



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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Many MHE members and representatives of other organisations, who had the pleasure to meet John Henderson in the past years and/or to work with him during his long career, sent their condolences on the occasion of his death. It was comforting to see that so many people had known John and had good memories of him as a person and of his work.

MHE would like to thank all of them for their messages that were sent and transferred to his Family.

I. MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

MHE NEWS AND POLICY WORK

National Focal Point training in Ljubljana

Mental Health Europe started a new round of trainings for its National Focal Points.* The first training, which was co-organised by SENT, took place on 10-12 February in Ljubljana with participants from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany and Slovenia. Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, and Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, presented the latest developments related to the European Institutions due to the recently adopted Lisbon Treaty. Further topics elaborated in the training were news on mental health, social and human rights policies in Europe. The participants exchanged their experiences regarding the implementation of the Mental Health Pact and their activities related to social inclusion and human rights at national level. Furthermore, Simon Bryceson, independent communication expert, held an interactive session on strategies for influencing policy-makers and combating stigma and discrimination.

Four more trainings for National Focal Points will take place until June 2010.

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

* 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 input from its members working at the local, regional and national level in order to report back to the European level on specific issues of consultation.

Mental Health Europe calls on EU leaders to take social NGOs' claims for the EU 2020 Strategy into serious account

The European Commission launched a consultation on the European Union's Strategy which will frame the policy directions leading up to the year 2020. After publication of the first analysis of consultation responses, Mental Health Europe, as many other NGOs, is astonished that the European Commission's overall conclusions seem to be that the best way to carry forward health and social issues is "business as usual". Prior to the informal meeting of the EU heads of states and governments on 11 and 12 February where the EU 2020 Strategy was discussed, MHE called on the EU leaders to take the views of the social NGOs into account and to put a serious emphasis on the fight against social exclusion of vulnerable groups in society such as people with mental health problems.

In the consultation paper, the issues of health and wellbeing are only basically touched upon. It is important to acknowledge the importance of health and social aspects in an overall European strategy. The integration of vulnerable groups into society should be fostered since the number of people facing difficulties and exclusion such as people suffering from mental health problems or other forms of sickness or disability, homeless people, migrants and other socially excluded or disadvantaged groups, is considerable. Not addressing the needs of these groups means excluding a significant percentage of European citizens.

To read MHE's 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

MHE staff replacement

Yves Brand is replacing Mari Fresu as Health Policy Officer during her maternity and parental leave.

Yves is Dutch and worked as a trainee at the European Patients Forum.

You can contact Yves by e-mail at yves.brand@mhe-sme.org

We wish him a warm welcome!

MHE welcomes a new staff member

On 1 March Samira Assoufi will join the MHE Secretariat to work as Secretary. Samira is Belgian.

You can contact Samira by e-mail at Secretariat@mhe-sme.org

We wish her a warm welcome!

MHE new Project Coordinator

As from 16 February Alessia Faravelli replaces Lucy Vallis as Project Coordinator for the EU Project "Violence against women at work...Let's talk about it!".

Alessia is psychologist and worked until mid February as MHE Information Officer. We wish her good luck in this new position.

You can contact Alessia at Alessia.faravelli@mhe-sme.org

NEWS ON MHE PROJECTS

ProMenPol published its last Newsletter

After the successful completion of the project, ProMenPol published its last Newsletter. (available at <http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/?i=promenpol.en.news.841>).

The ProMenPol website was designed to act as a pan-European gateway to results, documentation and related issues emanating from the project. Additionally, the website holds several possibilities for registered members to disseminate their own results, tools, events and news.

For ProMenPol members accessible parts of the website include the following sections:

- *News & Events*: Here latest developments in the field of mental health promotion can be published ranging from conference announcements, project launches, new publications to policy developments. Newly added events and news will be displayed in the right hand column on the ProMenPol website's main page.
- *Projects*: Here projects related to mental health (and its promotion) can be entered and described. Mainly projects which are primarily undertaken on a European level have been entered. However the section is open to actions on national and local level, too.
- *Networks and other Organisations*: The section contains links to mental health associated networks and organisations.
- *Policy Documents*: Policy related documents in the field of mental health (promotion), such as the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being are entered here. These policy documents may relate to activities and actions on both a European level as well as a national level.

