



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Final outcomes of the MHE led Transnational Exchange Project "Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems"

The final outcomes of the project were presented on 1 June 2007 in the frame of the Mental Health Europe Conference 2007 in Vienna, Austria. The event gathered over 50 participants coming from all over Europe.

Following a presentation of the aims, objectives and activities of the project by Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, each of the ten project partners gave an overview of the results of their analyses of factors that have blocked activities that promote the social inclusion of people with mental health problems in their countries at the national level as well as factors that have facilitated activities that promote social inclusion.

Presentations were also given by Liz Sayce from RADAR-The Disability Network on strategies for putting mental health and social inclusion at the heart of public policy; Erik Olsen from the European Network of (ex)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP) presented the view of users on the issue of mental health and social inclusion; and Katarina Lindahl, Acting Head of Unit for Inclusion, Social Policy Aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, gave a presentation on how the Open Method of Coordination in the field of Social Protection and Social Inclusion can support efforts to tackle remaining challenges in the field of mental health and well-being.

In the last session of the event John Henderson, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, presented the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the project. The key points that were highlighted centered around three sets of factors influencing the development of good practices promoting the social inclusion of people with mental health problems: factors concerning the policy level, factors concerning the relevant organisations and stakeholders, and factors concerning specific initiatives. All of these factors must be taken into consideration in order to improve the situation of social inclusion of people with mental health problems in an effective and sustainable way.

Further information about the event as well all the presentations held on that day can be found on the project website: www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org

MHE launches database of good practices

On 1 June 2007, on the occasion of the presentation of the final outcomes of the project in the frame of the MHE Conference 2007 in Vienna, MHE launched the website of its transnational exchange project "*Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems*".

The database contains all the "best practices" from the 10 partner countries broken down by country and also by area. It is conceived as a source of inspiration for anybody who wants to learn about small, local initiatives that help supporting the social inclusion of people with mental health problems and that are easily transferable to other European countries. MHE intends to constantly update the database as well as to extend it to include good practices also from other European countries.

If you know of any good practices combating social exclusion in any of the area listed above, e.g. training, employment, housing, social/leisure activities, transport etc., or with a focus on a particular group, e.g. women, young people, elderly, migrants etc. who experience mental health problems, please let us know about them or send us the names and details of the contact person for the project or initiative.

Please visit the website at: www.mentalhealth-socialinclusion.org

For further information about the project please contact: Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, E-mail sogol.noorani@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68.

First meeting of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Minority Ethnic Communities

The first meeting of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Minority Ethnic Communities took place on 1 June 2007 in Vienna, in the frame of the MHE Conference 2007 "*No health without mental health: From slogan to reality*".

The aim of the first session of the meeting was to exchange knowledge and experience on key issues related to mental health, minority ethnic communities and cultural diversity in the European Union. The members of the MHE Committee presented their own organisation's activities in the field. The second session was dedicated to the shaping and defining out of the MHE Committee's role and areas of action, on the basis of a related MHE working document. After a fruitful discussion, participants agreed on a shared vision, aim and objectives of the Committee.

The vision of the Committee is of a society where mental well-being is actively promoted among minority ethnic groups in the European Union. In line with this view, *key aims* of the Committee will be to raise awareness at the European level of the core themes permeating the issue of mental health of minority ethnic communities in Europe and advocate for culturally sensitive approaches and empowerment strategies as a desirable alternative or supplement to therapeutic interventions.

The main objectives proposed by the participants are as follows:

- To establish a cross-national exchange of effective strategies in the European Union tackling health inequalities and promoting better mental health and well-being of minority ethnic communities;
- To promote cooperation between key stakeholders and decision makers at different levels by providing examples of how such partnership can be put into action;
- To disseminate knowledge and raise awareness across Europe by addressing a multitude of interrelated social-cultural issues such as access to services, cultural and educational diversity etc.

The full minutes of the meeting will be published in the MHE website shortly.

For further information: contact person, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, E-mail mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

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

We are pleased to inform you that the conference proceedings and outcomes, as well as pictures and presentations will be available from July on on the website of Pro Mente Wien, the conference's co-organiser: www.promente-wien.at

New items on the MHE website!

The MHE website has been recently updated and visitors can now read about the latest MHE activities and events.

In the "Publications" section, they will find a report on the MHE and FEANTSA Workshop, "Barriers preventing access to health services for people with mental health problems", which was organised in the frame of the EPHA Conference "Health in the Enlarged EU" (16-17 April 2007, Bratislava).

They will also find reports and presentation relating to the open meeting of the MHE Committee on Human Rights and mental Health, which took place in Vienna on 1st June 2007, in the frame of the MHE Conference 2007.

To download these documents, visit:

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/reports-from-mhe-seminars-and-other-mhe-events.html> (for the English version) and

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/fr/publications/comptes-rendus-seminaires-evenements-organises-par-sme.html> (for the French version).

