



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

New MHE work programme: From exclusion to inclusion-Making social inclusion a reality for people with mental health problems in the European Union

The programme builds on the initial results and lessons learned from the current MHE project "*Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems*" and aims to increase efforts to raise awareness at the local, national, regional and European level by:

- analysing the situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems in all the EU Member States, in access to health and social services, employment, education and training, housing, transport and leisure activities – special emphasis will be given to the social exclusion of women, children, adolescents, immigrants and elderly people with mental health problems, who are often confronted with multiple aspects of social exclusion at the same time;
- in each of the EU Member States, bringing together the different stakeholders and discussing together with all of them the present situation of social exclusion of people with mental health problems as well as developing policy proposals and strategies for social inclusion of people with mental health problems;
- in each of the EU Member States, approaching the responsible officials for the National Reports on Strategies on Social Protection and Social Inclusion and participating in the monitoring and implementation of the Reports as well as advocating strategies for social inclusion of people with mental health problems to be included in the future Reports dealing;
- disseminating the results of the activities at all levels, local, national, regional and European, through press releases and other publications, the use of media (e.g. local newspapers and television), presentations at meetings, the MHE General Assembly etc.

As MHE has member organisations in all the 27 EU Member States, one member organisation in each Member States will become a focal point under the present work programme. The focal points will at the same time become "country coordinators" for all the other MHE member organisations in the country. The project partners of the previous "Good Practices" project will serve as "trainers" for the new focal points, each one of them linking up, or twinning, with one or two MHE member organisations from the neighbouring countries.

A European Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from different European networks will be established and asked to comment on the developments and outcomes of the work done in the area of social inclusion from their specific (related to content), local (related to knowledge about the local, national and regional situation) and European point of view. This will inform MHE and the focal points, as well as it will offer an opportunity for the European networks to enter into dialogue and exchange regarding their specific approach to the fight against social exclusion and poverty.

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.

For further information: contact the MHE Secretariat, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 2800468

MHE response to the Commission communication on health services

Mental Health Europe (MHE) responded to the Commission consultation on health services by contributing to the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and European Patients Forum (EPF)'s responses submitted to the Commission on 30 January 2007.

Mental Health Europe's key comments to the communication are:

- MHE calls for health service organisation to be based on principles of accessibility, coordinated care, continuity of care, effectiveness, equity and respect for human rights.

- MHE urges the mental health and well-being dimension of patients' mobility to be taken into account. Information provided by health services shall be accurate, reliable, and "handled with care". Providing misleading or incomplete information as well as communicating it poorly can negatively affect patients' mental health. In particular, the information provided should avoid generating unrealistic expectations or false beliefs about patient's own health, treatment and care. Evidence shows that patients having realistic expectations are likely to cope better with their own health problems. Consequently, it is essential that provision of information leads to shared expectations between professionals and patients.
- MHE believes that the patients' autonomy and freedom of choice must be respected. Patients should be supplied with useful information enabling them to make their own judgments both on the health treatment and on their health status. The needs and opinions of the patients should be taken into account. The involvement of consumer and family organizations in service planning and delivery should be encouraged and increased.
- MHE makes a plea for the establishment of a Community framework to support the provision of mental health services. In several Member States the process of deinstitutionalisation has led to a significant reduction in the number of mental health hospitals, and to a consequent increase in the demand for community-based mental health services. Experience shows that the provision of these services has been inadequate and that access to these services has been uneven. Action at the EU level is therefore needed to put emphasis on developing community mental health care services and coordinate them with general health services. Such an action will facilitate the access to mental health services and reduce the stigma associated with seeking help from stand-alone mental health professionals.

For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org
To read EPHA and EPF's responses: www.epha.org and <http://www.eu-patient.eu/>

New website of the Mental Health Economics European Network – Phase II

The new website of the Mental Health Economics European Network (MHEEN II), led by the London School of Economics and Political Science and coordinated by Mental Health Europe, is now up and running. The website will be updated continuously and will provide information related to MHEENII partners and project activities, as well as news from other networks and key events on mental health economics issues.

A MHEENII fact sheet with key information about the project, its membership, aims and outcomes can be downloaded at:

http://www.mheen.org/Members%20only%20documents/Working%20documents/MHEENII%20Fact%20Sheet_v.6.pdf

For more information: the MHEENII website, www.mheen.org, or contact Mari Fresu, at mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

MHE representation at various meetings

On 5-6 February 2007, John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, attended the IMHPA (Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action) Project meeting in Leiden (Netherlands).

