



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE**



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Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000 Brussels

Tel + 32 2 280 04 68

Fax + 32 2 280 16 04

Email: [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)

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

**NEWSLETTER N° 5/2010  
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Mental Health Europe continues to mainstream mental health at all levels and by all means.

We have been invited to contribute to an expert meeting on mental illness, disability and work "Bringing the pieces together" organised by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris on 26-27 April 2010. You will read more about our contribution in this Newsletter.

We would like to encourage our readers, and in particular our members, to send us good practices in the field of mental health in older people, which we will then submit to the European Commission for inclusion in the Compass database. Yves Brand ([yves.brand@mhe-sme.org](mailto:yves.brand@mhe-sme.org)) at the MHE Secretariat will be happy to provide you with the template that the European Commission has developed for this purpose.

MHE will also contribute to the European Commission Thematic Conference on Mental Health in Older people which will now take place in Madrid on 28-29 June.

MHE is part of the working group preparing the 4th thematic conference on combating stigma and social exclusion of people with mental health problems to be held in Lisbon on 8-9 November this year.

The MHE staff met with an 11-persons delegation of the Finnish Central Association for Mental Health, a mental health service user-led organisation, and exchanged views on mental health and human rights.

During our National Focal Points training in Stockholm on 6 May, we had a very interesting meeting with the workers and users of the Fountain House Club in Stockholm city centre, where we learned that the plans for setting up a European Association of Fountain House clubs are taking shape.

We hope you will find this Newsletter useful for your work and look forward to your reactions and comments.

Mary Van Dievel, Director.

## I. MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### MHE NEWS AND POLICY WORK

#### National Focal Point training in Stockholm

On 5-7 May 2010, Mental Health Europe organised its fourth out of a round of five National Focal Points\* trainings, with participants from Hungary, Poland, Norway and Sweden. Topics discussed were recent changes in the European Institutions due to the new Lisbon Treaty as well as the developments in mental health, social and human rights policies. Johannes Hylander from the Public Relations Company Westander gave a presentation on the lobbying strategies. The participants also visited the Fountain House Foundation Stockholm, belonging to a worldwide network of clubhouses. In the clubhouse, people with mental health problems can work and organize activities together. Moreover, Fountain House provides active support for the reintegration into the labour market.

The last training for National Focal Points will be organised in Tallinn in June 2010.

*For further information, please contact Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, at [astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org](mailto: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.

#### New MHE Member Organisations

Recently the MHE Membership and Accreditation Committee approved the applications for membership of the following organisations:

*AFFINITY* - Finnish Central Association for Mental Health, Finland (Full Member)

Contact person: Timo Peltovuori, Director

Email: [timo.peltovuori@mtkl.fi](mailto:timo.peltovuori@mtkl.fi)

Website: <http://www.mtkl.fi>

*ADHD\_Europe*, Belgium (Associate Member)

Contact person: Rita Bollaert, Coordinator

Email: [ritabollaert@adhdeurope.eu](mailto:ritabollaert@adhdeurope.eu)

*Psychiatric University Clinic in Prishtina*, Kosovo (Associate Member)

Contact person: Cala Gentian, Director

Email: [genticala@hotmail.com](mailto:genticala@hotmail.com)

#### Mental Health Europe is entitled to lodge collective complaints until June 2014

Mental Health Europe is pleased to announce that the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter decided at its 121st meeting (Strasbourg, 3-6 May 2010) to re-include MHE on the list of International Non Governmental Organisations entitled to lodge collective complaints alleging violations of the European Social Charter for a period of four years (1 July 2010 - 30 June 2014). This decision is very important as it will enable MHE to bring complaints before the European Committee for Social Rights. It will also allow monitoring organs for the effective implementation of the European Social Charter, in case a European country is violating the social rights of people with mental health problems.

*For more information on the European Social Charter mechanisms, please visit the following link [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/default_en.asp)*

## **MHE supports the establishment of a European Year of Combating Violence against Women**

On 19 May, MHE sent a Letter of Support to the Members of the European Parliament for the establishment of a European Year of Combating Violence against Women.