1st ANNOUNCEMENT: MHE Conference 2008, 7-9 August 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)

MHE Conference 2008 is inspired by the declaration of the European Commission that 2008 will be the Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The focus of the conference will be on "Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing – An Opportunity for intercultural Dialogue". Cultural diversity is not limited to the ethnic dimension alone. It has a philosophical dimension (mental health and wellbeing) and is also related to other areas, for example the cultural dimension of the various health systems, the cultural differences that exist in the practice of health professionals and in the provision of care and treatment.

Lectures, discussions and workshop will give an opportunity for sharing information, ideas and deepening knowledge and an opportunity for exchange of best practices. Participants coming from all European countries will contribute with their own experience on diversities within different dimensions of cultures.

The conference will be organised together with SIND – Danish association for Mental Health, in joint venture with SIND – North Denmark, the psychiatric sector of the North Denmark Region and the Community-Psychiatry of Aalborg.

You can contribute by sending us ideas for workshop and/or lectures you find interesting.

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

Mental Health Europe involved in a new project on mental health promotion

ProMenPol is a new project aiming to support the policy maker and the practitioner in the area of mental health promotion and protection (MHPP). Funded under the EU's "Support to Policy" programme, the project will address MHPP for 3 target groups – school going children and adolescents, people in the workplace and people who are resident in older people's homes.

The incidence of mental distress and disease is increasing rapidly throughout Europe - mental health problems impact on about a quarter of the population at some time in their lives and are being experienced by 10% of adults regardless of culture or country at any point in time. Mental health conditions can be catastrophic for individuals and families in health and social terms – it increases risks of persistent poverty, social exclusion and vulnerability to stigma and discrimination. The burden on society is equally severe in terms of lost productivity and treatment costs.

ProMenPol sets out to identify useful and practical approaches to MHPP. It will develop a multidimensional approach to identifying and classifying effective tools for promoting mental health across the lifespan in the settings of schools, workplaces and older peoples' residential homes. ProMenPol will:

- Identify and Re-Package tools for mental health promotion and protection within three contexts - schools, the workplace and residences for older people.
- Produce a systematic and easily navigated knowledge management system populated with useful information, key references and important web links.
- Construct a set of three mental health toolkits tailored to the life span stage of target users and predominant context within which they live their lives i.e. school, work and residences for older people.
- Organise a series of pilot implementation projects to evaluate and review the knowledge base and toolkits.
- Produce a set of multi-sectoral policy principles designed to promote and support more proactive and targeted mental health initiatives in each of the sectors.
- Create sustainable collaboration between the key actors in the project to carry forward the results into the later stages of the project and beyond.

PROMENPOL targets a range of stakeholders in the mental health protection and promotion arena including policy makers, practitioners, researchers, NGOs representing Mental Health, Public Health, Schools and Older Persons issues and social partners.

The project has developed a multi-stranded strategy to support the widespread dissemination of information, packaging of the information and the provision of support to both policy making and practice.

The project runs from January 2007 –December 2009 and is being led by the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Partners in the project come from Ireland (Work Research Centre Ltd., the Rehab Group), Greece (EWORX S.A.), Austria (Research Institute of the Viennese Red Cross), Finland (STAKES), Belgium (Mental Health Europe), Estonia Estonian-Swedish Mental Health and Suicidology Institute and the Netherlands (Maastricht University).

For more information: visit the project dedicated website, www.mentalhealthpromotion.net

Thanks to Richard Wynne, from the Work Research Centre (Ireland), for this contribution.

MHE representation at various meetings

On 31 May-2 June, the MHE Annual Conference 2007, "No Health without Mental Health – From Slogan to Reality", took place in Vienna (Austria). (see p. 2-3)

On 1 June, the MHE Membership and Accreditation Committee met in Vienna.

On 2 June, the MHE General Assembly was held in Vienna.

On 6 June, Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, participated in the 6th Roundtable on Poverty and Social Inclusion organised by the European Commission Social Inclusion Unit together with the Portuguese Presidency.

On 7-8 June, John Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE in the meeting of the ProMenPol Project's Conference Subcommittee, which was organised in Vienna.

On 8 June, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, participated in the meeting of the European Platform for Rehabilitation's (EPR) Discussion Group on relations with service users. She made a presentation on *"The involvement of Service Users in Mental Health Europe"*.

On 12 June, Josée Van Remoortel attended official launch of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers and Eurocarers, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels. (see p. 13)

On 13 June, Mélanie Mazier, intern, attended the EPHA Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.

On 14 June, Elisabeth Muschik, Vice-President, and Sogol Noorani participated in the Social Policy Working Groups at the Social Platform.

On 26 June, Sogol Noorani represented MHE at the presentation of AGE's project *"Developing the role of older people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the implementation and further development of the NAPs on social inclusion"*, which was held in the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 26-27 June, Fanny Muller, Information Officer, attended the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs in Strasbourg.

On 27 June, Mary Van Dievel, Director, visited a MHE Slovenian member: organisation OZARA. On the same day, Sogol Noorani took part in the meeting of key stakeholders with the European Commission Social Inclusion Unit to discuss the social inclusion process.

On 28 June, Mary Van Dievel visited SENT, the Slovenian Association for Mental Health, which is also a MHE member organisation.

