MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE
Boulevard Clovis 7, B-1000 Brussels
Tel + 32.2.280.04.68
Fax + 32.2.280.16.04
E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org
Web site: http://www.mhe-sme.org

MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

NEWSLETTER N°5/2007
MAY 2007

This Newsletter is published with the support of the European Community, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – Unit E2 Inclusion, Social Policy aspects of Migration, Streamlining of social Policies. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission. The Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained in this Newsletter. Mental Health Europe is the EU Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion.

TABLE OF CONTENT

I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE 2
REMINDER: MHE capacity building seminar – Vienna, 30 May 2007 2
REMINDER: MHE conference "No Health without Mental Health – From Slogan to Reality", Vienna (Austria), 31 May – 2 June 2007.....2
MHE responds to FRA questionnaire on consultation with civil society 2
MHE welcomes new intern.....3
MHE representation at various meetings 3
II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS.....3
English version of Projekt UDENFOR website now available.....4
III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES.....4
Mental Health Europe and FEANTSA Workshop, EPHA Conference on "Health in the Enlarged EU", 16-17 April 2007.....4
Closing the Gap Final Conference, "Action for Health Equity" (2004-2007), Brussels, 8 May 2007 4
Roundtable discussion on the Integration of people with disabilities, 16 May 2007, Brussels 5
IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS.....5
European Coalition for Community Living 5
ECCL User Involvement Seminar, 20-21 April 2007.5
European Disability Forum.....6
REMINDER: EDF "1MILLION4DISABILITY" Campaign 6
European Public Health Alliance 6
EPHA International Conference on Health and the EU Enlargement, 16-17 April, Bratislava (Slovakia).....6
Mental Disability Advocacy Center 6
Czech legislators secure right of patients to access medical records 6
V. EUROPEAN UNION.....7
Proposed Budget 2008: growth and employment at the heart of EU spending 7
Overview of new financial rules and funding opportunities 2007-2013 7
EU administration still not citizen-centred enough ...7
VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 8
Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, 19-20 April 2007 8
VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION.....8
Signature of a framework agreement on harassment and violence at work 8
Support for families is essential for more growth and jobs 8
DG Employment and Social Affairs..... 9
New calls for tenders..... 9
New leaflet on PROGRESS 9
Data collection..... 9
2007 Joint Report on Social Protection and Inclusion 10
DG Health and Consumer Protection 10
European Commission wins award for EU Health Portal 10
VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 10
EP report underlines that integration of people with disabilities has to start in childhood 10
MEPs reject specific EU legislation on health services 11
IX. COUNCIL OF EUROPE.....11
Disability Action Plan 2006-2015.....11
X. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH 11
New awareness packet on "Recognizing and understanding schizophrenia in young adults".....11
WFMH Conference on Transcultural Mental Health .11
XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.....12
Commission grants €2.5 million to WHO for seven projects under Public Health Programme.....12
XII. UNITED NATIONS.....12
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 12
XIII. VARIOUS 12
International Nurses Day, 12 May 2007 12
Mother's Day Protest of Electroshock in Ireland, Toronto and Montreal, 13 May 2007 13
XIV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION.....13
Suicide is still a key men's health issue.....13
NIVEL website 13
XV. PUBLICATIONS.....14
Bipolar disorder — Focus on bipolar II disorder and mixed depression.....14
2007 Edition of ECAS EU Funding Guides for NGOs14
Monitoring the Rights of Mentally Disabled Children and Young People in Public Institutions 14
Including People with Disabilities: Europe's equal opportunities strategy.....14
XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS 14

I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

REMINDER: 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). The seminar will be held on Wednesday 30 May from 9.30-17.30.
For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, or visit the MHE website, http://www.mhe-sme.org/en.html

REMINDER: 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 he 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.
MHE General Assembly will take place at the end of the conference, on Saturday 2 June 2007.
For more information: MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, or visit the MHE website, http://www.mhe-sme.org/en.html

MHE responds to FRA questionnaire on consultation with civil society

From 1st March 2007 the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) became the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The Agency carries out its tasks independently. It cooperates with national and international bodies and organisations, in particular with the Council of Europe. It also works closely with civil society organisations.
The objective of the Agency is to provide the relevant institutions and authorities of the Community and its Member States when implementing Community law with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights in order to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action within their respective spheres of competence to fully respect fundamental rights.
Last month, FRA launched a public consultation on the Agency's civil society cooperation. The consultation was conducted through a questionnaire that could be accessed on FRA website.
During last meeting of the Social Platform Working Group on Fundamental Rights and Non Discrimination (FRAND), which took place on 15 May, participants – MHE was represented by Fanny Muller, Information Officer, and Mélanie Mazier, intern - agreed to send a common answer to two questions of the questionnaire which concerned the future Fundamental Rights Platform to be established by the Agency and which will be an instrument of dialogue between the FRA and civil society.
The common answer concerned, on the one hand, the selection criteria that would be used for participation in the Fundamental Rights Platform. Members of the FRAND Working Group insisted on the need to make sure that the selection process of organisations was clear and transparent and that the Platform would dispose of a good balance between organisations of European, national or local level, as well as organisations covering the different topical areas of Fundamental Rights in the EU. MHE particularly stressed the importance of ensuring that organisations from the mental health field would be represented in the Platform. MHE added that attention be paid to the regulations for membership of the Fundamental Rights Platform in terms of finding a formula for staging the periods of membership. A good continuity of experience in the members and balanced terms of membership should be sought to guarantee the necessary vitality and energy of the membership.
The common answer also contained suggestions of working methods for the Platform.
It was sent by the Social Platform to the Fundamental Rights Agency in the end of May.

