



**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE**



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## I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### Message from the Director

Dear readers,

We hope the New Year started well for all of you.

The Mental Health Europe team sends you its best wishes for a happy, healthy and most of all mentally healthy 2007.

The Mental Health Europe team, keen to support its member organisations and individual members in 2007, is now composed of:

- Benoit Broekmans, part-time accountant
- Mariantonietta Fresu, project co-ordinator for the Mental Health Economics project
- Fanny Muller, information officer
- Sogol Noorani, project co-ordinator for the EU project on Good Practices to combat social exclusion of people with mental health problems
- Marie-Christine Terlaeken, part-time administrative assistant
- Mary Van Dievel, director

and our volunteers:

- John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser
- Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Adviser
- Xavier Van Quickenborne, administration.

MHE has a history and plays an important role in raising awareness and in combating the taboos, stigma and prejudices associated with mental illness. Mainstreaming mental health in the field of social inclusion has become a principal activity of MHE and a major area of concern for people with chronic mental health problems. To this end, MHE develops European exchange projects together with its member organisations, formulates recommendations for policies and strategies on mental health and social inclusion based on these projects, and lobbies the European institutions in order to increase awareness of this important issue – just as MHE members' campaign at the national and local level.

In 2007 MHE will be carrying out a work programme with the title *"From Exclusion to Inclusion: Making social inclusion a reality for people with mental health problems in the European Union"* which will be co-financed by the EC Programme *"Support to European Networks involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion"*. The programme builds on the initial results and lessons learned from the current MHE project on good practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems. Indeed, the first phase of the project, which consisted in an analysis of the current situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems in the involved 10 partner countries, made apparent that there is an urgent need for concerted efforts and actions in all the EU Member States to break the vicious cycle of social exclusion. The present work programme aims to build on the above mentioned and to increase efforts to raise awareness at the local, national, regional and European level.

The expected result of the present work programme is to promote the social inclusion of people with mental health problems, i.e. to work towards a European Society in which all people enjoy a high level of mental health, live as full citizens and have access to their human rights and to appropriate services and support when needed, through a better integration of mental health issues into the social inclusion process at the local, national, regional and European level.

Mental Health Europe counts on all its member organisations to help and support us to carry out this ambitious programme.

Mental Health Europe will continue to raise awareness of the importance of mental health promotion and prevention of mental disorders, and will to this end co-operate with other organisations in European projects on this issue. Unfortunately MHE cannot for the moment take the lead in European projects in this field, given the high level of co-financing requested by the European Commission's Public Health Programme.

MHE intends to organise awareness raising events for members of European Parliament, in follow up of the one successfully organised with the support of John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament, in September 2006.

Also in the field of disability MHE will continue to fight for inclusion of people with mental health problems in the National Disability Councils. People with mental health problems should have the same rights to benefit systems as people with a physical disability.

MHE will continue to follow up on the next developments related to the European Commission Green Paper on the mental health of the EU population.

MHE believes it is important to ensure a public health approach to positive mental health for all populations in the Member States of the EU. An EU strategy focusing instead on the burden of mental disorders will lead to neglect the importance of the key competencies of the EU in public health promotion of positive mental health and well being and the prevention of mental disorders.

MHE also notes that medical models of mental health are still dominant in some EU countries and may obscure the social causes and contexts of mental distress. MHE would like to launch a discussion on the terms to be used: Mental health? Mental well-being? We should find a term that all European citizens can readily relate to their own lives and experiences.

An important part of MHE's work programme will be carried forward by MHE's Committees:

- Human Rights and Mental Health;
- Women and Mental Health;
- Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to contribute to the work of one of these Committees.

And last but not least, there will be our conference in Vienna, from 31 May – 2 June 2007. Mental Health Europe together with Pro Mente Austria is working very hard on the conference programme which will be available soon.

The conference will be preceded by a capacity building seminar on 30 May. More info also to follow soon!

And our General Assembly 2007 will be held in the afternoon of 2 June, at the end of the conference.

Again a year full of challenges ahead!

We hope that we can count on your continuing support.

Mary Van Dievel,  
Director

#### MHE capacity building seminar – Vienna, 30 May 2007

Mental Health Europe will organise a capacity-building seminar for all its members, preceding its conference and General Assembly in Vienna (Austria).

We especially encourage those organisations that accepted to participate in the MHE programme *"From Exclusion to Inclusion: making social inclusion a reality for people with mental health problems in the European Union"* to participate in this seminar which will be held on Wednesday 30 May from 9.30-17.30 (time schedule to be confirmed).

The aim of the seminar is:

- to provide assistance, including specialised training, to mental health organisations in order to strengthen their capacity to fight the social exclusion of people with mental health problems;
- to make available information about the social inclusion process at the European and national level that mental health organisations can use to improve the situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems in their countries;
- to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences and information between mental health organisations, within each Member State, at the national, regional and local level;
- to encourage the creation of national networks or platforms for dissemination of relevant European level information for the mental health sector.

The full programme and registration form for this 1-day seminar will soon be sent to MHE members.

For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)

MHE conference "No Health without Mental Health – From Slogan to Reality", Vienna (Austria), 31 May – 2 June 2007

The MHE conference will focus on the outcomes of the consultation process of the European Commission's Green Paper *"Improving the Mental Health of the population"* and the upcoming strategy for the next years.

The focus of the conference will be on the connection and the coherence between the different European policies and the impact they have on the mental health of the population. Lectures, roundtable discussions and workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also for exchange of good practice.

Participants coming from all European countries will be encouraged to discuss the possibilities of implementing strategies on mental health throughout the whole life-span and to initiate co-operation between the different organisations and institutions working on mental health issues at the national and European level.

The conference is structured as follows:

- the first day will focus on the European level policies and strategies, and their implementation at the national level;
- the second day will be devoted to a series of workshops, with contributions from the local, national, regional grassroots level;
- on the third day the reports from the Round Tables and Workshops will be presented and Recommendations will be formulated; in a final plenary session, the lessons learned for implementation at the national level will be discussed.