On 28-30 June, Mary Van Dievel and Mari Fresu participated in the 4th meeting of the Mental Health Economics European Network – phase II, which took place in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Finnish Association for Mental Health celebrates its 110 years

An underground organisation in its earliest years when Finland was still part of the Russian Empire, the Finnish Association for Mental Health (FAMH) helped patients in mental institutions to return to society after treatment. This work has since then expanded from material aid to overall help and support for people in mental distress.

Celebrating its 110 years, the oldest mental health association in the world invites both political decision makers and the public to take part in mental health promoting activities.

From the perspective of mental well-being and health, the ongoing disintegration of joint social responsibility, an increasing individualisation of life and the change in the policies of the Finnish welfare state are all major social upheavals. In practice, this means that people are forced to take an increasing level of responsibility for their own lives and their own well-being and mental health, even when they do not have the skills, knowledge or resources to do this.

FAMH provides tools for decision makers and the public to meet these challenges. Decision makers and professionals in various fields are offered solid information on good practices for the promotion of mental health and for the creation of local mental health programmes to support people's wellbeing.

For the public, FAMH has developed courses in mental health first aid and launched a campaign to promote a sense of community.

A number of studies show that being part of a community has a significant positive impact on people's mental well-being and health. Being part of a community helps people to trust each other and gives them a feeling of security and a sense of belonging. Studies have also shown the huge importance of having another person's support in both the joys and the sorrows of human life. On the year of its 110th anniversary, FAMH encourages people to give their families and friends their time rather than buy gifts for them and wishes to send this message to everyone: Keep in touch with the people close to you – you can help them and they can help you.

For more information: contact person, Kristina Salonen,

kristina.salonen@mielenterveysseura.fi, or visit FAMH website, www.mielenterveysseura.fi

Thanks to Kristina Salonen, FAMH Communications Director, for this contribution.

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

III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

Bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and the Social Platform, 29 May 2007

The bi-annual meeting was held in Brussels (Belgium), on 29 May 2007. The objective of this meeting was to provide update information on the Lisbon Strategy, both on the fields of social inclusion and employment. It also aimed at giving update information on the ongoing work of several Directorate Generals (DGs). Representatives and directors of DG-Employment, DG-MARKT and Secretariat General were present, as well as the Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Commissioner, Vladimir Špidla.

Commissioner Špidla opened the meeting, introducing the ongoing work of the European Commission on social inclusion and stressed that the social dimension was a key point of the Lisbon strategy. He highlighted the relevance of "*flexicurity*", a policy which refers to the need of assuring stability and security for the next generations. He also announced that the European Commission was preparing communications (for June), notably on flexicurity, and on the gender pay gap.

A presentation was given on the Lisbon strategy – employment by Xavier Pratt Monné, from DG EMPL. He enlightened the meaning of flexicurity and stressed its relevance and importance in the labour market to fight poverty and promote social improvement.

Next presentation was given by Jérôme Vignon, Director in DG EMPL. He gave update information on the Lisbon strategy – social inclusion. He covered with his presentation the ongoing EC work and policies in the fields of poverty and social exclusion, access to employment and the Social Services of General Interest.

Three presentations were then given about the "Transparency initiative and minimum standards for consultation", "The social dimension of the internal market", and a "Communication on Services of General Interest". These discussions highlighted the different needs that have emerged recently at EU level, such as the need for more effective healthcare services and for finding ways to include people with mental disabilities in the labour market.

Finally, an update was given by Belinda Pyke, from DG EMPL, on the European Fundamental Right Agency (FRA). FRA main objectives are the collection of data, the involvement of NGOs, a strong focus on awareness rising of the civil society and collaboration with the European Parliament.

Mélanie Mazier, Intern, represented MHE at the meeting.

For more information: the Social Platform website,

<http://www.socialplatform.org>

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

European Coalition for Community Living

Materials from ECCL User Involvement Seminar available on ECCL website

All the presentations and materials from ECCL Seminar which took place in Zagreb (Croatia) on 20-21 April 2007 can now be downloaded from ECCL website.

Among the materials you will find the Draft Statement on User Involvement, summarising the main messages of the Seminar (as presented during the Closing Plenary Session), as well as the Seminar Report.

To download the materials: <http://www.community-living.info/?page=269>

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.

The official closing of the campaign is 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 Conference "Health in the enlarged EU"

All the presentations and policy recommendations made during EPHA conference, which took place in Bratislava (Slovakia) on 16-17 April 2007, are published on the conference website:

<http://www.conference2007.eph.org/-CONFERENCE-OUTCOMES>

The final conference report can be obtained from the EPHA Secretariat: Tel +32 2 230 30 56, E-mail epha@epha.org.

Mental Disability Advocacy Center

Meeting on the reform of the guardianship system in Hungary, 8 June 2007, Budapest (Hungary)

A rare gathering of representatives of the Hungarian government, its judiciary, guardianship officials, civil society and medical and education specialists took place on 8 June 2007 in Budapest. The purpose of the roundtable event was to attend the launch of MDAC's comprehensive report into the guardianship system in Hungary and to consider proposals for reform of that system.