For more information: visit FRA website, www.fra.europa.eu, or the Social Platform website, http://www.socialplatform.org/, or contact Fanny Muller at the MHE Secretariat, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail fmuller@mhe-sme.org

MHE welcomes new intern

On 2 May 2007, Mélanie Mazier joined the MHE team to do a one year internship. She is French and has a business degree. She is currently preparing a master's degree in European Public Management in ISMaPP. Mélanie will mainly help with the coordination of the MHE Committee on Women and Mental Health, the update of the MHE website and the publication of the MHE Newsletter. We wish her a warm welcome.

MHE representation at various meetings

On 2 May, Mari Fresu and Mélanie Mazier, participated in the EPHA Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.

On 3 May, Allyson Mc Collam, Chief Executive of the Scottish Development Centre, and Chris O'Sullivan, SUPPORT Project Officer, came to the MHE office to exchange information with the MHE staff both on the SUPPORT Project and the work carried out by the Scottish Development Centre and MHE.

On 8 May, Mary Van Dievel, Mari Fresu and Mélanie Mazier attended the conference " *Closing the Gap: Strategies for Action to Tackle Health Inequalities in Europe* ", organised in Brussels by EuroHealthNet and the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA). *(see p.5)*

On 10 May, Mary Van Dievel, Sogol Noorani and Mari Fresu represented MHE at the round table on *"Health in the EU Open Method of Coordination"*, which took place at the Madariaga Foundation in Brussels.

On 15 May, Fanny Muller and Mélanie Mazier participated in the Social Platform FRAND Working Group in Brussels. *(see p.3)*

On 16 May, Mélanie Mazier represented MHE at the EDF Roundtable Discussion on the Integration of People with Disabilities in Brussels. *(see p.5-6)*

On 17-20 May, Peter Kinderman, Chair of the MHE Committee on Human Rights and Mental Health, attended and gave a presentation in CEDEP – European Committee on Law, Ethics and Psychiatry 16th Seminar "Democracy and Mental Health" in Bucarest (Romania).

On 22 May, Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, had a meeting with Ines Bulic, ECCL Coordinator, and Wallis Goelen, Head of the Integration of People with Disabilities Unit at the European Commission.

On 23 May, Mari Fresu participated in the DG SANCO Stakeholder Involvement Conference in Brussels.

On 29 May, Mari Fresu attended a breakfast meeting dedicated to the Portuguese EU Presidency at the Weber Shandwick offices in Brussels.

On 30 May, the MHE Capacity-Building Seminar took place in Vienna (Austria).

From 31 May – 2 June, the MHE Annual Conference, *"No Health without Mental health – From Slogan to Reality"* was held in Vienna.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

English version of Projekt UDENFOR website now available

Projekt UDENFOR, in English "Project OUTSIDE", has made an English version of its website in order to spread more knowledge about homelessness in Denmark. The website provides information on the organisation, as well as on practical and research-based work in the field of homelessness and social exclusion.
Projekt UDENFOR is an independent Danish organisation that combines street-work among homeless and socially excluded people with training and research in homelessness and exclusion.
For more information: visit Projekt UDENFOR website, http://www.udenfor.dk/dk/Servicemenu/English, or contact them directly, Tel +45 33 42 76 04, E-mail se@udenfor.dk

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

III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

Mental Health Europe and FEANTSA Workshop, EPHA Conference on "Health in the Enlarged EU", 16-17 April 2007

This workshop, titled "*Barriers preventing access to health services for people with mental health problems",* aimed to examine the barriers faced by people with mental health problems to accesssing the care that they need. It particularly focussed on issues of stigma, discrimination and harassment; the situation of people who are homeless; the need and scope for action at EU level and the particular challenges facing the new member states in this area.
Presentations were made by:

- Preben Brandt, Director of Projekt Udenfor and Member of the boards of both FEANTSA and MHE, on the European context: update on the state of play with the future European Strategy on Mental health – evaluation of the possibilities and areas for action in relation to the mental health of vulnerable groups within a European framework.;
- Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, on MHE project "Harassment and discrimination faced by people with psycho-social disability in health services. A European survey (2001-2004)" and its finding and recommendations;
- Dearbhal Murphy, FEANTSA, on FEANTSA's findings and recommendations in relation to mental health and homelessness and access to services for people who are homeless

For more information: FEANTSA website, http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=838

Closing the Gap Final Conference, "Action for Health Equity" (2004-2007), Brussels, 8 May 2007

