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MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

MHE event at the European Parliament broadcasted on the EPP-ED Group TV news

On 5 December Mental Health Europe (MHE) and John Bowis MEP (EPP-ED Group) will host a lunch debate on *"Equal Chance, Equal Respect: Promoting Mental Health and Well-being in Employment"* at the European parliament in Brussels.
The debate will focus on a key cross-cutting issue impacting on social and health policies in the EU, namely the mental well-being in employment. In Europe, one in five people at work suffers from a high level of stress at work, the second most common health symptom. Stressors at work increase the risk of anxiety, depression and burn out.
The event is being currently broadcasted on the EPP-ED Group TV news.
To watch the video visit: http://www.epp-ed.eu/VOD/
It has also been publicised by the EPP-ED Press Office.
To read the press Release: the EPP-ED website,
http://www.epp-ed.eu/Press/showpr.asp?PRControlDocTypeID=1&PRControlID=6779&PRContentID=11906&PRContentLG=en
For further information: contact the Mental Health Europe secretariat, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

MHEEN II Symposium, Brussels, 13 December 2007

Mental Health Europe and the London School of Economics and Political Science are organising a Mental Health Economics European Network, Phase II (MHEEN II) Symposium on 13 December 2007 in Brussels. The event is sponsored by the European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection.
This symposium will present findings and analysis from Phase II of the Mental Health Economics European Network. Speakers will include members from the Network on current research findings.
To register, please send an E-mail to Pssru@lse.ac.uk.
For further information about the project, and more particularly on the outcomes of the last MHEEN II Seminar, held in London on 27 September 2007, visit the MHEEN website: www.mheen.org

MHE conference "Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing. An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue"

The programme for the MHE conference to be held in Aalborg (Denmark), from 7-9 August 2007 was further discussed during a teleconference on 22 November.
The 2nd announcement with Call for contributions will be available in January and will be widely disseminated.
MHE members and other interested organisations and people are kindly invited to already now send in their proposals for the conference workshops!
For more information: the MHE Secretariat, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

MHE started a reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter

At the beginning of November Mental Health Europe invited its members to engage together with MHE in a reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter. The initiative is led by the Council of Europe (CoE) European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping.
The reporting activity consists in checking whether the national reports sent by the States Parties of the European Social Charter (ESC) – that is to say the States that ratified the Charter - to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the body responsible for monitoring compliance in the States Parties to the ESC, reflect the situation on the ground.
The reports are one of the means available to NGOs for monitoring the honouring of commitments entered into by the countries that had signed the European Social Charter.
MHE strongly believes that this activity represents an opportunity to denounce the existing violations of the rights of people with mental health problems plus a powerful mean to put pressure on national governments.

The participating members will be in charge of carefully reading the reports, assessing the situation on the ground and report on it**.** All their comments will then be collected by MHE, assembled in a single document and sent to the President of the European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping before the end of January 2008.
Members from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and UK have already joined but members from other EU countries willing to participate are still welcome.
The activity also received the support of the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL).
On 27 November, Fanny Muller presented the activity to the members of the Social Platform FRAND (Fundamental rights and Discrimination) Working Group.
If you have any questions about this initiative and if you are willing to engage in the reporting activity, please contact Fanny Muller, Information Officer and Coordinator of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Human Rights: Email fmuller@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04.
For more information on the reporting activity and on the European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping: the Council of Europe website,
http://www.coe.int/t/e/ngo/public/groupings/European_Social_Charter_&_Social_Policies/index.asp#TopOfPage

NEW MHE PUBLICATION: Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems - A collection from Ten EU Member States resulting from Mental Health Europe's Transnational Exchange Project 2005-2007

While good mental health can help people to be intellectually and emotionally fulfilled and integrated into social, educational and professional life, poor mental health can become both a cause and a consequence of social exclusion. Against this background MHE, together with project partners from 10 different EU Member States carried out the EU-funded project *"Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems".* The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the relationship between mental ill-health and social exclusion and to provide evidence and highlight the success of existing best practices that can contribute to tackling the inequalities that people with mental health problems encounter in access to health and social services, employment, education, training services, housing, transport, leisure activities as well as the protection of their civil and human rights.
One of the central outcomes of the project is its website (www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org), which includes an online database of good practices combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems.
Based on the project website and database of good practices combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems, MHE has now developed a publication in the form of a directory of all the collected good practices. The directory is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for anybody who wants to learn about small, local initiatives that help supporting the social inclusion of people with mental health problems. Moreover, the publication contains MHE's conclusions and recommendations for policy and practice resulting from the final outcomes of the project.
The directory of good practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems can be downloaded here:
http://www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org/publications.html
The directory has been published with the support of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – Unit E2 Inclusion, Social Policy aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies under the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion 2002-2006.
For further information please visit the website: www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org or contact: Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, E-mail sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68.

1st Policy Workshop of the ProMenPol project, *"Promotion of Mental Health - Improving Practice and Policy"*, Brussels, 28 November 2007

The ProMenPol project (funded by the EU) aims to support the practices and policies of mental health promotion in the three settings of schools, workplaces and residential homes for older people. It will do so over the 2007-2009 period by:

- developing a database of mental health promotion tools;
- assisting practitioners in implementing such tools;
- providing research-based policy support.

Each year ProMenPol runs a practitioners conference that is followed by a policy workshop for national and European policy makers. This shall allow for mutual exchange of information concerning positive mental health between experts and for timely feedback to those responsible for designing services and policies.
The first annual conference was successfully completed in Berlin on 11-12 October 2007.
For more information on this event, you can read the Conference's report on the ProMenPol website: http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/
During the ProMenPol first policy workshop held on 28 November 2007 in Brussels the results were presented. Furthermore the project's benefits to the creation of a healthy, productive population as well as to healthy ageing were highlighted.
John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Officer, was one of the speakers. He made a presentation on *"A European road Map for Mental Health".*
Fanny Muller, MHE Information officer, also attended the event.
For more information: ProMenPol website, http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/

Women in Prisons and Mental Health

On 9 October 2007, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Officer, met with Donatella Miccinesi, AISMe Director, to discuss the setting up of a project for women with mental health problems in a prison of the Tuscany region.
The objectives of the integration project include:

- To set up self-help groups of family members;
- To support the staff in the nursery (volunteers);
- To initiate a "socialisation process" through computer courses, cooking class, leisure activities, etc.