- *Bibliography*: References to (scientific) articles regarding mental health and public health are provided in this section. The section is open to English references as well as publications in other languages.
- *Database*: In addition to retrieving tools from the ProMenPol Database, it is also possible for registered members to upload tools to the database themselves.

In addition, registered members receive the ProMenPol newsletter which is sent out on a quarterly basis and is used as a vehicle to disseminate information about latest developments in the field of mental health promotion.

In order to become a ProMenPol member, users must sign up using the 'Sign up Now!' link provided on the left side of the screen – just below the 'Login' button in the Members Area.

Once accessed, users are provided with the 'Members Area-ProMenPol Registration' screen which requests the user's email address for verification purposes and the commencement of the registration process.

To know more, please visit <http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net>

MHE WEBSITE UPDATES

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

- News and events/ MHE Press releases:
Press release on MHE message on EU 2020 consultation first published analysis by the European Commission (5 February 2010)
<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/news-and-events/mhe-press-releases.html>

MHE REPRESENTATION AT VARIOUS MEETINGS

On 2 February, Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, participated in the Social Policy Working Group organised by the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 8-9 February, Yves Brand, MHE Health Policy Officer, attended the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers Workshop "EU Health Programme: Preparing a successful project application" in Luxembourg. The workshop focussed upon the procedures and practical aspects of project proposals for the Call for Proposals 2010.

On 9 February Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, participated in the meeting of the "Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care" organized in Brussels.

On 9 February, Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer, participated in the meeting of the FRAND Working Group organized by the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 10-12 February, Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, and Astrid Mechel organised a training session for the National Focal Points from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany and Slovenia in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The event was co-organised by SENT.

On 11 February, Yves Brand participated in the Youth Health Initiative Meeting organised by the Directorate General for Health and Consumers in Brussels.

On 11 February, Roselyne Bourgon and Alessia Faravelli, MHE Project Coordinator, held a meeting with a representative from the All-Ukraine NGO Coalition for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

On 12 February, Roselyne Bourgon attended the Seminar "Stakeholders' involvement in social inclusion policies in the implementation of the social inclusion strand of the Open Method of Coordination", organised by INBAS GmbH and ENGENDER asbl in Brussels.

On 12 February, Roselyne Bourgon and Alessia Faravelli, held a meeting with a group of students and 3 representatives of Mental Health Ireland.

On 16 February, Roselyne Bourgon participated in a Policy Briefing involving Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, at European Policy Center in Brussels.

On 22 February, Mary Van Dievel attended the European Foundation Center reception in Brussels, where the Foundation Week 31/05 – 04/06 was officially launched.

On 22 February, Astrid Mechel represented MHE at the EU stakeholders' expert group for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

On 22-23 February, Yves Brand attended the European Public Health Alliance Workshop "A Taste of Europe" in Brussels.

On 22 February, Roselyne Bourgon attended the meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Rights at the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 23 February, Mary Van Dievel participated in the "Interest Group on Carers" at the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 24 February, Yves Brand attended the European Parliament Meeting "EU Better Regulation: from economic to citizen-centric", organised by the Smoke Free Partnership and the European Public Health Alliance in Brussels.

On 24 February, Roselyne Bourgon attended a meeting at the European Commission held by the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

From 25-26 February, Astrid Mechel participated as a panelist in the 7th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities against Poverty "Confronting the Crisis Collectively: Working Together to End Poverty" in Rotterdam, organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the City of Rotterdam.

On 26 February, Mary Van Dievel, Josée Van Remoortel and Alessia Faravelli held the 2nd DAPHNE Partners Meeting in Brussels.

