



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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NEWSLETTER N°12/2007 DECEMBER 2007

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

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Season's Greetings from Mental Health Europe

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We wish you all the best for 2008! Have a great holiday time...

I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Message from the MHE President

Dear Friends,

The approaching end of 2007 provides an opportunity for us to reflect upon our personal experience of the year but is also a point at which Mental Health Europe can celebrate its achievements in relation to the promotion of positive mental health and well-being.

2007 has been proclaimed as the European Year of Equal Opportunities. This was initiated in Berlin in January and concluded in Lisbon in November but the positive action to promote equality of opportunity will continue well beyond this year. The active participation of MHE in this vision can be seen as making a valuable contribution to the challenging, yet rewarding, process of raising awareness of the contribution that individuals, families, schools, the workplace and therapeutic environments can make to the promotion of positive mental health and well-being.

For the sixth time since the launch of the Lisbon Strategy, the European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion 2007 brought all concerned stakeholders together for two days, in Ponta Delgada (Azores). The core objective of this Round Table was to promote discussion on the positive effects of the concept of minimum social standards as a crucial element of strategies for overcoming poverty and exclusion, bearing in mind the need to adapt it to the realities of different vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities and mental ill health, and to the options of each country.

The vision of MHE was celebrated at its annual conference in Vienna in June at which we were delighted to join in partnership with ProMente Austria to explore the theme of *"No Health without Mental Health – from Slogan to Reality"*. The conference received positive support in both the local and national press and raised awareness amongst policy makers and politicians that mental health is the key indicator of economic, social and human progress.

MHE's Executive, Board, Staff and the Director Mary Van Dievel worked consistently in partnership to ensure that we are recognised as being an organisation with a vision which is at the centre of Europe's programme for mental health.

One of the most important developments of 2007 was the conclusion of the *"Good Practices Project for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems"*. Together with members from ten countries MHE has been privileged to visit pioneering examples of good practice in, for example, Scotland, Belgium, Slovakia and the Czech Republic and these provided valuable opportunities to celebrate and share the diversity of ways in which creative projects to develop positive mental health and well being are being developed.

At the November Conference in Warsaw I was delighted to be introduced to twelve examples of positive mental health practice in my old country – Poland. The inspiring work in Poland is also reflected in a wide range of projects throughout Europe and I am most grateful to all of you for making this Good Practices Project possible as it is mainly due to your hard work, dedication and perseverance that the Good Practices Project has been so successful.

I believe that at the heart of the European vision for mental health is the vibrant and vital contribution that such high quality local community based projects and initiatives make. It has been a pleasure to meet many people in 2007 who with their hearts and minds and their professional and personal commitment deliver excellent services in all parts of Europe.

MHE, at the invitation of John Bowis MEP, held a vibrant debate in the European Parliament in December exploring the theme *"Equal Chance, Equal Respect: Promoting Mental Well-Being in Employment"*. This event recognised that in the midst of economic growth and progress the experience of many European citizens is that of stress and mental ill-health, particularly related to the world of work.

We are all aware that global issues impact upon us at the local level and therefore we at MHE see ourselves as the focal NGO through which the issues from Europe and the wider world connect with your local communities wherever you are. Central to MHE's vision is the belief in the positive promotion of well being and we affirm that all people deserve to be treated with respect and to be afforded active inclusion socially, economically and politically in order to work towards social cohesion and respect for civil society.

The EU Commissioner Markos Kyprianou has recently announced plans for the establishment of the "Mental Health Pact" for Europe. MHE will watch vigilantly this development and we will continue to ensure by lobbying and campaigning that mental health promotion and well-being

are at the centre of future developments in all Member States.

I wish to thank all of you who support MHE, especially service users and their families, for your determined belief in the need to actively continue to work for improvements in the quality of life of those who are vulnerable and experience mental ill-health in their daily lives.

I would also like to thank all MHE Board Members, the Executive Committee, MHE Staff and the Director who so generously support us in moving towards our goals by giving their time, skills and energy in promoting positive mental health, human rights, equality and well-being in Europe.

We are all preparing for our 2008 MHE Conference in Aalborg, Denmark, titled "*Diversity in Mental Health and Well Being*", I do hope that you will be able to join us in Denmark and as the festive season approaches and the year 2007 comes to an end I wish **You All** a peaceful, healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

With kindness and respect,
Malgorzata Kmita
MHE President

MHE Work Programme 2008

Mental Health Europe is finalising negotiations with the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities' unit on social inclusion regarding its Work Plan 2008.

The MHE Work Plan fits in the European Commission's "*3-year partnership agreements concluded with EU-level networks active in the field of combating social exclusion and discrimination, promoting gender equality and promoting the integration of disabled people and representing Roma people*".

The MHE Work Plan for the year 2008 will have as its overall goal to develop and strengthen MHE's capacities and that of its member organisations, including people with mental health problems, who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, to inform and influence employment and social policy and processes at the local, national, regional and European level, with a view to better reflecting the needs of people with (a history of) mental health problems.

Under this overall goal, the main thematic emphasis will be given to the upcoming review of the renewed Lisbon Strategy and especially the preparation of the new National Strategies 2008-2011.

MHE member organisations will be actively involved in this Work Plan.

More information to follow in our January Newsletter.

Mental Health Europe and John Bowis MEP together for the promotion of mental well-being in employment

On 5 December 2007, Mental Health Europe (MHE) and John Bowis MEP (EPP-ED Group) hosted a lunch debate on "*Equal Chance, Equal Respect: Promoting Mental Health and Well-being in Employment*".