The target population consists of about 15 women suffering from severe mental health problems often combined with drug abuse, aids, etc. Stigma is very high even amongst the prison's staff.
Since the majority of this population is not Italian, ethnic and cultural problems have to be taken into account.
AISMe is looking for interested persons or services to exchange experiences.
For more information: contact person, Donatella Miccinesi, E-mail pipini@dada.it, Tel +39 338 29 98 938

MHE has a new stagiaire!

Mélanie Mazier left MHE at the end of September. She was replaced by Olivia Merlet.
Olivia Merlet is French. She has a background in social sciences and administration and she is currently doing a Master's degree in European affairs at ISMaPP.
Olivia will stay at MHE until the end of May 2008. One of Olivia's first tasks will be to take over the responsibility for the MHE membership survey that was initiated in September to identify the profiles of MHE's member organisations.
We would like to wish Olivia a warm welcome in the MHE team.
You can contact Olivia at *Olivia.Merlet@mhe-sme.org*

MHE representation at various meetings

On 1-3 November, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, and John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziale Psychiatrie e.V. (DGSP) Conference which took place in Munich (Germany). Josée spoke about the research work undertaken by MHE, while John made a presentation on the *"Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being for Policy and Practice in Europe".*

On 7 November, Mari Fresu attended the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.
On the same day, Sogol Noorani took part in the final conference of the ROMAin Project "Social Inclusion of Roma in Europe" organised in the European Parliament.

On 13 November, Sogol Noorani participated in a specific meeting on migration organised by the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 14 November, Sogol Noorani participated in a meeting of the Social Platform Social Policy Working Group in Brussels.

On 15 November, Mari Fresu attended a workshop organised in Edinburgh (Scotland) by the Warwick University on Global Health and Human Rights.
On the same day, John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Officer, represented MHE at an International Conference on *"Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living*: *comparative perspectives and international implications,"* which was organised in Prague (Czech Republic) by the DECLOC (Deinstitutionalisation and community living – outcomes and costs) Project, of which MHE is an expert.

On 16 November, Mari Fresu represented MHE at an EPHA workshop on *"Exploring joint research projects on the right to health and access to health care"*. The event took place in Edinburgh.

On 16-17 November, John Henderson represented MHE at the ECCL (European Coalition for Community Living) Management Committee meeting which was held in Prague.
On the same days, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, participated in the Conference on Women and Disability, which was jointly organised by the EDF (European Disability Forum) and CERMI (Comité Español de Representantes de Minusválidos) in Madrid (Spain). *(read p. 5-6)*

On 19-20 November, Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, represented MHE at the Closing Conference of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in Lisbon (Portugal).

On 23-24 November, Malgorzata Kmita and John Henderson represented MHE and made presentations at a meeting on the *"International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and its applications"* which was organised by the Polish National Centre for Health Information Systems (NCHIS) in Warsaw (Poland).

On 26 November, Sogol Noorani, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, and Olivia Merlet, attended the Social Platform Annual Conference in Brussels.

On 27 November, Elisabeth Muschik and Fanny Muller took part in a meeting of the Social Platform FRAND (Fundamental rights and discrimination) Working Group in Brussels. Fanny made a presentation on the MHE Reporting Acivity on the implementation of the European Social Charter *(read p.2-3).*
On the same day, John Henderson participated in the PCC meeting of the ProMenPol Project in Brussels.

On 28 November, John Henderson and Fanny Muller attended the ProMenPol 1st Policy Workshop in Brussels. John gave a presentation on *"A European road Map for Mental Health".* *(read p.3-4)*
On the same day, Mari Fresu represented MHE at a meeting of the EU Health Policy Forum organised by the European Commission in Brussels.
Again on the same day, Sogol Noorani participated in the event *"Handy Cup: European Race for Everyone"* in the European Parliament.

On 30 November, Sogol Noorani took part in a Conference on Social Services and Social Inclusion organised by the European Social Network in Brussels.

II. REPORTS ON VARIOUS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

European Conference on "Recognising the rights of Girls and Women with Disabilities – An Added Value for Tomorrow's Society", Madrid (Spain), 16-18 November 2007

This Conference was organised by EDF (European disability Forum) and the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI).
More than 100 women worked together in order to find tools for actively involving women in policy work and implementing proactive measures in disability organisations at all levels.
The Conference was opened by Mr. Amparo Valcarce, Spanish Secretary of State, and the Presidents of EDF and CERMI.
Ms Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel (European Network of Women with Disabilities) gave a brilliant presentation on *"Facing multiple discrimination: being a woman with a disability".*
She showed the similarity between the concepts of disability and gender on 3 levels:

1. Personal: persistence of a gender gap (a man earns more money, gets a better career, etc.);
2. Symbolic: difference between able and non-able (disabled) people;
3. Institutional: persistence of the "white man" and able people's supremacy.

Kicki Nordström (World Blind Union) highlighted the human rights perspective of women with disabilities. The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are two documents stressing the legal aspects of violence against women with disabilities.
Finally, Dolores Linares (General Directorate, Co-ordination of Sectorial Policies on Disability – Spain) talked about the Action Plan for Women and Girls with Disabilities in Spain.
The final session was devoted to the presentation and adoption of the Declaration on Women and Disability.
Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Officer, represented MHE at the Conference.
For more information: contact person, Maria Nyman, E-mail maria.nyman@edf-feph.org, Tel +32 2 286 51 84

III. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

UK – Partnership for Children's Annual report 2006 now online!