**Day 1 – Thursday 31 May**, will start with a keynote presentation by Prof Graham Thornicroft on *"Mental Health and Wellbeing. Opportunities and benefits of a EU Strategy"*.

Three Round Table discussions will be held, on the following themes:

- Round Table 1: *"From Slogan to Reality: State of the art of the European Commission's Green Paper on mental health"*.

The implementation of a EU strategy for mental health and wellbeing requires the active co-operation of the different EU policy areas. How do/how should the different Directorates General of the European Commission work together on advancing mental health related issues to improve the mental health situation of the population?

- Round Table 2: *"The significance of mental health and wellbeing, mental health promotion and prevention of mental illness in the context of the implementation of EU policy at country-level"*.

Co-operation or concurrence between the national and the European level?

Representatives of both EU, national and local policy makers will discuss the topic in view of the developments and political activities of the EU, and the consequences for the mental health and wellbeing of the population.

- Round Table 3: *"The role of civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders in advancing mental health and wellbeing in the EU. The case of employment and working life"*.

Representatives of trade unions, employers' organisations, industry and other stakeholders will discuss what their role can/should be in the national implementation of EU policies that are relevant for the mental health of the population in relation to employment. Representatives of mental health service users and of family members/carers, and hopefully also an employer, will respond to the statements made.

**Day 2 – Friday 1 June**, will be devoted to a series of parallel workshops.

- workshop 1 – morning sessions: open meeting of MHE's Committee on Human Rights and Mental Health.

Afternoon sessions: open meeting of MHE's Committee on Women and Mental Health.

- workshop 2: *"What about the participation of civil society? Dialogue and controversy"*. In this workshop we expect contributions on user empowerment, carers of people with mental health problems, mental health promotion, ageing, volunteers, capacity-building, etc.
- workshop 3: *"Final outcomes of the MHE trans-national exchange project "Good Practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems"*.
- workshop 4: *"Policies for mental health and wellbeing in a globalised Europe"*.

The morning sessions will be devoted to an open meeting of the MHE Committee on Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health.

The afternoon sessions will be about employment, non-discrimination and stigma, policy, enlargement, etc.

- workshop 5: *“Therapeutic interventions and Empowerment Strategies - A Must for Mental Health Promoting Policies”*.
- workshop 6: it will consist of a bus tour with guided visit of the ancient Viennese Narrenturm, a community mental health service, an employment initiative, a psychiatric hospital, and a catering-training initiative for people with mental health problems.

**Day 3 – Saturday 2 June**, will first bring reports and recommendations, and will then focus on implementation at the national level.

An exciting conference programme! We hope that many of you will actively participate.

For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)

#### General Assembly – Vienna (Austria), 2 June 2007

Mental Health Europe will hold its Annual General Assembly after the closing of the conference, on Saturday afternoon 2 June.

More information will follow in due time.

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 9 January, Mary Van Dievel, Director, attended the European Parliament Disability Intergroup New Years Cocktail, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium). (see p.12)

On 12 January, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, attended the Social Platform meeting to prepare informal Council Meeting on "Good work" and the resolution for the Spring Summit 2007, organised in Brussels.

On 16 January, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, participated in the Social Platform's Membership and Accreditation Committee meeting in Brussels.

On 17 January, Fanny Muller, Information Officer, represented MHE in a meeting on multiple discrimination with representatives of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, organised by the Social Platform in Brussels. (see p.13 )

On 18-19 January, Fanny Muller participated in a Training and Advocacy session on the European Social Charter, organised in Brussels by the Social Platform and the Council of Europe.

On 19 January, Sogol Noorani represented MHE at the European Women's Lobby seminar on Migrant Women in the European Union.

On the same day, Martine Dutoit, member of the MHE Human Rights Committee, attended the EDF (European Disability Forum) Human Rights Committee meeting in Brussels.

On 23 January, Fanny Muller participated in the NGO Roundtable on the European Parliament's Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2006 and the European Union's policy on the matter, which was held in the European Parliament in Brussels.

On the same day, Mary Van Dievel represented MHE at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event of the EDF and launch of the EDF campaign "1million4disability" in Brussels.

On 24 January, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, attended a meeting of the European Public Health Alliance's (EPHA) Policy Coordinator Group in Brussels.

On 30-31 January, Malgorzata Kmita, President, represented MHE at the European Equality Summit in Berlin (Germany), the official launch of the European Year of Equal Opportunity for All 2007. (see p. 10)

On 30 January - 1 February, Fanny Muller participated in the Council of Europe's INGO (International Non Governmental Organisations) Conference, organised in Strasbourg (France).

## II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### MIND 2007 Annual Conference

MIND, the leading mental health charity in England and Wales, is organising its 2007 annual conference and exhibition, "*Moving and shaking: Making services work for all*", on 28-29 March 2007 in Bournemouth (England). The conference's overarching theme will be "*What can we do to ensure that twenty-first century mental health services really meet the diverse needs of those who use them?*".

Service users and providers, charities and anyone with an interest in ensuring that tomorrow's mental health services are effective, creative and responsive to real needs are invited to join the conference. They will discover how some of today's most cutting-edge services and initiatives were conceived and came to fruition, as well as learn from an eclectic range of inspiring lectures and workshops illustrating how service users and professionals have managed to bring about change and innovation.

For more information on the conference: MIND website, [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

### Mental health service users attend the World Social Forum in Nairobi (Kenya)

Three service users from the Netherlands mandated by ENUSP (the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) and the WNUSP (World Network of Users and Survivors of psychiatry) went to Africa in order to put the position of users and the issue of mental health on the agenda of the World Social Forum (WSF), held in Nairobi (Kenya) on 20-25 January 2007.

They have found some money in the Netherlands to enable African fellow colleagues to join them at the WSF.

MHE will keep you informed of the outcomes of the forum.