From 5 to 8 February 2007, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, participated in the field exchange visit to Prague (Czech Republic) and Bratislava (Slovakia) in the frame of the project "*Good practices for combating social exclusion for people with mental health problems*".

On 7-8 February 2007, Ms. Ali Brummer, from the MHE member organisation Finnish Association for Mental Health, represented MHE at the Helsinki High-Level Conference on Healthcare Financing, which occurred in Helsinki (Finland).

On 8-9 February 2007, Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Vice-President, attended a high-level conference on the European Social Model, which took place in Nuremberg (Germany).

On 12-13 February 2007, Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, Information Officer, represented MHE at the first coordination meeting of the PROMENPOL project, which took place in Brussels (Belgium).

On 19 February 2007, Mary Van Dievel had a meeting with Reinis Upenieks, President of the Latvian organisation SKALBES.

On 20 February 2007, Mari Fresu had a meeting with Mrs. Almhjell, Senior Advisor from the Vestfold County Council of Eastern Norway, to discuss youth and mental health policies and funding opportunities at EU level.

On 23-24 February 2007, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, attended the EDF (European disability Forum) Board meeting in Berlin (Germany).

On the same dates, Colette Versporten, MHE Board Member, represented MHE at the CEMEA (Centre d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Education) conference in Picardie (France).

From 26 to 28 February 2007, Sogol Noorani and Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, participated in the field exchange visits of the Good Practices project to Edinburgh (Scotland).

On 27 February 2007, a meeting between the European Commission's Social Inclusion Unit and the EU Networks active in the social inclusion and protection process was organised in Brussels. Mary Van Dievel attended the meeting and presented Mental Health Europe.

On 28 February 2007, Mari Fresu attended the Information Day on the 2007 Call for proposals for Public Health in Luxembourg (Luxembourg).

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

New Executive Director for InterMinds

The Board of InterMinds is very pleased to announce that following Peter Kampman's retirement after 7 years of working for the organisation, Dr Sandra Grant OBE has taken over as Executive Director of InterMinds.

She will concentrate her activities on the things that are most important to her: Service user involvement and leadership; Community mental health care; The vital role of NGOs; and Respect for diversity.

Sandra has been Mental Health Advisor to InterMinds for two years and in this capacity she was elected as Board Member of Mental Health Europe and is on the Advisory Group for its project on "*Good Practices for Combating the Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems*". She has participated in all the current InterMinds projects.

Sandra can be contacted through info@interminds.org

For more information: *Interminds website*, www.interminds.org

Flemish Federation of Catholic Care Institutions

Since 1 January 2007, Dr Carine Boonen is no longer Director of the Flemish Federation of Catholic Care Institutions (VVI).

Her replacement will soon be decided by the Board.

For more information: *VVI website*, <http://www.vvi.be/>

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

III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

INGO meetings at the Council of Europe, 29 January-1st February 2007, Strasbourg (France)

The winter session of the INGOs (International Non Governmental Organisations) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe took place in Strasbourg, in the Council of Europe's premises, from 29 January to 1st February 2007.

The Council recognised the influence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as early as 1952 when it opened the possibility for non-governmental organisations to acquire "consultative status". At present, around 400 INGOs have enjoyed consultative status (then renamed "participatory status") with the Council of Europe.

When NGOs are granted this status, they may be involved in the definition of Council of Europe policies and programmes. Additionally, considering their role as advisers in questions concerning civil society, they may be consulted in writing or by means of a hearing, on questions of mutual interest.

A Plenary Conference, to which all NGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe are invited, is organised each year. It determines guidelines for improving the functioning of the participatory status.

This year, the annual meeting of the conference of INGOs took place on 30 January 2007. It hosted several key notes speakers, such as Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Ambassador Guido Bellati Ceccoli, Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe.

The conference consisted in a presentation of activity reports as well as in follow-up discussions on various INGOs' initiatives and activities. In addition, participants adopted a resolution on the situation of civil society in Belarus and debated more in depth on a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the legal status of the NGOs and on the revised Rules of Procedures of the Conference of INGOs. Finally, they were informed on the new Council of Europe database, which will provide updated and relevant data on the INGOs enjoying participative status with the Council of Europe; the database will be accessible from the Council of Europe website.

From 31 January to 1st February, meetings of the different thematic INGOs groupings – on Health, Gender Equality, Poverty and Social Cohesion, Human Rights...- occurred.