The plight of people stripped of their legal capacity has remained invisible to society, and therefore the protection it can offer. MDAC's intensive two year research into guardianship legislation and practice, and its resultant report "*Guardianship and Human Rights in Hungary*", highlights these vital issues and also Hungary's failure to comply with international human rights standards.

A firm commitment to reform by all stakeholders in the guardianship system is now urgently needed. Proposals for reform of the guardianship system, prepared by a coalition of partner NGOs including organisations comprising people with disabilities, was presented and discussed at the roundtable.

For more information: MDAC website, <http://www.mdac.info/projects/guardian.html>

Social Platform

Social NGOs send an open letter to EU leaders ahead of the June Council

Ahead of the June European Council, the Social Platform sent a letter to heads of State and Government to openly express its concerns on the revision of the EU treaties. The letter to EU leaders is the starting point of a six-month Europe-wide campaign which will involve NGOs at all levels.

Two years ago, French and Dutch citizens rejected the constitutional Treaty, but 18 other Member states have ratified the Treaty. A speedy intergovernmental conference (IGC) that ignores the ratification processes in these 18 countries could be considered as a slap in the face to those people and National Parliaments who supported the Treaty. The Social Platform acknowledges the daunting task of building consensus around the piecemeal outcomes of the "reflection period" and reconciling diverging interests in a renewed political landscape. However the planned IGC must not ignore the commitments made with the signing in Rome of the constitutional treaty and should instead build upon them to shape a stronger European Union.

The open letter spells out four key elements that need to be underlined in the June summit conclusions:

- the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights needs to be an integral part of the Treaty, if the renegotiation is to gain people's trust that the EU can make a difference for them;
- the article on participatory democracy has to be maintained as a key instrument in promoting citizens' involvement in the EU decision-making process;
- the horizontal clauses on gender equality, social objectives, non-discrimination and services of general interest must remain in the treaty to safeguard progress made;
- the idea to add a social protocol needs to go beyond mere window-dressing: it should address the issue of how the EU can contribute to greater social cohesion and inclusion through the achievement of high level social standards across the EU.

In the six-month-long campaign launched by the Social Platform, national, regional and local NGOs will send letters to their respective leaders asking them to keep social Europe as a priority in the revision of the Constitutional Treaty.

For more information: contact Daniela Mitchener, Tel +32 2 508 16 32,

E-mail daniela.mitchener@socialplatform.org, or visit the Social Platform website,

<http://www.socialplatform.org/>

Source: Social Platform Press release

V. EUROPEAN UNION

Ombudsman launches information campaign

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has launched a campaign to inform companies, associations, NGOs, regional offices, schools and universities about their right to complain to the Ombudsman.

Of all complaints the Ombudsman receives, 95% come from citizens, and only 5% from companies, associations and other organisations. However, half of the complaints from the latter groups fall within his mandate. Typical cases of maladministration encompass late payment for EU projects, problems with tender procedures, legal errors or the refusal to give access to a document.

The decisions of the Ombudsman are not legally binding but the EU institutions are keen to cooperate.

In the framework of his information campaign, the Ombudsman will step up his cooperation with important target groups. In pursuit of this goal, he also published a new information sheet explaining to businesses, associations and other organisations how he can help settle problems with the EU administration, giving concrete case examples.

Please find the information sheet under the following link:

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/infosheet/en/default.htm>

Source: Press Release from the European ombudsman

VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROPEAN COUNCIL

German Presidency organised a disability conference

A European conference on "*Empowering people with disabilities*" was held in Berlin (Germany) on 11-12 June, along with an informal meeting of EU disability ministers attended by EU Social Affairs Commissioner Vladimír Špidla. The two-day event was organised by the German EU presidency as part of the European year of equal opportunities for all.

The aim was to set out a common strategy to implement the recent UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – the first comprehensive human rights convention containing provisions for education, training and employment based on the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

The German presidency said identifying a strategy will facilitate and speed up the ratification of the convention by Member States and by the EU and allow for its quick implementation.

For more information: the German Presidency website,

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Juni/0611-BSGV2/Programm.pdf

Source: EUpolitix

Outcomes of the June Summit, 21-23 June 2007, Brussels

In the early hours on 23 June, EU leaders managed overcome the institutional impasse and agree on the outlines of a new EU "Reform Treaty" put forward by German Chancellor Angela Merkel to replace the EU Constitution.

Heads of state and governments signed up to a detailed mandate for an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to start work before the end of July to hammer out the details of a "new Reform Treaty" to be adopted at the end of the year. Ratification would come in time for the 2009 European elections.

The "Reform Treaty" takes up the main institutional changes proposed by the draft EU Constitution. It foresees:

- the introduction of a permanent EU president;
- a foreign policy representative;
- provides for new compositions of the Parliament and the Commission in an enlarged Union.

Among the new elements introduced figure a stricter separation of competences between the EU and its member states, a greater say for national parliaments and an option for closer police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters.