For more information: contact person, Jan Verhaegh, CCL Time-Out, Tel +31 436013857, E-mail [janverhaegh@gmail.com](mailto:janverhaegh@gmail.com), or CCL Time-Out website, [www.stichting-time-out.nl](http://www.stichting-time-out.nl)

### News from Partnership for Children (UK)

Zippy's Friends, the international programme that teaches social and coping skills to young children, has found a natural home in Poland.

From a small start two years ago, when just a few hundred children took part in the capital, Warsaw, the programme has now been adopted by kindergartens right across Poland. A total of 12,370 children have been enrolled since the programme started, with 7,851 taking part this year alone.

Partnership for Children's partner in Poland is CMPPP, an organisation attached to the Ministry of Education, which offers training programmes to trainers and teachers throughout the country. Poland already had a well-established network of training centres in every region, and CMPPP decided to make use of this network to expand Zippy's Friends. Experienced trainers disseminate courses and materials in each area, and provide follow-up and support to local kindergartens that choose to take part.

According to teachers, the most remarkable result of running Zippy's Friends is a decrease in the number of conflict situations. Teachers also report changes in the way children cope with problems. Children can talk with each other, share their emotions and feelings, and feel free talking about different losses.

For more information: Partnership for children website, <http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/docs/latestnews.html>

### 30 Years Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie

The Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie, a German member organisation of MHE, has celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the General Assembly in Magdeburg. Being initially a supporter of the movement of families and carers of people with mental health problems, a supporter of users' organisations and an advocator of supporters of psychiatry, the

Dachverband has ever since provided a platform for discussion for the various psychosocial services and provides political support especially to the smaller organisations. Through the publication of the journal "*Psychosoziale Umschau*", the Dachverband ensures that innovative approaches as well as the work of volunteers in psychiatry receive deserved recognition.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary also marks a new beginning. Christian Zechert, former scientific assistant at the Institute for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy in Bielefeld-Bethel and Board member of the Dachverband since many years, has taken over the management of the Dachverband. The Dachverband will also extend its function as coordinator and service provider in the psychiatric field. It aims to become a "training agency" where private agencies and volunteers can effectively share their know-how and offer their services.

For more information: the Dachverband Gemeindepesychiatrie's website, <http://www.psychiatrie.de/dachverband>

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

### III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

Social Platform Annual Conference, "Social Values and Democracy: Renewing the guiding principles of the European Union"

On 5-6 December 2006, the Social Platform organised a two-day conference in Brussels (Belgium) to address the European Social Model. The European Social Model represents a common vision of society, based on fundamental rights and social justice and articulated through key values and objectives. It is shared by all EU Member States, enshrined in the existing EU Treaties and reaffirmed in the Constitutional Treaty.

The conference consisted of 2 plenary sessions and 8 workshops organised by Social Platform members. Malgorzata Kmita, MHE president, gave a presentation in the workshop entitled "*Achieving social Europe for disabled people: Where do we stand?*".

NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) activists, stakeholders and politicians from across Europe joined to debate two key questions:

1. Social values in EU politics: Are we moving forwards or backwards?
2. Would the EU be more social if it were more democratic?

The keynote opening speech of the conference was performed by Tuula Haatainen, Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health. Haatainen underlined the fact that, despite the 2005 revision of the Lisbon Strategy and the shift to a prevailing economic side, the EU represents a great opportunity to promote social values and, indeed, social integration has moved forward. Issues such as the reconciliation of work and family life, flexicurity, the enhancement of social systems or the increase of workers' mobility are currently on the European political agenda.

We should now encourage a more proactive approach to the EU, i.e. strengthen the position of social partners and NGOs, and, in the meantime, adopt a long-term vision for a sustainable modernisation of our social systems.

This speech was first followed by a panel discussion between representatives of the European Commission and Parliament, national ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, trade unions and social NGOs, and then by a number of workshops that focused on issues such as the protection of European Social Values through better regulation, the added value of NGOs in service provision, or the political role of social services providers in defining and negotiating social values.

At the end of the conference, the closing plenary session consisted in a debate, between a selection of significant speakers and the audience, around the question "*Would the EU be more social if it were more democratic?*". Gérard Onesta, Vice-President of the European Parliament, introduced the "citizens' agora", which he initiated, Gerrit Rauws, Project Coordinator at the King Baudouin Foundation, talked about the project "European citizen's consultation", and Ilona Kish, President of the Civil Society Contact Group, presented her organisation and its recent publications.

Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, José Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, Mary Van Dievel, Director, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, Information Officer, attended the conference.

For more information: the social Platform website,  
<http://socialplatform.org/code/EN/abou.asp?Page=772>

#### Study visit of the Social Platform in Slovenia, 14-15 December 2006

On 14 December 2006, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, met with representatives of six Slovenian NGOs (non governmental organizations) working in the field of mental health. Altogether nine people participated in this meeting. It took place in the premises of SENT, a Slovenian member organisation of MHE, who had also organised the meeting.

The focus of the discussion was whether and how to create a "platform for mental health" on the national level that would then be a member of the European platform (MHE). It was also discussed how different social service provider organisations could work together on the basis of a common subject or event and whether the development of this kind of "social platform" would be useful in order to maximise the impact of discussions about social issues on the national policies.

The official part of the meeting between Slovenian and European NGOs (plenary session and workshops) took place on 15 December.

For more information: the Social Platform Secretariat, Tel +32 2 511 37 14, E-mail [platform@socialplatform.org](mailto:platform@socialplatform.org)

## **IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS**

### **European Coalition for Community Living**

#### ECCL User Involvement Seminar, 20-21 April 2007, Zagreb (Croatia)

The ECCL User Involvement seminar, entitled "*Involving people with disabilities in the development, provision and evaluation of quality community-based services*" and organised in collaboration with the Association for Promoting Inclusion (Croatia), will gather representatives of disability organisations, service providers, self advocates, professionals, local and national government representatives, academics, as well as representatives of the European Commission and Council of Europe.

