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MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

MHE Executive Committee meeting

The new MHE Executive Committee met for the first time on Saturday 15 July 2006.
It was a positive and constructive meeting where amongst others the priorities for MHE for the forthcoming years were discussed.
A second meeting will be held in Brussels (Belgium) on 14 September 2006, where the programme of the MHE Vienna conference (31 May – 2 June 2007) will be further developed and the MHE 2008 conference will be discussed. The Executive Committee will also prepare MHE's next Board meeting to be held in Florence (Italy), on 6 and 7 November 2006. The same days, the fourth meeting of partners of the MHE project "*Good practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems*" will take place in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence (Italy).
For more information: the MHE Secretariat, Tel + 32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

MHE meeting with MEP's

MHE will be organising a meeting with Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday 13 September 2006. The theme of the meeting will be: "*No Social Inclusion Without Mental Health".* Other high level European stakeholders will also be invited.
For more information: the MHE Secretariat, Tel + 32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

New leaflets

MHE staff has been very busy preparing a new presentation leaflet for Mental Health Europe and a common leaflet of a number of European non governmental organisations working in the mental health field. We hope to have both leaflets ready and printed by 13 September.

Proposal for the setting up of a MHE Committee on Ethnic Minority Groups and Mental Health

During their meeting in July, members of the MHE Executive Committee agreed to explore possibilities for setting up a MHE Committee to work specifically on "*Ethnic Minority Groups and Mental Health".*
The objective of this committee would be to look at the mental health needs of ethnic minority groups in Europe. One of the outcomes could be the submission of a project proposal prepared by the Committee to the European Commission.
In a first phase, this Committee would mainly work by e-mail. Members could meet once a year during MHE General Assembly or conference.
MHE is looking for key persons/specialists in this field that would be interested in setting up such a body.
If you think you can help, please contact the MHE Secretariat: Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org

MHE entitled to lodge collective complaints

Last May, the governmental committee of the European Social Charter, a body which has been set up within the Council of Europe, decided to include again MHE in the list of international non governmental organisations (NGOs) entitled to lodge collective complaints alleging violations of the European Social Charter (ESC) for a period of four year (1 July 2006 – 30 June 2010).
The mission of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) is to judge the conformity of national law and practice with the European Social Charter, a Council of Europe's treaty that protects social and economic human rights. These rights concern all individuals in their daily lives: housing, health, education, employment, non-discrimination…
Thanks to this procedure, MHE and the other registered NGOs will have a concrete instrument to fight against abuses and to defend the rights of the people they are representing.
For more information on this procedure: the Council of Europe's website,
http://www.coe.int/t/e/human%5Frights/esc/4%5FCollective%5Fcomplaints/

MHE sent an Open Letter to the Finnish Presidency

In an Open Letter sent on 14 July 2006 to Ms Liisa Hyssälä, Minister of Health and Social Services of Finland, MHE explained its concerns regarding the revision of the new Public Health Programme (2007-2013).
MHE called the Finnish Presidency of the European Union to take a leadership role in acting on the funding schemes, increasing transparency in the management of the programme, and prioritising EU added-value.
Underlying the dramatic cuts in the EU budget that resulted from the Council meeting in December 2005, MHE pointed out that difficult decisions will have to be made about what type of activities the EU can now undertake to promote public health and protect citizens from health threats.
In this respect, MHE welcomes the will to target health promotion, health inequalities and health determinants, but is concerned that the revised proposal does not equip the EU with the necessary funding schemes to address these issues and empower the broader public health community. The European Commission wants to implement the proposal via an increased number of tenders and therefore has reduced the co-financing ceilings. In MHE's view, this contradicts the programme's stated objectives, i.e. bringing health closer to citizens, and the need for cost-effectiveness. On the contrary, MHE is convinced that, in terms of cost-efficiency, increasing the funding and ceilings for co-financing can be considered as a win-win situation: empowering citizens, building an active health community, delivering the objectives and involving a lower Community financial contribution.
To finish, MHE called on the Finnish Presidency to ensure that a policy of transparency is also included in the programme, as this will maximize the little funding available.

3rd MHEEN II meeting

The third MHEEN II (Mental Health Economics European Network phase II - 2005-2007) project meeting is taking place in Berlin (Germany) from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 November 2006. A pre-meeting focusing on mental health in Germany will tentatively take place on the 16th morning.
The MHEEN meeting agenda and further information will be circulated among MHEEN members shortly.
For more information: contact person, Mari Fresu, MHE Project Coordinator, mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org.

MHE representation at various meetings

On 5 July, Mary Van Dievel, Director, had a meeting with Dace Beinare, Director of the Crisis Centre Skalbes, Riga (Latvia), to discuss possible collaboration.

On 7 July, Mary Van Dievel and Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, had a meeting with John Bowis' assistant (Member of the European Parliament) at the European Parliament, to discuss the MHE meeting at the European Parliament on 13 September 2006.

On 12 July, Fanny Muller, Information Officer, and Sogol Noorani attended the Civil Society Contact group conference, "*NGOs and the EU: Making Civil Dialogue Work Better*", organised in Brussels (Belgium).
The same day, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, participated in the Policy Working Group meeting of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA).

On 15 July, a meeting of the MHE Executive Committee took place.

On 17 July, Mary Van Dievel met with Marija Stiglic from FIMITIC (the International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability).

On 26 July, Sogol Noorani attended the Focus group meeting of the Czech partner in the EU project "*Good Practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems".*

On 31 July, Mary Van Dievel met with Roxana Radulescu, European Public Health Alliance, to discuss participation in a European project.

On 11 August, Mary Van Dievel had a meeting with Matthias Roos and Lucrecia de León re. the EMIP (Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies) project.

On 21 August, Sogol Noorani attended the focus group meeting of the Scottish partner in the EU project *"Good Practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems".*

On 31 August, Sogol Noorani attended the focus group meeting of the Irish partner in the EU project *"Good Practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems".*

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Mind's 60th anniversary

This year Mind celebrates its 60th year of speaking out on the behalf of people who have experience of mental distress. Mind is the leading mental health charity in England and Wales.
The 60th anniversary will be celebrated with events such as:

- a parliamentary reception at the House of Commons (15 May 2006) to launch the "*Out of the blue? Motherhood and depression"* report;
- the publication of a book by Claire Rayner, "*Moving on from depression*", intended for people experiencing depression and for friends and relatives who want to find out how to help them;
- a service user-led arts project, "*MAD art - making a difference*";
- and a conference, "*Coming of age: 21 years of service user involvement and survivor action*", led by and for people with experience of mental distress, to be held in Leicester (UK) on 6-7 September 2006.