The debate focused on a key cross-cutting issue impacting on social and health policies in the EU, namely the mental well-being in employment. In Europe, one in five people at work suffers from a high level of stress at work, the second most common health symptom. Stressors at work increase the risk of anxiety, depression and burn out.

The debate emphasised how the provision of training and social support at work, and the development of empowerment can lead to improvements in competence, coping strategies, job satisfaction, work capacity and reduced stress.

Richard Wynne, Director of the Work Research Centre (Ireland) and expert partner in the ProMenPol research project, highlighted some well known workplace factors that can promote good mental health and the two main approaches to promoting mental health in the workplace. Wynne concluded his presentation by stressing the need to raise awareness of the possibilities of the workplace for mental health promotion, encourage the practice of mental health promotion at the workplace and provide support for workplaces wishing to undertake mental health promotion. He mentioned the contribution of the ProMenPol project to meeting this need.

Jürgen Scheftlein, Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection (DG Sanco), spoke about mentally healthy workplaces and DG Sanco's activities,

while Jorge Costa-David, Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, presented DG Employment's perspective.

The debate fed into the Lisbon strategy 2008-2010 and the EU Health Strategy 2008-2013. The Lisbon strategy for the economic and social renewal of Europe highlights the need for both more and better jobs, and for improved social inclusion and gender equality. The Commission's Health Strategy White Paper recognises that mental health problems are a major cause of work absenteeism and early retirement, thereby causing immense economic losses and social burdens.

The event was co-funded by the European Commission - DG Employment, Unit E2 Inclusion, Social Policy aspects of Migration, Streamlining of social Policies, in the frame of Mental Health Europe's Work Programme 2007 *"From Exclusion to Inclusion"*.

For more information: the MHE Secretariat, email info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

Mental Health Europe regrets the missed opportunity of a Mental Health Strategy for the European Union

On 6 December 2007, European Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou announced that the foreseen EU Mental Health Strategy has been replaced by plans for the establishment of a "Mental Health Pact". The first step in this process will be a high level Conference on Mental Health in June 2008. The conference is expected to involve Ministers of Health from Member States and high-level representatives from the health and other relevant sectors.

"We deeply regret that the European Union has failed to reach an agreement on the adoption of a common EU Mental Health Strategy", said Mary Van Dievel, Director of Mental Health Europe. *"While the Commission's new proposal aims to strengthen cooperation across policy fields and Member States, which is to be welcomed, it does not provide a solid basis for joint action in one of the key areas of competence of the Union, namely the promotion of mental health and well-being".*

Article 152 (ex Article 129) of the EC Treaty lays down that a high level of human health protection, including mental health, shall be ensured in all community policies. Mental Health Europe believes that, in line with the Treaty provision, the EU needs to develop a comprehensive strategy on promoting positive mental health and well-being for all, and to encourage better cooperation between Member States in order to address inequalities within and between countries.

At the same time, Mental Health Europe is aware that fundamental differences and gaps exist between individual Member States' mental health policies. A cooperation framework on mental health promotion is fundamental to ensure that these differences and gaps across the European Union are taken into account and effectively addressed.

Mental Health Europe calls upon the European Union and the Member States to ensure that the foreseen Mental Health Pact adopts a wide-ranging approach to promoting good mental health and well-being, and addresses the whole of the European population across all settings. An effective Mental Health Pact shall also support the implementation of appropriate measures and actions that go beyond the mere execution of a series of thematic conferences.

For more information: contact the MHE Secretariat, Email info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

Mental Health Economics European Network Symposium, 13 December 2007, Brussels

The Mental Health Economics European Network Symposium took place on Thursday 13 December 2007 in Brussels. The event, organised by Mental Health Europe together with the London School of Economics, aimed at presenting key findings and analysis from the phase II of the Mental Health Economics European Network (MHEEN II), a European project supported by the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection. More information on the symposium will be published in the MHE newsletter shortly.

To know more about the project, please visit the MHEENII website at www.mheen.org or contact Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, email mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

REMINDER: MHE conference "Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing. An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue"

The programme for the MHE conference to be held in Aalborg (Denmark), from 7-9 August 2007 was further discussed during a teleconference on 22 November.

The 2nd announcement with Call for contributions will be available in January and will be widely disseminated.

MHE members and other interested organisations and people are kindly invited to already now send in their proposals for the conference workshops!

For more information: the MHE Secretariat, E-mail info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

MHE representation at various meetings

On 5 December, Sogol Noorani took part in the European Commission conference "People with Disabilities: Active Players in the Internal Market" organised in Brussels on the occasion of the European Day of People with Disabilities 2007.

On 8 December, Fanny Muller participated in the CEDEP (Comité européen: droit, éthique et psychiatrie) General Assembly in Paris.

On 10-11 December, Peter Kinderman, President of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Human Rights, and Fanny Muller represented MHE at the FRA (European Union Fundamental Rights Agency) consultative meeting with civil society on the setting up of the Fundamental Rights Platform in Brussels.

On 13 December, John Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor, Mary Van Dievel, Mari Fresu and Olivia Merlet attended the Symposium of Mental Health Economics European Network – Phase II, which was organised in Brussels by the London School of Economics together with Mental Health Europe. (*read p.4*)

On 13-14 December, John Henderson, Mary Van Dievel, Mari Fresu and Sogol Noorani participated in a Mental Health Projects Summit which was organised in Brussels by the SUPPORT Project in cooperation with the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection.

On 18 December, Fanny Muller took part in a meeting of the Social Platform FRAND (Human Rights and Discrimination) working group in Brussels.

Corrigendum:

On 16-17 October, Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, and Sogol Noorani participated in the Sixth Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion in Ponta Delgada - São Miguel, Azores (Portugal). (*read p. 5-6*)

On 15-17 November, Josée Van Remoortel, MHE Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the EDF/CERMI conference on women and disability in Madrid (Spain).

