the European citizens should increase, and that they are well-informed consumers who can take educated decisions on the goods and services they consume. In his speech Dalli furthermore pointed out that more attention needs to be given to the prevention of health situations in order to secure the sustainability of the health sector. The focus on sustainable health outcomes, including mental health, will continue. The access to good and timely treatment and affordable medicines, irrespective of nationality or socioeconomic status is a final key point.

MHE is glad that the Commissioner considers patients and consumers as a main priority and includes mental health as an important issue on his Agenda. However MHE expresses his disappointment for the lack of reference to the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being.

The message of Mrs Reding in the field of fundamental rights and justice was focused on the idea that in the last decade justice has been neglected in favour of security. She reassured the importance of a collective work of the Commission as well as the importance of a joint work between the different European justice institutions since the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty. MHE welcomes this approach and underlines the importance of collaboration with other DGs (Home Affairs, Social Affairs, Health) in combating discrimination especially in accessing social and health services in order to ensure equality between citizens.

In his hearing, Commissioner Designate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Lászlo Andor pointed out that his aim is to guarantee that the Commission's actions are directed towards the citizens' and workers' fundamental needs and to develop a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive economy and labour markets. In partnership with the EU Member States and European Parliament, he intends to work towards the implementation of the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy (adequate income support, inclusive labour markets, access to quality services). His top priority is to tackle the negative effects of the current economic and financial crisis. Supporting the vulnerable groups in society is one of his other main policy goals and he aims to address the roots of poverty and social exclusion including child poverty and multiple discrimination. Lászlo Andor furthermore stressed the importance of a reform of the social protection systems in the context an ageing society and stated that healthcare and social services should be promoted as new sources of growth. MHE appreciates Mr Andor's engagement towards the better inclusion of vulnerable groups and the fight against poverty and social exclusion and will continue to raise the awareness of the Commissioner on the particular vulnerability of people with mental health problems.

The final vote of the College of European Commissioners will take place on 9 February 2010.

For more information, please visit the European Parliament website at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/hearings/default.htm?language=en>

The World Health Organization Executive Board appoints regional directors

The World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board appointed Mrs. Zsuzsanna Jakab as the new WHO Regional Director for Europe and re-appointed Dr Luis Gomes Sambo as the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Mrs. Zsuzsanna Jakab, was most recently Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and will take up her new post on 1 February 2010, succeeding Dr Marc Danzon who served as the Regional Director for Europe for the past 10 years.

For more information, please visit www.who.int

Jan Jarab leaves the European Commission

Jan Jarab, who worked in the Cabinet of Commissioner Spidla, left the European Commission. Mr Jarab defined the years at the European Commission as a profoundly enriching experience and described Mr Spidla as a truly exceptional Commissioner whose commitment to the values of humanism, equality and solidarity inspired him throughout his mandate.

In his future position, Mr Jarab will work as the Regional Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and will continue to work on some of the issue which he dealt with while being a Cabinet Member, such as non-discrimination, policies concerning the Roma, rights of vulnerable persons in institutional care and its transformation to community-based services, problems of neglect and abuse of children or elderly people, the situation of migrants.

MHE thanks Mr. Jarab for his commitment in the field of mental health and for his work on the de-institutionalisation process.

Case law handbook in the field of discrimination

The European Court of Human Rights and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights will join forces to work on a year-long joint project aimed at increasing the knowledge and domestic implementation of EU law and other legal instruments in the field of non-discrimination. The joint project will result in the publication of a case-law handbook in English, to be translated into Bulgarian, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish. The handbook will analyse the key principles as developed by the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union mainly in the area of non-discrimination. The handbook and related e-learning tools will be distributed at the beginning of 2011 to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials in a host of target countries. The material will also be made available online.

Source: Fundamental Rights Agency Website

III. EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The Year 2010 is the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The key objectives are to raise public awareness about these issues and renew the political commitment of the EU and its Member States to combat poverty and social exclusion. The EY 2010 aims to challenge stereotypes and collective perceptions of poverty to ensure everyone can play a full and active role in society.

MHE has created a new section in order to increase awareness about the link between mental health and poverty.

Research has shown clear links between mental health and poverty. People experiencing poverty are particularly vulnerable towards getting mental health problems, since due to financial hardship or not having a job frequently their social contacts are suffering and uncertainty about the future dominate their daily lives.

Visit the EY 2010 website at www.2010againstopoverty.eu

Launch conference of the European Year 2010 in Madrid

The European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion was officially launched during a conference of the European Commission and the Spanish EU Presidency on 21 January 2010 in Madrid. High-level representatives from European Institutions and national governments together with a number of NGOs gathered in Madrid to discuss current challenges in the fight against poverty, the impact of the EU Growth and Jobs Strategy and future commitments beyond 2010.

On this occasion, both Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero and Commission President Barroso were present, giving the Year the importance it deserves.

In his speech, Barroso underlined the focus on social cohesion objectives in the Treaty of Lisbon. He also presented employment as the basis of the fight against poverty, and referred to youth and elderly people specifically in this context.

Zapatero spoke of the tragedy in Haiti, the strength of the European social model, the economic crisis, the situation of "dependent" people as well as of the progress made in his country to integrate the Roma people and persons with disabilities. At the EU level, he pleaded for a European Social Pact to be negotiated with social partners and for social cohesion objectives to be at the heart of the EU 2020 strategy.