For further information on up and coming events and campaigns: Mind's website, http://www.mind.org.uk/60th/

Advocacy France's celebrations in July

Since 2001, Advocacy France, one of the leading organisations of mental health service users in France, has created four open spaces for citizens, the "Espaces Conviviaux Citoyens" (ECC). These premises are managed by the users themselves, without any intervention on the part of the carers. The ECCs are open to the city: they are a place where one can get together and meet people.
Each year in Paris, the ECC moves during one month to Place des Fêtes, with its partner organisations (Collectifs Urbanités) and the children of the IMPRO (Institut Médico-Pédagogique et Professionnel); this period is called "l'arcencielage". It constitutes a unique opportunity to meet the inhabitants, discover the richness of their differences, share their talents, and celebrate the right to be different. All the activities and workshops (songs, dances, yoga and relaxing techniques, theater, philosophical debates, drawings, photo exhibitions, etc…) that usually take place in the ECC are organised on the public place and open to everybody, regardless of age, gender, nationality and so on.
For two years, it has been a huge success, primarily for the users of mental health services themselves, as they can meet the people living in the neighbourhood, discover that they have a talent for entertainment and that they are full citizens; but also, for the residents, as they discover the ECC and can take part in the activities. This month of celebrations ends with an open day, where mental health service users welcome their guests in various creative ways (exhibitions of paintings with amateurs and well-known artists, games to discover the concept of advocacy, multicultural meals, etc…). This year, a photo-video workshop offered the occasion to take some pictures of the residents, alone, with their family or with their friends, reflecting the various cultures of the neighbourhood. The residents became very involved and were delighted to pick up a free photograph at the ECC.
If you are passing by, do not forget to drop in for a chat: 5 place des Fêtes 75019 Paris, www.advocacyfrance.com
Thanks to Martine Dutoit, from Advocacy France, for this contribution.

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

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

Civil Society Contact Group

"NGOs and the EU: Making civil dialogue work better", Conference of the EU Civil Society Contact Group, Brussels, 12 July 2006

The conference was organised against the background of the European Commission's Communication White Paper, its Transparency Initiative and several questions which have been high on the agenda over the last years such as: *Should NGOs (non governmental organisations) be part of the dialogue with EU institutions or of the protest? What does "participatory" democracy really mean in the EU and how to link "Brussels" to the grassroots?*
On the occasion of the conference the study "*Civil Dialogue: making it work better*" was presented, which assesses dialogue and consultations between NGOs and EU institutions in seven different policy areas, at EU and national level.
For more information on the study, please consult:
http://act4europe.horus.be/module/FileLib/CD%20study%20-%20presentation.pdf.
Preliminary results from this study suggest that:

- civil dialogue is difficult to describe or define, NGOs are differently engaged in civil dialogue;
- more participation does not necessarily mean better participation;
- the European Commission is often unaware of NGOs' expertise and therefore not in dialogue with them;
- the Commission also lacks an understanding of how NGOs work;
- the Commission is inconsistent in following the minimum standards for consultation;
- the lack of involvement of NGOs in consultation and decision making processes creates a feeling of controlled EU processes, even in the case of the Open Method of Coordination;
- European NGOs must share their knowledge about EU processes and must redirect responsibilities to the national level.

The following two panel sessions, one on transparency and accountability and the other on new frameworks for civil dialogue, as well as the very fruitful interactive workshops organised around the Open Space methodology led to the overall conclusions that civil dialogue should not be the end but a means to an end and that making participation matter is more important than civil dialogue which remains "unheard".
Sogol Noorani and Fanny Muller represented MHE at this conference.
For more information: Act4Europe's website, http://www.act4europe.org/code/en/hp.asp

European coalition for Community Living

Join the ECCL!

The ECCL is a Europe-wide initiative working towards the social inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting the provision of comprehensive, quality community-based services as an alternative to institutionalisation.
In the light of the recommendations made by the Included in Society project, ECCL was founded at the end of 2005 by Autism Europe, the Center for Policy Studies of the Central European University, the European Disability Forum, the European Network of Independent Living, Inclusion Europe, Mental Health Europe and the Open Society Mental Health Initiative.
ECCL is currently represented in twenty European countries. ECCL membership is open to all organisations and individuals committed to the promotion of community-based alternatives for people with disabilities.
For further information, please write to Ines Bulić at coordinator@community-living.info or visit ECCL's website, www.community-living.info.
Thanks to Ines Bulic, ECCL Project Coordinator, for this contribution.

Online materials from the Right to Live in the Community Seminar

The Right to Live in the Community Seminar took place on 17 May 2006 in Brussels (Belgium). It was the first event organised by the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL).
The seminar has succeeded in bringing together around 80 participants from across Europe, including three participants from the United States and New Zealand. It was attended by representatives of disability organisations, user organisations, service providers, research institutes, governments and the European Commission.
The speeches and presentations made during this seminar are now available on the ECCL website at http://www.community-living.info/?page=232
Besides, the report from the seminar has been published in the first issue of ECCL's Newsletter, which is available at www.community-living.info

European Disability Forum

EDF becomes partner in the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL)

At its meeting on 26 May, the EDF Board agreed for EDF to become a partner in the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL).
The Board appointed EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, to represent EDF in ECCL, and Ingemar Färm, Executive Committee member, as a substitute member.
During the first meeting involving EDF, the ECCL draft mandate was discussed as well as the possible synergies between ECCL and the EDF Committee on Community living.
The next meeting of ECCL will take place on 4 October 2006.
For further information on ECCL: the ECCL website, http://www.community-living.info
Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

Social Platform

7 tests for the Finnish EU Presidency

In presenting the programme for the Finnish Presidency last June, Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen took on one commitment: get the Union to look into the future, participate in global change and ideally to lead it and become number one. To succeed on this challenge he set several missions: identify the basis for economic growth and competitiveness, win citizens' confidence in making the legislative process more transparent and establish a wide debate on the Constitution.
Social non governmental organisations welcomed the Finnish political will and devised seven tests upon which to assess the performance of the Finnish presidency in six months time.
To directly access the full list of the seven tests:
http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/FinnishPresidencyTests_ENFinal.pdf
For more information: the Social Platform's website,
http://www.socialplatform.org/code/en/Pres_rele.asp?id_presse=123
Source: Social Platform Press Release

IV. EUROPEAN UNION

European Fundamental Rights Agency

In December 2003, the European Council decided to extend the remit of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, based in Vienna (Austria), in order to convert it into a Fundamental Rights Agency.
The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is the point of reference for the Agency's mandate. The objective of the Agency will be to provide the relevant EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights when defining policies or implementing legislation.
In the spring of 2004, the Social Platform met with then Directorate General (DG) JAI (now DG Justice, Freedom and Security) to discuss issues to be raised in the European Commission's public consultation on the creation of the Fundamental Rights Agency.
The public consultation started on 25 October 2004 with a Communication from the Commission, and followed by a public hearing in January 2005.