On 8 May, the final conference of the project *"Closing the Gap: Strategies for Action to Tackle Health Inequalities in Europe"* was held in Brussels. The German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) coordinated the three EU project with EuroHealthNet and 21 European countries. The project was supported by the European commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection.
The "Closing the Gap" project reached its goal which was to identify effective strategies for reducing health inequalities and compile a European database of important information and model projects on how effectively to reduce health inequalities at different levels.
During the conference, three expert panels presented the effective actions to tackle health inequalities, the national level policies and strategies and the key outcomes of the "Closing the Gap" National Seminars on Health Equity.
The first panel gave some examples of good practices based on several evidences gathered among EU countries. The second panel brought together local speakers who gave examples from their own countries (Norway, Estonia, the Netherlands, Wales and Germany). Finally, in the third panel, speakers highlighted the relevance of both cross-sectoral and inter-sectoral

collaboration for the efficient implementation of the lessons learned and good practices identified by the project.
After these presentations, Charles Price, Policy Officer at DG SANCO, announced the future EU actions on health inequalities.
To finish, members of EuroHealthNet highlighted recommendations for health equity that stemmed from the project.
Mary Van Dievel, Mari Fresu and Mélanie Mazier, MHE stagiaire, attended the conference on behalf of MHE.
For more information and to read the recommendations: the Health Inequalities website, http://www.health-inequalities.eu

Roundtable discussion on the Integration of people with disabilities, 16 May 2007, Brussels

In honour of the European Year of Equal Opportunities, the London's European Office in Brussels held this exhibition to celebrate, illustrate and bring London's Diversity to Brussels.
Richard Howitt (MEP, President of the Parliament's Disability Intergroup) opened the discussion with a presentation of the EP Disability Intergroup as well as the European disability policies. Indeed, since 10 years MEPs have the right to make laws about disability. Moreover, the legislation on non-discrimination, which is linked to disability legislation, has been increasing in the past few years. He also expressed the need for comprehensive non-discrimination rights at the EU level.
The second speaker was Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero (Deputy Head of Unit "Integration of People with Disabilities" - DG Employment). She gave some background information on the people with disabilities group and some ongoing projects, actions and recent achievements related to disability.
Then, David Morris (Advisor to the Mayor of London on disabilities) talked about *"Delivering equality for disabled and deaf Londoners and challenging disablism in London".*
The last speaker, Carlotta Besozzi (Director of the European Disability Forum) focused on the mainstreaming of disability at local level and presented the results of the 8 countries project.
Mélanie Mazier, stagiaire, represented MHE at the roundtable.
For more information: the London's European Office website, http://www.london.gov.uk/london_house/index.jsp

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Coalition for Community Living

ECCL User Involvement Seminar, 20-21 April 2007

The second annual seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL) was held in Zagreb (Croatia) on 20-21 April 2007. The objectives of the seminar were very clear: to discuss ways to involve users in the deinstitutionalisation process and setting up of community based alternatives to institutions. At least half of the participants were users.
Angela Garabagiu, from the secretariat to the Committee of Experts on Community Living of the Council of Europe, made a presentation on user involvement in a human rights context. She underlined the fact that community living was included in the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan (2006-2015). Besides, deinstitutionalisation was recommended in the Saint Petersburg Declaration of 22 September 2006. She also stressed that the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, a new major international instrument, was open to ratification since 30 March 2007.
Other significant presentations related to *"Ensuring quality in the delivery of community based services"* and *"How service quality can be measured in the 21st century?".*
Six focus groups were organised, where participants debated on a number of practical ways to involve users. Lots of good practices were presented. The focus groups dealing with independent living through direct payments and personal assistance schemes gave inspiring examples on how to promote the social inclusion of users in the community as well as equality between all disabled people.
In its closing remarks, John Evans (ENIL – European Network on Independent Living) stated that ECCL should continue the battle and take the lead in promoting user representation in the

delivery of community living. Service users should play a key role in all aspects of community living. It is now time for further action.
Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the seminar.
For more information: contact Ines Bulic, Tel + 36-1-235-6184,
E-mail coordinator@community-living.info, or visit ECCL website, http://www.community-living.info
Thanks to Josée Van Remoortel for this contribution.

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 up the campaign and to broadcast it in their respective countries and networks. Documents are available in several EU languages.
For more information and to sign the campaign: the campaign dedicated website: www.1million4disability.eu

European Public Health Alliance

EPHA International Conference on Health and the EU Enlargement, 16-17 April, Bratislava (Slovakia)

150 participants, 60 speakers, 18 partners involved and 27 European countries were represented at the conference. The two days event was a mix of plenary sessions, workshops and short presentations where everyone was encouraged to contribute to the debate.
The closing session, a one hour brainstorm with Commission Officials focused on the new EU Health Strategy. The issues raised included:

- whether the institutional dynamic that had placed DG SANCO in a leading position had now been reversed with other DGs taking more prominent roles - the Commission did not think this was the case;
- the potential for Commission funding for research related to complementary and alternative medicine - the Commission believed there were funding opportunities;
- whether the regulation of the pharmaceutical sector had been too strongly led by DGs that promoted an agenda in conflict with public health - the Commission believed that greater political will was essential for advancing the priority afforded to public health;
- whether SANCO had merely set the goal of establishing a dialogue with industry rather than seeking strong health goals which would require action from the industry - the Commission felt that their dialogues with industry was a positive first step in a partnership that could deliver positive health outcomes.

Mary Van Dievel participated in the conference and in the EPHA General Assembly.
The final report is available on the conference website: http://www.conference2007.epha.org/
Source: EPHA Newsletter

Mental Disability Advocacy Center

Czech legislators secure right of patients to access medical records

In April 2007, the Senate of the Czech Republic amended the Law on Health Care. For the first time in Czech history there is now an expressly enumerated right for all patients to obtain a copy of their medical records. This right is important because it is only when people have access to their medical records, that they can assess whether to take legal action against hospital authorities. People who have struggled against the old law include people in psychiatric hospitals who have been unlawfully detained, people who have made allegations of being raped in hospitals, people who have been forced to receive such "treatment" as being locked in cage beds – abuses which are still prevalent in the Czech mental healthcare system.