Fanny Muller, MHE Information Officer, attended the meetings.

For more information: the Council of Europe website, <http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO/Public/>

First Equality Summit and Opening of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

This very special and important event took place in Berlin on 30-31 January 2007. It was attended by over 450 people from all over Europe and the speakers included, for example, representatives from the European Parliament, politicians, ENGOs (European non governmental organisations), and young people's organisations.

The Opening Session was addressed by Ursula von der Leyen, German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Anna Zaborska, Member of the European Parliament, Slovakia. The key note speaker was Professor Rita Sussmuth, Former President of the Bundestag, Germany.

There were very active Panel discussions on the first and second day of the event together with four workshops which explored the important areas of:

- Rights – making legislation work;
- Representation - making all voices heard;
- Recognition – highlighting the benefits of diversity;
- Respect – eliminating stereotypes and prejudices.

At the heart of the conference was the importance of "*Maximising the Benefits of Diversity*".

The aim of the First European Summit was to articulate and strengthen the case for Equality in Europe. Throughout the Summit all delegates stressed the importance of working towards the development of a consensus which affirms that a fair Europe for all, in which equality of opportunity, protection from prejudice and discrimination in its many and varied forms, and adherence to the principles enshrined in Human Rights legislation, should permeate all policies, programmes, initiatives and projects.

The conference affirmed that the principles of equality and non-discrimination are enshrined in European treaties and should constitute the key principles upon which European Union member states are based. Member states have a duty and responsibility to take all necessary measures, including legislative frameworks, to implement civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all, irrespective of age, sex, parental status, gender identity and expression,

marital status, race, colour, physical appearance, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation, property, birth or other status.

Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, represented MHE at the Summit. Her briefing on the Summit can be obtained from the MHE Secretariat.

For more information: the Year dedicated website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=203

Thanks to Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, for this contribution.

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Disability Forum

REMINDER: EDF "1MILLION4DISABILITY" Campaign

EDF (European Disability Forum) European wide campaign, aiming to collect 1 million signatures in favour of European legislative measures to combat any form of discrimination against persons with disabilities, protect their rights and improve the quality of life of more than 50 million disabled citizens, was launched on 23 January 2007.

If we want to reach the goal of 1,000,000 signatures, 5,000 signatures a day will have to be collected, electronically and manually, till the date of the **official closing of the campaign, 4 October 2007**. MHE members are strongly encouraged to sign the campaign and to broadcast it in their respective countries and networks.

For more information and to sign the campaign: the campaign dedicated website:

www.1million4disability.eu

Meeting of the EDF Human Rights Committee in Brussels (Belgium) on 20 January 2007

The EDF (European Disability Forum) Human Rights Committee met in Brussels on Saturday 20 January 2007. The role of this committee is to bring recommendations to the EDF board regarding human rights and disability related issues.

It was an important meeting because dealing with the United Nations international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which should now be signed and ratified by different countries.

The convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is to become the single most influential piece of international disability policy. Its ratification will influence the revision of laws, politics and programs implemented in various countries.

If we want this convention to become effective, European, national and local organisations should disseminate and explain this text, as well as involve themselves in the process that goes from ratification to effective implementation of the convention by the States. This is why it is important that they find out the process that is to be followed in their respective country, which will authorise the government to sign the convention, requiring or not decision of parliament.

A great part of the discussion focused on the definition of disability. It is, indeed, essential to support the social model of disability instead of the medical approach which only lists the people's deficiencies and symptoms. Although there is no definition of the expression "*person with disabilities*" in the text of the convention, its preamble includes a recognition of the social model of disability. The word "*mental*" has been chosen instead of the expression "*people with psychosocial disabilities*" and we will have once again to fight and ensure that people with mental disabilities are protected by this convention.

It is important to notice that while the convention is not about discrimination, it is strongly based on a non discrimination approach.

A second point on the meeting's agenda was the so-called "*EDF Draft Resolution on active termination of live of infants with impairments and the right to live*", in response to the Gronigen protocol 2005 prepared by paediatricians.

Martine Dutoit, Director of MHE member organisation Advocacy France, represented MHE at this meeting.

For more information: EDF website, <http://www.edf-fehp.org/fr/welcome.htm>

Thanks to Martine Dutoit for this contribution.

Social Platform

New Social Platform Director

Roshan Di Puppo was appointed as new Director of the Social Platform.