II. REPORTS ON VARIOUS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

A Summary of the 6th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion: "Minimum Social Standards; a Strategy for Protection and Empowerment", 16-17 October 2007, Ponta Delgada - São Miguel, Azores (Portugal)

The opening speeches were presented by Carlos Cesar, President of the Azores Regional Government and Jose Antonio Viera da Silva, Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity, Portugal and they declared their full commitment to the importance of social cohesion and the eradication of poverty in Europe.

The conference included representatives from all EU countries, including people experiencing poverty from France and Portugal together with representatives of NGOs and policy makers. Mental Health Europe was represented at the conference by Sogol Noorani, Social Policy Officer, and Malgorzata Kmita, President.

The key themes and issues explored in the conference were:

- minimum social standards and active inclusion;
- child poverty and inter-generational transmission of poverty;
- disabilities, social inclusion and social protection;

- disadvantaged territories and local developments (examples from the Azores included a visit to Rabo de Peixe village, with visits to projects reflecting good practice in job creation, child care and local employment);
- social inclusion; migrants and minority ethnic groups in Europe;
- severity of poverty, present and future challenges for Europe.

A message from Vladimir Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities was presented on the first day of the conference, and its theme was the Eradication of Poverty in the European Union.

All the speakers acknowledged that poverty is the primary factor in the breakdown of Social Cohesion. In order to develop the European Social Model of which Social Cohesion is the defining feature of civil society, they affirmed the importance of social belonging, active citizenship and inclusion and the relationship and balance between rights and responsibilities for all members of society. However, the conference recognised that in order to work towards achieving this it is essential to address social exclusion and poverty. Strategies to promote active inclusion of citizens require policies and initiatives which address exclusion at the social, economic and political levels.

A central theme of the conference, therefore, was the recognition that current levels of poverty in the EU are unacceptable and that there is the need for further action to be undertaken to clearly identify and respond to barriers to social inclusion and active citizenship. The European Commission is currently preparing a communication on Active Inclusion. According to the Social Agenda 2005–2010 the Commission has announced a proposal for designating 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The EU Council reaffirmed that addressing child poverty is a priority issue for the European Social Inclusion Policy.

Member States supported the declaration to reduce the number of children in poverty by giving children better equal opportunities regardless of their socio-economic background. Specific barriers to social inclusion were identified as being, for example, lone parents, children with disabilities, children from minority ethnic communities and children of undocumented migrants must be addressed by all 27 countries.

MHE's Position Paper exploring Mental Health and Well-Being was distributed during the event and MHE delegates shared the view that Mental Health and Well Being must be at the centre of addressing poverty and social exclusion.

MHE delegates together with other NGOs representatives joined voices in emphasising:

- addressing and developing social cohesion must be at the centre of development and planning for the European Community;
- the complexities of poverty and exclusion call for integrated, multi-sectorial approaches with focus on protection and empowerment;
- Mental Health and Well Being are the key measure and indicators of social inclusion and cohesion;
- All member States have to address gender perspectives as men and women face different challenges concerning social inclusion and well being;
- Each Member state has different challenges to address but economic and social priorities must go together, inclusion alone is not a sufficient exit door to poverty as work related poverty is still a significant problem in many EU countries;
- In some European countries individuals with chronic illness or disability do not have any access to income support and social inclusion; this has to be addressed as a priority as it often applies to people with mental health needs.

Throughout the summit Mental Health Europe consistently expressed the view that mental health and well-being should be at the centre of all policies and initiatives to create social inclusion. Active promotion of mental health and well-being for all European Citizens is not only a challenge but a duty of all Governments in creating a civil and democratic Society.

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

For more information: the Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/events_en.htm

III. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2007

Austria - "Mental Health in a Changing World": Event organised on 10 October 2007 by Club alpha in cooperation with pro mente Wien on the occasion of WMHD

2007 is the "European Year of Equal Opportunities" and 2008 is going to be devoted to the "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue". Against this background Club alpha decided to tackle this issue together with pro mente Wien.

Mental health concerns everybody as there can be no health, no well-being and no satisfactory cooperation without mental health. Nevertheless, there is a big gap between those who are "healthy" and those who are "ill". But what about equal opportunities? Do people who are in need of mental health services have the opportunity to live their daily lives as equal citizens?

If this is the case, how does this apply in practice? If it is not the case what do we need to change? Is there sufficient dialogue between all relevant stakeholders? These and many more questions were debated at this discussion event on the occasion of World Mental Health Day together with experts from Club alpha and pro mente Wien.

For more information: contact the pro mente Austria Secretariat, Email office@promenteaustria.at, Tel +43 732 785 397

Switzerland – "Qu'est-ce qu'elle a ma mine?" (What's up with my mood?), campaign organised by Coraasp on the occasion of World Mental Health Day

On 10 October, the member organisations of Coraasp (Coordination romande des associations d'action pour la santé psychique) participated in the activities around World Mental Health Day, promoted since 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).

The campaign with the slogan "Qu'est-ce qu'elle a ma mine?" (What's up with my mood?), provided some information stands in several Swiss towns and a "public garden of living words" in the city of Yverdon.

This year, the World Mental Health Day aimed to raise public awareness of the link between culture and mental health. The theme, as determined by WFMH, has been an occasion for all countries to consider the impact of their cultural norms and traditions on the mental health and well-being of citizens as well as on the provision and quality of their care services.

*For more information: contact person, Barbara Zbinden, Tel +41 79 218 01 28
Thanks to Dr Stanislas Flache, MHE member, for this contribution.*

What have you done for World Mental Health Day? Send us your contributions!

IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

ACN - Active Citizenship Network

Latest news

This year the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) awarded the Active Citizenship Network (ACN) the first prize regarding organized civil society, specifically for the work done on the European Charter of Patients' Rights.

For more information: the EESC website, http://eesc.europa.eu/sco/prize_civ_soc/index_en.asp

The ACN also invites civil society organisations to participate in the European Patients' Rights Day 2008 (18 April 2008) by organising an event in their respective countries. The deadline for participation is 17 January 2008.

For more information: ACN website, www.activecitizenship.net

AGE - The European Older People's Platform

AGE position on the new Communication on Services of General Interest

AGE feels that the Communication on "Services of general interest, including social services of general interest: a new European commitment" brings some clarity on the legal framework

that applies to social services of general interest but regrets that the Communication does not provide a clear answer on the issue of public-private partnerships and concessions.

The European Commission has decided not to propose a framework directive for services of general interest (SGI) nor specific legislation on social services of general interest (SSGI). The Commission will, however, pursue its sector-based approach and is proposing diverse initiatives in strategic fields such as energy, transport, electronic communications, postal services, health and social services.

AGE questions why the Commission is not applying the same logic to all fields and is proposing initiatives ranging from binding legislation to voluntary guidelines depending on the fields. For instance, for health services, the Commission is proposing a "Directive on safe, high quality and efficient healthcare services". Yet, for social services, they limit their proposal to continuing to support the exchange of good practices through the open method of coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion and the development of a "voluntary EU quality framework providing guidelines on the methodology to set, monitor and evaluate quality standards of social services".

The sole explanation provided by the Commission is that there is no agreement between Member States and no support from the European Parliament for this.

It also remains to be seen if the protocol on SGI and the OMC on social protection and social inclusion together with the new "voluntary" guidelines will deliver concrete results and help ensure access to quality and affordable social services to all across the EU.

For more information: the Commission website,

http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/index_en.htm

Source: AGE Press Release

CEDEP- European Committee: Law, Ethics and Psychiatry

Follow-up: CEDEP 2007 Seminar, Bucharest (Romania), 18-20 May 2007

Last May, the CEDEP, together with the Romanian Mental Health Association, organised its 2007 Seminar in Bucharest around the issue of Democracy and Mental Health.

It was an opportunity to confront the experiences of the 15 "old" Member States with the issues and expectations of the 12 "new" EU Member States and launch a transnational reflection with participants coming from various backgrounds: psychiatry and mental health professionals, users, jurists and magistrates, sociologists, philosophers, elected politicians, etc.

Reports and contributions from the seminar will be soon available on CEDEP website:

<http://www.vvqg.be/CEDEP/sem/sem07eng/frame1eng.html>

The next CEDEP Seminar will take place in Italy in spring 2008. More information will follow soon.

ECCL – European Coalition for Community Living

Meeting of the Management Committee of the European Coalition for Community Living, 16 November 2007, Prague (Czech Republic)

On the 16 November 2007 the management committee of the European Coalition for Community Living – of which MHE is a founding member - met in Prague in order to approve the next steps of this coalition aiming at the defense of community living and strengthen the process of de-institutionalisation in Europe.

The management committee acknowledged the positive contribution that this coalition has brought to the fight against institutionalisation and the promotion of community service. The management committee agreed in a 3 years strategy to continue with the coalition (formed by more than 50 members) under the leadership of the European Network for Independent Living (ENIL) and funded by the Open Society Mental Health Initiative.

For more information: contact person, Ines Bulic, Email coordinator@community-living.info, Tel + 36 1 235 6184, Fax + 36 1 235 6170.

EDF – European Disability Forum

EDF and the European Trade Union Confederation join forces to combat discrimination at work

On 27-28 October, representatives from the European trade unions and the European disability movement met in Lisbon to agree on the milestones of a structured long-term cooperation. This was the third time that the leaders from the two movements have met, in the framework of a fertile dialogue already initiated in 2001. Nevertheless, the Lisbon conference brings a new impetus to the existing cooperation between the two, as for the first time, through the adoption of a joint declaration; a concrete work programme was established for the years to come.

The declaration aims to promote the employment and vocational training for disabled people in the workplace, still largely excluded from the labour force and facing unemployment two to three times more than non-disabled people. It also identifies the main areas of work and priorities for the next years in which the social partners and organisations of disabled people will work hand in hand, highlighting the need to maintain a permanent dialogue, both at European and national level, which will lead to tangible results.

For ETUC and EDF, the main challenges concern the proper implementation, in all the Member States, of the European non-discrimination Directive on Employment; a greater awareness for a qualitative and quantitative integration of disabled people into the labour market; the rapid ratification of the United Nations Convention in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which explicitly recognises the right to work; better prominence of disability concerns in social partner's agreements at EU level, including future expected ones on people excluded from the labour market and lifelong learning; and finally, the adoption of a comprehensive disability legislation at EU level tackling discrimination beyond employment, a campaign that both organisations have been pushing forward since 2003.

To download the full text of the declaration:

http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Projet%20de%20d%C3%A9claration%20commune%20de%20la%20CES%20et%20du%20FEHP_EN%20FINAL.pdf

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

EDF 5 month traineeship scheme for a young disabled activist

The deadline for the submission of applications is **15 January 2008**.

To apply send your CV and cover letter to Ms Janina Arsenjeva at the EDF secretariat, Email: janina.arsenjeva@edf-feph.org, Tel+ 322 282 46 02

The job description, the person's specification and application procedures are available on EDF website: http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13854&thebloc=15893

EPHA – European Public Health Alliance

New EPHA Secretary General

EPHA has appointed its new Secretary General, Monika Danuta Kosińska, who will take up the function on 1 February 2008.