The League of Human Rights (LLP) and the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) welcomed the amendment, and urged the Czech government to continue with broader reforms of the healthcare law. The organisations also welcomed other minor amendments, including clearer formulation of the principle of "informed consent", and the right of deceased patient's relatives to access health documentation. However, the Czech Law on Healthcare as such is still old-fashioned and lags behind what is expected of a Member State of the European Union. MDAC and LLP urged the Czech government to follow up with larger reform of providing health care.
For more information: contact MDAC, Tel +36 1 413 27 30, E-mail info@mdac.info, or visit MDAC website, www.mdac.info
Source: MDAC Press Release

V. EUROPEAN UNION

Proposed Budget 2008: growth and employment at the heart of EU spending

On 2 May, Dalia Grybauskaité, the Budget chief, presented the Commission's proposed budget for 2008. For the first time, spending on growth and employment policies will represent the highest share of the budget, ahead of agriculture and natural resources.
At EUR 129.2 billion in commitment appropriations, the budget increases by 2% compared to 2007. Payment appropriations are set at EUR 121.6 billion, a 5.3% increase
Key changes include an increase in spending on research, energy networks, transport networks, lifelong learning and new EU cohesion programmes. Expenditure will also be increased for freedom, security and justice, citizenship programmes and actions on external relations.
The European parliament and Member States have until December to agree the new budget.
For more information: the European Commission website,
http://www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/597&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
Source: EC Press Release

Overview of new financial rules and funding opportunities 2007-2013

This year the European Union is launching a new set of programmes: up to € 975 billion over a seven-year period. These new funds will be easier to access, more transparent and better accounted for than in the past thanks to the reform of the EU financial management rules.
The new rules will reduce red tape. This will make EU grants easier to access especially for beneficiaries with limited resources such as small NGOs and small companies. For the first time ever EU research grants will be available for individual researchers.
Better accountability and increased transparency are vital to ensure that EU funds, which are public money, are used properly at all levels. The new rules introduce an obligation to publish the lists of beneficiaries who receive EU money through governments in Member States, third countries or through international organisations, and the exchange of information on proved fraud cases. Member States will also improve reporting on how they spend EU funds managed directly by them. Such measures will increase the effectiveness of EU policies and help protect taxpayers' interests.
The new rules will provide better, simpler and more practical solutions for all those working with EU funds, while ensuring effective control over public spending.
For more information and to download the information pack "New rules, better rules. Overview of new financial rules and funding opportunities 2007-2013": the Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/other_main/funds_rules_en.htm

EU administration still not citizen-centred enough

At the presentation of his Annual Report 2006 in Brussels in May, the European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, explained that he received 3,830 complaints from EU citizens, companies, NGOs and associations in 2006. The Ombudsman noted the rise in the number of critical remarks he had to make to the EU institutions in 2006. Mr Diamandouros announced a study on how the EU administration is following up on his critical remarks. The Ombudsman pointed out that the Annual Report for 2006 highlights for the first time cases of best practices

in the EU institutions. These include instances where the institutions settled bills, paid interest, released documents, remedied injustices and put an end to discrimination.
One quarter of the inquiries carried out in 2006 concerned lack of transparency in the EU administration, including refusal of information. Among the other types of alleged maladministration were unfairness, payment delays in EU projects, abuse of power, discrimination and unsatisfactory procedures. In 2006, the European Ombudsman dealt with a total of 582 inquiries.
Most of the inquiries in 2006 concerned the European Commission (66%), followed by the European Personnel Selection Office, the European Parliament and the Council.
The Ombudsman's *Executive Summary and Statistics 2006* is available in all official EU languages and contains summaries of cases, background information and statistics.
To download the report: the European Ombudsman website,
http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/report/en/default.htm
Source: Press Release from the European Ombudsman

VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, 19-20 April 2007

On 19-20 April 2007, the German Federal Minister of Health, Ulla Schmidt, received the EU Ministers of Health for an Informal Meeting in the town of Aachen (Germany). The Minister stated: *"European health policy has made major headway. The task now is to make cross-border care, too, a real option on the ground for all citizens. The Informal Council has a fine opportunity to prepare good, citizen-oriented decisions in this area."* The Federal Minister of Health went on to stress: *"People live in Europe and they work in Europe. Europe must guarantee that everyone as access to medical services, that the quality of care does not depend on the size of one's wallet and that all patients receive high-quality health care should they fall ill"*. During these days the Trio Presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia) published a joint paper on this issue that will be the basis for further discussions with the Member States, the Commission, the European Parliament and civil society. This paper builds on the "Joint Values and Principles in EU Health Systems" that were adopted in June last year.
For more information: the EU Presidency website,
http://www.eu2007.de/en/Meetings_Calendar/Dates/April/0419-BSGV.html
Source: Age Newsletter

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Signature of a framework agreement on harassment and violence at work

On 26 April the European social partners (ETUC, BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEP and UEAPME) signed a framework agreement on harassment and violence at work. It is the 6th agreement signed by social partners since the launch of European Social Dialogue twenty years ago. The agreement aims to prevent and, where necessary, manage problems of bullying, sexual harassment and physical violence at the workplace. Companies in Europe will have to adopt a policy of zero-tolerance towards such behaviour and draw up procedures to deal with cases of harassment and violence where they occur.
Data suggests that one in 20 workers (5%) reports being exposed to bullying and/or harassment each year.
For more information: the European Commission website,
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/569&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr
Source: EC Press Release

Support for families is essential for more growth and jobs

The Commission adopted, on 10 May 2007, a Communication on *"Promoting solidarity between the generations"* examining how best to support families so that, in particular, women no longer have to choose between having children and a career. The objective is to curb declining birth rates.