Other noteworthy moments from the conference were the testimonies of people experiencing poverty, a joint call from the Belgian and French secretaries of state for quantified EU targets to reduce poverty by 2020 and the shared analysis of John Monks (ETUC), Jean Lambert MEP and Ludo Horemans (EAPN) on the need to jointly address extreme poverty and extreme wealth.

Mental Health Europe message for the European Year 2010

Mental Health Europe launched its message for the EY 2010, drawing the attention of policy-makers and other stakeholders to the links between mental health and poverty and the particularly vulnerable situation of people with mental health problems in terms of poverty.

In its message, MHE pointed out the clear bidirectional links between mental health and poverty. People experiencing poverty are particularly vulnerable towards developing mental health problems. Conversely people with existing mental health problems are more likely to experience poverty. Uncertainties about the future dominate their daily lives.

Mental Health Europe's message stresses the importance to implement the European Pact for Mental Health and Wellbeing, which was launched in 2008, and to foster measures for the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental health problems. Mental health should be incorporated in the development of all policy areas such as health, social policies, housing, employment, training, justice, fundamental rights. The fight against poverty and social exclusion should be amplified to achieve that employed and unemployed people should be able to live a life in dignity.

To read MHE complete message for the EY 2010, please see <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html>

The Social NGO Coalition launches a new website for the European Year 2010

The Social NGO Coalition in Europe, which is coordinated by the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) and of which Mental Health Europe is a coalition member, has launched its website for the European Year 2010: www.endpoverty.eu.

The website also contains information about the activities related to the European Year 2010 in all EU countries, such as for example the National Focus weeks: <http://www.endpoverty.eu/-COUNTRY-focus-.html>

Furthermore, the Coalition has launched a common message, calling on policy makers to take action and to stop poverty.

To read the message, please see http://endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/4-page_doc_-_shared_messages_final_en.pdf

The logos of the organisations supporting the European Year 2010 are online!

The logos of all the organisations supporting the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion are now online!

All the interested organisation can feature in the partners' section of the website (www.2010againstopoverty.eu) just sending their logo.

The first newsletter of the European Year 2010 is also online.

For more information, please contact Elodie Fazi at elodie.fazi@ec.europa.eu

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER (E)NGOs

The European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry publishes its new Newsletter

The European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP) is re-starting its newsletter after a prolonged break.

This newsletter represents an important means to share information and knowledge among different organisations as well as to ensure that the concerns and opinions of mental health service users and survivors are made public.

The Newsletter Advocacy Update is available at <http://www.enusp.org/newsletter/2010/1.pdf>
For further information please contact newsletter@enusp.org

The European Federation for Street Children Conference in Warsaw

The European Federation for Street Children (EFSC) held a Conference in Warsaw on 10-11 of December 2009. The theme of the conference was "Child Poverty and Drug Addiction: Challenges and Lessons in Central and Eastern Europe to improve the dialogue with the EU institutions on a Child inclusive Health Policy".

EFSC recently published a Press Release on the outcomes of the European Conference as well as a joint declaration adopted by the participants of this conference.

For a more detailed documentation please visit the EFSC website at <http://www.efsc-eu.org/index.php?pid=104> or contact Marta Anna Bulik at marta.bulik@efsc-eu.org

V. PUBLICATIONS

UK - St Mungo's report highlights the need to improve mental health services for rough sleepers

St Mungo's, a UK centre for homeless people, published a new report entitled 'Down and Out?'. The report highlights how a lack of integrated health services can lead people with mental health problems into rough sleeping. It also shows how difficult it can be for a rough sleeper to have mental illness properly treated as part of their recovery. The report calls on the government to do more to break the link between mental health issues and street homelessness. Charles Fraser, chief executive of St Mungo's, said: "We all instinctively know street homelessness can cause mental health problems, and mental health problems can cause street homelessness, yet to us it seems health services and policy makers do not make that connection."

To download the full report, please see http://www.mungos.org/campaigns/mental_health_and_street_homelessness_-_st_mungos_call/

The latest edition of Homeless in Europe "Participation of People Experiencing Homelessness: Sharing the Power and Working Together" will be available soon

The autumn 2009 edition of Homeless in Europe will soon be available. Featuring articles about participatory practice within and beyond Europe, as well as within the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), this edition provides some thought-provoking reflection on the theme "participation and homelessness".

To know more about the publication, please visit the FEANTSA website at <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/hp.asp>

VI. CONFERENCES

2-3 June 2010

VII International Conference on workplace bullying and harassment "Transforming research: evidence and practice", Cardiff, Wales

For more information, please visit the following website <http://www.bullying2010.com/>

16-19 June 2010

XV World Congress of Inclusion International, Berlin

For further information, please see www.inclusion2010.de

28-30 June 2010

XIII International Conference of the International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry "Real People: The Self in Mental Health and Social Care", Manchester, UK

For more information, please visit http://www.uclan.ac.uk/iscr/international_conference.php

8-10 October 2010

IX International Conference of Autism-Europe "A Future for Autism", Catania, Italy

For further information, please visit the website www.autismeurope2010.org

8-9 November 2010

IV Thematic Conference for the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being "Mental health in workplace and settings", Berlin

To know more about this Invitational Conference, please see

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

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

Please send your contributions to info@mhe-sme.org