For more information: the EPHA website, <http://www.eph.org/a/2773>

FEANTSA – European Federation of National Organisations Working with the homeless

Social and Demographic Change and Homelessness: FEANTSA magazine online!

The new edition of the FEANTSA magazine focuses on the impact of social and demographic change. The evolution of the composition of the European population and the changing social fabric across the EU are having a major impact on the phenomenon of homelessness. The present edition brings together the experience of service providers and public authorities on the ground, and the changes documented by researchers, in order to offer a picture of how the social and demographic context has evolved across the EU and how these changes have become visible in the experience of homelessness and the profiles of people experiencing homelessness in Europe.

To read the magazine: FEANTSA website, <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=35>

FEANTSA European Report 2007: Multiple Barriers, Multiple Solutions: Inclusion into and through employment for people who are homeless

The final version of this year's FEANTSA European Report on employment and homelessness is now available online. The report is based on national reports from 16 EU countries and aims to provide an overview about the employment situation of people experiencing homelessness as well as efforts to overcome their barriers to employment in the European Union as a whole.

To read the report: FEANTSA website, <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=36>

MDRI – Mental Disability Rights International

MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Center

Russia: People with disabilities continue to be marginalised by law

In November MDAC released its report detailing how Russia withdraws the human rights of people with intellectual and mental health disabilities.

The report, "*Guardianship and Human Rights in Russia*", illustrates how people considered incapable of making certain decisions have their right to make almost all decisions withdrawn by the imposition of guardianship: once under guardianship personal decisions are substituted by those of a guardian. In addition, fundamental human rights such as the right to marry, to manage property and finances, and to vote, are at the same time also invariably withdrawn.

Most of us need support in making decisions at some point in our lives. Instead of arbitrarily withdrawing from thousands of people with disabilities their right to make decisions and to participate in society, the Russian government should establish less restrictive alternatives to guardianship for people who need support in decision-making.

MDAC's call for alternatives to guardianship is mirrored in the recently adopted United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the drafting of which Russia actively contributed to (although has failed to sign). It is also accompanied by detailed proposals of how such alternatives can be implemented.

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

MDRI – Mental Disability Rights International

MDRI Accuses Serbia of Torture and Abuse Against Children and Adults with Disabilities

Following a four year investigation, Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) released a report on 14 November 2007 detailing the human rights abuses perpetrated against children and adults in Serbia with disabilities, forced to live out their lives in institutions.

"Torment not Treatment: Serbia's Segregation and Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities" describes children and adults tied to beds or never allowed to leave their cribs - some for years at a time. In addition, filthy conditions, contagious diseases, lack of medical care, rehabilitation and judicial oversight renders placement in a Serbian institution life threatening for both children and adults.

For more information: MDRI website, <http://www.mdri.org/>

Source: MDRI Press Release

V. EUROPEAN UNION

Charter of Fundamental Rights proclaimed in Strasbourg

The Presidents of the Commission, European Parliament and the Council signed and proclaimed the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in Strasbourg. The Charter will give European citizens a catalogue of rights legally binding on the institutions and bodies of the European Union and on the Member States when they are implementing EU law.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights was initially proclaimed by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Nice European Council on 7 December 2000, but this was merely a political commitment carrying no binding legal effect. In the context of the work on the European Convention and the 2003-2004 Intergovernmental Conference, the Charter was adapted - in particular as regards its general provisions - with a view to making it legally binding.

The Charter will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Article 51 stipulates that "*The provisions of this Charter are addressed to the institutions, bodies and organs of the*

Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law".

*For more information about the Charter: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/default_en.htm*

EU leaders sign new Treaty for the European Union

EU leaders have signed the new Treaty for the European Union on 13 December 2007 in Lisbon (Treaty of Lisbon). Its most visible innovations include a permanent president of the EU, an EU foreign minister, greater powers to the European Parliament and a legally binding citizens rights charter.

In addition, it reduces the size of the European Commission, allows for easier decision-making by changing voting rules - both from 2004 - and curbs the power of single member states to veto legislation. The Treaty is designed to make the EU more effective on the world stage both by giving it a more coherent foreign policy and by allowing it to take decisions quickly.

All member states have to ratify the Treaty for it to come into force, with several states, including France, aiming to have the process completed early in 2008. Ireland is the only country likely to have a referendum on the document, which is supposed to come into place by early 2009.

*For more information: the Europa web portal,
http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/index_en.htm
Source: FEANTSA Flash*

VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Slovenia unveils EU presidency priorities

On 28 November the Slovenian Ambassador to the European Union (EU) revealed that the incoming presidency (1 January 2008) will focus on the implementation of the new Lisbon cycle for growth and jobs, energy, climate change and relations with the Western Balkans.

More specifically:

- Treaty of Lisbon: the incoming presidency has high hopes of ratifying the text of the new Treaty by the end of 2008. Slovenia will try to set a positive example by ratifying the text at an early stage during its Presidency, which starts on 1 January 2008.
- Growth and jobs: with the Lisbon strategy currently under review, EU leaders will decide on the implementation of the next Lisbon cycle when they meet at the Spring Council. No radical changes are to be expected: the strategy and focus should be put on increasing research and development (R&D), supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and creating flexible labour markets.

*For more information: the Slovenian government website,
<http://www.15years.gov.si/15-years/achievements/eu-presidency/>*

VII. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

EU Employment and Social Affairs Council adopts conclusions on the active inclusion of people furthest away from the labour market

Following a recently published Commission Communication on active inclusion, EU Employment and Social Affairs Ministers have adopted common conclusions on the active inclusion of people furthest away from the labour market.