Violence against women is a major obstacle to gender equality and is one of the most widespread human rights violations, knowing no geographical, financial, cultural or social barriers.

The Written Declaration 20/2010 regarding the European Year is co-signed by MEPs from the majority of the European political groups: Barbara Matera (EPP), Marije Cornelissen (Greens/ALE), Ilda Figueiredo (GUE), Antonia Parvanova (ALDE) and Marc Tarabella (S&D).

To read the Written Declaration and to see the related Poster, please see <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en.html>

## **MHE president was re-elected President of the Social Chamber of Slovenia**

MHE President, Nace Kovac, has been re-elected President of the Social Chamber of Slovenia. MHE sends him its warmest congratulations.

## **UPDATE ON NEW ITEMS ON MHE WEBSITE**

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

- About MHE/ Our members
    - MHE members in Belgium
    - MHE members in Kosovo
- <http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/about-mental-health-europe/our-members.html>

*Please note that the French version of the MHE website will not be updated any longer. Therefore, we invite you to refer to the English version for future information. Thank you for your comprehension.*

## **MHE REPRESENTATION AT VARIOUS MEETINGS**

On 4 May, Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, Astrid Mechel, MHE Social Policy Officer, and Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer, met in Brussels with a delegation of the Finnish Central Association for Mental Health.

On 5-6 May, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, represented MHE at the conference on "Mutual learning on active inclusion and homelessness" held by the European Commission in Brussels.

On 5-7 May, Mary Van Dievel and Astrid Mechel held the National Focal Point Training in Stockholm.

On 8-9 May, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, and Roselyne Bourgon attended the European Disability Forum General Assembly, taking place in Madrid.

On 17 May, Astrid Mechel attended the European Year 2010 NGO Contact Group meeting, organized by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) in Brussels.

On 18 May, Josée Van Remoortel, attended the International Seminar "Optimising mental health delivery in psychiatric and social care institutions" held in Brussels.

On 18 May, Roselyne Bourgon participated in the meeting of the FRAND Working Group of the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 18 May, Yves Brand, MHE Health Policy Officer, attended the European Patients Forum's seminar on "Health Technology Assessment", held in Brussels.

On 19 May, Yves Brand participated in the European Patients Forum's Annual General Meeting in Brussels.

On 20 May, Stijn Jannes, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, attended the European Union Health Policy Forum Meeting in Brussels.

## **NEWS FROM MHE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

### **A new project on palliative care – the Netherlands**

Nowadays, in the Netherlands, 27000 patients will remain for the rest of their life in a psychiatric hospital. Unfortunately most of the mainstream hospices refuse to accept these people and most of the psychiatric hospitals' staff are not trained in palliative care. Therefore, GGZ Eindhoven, together with the Volunteer Association for Palliative Care and the Synfora Group, set up a project with the aim of training mental health professionals on the theme of palliative care for long-term chronic patients.

The project is granted by the Innovative Care Fund.

### **The touring exhibition - Denmark**

"Stop Homelessness!" is a pan-European touring exhibition organised by the Projekt UDENFOR, in cooperation with the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA). The exhibition consists of 13 human-size bronze sculptures made by the Danish sculptor Jens Galchiøt, portraying homelessness in all its forms and shapes. The 13 homeless sculptures will be placed in the streets of many European capital cities and will function as giant collection boxes, encouraging people who pass by to make a donation for the organizations working with the homeless.

*To know more about this initiative, please see*

<http://www.udenfor.dk/uk/Menu/Touring+exhibition+about+homelessness/A+touring+exhibition+with+a+vision+%232>

### **Advocacy France published a Press Release on the protection of people with mental health problems**

Advocacy France recently published a Press Release to denounce the current proposed law by the French government on the rights and protection of people with mental health problems.

In its document, the French organisation deplores that the procedure foreseen by the law will not involve a judge in the decision of the treatment and that people themselves will not have a central position in the procedure. Advocacy France also expresses its deep regret that the proposed text doesn't make a distinction between people with mental health problems and people who already committed crimes.