She joined the Platform in 2002 as Policy Officer and last year was named Policy Director. She has been instrumental in raising the political profile of the network, as well as developing a more efficient and professional organisation.

Roshan Di Puppo will start as Director on the 1st of March, replacing Simon Wilson, who is leaving the Social Platform after seven years in order to join The Centre, Brussels' first "think-do tank".

For more information: contact person, Daniela Vincenti Mitchener, Tel +32 2 5081632, E-mail daniela.mitchener@socialplatform.org

Mental Disability Advocacy Center

Czech appeal court declares involuntary hospitalisation unlawful

The organisations Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) and League for Human Rights (LLP) applaud a Czech regional court for upholding the human rights of a woman detained in a psychiatric hospital and forced to accept psychiatric medication without her consent.

Although she did not have any serious mental disabilities, the woman was detained in a Czech psychiatric hospital for several weeks in early 2006, upon the initiative of her landlord.

In its decision, the regional (appeal) court ruled that she was detained in the hospital unlawfully. The regional court found that after the landlord entered the woman's flat without her consent, she was probably agitated but she was not dangerous, and therefore the statutory conditions for detention were not met.

For more information: contact MDAC at mdac@mdac.info, or visit the website, www.mdac.info

Estonian government must commit to mental health reforms

Following a roundtable in Tallinn on 12 January the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) and the Estonian Patients Advocacy Association made a joint call for the Estonian government to demonstrate its commitment to bringing mental health law in line with international and regional human rights standards.

The roundtable, attended by policy-makers and NGOs, highlighted a pressing need for an overhaul of the treatment accorded to those with mental disabilities in Estonia. It specifically highlighted its inadequate mental health legislation which, in terms of human rights standards, was shown to clearly lag behind most EU countries.

A major aim of the roundtable was to initiate a nation-wide debate with input from all potential stakeholders. Civil society was shown through this event as being willing and capable of instigating and contributing to law reform.

For more information: contact MDAC at mdac@mdac.info, or visit the website, www.mdac.info

Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe wins tender for study on discrimination against people with high dependency or complex needs

Inclusion Europe was awarded a EU call for tender for a study on the specific risks of discrimination against persons in situation of major dependence or with complex needs.

The study aims to help better understand the obstacles faced by people with high dependency and to explore the ways to promote independent living. The objective is to point out specific areas where the risk is higher for people with severe disability to be discriminated against. The evaluation will take into account aspects of accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of services, as well as possibilities for reasonable accommodation. Special attention will be paid to possible discrimination that families face by reason of association with a disabled person having complex needs.

The study will compare the existing policy approaches and practices for disabled people with complex needs in twelve European countries.

Given its pan-European approach, the comparative analysis will provide an overview of positive actions and good practices in ensuring independent living. The conclusions will launch

a reflection on the ways to promote person centred services in the community as means of fighting discrimination against people with high dependency.

Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, will contribute to this project as an expert.

For more information: contact Inclusion Europe at Secretariat@inclusion-europe.org, or visit the Inclusion Europe website, www.inclusion-europe.org

Source: Inclusion Europe Press Release

V. EUROPEAN UNION

EU Invests in the Development of Community Mental Health Centres in Romania

On 21 December 2006 the Delegation of the European Commission in Romania and the Romanian Government launched a Call for Proposals worth 2.4 million EURO under the European Union's Phare Fund for the Development of Community Mental Health Services and the Deinstitutionalisation of Persons with Mental Disorders - Component B: Development of community mental health centres. The objective of this Component is to facilitate the involvement of non governmental organisations (NGOs) in increasing the quality, accessibility and acceptability of Romanian mental health care services.

This Call for Proposal aims to develop and promote community health services in the existing centres for mental health (current laboratories for mental health) and independent centres (community centres with activities in mental health) and also to pilot mobile-type of intervention in rural areas and/or small town area within one community centre with activities in mental health. The actions to be supported under this component should relate to mental health promotion, mental health at workplace, advocacy in the field of mental health, education and information on mental health issues, community mental health services, etc.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **22 March 2007 at 16:00 pm** (Official Romanian time)

For further information: Infoeuropa website,

<http://www.infoeuropa.ro/ieweb/jsp/page.jsp?cid=196&lid=2&id=26572&changeLangEv=1>

Source: OSMHI Weekly Update

Germany wants to make EU constitution more "social"

Germany and other member states strongly supportive of the EU constitution want to add a social protocol to the rejected treaty in a bid to win over French and Dutch support. Some EU leaders are even seeking a commitment to EU-wide minimum guarantees on income and levels of social protection. But the move is likely to complicate negotiations with the UK, which is expected to resist strongly the addition of any new social rights to the constitution.