The Annual Report 2006 describes a year in which the number of children being helped by Partnership for Children rose by more than 50 per cent. The Zippy's Friends programme grew strongly, particularly in Brazil, Hong Kong and Poland, and they began working with Booktrust to produce a list of recommended storybooks for children who are facing tough times.
You can ask for a copy of the report by mail - just send your name and address to:
info@partnershipforchildren.org.uk
To directly download the report:
http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/about-us/about-us-2/annual-report.html

Your activities and initiatives are important! They may also inspire others!

IV. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2007

On WMHD 2007 Mental Health Europe called on the European Union to promote the mental health and well-being of minority ethnic communities

The theme for World Mental Health Day (WMHD) 2007, "Mental Health in a Changing World: The Impact of Culture and Diversity", called attention to the fact that, during the past decade along with scientific and medical advances in the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses, the need to recognize how culture effects mental health issues has become increasingly important in the environment of rapid migration and the emergence of a multicultural workforce in many countries.
In general, people from ethnic minority groups living in Europe are more likely to be diagnosed with mental health problems; more likely to be diagnosed and admitted to hospital; more likely to experience a poor outcome from treatment; and more likely to disengage from mainstream mental health services leading to a deterioration in their mental health. These differences may be explained by a number of factors, including poverty, social exclusion and

racism. But they may also be due to the fact that mainstream mental health services often fail to understand or meet the needs of minority ethnic communities.
In order to launch a dialogue on the issue of diversity in mental health and well-being, MHE is organising together with its member organisations SIND–Danish Association for Mental Health together and SIND North Jutland its 2008 annual conference *"Diversity in Mental Health and Well-being – An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue"* on 07 -09 August 2008 in the City of Aalborg, Denmark.
For more information on MHE's 2008 annual conference please go to: www.mhe-aalborg.dk
For more information on World Mental Health Day 2007, please go to www.wfmh.org or contact the MHE Secretariat, at info@mhe-sme.org, +32 2 280 04 68.

Cyprus - Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill's event on the occasion of WMHD

On 10 October 2007, KIPRODIPSA/AGMI (the Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill), in cooperation with the Mental Health Services of the Famagusta District (Cyprus), organised a lunch debate dedicated to World Mental Health Day (WFMH).
During the event, KIPRODIPSA/AGMI disseminated information on its projects, as well as on the on-line database of good practices and the good practices directory of Mental Health Europe's European Project *"Good practices for combating the social exclusion of people with mental health problems",* of which KIPRODIPSA/AGMI was a partner.
The key messages and debates focused on the issue of transcultural mental health, the creation of opportunities for future collaboration and alliances at local level and the implementation of good practices for combating the social exclusion of people with mental health problems and other vulnerable groups such as migrants, etc.
For more information: contact person, Elise Torossian, E-mail agftmi@cytanet.cy, Tel +357 24 65 20 61
Thanks to Elise Torossian, KIPRODIPSA/AGMI President, for this contribution.

Hungary - "What role does culture play in "mental health?", asked MDAC on the 15th World Mental Health Day

Today States around the world are being urged to integrate culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies in their mental health services and systems. The Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) fully endorses this call to action.
"Culture" is a term frequently used to explain differences in the experiences of, and responses to, mental health. There is however no single agreed definition of culture. It has different meanings for all of us. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that any definition will include the international community's characteristic approach towards mental health and disability: an approach that has seen fear, stigma and discrimination towards people with disabilities as common, and in some States, the norm.
The focus of three of MDAC's current campaigns is on three specific State practices towards people with disabilities: their segregation from society, the withdrawal of legal capacity through guardianship, and the use of cage beds. That the conception of these practices is not culturally specific to the States in which they currently occur, is illustrated by their being mirrored in some form, in almost every State worldwide at some time. The perpetuation of these practices is however culturally specific.
An increasingly visible reaction to such prevalent practices is to draw on the concept of human rights, principally by way of reliance on international human rights law. To many this offers a new universal "culture" to which States should aspire. Drawing on human rights to encourage systematic change in State behaviour however carries its own difficulties. To those communities and segments of communities excluded from the drafting of this law, its universal applicability can, rightly, be questioned. Others deny the universality of human rights by defending their often abusive practices as being "culturally specific" and therefore untouchable by the international community's "professed" legal norms.
For people with disabilities, the drafting at the United Nations of the recent Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities encouraged a more inclusive and representative participation than was previously the case. This does perhaps offer a new shared universal norm: a shared international legal culture. Nonetheless, until all States choose to ratify and implement the Convention, that legal culture remains a distant likelihood.

Yet State compliance with international human rights law alone is not enough. No-one is for example quite sure if, how far, and in what form, it binds individuals and consequently their behaviour. And for the users of mental health and social care services it fails to adequately address a number of issues. Today the international community urges culturally appropriate strategies in State mental health services. MDAC also calls upon that international community to move towards a shared legal culture and a shared vision: a vision of a world that values emotional, mental and learning differences, and where people respect each other's autonomy and dignity.
For more information: MDAC website, http://www.mdac.info/
Source: MDAC

Scotland - Mental Health Week

During Mental Health Week (8–14 October), *WellScotland*, the Scottish National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing, added a section on its dedicated website to ask visitors to think about their attitudes and behaviour towards mental health and what mental health and wellbeing mean to them.
In support of Mental Health Week a special edition of *Well?* magazine was also published. The magazine spotlighted behaviour and culture as key to shaping people's attitudes and approach to their own mental health and that of others. It also featured information and examples of Scottish training courses on a range of mental health issues.
To read the issue: WellScotland website, http://www.wellscotland.info/publications/well-magazine.html
To raise awareness about positive mental health an outdoor bilboard advert was created and displayed across the country during Mental Health Week.
For more information: visit WellScotland website,
http://www.wellscotland.info/mentalhealthweek.html
Source: Scottish National Programme E-bulletin

What have you done for World Mental Health Day? Send us your contributions!

V. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

ACN - Active Citizenship Network

EESC opinion on patients' rights

In the plenary session of the 26-27 September 2007, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) approved an own-initiative opinion on Patient's rights, by 108 votes to none, with two abstentions. The opinion, presented by Mr. Bouis, welcomes and acknowledges the European Charter of Patients' Rights promoted by the Active Citizenship Network (ACN) since 2002. Furthermore, the EESC called on the European Commission to establish a European Patients' Rights Day, as proposed by ACN on the occasion of the first European Patients' Rights Day it organised in the European Parliament on 29 March 2007.
To download the EESC opinion: ACN website, http://www.activecitizenship.net/
Source: ACN Newsletter

AGE - The European Older People's Platform

AGE Publication "Give a voice to Older People in Poverty and Social Exclusion"

In the context of the "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" on 17 October 2007, AGE launched a publication entitled *"Give a voice to Older People in Poverty and Social Exclusion".* This publication, based on two years work, brings a series of recommendations for both the organisations working with older people confronted with poverty and social exclusion and policy-makers at all levels.
Older people experiencing poverty and exclusion should be given the chance to be heard and, most of all, to be listened to with their voice and concerns being reflected in political planning, decision-making and controlling at all levels. Social inclusion policies would deliver better

results if older people experiencing poverty and social exclusion would be consulted during the policy-making process.
To download the publication: AGE website,
http://www.age-platform.org/EN/article.php3?id_article=353

CEFEC - Confederation of European Social Firms, Employment initiatives and Social Firms

CEFEC Annual Conference, Linz (Austria), 11-13 October 2007

CEFEC held their 20th Conference in Linz (Austria), 11-13 October 2007. From the Conference the *"Linz appeal"* was formulated to convey to the EU and its Member States the expectations and recommendations the organisation membership would wish to offer on aspects of Social firms and vocational training and rehabilitation for the psychosocial well being of disabled employees.
A full summary of the "Linz Appeal" will be presented in our next Newsletter.
For more information: CEFEC website, http://www.cefec.de/

EDF – European Disability Forum

EDF's successful "1million4disability" campaign, the next steps

The *"1million4disability"* campaign aimed at achieving a comprehensive non discrimination legislation at European Union level, ensuring the protection for persons with disabilities in all areas of life. It was ended with the massive citizens' gathering in favour of the rights of persons with disabilities which took place in Brussels on 4 October 2007.
Several pictures of the event are available on the campaign dedicated website:
http://www.1million4disability.eu/campaign.asp?langue=EN .
However, the campaign is only the beginning of EDF's work towards European legislative measures against discrimination towards disabled persons.
On 15 October EDF submitted to the European Commission its position paper on a comprehensive disability specific directive.
This document is available on the EDF website:
http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13854&thebloc=13856
EDF Secretariat had the collected signatures certified through legal procedure which confirmed that the campaign collected a total of 1.288.022 signatures among which 205.253 electronic signatures and 1.089.744 manual signatures. During the week of 5 November, the signatures were delivered to the European Commission.
EDF is also currently updating its proposal for a disability specific comprehensive non discrimination legislation. Some changes have to be made following the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Furthermore, some further changes will have to be made more particularly in the area of accessibility, in line with recent developments at EU and national level. Such work is being now carried out in cooperation with Professor Lisa Waddington from the University of Maastricht.
The campaign will have to continue intensively next year:

- Action at national level could be the opportunity to hand over additional signatures collected in every country;
- EDF will also have the opportunity to restate its claims at the Ministerial meeting and conference on disability that will be held in Slovenia in May 2008.

EDF's objective is to ensure that a proposal will be on the table by next spring, in order to be able to go through the legislative pipeline before the end of the mandate of the current European Commission (expiring spring 2009, should the Reform Treaty have entered into force).
Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

New EDF website now online!

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, EDF is proud to announce that its new website is now online.
EDF new website has a very attractive design and user-friendly navigation and language. You will find the latest information on EDF priority areas (non-discrimination legislation, UN

Convention, structural funds, etc.), background information on all policy areas tackled by EDF, facts and figures about disability, etc.
Some pages of the website are still under construction, but EDF will do its utmost to update and finalise the website in due course.
EDF members are more than welcome to send any comments and suggestions on the website to EDF communication officer, Helena Gonzalez-Sancho: E-mail communication@edf-feph.org
The website is still available on the same address: http://www.edf-feph.org

EAPN – European Anti Poverty Network

EAPN marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On 17 October, EAPN joined with thousands of initiatives to celebrate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. On this occasion, EAPN presented to the Sixth European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion its new report, assessing the progress made in the EU strategy to fight poverty in the EU Member States.
The EAPN report recognizes that much positive work has been done during 2007 at EU level on the thematic focus of Child Poverty, but is concerned about the tendency in many Member States to prioritise actions to get parents, mainly mothers, into full-time work at any price, and to imply that the parents unwillingness to work is to blame for their children's poverty rather than addressing the multi dimensional causes of child poverty.
EAPN is also concerned about what are the implications of a focus on child poverty for other people in poverty.
For more information: EAPN website, www.eapn.org
Source: EAPN Press Release

MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Center

Civil society to protest against the treatment of Bulgaria's abandoned children

On 9 October 2007, civil society marched in Sofia to protest against the indifference of the State towards institutionalised children and children with disabilities. MDAC joined the protest and vowed to continue its work urging Bulgaria to comply with its human rights obligations towards children and adults in its institutions.
The film *"Bulgaria's abandoned children"* has at last made visible to civil society, previously hidden systemic abuse against children with disabilities. It details the life of 75 children with disabilities abandoned in an isolated social care home in Mogilino, it can be described as nothing less than shocking.
Through its research, reports and direct engagement with governments, MDAC has sought to raise the visibility of people with disabilities in society, and seek direct accountability for their abuse. It highlights abuse wherever possible but recognises that in itself this is not enough. It is necessary to do more. MDAC therefore campaigns for all governments, including Bulgaria, to develop adequate and effective inspectorates of all mental health and social care institutions.
In seeking direct accountability for violating the rights of children within institutions and specifically their right to education without discrimination, MDAC has submitted a "collective complaint" to the European Committee of Social Rights. The aim of the complaint, which asserts Bulgarian violations of the Revised European Social Charter, is twofold: to force the Bulgarian government to take immediate steps to implement its human rights obligations under the Charter and also to force implementation of its 2002 law on education which recognises that all children are educable. This complaint has been declared admissible and will shortly be formally decided.
For more information: visit MDAC website, http://www.mdac.info/
Source: MDAC Press release

Social Platform

Social Platform Annual Conference, 26 November 2007, Brussels

On 26 November 2007, over 100 European social activists met at the Social Platform annual conference to discuss the EU priorities after 2010, deadline of the so-called Lisbon agenda. With experts and decision-makers they discussed the social and demographic changes facing

the European Union in the coming years. Taking stock of today's social reality, they exchanged ideas on a renewed vision for the EU that is shaped by a model of development, based on solidarity, social justice and sustainability.
European Commission Secretary General Catherine Day, Portuguese Minister of Employment and Social Affairs Jose Vieira da Silva, and Dalia Grybauskaite, Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget, were keynote speakers at the event.
For more information: the Social Platform website, www.socialplatform.org

VI. EUROPEAN UNION

Council approved EU Health Programme for 2008-2013

On 9 October, the European Council agreed on the Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health 2008-2013. The programme will come into force from 1 January 2008, with a financial envelope of EUR 321 500 000. This follows the first Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) which financed over 300 projects and other actions.
The objectives are:

- To improve citizens' health security;
- To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities,
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

To ensure full participation in the Programme by organisations which promote a health agenda in line with the Programme objectives, a wider variety of financing mechanisms are offered.
For more information: DG Sanco website,
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

Ombudsman criticises Commission for late publication of access to documents report

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has criticised the European Commission for its failure to publish, in 2006 as required by law, its annual report 2005 on access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. This followed a complaint from the NGO Statewatch. While recognising that, in September 2007, the Commission finally published the report in question, Mr. Diamandouros said: "The timely publication of reports is a key mechanism of accountability to European citizens. The Commission should set a good example, especially to the many new EU agencies, by giving high priority to ensuring the publication of such reports on time".
To read the full text of the decision: the European Ombudsman website,
http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/decision/en/070668.htm
Source: Ombudsman Press Release

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commission presents its work programme for 2008

On 23 October the European Commission adopted its legislative work programme for 2008. A list of 26 strategic initiatives and 61 priority initiatives has been approved. There are five main priorities for 2008: growth and jobs, sustainable Europe, an integrated approach to immigration, putting the citizens first, Europe as a world partner.
The priority initiatives regarding social and employment policies include a Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion, and a Communication on A renewed commitment to social justice in Europe: deepening the open method of coordination in social protection and social inclusion. The priority initiatives regarding equality and non-discrimination include a proposal for a directive implementing the principle of equal treatment outside employment, and a communication on the next multi-annual strategy to establish an area of freedom, security and justice. The strategic initiatives include an Annual Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy, and a Health package with a Communication and Council recommendation on patient safety and quality of health services.
To access the work programme 2008: the Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2008_en.pdf

"Communicating Europe in Partnership": EU information priorities

The European Commission has presented proposals for *"Communicating Europe in Partnership".* The document proposes joint communication priorities with other EU institutions and voluntary management partnerships with Member States.
Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy said that citizens want clear information from the EU institutions.
Built on earlier initiatives on communication, the document intents to give to European citizens well organised information about the EU by proposing different actions to consolidate the Commission approach:

- An inter-institutional agreement that provides the EU Commission, Parliament and Council with a shared communication agenda;
- Voluntary management partnerships with governments to engage in a shared communication agenda;
- The creation of European public spaces: a network of meeting places hosting exhibitions, films, meetings, discussions and lecturers and open to a wide range of users;
- Pilot information networks (PINs): internet forums between members of the European Parliament, members of the national parliaments, journalists and other opinion-makers;
- Strengthening the role of European representations to involve civil society organisations in consultations;
- New audiovisual and internet strategies as well as a follow-up communication on Plan D.

For more information: the Commission website,
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1435&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL

REMINDER: Contribute to a public consultation on the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market (Deadline: 28 February 2008)

The European Commission launched a new consultation on the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market. The concept of active inclusion combines income support at a level sufficient for people to have a dignified life with a link to the labour market through job opportunities or vocational training and through better access to enabling social services.
What the Commission is proposing through this public consultation, is to deepen social policy cooperation at EU level by adopting a set of common principles in the form of a Recommendation. These principles would guide implementation of the three strands of active inclusion and their subsequent monitoring and evaluation, while fully respecting the different situations and needs of the Member States.
Moreover, EU financial instruments such as the European Social Fund - which invests over EUR 10 billion a year in people - are also available to support the active inclusion approach.
If you would like to have a say in this debate, please express your views on the content of the Communications and send your opinion to MHE. In particular the Commission is interested about the stakeholders' view on the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of its proposal to promote active inclusion of those people who are furthest from the labour market.
*We are looking forward to receiving your contributions to this consultation by **31 January 2008** at the following email: sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org. Based on your responses, MHE will submit its response before 28 February 2008.*
For further information about this initiative please see the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm or contact the MHE Secretariat, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

DG SANCO publishes "Future Challenges paper: 2009-2014"