NEWS FROM MHE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Bad news from the Netherlands – Pandora Foundation

Due to financial constraints, Stichting Pandora (Pandora Foundation) has been obliged to stop its activities and close down its help-desk, depression line and awareness-raising activities as for the 1 February 2010.

The Ministry for Health and Welfare decided to cut the structural subsidies given to Pandora despite all the efforts of the Foundation's Board to find solutions. Stichting Pandora combined users' expertise, professionalism and creativity, and thanks to this exceptional combination it could, from the grass-root level and independently, play the role of critical watch-dog.

However, in the following years Pandora's Board will do whatever possible to contribute to the activities of the voluntary Consortium Cliëntenbord-Voice. This Consortium strives to realise a country-wide general client organisation with an adequate regional spreading.

MHE regrets very much that this unique organisation had to close doors and thanks the Director Marijke Knuttel and her staff for their valuable contribution to MHE's work in the past.

"Mental Health Inequalities: Measuring what counts" - Report of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, UK

The publication "Mental Health Inequalities: Measuring what counts" is based on a seminar jointly organised in 2009 by the Sainsbury Centre and the Department of Health. The report underlines that public services do not routinely collect data on mental health inequalities and the information is not used to its full potential. So it calls for a better measurement and use of the data.

To download the report, please see the following link

http://www.scmh.org.uk/publications/mental_health_inequalities.aspx?ID=606

Source: Sainsbury Center website

Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health

The Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health (SDC) is doing a brief survey for people with close personal experience of mental ill health (either personal or a friend or family member), about how people with lived experience use the web in relation to mental health.

The survey results will be used to inform the conference discussions on "Mental Health and the Internet", and may also be used for media work around the event. No personal data will be recorded, so responses are entirely anonymous.

The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete, and is available at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mhandthenet>

The Swedish Association for Mental Health has a new contact!

The Swedish Association for Mental Health moved in January 2010. Its new address is:

Swedish Association for Mental Health
Box 3445
S-103 69 STOCKHOLM
Sweden

II. EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES

The European Pact on Mental Health and Well-being

The aims and objectives of the Pact are to support and inform Member States and other stakeholders, promote best practice and encourage actions, to help address common challenges and tackle health inequalities. The Pact reflects the commitment of European Member States to a long-term process of exchange, cooperation and coordination on key challenges. This exchange and cooperation will facilitate the monitoring of trends and activities in Member States and among other stakeholders and result in the delivery of recommendations for policy and action at the European and Member State level, in the 5 priority areas.

The Pact is now in its implementation phase, in which stakeholders and policy makers in each of the 5 priority areas are encouraged in action towards promoting mental health and wellbeing and preventing mental disorders. This is being facilitated, in part, through a series of Five Thematic Conferences in each of the priority areas, which will be hosted by Member States in partnership with European Commissions' bodies and other stakeholders.

The conferences so far held or planned to take place are:

- 29–30 September 2009: Thematic conference on Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Adolescents – Swedish European Presidency event, Stockholm
- 10 – 11 December 2009: Thematic Conference on Prevention of Suicide and Depression – Event hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Health in Budapest
- 19–20 April 2010: Thematic Conference on Mental Health and Older People – Spanish European Presidency event, Madrid
- 15–16 November 2010: Thematic Conference on Combating Stigma and Improving Social Inclusion – Event hosted by Portuguese Ministry of Health in Lisbon
- Early 2011: Thematic Conference on Mental Health in the Workplace – Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Health in Germany, Berlin

To facilitate and encourage the exchange and uptake of good practice across European Member States, the Commission has set up the EU Compass. The EU-Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being is a resource which has been developed to facilitate the exchange of good practice and policies, to allow the dissemination of relevant documents, and to encourage the expression of commitment to future action in mental health.

The Compass includes 4 types of resources:

- 1) Database of Policies and Good Practices
- 2) Policy Documents, Recommendations and Declarations
- 3) Reports and Studies
- 4) Implementation

This Compass is in process of ongoing development with each section being created, added to and completed in parallel with the European Commission Thematic Conferences in the 5 priority areas.