Therefore, Advocacy France calls on French authorities to keep a high quality in mental health services, also by guaranteeing that the use of constraints will be limited to rare emergency cases. The organisation also underlines the importance of recognising the value of pair advocates and personal ombudsmen work.

For more information on Advocacy France press release, please visit the following link <http://www.advocacy.fr/>

### **"See Change": the new Irish anti-stigma campaign**

"See Change" is Ireland's new national partnership to reduce stigma and challenge discrimination associated with mental health problems. It is an alliance of organisations working together through the National Stigma Reduction Partnership to bring about positive change in public attitudes and behaviour towards people with mental health problems. Mental Health Ireland is one of the partnership organisations.

The campaign was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 by Mr John Moloney T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, who mentioned as a priority for this year the reduction of all forms of stigma and discrimination.

"See Change" is looking for a short, memorable and motivating slogan that to be used for the campaign.

*For more information on the initiative and to enter the competition please log on to [www.seechange.ie](http://www.seechange.ie)*

### **Adults for Children - Norway**

"Who can help Jesper?" is a set of tools for adults who meet children with parents having an alcohol problem, or children they suspect have parents with this kind of dependence. The toolkit consists of a booklet, an animated video, a guide for adults and a webpage.

The booklet is meant to give concrete suggestions on how to develop a conversation with a child supposed to have parents with abuse problems.

The guide provides information on typical signs of suffering children, alternatives for actions and contact details of public child care services.

*Both the animated movie and the guide are available at the webpage [www.hvemkanhjelpjesper.no/](http://www.hvemkanhjelpjesper.no/)*

*For further information, please contact Ingeborg Katarina Vea, Information Coordinator, at [ingeborg.vea@vbf.no](mailto:ingeborg.vea@vbf.no)*

### **Diotima Honorary Prize – Germany**

The German Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie won the "Diotima Honorary Prize", a prize awarded every year for extraordinary achievements in the care for people with severe mental health problems. The prize was given on the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> German Conference for Psychotherapists on 7 May in Berlin. It is already the second time that the Dachverband received the Diotima prize.

### **Conference of the Godparent initiative – Germany**

On 29 March the German Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie and the health insurance company Barmer organized a conference in the frame of their Godparent initiative in Cologne. The Godparent initiative is targeted at children who have a parent suffering from mental health problems. Children stay with their godparents during a crisis situation within their family and the family also gets follow-up support afterwards. During the conference in Cologne, both parents and godparents participated.

### **Launch of awareness-raising campaign "Crazy – so what?" – Germany**

On 5 May a new initiative for children and youth was launched by "Irrsinnig Menschlich" (insanely human), a member of the German Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie, and the health insurance company Barmer. The aim of the initiative is to support communal stakeholders to enhance their activities for the promotion of positive mental health of children and youth. A new internet platform ([www.verrueckt-na-und.de](http://www.verrueckt-na-und.de)) was established to connect people, projects and towns and to provide advices for children, youth, families and teachers.

## II. EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES

### **New Call for Proposal on Social Experimentations**

The "Call for Proposals for Social Experimentations" has been published. Deadline for submitting projects is 31 August 2010.

Activities should start between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011, for a maximum duration of 24 months and minimum duration of 12 months.

The maximum percentage of co-financing by the European Commission is 80%.

An amount of approximately 2,5 Million EURO will be available for this call. Therefore, it is envisaged that around 10 projects will be selected.

*All necessary information, including the guidelines and the application form, can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=263&furth>*

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Expert Meeting on "Mental Health, Disability and Work", 26-28 April 2010, Paris**

The meeting held in Paris by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) brought together policy makers, researchers and other experts to face the increasing difficulties in including people with mental health problems in the labour market.

MHE was asked to give an ENGO's view on this topic lead by academics and researchers identifying the cross-cutting issues and how to move forward in an integrated way.

Although mental health related disability represents one of the biggest social and labour policy challenges, relatively little is known about the appropriate responses that could be given.

During 2 days, more than 50 people discussed the different issues concerning the trends in mental health disability, the problems at the workplace, the role of employers and trade unions as well as the different disability benefit systems.

Knowing that the number of people with a disability allowance for mental health problems is rapidly increasing in the majority of the EU countries, the conference represented the right occasion to start looking for solutions.