And finally, the demands of the social NGOs were taken on board by the Council:

- The idea of a Constitution is abandoned. The future text will be a reform Treaty and it will amend the existing Treaties. It includes most of the Constitution provisions in the current framework.
- A reference to the Charter of Fundamental Rights is included. It will be a legally binding instrument, with an opt-out clause for the UK.
- Horizontal social clauses are included.
- The participatory democracy article is included.

To read the summit's conclusions and for more information: the Council website,

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/94932.pdf

VII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Conclusions of the EPSCO Council, 30 May 2007

The 27 European Employment and Social Affairs Ministers adopted a conclusion in Brussels under the German presidency to establish a European Alliance for Families and also discussed an interim report of the Social Protection Committee on Social Services of General Interest. They did not however manage to come to agreement on the proposed directive with regard to the transfer of complementary pension rights the main objective of which is to enhance the quality of rights of contributors to complementary pension systems with the aim of improving the conditions of free movement of workers and professional mobility within Member States.

For more information: the German Presidency website,

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Press_Releases/May/0530BMFSFJAllianz.html?

VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commission to make EU information "a basic right"

A draft Commission paper aims to bring citizens closer to Europe by encouraging them to participate in shaping EU policies.

The paper, "*A Citizen's Agenda for Communicating Europe*", seeks "to empower citizens to voice their opinions" and provide them with "relevant information on the functioning of the EU and its policies at all levels".

Drafted by the services of Communications Commissioner Margot Wallström, the paper states the importance of making access to EU information "a basic individual right" with debates placed in "a national, regional and local context" and made available to citizens "in the language of their choice". In doing so, the Commission hopes to help create a long sought-after European public sphere.

The paper also seeks to strengthen dialogue at all levels – national, regional, local – by establishing management partnerships on communication policy, involving national representations of the Commission and the European Parliament.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://europa.eu/debateeurope/index_en.htm

Source: EurActiv

DG Employment and Social Affairs

New call for proposals under PROGRESS

The Networks call for proposals VP-2007-013 "*Establishment of 3-year partnerships with EU-level networks active in the field of combating social exclusion and discrimination, promoting gender equality and the integration of disabled people and representing roma people*" has recently been published on the Commission's website. The deadline for applications is **30 July 2007**.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=1605

For questions of general nature, please contact: EMPL-PROGRESS-VP-2007-013@ec.europa.eu

How to achieve a better balance between work, private and family life?

On 30 May, the Commission adopted the second stage consultation with workers' and employers' representatives on how to achieve a better balance between work, private and family life. Invited to express their opinions on the need for Community action on this issue last October, thirteen of the European social partners have sent contributions. All have acknowledged the importance of issues such as accessible care facilities for children and dependants, the need for men genuinely to take up reconciliation measures, equal pay, flexible working hours and the possible updating of existing legislation related to reconciliation. Although views differ on what needs to be done and at what level, the majority of the social partners consider that further action is needed in this area.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=248

Commission publishes mainstreaming study

The Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services, on behalf of the European Commission, has produced a new study: "*Non-discrimination mainstreaming - instruments, case studies and ways forward*".

The report defines "non-discrimination mainstreaming" as putting equality concerns into all public policies, legislation and programmes. This means equality must be considered at all stages of decision-making.

The publication reviews the case for equality mainstreaming and the factors critical to its success. It also highlights a wide range of approaches and case studies at both European and national levels.

For more information and to download the study: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/mainstr07_en.pdf

What role for positive action?

This month's Spotlight feature on the anti-discrimination website reports on the European Commission's annual anti-discrimination conference. The event brought together 120 people active from across the spectrum of the non-discrimination field and tackled the issue of positive action in employment and society.

To read the spotlight: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/may07_en.htm

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

New online documents on DG Health and Consumer Protection website

Two reports relating to socio-economic determinants of health and health inequalities are now available on DG Health and Consumer Protection website:

1. the first document relates to "*Health status and living conditions in an enlarged Europe*"; it was prepared by the London School of Economics and Political Science. The overall aim of the report is to review trends in health and living conditions in the EU and Candidate Countries and describe relevant policy developments targeting health improvements and the reduction of health inequalities.

To download the report:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/documents/slovakia_rd_01_en.pdf

2. the second one focuses on the "*Social Determinants of Health in the Slovak Republic: A Case Study*" and was drafted by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (PHA SR).

To download the study:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/documents/slovakia_rd_01_en.pdf

Results of Commission's open consultations published on DG SANCO website

A report summarising the 153 responses to the European Commission's consultation "*Health in Europe: A Strategic Approach - Discussion Document for a Health Strategy*" is now available on DG Health and Consumer Protection website. The consultation showed support for a new overarching European Health Strategy and a desire for more cooperation between the European Commission and EU Member States to further improve and protect health in Europe. The contributions will be taken into account during the elaboration of the Strategy, planned to be adopted later in 2007.

To download the report:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/results_consultation_en.htm

Besides, the website also displays the results of the public consultation on health-related information to patients.

To download the results:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/other_policies/pharmaceutical/results_consultation_en.htm

IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Fight against violence: adoption of Daphne III

Last May, the European Parliament adopted at the second reading Daphne III, the EU's specific programme to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women. The third phase of Daphne covers the period 2007-2013 and has a budget of €116.85m. The programme is open to administrations, local municipalities, NGOs, research centres and other related bodies from all the Member States, candidate countries, EFTA states and the countries of the Western Balkans.