DG SANCO has just published its "Future Challenges paper: 2009-2014". The paper provides a "draft vision" of the main challenges that European society will be facing under the lifespan of the next Commission. It is built on the views of many SANCO officials and the input of a number of external experts. The paper is being widely circulated inside the Commission and externally. This will contribute to validate, improve and finally develop a common understanding of DG SANCO's vision, which will hopefully bring added value to the overall reflection on the future within the Commission.
DG SANCO looks forward to receiving feedback or any other comments **by the end of December 2007** to the following functional mailbox: sanco-futures@ec.europa.eu.
To read "Future Challenges paper: 2009-2014":
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/events/future_challenges_paper.pdf
To read the "Futures Leaflet":
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/events/futures_leaflet.pdf

Together for Health – A Strategic Approach for the EU, 2008-2013

The European Commission adopted on 23 October 2007 a Health Strategy setting out the direction for Community Health action in the years to come. The White Paper, *"Together for Health – A Strategic Approach for the EU, 2008-2013"* establishes a broad cross-policy framework to respond to a wide range of health challenges in a comprehensive and coherent way. It provides for concrete new actions aiming, among other things, to strengthen European defenses against health threats, to increase prevention and early diagnosis of cancer and to equip citizens with the tools they need to make informed decisions about their health. Overall, the strategy aims to help foster good health in an ageing Europe, to protect the European Union's citizens against health threats and to support dynamic health systems.
The adoption of the Health Strategy builds on the consultation processes of 2004 and 2007. A discussion document on operational aspects of the Health Strategy was available for comment until 12 February 2007. The contributions received have been then analysed. They were, in particular, suggesting that the Strategy should mention specific commitments already made by the Member States within the World Health Organization (WHO) - on, for instance, nutrition, mental health, and smoking - and that the EU should focus on health promotion and tackle key issues such as mental health and cross-border matters.
In short, the Health Strategy aims to:

- Foster Good Health in an Ageing Europe by promoting good health throughout the lifespan;
- Protect Citizens from Health Threats including communicable diseases, bioterrorism, and patient safety; and
- Support Dynamic Health Systems and New Technologies.

The White Paper also sets out a number of cross-cutting principles such as solidarity, citizen participation in policy-making and the need to reduce inequities in health, to promote investment in health, to mainstream health in all policies, and to strengthen the EU's voice in Global Health.
To live up to its principles and achieve its objectives, the Strategy sets out a framework under which actions can be taken. The White Paper foresees 18 concrete priority actions for the next two years. These include, for instance, proposals aimed at reducing inequities in health and at increasing the EU's role in global health.
Also foreseen are: a statement on fundamental health values, initiatives to support Member States in managing innovation in health systems and work on rare diseases.
New actions aiming to improve the health of older people, ensure that organ transplants are safe and improve health literacy in the EU are expected to benefit citizens directly.
To implement the Strategy in close co-operation with the Member States and other key players, the White Paper foresees the creation of a structured co-operation mechanism. It will identify priorities, define indicators, facilitate the exchange of good practice, produce guidelines and recommendations and measure progress.
The results of the consultation processes of 2004 and 2007 and more information on the Health Strategy can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Distribution of EP seats

On 2 October the Constitutional Committee of the European Parliament (EP) approved by 17 votes in favour, 5 against and 3 abstentions a new system of seat allocation to Members of the European parliament (MEPs) for the period 2009-2014. According to the report written by Alain Lamassoure (PPE-DE, FR) and Adrian Severin (PSE, RO), Germany will retain the greatest number of MEPs (96); the smallest States (Luxembourg, Malta, Cyprus and Estonia) will have 6. This new distribution was submitted to vote during a plenary session on 10- 11 October.

For more information: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/001-11037-274-10-40-901-20071001IPR11035-01-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm
Source: EP Press Release

MEPs wish to see EU law enforced

The Petitions Committee at the European Parliament adopted unanimously the report written by Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo (PPE-DE, ES). In 2006 1016 citizen petitions were received in which there were complaints about the non-respect of community law. MEPs insisted that this is a fundamental right and called on the Commission to prosecute Member States systematically if there was an infraction. They also called for enhanced co-operation between the institutions, notably the Council and the Ombudsman in order to respond adequately to requests made by petitioners.

For more information: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/021-11023-276-10-40-902-20071001IPR11002-03-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm
Source: EP Press Release

EP adopts written declaration on "dys"crimination and social exclusion affecting children with "dys"abilities

In adopting a written declaration on "dys"crimination and social exclusion affecting children with "dys"abilities on 11 October, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) asked the Commission and Council to draw up a charter for "dys" children, and to encourage the recognition of "dys"-type problems as a handicap.

It is estimated annually that more than 10% of children are affected by one or other "dys"-type disability such as dysphasia, dyspraxia, dyslexia, dyscalculia or attention deficit disorder, etc., and whereas the statistics on these disorders need to be refined.

MEPs want to promote and encourage the creation of a European multidisciplinary network on specific learning difficulties, and by this means to collect and study information and promote the coordination of cross-border actions, as well as institutional dialogue.

The declaration calls for the sharing of best practice by:

- making information accessible;
- taking timely steps to spot, screen, systematically diagnose and treat these disorders at an early stage;
- designing effective pedagogical structures within both the ordinary and the specialist educational environment for young children, adolescents and young adults.
- adapting structures for integrating young people with these disabilities into the world of work.

The only way to prevent "dys"crimination, say MEPs, against affected children is to give them special, early, intensive and multidisciplinary treatment in appropriate structures (either in the normal school environment with appropriate special care, or in a specialised establishment).

To read the declaration; the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+WDECL+P6-DCL-2007-0064+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN
Source: EP Press Release

European Parliament Disability Intergroup – New website address

Please note that the website of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup has been allocated a new website address: http://www.disabilityintergroup.eu

IX. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Report from the CoE Standing Committee on Social Cohesion, "Access to public spaces and amenities for people with disabilities"

Obstacle-free access to public buildings and infrastructures for all is a cornerstone of social inclusion. In recent years, member states have adopted various measures and made a number of commitments to ensure accessibility to public spaces for people with disabilities, whether physical, cognitive or sensory, but results have not met expectations. Those regulations and standards which do exist are not always applied.