The seminar aims to contribute to the promotion and development of quality community-based services for people with disabilities by exploring the following questions:

- What are the good practices in the involvement of users of services in their development, delivery and quality evaluation?
- What are the challenges to user involvement and how to overcome them?
- What are the current policies on the European and national levels?
- What is the current situation regarding the provision of community-based services for people with disabilities?
- How can we ensure that community-based services for people with disabilities are truly user-led?

For more information: ECCL website, [www.community-living.info](http://www.community-living.info), or contact Ines Bulic at [coordinator@communityliving](mailto:coordinator@communityliving)

### **European Disability Forum**

#### EDF 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign: "1million4disability"

In 2007, the European Disability Forum (EDF) will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This anniversary represents golden opportunities not to be missed as celebrations will take place during the European Year of Equal Opportunities. Moreover, there is a symbolic link between the EDF 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Amsterdam Treaty including Article 13, the first article on non-discrimination and specific reference to disability in the EU Treaty, which is at the core of the discussions on the revision of the EU draft Constitutional Treaty. Last but not least, EDF 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations also coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaty.

On the occasion of its anniversary, EDF ambition is to increase its visibility and to draw attention on how the European Union impacts on persons with disabilities through an EU wide 1 million signatures campaign "1million4disability" in favour of a EU legislation to combat discrimination towards persons with disabilities. This campaign, launched on 23 January 2007, will be concluded by a celebration with the participation of representatives of EDF member organisations from all EU countries as well as high level representatives from the EU institutions and other stakeholders and allies of the European Disability Movement. 2007 will be not only EDF anniversary, but it will also be the occasion for all member organisations, for all disabled people in Europe and for all those who consider that people with disabilities have the same rights as any citizens, to make their voice heard.  
*For more information: EDF campaign website, <http://www.1million4disability.eu>, or the EDF website, <http://www.edf-feph.org/en/welcome.htm>*

### **Mental Disability Advocacy Center**

#### Czech appeal court confirms right to access medical records

On 20 December 2006, the Hradec Králové Regional Court confirmed that patients in the Czech Republic have the right to access their medical records. The case was filed in September 2005 by the organisations Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) and League of Human Rights (LLP), on behalf of a woman who tried to access and photocopy her medical records so she could decide whether the services she received in a psychiatric hospital complied with the law and medical ethics. The hospital refused her access, claiming that there was no such right under the Czech Law on Health Care and that patients only had right to be *informed* about their health by doctors. The Regional Court rejected this opinion and recognised that hospitals must provide patients with a copy of their medical records as the only effective way to comply with the law. The Regional Court affirmed that people must have the opportunity to learn about information contained in the records and have opportunity to consult independent experts on their contents. The Regional Court confirmed that a psychiatric diagnosis was not a valid basis on which to refuse access to medical records  
*For more information: MDAC website, <http://www.mdac.info/>*

## **V. EUROPEAN UNION**

### Logo of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

The European Commission has chosen the winning logo to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome. Member States, regional and local authorities, as well as non governmental organisations, businesses and citizens are invited to use the logo for any event they may organise in connection with the anniversary.  
*The logo has now been translated into all 23 official languages of the EU and is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/photo/event\\_reportage\\_en.cfm?id=1622](http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/photo/event_reportage_en.cfm?id=1622)*

## **VI. EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

### EU Enlargement

On 14 and 15 December 2006, the European Council held in Brussels an in-depth discussion on the principles for the European Union's enlargement. The Heads of State or Government confirmed their common view on the enlargement process. Enlargement will continue to be a key priority since it has increased the EU's influence in the world and has made it a more powerful partner in the international arena. In order to enable the EU to maintain its ability to integrate candidate member countries must be ready to assume fully commitments that result from joining the EU and to be ready to do so; the Union for its part must be able to function efficiently and to move forwards. These two aspects are vital if Europe is to win greater and sustainable support on the part of the citizens.  
*For more information: the Finnish Presidency website, [http://www.eu2006.fi/news\\_and\\_documents/press\\_releases/vko50/fr\\_FR/178656/](http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/press_releases/vko50/fr_FR/178656/)  
Source: The Letter – Fondation Robert Schuman*

## VII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Adoption of the Services Directive

On 11 December 2006, the Council adopted the Services Directive which facilitates the establishment of an internal services market thanks to the lifting of legal and administrative barriers which block the free movement of service providers. Its aim comprises the promotion of growth and employment in the EU whilst increasing consumer rights as users of these services. On 12 December this directive was signed by the president in office of the Council and the president of the European Parliament; it should be enforced the day after its publication in the Official Journal.

*For more information: the Council's website,*

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/92108.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/92108.pdf)

*Source: The Letter – Fondation Robert Schuman*

### Informal Council on Employment and Social Affairs

The informal meeting of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers between 18-20 January 2007 in Berlin presented an opportunity to work in depth on "the quality of work." The suggested theme found inspiration in the priorities adopted by the German Employment and Social Affairs Minister; "the development of a European social model," "the quality of work", and "equal opportunities." The presidency's conclusions established together with the following presidencies, Portugal and Slovenia, define the elements comprising "the quality of work" as being "workers' rights and employee participation, adequate salaries, and the organisation of work compatible with family life."

*For more information: the German EU Presidency website,*

[http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press\\_Releases/January/0119BMAS1.html?null](http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/January/0119BMAS1.html?null)

*Source: The Letter – Fondation Robert Schuman*

## VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### DG Employment and Social Affairs

#### Update: European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007

On 23 January 2007, EU Employment Commissioner Vladimír Špidla launched the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, with the presentation of the results of a recent Eurobarometer survey on discrimination. The aim of this initiative is to make EU citizens aware of their right to non-discrimination and equal treatment, to promote equal opportunities for all and to promote the benefits of diversity for the EU.