The Social Platform has been actively involved in the consultation process. It has been campaigning to ensure that this Agency is effective, independent, respects international standards of pluralism and involves civil society organisations.
The Commission submitted its proposals for a regulation and a decision on the new Fundamental Rights Agency to the Council of ministers and the European Parliament on 30 June 2005. According to the proposal, the Agency should be operational as from 1 January 2007.
However, during the June European Council (15-16 June 2006) EU governments failed to agree on the establishment of the agency.
Some member states, including the UK, Ireland and Slovakia, have opposed giving the agency powers to conduct police, judicial and security reviews of member states, preferring to limit its remit to discrimination, racism, social and employment rights. Both the Parliament and the Commission have been conversely pushing for a broader competence for the agency. It was hoped that the agency could at least initially be established with a narrower focus, which could be expanded in the future. But concerns raised by Germany at a foreign ministers' meeting during the same week put into question the entire concept of the agency.
Olivier De Schutter, head of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, which compiles reports and opinions for the EU, said it would be better to abandon the agency altogether than spend millions of euros on a body with a narrow competence and no ability to effect change.
The Social Platform continues to follow the issue.
For more information: the Social Platform website,
http://www.socialplatform.org/code/en/hp.asp
Source: Social Platform Process Tracker and Weekly Mailing

EU ministers commit to an inclusive and barrier-free information society

A pan-European drive to use information and communication technologies to help people to overcome economic, social, educational, territorial or disability-related disadvantages was endorsed by ministers of 34 European countries in Riga (Latvia) on 12 June 2006. "*E-Inclusion*" targets include halving the gap in internet usage by groups at risk of exclusion, boosting broadband coverage in Europe to at least 90%, and making all public web sites accessible by 2010.
Ministers also invited the Commission to address, as a matter of urgency, and before the end of 2006, the issues of active ageing and independent living in the information society.
The means to achieve these targets include measures to promote the take-up of user-recommended best practices, industry-led provision of accessible technology, innovative EU research, national e-inclusion plans, and voluntary agreements between stakeholders.
For more information: the European Commission's website,
http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/769&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
Source: EC rapid press release

Slovenia adopts euro in 2007

Acknowledging that Slovenia meets the eurozone criteria for public debt, budget deficit, interest rates and inflation levels, the eurozone finance ministers adopted, on 11 July 2006, a decision allowing Slovenia to join the euro area.
Slovenia, a country of under two million people, will join as from 1 January 2007, and will be the first of the EU-10 to adopt euro and the 13th of all EU Member States.
For more information: the EU Council's website,
http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/06/213&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
Source: Euractiv

V PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Finns have heavy health agenda ahead

The Finnish EU presidency's overall objective in health policy is to promote the principle of Health in All Policies, as health is largely determined by factors outside the domain of health

care and policies other than health have direct effects on health determinants. The "*Health in All Policies*" approach is also meant to contribute to horizontal EU policies, such as the Lisbon strategy, and have positive effect on national economies through higher productivity and labour participation.
Accordingly, the main health policy event during the Finnish Presidency, a high-level expert conference on "*Health in All Policies*", will take place on 20–21 September 2006. A book on "*Health in All Policies"* is set to be published end of August to serve as background material for the conference, which will consist of plenary sessions and thematic workshops on specific topics related to, for example, health inequalities, nutrition and physical activity, alcohol policies and mental health and public policies. Council conclusions on the issue are expected on 30 November 2006.
The main EU legislative proposals on the EU table during the second half of the 2006 are the Health programme 2007-2013, the revision of legislation on medical devices and a proposal for a Directive on advanced therapies, on all of which the Council is expected to reach a political agreement on 30 November 2006.
The Commission will also publish, probably in September 2006, a communication on EU alcohol strategy, which will aim to reduce the health and social harm due to alcohol consumption.
For more information: the Finnish Presidency's website,
http://www.eu2006.fi/calendar/vko38/en_GB/1129710020770/_files/75656835527344348/default/healt_in_all_policies_background.pdf

VI. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

June Employment and Social Affairs Council

On 1 June in Luxemburg, EU Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs met up under the Presidency of Ursula Haubner, the Austrian Federal Minister for Social Security.
Ministers adopted the joint recommendation from the Employment Committee and the Committee on Social Protection on the examination of the strategy on sustainable development, from the point of view of social inclusion. Ministers stressed three points that "*demonstrated that social protection was one of the main themes of the Austrian Presidency*":

- Social inclusion in the sustainable development strategy (SDS): Ministers and Member States both have to pay more attention to social questions in this strategy and make poverty reduction and children living in families that are at risk of falling into poverty a priority, modernise the social protection and pension systems and involve actors concerned;
- Social services of general interest, according to Ministers, must remain a significant source of jobs;
- Rules on the coordination of social security systems: the Council was able to obtain a "*partial overall guideline*" on this issue and the Finnish Presidency will be continuing work on this case.

At the end of the debate on the social dimension of the SDS, Vladimir Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment and social Affairs, indicated that as part of the fight against poverty, the Commission was taking the struggle against child poverty and social insecurity between the generation "*very seriously*", as well as the fight against "*the poverty of ambition, when people lose hope following a job loss, for example*".
The Council also took a "political decision" on the composition of the Institute for Gender Equality's steering committee and gave the green light to "*2007 – European Year of Equal opportunities*".
For more information: the Council's website,
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=79&LANG=1&cmsid=351
Source: Social platform Weekly Mailing

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Crucial time to influence the NAPs/Inclusion!

The National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (NAPs/Inclusion) are nearing the final stage of consultation in many countries. The next few weeks represent the final chance for mental health and social services to have their vital role in promoting social inclusion recognised in this key policy document and so influence national political priorities and goals. This is therefore your final opportunity to make a concrete contribution, e.g. in the form of good practice examples or by drawing attention to a key issue such as mental health, which is often neglected in the NAPs/Inclusion.

Experience from organisations who have been involved in the NAPs has proved that the responsible government officials value participation from representatives of mental health and social services: they know that they can draw on your expertise to make sure that the NAP fully and accurately reflects the reality of social exclusion of people with mental health problems and action to combat it in your country.

The latest update on the preparation of the NAPs/Inclusion as well as a contact list of responsible officials can be found either on the website of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/naps_en.htm
or on the website of the European Social Network:
http://www.socialeurope.com/inclusion/enewsletter/june06.htm

World No Drugs Day 2006

On the occasion of the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Franco Frattini, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and Markos Kyprianou, Commissioner for Health and Consumer protection stressed the European Commission's commitment to international efforts to fight against drugs, support third countries through common projects and address the health dimension of drugs addiction. In the European Union (EU), over 8000 people, mainly young men in their 20s and 30s, die of a drugs overdose each year. Estimates for the total number of drugs-related deaths are thought to be as much as three times higher due to under-reporting of deaths and deaths indirectly linked to drug use due to AIDS, violence, accidents and suicide.

The EU response to these worrying trends is to develop sensible and effective European responses to reduce both demand and supply, using all means at its disposal.

EU assistance to third countries in the fight against drugs has almost doubled in the 3 last years, with a focus on Afghanistan and Latin America, where support is given to alternative development projects to reduce coca production in the Andean region.

In the two first years of the present EU Public Health Programme, over 4.1 million euros were spent directly on drugs related projects. Priority is given to projects dealing with harm reduction, joint prevention programmes and best practices in drug treatment and social reintegration.

In implementing the EU Drugs Strategy for the period 2005-2012 and the Action Plan for 2005-2008, it is crucial that drugs policy continues to benefit from the ideas and experience of the many civil society organisations active in field. In a Green Paper adopted on 26 June 2006, the European Commission proposes to formalise on a more permanent basis and to structure the dialogue between the EU and the wide range of organisations active in this field.

The deadline for contribution is the **30 September 2006**.

The Green Paper is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_public_en.htm
For more information: the European commission's website,
http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/839&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr and
http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/840&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr
Source: European Commission Rapid Press Release

DG Employment and Social Affairs

Key issues about the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

2007 has been designate by the European Institutions as the "*European Year of Equal Opportunities for All*". It aims to make European aware of their right not to be discriminated against, to promote equal opportunities in areas from work to healthcare, and to show how diversity makes the EU stronger.