While reflecting both the local and regional dimension of the issue of accessibility – understood as the possibility of moving from one place to another, enjoying public facilities and, by extension, using all public services independently – this report is intended to complement the Council of Europe's 10-year Disability Action Plan designed to make decisive progress in ensuring equal rights for people with disabilities.

The report points out that it is essential that the concept of accessibility and the principle of "universal design" (application of integrative standards and technology to public spaces and amenities to promote more independent living) are incorporated in spatial planning at all levels (local, regional, national).

The report's recommendations include the promotion of the United Nations Standard Rules and the Council of Europe's Action Plan, the signature and ratification of relevant legal instruments such as the European Social Charter (revised) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the development of integrated national and regional accessibility policies, the establishment of accessibility mediators at national and local level, financial support for NGOs in the field, a European network for sharing good practice on ways of applying the principle of universal design and local and regional accessibility action plans including the setting-up of regional advisory bodies and local-level committees on access to public amenities and spaces.

To read the report: the Council of Europe website,
https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CG(13)41PART2&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=Congress&BackColorInternet=e0cee1&BackColorIntranet=e0cee1&BackColorLogged=FFC679

Council of Europe adopts recommendations on the legal status of NGOs in Europe

On 10 October the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has adopted a Recommendation to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe (CM/Rec(2007)14).

This is the first international legal instrument that targets the legislator, the national authorities and the NGOs themselves. It aims to recommend standards to shape legislation and practice vis-à-vis NGOs, as well as the conduct and activities of the NGOs themselves in a democratic society based on the rule of law.

This Recommendation is particularly concerned with the legal and fiscal framework required to ensure that NGOs can continue to make their various contributions to public and social life. It also draws attention to the limitations on objectives and activities that NGOs must observe, particularly those that are anti-democratic or are concerned with the making and distribution of profits. In addition, it highlights responsibilities that can arise from receiving public support for their activities as well as underlining their responsibility to be transparent and to observe the generally applicable law.

To read the Recommendation: the Council of Europe website,
https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2007)14&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75

X. UNITED NATIONS

International Conference, "UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: a Call for Action on Poverty, Lack of Access and Discrimination", Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 19-22 May 2008

The conference is organised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Leonard Cheshire International (LCI). It will support governments' efforts to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and seek to ensure that the process of implementation is transparent, meaningful and fully inclusive. The meeting will examine what changes are required to combat the poverty, lack of access and discrimination that people with disabilities face. It will also draw up a global call for action to ensure that persons with disabilities have full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.
Panel sessions and workshops will explore good practice and identify strategies for the implementation of the new Convention to combat the challenges of poverty, lack of access and discrimination.
For more information: contact the Conference Secretariat, E-mail fiona.mcconnon@lc-uk.org, Tel +44 207 802 8217,
or visit the conference dedicated website, http://www.lcint.org/conference2008
Source: European Disability Forum

XI. VARIOUS

UK rethinks National Health Service

At the beginning of October, the UK has launched a review of the National Health Service (NHS) to examine the impact of technology and lifestyle choices on the nation's well-being and to make the system more fair, personal and effective.
"Our vision...is an NHS that not only provides a personal service that is organised around the needs of the patients but one that is pioneering new cures for the future. Renewing the NHS is my most immediate priority in the job that I hold,'' said UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown as he launched a report setting out the Government's vision for the country's future health service.
The interim report, *"NHS next stage review",* published on 4 October 2007, sets out a 10-year vision for the British health service. The report looks at how the NHS can become fairer, more personalised, effective and safe and sets out actions that should be taken to make progress towards that vision.
Led by the new health minister, Lord Ara Darzi, the review will examine the impact of technology and lifestyle choices on the nation's well-being, and will look to make the NHS more responsive and better able to serve the needs of the public. The final part of the review setting out how the vision can be delivered will be published in spring 2008.
Presenting the vision, Brown also announced the creation of a new health innovation fund which will be jointly financed by the UK department of health and the Welcome Trust.
Already last month, a nation wide consultation, the largest ever conducted on the future of the health service, was launched to allow citizens have their say.
Financing efficient and inclusive healthcare is a major challenge in the EU, in particular in view of the population's ageing. To ease the pressure put on the European social security systems, EU member states have agreed to coordinate their efforts to allow, for example, further development of eHealth applications. The Council has also invited the Commission and the member states to promote healthy lifestyles to the citizens by targeted health actions and communication.
For more information and to read the interim report, "NHS next stage review": UK Department of Health website,
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_079077
Source: EurActiv

XII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

New website on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

The Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), has launched a new website: http://www.un.org/disabilities
The website in English is complete, while the new website in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian will be launched in early 2008.

XIII. PUBLICATIONS

Integrated social services in Europe

This report is the result of a two-year project carried out by a group of specialists, whose task was to examine the integration of social services with other selected public services. The concept of "integration" covers various approaches and methods intended to increase the co-ordination and effectiveness of different services in order to serve the best interests of their users and their families or carers. Addressed to policy makers at national and local levels, service organisations and users, the report provides examples taken from different countries in Europe and guidelines on designing and implementing effective integration policies and practices. It complements Access to social rights in Europe (2002) and is an integral part of the Council of Europe's Strategy for Social Cohesion.
To place an order directly: Council of Europe Publishing,
http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2234

Report on European Meeting on Health and Health Systems Impact Assessment now available

This meeting was promoted by the Portuguese National Health Institute in connection with the European Commission and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. It took place on 5 and 6 of November in Lisbon (Portugal).
To read the report: the website of the Portuguese Presidency,
http://www.eu2007.min-saude.pt/PUE/en/conteudos/programa+da+saude/technical+initiatives/Conferência+HIA.htm