The idea is moving up the political agenda of re-emphasising the EU's social aspects, in response to growing concern that the Union favours liberalisation more than it protects workers from the challenges of globalisation and greater competition.

EU officials said that the declaration on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, to be approved on 25 March, could stress the social protection provided by the EU. European Commission President José Manuel Barroso suggested that solidarity and social cohesion could be one of five key themes for the declaration.

For more information: read the full version of this article on the European Voice website,

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/archive/issue.asp?id=526>

Call for disability experts in the 7th Framework Programme

The 7th Framework Programme (FP7) on research was finally adopted in December 2006. It includes some possibilities for research in the areas of accessibility to ICT (Information and Communications Technology), transport, socioeconomic research (e.g. independent living), health..., and the first calls for proposals have been published.

For more information: the FP7 website, http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

If you consider that you have an expertise in a certain area related to access for people with mental health problems, MHE strongly recommend you to register as an expert. It is important that proposals of relevance for disabled people and people with mental health problems are investigated also by experts from the disability movement. The Commission will choose independent experts considering the skills and knowledge appropriate to tasks assigned to

them. Remuneration will be in the form of a payment per day worked, plus travel and subsistence expenses. A daily payment of € 450 may be claimed, if required.

For more information: the FP7 website,

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who_en.html#appointment

EU 50th anniversary website

The 25 March 2007 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which established what the European Union is today. The anniversary is a great opportunity not only to celebrate, but also to highlight what European integration process has brought to our lives since its inception. It will also be a chance to reflect on where Europe was 50 years ago, the main European Union achievements and failures and what we European citizens expect from the European Union in the future.

In order to commemorate this Anniversary, the Directorate General Communication of the European Commission has created a special EU 50th anniversary site.

The site has several sections dedicated to the celebrations, anniversary-related news stories and European Union basic facts, history and achievements. It is available in 22 European Union official languages and will be constantly updated for the duration of 2007.

To directly access the website: <http://50.europa.eu>.

VI. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Work Programme of the European Commission for 2007

The European Commission's agenda for 2007 will be built around four overall priorities: prosperity, solidarity, security and a stronger voice in the world. There is a clear focus on prosperity - alike the 2006 agenda - with emphasis on energy, economic migration, defence industries and markets.

For the first time, the European Commission has prioritised its agenda around 21 strategic initiatives on which officials will focus in 2007. On top of the 21 strategies, the European Commission has set out a series of priority actions to be adopted within the next 12-18 months.

All items identified as strategic or priority initiatives will be subjected to impact assessment. The European Commission also emphasised its willingness to engage more in public consultations.

With regard to better regulation, the European Commission currently undertakes a Single Market Review to look at the achievements and identify the gaps, as well as propose future actions.

A white paper on Communication is also expected.

The health related initiatives that the Commission intends to publish during 2007 are:

- a white paper on the health strategy that shall shape health policy in Europe;
- a Community Framework for safe and efficient health services will follow up on the consultation on health services (which is closed now: see http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/docs/comm_health_services_comm2006_en.pdf).
- with regard to social policies, a European strategy is expected in the field of social services; a communication on the mid-term review of the implementation of the Social Agenda (2005-2010) will be released; it aims to propose a new agenda for access and solidarity, after having assessed the implementation of the social agenda.

For more information on the Commission work programme: the Commission website, http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2007_en.pdf

Source: EPHA Newsletter

New information source on research systems and policies in the EU

On 12 January 2007, the Commission launched ERAWATCH, a new online information platform on research systems and policies within the European Union. ERAWATCH supports the ongoing construction of the European Research Area (ERA) by providing policy makers and policy analysts working in the field of science and research with condensed and updated information and analysis on the development of research systems and policies in all Member States of the

European Union plus selected other countries. It contains information on recent policy documents, research programmes, funding agencies, research performance as well as major indicators such as expenditure, publications and patents.

ERAWATCH is a user driven service. Its users can access and customise the way information is presented and downloaded. They are also invited to provide feedback so the service can be developed and improved.