The key issues to know about the Year are:

- the main objective is to raise awareness, therefore education and information activities will be the most important ones in the framework of the Year;
- special attention will be paid to raising awareness of the media (through spreading the notion that the media is more than just a news channel, that it in itself is capable of forming views and transmitting them to the public);
- the Year does not include capacity-building of the civil society;
- no projects will be managed by the European Commission (EC) itself – the Commission will, however, play a role in promoting national projects and showing good practices;
- exchange of real-life stories (both positive and negative) will be an important tool of bringing the message of the year across – you will at later stage be asked to provide examples of real-life stories;
- multiple discrimination will be one of the main focuses of the Year: you are encouraged to consider this issue on the national level in your workings with the National Implementation Bodies;
- in order to better understand the objective of the Year and the tools we have at our disposal, the EC produced a Power Point presentation – feel free to use it, provided the mention of the source.

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All will offer very useful activities, where it is crucial for the mental health community to be involved.

MHE strongly encourages its members to participate and to organise events under this European Year.

For more information on the year: the Commission's website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm

Source: EDF Weekly Flash

Combating discrimination: an introduction

A new brochure launched under the "*For Diversity. Against Discrimination*" information campaign aims to provide a useful and accessible introduction to EU laws and activities to tackle discrimination.

Seeking to answer people's most frequently asked questions, the brochure has been thoroughly updated and includes a foreword from the European Commissioner responsible for Equal Opportunities.

Aimed at the public as a whole, the brochure is available in all 20 official EU languages to download or to order in paper copy from stop-discrimination@media-consulta.com

To download the document: the Commission's website,
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/flyer06_en.pdf

DG Health and Consumer Protection

New documents on the website of DG Health and Consumer Protection

The website of Directorate General (DG) Health and Consumer Protection has been updated and visitors can presently find:

- Working documents and contributions to the Green Paper on Mental Health consultation - Third thematic meeting, "*Information, data and knowledge in mental health*", which took place in Luxembourg on 18-19 May 2006.
  To directly access the documents:
  http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/ev_20060518_en.htm
- Remarks made by Director-General Health and Consumer Protection Robert Madelin, "*The Commission's Green Paper on Mental Health*", on occasion of a hearing on the Commission's Green Paper on Mental Health with the European People's Party -

European Democrat Group (EPP – ED) of the European Parliament on 8 June 2006 in Brussels (Belgium).
To directly access the document:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/docs/ev_20060608_speech_en.pdf

VIII.EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

More action needed on mental health

The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety unanimously adopted the report on mental health by John Bowis (Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats, United Kingdom) on 13 July. The amendments adopted notably emphasise the links between mental illness and gender, the status of those affected in society and the situation facing children whose parents suffer from mental illness. The draft report also takes account of people with learning difficulties.
"*Mental illness represents the most rapidly growing burden for health services",* according to the report, which identifies depression as the most frequent ailment. Worldwide, 450 million individuals suffer from neurological complaints which lead a million people to commit suicide each year and 10 million to attempt to do so. Neuro-psychiatric complaints are responsible for a third of disablements, 15% of hospital costs almost a quarter of medicine costs. In the UK, more than 90 million working days are thus lost each year.
MEPs highlight five shortcomings in mental health care in the EU: inadequate services, a failure to listen to service users, the low level of collaboration between bodies, a lack of resources and the absence of specific policies on mental health in the majority of countries. MEPs urge Member States to take action in the context of the Green Paper on mental health adopted by the Commission in November 2005, and to invest more in appropriate services such as secure establishments, the treatment of serious mental illness, long-term treatment, and care in the community and at home. The resolution will be tabled before the assembly's September plenary session.
To download John Bowis' report: http://www.emhf.org/resource_images/EPmentalbowis.pdf
Source: Europolitics

A "European Agora" on the way

After several months of negotiations, the Bureau and the Conference of Presidents of Political Groups of the European Parliament (EP) has just given the go-ahead to the project by Gérard Onesta, the French Green Member of European Parliament and Vice-President of the EP, to create a "*European agora*", an instrument for debate and putting forward proposals within European civil society, and a concrete example of "*participative democracy*".
The Agora will deal with matters of great European moment (the Conference of Presidents will decide on the topics for each year) and will bring representatives of civil society affected by the issues in question together in Brussels and Strasbourg for two days to debate in plenary session and work in smaller groups. The timetable will be decided in relation to the European Parliament's agenda so that EP debates can be informed by citizens' debates, says a press release. Organisations invited to take part will be accredited by the appropriate EP committees.
For more information: Gérard Onesta's website (in French), www.onesta.net
Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing

Parliament strengthens its control over the Commission

At the beginning of July, the European Parliament endorsed, by an overwhelming majority, the compromise reached with representatives of the Commission and the Council on the so-called "*comitology procedure*".
The EU legislator - when the co-decision procedure is used, this means the Parliament and the Council - often delegates powers to Commission to adopt the detailed measures needed to implement legislation. The comitology system enables the Council to scrutinise the work of the Commission and, in most important cases, to block its decisions. The comitology procedures have been criticised since their introduction, mainly because Parliament does not enjoy the

same rights as the Council, despite its role as co-legislator. At present, the Commission, when exercising these delegated implementing powers, can proceed with decisions, even if the Parliament opposes them.
The new agreement allows Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), for the first time, to block implementing decisions taken by the Commission. Parliament and Council are now put on equal footing for all comitology procedures related to co-decision acts
On top of that, Parliament will be informed of these decisions in all official languages and the new agreement extends the time available for Parliamentary scrutiny.
According to rapporteur Richard Corbett (Party of the European Socialists - PES, UK), the new compromise improves "*accountability and transparency of the whole Community system.*"
The agreement and the associated Joint Declaration must be ratified by all three institutions to come into force. The Commission formally approved the texts on 22 June.
For more information: the European Parliament's website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-9495-186-07-27-901-20060629IPR09380-05-07-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm
Source: European Parliament Press Release

IX. EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

First European Court of Justice judgment on the concept of "disability"

The European Court of Justice ruled for the first time on the concept of "*disability*" for the purpose of the directive on equal treatment in employment and occupation in the case "*Sonia Chacón Navas v. Eurest Colectividades SA*" (11 July 2006).
First, the Court holds that the framework laid down by the directive for combating discrimination on the grounds of disability applies to dismissals.
The concept of **"disability"** for the purpose of the directive must be understood as **a limitation, which results in particular from physical, mental or psychological impairments and which hinders the participation of the person concerned in professional life.**
However, by using the concept of "*disability*" in the directive, the legislature deliberately chose a term, which differs from "*sickness*". The two concepts cannot therefore simply be treated as being the same.
The Court finds that the importance that the Community legislature attaches to measures for adapting the workplace to the disability demonstrates that it envisaged situations in which participation in professional life is hindered over a long period. In order for a limitation to fall within the concept of "disability", it must therefore be probable that it will last for a long time.
There is nothing in the directive to suggest that workers are protected by the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of disability as soon as they develop any type of sickness.
Thus, a person who has been dismissed by his employer solely because of sickness does not fall within the general framework laid down by the directive for combating discrimination on grounds of disability.
Next, so far as the protection of disabled persons regarding dismissal is concerned, the Court holds that the directive precludes dismissal on grounds of disability which, in the light of the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities, is not justified by the fact that the person concerned is not competent, capable and available to perform the essential functions of his post.
Finally, the Court held that sickness cannot as such be regarded as a ground in addition to those in relation to which directive prohibits discrimination.
To access the full text of the judgment: the Court of Justice's internet website,
http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=rechercher&numaff=C-13/05