Health First Europe launches their Healthcare Directory 2007

Health First Europe, an awareness-raising platform for patient groups, healthcare workers, academics, experts and the medical technology industry, has launched its Global Healthcare Directory, 2007. The Health Care Directory 2007 provides indispensable information for patients, healthcare practitioners and policy makers. The directory includes a diverse range of useful addresses for health-care related pan-European websites and national sites in each of the 27 EU Member States.
The information in the directory is categorised primarily by country. Users can click on the map of Europe to find information relevant to a particular country. In the top right hand corner of the map is a link to an additional section that contains pan-European or international website addresses.
To view the directory: http://www.healthfirsteurope.org/index.php?pid=140
Source: IAPO News

XIV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEW!! 13 December 2007
Action Seminar, "Mental health service users' social, emotional and creative aspirations: multi-agency approaches to rehabilitation and crisis prevention", London (UK)
This new action seminar will tackle special challenges for professionals involved with mental health issues.
For more information: the Seminar dedicated website,

http://www.lemosandcrane.co.uk/index.php?id=135

14-16 December 2007
International Workshop on "Social investment and social protection as productive factors", Madrid (Spain)
For more information: contact person, Thea Meinema, Tel +31 30 789 2148, E-mail t.meinema@movisie.nl, or visit ICSW website, www.icsw.org.

17-18 December 2007
International Workshop on "Harm Reduction and Relapse Prevention of Addictive Behaviors", Oslo (Norway)
For more information: visit the Evidence website, http://evidence.no/en/marlatt

NEW!! 29 January – 1 February 2008
Winter 2008 Symposium: "Addictive Disorders & Behavioral Health", Colorado Springs, Colorado (USA)
The International Academy of Behavioural Medicine, Counselling and Psychotherapy Inc. (IABMCP) will be co-sponsoring the 34th Annual International Winter Symposium entitled *"Addictive Disorders and Behavioral Health".*
For more information: send an E-mail to the Academy at IABMCP@att.net, or visit the Academy website, http://www.iabmcp.net/symposium.htm

23-25 January 2008
SMES-EUROPA 10th Conference, "After 15 years...," Rome (Italy)
For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007_10conf_SMES_UK.htm

NEW!! 20-22 February 2008
IAPO Global Patients Congress, Budapest (Hungary)
The International Alliance of Patients Organizations (IAPO) will be organising the Global Patients Congress, a unique event bringing together patients' organisations across the world along with other high level stakeholders. The Congress is open exclusively to patients' organisations who are IAPO Members.
The programme of the 2008 Congress focuses on Patient-Centred Healthcare with a particular focus on patient involvement. Current issues in Patient Information, Access to healthcare and Patient Safety will also be explored.
For more information: IAPO website, www.patientsorganizations.org/congress2008

NEW!! 27-29 February 2008
3rd Advocacy France Forum on a citizen's mental health policy, "Choisir sa vie: l'égalité des chances pour une vie indépendante" (Choose one's life: equal opportunities for independent living), Paris (France)
This 3rd Forum is coordinated by Advocacy France and organised by a group of associations including European NGOs, national and/or European associations.
It will be a place for expression, exchange and work towards exclusion and discrimination.
On the basis of the experience gained during the previous Forums, Advocacy France wishes that users play a greater role in the organisation of the event. The activities and responsibilities of disabled people will be highlighted during the debates and various activities which will be proposed and presented by disabled people and/or people experiencing discrimination.
The Forum is organised in the frame of the European Year of Equal Opportunities.
For more information: contact persons, Martine Dutoit, E-mail mdutoit@erenis.fr, and Claude Deutsch, E-mail deutschclaude@neuf.fr

6-7 March 2008
8th INIC Annual Integrated Care Conference, Göteborg (Sweden)
For more information: visit INIC website,
http://www.integratedcarenetwork.org/Sweden2008/abstract_Call_Sweden2.pdf

10-12 March 2008
World Health Care Congress Europe 2008, Berlin (Germany)
For more information: visit the congress dedicated website, https://www.worldcongress.com/events/HR08015/index.cfm?confCode=HR08015

10-15 March 2008
International Health Film Festival "ImagéSanté", Liège (Belgium)
For more information: visit the festival dedicated website, http://www.imagesante.org/en/e2006.php

5-9 April 2008
AEP 16th European Congress of Psychiatry, Nice (France)
For more information: send an e-mail to aep@kenes.com, or visit the Congress dedicated website, http://www.kenes.com/aep/

14-15 April 2008
Conference "From Innovation to Practice: The Promise and Challenge of Achieving Recovery for All", Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)
For more information: visit the conference website, http://www.bu.edu/cpr/conference/

NEW!!! 10-14 May 2008
Grundtvig training course 2008, "Committed Parents - Training course to work with migrant parents in family education", Wuppertal (Germany)
Thanks to this course, organised by the Paritätische Akademie, you will learn about new ways in this particular field of family education by exchanging experience with your European colleagues. The competence of participants from different European countries will lead you to a global understanding of your own work.
For more information: contact person, Nina Stücke, nina.stuecke@paritaet-nrw.org, Tel +49 202 28 22 338, or consult the Paritätische Akademie website, www.paritaetische-akademie.de

19-21 June 2008
World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference, "Depression and relevant psychiatric conditions in primary care", Granada (Spain)
For more information on the conference: contact person, Dr. Francisco Torres- González, E-mail ftorres@ugr.es, or visit the conference dedicated website, http://www.wpa2008granada.org

7-9 August 2008
MHE Conference 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)
For further information and to sign up for the MHE2008 Newsletter, please visit: www.mhe-aalborg.dk, or contact the MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

27-30 August 2008
12th European Symposium on Suicide and suicidal Behaviour, "Working Together to Prevent Suicide: Research, Policy and Practice", Glasgow (Scotland)
For more information: contact the Conference organizer, E-mail organising@esssb12.org

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

Please send it to info@mhe-sme.org