To directly access the ERAWATCH: <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/>

Source: European Commission Press Release

DG Employment and Social Affairs

Update: European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

1. OSI Roma decade matching fund

The Open Society Institute (OSI) has set up a matching fund for projects funded at EU or national level under the umbrella of the European Year 2007. The matching fund is part of OSI's support for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-15: <http://www.romadecade.org>
Eligible projects for OSI matching funding:

- Projects which have a clear Roma component;
- Roma must be involved in the design and implementation of the project;
- Preference will be given to projects which are linked to the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

For more information: the anti-discrimination website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm

Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing

2. Anti-discrimination website:

The last spotlight feature on the anti-discrimination website looks at the themes, activities and partners involved in the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

To read the spotlight: the anti-discrimination website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/jan07_en.htm

The Commission's Equality and non-discrimination annual report 2006

The Equality and non-discrimination annual report 2006 from DG Employment and Social Affairs is now available.

Part I of this report summarises the developments in anti-discrimination legislation and presents the state of play in each of the 25 Member States. Part II sets out the main objectives of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, explains what will happen and when, and asks several key stakeholders in the fight against discrimination about their hopes and expectations for the Year – as well as how they plan to get involved.

To download the report: the European Commission website,

http://web20.s112.typo3server.com/fileadmin/pdfs/Reports/Annual_Reports_2006/annualrep06_en.pdf

VII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Broad definition of Social Housing finds support in the European Parliament

MEPs (Members of Parliament) have reached an agreement on a compromise amendment which broadens the definition of social housing used by the European Commission in their communication on social services of general interest.

The amendment, proposed by rapporteur Hasse-Ferreira, has the full support of Swedish chairman of the employment and social affairs committee, Jan Andersson. The vote should take place within the employment committee on 1 March and will then be presented in the plenary session at the end of March or April.

The amendment calls for the Commission's definition be broadened to take into account:

- the wide range of the tasks carried out by social housing organisations in the Member States;
- the subsidiarity principle;
- the different understanding of the "social housing" in EU Member States;
- the principles of the universal right to housing and social mix.

For more information: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm
Source: CECODHAS Newsflash

VIII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Revision of ICD-10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders

An International Advisory Group was set up to assist WHO (World Health Organization) in the revision of mental and behavioural disorders in the International Classification of Diseases and related Health Problems, Tenth edition (ICD-10). The first meeting of the Advisory Group took place at WHO in Geneva (Switzerland) between 11-12 January 2007. WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse is responsible for carrying out this work in collaboration with the Department of Measurement and Health Information Systems.

For more information: WHO website, http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/
Source: WHO e-update

IX. UNITED NATIONS

UN adopts groundbreaking Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In December 2006, the UN (United Nations) General Assembly adopted a landmark disability convention, the first human rights treaty of the twenty-first century and one that United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said represents the "*dawn of a new era*" for around 650 million people worldwide living with disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is the first legally-binding treaty which protects and promotes the rights of people with disabilities, including those with psycho-social disabilities (mental health problems) or intellectual disabilities.

The CRPD consists of 50 articles covering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as well as addressing non-discrimination in all aspects of public and private life. Adopting the social model of disability, the CRPD:

- contains the groundbreaking *right to live independently* and be involved in the community; for the first time there is a direct legally binding obligation on States to make deinstitutionalisation a reality;
- ensures that people with disabilities have *legal capacity on an equal basis with others* in all aspects of life; States must change their outdated guardianship provisions to recognise supported decision-making;
- enshrines the *right to informed consent to medical treatment*; in conjunction with legal capacity on an equal basis with others this provision gives people with disabilities and their advocates a strong tool to combat forced interventions;
- prohibits any *disability-based discrimination* in deprivation of liberty, an issue which most often affects people with psycho-social or intellectual disabilities;
- obliges States to protect and promote the rights of people with psycho-social or intellectual disabilities on an equal basis with people with other types of disabilities.

The UN General Assembly also adopted the Optional Protocol to the CRPD, which enables individuals to communicate complaints. The Protocol also enables the treaty monitoring body to make inquiries in case of grave and systemic violations of rights protected under the Convention.

For more information: the convention dedicated website,
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/>
Source: MDAC Press Release

X. VARIOUS

IMHPA conference

The IMHPA (Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action) Conference "*Joining forces across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health*" will be held in Barcelona (Spain) on 13, 14 and 15 September 2007.

Preparations are underway for a highly interactive and synergistic event which will aim to support collaborations among key stakeholders involved in developing, implementing and evaluating policies and programmes in public mental health.