X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

All Different, All Equal Campaign

The "*All Different, All Equal*" campaign for diversity, participation and human rights has been officially launched in Strasbourg on the 29 June. The public launch with balloons, drummers and music took place on the forecourt of the Palais. In the evening, a cultural programme was

offered. During the launching event, meetings of the European Steering group and the National Campaign Committees took place.
From 1 to 8 July 2006, forty young Albanians, Serbs from Kosovo, Israelis and Palestinians between the ages of 18 and 22 met at "*Europa Park*" (Rust, Germany) for the third peace camp jointly organised by the theme park and the 46 nation Council of Europe. The camp – the third of a series –aims to bring youngsters from troubled areas together to learn how to gradually break down prejudices and stereotypes. They are designed to heighten young people's awareness of cultural and social differences and similarities at a time when conflicts are never out of the headlines and to encourage them towards dialogue.
For further information: the Council of Europe's website, www.coe.int or the campaign's dedicated website, http://alldifferent-allequal.info
Source: Eurochild e-News Bulletin

XI. UNITED NATIONS

E-accessibility to be theme for International Day of Disabled Persons 2006

Improving access to new information technology for persons with disabilities will be the focus of this year's International Day of Disabled Persons, the United Nations announced on 26 July.
The Day, which is marked on 3 December, seeks to promote the integration of people with disabilities into society.
Although access to information and communication technology (ICT) has created opportunities for everyone, these advances have been particularly meaningful for persons with disabilities, allowing them to overcome the societal barriers of prejudice, infrastructure and inaccessible formats that stand in the way of participation.
But, many persons with disabilities remain unable to take full advantage of the Internet, because most websites are inaccessible to the blind and visually impaired, heavily dependent on using the mouse, and because training is often conducted in inaccessible formats and venues. Most persons with disabilities do not have access to new information technology at all.
Several places already have legislation and regulations requiring websites to be fully accessible. Global standards and guidelines on website accessibility are being developed. Once adopted and ratified, the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will require that persons with disabilities can access information technology. It specifies that certain measures should be introduced to eliminate obstacles and barriers to information and communication, and to promote access for persons with disabilities to ICT, including the Internet.
For further information: contact person, Edoardo Bellando, bellando@un.org, or the UN website, http://www.un.org/

XII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Support WHO strategy to establish independent visiting boards in developing countries

One important WHO (World Health Organization) strategy to promote and protect the rights of people with mental disorders is the establishment of independent visiting boards in developing countries to conduct regular inspections of mental health facilities.
The importance of this type of monitoring mechanism is such that WHO recommends countries include provisions for the establishment of independent visiting boards in their mental health laws. Yet despite their importance, few countries have set up such bodies. In order to address this problem, WHO plans to support developing countries in establishing independent visiting boards for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of human rights standards and conditions in mental health facilities.
WHO's immediate objective is to establish, before the end of 2007, independent visiting boards in 4 developing countries - where the need is greatest - with broad representation from the medical, human rights, mental health service user and other relevant communities, and with a clear mandate for monitoring and evaluation.
WHO is now seeking voluntary resources amounting to 580,400 US$ to support this strategy.
MHE strongly supports this initiative.
For more information, please contact:

- *Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus, Tel +41.22.791.2999, E-mail legalescamusc@who.int,*
- *or Dr Benedetto Saraceno, Tel +41.22.791.3634, E-mail saracenob@who.int,*

or consult WHO website, *www.who.int/nmh*

Mental Health and Psychosocial Well–Being among Children in Severe Food Shortage Situations

Food shortages are high-risk situations for children's physical, social and mental development. A strong maternal-infant bond of psycho-social stimulation is essential for positive child development, and micronutrient deficiencies can inhibit intellectual and physical development.
The WHO department of Mental health and substance abuse (MSD), in cooperation with the departments of Health Crisis in Action (HAC), Child and adolescent health (CAH) and Nutrition for development (NHD), has developed a guidebook examining the problem and providing concrete prevention interventions for caregivers, health and nutrition providers.
To download the publication: http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/msd_MHChildFSS9.pdf
For more information: WHO website, http://www.who.int/mental_health/en

Nomination of the lead Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Research

The World Health Organisation (WHO) European office has nominated Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) as the lead Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Research in the WHO European region. This area stretches from Iceland to Russia and includes 52 countries.
The new centre will include more than 20 WHO Collaborating Centres within the European region and the IoP, represented by Professor Graham Thornicroft, will be working closely with them to strengthen collaboration among members of this network and bring real benefits to mental health service users.
A WHO collaborating centre is an institution designated by the Director-General of WHO to form part of an international collaborative network carrying out activities in support of the Organization's programme at all levels.
For more information: IoP website, http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/, or WHO website, http://whqlily.who.int/

XIII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Mental Health Initiative launches its new website

Mental Health Initiative's (MHI) website is unique in the field of mental disability. In addition to highlighting best practices in community-based care, the site includes a comprehensive Resource Directory that provides information on a variety of topics related to mental health, intellectual disability and human rights. The Resource Directory is an innovative information clearinghouse intended for a wide-ranging audience including civil society organisations and policy-makers.
The Resource Directory highlights deinstitutionalisation and community living.
As the website continues to grow and develop, the Resource Directory will expand to include additional information on related topics.
For more information: visit the website at www.osmhi.org
Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

A revamped European Health Insurance Card website

Launched exactly 2 years ago on 1st June, the Card makes it easier to obtain medical treatment while staying temporarily in another Member State. Treatment is provided in accordance with the rules of the Member State being visited, and costs are reimbursed in line with the tariffs applied in that Member State.
Specific features of the new website include:

- a "*what you need to know before you go*" section for people planning their holidays;
- two updated "*Frequently asked questions*" sections, the first with answers to the individuals' questions, the second with answers to healthcare providers;
- fully detailed information for specialists, be it legal or historical, on the European Health Insurance Card.

The website also features all the cards delivered throughout Europe.

To directly access the website:
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/healthcard/index_en.htm
Source: ESmail

World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review

The World Cultural Psychiatry Research Review (WCPRR) is the official online journal of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry (WACP).
The main goal of the WCPRR is to:

- review published and unpublished scientific articles relating to cultural psychiatry so that the members can have access to the outcome of studies carried out in different geographic regions and cultural backgrounds worldwide;
- publish original papers related to clinical and research activities in the field of cultural psychiatry.