In the conclusions the Council acknowledges:

- the approach of active inclusion as a holistic and balanced framework for fighting poverty and social exclusion, based on the principles of protection, empowerment and user influence;
- that the social inclusion of the people who are furthest from the labour market is not only a goal in itself, but is also an important condition for fully achieving the Lisbon objectives;
- that active inclusion policies should be implemented in a co-ordinated way through the active participation of all relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local levels;

- that active inclusion and flexicurity are complementary and mutually reinforcing approaches;
- the role of education, preventive labour market policies and individualised or tailored services for those at risk of exclusion from the labour market.

The Council further invites Member States to cooperate actively in the second-phase consultation launched by the Commission and to adequately involve the social partners and relevant stakeholders at the various levels in the debate.

To read the Council conclusions: the Council website,

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st15/st15191.en07.pdf>

Source: FEANTSA Flash

VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

2010 to be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The European Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The € 17 million campaign aims to reaffirm the EU's commitment to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010.

Its four specific objectives are:

- Recognition of the right of people in poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society;
- An increase in the public ownership of social inclusion policies, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation;
- A more cohesive society, where no one doubts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty;
- Commitment of all actors, because real progress requires a long-term effort that involves all levels of governance.

Recent Eurobarometer data show that Europeans see poverty as a widespread problem. Across the EU, citizens feel that around 1 in 3 people (29%) in their area live in poverty and that 1 in 10 suffers extreme poverty. In all Member States, part of the population is subject to exclusion and deprivation, often facing limited access to basic services. 19% of children are at risk of poverty across the EU and 1 in 10 live in households where nobody works.

The 2010 European Year will coincide with the conclusion of the EU's ten year strategy for growth and jobs.

For more information: the European commission website,

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1905&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: EC Press Release

DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL

Communication on the Situation of disabled people in the European Union: the European Action Plan 2008 – 2009

The European Commission has published on 26 November 2007 the Communication on the analysis of the situation of people with disabilities in the European Union and has proposed new objectives for the Action plan 2008-2009. The Disability Action Plan was launched after the European Year of people with disabilities (2003) and has been composed by biennial phases on which the European Commission assesses the situation of people with disabilities, the initiatives taken at EU level and proposes priorities to focus in the next biennial period.

This biennial phase the European Commission considers that the data shows "that disabled people continue to be disproportionately excluded from the labour market" and in order to tackle this situation the European Commission proposes, for 2008-2009, the following priorities:

- Actions for inclusive participation through accessibility: Fostering accessibility of the labour market, boosting accessibility of goods, services and infrastructures and consolidating the Commission's analytical capacity to support accessibility;
- Actions towards full enjoyment of fundamental rights: Facilitating the implementation of the UN convention and complementing the Community legislative framework of protection against discrimination

To read the Communication: the EUR LEX website,
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0738en01.pdf
Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

EU Health Strategy (2008-2013)

On 23 October 2007 the European Commission adopted a new Health Strategy, "*Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013*". Building on current work, this Strategy aims to provide, for the first time, an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues. The Strategy aims to set clear objectives to guide future work on health at the European level, and to put in place an implementation mechanism to achieve those objectives, working in partnership with Member States.

The Commission Health Strategy White Paper is now available in 22 languages on the DG Sanco website: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Parliament adopts party funding reform

A Commission proposal to allow European political parties to finance campaign activities for the 2009 elections is backed by the European Parliament. The new legislation improves the financial stability of European parties, and thus facilitates long-term planning. It also permits the creation of European political foundations.

In November, the European Parliament voted in favour of the legislation so funding for political foundations can go ahead from 2008.

For more information: the European Parliament website,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-14065-332-11-48-901-20071128IPR14040-28-11-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

Source: EP Press Release

Hearing on the housing crisis in the European Union

The Socialist group in the European Parliament (EP) organised a hearing devoted to the "*Housing crisis in the European Union – How do we tackle exclusion and homelessness?*" on 6 December 2007 in Brussels.

The hearing gathered about 80 participants and focused on topics such as the scope and nature of homelessness in Europe, the role of social housing, the achievements of the EP Urban-Housing Intergroup, and housing as a component of the European social model. Speakers included Jan Jařab, Member of the cabinet of Commissioner Vladimír Spidla, João Ferrão (Secretary of State for Spatial Planning and Towns, Portugal), MEPs Alain Hutchinson, Jean-Marie Beaupuy, Pierre Pribetisch, Robert Goebbels as well as representatives from homeless and social housing organisations.

At the end of the hearing, a call for decent and affordable housing was launched. The 6 December call asks for the development of a coordinated and coherent strategy between the European Union and Member States in order to guarantee access to decent housing at an affordable price for all and to fight actively against housing exclusion and homelessness. Also, it calls Member States to take urgent measures aimed at the significant reduction of the number of people who are homeless and faced with inadequate housing conditions in Europe.

For more information: FEANTSA website,
http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=25&id_events=207

Source: FEANTSA Flash

Declaration on ending street homelessness available for MEP signature

A cross-party written declaration on ending street homelessness in the European Union has been registered on 10 December 2007 and is now open for MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) signature until March 2007.

The written declaration

- Calls on the Council to agree on an EU-wide commitment to end street homelessness by 2015;
- Calls on the Commission to develop a European framework definition of homelessness, gather comparable and reliable statistical data, and provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in EU Member States towards ending homelessness;
- Urges Member States to devise "winter emergency plans" as part of a wider homelessness strategy;
- Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, Commission and the Member States.

A written declaration is a short text on a matter falling within the European Union's sphere of activities and can be used by MEPs to launch or re-launch a debate on a subject, which comes within the EU's remit. In order to have the written declaration announced by the President of the European Parliament, it needs to be signed by at least half of the MEPs within a period of three months, otherwise it will simply lapse.