Daphne is a Community's programme, the aim of which is to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk. The decision enters into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

Source: EP Press Release

Official launch of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers and Eurocarers

Baroness Jill Pitkeathly (President of Eurocarers) and Kathy Sinnott MEP (in her role of acting chair) invited MHE to the joint formal launch of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers and Eurocarers, which took place on 12 June 2007.

Background to this event was the urgent need for all EU Member States to address demographic challenges: with an ageing population, change in composition and size of families and an increasing number of women entering the labour market, unpaid caring will form the bedrock of community care provision in the future and will be increasingly part of our life course.

Across Europe, there are millions of carers providing unpaid care for looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner. Therefore, it is time for the EU to consider the role and contribution of unpaid care to health and social care systems at all levels. Carers give so much to society; yet, as a consequence of caring, their experience ill health, poverty and discrimination. If carers are to continue care, measures will need to be taken to safeguard their rights and interest.

Eurocarers was formed against this background. It is a new European organisation with representatives from different Member States established with the overarching aim of representing carers' interests at EU and national levels.

In addition, given the variety of current EU policy initiatives with a bearing on care, the European Parliament can play an important role to ensure that carers interest are explicitly being taken into account in current and future EU policy development. Therefore, there is a need for a specific Interest Group addressing these issues.

In the same time, MHE was invited to take part in the parliament.com's online consultation titled "*Carers: the bedrock of health and social care systems in Europe.*", by answering to the question: "*Who will provide this care and how will carers be supported and recognised across Europe?*".

Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the event and contributed to the consultation on behalf of MHE.

For more information: Eurocarers website, <http://www.eurocarers.org/page6.htm>

Source: European Parliament

EP urges the EU to promote decent work for all

In May the European Parliament (EP) adopted an own-initiative report on promoting decent work for all. With the report, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are urging the EU to engage in promoting quality work and better conditions both in the EU and the rest of the world through its trade and development policies.

According to the report, trade preferences with countries "which seriously and systematically breach fundamental social rights" should be temporarily suspended. In addition, MEPs think that compliance with international work standards should be part of the negotiations for the accession of new Member States to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The report also points to fact that most countries have still not ratified the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions on health and safety at work, maternity protection and migrant workers.

In order to improve working conditions within the EU and to "prevent people from being exploited", the report highlights the need to guarantee broad access to lifelong learning and to harmonise pension schemes and minimum wages.

The Commission's Communication on decent work, adopted in May 2006, aims to go beyond ensuring minimum labour rights, by clearly setting out how to promote decent work. The Communication supports the right to join a trade union, promotes collective bargaining, and the fight against forced labour, child labour and modern forms of slavery.

To read the report: the European Parliament website,

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A6-2007-0068&language=EN&mode=XML>

To read the Commission's Communication on decent work: the European Commission website, http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2006/may/com_2006_249_en.pdf

Source: EurActiv Daily Update

X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Cooperation with the EU

On 23 May 2007 the Council of Europe and the EU signed an agreement to promote mutual co-operation. The institutional framework aims to enhance co-operation in areas such as human rights, the state of law, democracy, culture, education and social cohesion. It confirms the Council of Europe's role and also stipulates the guarantee of coherence between community law and Council of Europe conventions in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedom.

To read the agreement and for more information: the Council of Europe website,

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM\(2007\)74&Sector=secCM&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM(2007)74&Sector=secCM&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75)

Source: The Letter from the Robert Schuman Foundation

XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Millions Suffering From Mental Illness Need Better Care

On 1st June, the World Health Organization (WHO) called on countries to provide a network of community health services to alleviate the hardships faced by the nearly 54 million people around the world suffering from mental disorders as well as those caring for them.

"Not only are community health services more accessible to people living with severe mental disabilities, these are also more effective in taking care of their needs compared to mental hospitals," stated Benedetto Saraceno, WHO's Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. *"Community mental health services are also likely to have less possibilities for neglect and violations of human rights, which are too often encountered in mental hospitals,"* he added.

The call for community mental health services came during WHO's Global Forum for Community Mental Health held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 30-31 May 2007 and which, for the first time, included the participation of people living with mental disorders. In addition to the nearly 54 million people suffering severe mental disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder, WHO estimates that 154 million suffer from depression.

According to WHO, mental disorders are increasingly prevalent in developing countries, the consequence of persistent poverty-driven conditions, the demographic transition, conflicts in fragile States and natural disasters. At the same time, more than 50 per cent of developing countries do not provide any care for persons with mental disorders in the community.

For more information: WHO website,

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007/np25/en/index.html>

Source: WHO Press release

WHO Director General visited the Commission to discuss enhanced collaboration on health

Dr Margaret Chan, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), visited the European Commission on 12 June. Priority issues on the day's agenda included the health consequences of climate change, global health security, and improving health outcomes in Africa.