The EU executive calls on Member States, social partners and civil society to help support this goal with:

- Financial support to cope with the costs of raising a family;
- quality care services, both for children and for the dependent elderly;
- flexible working time.

The Communication points to big differences among the EU-27, in particular with regards the provision of childcare and social spending on families and children and states that the European Alliance for Families will act as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience between Member States on family-friendly policies. A high-level group of government experts on demographic issues is expected to be set in June 2007.
The move is part of a follow-up to the Communication on the demographic future of Europe, published in October 2006, which sets the promotion of demographic renewal as one of the ways of meeting the demographic challenge of an ageing population.
For more information: the European Commission website,
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/643&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
Source: EurActiv

DG Employment and Social Affairs

New calls for tenders

Calls for tenders have recently been published by the European Commission.
Call for Tenders VP/2007/012: *"Mutual Learning on Social Inclusion and Social Protection".* This call for proposals aims to support exchanges on policies, good practice and innovative approaches and to promote mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy amongst countries participating in the PROGRESS programme. The deadline for submitting a bid to this call is 13 July 2007
To directly access the call for tender: the European Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=1485
Call for Tenders VT/2007/015: *"Peer Review in social protection and social inclusion and Assessment in social inclusion"*. The subject of the contract is to provide support services to the Commission for the joint management of the Peer Reviews and the Network of Independent Experts in the field of social inclusion. The deadline for submitting a bid to this call is 13 July 2007
To directly access the call for tender: the European Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=1365

New leaflet on PROGRESS

The PROGRESS programme took over the baton from the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination at the beginning of this year. The programme also integrates four other policy strands including gender equality.
A new 12-page information leaflet sets out how PROGRESS will rationalise and streamline EU funding across these policy areas over the next seven years. The aim is to support EU Member States address the considerable challenges Europe faces in employment and social affairs.
To download the leaflet: the European Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/docs/brochure_en.pdf

Data collection

This month's Spotlight feature on the anti-discrimination website looks at the topic of data collection. It highlights the need to collect data and develop indicators that can contribute to policy-making in the field of non-discrimination. The Spotlight highlights other uses and applications of data, looks at privacy issues and gives an overview of action and studies at European level.
For more information: the anti-discrimination website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/april07_en.htm

2007 Joint Report on Social Protection and Inclusion

European cooperation does help EU Member States improve social cohesion policies and spending, says a Commission report discussed by employment ministers on 22 February. The *"2007 Joint Report on Social Protection and Inclusion"* highlights priorities and progress made in the areas of social inclusion, pensions, healthcare and long-term care – but emphasises that big challenges remain. Member States are stepping up efforts to tackle child poverty, promote "active inclusion" of the most disadvantaged, ensure adequate and sustainable pensions, as well as equal access to health and long-term care.
The figures speak for themselves: 16% of Europeans remain at risk of poverty and 10% live in jobless households. Across Europe, there is a 13 year gap between the highest and lowest life expectancies for men, and spending on health and long-term care in the EU ranges from 5% of GDP to 11%.
This year's report examines the first ever integrated national strategies on social inclusion, pensions, healthcare and long-term care. It was presented to EU leaders together with the Joint Report on Employment and will feed into the conclusions of the Spring Summit, which also stressed that the common social objectives of Member States would be better taken into account within the Lisbon Agenda.
For more information and to download the Joint Report: the Commission website, http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/jrep_en.htm
Source: Exchange – Social Protection & Inclusion in the EU

DG Health and Consumer Protection

European Commission wins award for EU Health Portal

On 2 May, the European Information Association (EIA) presented its 2006 Award for European Information Sources (Electronic Category) to the European Commission for the Health EU Portal. The award is handed out in recognition of excellence in the provision of EU information and through it the EIA also recognises the EU Health Portal as the best of a large number of electronic publications.
Launched in 2006, the Health Portal is intended as a single source of high quality information on a wide number of health topics from European, national and regional level and as a single point of reference for reliable and easily accessible information on a wide range of health-related topics. It is aimed at interested citizens, healthcare professionals and policy makers. The portal is organised into six thematic areas covering all health-related aspects affecting individuals and their environment.
To directly access the EU Health Portal: http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/
Source: DG SANCO Newsletter

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EP report underlines that integration of people with disabilities has to start in childhood