The five first signatories of the declaration are Mary Lou MacDonald (GUE/NGL, Ireland) Claude Moraes (PES, United Kingdom), Jacek Protasiewicz (EPP-ED, Poland), Gérard Onesta (Greens/EFA, France) and Jean-Marie Beaupuy (ALDE, France).

To read the declaration: the European Parliament website,

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sidesSearch/search.do?type=WDECL&term=6&author=28111&language=EN&startValue=0>

Source: FEANTSA Flash

X. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CoE Commissioner for Human Rights issues viewpoint on Housing Rights

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, whose mandate is to promote awareness and respect for human rights in the 47 Council of Europe Member States (including all EU Member States), has issued a viewpoint on the right to adequate housing on 29 October 2007.

Thomas Hammarberg said that homelessness, which appears to be a shared reality across Europe, is a proof of the failure of social policies. While street homelessness is the most visible and extreme form of housing exclusion, other vulnerable groups of society live in substandard, inadequate or insecure housing. Access to adequate housing is becoming of concern for a broader part of the population, as social housing is declining and the availability of affordable housing decreasing.

Commissioner Hammarberg said that the time has come to recognise that adequate housing is indeed a universal human right, that international Treaties such as the revised European Social Charter define the scope of governments' obligations in this respect and that these should recognise that their general economic and social policies do impact on the right to housing. The viewpoint sets out a minimum programme for a rights-based housing strategy.

To read the viewpoint: http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/071029_en.asp

Source: FEANTSA Flash

Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women"

Domestic violence against women is a serious assault on human dignity and prevents women from enjoying the fundamental rights secured by the European Convention on Human Rights and the other relevant international instruments formulated by the Council of Europe and the United Nations. This assault on human dignity is perpetrated in silence, and often to general indifference, in homes across Europe.

Domestic violence against women is the result of a situation in which women have less power than men, which leads to serious discrimination against women and girls in communities and families. It is a growing problem in Europe and affects all the Council of Europe Member States. Although available statistics only cover proven cases of domestic violence, the figures are worrying. They confirm the fact that domestic violence against women, whether physical, sexual, psychological or deriving from economic dependence, knows no geographical, age or ethnic or distinction and affects every type of family relationship and every social milieu.

For all these reasons, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly has launched the project "*Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women*", in co-operation with its member and observer parliaments and various regional and international parliamentary assemblies (particularly the European Parliament, the Nordic Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Union). This project is designed as a parliamentary contribution to the Council of Europe's campaign on combating violence against women, including domestic violence (2006-2008), which was decided upon at the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw in May 2005.

For more information: the Council of Europe website,

http://www.coe.int/t/pace/campaign/stopviolence/default_EN.asp?

Council of Europe ministers adopt declaration on migration, health and human rights

Ministers from the member states of the Council of Europe, who participated in the 8th Conference of European ministers responsible for health affairs on 22 and 23 November 2007 in Bratislava (Slovakia), adopted the Declaration on Migration, Health and Human Rights setting out their agreement on a number of important proposals aimed at addressing challenges posed by migration to health care services and human rights in Europe.

The Bratislava declaration emphasises the need for states to work towards eliminating the practical obstacles and barriers to the enjoyment of equitable access to health protection of all people on the move, including those in an irregular situation.

The ministers further recommended that those member states who have not yet done so consider signing and ratifying the Council of Europe legal texts that are aimed at facilitating the integration into health systems of migrant workers, such as the European Social Charter (revised), the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance, and the European Convention on Social Security.

To read the Bratislava Declaration: the Council of Europe website,

http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/ministerial_conferences/2007_health/20071123_declaration_en.asp

Source: Social Platform Weekly Update

XI. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH - WFMH

The Lancet series on Global Mental health

The Lancet series on Global Mental Health was officially launched on 3 September 2007, at a forum held at King's College London's Waterloo Campus.

Mr. Vikram Patel, co-editor of the series, presented a preview at a plenary session of the WFMH (World Federation for Mental Health) World Mental Health Congress in Hong Kong (China) on 19-23 April 2007 prior to the official launch event.

The Lancet series on Global Mental Health comprises six articles documenting the evidence base for global mental health, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. It culminates with a strident call for action to the global health community to scale up services for mental disorders in these countries. The Series was developed by an international group of mental health and public health experts, representing academic, policy and society perspectives.

For more information on the Lancet series on Global Mental Health: The Lancet website,

http://www.thelancet.com/online/focus/mental_health

Source: WFMH Newsletter

WFMH Conference on Transcultural Mental Health, 29-31 October 2007, Minneapolis (USA)

Approximately 300 people attended the WFMH Conference on "*Transcultural Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global response*," held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 29-31 October 2007.

The programme combined plenary sessions and concurrent sessions together with social events to facilitate networking opportunities. John Copeland, WFMH President, welcomed participants at various events throughout the conference.

At the opening plenary, presentations focused on "*The Role of Transcultural Mental Health in the Global Mental Health Movement*", "*Governmental Policy Initiatives for Transcultural Mental health: Multicultural Mental Health Australia*", "*Promoting and Supporting Culturally*

Appropriate Children's Mental Health Services" and "The Cultural Aspects and Impact of Alcohol and substance Abuse and addiction".

On the final day there were plenaries on best practices in *"Culturally Appropriate Mental Health Services for Latinos"*, *"Capacity-Building Methods for Providers of Mental Health to Survivors of Psychological Trauma in Low Resource Countries"* and *"Culture of Well-ness, Self Responsibility and Mutual Support – Can It Grow in Japanese Culture?"*.