Josée Van Remoortel represented MHE at this meeting.

Her contribution for the meeting will soon be available on the OECD website at [http://www.oecd.org/newsEvents/0,3382,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/newsEvents/0,3382,en_2649_201185_1_1_1_1_1,00.html) and is available at the MHE Secretariat.

### **Conference on "Mutual learning on active inclusion and homelessness", 5-6 May, Brussels**

On 5-6 May 2010 the European Commission hosted a conference on "Mutual learning on active inclusion and homelessness". Issues related to the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy with its three strands minimum income, access to quality services and inclusive labour markets, as well as the fight against homelessness are covered by the Open Method of Coordination in Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the areas in which the EU member states agreed to cooperate with each other. Workshops were held on active inclusion, homelessness, children and youth, financial exclusion and governance, and the EU social inclusion process.

The participants had a debate on the implications of the new EU strategy leading up to the year 2020, which's aim is to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In this context, the European Platform on Poverty, which is planned to be set up in the frame of the EU 2020 strategy, was also discussed. The European Commission will publish a Communication on the establishment of the Platform in October 2010. The participants furthermore called for more efficient anti-poverty measures, a stronger involvement of civil society in the policy-making process and for the strengthening of the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and of children's well-being.

Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Senior Policy Adviser, represented MHE at this Conference.

### **European Union Health Policy Forum Meeting, 20 May 2010, Brussels**

The European Health Policy Forum (EUHPF) is a biannual meeting between the European Commission (Directorate General for Health and Consumers) and European health stakeholders. It represents an opportunity to learn about and debate latest European initiatives that have an impact on health policy.

The meeting, held in Brussels on 20 May, started with the introduction and presentation of the renewed group of members.

Stijn Jannes, representing MHE, mentioned MHE's involvement in the "European Union Pact on Mental Health and Well-being" and its active participation in the Thematic Conferences "Mental Health in Youth and Education" (Stockholm 2009), "Prevention of Depression and Suicide" (Budapest 2009), "Mental Health in Older People" (Madrid 2010) and "Combating Stigma and social exclusion of people with mental Health problems" (Lisbon 2010).

In the morning session presentations were made about the follow-up of the 'EU 2020 strategy' and the 'Health Strategy'.

In the afternoon session staff members presented future work and activities of the EUHPF.

*To know more about the EUHPF meeting, please see*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview/health\\_forum/docs/ev\\_20090514\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/docs/ev_20090514_mi_en.pdf)

### **New Youth Health Initiative launched by the European Commission**

In order to empower young people as active partners for the improvement of their health, the European Commission launched a new Youth Health Initiative. The purpose is to gather all youth-related initiatives in health and associated policy areas across the Commission under one banner.

*For further information on the Youth Health Initiative, please visit [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index_en.htm)*

### **United Nations: new Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council, 14 April 2010, Geneva**

The Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted its resolution 13/11 focusing on the implementation of human rights of persons with disabilities. The resolution calls upon States to establish and strengthen national mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention, also including civil society organizations.

*For more information, please visit the following link <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>*

Source: United Nations Enable Newsletter, April 2010

### **MEPs drafted a Report on the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights**

The Lisbon Treaty obliges EU, as a legal entity, to ratify the European Convention on Human Rights, thus allowing EU citizens to sue the EU and its institutions for the violation of human rights. On 3 May the Constitutional Affairs Committee adopted a Report on the ratification, including a demand for a special EU judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The rapporteur, Ramón Jáuregui MEP, made some highlights on how EU citizens will benefit from EU accession to the Convention.

*To read the draft report on EU accession to the European convention on Human Rights, please see <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-431.057+02+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>*

### **WHO Working Group on primary care classification of mental and behavioural problems**

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse of WHO set up a group of international experts to assist the development of a clinical classification of mental and behavioural problems. The classification will be used in primary care settings, particularly in low- and middle income countries, as part of the current International Classification of Diseases revision process.

The group includes experts from all WHO regions and held its first meeting on 16 – 17 February 2010. The primary care classification system will help WHO Member States to reduce the burden associated with mental problems by directing them to appropriate and effective treatments.