By adopting in April an own-initiative report on the situation of women with disabilities in the European Union, the European Parliament (EP) called on the Commission and Member States to *"ensure the removal of existing barriers and obstacles, including architectural barriers, with a view to creating equal rights and opportunities for women and girls with disabilities to play a part in family, political, cultural, social and professional life".*
The report, drafted by Esther Herranz García (EPP-ED, ES), states that one of the main objectives which the European Union should set itself is to improve the quality of life of disabled people and their families and ensure that they are fully integrated into society. This, they note, can be done *"particularly through better implementation of Community anti-discrimination and gender-equality legislation and better use of the opportunities provided by relevant Community programmes and the European Social Fund".* Parliament called on Member States to take full account of the needs of persons with disabilities and the special needs of women in all national, regional and local policies, particularly those covering town planning, education, employment, housing, transport, health and social services.
Member of the European parliament also stressed that it is important to actively combat segregation of people with disabilities from childhood onwards. The Commission and Member

States are asked to promote pilot schemes and tried and tested procedures for integrative establishments from kindergarten, school and training to professional life.
To download the full report: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2007-0075+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN
Source: Social platform Weekly Update

MEPs reject specific EU legislation on health services

The European Parliament adopted, on 23 May 2007, an own-initiative report drafted by the Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee on the consequences of the exclusion of health services from the scope of the Services Directive. The amendment reintroducing health services into the "Bolkestein Directive on services in the internal market was rejected
The Parliament also rejected separate legislation on health services, but urged the Commission to propose "an appropriate instrument" to codify the current case law developed by the European Court of Justice on the issue to guarantee the safeguarding of existing rights. The MEPs also agreed that Member States should, with regard access to health service, treat all EU residents on an equal basis.
The Report represents Parliament's answer to the Commission Communication (September 2006) on the establishment of an EU framework on healthcare services to ensure cross-border access to safe, high-quality and efficient care. The aim is to provide legal certainty for cross-border patients with regards to, for example, reimbursement of care contracted in another country and to help co-operation between Member States' health services.
Parliament's own-initiative reports are not binding. The Commission is expected to come up with concrete proposals for Community action on health services later in 2007.
For more information and to read the Parliament full report: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2007-0173&language=EN&mode=XML
Source: EurActiv Daily Update

IX. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Disability Action Plan 2006-2015

On 26 - 27 April in Strasbourg the European Co-ordination Forum for the Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 of the Council of Europe rallied leaders from all Member States and international non governmental organisations interested in disability. This comes just months after the action plan was officially launched. The 46 Member States of the Council of Europe are to draft a specific policy to improve the integration into society of the 100 million disabled in Europe.
Over the years, disability policies in Europe have moved from a medical model to a social and human rights-based model – "from the patient to the citizen". The next challenge is to move from a deficit-approach to a capacity-approach: "from disability to ability". This is one of the objectives of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan for the next decade.
For more information: the Council of Europe website,
http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/news/20070427_disc_sga_EN.asp?

X. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

New awareness packet on "Recognizing and understanding schizophrenia in young adults"

A new awareness packet on *"Recognizing and understanding schizophrenia in young adults"* is available from the WFMH. The packet provides information to college and university counseling and student medical services, and to others who work regularly with young adults, to increase understanding about schizophrenia, its symptoms, and interventions.
To order a copy of the pack: contact WFMH at dmaguire@wfmh.com

WFMH Conference on Transcultural Mental Health

The first WFMH Conference on Transcultural Mental Health, *"Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global Response",* will be held on 29-31 October 2007 in Minneapolis (USA).

For more information: WFMH website, www.wfmh.org.

XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Commission grants €2.5 million to WHO for seven projects under Public Health Programme

The European Commission and the World Health Organisation (WHO) signed contracts on 28 March for seven new joint projects worth a total of €4,242,963, 60% of which is funded by the Commission's Public Health Programme.
The contracts cover EU health policy priorities on environment and health, injuries, equity in health, health security, health services, alcohol and emergency services.
The projects will be implemented by WHO Europe over the next three years.
The seven projects will aim to benefit EU citizens by advancing health policy knowledge in important areas, including alcohol-related harm, injury prevention and disparities in health systems performance. We very much regret that mental health is not included. They will also benefit to non-EU citizens by assessing health crisis preparedness plans in neighbouring countries.
With contributions totalling $102million (over €75million) in 2006, the Commission is the third largest extra-budgetary contributor to WHO.
For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_international/int_organisations/who_en.htm
and http://www.who.int/bfi/ExtraBud/acg060b.pdf
Source: Health and Consumer Voice

XII. UNITED NATIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Up to now several EU countries have signed the Convention but have not signed the optional protocol. Signing the optional protocol allows individuals and groups to address complaints to the UN Convention Monitoring Committee once all national or European routes have been exhausted. Signing also enables the Monitoring Committee to open an enquiry against a State party in case of systematic and grave violations of human rights.
European States are reticent to sign as they do not want to allow the possibility for individual complaints. A joint press release on this topic, produced by the French National Council (CFHE), Amnesty International and Handicap International has been widely taken up by the press.
To read the Press Release (in French): CFHE website, http://www.cfhe.org/
Source: MHI Weekly Update

XIII. VARIOUS

International Nurses Day, 12 May 2007

Nursing has evolved into 21st century alongside the new technological developments and the increasing health demands. Nursing and more particularly psychiatric mental health nursing is faced with new challenges and has to "prove" itself as a profession in its own right. This challenge has brought along the need for offering better quality health care in a variety of settings, hospital or community. That will automatically mean increased workload and increased need for nurses. ICN – International Council of Nurses (2007) has stressed that there is an immersed global nursing workforce crisis, with critical shortage of nurses. It has continuously pointed out that a key issue among others that lead to the shortage of nursing staff is unhealthy work environments that weaken performance thus driving nurses to emotional burnout resulting in long term sick leave or drop out from the profession. Baring that in mind ICN has chosen for the celebration of this year's International Nurses Day a theme that links working environment with patient care: *"positive practice environments quality workplaces = quality patient care".*
Working environment and its characteristics depend upon how people working in it perceive it. It is argued that working environments have a major impact on the behaviour of its members.