Relevant stakeholders are invited to send their examples of good practice, statements of commitment and relevant reports and/or studies in their area of activity for the priority areas of youth and education, prevention of depression and suicide and now mental health among older people. The response so far has been excellent and inputs continue to be received by the technical secretariat. If you wish to make your contribution to the EU Compass, please contact the technical secretariat at: ec-mentalhealthprocess@gencat.cat or visit the website to download the relevant template for submission.

Recommendations and materials designed to facilitate dissemination of the Pact are available online at <http://www.ec-mental-health-process.net/implementation.html#01>. These are designed to encourage and assist professionals in raising awareness of the initiative and forthcoming events at the national, regional and local level or through a particular field of work.

“Nothing about us without us”: the European Parliament drives forward disability rights

On 27 January 2009, the renewed Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament and the European Disability Forum toasted the New Year in Brussels at a very well-attended event. The new President of the Intergroup – for the first time a person with a disability himself, – and the disability movement presented the Disability Pact to a hundred of activists and 20 MEPs from various political groups and nationalities.

Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, represented MHE at this meeting.

To know more about the Disability Pact, please see www.disabilitypact.eu

The Belgian Presidency health priorities

On 26 January the Belgian Minister of Health, Laurette Onkelinx, presented the health priorities for the upcoming Belgian EU Presidency to the Belgian Parliament. She explained that specific attention will be given to the Belgian Cancer Plan and to chronic diseases, including dementia.

Mental Health Europe was very disappointed that mental health and well-being don't seem to be a priority to the Belgian government.

The Council of Europe calls for deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities, Strasbourg, 04 February 2010

The Committee of Ministers adopted a text recommending Member States to give preference to community living for children with disabilities rather than to institutional care. There are many concerns about the compatibility between institutional care practices and the exercise of children's rights. Except for exceptional circumstances, children shouldn't be placed in institutional care. The Committee of Ministers acknowledges that Member States are at very different stages in this area and that deinstitutionalisation is an on-going, long-term process. The text therefore underlines the importance of safeguarding the rights of children with disabilities and vulnerable young adults in institutional care throughout the transition process. Mechanisms should be established to involve children with disabilities and their families in the process of service development, as they are vital stakeholders. The Council of Europe has been active for several years in the field of disability since it has adopted a ten-year plan for 2006-2015 aimed, among other, at bringing about a major change in perceptions of people with disabilities. Still several million of children and adults with disabilities are estimated to live in long-term care institutions in the 47 Council of Europe member states.

For more information, please read the full text of the recommendation following this link <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec%282010%292&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

The European Human Rights Commissioner urges stronger efforts to protect the rights of children with intellectual disabilities, 10 February 2010, Budapest

The Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, published a report on his visit to Bulgaria in November 2009. The issue of institutionalised children with intellectual disabilities was high on his agenda together with the right to inclusive education and the need to ensure children's care in family environments. The Commissioner met with several Bulgarian authorities and civil society stakeholders, including the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC). In his report, the Commissioner raised a number of issues that warrant urgent and detailed attention by the Bulgarian government. Of utmost concern is the continued segregation of children with disabilities who are removed from society and placed in institutions. MDAC commends the Commissioner's urgent recommendations for deinstitutionalisation. Consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Commissioner upholds the right of every child to be raised in and to live in the community, preferably within a family setting. This also echoes a Recommendation adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 3 February 2010 which calls on Member States, including Bulgaria, to no longer place children with disabilities in institutional care and to give preference to community living.

To read the full report of the Commissioner Hammarberg, please visit the following link <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1581941&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679>

Source: MDAC

Council of Europe Conference: "Future of the European Court of Human Rights" 18-19 February 2010, Interlaken (Switzerland)

On 18 and 19 February the future of the European Court of Human Rights was discussed by the Human Rights Ministers of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe in Interlaken. This meeting followed the decision from Russian Federation authorities to ratify the Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights, reshaping the organisation of the European Court of Human Rights.