One of the aims of the WCPRR is to provide the opportunity to colleagues at a disadvantage, in terms of language and other factors, to be enabled to publish their culturally relevant psychiatry-related studies as academically recognised articles, and, at the same time, enabling the members of the WACP, through WCPRR, to access valuable information from diverse cultural backgrounds and to promote the development of cultural psychiatry knowledge worldwide.
Please send your manuscripts to the WCPRR-Managing Editor at:
wcprr-managing-editor@waculturalpsy.org
To directly access the online WCPRR: http://www.wcprr.org/
For more information: WACP website, http://www.waculturalpsychiatry.org/index.htm

Graz Declaration

On 8 and 9 June the "*Ageing and Disability*" conference was organised under the Austrian Presidency of the European Union in Graz (Austria). The main aim of the conference was to bring together the different stakeholders in the field (both the disability and the ageing sector) in order to agree on this common text.
The Graz Declaration is available on the website of the conference: www.ageing-and-disability.com

XIV. PUBLICATIONS

Annual report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU in 2005

"*Despite some positive steps to improve fundamental rights in the European Union, Member States still have a long way to go to become the model for other countries*". That is the conclusion of the report drawn up by the Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights and discussed in the European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee on 19 June. The EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights was set up by the European Commission upon the request of Parliament in 2002.
As an example of bad practice, the report strongly criticises the segregation of Roma students in some Member States. In many cases they are falsely placed into special classes or institutions for children with mental disabilities. On the other hand, the report also talks about the positive developments: some Member States have gone beyond the minimum requirements of EU legislation and adopted their own national strategies to combat discrimination.
To download the report:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/cfr_cdf/doc/report_eu_2005_en.pdf
For more information: the European Commission's website,
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/cfr_cdf/doc/report_eu_2005_en.pdf
Source: EAPN Flash

EMHF report on the mental wellbeing of men

In a report released during this year Men's Health Week (June 2006), "*Mind your Head*," the European Men's Health Forum (EMHF) presents the particular challenges many men face with

their mental wellbeing. The report underlines that while women may have more formal diagnoses of mental health problems than men, that does not mean men are not struggling.
Even if centered on the British situation, the document presents a picture that is predominant in many European countries, and makes policy recommendations that can easily be adapted to other national contexts.
For more information and to download the full report: the EMHF website,
http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/userpage1.cfm?item_id=1962

Landmark EU report shows the full burden of alcohol in Europe

A report analysing the health, social and economic impact of alcohol in Europe, has been released on 1 June by the European Commission, setting out the scientific evidence that will inform the Commission's first-ever strategy on alcohol due out later this year.
The report points at Europe as the heaviest drinking region of the world and shows that the styles and levels of drinking throughout Europe are much more similar than commonly believed.
According to the report, alcohol is one of the major public health problems in Europe.
The report underlines that education and public awareness campaigns are simply not good enough on their own in reducing the harm done by alcohol. In contrast, the report stresses that we need to be tough on drink driving, and make sure that alcohol is not too cheap or easily marketed, supported by widespread campaigns if we are going to make a difference in reducing alcohol's toll on Europe.
To download the report: the European Commission's Health Portal,
http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news_alcoholineurope_en.htm
Source: Eurocare press release

Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life

"*Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life*" draws on the views of nearly 900 older people and highlights discrimination, participation, relationships, physical health and poverty as key factors impacting on mental health and well-being in later life.
It is often assumed that mental health problems are an inevitable part of growing older. This is not the case. There is much we can do to promote good mental health and well-being in later life. This document shows us what can be done.
The report makes recommendations to national and local government, voluntary organisations, community groups, businesses, the media and others. Action is needed at the local and community levels. Local government has a key role to play.
The report is freely available at http://www.mhilli.org/
Dans ce numéro vous trouverez un article sur « *La pertinence du Livre Vert sur la Santé Mentale pour les personnes sans-abri - The relevance of the Green Paper on Mental Health for people who are homeless* », qui a été rédigé par Josée Van Remoortel, conseillère politique de SME.

Summer 2006 edition of the FEANTSA magazine The "EU matters: the impact of Europe on the fight against homelessness and housing exclusion"

The aim of this edition of FEANTSA's (the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless) magazine "*Homeless in Europe*" is to present examples of EU policy measures and to explain their impact, whether positive or negative, on the scope and nature of housing exclusion and homelessness. The articles will demonstrate that - despite its limited legal competencies - the EU plays an important role in the fight against homelessness and housing exclusion.
In this issue you will find an article on "*The relevance of the Green Paper on Mental Health for people who are homeless*", written by Josée Van remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Officer.
To access directly the summer edition of the magazine of FEANTSA:
http://www.feantsa.org/files/Month%20Publications/EN/Summer_2006_FEANTSA_magazine_EU_matters.pdf

XV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

18-24 September 2006
«Voile en tête 2006», between Marseille, La Ciotat, Les îles du Frioul, Martigues, Les Calanques… (France)
"*Voile en tête*" is a water sporting event of European standing, organised under the aegis of "Sport en tête", the Union of Mental Health Sport group.
If interested, application forms are available.
For more information: http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06_gb.html

1st October 2006
European Symposium "Improving the Lives of Young People with Intellectual Disabilities in the areas of Health, Social Inclusion and Sport", in conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games (Rome, Italy)
In conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games – Rome 2006, a European Symposium is being organized to present and discuss the key issues facing young people with intellectual disabilities in the areas of health, social inclusion (with an emphasis on inclusive education) as well as sport and physical education.
For information about the symposium, including registration: contact person, Michel Deurinck, Tel. +32 2 538 80 68, E-mail MDeurinck@specialolympics.org, or see the Special Olympics Games website, http://www.specialolympicseyg.org/indexeyg.php

4-7 October 2006
9th European Health Forum, Gastein (Austria)
The 2006 Gastein Forum, "*Creating a better future for health in Europe*", will be held under the general theme "*Health without barriers*". In various fields, challenges will be assessed and potential solutions developed in discussion with delegates.
In addition to following the traditional Gastein approach of engaging a broad range of stakeholders, a particular focus will be given to involving and serving citizens in Europe.
For registration and for more information: the Health Forum's website,
http://www.ehfg.org/typo3/index.php?id=69&L=2

NEW!! 4-8 October 2006
International Symposium for the History of Psychoanalysis, Athens (Greece)
The theme of this symposium will be: "*History and Function of Myth in Psychoanalysis: Relations between mythology, tragedy and clinical practice*". The papers to be presented will focus on the common ground that exists between the daily clinical work and the ancient Greek myths, or on themes found in ancient Greek tragedy.
The International Symposium has the ambition to provide a space for dialogue and exchange of ideas in the above areas.
For more information: the organizing committee, Tel +30 210 922 1739, E-mail ekpsath@otenet.gr, or seethe symposium-dedicated website, http://www.myth-psaathens2006.gr/index.html

5-7 October 2006
9th Conference on Drugs and Infection Prevention in Prison, "From the Principle of Equivalence to the Practice of Care: Bridging the Gap" (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
This year's conference is structured to provide opportunities for dialogue on the development and implementation of effective drug prevention and health promotion policies and services for those who come in contact with the criminal justice system.
Participants will include practitioners, policy makers, prison managers, researchers and academics, lawyers, judges, police, NGOs and representatives of service users' organisations.
For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +48 (0) 22 640 82 71, E-mail info@endipp.net, or see the conference's website
http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55

NEW!! 6-7 October 2006
European Conference in the framework of the project *"Mainstreaming Mental Disability Policies"*, Brussels (Belgium)