The majority of the activities of the European Year 2007 will be organised at the national, regional and local levels. This is in order to ensure the maximum proximity with the general public and the best possible adaptation to the needs of the participating countries. A further objective is to facilitate the association of public authorities, organisations and citizens with the achievement of the Year's objectives as closely as possible. The coordination of European Year activities in each participating country is the responsibility of their respective National Implementing Body (NIB). These have all been indicated (except for the United Kingdom). These NIBs have defined – until 15 December 2006 - a national strategy and priorities for the Year, such as the proposal of individual actions eligible for EU financial support.

With regard to the question of co-financing, confusion should not be made between, on the one hand, the fact that each participating country must bring a total of 50% co-financing to complement the European financing they receive and, on the other hand, the way in which each NIB will finance individual actions. In the latter case, the NIB is free to determine various rates of co-financing for the different actions it will have selected with the proviso of ensuring in the end its total co-financing of 50 % at national level.

Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, represented MHE at the launch event.

*For more information on National Implementing Bodies (NIBs): the Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat\\_id=NB](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat_id=NB), or visit the Year dedicated website, [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?&](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?&)

*Source: CoverAge*

## DG Health and Consumer Protection

### EC Green Paper on Mental Health: new documents available online

A new summary report established by the Commission services about the responses received through the open consultation on the Commission's Green paper on Mental Health (October 2005) is now available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/green\\_paper/mentalgp\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/green_paper/mentalgp_report.pdf)

The report complements the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 6 September 2006 and the Opinion given by the European Economic and Social Committee on 17 May 2006, plus the "Report and Recommendations of the EU Consultative Platform on Mental health" received after the consultation meetings.

All contributions to the consultation, and also the summary report about the consultation meetings prepared by the SUPPORT-project, can be consulted on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/green\\_paper/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/green_paper/consultation_en.htm)

The Commission services are now working towards the presentation of a follow-up Communication setting out a strategy on mental health in the first half of 2007.

For more information on the forthcoming Communication: the Commission website, [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/press\\_mental\\_health\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/press_mental_health_en.htm)

## **IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

### Budget 2007

On 14 December 2006, Parliament came to a final decision on the EU's budget for 2007 and established the total at 115.5 billion euros. With the budget's signature the first part of the budgetary cycle has now come to an end. It will be followed by the execution of the budget for 2007 then by the budgetary control. Although more and more competences are being transferred over from the Member States to the Union the European budget represents less than 2.5% of all public expenditure together. Although expenditure represents 47% of the GNI (Gross National Income) of Member States, the Union's budget barely represents 1% of all GNIs together.

For more information: the European Parliament website,

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus\\_page/034-12348-310-11-45-905-20061106FCS12347-06-11-2006-2006/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/034-12348-310-11-45-905-20061106FCS12347-06-11-2006-2006/default_en.htm)

Source: European parliament Press release

### Pöttering succeeds Borrell in Parliament chair

On 17 January 2006, German Conservative Hans-Gert Pöttering has been elected as the European Parliament's president for the next two-and-a-half years. A mid-term deal arranged in 2004 with the Socialists made his election a formality. In an interview with Les Echos, he said that the decision of the two largest parties to share the presidency over the five-year term reflected the spirit of compromise in parliament.

Pöttering has been a member of the European Parliament since 1979 and the president of the mid-right EPP-ED group since 1999. He is a member of the "Präsidium" (the national board) of Germany's conservative CDU party, the party of Chancellor Angela Merkel. His main interest is in foreign and security policy.

As for the likely highlight of his presidency, Pöttering made it clear that the constitution would be the main area of interest.

And he denied suggestions that Germany would dominate Europe during the next six months, despite Angela Merkel's current presidency of the EU.

Pöttering also admitted that he is "concerned" by the rise of the far right in European politics – a new group of far-right MEPs took its seat in Strasbourg in the second half of January– but that parliament had little choice but to accept them.

For more information: the European Parliament website,  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/008-1954-015-01-03-901-20070115IPR01953-15-01-2007-2007-true/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-1954-015-01-03-901-20070115IPR01953-15-01-2007-2007-true/default_en.htm)

Source: EurActiv

#### European Parliament Disability Intergroup New Years Cocktail

Mary Van Dievel attended the EP Disability Intergroup's New Years cocktail in the European Parliament on 9 January 2007. The cocktail was co-organised by the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Mr. Richard Howitt, Member of European Parliament (MEP) and Chair of the EP Disability Intergroup, thanked EDF for supporting the activities of the Intergroup for so long. He mentioned the "visible" results of this co-operation:

- the Disability Action Plan - European Parliament report by Liz Lynne MEP;
- the EP Mental Health report by John Bowis MEP;
- the work done on the Structural Funds by many MEPs;
- the Air Passengers' Rights Regulation;
- the accessibility audit about improving the accessibility of the European Parliament premises;
- the work on inclusive education for children with special educational needs.

Mr. Howitt said that one of the most remarkable achievements for the disability community was, however, the finalisation and adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. Organisations of disabled people had been closely and directly involved in the negotiations process for the Convention. He added however that the battle for equal rights for persons with disabilities is far from being completed yet since there is a long process of ratifications and national implementation of the Convention. Mr. Howitt repeated that the Intergroup was willing and ready to provide full support to the European disability community by raising awareness about the Convention at the European Parliament and beyond. Mr. Howitt also mentioned that Commissioner Špidla, when addressing the Disability Intergroup in Strasbourg in December 2006, announced that the European Commission is in the process of conducting a study to evaluate what further non-discrimination legislation would be appropriate in the European political, social and economic context. And he finally called on the European Commission, and especially on Mrs. Wallis Goelen, Head of the Disability Unit also present at the cocktail, to do its utmost to ensure a speedy ratification process of the Convention by the European Communities.

Mr. Jan Andersson MEP, Chairman of the Employment Committee and Vice President of the Disability Intergroup, welcomed the MEPs and ENGOs present.