The aim of the conference, organised by the Swiss Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, was to reaffirm member states' commitment to protect human rights in Europe and their determination to enable the European Court of Human Rights, which is a vital cog in the protection mechanism, to cope with the growing volume of applications. The ministers discussed some reforms in order to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Court, as well as ways of better monitoring the execution of its judgments and improving human rights protection at national level.

For more information on the conference, please see the following link http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/events/2010_interlaken_conf/default_EN.asp?

The High Commissioner of Human Rights opens an office in Brussels

The UN High Commissioner of Human Rights opened an office in Brussels. Regional Representative of the Office is Mr Jan Jarab who in his previous position was the member of cabinet of Commissioner Spidla and is well-known in the disability community.

The presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Brussels is a unique opportunity to directly influence the UN policies on human rights of persons with disabilities, especially the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The direct dialogue between OHCHR and the European Commission will also hopefully improve the transparency of the ratification and implementation processes.

Jan Jarab can be contacted at jjarab@ohchr.org

III. EY 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

Visit the Social NGO Coalition's website for the EY 2010 at www.endpoverty.eu

Read the MHE message for the EY 2010 at <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/mhe-position-papers.html>

National Focus Weeks

The National Focus Weeks have been designated in all the EU Member States (plus Iceland and Norway).

NGOs are strongly encouraged to organise activities linked to the Year in their country. Ways in which NGOs can mark this week include:

- Awareness-raising on poverty and social exclusion issues: challenges and solutions
- Visibility of local anti poverty and social inclusion initiatives (open days for example)
- Engaging local and national media on the theme of poverty and social exclusion
- Events involving people experiencing poverty
- Joint events between national members of European networks
- Joint events between national and European Members of Parliament
- Engaging with other national stakeholders: trade unions, employers, schools, enterprises...
- Press conferences
- Media interviews

The calendar of National Focus Weeks is available at http://www.endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/National_Focus_Weeks_Calendar.pdf

Thematic Milestones

Part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion are the so-called "Thematic Milestones", which are carried out via specific media activities implemented at EU and national level (dissemination of background materials, articles, audio-visual materials).

Setting the Context (January-February)

- What is poverty and social exclusion?
- Poverty and Fundamental rights

Groups at risk (March-June)

- Women
- Roma, Ethnic minorities and migrants
- People with a disability
- Homeless people
- Poverty across generations: children, youth and the elderly

Solutions (July - October)

- Inclusive labour markets
- Social protection systems and access to services, including access to health protection
- Access to education and culture

Challenges and Commitments (November - December)

- Attitudes towards poverty and social exclusion
- Building a fairer society

If you would like to get involved in the National Focus Weeks or the Thematic Milestone activities, please contact your National Implementing Body (the list of NIBs is available at http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/extranet/NIBs_table.pdf) at least 6-8 weeks prior to the respective dates.

Caritas Europa launches the "Zero Poverty" campaign at the European Parliament

Caritas Europa made a plea to end the scandal of poverty with the official launch of its "Zero Poverty" campaign in the European Parliament. Supporting Caritas's message that poverty is not acceptable in the modern age were many MEPs from Malta, Ireland and Luxembourg, together with journalists, civil society actors and representatives of European governments. Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, represented MHE at this meeting.

To have further information about the Campaign, please see <http://www.caritas-europa.org/code/en/default.asp>

Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: a statistical portrait of the European Union 2010

Building a more inclusive Europe is considered vital to achieve the EU's goals of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs, and greater social cohesion. The publication presents a broad range of statistical concepts and indicators from social statistics. It explores poverty and social exclusion across the 27 Member States, as well as providing (whenever possible) information about candidate and EFTA countries.