Conference participants will include policy makers, programme implementers, health promoters, prevention specialists and prevention planners working in governmental and nongovernmental organizations at the local, country and European levels as well as researchers, clinicians, and service providers. Plenary sessions with keynote speakers will be supplemented with many practical parallel sessions and several training opportunities.

A formal call for abstract submissions will be announced early 2007.

For more information: contact person, Fleur Braddick, imhpa@gencat.net, or visit the website, <http://www.gencat.net/salut/imhpa/Du32/html/en/Du32/index.html>

INTERCAMHS – The International Alliance for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools

The International Alliance for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools – INTERCAMHS – is working to create the conditions in schools that promote children and young people’s mental health and to help governments, schools, health professionals and teachers to recognise the benefits of ensuring that children are mentally healthy.

Intercamhs is the first international alliance dedicated to advancing the role of schools in addressing child and adolescent mental health. It has grown over the past four years since its inauguration in 2003 and now has more than 300 members, who come from 35 countries and who have a wide range of professional backgrounds. The Education Development Centre (EDC), division of Health and Human Development Programs (HHD), is the secretariat and administrative home of the Alliance. The Alliance Advisory Board organises seminars and workshops in partnership with other groups, to build the capacity of educators and mental health experts; co-ordinates presentations at international conferences; and convenes professional development symposia in conjunction with regional meetings around the world. International exchange of ideas and practice is also promoted through electronic newsletters and a website.

Membership is open to all and currently there is no charge. Application for membership is through the Alliance’s website. The website’s resources section contains searchable information, research and data, and planning tools for school mental health from a range of sources across the world.

For more information: INTERCAMHS website, www.intercamhs.org

Thanks to Louise Rowling, from INTERCAMHS, for this contribution.

Mental Health Indicators

On behalf of the Scottish Executive, NHS Health Scotland is working to develop a set of mental health indicators to measure the mental well-being of Scotland’s population. This work is now moving into its final stages. Before the final set of indicators are made available in the summer, a series of dissemination events are scheduled for March and April 2007 to update people on progress and discuss how the indicators can be used nationally and locally.

The events will take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Inverness and Dumfries.

The most recent briefing paper, which summarises progress and future activities on the development of the mental health indicators, was released in December and is available at:

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/1463.aspx>

For more information: WellScotland website,

<http://www.wellscotland.info/news/item.php?id=146>

Source: WellScotland Newsletter

XI. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Universal Human Rights Index Now Online

The Universal Human Rights Index provides instant access to human rights information from the United Nations system.

The index includes observations and recommendations of expert UN human rights bodies including the new Human Rights Council and the seven Treaty Bodies.

Searches can be conducted by region and by country, by right, by body, by type of affected persons.

To directly access the Index: <http://www.universalhumanrightsindex.org/>

Source: OSMHI Newsletter

XII. PUBLICATIONS

Final report of the MINDFUL project

This report summarises the main activities and results of the project, "Mental health information and determinants for the European level (MINDFUL)" conducted under STAKES leadership from 15 March 2004 to 15 June 2006. The project was co-sponsored by the European Commission - DG SANCO in the framework of its Community action programme in the field of public health.

The goals of MINDFUL were to improve the level of mental health information within the EU and to produce a proposal for a comprehensive mental health information system for the EU. A core vision was to widen the scope of the mental health monitoring systems to cover - not only mental ill-health - but also positive mental health and mental health promotion and prevention of mental disorders.

The MINDFUL project consisted of seven partnership projects each with an independent leader and collaborators in different EU Member States. STAKES co-ordinated the project, developed the mental health indicators, defined metadata, and retrieved public mental health data for the freely available MINDFUL database

(<http://info.stakes.fi/mindful/EN/database/indicators.htm>).

To download the report: European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2003/action1/docs/2003_1_11_frep_en.pdf

In Business For Good: The Social Firm Solution To Employability

This report, developed in partnership with Social Firms Scotland and Social Firms Wales and produced in December 2006, calls for support to grow the Social Firm sector to create more jobs for people who do not get an opportunity to work in mainstream employment. It is hoped that this document will be widely used to influence policy and persuade others to use Social Firms as a solution to the employability needs of disadvantaged people.

To download the summary report or the full report: Social Firms UK website,

<http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/index.php/Section150.html>

Anti-discrimination law in your country

In 2000, the European Equality Directives (2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC) set out the legal basis for anti-discrimination law across the EU.