During the day's seven meetings, a diverse range of issues were discussed, illustrating the breadth cooperation between WHO and the Commission. In addition to the issues listed above, other agenda items included, but were not limited to:

- Health in wider Europe – EU enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries
- Development of the new EU Health Strategy, e-health and links to WHO initiatives
- EU health systems research and the 2008 WHO Euro Ministerial Conference
- Accelerating progress towards the health Millennium Development Goals
- Supporting the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

The Commission has long-standing bilateral relations with WHO. Current collaboration is based on an exchange of letters concluded in 2000 which set up various cooperation mechanisms, including high level meetings such as these.

The Commission is the third largest extra-budgetary contributor to WHO, donating around €75m (\$102m) in 2005-06. The two organisations also collaborate closely in terms of technical assistance, including staff secondments and joint missions.

For more information: the European Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_international/int_organisations/who_en.htm

Source: EC Press Release

XII. UNITED NATIONS

Launch of Initiative on Disability Rights

The new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities offers long-awaited opportunities for advancing the human rights of people with disabilities. To support efforts to ratify and implement the Convention, the Fund for Global Human Rights is pleased to announce the launch of an initiative on disability rights, a joint effort by an expanding group of human rights donors to increase financial support for organisations working in countries around the world to ensure that the Convention becomes an effective tool in promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

Because the disability rights initiative is still in development, grantmaking will not begin until the end of 2007.

For more information on the Disability Rights Initiative: contact info@disabilityrightsfund.org or visit the Fund for Global Human Rights' website, <http://www.globalhumanrights.org/about-fghr>

Source: MHI Weekly Update

International Day of Families

The International Day of Families was observed on 15 May 2007. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed in 1993 that 15 May of every year shall be observed as the International Day of Families. This annual observance reflects the importance which the international community attaches to families as basic units of society as well as its concern regarding their situation around the world. This Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families as well as to promote appropriate action. It can become a powerful mobilising factor on behalf of families in all countries, which avail themselves of this opportunity and demonstrate support of family issues appropriate to each society.

The theme of the day in 2007 was "Families and Persons with Disabilities".

For more information: the United Nations website,

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/idf2007.htm>

Source: United Nations

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Annual Report 2006

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released its 2006 Annual Report, providing a detailed account of the increasing range and impact of its human rights work around the world.

The document uses charts, personal stories and photographs to portray the work of the Office. 2006 marked the beginning of a new chapter for OHCHR and for the United Nations human rights program. While the most visible change was the launch, in June, of a new intergovernmental body, the Human Rights Council, for OHCHR the year also witnessed other significant developments, including the release of its first Strategic Management Plan (SMP), which set out a raft of reforms designed to strengthen the Office and reinforce human rights as a key pillar of the United Nations system, alongside security and development.

To download the report: the OHCHR website,

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/docs/annualreport2006.pdf>

Source: ENAR Weekly Mail

XIII. VARIOUS

New European Network of Women with Disabilities

As a result of a conference held in Berlin on 2-4 May 2007, 105 women with a variety of disabilities from 17 European countries have formed a European network of women with disabilities. All the delegates from Sweden to Greece, from the UK to Ukraine agree that they can only fight the multiple discriminations on the grounds of gender and disability by working together.

The issues affecting the 60 million women with disabilities in Europe have not been considered sufficiently at national or European levels within women's and disability policies.

The purpose of the network is to get involved in national and European disability policies and women's policies, and it will promote the formation of national networks of women with disabilities. It aims to improve the living conditions of women with disabilities. The network will also promote and push the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European countries.

To read the resolution of the Berlin conference: http://www.weibernetz.de/resolution_en.html

For more information: contact info@weibernetz.de

Source: MHI Weekly Update

XIV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

The 10 Essential Shared Capabilities for Mental Health Practice Learning Materials (Scotland)

The main emphasis of the learning materials is supporting cultural change in services by promoting rights-based, recovery-focused practice. The materials have been developed by NES (NHS Education for Scotland) as an outcome of "*Rights, Relationships and Recovery - the Report of the National review of Mental Health Nursing in Scotland*" (SEHD, 2006) but the materials have been designed in a way so they are relevant to people in all roles and settings who are involved in mental health work. This includes service users, families and carers, managers, practitioners, volunteers, peer support workers and all workers within the wider mental health community.

To download the materials: NES website,

<http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/work/#values>

For more information: contact person, Susanne Forrest, Tel +44 131 247 6638, E-mail susanne.forrest@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Source: Scottish Recovery Network

XV. PUBLICATIONS

Report on the rights of children and youth with mental disabilities in Romanian public institutions

The present report is the product of a project which involved visiting, in the period September 2005 – July 2006, a number of 64 public residential centers for the social protection and treatment of persons with disabilities, both children and adults, located in 35 counties.

In almost all the visited institutions, the monitoring teams of the Center for Legal Resources (CLR), a human rights not for profit organisation based in Bucharest (Romania), have identified, or respectively, have been notified of cases of violations of the fundamental rights of the children and young people with mental disabilities, violations that may take various forms: from the lack of adequate food, clothes and shoes, of sheets, pillows and blankets, the lack of activity and stimulation, of medication and adequate treatment, the poorly trained and unmotivated personnel, to the abusive application of methods limiting individual freedom and the isolation from the community.