The above apply to the psychiatric nursing sector, as it is believed to be even more difficult to recruit and retain nurses, due to the difficulties arising in the working environment, dealing with the violent patient but also the nature of the job itself, being so stressful. Apart from that in some countries psychiatric nursing profession strives to achieve a professional status that will help nurses to meet their expectations and be "fit" for today's challenging workplaces. A way of achieving that is through education, so it is important to recognise the need for ongoing education and learning to increase specialised knowledge, for the benefit of quality patient care. Positive working environment contributes to the development of professional specialised knowledge, as it offers the opportunity to the staff to increase their professional status, increase their social and psychological well being by involving them in ongoing education programmes.
A lot needs to be done though, regarding the involvement of psychiatric nurses in the decision making of policies at local, national and international level. Psychiatric nurses need to raise a united voice taking the opportunity from this year's celebration of nurses' day, to strengthen the psychiatric nursing profession.
For more information: contact Horatio - European Psychiatric Nurses, Tel +31 6 23343086, E-mail info@horatio-web.eu, or visit the website, www.horatio-web.eu
Source: Horation Press Release

Mother's Day Protest of Electroshock in Ireland, Toronto and Montreal, 13 May 2007

Organised by MindFreedom Ireland who campaigns for a non-violent revolution in the mental health system, the demonstration was organised in solidarity with similar demonstrations in Montreal and Toronto (Canada).
The day is Mothers Day in the U.S. and Canada and was selected to mark the fact that the greatest numbers of recipients of ECT (electroshock therapy) are mothers and grandmothers.
For more information and to see photos of the protests: Mindfreedom website, http://www.mindfreedom.org/as/act/inter/mfire/mf-ireland-electroshock
Source: MindFreedom News

XIV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Suicide is still a key men's health issue

More and more countries are reporting declining rates of suicide among men. Does this mean that suicide is no longer the problem it was? Reports from two countries that have seen male suicide levels fall – Scotland and Finland – suggest that for some groups of disadvantaged, isolated men, suicide is just as big a risk as it ever was. Men's health campaigners must be wary of any complacency based on apparently promising headline figures.
To read the two reports: the European Men's Health Forum website, http://www.emhf.org/index.cfm/item_id/500

NIVEL website

NIVEL, the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, contributes to the body of scientific knowledge about the provision and use of health care services. For this purpose NIVEL carries out research activities on the national and international level on the entanglement between:

- the need for health care (health status, life style, social environment, norms and attitudes);
- the supply of health care (volume, capacity, organisational structure, quality and efficacy);
- health care policy (legislation, regulations, financing and insurance).

NIVEL's research capacity and expertise are used by many organisations, such as governmental bodies (Dutch and foreign ministries, European Commission), scientific research organisations and organisations representing health care professionals, health care consumers, health care insurance companies.
On the NIVEL website you will find information on the research carried out by NIVEL, as well as a repository where you may find all English language NIVEL publications.
To access the website: http://www.nivel.eu/

XV. PUBLICATIONS

Bipolar disorder — Focus on bipolar II disorder and mixed depression

According to Dr Franco Benazzi (The Lancet, issue of March 2007), bipolar II disorder (recurrent depressive and hypomanic episodes) and related disorders (united in the bipolar spectrum) are understudied, despite a prevalence of about 5% in the community and about 50% in depressed outpatients. The apparent increase in prevalence of the bipolar spectrum is related to several changes in diagnostic criteria, including improved probing for history of hypomania (focused more on overactivity than on mood change), lower minimum duration of hypomania, and inclusion of unipolar depressions with bipolar signs (eg, family history of bipolar disorder, mixed depression). Prevalence of mixed depression, a combination of depression and manic or hypomanic symptoms, is high in patients with bipolar disorders. Controlled studies are needed to investigate treatment of mixed depression; antidepressants can worsen manic and hypomanic symptoms, and mood stabilising agents might be necessary.
For more information and to read the full text of the article: The Lancet website, http://www.thelancet.com/search/results?restrictdesc_author=Franco+Benazzi&restrictname_author=author&restrictterm_author=benazzi_f&restricttype_author=author&search_area=cluster&search_cluster=thelancet&search_mode=cluster&search_sort=date

2007 Edition of ECAS EU Funding Guides for NGOs

ECAS (European Citizen Action Service) has recently published the 13th edition of its guides to EU funding for NGOs (non governmental organisations). These two volumes - on funding within and outside the EU - are an invaluable source of information on a wealth of EU funds, making it easy for NGOs to find their way around the programmes.
They have been fully updated and revised for this year, including an essential chapter on the new financial perspectives for 2007-13.
For more information and to order a copy: contact Vanessa Billen, E-mail publications@ecas.org, Tel +32 2 548 04 90.