Inclusion Europe, The Open Society Mental Health Initiative and the Global Initiative on Psychiatry are organising a conference in the field of mainstreaming, intellectual disabilities and mental health problems.
The term "*mainstreaming*" describes the process of ensuring that all policies and measures of governments and other decision-makers take account of and are responsive to the needs of all citizens.
The conference will present the findings of the project "*Mainstreaming Mental Disability Policies*" and will seek answers to the questions that are arising in this respect.
For more information and registration: the Inclusion Europe website, www.inclusion-europe.org, or send an E-mail at secretariat@inclusion-europe.org

11-13 October 2006
Fourth World Conference on the promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, "Developing Resilience and Strength across the Life Span", Oslo (Norway)
The aim of this conference is to support professionals, scientists, advocates, user organisations and policy makers worldwide, in their collective effort to promote mental health and to prevent mental disorders in their communities and countries. The conference is designed to incorporate contributions from a wide series of disciplines, cultures and backgrounds. Its success depends upon multi-dimensional presentation and debate.
For more information: http://www.worldconference2006.no/

NEW!! 12-13 October 2006
FEANTSA conference on ensuring access to health for homeless people, Warsaw (Poland)
FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless organises a conference entitled "*The right to health is a human right: ensuring access to health for homeless people".*
The conference aims to point out the difficulties and issues with which homeless people are faced - ranging from the type of health problems faced by homeless people and the issue of complex and multiple needs; barriers to care faced by homeless people and finding solutions to overcome them; policy solutions to tackle the health needs of homeless people; and the right to health for homeless people.
The conference will feature 5 workshops: Ensuring access to health for homeless people, Mental Health and Dual Diagnosis, The Right to Health, Information and Training for Health and Health Promotion.
To register: send an E-mail at christine.lambert@feantsa.org
For more information: FEANTSA's website, http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/hp.asp

12-15 October 2006
WARP IX World Congress of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Athens (Greece)
WAPR (World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation) was established in 1986 in Lyon from a group of inspired mental health experts of the international psychosocial rehabilitation community and soon expanded. Today there are over 40 Branches in 40 countries. The main goals of WAPR are the promotion of rehabilitation services and staff training in Africa, Asia, Europe, America and the Pacific region through regional seminars and conferences as well as the improvement of the quality of life of individuals and families suffering from mental disorders throughout the world.
The main theme of the conference is the globalisation phenomena and its impact on the implementation of rehabilitation programs in the various geopolitical areas of the planet.
For more information: the WARP website, http://www.wapr.2006athens.gr/en/

NEW!! 16-20 October 2006
Forensic Mental Health Lectures, Kings College London (United Kingdom)
The Forensic Mental Health Teaching Unit / Department of Forensic Mental Health Science at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, is organising a series of lectures by guest speaker Professor Christopher Patrick, University of Minnesota (USA).
These lectures will be dedicated to:

- antisocial and addictive behaviours;

- processes underlying aggression and related impulse control problems
- psychopathy in criminals and non-criminals;
- implications for treatment of recent findings on the neurobiology of psychopathy and externalizing disorders.

For more information: contact person, Dinah Konadu, Tel +44 20 7848 0123 E-mail, dinah.konadu@iop.kcl.ac.uk

18-20 October 2006
CEES-ENA International Colloquium, "The right to employment of disabled workers in Europe: Some worthy examples for the public services?", Strasbourg (France)
The colloquium, organised by the CEES-ENA(Centre des Etudes Européennes de Strasbourg – Ecole Nationale d'Administration), will gather national and international experts coming from the research field and administrative practice as well as from the civil society.
The objectives of the colloquium are information and exchange of innovative practices but also the creation of new inter-administration and multidisciplinary networks aiming at harmonising the efforts in this field and at thinking about an approach that would target the challenges of a society evolving with diversity.
For more information: contact person, Agnès Bucaille-Euler, Tel +33 3 88 21 45 31, Fax +33 3 88 21 45 41, or visit the CEES website, http://www.cees-europe.fr/fr/formations/agenda.php#handicap

18-21 October 2006
7th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, "Globalisation and Equity: Consequences for Health Promotion Policies and Practices" (Budapest, Hungary)
This conference will focus on different aspects of globalisation and of inequalities in health. A major goal of the conference is to provide a platform for review, analysis and discussion of tackling health inequalities at the global and community levels to key players in health promotion and health education from across Europe. Over the course of four days, participants and attendees will have the chance to share information about health promotion policy issues, on-going research, existing evidence and practical experience.
For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +36 1 311 66 87, E-mail congress@motesz.hu, or see the conference website www.motesz.hu

19-20 October 2006
3rd Three-Country Convention Care in Psychiatry – "Wissen schafft Pflege – Pflege schafft Wissen: Psychiatrische Pflege als Praxis und Wissenschaft", Vienna (Austria)
The aim of this convention is to impart and promote current knowledge with regard to psychiatric healthcare and nursing: contributions on the application of theory and research, on research about problems in practice and interventions, innovative practices and other contributions.
You are welcome to send abstracts for own contributions and to register for this event.
Contact person: Nico Oud, nico.oud@freeler.nl, Tel +31 (0)20 409 0368
For further information: the conference website,
http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/dreilander/index.html?1140446978484

19-21 October 2006
19th CEFEC Conference, "The social economy and employment of people with mental health problems", Sevilla (Spain)
Each year the CEFEC (Confederation of European Social Firms) conference is organised by a different European city. This year it is organised in Seville, in cooperation with FAISEM (Andalusian Foundation for the Social Integration of the Mentally Ill). The conference brings together employees (users of mental health services), members, mental health professionals and managers to exchange views and practices on social issues, the promotion of community awareness, the employment of people with psychosocial problems, and the organisation, management and financial issues of Social Firms and social co-operatives.
Its programme includes housing, occupational and recreational facilities and employment initiatives: vocational orientation and training, Social Firms and supported employment programmes.

For more information: CEFEC website, www.cefec.org and FAISEM website, www.faisem.es

22-25 October 2006
ISQua's 23rd International Conference, "Improving Healthcare: The Challenge of Continuous Change" (London, UK)
With the theme of "*Improving Healthcare: the Challenge of Continuous Change*", this multi-disciplinary quality healthcare program will be of value to all health policy makers, planners, professionals, providers, patients and their representatives.
Enqurries only by e-mail: isqua@isqua.org , Tel +61 3 9417 6971, Fax +61 3 9417 6851
For further information: ISQua's website: www.isqua.org

NEW!! 27-28 October 2006
Inclusion Europe's Conference, "Fighting for our Rights!", Brussels (Belgium)
The conference, entitled "*Fighting for our Rights! The use of anti-discrimination laws to protect people with intellectual disabilities*", will be a unique opportunity to discuss in depth disability-based discrimination with the partners who have worked in their country to promote the non-discrimination legislation, and can report about real cases of discrimination.
Participants will debate on the following issues:

- achievement of non-discrimination policy at European level, including case law regarding disability- based discrimination;
- cases of discrimination in employment and occupation in concrete terms;
- challenges, policy orientations and lobbying strategies for the following years in order to complete and achieve a comprehensive legislation and good practices against discrimination.

For more information: Inclusion Europe's website, www.inclusion-europe.org.