Thérèse Kempeneers, Executive Committee member of the European Disability Forum, stressed the importance of EDF's co-operation with the Disability Intergroup and the achievements for the European disability community, the most remarkable in 2006 being the Air Passengers Rights Regulation, the Regulation on the Structural Funds and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. In her speech she also talked about the work to be done at the national level. The European NGOs and their national member organisations will have to work together with the national governments to maximise the effort and bring the UN Convention to the people. She stressed that the task of awareness raising about the UN Convention lays collectively with MEPs, NGOs at the European and national/regional/local level, activists, media, etc. She also announced that EDF will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007, with the launch of a large scale campaign to make the disability voice heard.

More about this campaign under the heading European Disability Forum is provided in this Newsletter, under "European Disability Forum".

For more information: EDF website, <http://www.edf-feph.org/apdg/index-en.htm>

## **X. UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION**

### Kofi Annan replaced at the head of UNO

On 14 December 2006, the General Assembly paid tribute to Kofi Annan who has undertaken two terms in office as Head of the United Nations (UN). His successor, the South Korean Ban

Ki-Moon was sworn in before the 192 members of the Organisation. He has officially taken office as UN Secretary General on 1 January 2007.

For more information: the UN website,

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20990&Cr=Ban&Cr1=Ki-moon>

Source: UN News Centre

## XI. VARIOUS

### A Study on Multiple Discrimination in the European Union

The Danish Institute for Human Rights is carrying out a study on multiple discrimination, which has been commissioned by the European Commission.

The purpose of the study is to promote the understanding of the causes and effects of multiple discrimination in the European Union (EU). The study started on 1 December 2006 and will be running for a period of one year.

The study will examine discrimination in relation to gender, age, disability, race or ethnicity, religion or faith and sexual orientation, with a focus on multiple discrimination. Multiple discrimination is a complex concept and it is not always clear cut on which ground a person is subject to discrimination. Hence the necessity to approach discrimination in its complexity of being multiple. The study processes will create space for collective reflections on anti-discrimination work across national and international organisations, institutions and associations and create innovation as well as new ways of combating discrimination as a phenomenon.

The general question underlying the study is: *"Where and why discrimination and multiple discrimination occur and what are their effects on the different layers of society?"*. The primary objective of the study is to identify good practices and prepare recommendations to the different actors experiencing or working with discrimination.

At the end of the study, a report collecting all the obtained knowledge on how to address and combat multiple discrimination, including practical recommendations, will be prepared and disseminated at a conference, to be held in Denmark.

For more information: contact person, Mandana Zarrehparvar, Tel +45 32698892, E-mail

[mza@humanrights.dk](mailto:mza@humanrights.dk)

## XII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

### Alzheimer Europe new website

On 7 November 2006, Luxembourg-based, the umbrella organisation of national Alzheimer associations in Europe, launched a new website dedicated to raising awareness about the public health-impact of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in Europe. The site provides detailed information on the numbers of people with dementia in 31 European countries, as well as an overview of the reimbursement of anti-dementia drugs and the provision of home care in these countries. Maurice O'Connell, Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe commented: *"Our website will be a useful tool, allowing policymakers and associations to compare their situation to that of other countries, and to lobby for the necessary improvements"*.

To access the website: <http://www.dementia-in-europe.eu>

## XIII. PUBLICATIONS

### The Health Care Workforce in Europe - Learning from experience

This new book brings together the experiences for a range of countries that are endeavouring to secure a trained and motivated workforce towards achieving high-performing health systems. It also intends to provide lessons for others facing similar health care workforce challenges.

To download the book: [http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/20060915\\_4](http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/20060915_4)

#### New policy brief: Health care outside hospital

This new policy brief aims to describe a broad spectrum of models for accessing generalist and specialist care, by exploring the arrangements in place in eight countries. This publication is intended to provide a basis for a more informed discussion on the future of health care outside the hospital.

To download the document: <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E89259.pdf>

#### Ko te strese stress: How to prevent stress

Mojca Dernovsek, a Slovenian psychiatrist and partner of the MHEEN (Mental Health Economics European Network) project, has, in collaboration with Helena Jericek and Mateja Gorenc, written and edited a manual on stress prevention, entitled "*Ko te strese stress*". The book gives examples on how to cope with stress, and includes a questionnaire to determine whether the reader is under stress or not.

The manual, only available in Slovenian, can be downloaded at:

[http://www.ivz.si/javne\\_datoteke/datoteke/1098-Ko\\_te\\_strese\\_stres.pdf](http://www.ivz.si/javne_datoteke/datoteke/1098-Ko_te_strese_stres.pdf)

For more information: contact person, Dr Mojca Dernovsek, E-mail [mojca-zvezdana.dernovsek@quest.arnes.si](mailto:mojca-zvezdana.dernovsek@quest.arnes.si)

### **XIV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **16 February 2007**

#### **EAP-SFU European Symposium "PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences", Vienna (Austria)**

The European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), in collaboration with the Sigmund Freud University (SFU), organises a European Symposium on the theme "*PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences*" at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna.

Based on the "*Strasbourg Declaration on Psychotherapy of 1990*" the EAP represents high training standards for a scientifically based and stands for a free and independent practice of psychotherapy.

To register to the conference: send an E-mail at [eap.headoffice@europsyche.org](mailto:eap.headoffice@europsyche.org)

For more information: EAP website, <http://www.europsyche.org>

#### **9-11 March 2007**

#### **Conference "Investing in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research" - Venice (Italy)**

The 8th International Workshop on costs and assessment in psychiatry "*Investing in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research*" is taking place in Venice on 9-11 March 2007. The event is organised by the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics (ICMPE) with the support of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) - Section on Mental Health Economics.

For further information and to download the abstract and registration forms: the ICMPE webpage <http://www.icmpe.org/test1/events/events.htm>

#### **17-21 March 2007**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid (Spain)**

This annual congress is organised by the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP).

The theme of the congress will be: "*European Psychiatry - Science and Art*".

The aim of the congress is to open new perspectives on the Science and Art of psychiatry and on issues related to treatment and patient care. The state-of-the-art lectures, plenary lectures and core symposia will provide a full update on the most important aspects of treatment in psychiatry and on the latest achievements in this field.