Monitoring the Rights of Mentally Disabled Children and Young People in Public Institutions

The report, released by UNICEF Romania in April 2007, describes observations made during monitoring visits to Romanian institutions in 2005-2006. It includes information on living conditions, physical restraints, access to health care and protection from abuse. The report also outlines recommendations for the prevention of abuse of children in institutions.
To download the report: http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Report_CRJ_engl_FINAL.pdf

Including People with Disabilities: Europe's equal opportunities strategy

This comprehensible information leaflet, published by the European Commission, provides an overview of the EU´s equality initiatives that seek to increase the social inclusion of people with disabilities.
To download the leaflet: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/index/leaflet_en.pdf

XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 goods 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

28-29 June 2007
PICUM International Conference on "Access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe", Brussels (Belgium)
This conference, organised within the framework of the EU project *"Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants"*, will provide a forum to share creative examples and strategies to address the problems associated with insufficient access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe.
For more information: visit PICUM website, http://www.picum.org/

NEW!! 3-4 July 2007
Social Firms UK Annual Conference 2007, "Social Firms – Achieving the Balance", Edinburgh (Scotland)
The conference is aimed at organisations and individuals interested in creating jobs for people severely disadvantaged in the labour market and particularly those who are starting up and running Social Firms. The theme is "achieving the balance", acknowledging that there can often be tensions between the needs of the business and the needs of the workers requiring support.
For more information: contact Social Firms UK, E-mail info@socialfirms.co.uk, Tel +44 1737 764 021, or visit the Social Firms UK website, http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/

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

28 August – 1st September 2007
24th IASP World Congress, "Preventing Suicide across the Lifespan: Dreams and realities", Killarney (Ireland)
The 2nd International Suicide Postvention Seminar *"Suicide Postvention: Realities and aspirations"* will be held on 28 August, as a pre-event of the congress.
The 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.
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=

NEW! 13-15 September 2007
European Conference on Mental Health, "Joining Forces across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health", Barcelona (Spain)
The conference aims to share examples, barriers and opportunities encountered throughout Europe in implementing prevention and promotion action for mental health. It will be action oriented and highly participatory, being structured around a large number of working sessions and discussion panels. A few plenary sessions will introduce each of the main themes. The conference is co-organised by the Health Department of the Government of Catalonia and the Imhpa network which has partners in 30 European countries and 7 international networks (including Mental Health Europe).
For more information on the conference: visit the conference dedicated website,
http://www.gencat.net/salut/imhpa/Du32/html/en/dir1662/doc13013.html

14-16 September 2007
4th EUFAMI Congress, "Touching the Stars – Towards a Better Quality of Life", Toruń (Poland)
The Congress is aimed at family members, people with experience of mental illness and health and social care professionals. The Congress will provide up to date information on the state of mental health services in Europe.
For more information: the EUFAMI website, http://www.eufami.org/

11-13 October 2007
EAMHID 6th European Congress on Mental Health in Intellectual Disability, Zagreb (Croatia)
The congress, titled *"Mental Health: A Human Right for People with Intellectual Disability",* is organised by the European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability (EAMHID).
Based on a framework of social justice and human rights the congress will have a focus on practice and research related to mental health issues in intellectual disability.
For more information: the congress' website, http://www.zagrebcongress2007.org/

NEW!! 11-13 October 2007
20th CEFEC Conference, "New work – New culture", Linz (Austria)
This year's conference is organised by Pro Mente Upper Austriaa and STRADA (user organisation of Pro Mente Upper Austria), with the support of Pro Mente Austria (MHE member organisation).
The conference's aim is threefold:

- to raise awareness about the changing nature of work and how this could impact on people with disabilities around Europe;
- to bring Social Firm practitioners and those interested in labour market integration together to share best practice and ideas/experience;
- to discuss and debate how Social Firms might play a role in the future of work policies around Europe.

For more information: the conference secretariat, E-Mail: conference-office@promenteooe.at , or visit the conference website, http://cefec2007.promenteooe.at

NEW!! 14-18 October 2007
IPA 2007 Osaka Silver Congress, "Active Ageing: Wisdom for Body, Mind and Spirit", Osaka (Japan)
This 13th Congress of the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) will be a comprehensive forum of communication among specialists in the field of mental health of the

elderly. An internationally-renowned group of scientists, physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals will share the latest knowledge and research in the field.
For more information: the conference secretariat, E-mail ipa2007osaka@congre.co.jp, Tel +81-6-6204-1330, or visit the IPA website, http://www.ipa-online.org/

18-19 October 2007
4th Three-Country Conference on Care in Psychiatry, "Competence - Between Qualification and Responsibility", Bielefeld-Bethel (Germany)
The aim of the conference is to provide and disseminate knowledge and to provide an opportunity for exchange of information in the field of psychiatric healthcare. There will be contributions on theory and practice, on research on different problems in the daily practices and on innovative practices.
For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.pflege-in-der-psychiatrie.de, or contact the conference's secretariat, Tel +49 521 772 78024, E-mail Bruni.Aussendorf@evkb.de

25 - 27 October 2007
5th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry, "Prevention, Treatment and Management of Violence at the Individual, Institutional and Governmental Level", Amsterdam (the Netherlands)
The purpose of the congress is to promote and disseminate current knowledge within relevant areas of the recognition, assessment, prevention, treatment, interventions, post incident care and therapeutic safety management of violence in mental health care within clinical psychiatry.
For further information: the Congress dedicated website, http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/violenceadam/index.html?1165518627968

23-26 January 2008 - NEW DATE!!
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