NEW!! 2-5 November 2006
EAEA's Seminars on citizenship education, Florence (Italy)
In this series of two seminars, organized on the theme "*Citizenship Education: A Bridge to European Citizenship?*", the European association for Education of Adults (EAEA) plans to tackle the issue of European Citizenship as a possible bridge to increased European understanding among the people of Europe (Course 1) and ask, whether citizenship education can be a means to further this understanding (Course 2).
For more information: contact person, Ellinor Haase, E-mail: eaea-main@eaea.org, or see the EAEA website, www.eaea.org

NEW!! 7-9 November 2006
2nd belgo-senegalese conference on mental health, *"Désarrois et Constructions – Les intervenants face aux nouveaux contextes" ("Helplessness and Building – Players facing new backgrounds")*, Dakar (Senegal)
In Africa as in Europe, ways of life are changing. Economic constraints, social contingencies and new emerging cultural references are giving rise to these changes, which act on the people's physical and mental health, especially on the most vulnerable.
This second belgo-senegalese meeting will be an opportunity to discuss these phenomena with sociologists and anthropologists. It will also be an occasion to highlight some innovative and inventive projects of care made up by practitioners.
Five workshops will be organised on the themes: "*Expression of pain and new frameworks of intervention", "Coercion and institutional incoherencies: impact on professionals and recipients", "New cultural references and changes of the social link", "Family and couple's alterations*" and "*Migrations and breakings*".
For more information: the conference's secretariat, Tel +32.2.511.55.43, E-mail emessens@skynet.be

NEW!! 7-10 November 2006
XIV World Congress of Inclusion International, *"Inclusion for All", Acapulco* (Mexico)
The goal of the congress is to add voices to the growing global movement demanding changes to social, economic and political conditions which create inequity and social exclusion.

It will be an occasion to:

- exchange experiences, knowledge and visions among people from all over the world to promote inclusion;
- strengthen the capacity of families and family organizations to impact on decisiosn made by governments and multilateral agencies;
- strengthen the voices of people with intellectual disabilities and improve the visibility of their issues locally, regionally and globally;
- build a global plan of action to promote inclusion and address poverty and exclusion and a strategy for implementing the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

For more information: the congress' website, http://www.inclusion-mexico.org.mx/english/index.htm

NEW !! 10 November 2006
Colloquium of the ASBL L'Autre « lieu » - RAPA, Brussels (Belgium)

To celebrate its 25th birthday, the ASBL L'Autre « lieu » - RAPA is organising a colloquium around the question: "*What are psychiatry and mental health in a context of globalization and bio-politics?*".

Debates and workshops will take place, with participants such as Mario Collucci (psychiatrist, Trieste Department of Mental Health, - Italy), Pierangelo Di Vittorio (philosopher, University of Bari - Italy), Patrick Coupechoux (journalist, Le Monde Diplomatique), as well as other people coming from various backgrounds.

For more information: contact persons, Yves-Luc Conreur, yvesluc.autrelieu@tiscali.be, or Laurence Mons, laurence@autrelieu.be, or the L'autre « lieu » - RAPA's website, http://www.autrelieu.be/

18-21 November 2006
SMES-EUROPA 10th Conference, "After 15 years…", Rome (Italy)

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

Today discrimination and stigmatisation, marginalization and poverty touch more and more people; extreme exclusion makes more and more victims… Why?

From 1992 to now on all the efforts against exclusion and discrimination, in order to promote citizenship do not have given the expected results. Why?

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-EUROPA.htm

NEW!! 26-28 November 2006
6th International Conference "Public benefit for the Disabled", Cracow (Poland)

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

Debates will proceed about oncoming matters:

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

There will be also an artistic show of disabled children and youth, and an exhibition of artworks prepared by disabled children and youth in the frame of European Year of Equal Opportunities for All entitled: *"Inequality in my Imagination".*
For more information: the website of the Polish Association of Disabled People's website, www.pson.ip.krakow.pl

NEW!! 7-8 December 2006
EASPD 10th Anniversary Colloquium and Seminar on the Right to Education for All, Brussels (Belgium)
On 7 December, EASPD (the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) will celebrate 10 years of very fruitful networking between service providers and cooperation with stakeholders towards true equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high quality services. The anniversary-colloquium will be on social service provision for people with a disability in Europe.
On 8 December, EASPD organises a seminar on the right to education for all in order to examine the state of play of implementation of the Salamanca declaration (1994) and to discuss the proceedings with all stakeholders.
For more information: send an E-mail at info@easpd.be

16 February 2007
EAP-SFU European Symposium "PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY – PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences", Vienna (Austria)
The European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), in collaboration with the Sigmund Freud University (SFU), organises a European Symposium on the theme *"PSYCHIATRY - PSYCHOLOGY – PSYCHOTHERAPY: Similarities and Differences"* at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna.
The EAP represents 128 organisations from 41 European countries and more than 120.000 psychotherapists. Based on the *"Strasbourg Declaration on Psychotherapy of 1990"* the EAP represents high training standards for a scientifically based and stands for a free and independent practice of psychotherapy.
To register to the conference: send an E-mail at eap.headoffice@europsyche.org
For more information: EAP website, http://www.europsyche.org

NEW!! 17-21 March 2007
15th European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid (Spain)
This annual congress is organised by the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP).
The theme of the congress will be: *"European Psychiatry – Science and Art".*
The aim of the congress is to open new perspectives on the Science and Art of psychiatry and on issues related to treatment and patient care. The state-of-the-art lectures, plenary lectures and core symposia will provide a full update on the most important aspects of treatment in psychiatry and on the latest achievements in this field.
The congress also intends to comprehensively cover all various aspects of modern psychiatry and to favour meetings of psychiatrists with different backgrounds and orientations. This fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience aims at further developing a feeling of identity of European psychiatry.
Proposals for symposia, workshops, oral presentations and posters are welcome.
For more information: the congress website, http://www.kenes.com/aep2007/welcome.asp, or send an e-mail at aep2007@kenes.com.

31 May–2 June 2007
MHE conference 2007, "No Health without Mental Health: from slogan to reality", Vienna (Austria)
The MHE conference will focus on the outcomes of the consultation process of the European Commission's Green Paper "*Improving the Mental Health of the Population*" and the upcoming strategy for the next years.
The focus of the conference will be on the connection and the coherence between European policies and the impact they have on the mental health of the population.
Lectures, round-table discussions and workshops will give opportunity for sharing information and deepening knowledge but also for exchange of best practices.

Participants coming from all European countries will be encouraged to discuss the possibilities of implementing strategies on mental health throughout the whole life-span and to initiate cooperation between the different organisations and institutions working on mental health issues at the national and European level.
The social programme will include a reception at the Vienna Town Hall; an "Art Brut"-Exhibition; etc.
Additionally, MHE's annual General Assembly will take place at the end of the conference.
You can contribute by sending us your ideas for workshops you would be interested in.
The conference will be organised by the Austrian Federation of Mental Health – Pro Mente Austria - which is a national umbrella organisation and member of MHE-SME.
For further information please contact: office@promente-Wien.at or info@mhe-sme.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

Mental Health Europe is committed to:

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

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

First name: _____

Family name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation or organisation: _____

Date: _____

Account number: _____

Bank details: _____

Completed form to be returned to:

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