To know more about this publication, please see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fr&catId=89&newsId=693&furtherNews=yes>

Photo competition on social exclusion and poverty

The André Kertész Photography Competition (AKPC) of the Szigetbecse Foundation has selected "Poverty and Social Exclusion" as a theme for the 2010 competition, in relation with the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. It is open to all, in three categories - amateur, professional and youth. The deadline for the submission is June 6, 2010.

To know more about the competition please visit the following webpage <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/news/news/news12.html?langid=en>

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER (E)NGOS

Social Platform letter to Heads of State: "Social NGOs do not support the EU 2020 Strategy as it stands"

On February 11, the Social Platform sent an open letter to Heads of State ahead of the Informal European Council. The letter outlined demands regarding the EU 2020 Agenda and the frustrations of social NGOs at the Commission's overview of the responses of the EU 2020. In its letter, the Social Platform demands that the new EU economic strategy serves people and that social cohesion together with the fight against poverty become a separate pillar of EU 2020. The Social Platform also calls for a revision of the European Employment Strategy and for a stronger participation of citizens in the political decision-making process.

To read the Social Platform letter, please visit the following link <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=23719>

European Disability Forum open letter to Heads of State: "Mind the gap: EU 2020 Strategy and persons with disabilities"

The European Disability Forum (EDF) sent an open letter to Heads of State underlining the importance of including people with disabilities in the EU 2020 Strategy. In its letter EDF calls on decision makers to ensure an immediate involvement of persons with disabilities in the adoption process. EDF also recommends the adoption of the European Disability Pact.

To read the EDF letter, please visit the following link http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=23713

Mental Power Prague International Film Festival

The Mental Power Prague Film Festival is an international film festival of (non-)actors with a mental or combined disability organized by Hendaver since 2006. The project is supported by the Czech Disability Council.

The festival shows actors' films in which people with a mental or combined disability perform and is a crowning and acknowledgement of a year-long work. Sheltered workshops from Czech Republic and from abroad take part in this project every year. Four years of the festival took place so far, with participants from different countries.

To know more about this initiative, please visit www.mentalpower.cz/en or send an email to hendaver@gmail.com

Video contest call for entries "Psychologists in schools- what do they do?" - Belgium

A video clip contest of the Network of European Psychologist in the Educational System (N.E.P.E.S.) started 1st of February 2010. The contest is part of the EU funded ESPIL Project in the framework of Comenius actions within the EU Lifelong Learning Programme.

Students, teachers, parents and psychologists in the educational system of Europe are invited to take part by sending their video clip contributions.

Until 31st of May 2010 contest contributions under the title "Psychologists in schools- what do they do?" can be handed in online at <http://www.nepes.eu>.

The winner will receive a trip to Dublin and a prize of € 500.

V. PUBLICATIONS

Mental Health at the Workplace - Guides for employers and employees

Based on the available literature and examples of good practices collected, three guides were produced to help employers and employees to implement measures to promote good mental health at work and to convince European stakeholders and companies that it is necessary and worthwhile to invest in programmes that help improve employees' mental health.

For more information, please see <http://www.enwhp.org/enwhp-initiatives/current-initiative-work-in-tune-with-life/mental-health-at-the-workplace.html>

Guidance for employers on promoting mental wellbeing through productive and healthy working conditions

The guidance is for those who have a direct or indirect role in, and responsibility for, promoting mental wellbeing at work. This includes all employers and their representatives, irrespective of the size of the business or organisation and whether they are in the public, private, or voluntary sectors.

To know more about the guidance and to download it, please see <http://www.nice.org.uk/PH2>

VI. CONFERENCES

24 March 2010

European Coalition for Community Living Seminar “Funding exclusion while promoting inclusion?”, Brussels

For more information, please see www.community-living.info

2010 Summer School

Health Service and Population Research Department Summer School, London

To read the full program and to get more information, please see <http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=4&context=1361>

All the Conferences and Events announced in the previous issues are available on the MHE website at <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/news-and-events/forthcoming-events.html>

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