For more information, please visit [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/)

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

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published a new website, with an innovative section for EU citizens, entitled "Your rights". This initiative gives important visibility and accessibility to key information related to the protection of human rights in the EU.

To visit the new website of the FRA, please see the following link  
[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home\\_en.htm](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm)

## **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.2010againstpoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstpoverty.eu)

Visit the Social NGO Coalition's website for the EY 2010 at [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)

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

### **European Year 2010 Journalist Award**

The European Year (EY) Journalist Award 2010 has been created by the European Commission in order to support and recognise journalists who contribute to an increased awareness and a broader understanding of poverty and social exclusion. The competition is open to print, online, and audiovisual journalists who have articles published or news reports covering the issues of poverty and social exclusion in the European Union. Their articles or news reports must have been published between 1 October 2009 and 31 August 2010 in the media in one of the 27 EU Member States, Iceland or Norway. The competition closes on 31 August 2010.

#### *How can you contribute?*

A national jury will be set up in each country together with the National Implementing Body (you can find the list of NIB's at [http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/extranet/NIBs\\_table.pdf](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/extranet/NIBs_table.pdf)). You can suggest articles, videos and reportages of journalists, but please note that contributions need to be registered by the author (or at least he/she should be informed).

The final date for entries of articles is 31 August 2010. The articles can be uploaded at <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/journalistaward/index/?langid=en>

#### **New study on child poverty and child well-being in the EU**

The study on "Child Poverty and Child Well-Being in the European Union" has been carried out in the frame of a project involving Hungary, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and the UK.

The report, following the suggestions of the "EU Task-Force on Child Poverty and Child Well-Being" identifies material and non-material dimensions of child well-being that are relevant to monitor.

Indeed, children are an especially vulnerable group because of their dependent status. They are also our future: lack of opportunities during childhood too often can lead to long-term consequences for the individuals and for society as a whole. Swift action will bear fruit in the years to come by breaking the vicious cycle of the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

*The results of the study can be downloaded at*

<http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/childpoverty/downloadables.html>

#### **Focus week in Malta**

A second EY 2010 Focus Week took place in Malta on 10-16 May 2010. The MHE member and National Focal Point Malta, Friends of Carmel Hospital Society, was actively involved in the focus week and hosted a stand with documents, posters and photos to raise awareness on poverty and social exclusion in relation to mental health problems.

Furthermore, a seminar on "Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion through Anti-Discrimination" was organized in the frame of the focus week. During the seminar, discrimination and its adverse effects were looked at from different angles, considering the various difficulties encountered by people from different minorities. Identification of common aspects and possible solutions were also discussed.

## **IV. NEWS FROM OTHER (E)NGOs**

#### **European Disability Forum Annual General Assembly, 8-9 May 2010, Madrid**

European Disability Forum (EDF) members gathered on 8-9 May 2010 in the frame of General Assembly taking place in Madrid. Representatives from EU NGOs, National Disability Councils and other representatives debated on the key issues related to the future work of EDF especially on the promotion of the Disability Pact. The 14th Annual General Assembly was also marked by the adoption of an emergency resolution on the European economic crisis and the need to adopt long-term policies. An important discussion took place on the issue of involving disabled people organisations in the monitoring process for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

MHE was represented by Josée Van Remoortel, EDF Board member and MHE Senior Policy Advisor, and by Roselyne Bourgon, MHE Human Rights Officer.

*For more information regarding the EDF General Assembly and the overall work of EDF, please see <http://www.edf-feph.org/>*

### **European Patients' Forum's Spring Seminar, 18 May 2010, Brussels**

On 18 May the European Patients Forums (EPF) held its "Spring Seminar on Health Technology Assessment" (HTA), involving more than 80 patient organisations from around Europe. The aim of the seminar was to give more information about the science, methodologies, processes and policies behind HTA, and to reflect together on how to get involved in a constructive, meaningful way as patient representatives.

Mental Health Europe attended the seminar as HTA is increasingly seen as a priority at the EU level ensuring the sustainability of current healthcare systems and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

Health technology is a term used to cover any aspect of healthcare, included prevention programmes, diagnostic tests, a medical device, drugs, and procedures.