For more information: the congress website, <http://www.kenes.com/aep2007/welcome.asp>, or send an e-mail at [aep2007@kenes.com](mailto:aep2007@kenes.com).

**22-23 March 2007****Foundation Congress of HORATIO - European Psychiatric Nurses, "Mental Health in Europe: the contribution of psychiatric nursing practice and science", Arnhem (The Netherlands)**

This founding congress will be the first biennial congress in Europe where participants can exchange knowledge and share information and inspiration. It will be the opportunity for leaders - managers - educators - practitioners - clinicians - researchers - theorists - advocates - representatives and others within the field of psychiatric nursing to attend lectures, exchange information, network, promote international collaboration, and serve as a platform for discussion and reflection about the way psychiatric nursing as a profession should develop within Europe for the benefit of our consumers.

*For further information: the congress website,*

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/horatio/index.html?1160844320109>

**25-27 March 2007****6<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Public benefit for the Disabled", Cracow (Poland)**

***Due to unpredicted circumstances, the conference has been rescheduled from 26-28 November 2006 to 25-27 March 2006.***

The conference will take place in connection with ceremonial inauguration of 2007 – *European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.*

Debates will proceed about oncoming matters:

- obtaining the status of organisation of public benefit and organisational and administrative service;
- cooperation of national and local governments with non-governmental organisations on the base of legislative regulations and disability laws;
- impact of laws, concerning non-governmental organisations, on: rehabilitation, accessibility, transport, education, etc... of disabled people; anti-discrimination activities and equal opportunities for all; mass media as instruments exposing activities of non-governmental organisations...
- practices of non-governmental organisations of public benefit (or their counterparts in other European countries) and their influence on activities for equal opportunities for all.

*For more information: the website of the Polish Association of Disabled People's website, [www.pson.ip.krakow.pl](http://www.pson.ip.krakow.pl)*

**NEW!! 26-28 March 2007****3rd Annual World Health Care Congress – Europe 2007, Barcelona (Spain)**

Organised under the high patronage of the European Commission, the World Health Congress Europe is the only major international forum where over 500 health leaders share best practices and successful initiatives for improved delivery and outcomes in Europe. Thought leaders include Health ministers, leading government officials, hospital directors, decision makers from public and private insurance funds, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and health care industry suppliers.

A three-day networking opportunity, the event features visionary keynote addresses, controversial debates, dynamic panel discussions, case studies, tutorials and informal roundtable discussions.

Five focused Summits will be organized on "*Chronic disease management and patient empowerment*", "*Implementing IT systems*", "*Paying for performance*", "*Improving quality and patient safety*" and "*promoting access to innovation*" and "*Personalised healthcare*".

*For more information: the conference dedicated website, [www.worldcongress.com/europe](http://www.worldcongress.com/europe)*

**NEW!! 19-21 April 2007****6<sup>th</sup> European Conference of ACENDIO, "Nursing Communication in Multidisciplinary Practice", Amsterdam (The Netherlands)**

Since 1995, ACENDIO (the Association for Common European Nursing Diagnoses, Interventions and Outcomes) has been supporting the development of nursing's professional language by providing conferences and a network for nurses in the different European countries to promote and advance common terminologies, classifications and data sets for describing and communicating the practice of nursing.

The focus of this conference is on the communication of nursing within multidisciplinary practice for the enhancement of patient care. Themes therefore include communicating the usefulness of terminologies and classifications, the use of nursing diagnoses, interventions, outcomes and measurement tools, and the results of nursing data collection for nursing practice.

*For more information: ACENDIO website,*

<http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/acendioadam/amsterdam/acendioprogramth.html>

### **26-27 April 2007**

#### **Conference on "Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings", Oslo (Norway)**

The objectives of the conference are:

- to increase awareness of why it is important to take care of mental health in humanitarian settings;
- to place mental health higher on the agenda of international humanitarian organisations, non governmental organisations and governments;
- and to include mental health in humanitarian programmes.

*For more information: the conference dedicated website,*

<http://www.copewithcrisis.no/english/index.html>

### **10-12 May 2007**

#### **Europe in Action Conference, "Citizens' Rights for All – Full citizen's rights and legal protection for people with intellectual disabilities", Warsaw (Poland)**

During the European Year of equal Opportunities 2007, people with intellectual disabilities, family members, legal professionals and policy makers will discuss at this event the following main themes:

- Support in decision-making and legal representation;
- Full citizenship and legal protection;
- Withdrawal of legal capacity and its consequences.

*For more information: the conference dedicated website, [www.EuropeInAction.org](http://www.EuropeInAction.org)*

### **24-26 May 2007**

#### **International Congress of the Ligue Bruxelloise Francophone pour la Santé Mentale (LBFMS), "Jusqu'ici tout va bien... mais il ne faut pas s'inquiéter", Brussels (Belgium)**

The project of the organisers is to foster thinking on background questions (Mental Health and new life styles, Mental Health and Public Health, The notion of resistance...), organised in transversal themes, from clinical practices and the reading received from sociology, anthropology, philosophy, law and other disciplines that are nowadays associated with mental health.

*For more information: the LBSM Secretariat, Tel +32 2 511 55 43,*

*E-mail [emessens@skynet.be](mailto:emessens@skynet.be)*

### **31 May–2 June 2007**

#### **MHE conference 2007, "No Health without Mental Health: from slogan to reality", Vienna (Austria)**

The MHE conference will focus on the outcomes of the consultation process of the European Commission's Green Paper "Improving the Mental Health of the Population" and the upcoming strategy for the next years.

The focus of the conference will be on the connection and the coherence between European policies and the impact they have on the mental health of the population.

Lectures, round-table discussions and workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also for exchange of best practices.

Participants coming from all European countries will be encouraged to discuss the possibilities of implementing strategies on mental health throughout the whole life-span and to initiate cooperation between the different organisations and institutions working on mental health issues at the national and European level.