The final report contains a series of recommendations applicable both at national level and at local level. These recommendations focus both on improving the conditions and services provided to children and young people with disabilities living in institutions, and also on creating, supporting and perfecting an independent system of monitoring children's rights.

To download the report: CLR website, <http://www.crj.ro/files/ReportCRJUNICEFenql.pdf>

Improving the Mental Health of the Population": Can the European Union help?

This report from the United Kingdom House of Lords European Union Committee, 14th report of Session 2006-2007, brings together evidence, from a wide range of individuals and organisations, relating to the European Commission's 2005 Green Paper, "Improving the Mental Health of the Population: Towards a strategy on mental health for the European Union."

The report calls for a wider public recognition of the social and economic impact of mental health problems. It argues that, for promoting better mental health and delivering better services, there is an important role for the European Union to facilitate the exchange of information and best practice.

For more information and to download the report: the website of the British Parliament, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldselect/ldeucom/73/7302.htm>

Amnesty International Report 2007

Amnesty International has released its yearly report on the state of human rights around the world. This year's report documents human rights issues of concern to Amnesty International during 2006. It provides information on human rights issues in countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. In four countries - Bulgaria, Ireland, Romania, and Swaziland - concern for the rights of people with mental disabilities is addressed.

To download the report: Amnesty International website, <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Download-the-Report>

Access to European Union

If you need to keep abreast of latest EU political and legislative developments, then "Access to European Union: Law, Economics, Policies" should prove an invaluable ally. It covers the whole spectrum of EU activities, both in the internal market (e.g., the single currency, social policy, competition, industry, transport, agriculture, environment protection) and in the world (including EU relations with other European countries and Mediterranean, African, Asian and American States).

Written by a former European Commission adviser, this annually revised title provides a comprehensive account of all EU policy areas and contains over 2500 exact references to legal acts and documents of the European Union.

For more information and to order a copy: visit the Europedia website, www.europedia.moussis.eu

XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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=>

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/>

NEW!! 27-29 September 2007

Correlation Network's conference "Social Inclusion and Health - Crossing the Borders", Sofia (Bulgaria)

The Correlation Network links together different initiatives to fight marginalisation and exclusion of vulnerable populations. The conference is planned to cover a broad range of topics, targeting mainly the issue of limited access to health and social services for marginalised groups. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange information in the field of research, policy and practice, join skill building sessions on issues related to access to health and social services, participate in the debate between service users and policy makers, discuss innovative approaches and new ways of cooperation, and get an overview on the activities of the Correlation Network.

The conference will include a panel discussion on increasing access to health care for Roma.

For more information: visit the Correlation Network website,

http://www.correlation-net.org/sofia_conference/index.html

NEW!! 11 October 2007

Seminar on "Promoting positive mental health in a time of inequalities: an ethical dilemma?", Glasgow (Scotland)

The seminar is one in a series that explores key issues in public mental health and is supported by the National Programme for Mental Health and Well-being, the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health and the Mental Health Foundation.

For more information: contact Valerie Millar, Tel + 44 141 221 9439, E-mail valerie.millar@drs.glasgow.gov.uk, or visit the website of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, www.gcph.co.uk

11-13 October 2007

EAMHID 6th European Congress on Mental Health in Intellectual Disability, Zagreb (Croatia)

Based on a framework of social justice and human rights the congress, titled "*Mental Health: A Human Right for People with Intellectual Disability*", 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/>

11-13 October 2007

20th CEFEC Conference, "New work – New culture", Linz (Austria)

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@promenteoee.at, or visit the conference website, <http://cefec2007.promenteoee.at>

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>

NEW!! 7-11 November 2007

3rd European Conference of Brief Strategic and Systemic Therapy, "EUROPEAN WAYS OF BRIEF THERAPY. Investigate – Induce – Prescribe", Arezzo (Italy)

This event, which is held every two years, has become a point of reference for the activities of the European Network in Brief Strategic and Systemic Therapy. It is responsible for the presentation and evolution of the intervention modalities and in-depth research in the field of psychotherapy and communication both in public and private spheres. This third appointment is meant to be an in-depth presentation of the most evolved therapeutic techniques regarding the three main phases of therapy: diagnosis, clinical interview and therapeutic prescriptions.

For more information: contact the conference's Secretariat, Tel +39 575 350 240, Fax +39 575 350 277, E-mail secretary@bsst.org

NEW!! 29 November – 1st December 2007

2nd European Conference on Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Educational Settings, "Relationships in Schools: Contemporary Problems and Opportunities", Naples (Italy)

This conference will provide a forum for education and mental health professionals to share practice, research and new ideas and to review the impact of current changes in the direction of health and education policies.

It will include presentations on a wide range of education-based initiatives which demonstrate partnerships between education and mental health professionals.

For more information: the conference's Secretariat, Tel +44 20 8938 2548, Fax +44 20 7447 3837, E-mail events@tavi-port.org, or visit the conference dedicated website, www.tavi-port.org/conferences

23-25 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