The input of patients and persons undergoing medical aspects are crucial towards achieving an effective assessment.

Yves Brand, MHE Health Policy Officer, attended this meeting.

*More information on the subject of Health Technology Assessment and the EPF seminar can be found at <http://www.eu-patient.eu/Initatives-Policy/Events/Annual-General-Meeting-2010/AGM-Presentations-and-Reports/>*

### **European Patients' Forum's Annual General Meeting, 19 May 2010, Brussels**

On 19 May the European Patients' Forum (EPF) Annual General Meeting took place in Brussels. During the meeting EPF announced the election of three new Board members for a two year term. EPF members voted in Philip Chircop, nominated by the Malta Health Network, Avril Daily, nominated by Retina Pigmentosa Europe and Tomasz Szelagowski, nominated by the Federation of Polish Patients.

EPF President Anders Olauson and Vice President Susanna Palkonen were re-elected to serve another two-year term together with the current Board members, Vida Augustiniene, Guadalupe Morales, Maria D. Navarro, and Timo Nerikko.

EPF warmly thanked the outgoing treasurer, Mike O'Donovan, and Panos Englezos, Board member who stepped down.

Yves Brand, MHE Health Policy Officer, attended this meeting.

*More information on the EPF Annual General Meeting can be found at <http://www.eu-patient.eu/Press/Press-Releases/Listening-to-the-Collective-Voice-of-Patients---EPFs-Annual-General-Meeting-Elects-New-Board/>*

### **International Seminar "Optimising mental health delivery in psychiatric and social care institutions", 18 May 2010, Brussels**

On 18 May the International Seminar "Optimising mental health delivery in psychiatric and social care institutions" took place in Brussels. The meeting started with the presentation of the results of a pan European study on equality of care for people with health problems living in psychiatric and social care institutions. The study, named DEMOBINC (Development of a European Measure of Best Practice for People with Long Term Mental Illness in Institutional Care), was funded by the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme on 2007 and run for 3 years.

The study aimed at building up a measure for assessing and reviewing the living conditions, care and respect of human rights of people with long-term mental health problems. The protection of the mental health rights is imperative since impaired mental capacity can render people vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by others.

A toolkit was developed. It represents the first international instrument to assess the quality of institutional care for people with long-term mental health problems, being as accurate, reliable and informative as user friendly.

The new "Quality Indicator for Rehabilitative Care", assessing living conditions care and human rights, was launched and presented to the participants.

A lively debate followed this presentation.

MHE was represented by Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Adviser.

*To gather more information, please contact Helen Killaspy, DEMOBINC Coordinator, at [n.killaspy@medsch.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.killaspy@medsch.ucl.ac.uk)*

### **World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders**

The World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders has merged with the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).

In order to keep a distinctive role for families within the WFMH, there is a dedicated section on the WFMH website entitled "Center for Family and Consumer Advocacy and Support".

*To visit the website, please see [www.wfmh.org/00CtrCarerConsumer.htm](http://www.wfmh.org/00CtrCarerConsumer.htm)*

## **V. PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance for Human Rights Monitors**

The objective of the publication "Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" is to provide background information on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its provisions and monitoring mechanisms. The guide provides useful advices on key issues to consider when working with persons with disabilities.

Furthermore it outlines the paradigm shift that the Convention enshrines and the scope, standards and principles recognized by it.

The publication is available in English and Russian.

*To read the publication in English, please see the following link*

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Disabilities\\_training\\_17EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Disabilities_training_17EN.pdf)

*More information on TH Convention can be found on the OHCHR website*

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

## **VI. CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS**

*Please note that the European Commission Thematic Conference on "Combating Stigma and social exclusion of people with mental Health problems" has been anticipated.*

*The conference will take place on 8-9 November 2010 in Lisbon (Portugal).*

*Please note that SMES Europa Conference will not take place on November 2010, as foreseen. The date has been postponed to 16-18 March 2011.*

*Morte information will follow in future issues of the MHE Newsletters.*

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  
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