A new study, available in English and French, has twin aims of providing comprehensive and independent mapping of existing national legislative measures (in strand 1 of the report) and their impact (in strand 2) in tackling discrimination outside the field of employment and occupation - on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. The Mapping Study covers all 27 EU Member States and a further five countries included for comparison: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America.

To download the study: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm#stud

Journal of Ethics in Mental Health

This international, peer-reviewed, web-based journal is available on-line for free.

The journal aims at providing a useful forum for sharing ideas and experiences among all who are committed to improving ethical standards, behaviours, and choices in mental health care giving.

To download the journal's first issue:

<http://65.39.131.180/ContentPage.aspx?name=Journal%20of%20Ethics%20and%20Mental%20Health>

XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9-11 March 2007

Conference "Investing in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research" – Venice (Italy)

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

15th European Congress of Psychiatry, "European Psychiatry – Science and Art, Madrid (Spain)

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.

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

For further information: the congress website, <http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/horatio/index.html?1160844320109>

25-27 March 2007

6th 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.

For more information: the website of the Polish Association of Disabled People's website, www.pson.ip.krakow.pl

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.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.worldcongress.com/europe

NEW!! 30 March 2007

EHMA Conference, "Shaping the Future for Community Action on Health Services", Brussels (Belgium)

The conference is organised by EHMA (European Health Management Association) in collaboration with the European Commission.

Following the consultation period launched at the end of September by the Commission with a Communication and ending on 31 January 2007, this conference will provide a landmark occasion to allow interested stakeholders to exchange views with the Commission about appropriate instruments for the provision of health services throughout the EU's borders as well as concrete actions that the European Union can take to bring greater legal certainty where it is currently lacking.

The conference is carefully timed to follow the receipt by the Commission of stakeholder responses to the consultation and to precede the Commission's preparation of proposals. It will therefore provide the opportunity for the dialogue which is essential to ensure that future Community actions on health services reflect stakeholder needs and views.

For more information: contact person, sabine@ehma.org or celine@ehma.org, or visit EHMA website, <http://www.ehma.org/news/default.asp?NCID=13&NewsID=155>

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

The focus of this conference is on the communication of nursing within multidisciplinary practice for the enhancement of patient care.

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)**

The main themes of this event will be: Support in decision-making and legal representation; Full citizenship and legal protection; and Withdrawal of legal capacity and its consequences.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.EuropeInAction.org

NEW!! 10-12 May 2007**9th NNDR conference, "Participation for all - the front line of disability research", Göteborg (Sweden)**

The NNDR (Nordic Network on Disability Research) conference will provide a broad platform for current and new challenges in disability research. All groups involved with disability research and practice are welcome to participate and the programme includes social events and opportunities for networking and informal discussions.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.nndr2007.com/>

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

31 May–2 June 2007**MHE conference 2007, "No Health without Mental Health: from slogan to reality", Vienna (Austria)**

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.

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.

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

For further information please contact: office@promente-Wien.at or info@mhe-sme.org

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?

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

13-15 June 2007**8th 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**15th European Social services Conference, "Opportunity for All: the challenge for social and health services in a diverse Europe", Berlin (Germany)**

This conference will bring together 400 delegates from key national and European public and private welfare organisations to learn together about maximizing potential for all, young or old, no matter their disadvantage or disability.

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

19-23 August 2007**World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, Hong Kong (China)**

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, or the congress dedicated website, www.wmhc2007.com

25-29 August 2007**13th 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 13th 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.

For more information: contact person, Cecilia Sighinolfi, E-mail 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

NEW!! 28 August – 1st September 2007**24th IASP World Congress, "Preventing Suicide across the Lifespan: Dreams and realities", Killarney (Ireland)**

This IASP (International Association for Suicide Prevention) congress will deal with the concerns at the increase in suicide and the many aspects of dealing with this social and medical tragedy.

The advances urgently needed in research into "why", into prevention and postventions are challenges for mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers and the bereaved by suicide. The attendance of international expertise from the complexity of areas of the subject at Killarney will ensure a sharing of a broad range of expertise and experience through a variety of symposia, workshops and parallel and plenary session.

For more information: the congress website, <http://www.iasp2007.org/>

31 August, 1-2 September 2007

"A world of possibilities", 8th International Congress of Autism Europe, Oslo (Norway)

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)

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

19-21 June 2008

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

The key objectives of the conference will be:

- 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, 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