Additionally, MHE's annual General Assembly will take place at the end of the conference.

You can contribute by sending us your ideas for workshops you would be interested in.

*For further information please contact: [office@promente-Wien.at](mailto:office@promente-Wien.at) or [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)*

### **NEW!! 5-6 June 2007**

#### **Employment Week 2007 Conference, Working Europe - Creating more and better jobs, Brussels (Belgium)**

Creating quality employment is a top priority for Europe's socio-economic future, as its political leaders work to promote its competitive performance. How can the public and private sector, as employer, employee, agency or official contribute?

The 2007 agenda will cover all aspects of employment with two strong streams running through the programme including:

In the workplace:

- *Diversity*: Opportunities for all or just for some?
- *Flexicurity*: Does it really balance the interests of employers and employees?
- *Work-life balance*: How does it work in practice? Who's the most proactive in implementing it?

In the labour market:

- *Europe's job creation performance*: Where are the new jobs being created and why?
- *Mobility*: Is it a problem or a solution?
- *Environmental issues*: Will they affect job creation?

For more information: the conference website, <http://www.employmentweek.com/>

### **13-15 June 2007**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) Conference, Belfast (Northern Ireland)**

The Conference, "*Supported Employment – Working for All?*", aims to promote good practices in Supported Employment as well as exploring how the model can be used with other disadvantaged groups. The Conference will also pose the question "*Is Supported Employment working for all?*" and if not, why not?

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.euseconference2007.org>

### **18-19 June 2007**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> European Social services Conference, "Opportunity for All: the challenge for social and health services in a diverse Europe", Berlin (Germany)**

This conference is organized by the European social network in cooperation with the German Presidency of the European Union. It brings together 400 delegates from key national and European public and private welfare organizations to learn together about maximizing potential for all, young or old, no matter their disadvantage or disability. With over 30 presentations, workshops and debates this conference will bring Europe's best practice together in one comprehensive event.

For more information: contact person, Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 1273 549817, E-mail [sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com](mailto:sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com)

### **19-23 August 2007**

#### **World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, Hong Kong (China)**

The 2007 Congress will bring together international and local experts with diverse backgrounds including mental health practitioners, community partners, as well as users and carers of mental health services, to address a wide variety of topics of significant interest in mental health.

This year's congress theme is "*Impact of Culture on Mental Health: East meet West*".

For more information: the Congress Secretariat, Tel +852 2778 7173, Fax +852 2770 9345, e-mail [info@wmhc2007.com](mailto:info@wmhc2007.com), or the congress dedicated website, [www.wmhc2007.com](http://www.wmhc2007.com)

### **25-29 August 2007**

#### **13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "Bridging the gaps – Integrating perspectives in child and adolescent mental health", Florence (Italy)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of ESCAP will be designed to offer clinicians, researchers, health workers, and others interested in the welfare of children and adolescents with a genuine appreciation of contemporary and appropriate methods of assessment and

intervention. The program will be especially sensitive to the fact that the developmental periods of childhood and adolescence represent a crucial time for timely diagnostic evaluation and for the implementation of effective treatments.

For more information: contact person, Cecilia Sighinolfi, E-mail [cecilia.sighinolfi@azzurro.it](mailto:cecilia.sighinolfi@azzurro.it), or visit the conference dedicated website, [http://www.escap-net.org/web/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=148](http://www.escap-net.org/web/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=148)

### **31 August, 1-2 September 2007**

#### **"A world of possibilities", 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Autism Europe, Oslo (Norway)**

The Congress will consist of an integrated programme of symposia and poster sessions, focusing on a broad exchange of knowledge, information, experience and ideas. All presented papers will be published in the proceedings and/or on CD.

The aim of the Congress is to clarify the practical outcomes, values and implications of research in terms of its contribution to the quality of life and development of persons with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). All presentations should reflect this aim.

For further information: the Congress website,

<http://www.autismcongressoslo.org/comweb.asp?ID=1&segment=1&session=>

### **18-21 November 2007**

#### **SMES-EUROPA 10th Conference, "After 15 years...", Rome (Italy)**

15 years ago (1992), in Rome, a first seminar was organised to mark the beginning of the SMES' movement.

The aim of the conference is:

1. A retrospective evaluation: "...what is the situation after 15 years?," what has been changed in a positive or a negative way?
2. Perspectives and proposals for the future, for absolute priorities in right and access to health and social services for homeless people.

For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, [http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007\\_10conf\\_SMES\\_UK.htm](http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007_10conf_SMES_UK.htm)

### **19-21 June 2008**

#### **World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference, "Depression and relevant psychiatric conditions in primary care", Granada (Spain)**

Depression will be second to cardiovascular disease as a global cause of disability by 2020.

PREDICT is the European Commission 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Study of the predictors of depression in general practice attendees in six European and one Latin American country.

The results of this ground-breaking research will form the basis of this conference, with the following key objectives:

- To present new data on predictors of depression;
- To debate their significance for health promotion and prevention of depression in family practice;
- To promote inter-professional exchange between mental health and primary care professionals on management of depression and other common mental disorders in family practice.

For more information on the conference: contact person, Dr. Francisco Torres- González, E-mail [ftorres@ugr.es](mailto:ftorres@ugr.es), or visit the conference dedicated website, <http://www.wpa2008granada.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](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)

Mental Health Europe is committed to:

- the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental distress;
- protecting the rights of people with mental health problems;
- removing stigma and discrimination;
- ensuring a fair share of resources for mental health.

Do you share our vision? Then join MHE now and you will strengthen the voice for mental health in Europe.

First name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Family name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City:

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Country:

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Tel.:

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Fax:

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E-mail:

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Occupation or organisation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Account number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Bank details:

\_\_\_\_\_

Completed form to be returned to:

Mental Health Europe  
Santé Mentale Europe  
Boulevard Clovis 7, B – 1000 Brussels  
Fax: +32-2-280 16 04  
E-mail: [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org)