A multitude of excellent speakers presented at the concurrent sessions on far-reaching topics related to special population (Latinos, Africans, Asians, Arabic clients, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender clients), prevention and promotion, advocacy, transcultural mental health, issues of refugees and immigrants, the mental health effects of trauma, building a culturally competent workforce, community mental health programs, mind/body connection and spirituality, children and families, high needs and low resources, cognitive and brain disorders, treatment of depression, and student/youth mental health.

A more complete report of the conference will be placed on the WFMH website at the start of 2008.

For further information: contact person, Ellen Mercer, Email emercer@wfmh.com

Source: WFMH Newsletter

XII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Stories from the people the policies are made for

A new feature was launched on the WHO mental health website: www.euro.who.int/

The feature is promoted on the corporate site of WHO Europe and contains personal stories from users and ex-users describing what it means to live with a mental health problem. The strong stories question the appropriateness of the treatment the users received, and open questions about the role of prevention and community, how mental health services can do better, and how much pain and suffering could have been avoided if someone had intervened earlier.

The stories are based on a questionnaire inspired by the action points in the Helsinki Declaration. This questionnaire was sent to users and ex-users of mental health services in 18 European Member States, and re-worked into a journalistic text. WHO has launched the feature with three stories, and plans on adding a new story once a month.

For this, WHO makes a call for more stories which they will gather into a publication.

*To submit your story, please send an email to tki@who.euro.int – you will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. The deadline is **1 February 2008**.*

XIII. VARIOUS

UK - Introduction of Personal Care budgets

On 10 December, the UK's Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced that an extra £520 million of ring fenced funding will be used to transform the social care system over the next three years through the introduction of Personal Care budgets. The agreement, entitled *"Putting People First"* was signed by the central government, local government, the leadership of adult social care and the National Health Service (NHS). The key elements of the reform are substantially increasing the number of people who receive personal budgets so they can choose the support services they want for themselves or a family member, and increasing the number of people who use direct payments.

Another key element is rewarding high quality care homes, home care and day services and making sure that those that do not respect people's dignity are no longer used by local councils and the NHS. Furthermore, the reform aims to make initiatives such as first-stop shops (where people can access advice and advocacy about community services) commonplace, so that they are available to everyone, including people who do not receive support from social services.

Finally, investments will be made into support for older people to prevent their isolation and ensure better health, and collaboration between the NHS and local government will be improved so that people receive more coordinated and efficient support in the community.

For more information: the UK government website,
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081118

Source: ECCL Newsletter

International Day of People with Disabilities

On 3 December 2007, a lunch seminar was held in the WHO (World Health Organization) headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) to mark the International Day of People with Disabilities 2007. The theme of the event was "*Decent work for persons with disabilities*".

One of the speakers was Mr. Héðinn Unnsteinsson, Advisor at the Ministry of Health and Social Security of Iceland. He made a presentation on "*Persons with disabilities and decent work*".

For more information: WHO website,

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=22&pid=109>

XIV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

FRA's S'cool Agenda

As part of its activities in the context of the 2007 European year of equal opportunities for all and the 2008 European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue, the FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) has produced a S'cool agenda and additional materials for young people in order to raise their awareness about fundamental rights issues.

This agenda allows young people to keep track on their daily activities and homework and provides general information on human rights in Europe. Definitions, real life stories, tips for action, a test to take the human rights temperature of their school and inter-cultural calendar are included in the S'COOL AGENDA.

For more information: FRA website, <http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

Belgium –Julie Renson Foundation launches THESEAS.BE

THESEAS.BE is a free online information tool. This tool is not diagnostic oriented: general practitioners and other health professionals have competence in this respect.

What will you find there?

- a description of the mental health institutions (psychiatric hospitals, support groups for victims, other support groups...) in the three Belgian regions (more than 3500 institutions);
- definitions of words used in the mental health field;
- useful addresses;
- useful websites;
- up-to-date information.

To access this information tool (French and Dutch): <http://www.theseas.be/>

XV. PUBLICATIONS

New report on Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living

A new report aims to help European governments modernise services for disabled people by replacing institutional care with community-based services that are focused on improving disabled people's quality of life and promoting their equal participation in society.

The report, entitled "*Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living – Outcomes and Costs*" was launched at a recent conference in Prague. It is the result of a project funded by the European Commission and implemented by a European consortium led by the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent, the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent and the London School of Economics. The Consortium included experts from Universities in Germany, Belgium, Spain and the Czech Republic, supported by the main European non-governmental organisations – MHE was one of them - and professional networks and associations.

The aim of the project was to collect available information on the number of disabled people living in residential institutions in 28 European countries, and to provide Member States with recommendations and strategies for replacing institutions with community-based services. According to the report, in Europe, well over 1 million disabled people still live in some form of institutional care. The report confirms that institutional care is often of an unacceptably poor quality and represents a serious breach of internationally accepted human rights standards. Community-based services, when properly established and managed, deliver better outcomes in terms of quality of life and ensure that disabled people can live as full citizens.

To download three-volume report, consisting of the Executive Summary, the Main Report and the Country Reports: the Tizard Centre website,
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/research/index.html>

Source: ECCL Newsletter

Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe: New PICUM report

The result of an intensive two-year project co-funded by the European Commission, the new PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants) report identifies the legal and practical barriers encountered by undocumented migrants when trying to access health care within eleven EU Member states.

It gives visibility to the problems arising from inadequate access to health care. The situation facing undocumented migrants in terms of law and practice is provided through the country profiles; each providing an overview of the most common problems and obstacles preventing a realization of the right to health.

Good policies and practices within each of the eleven countries are highlighted to provide inspiration for new health care strategies and actions which can continue to address the problems facing undocumented migrants in Europe.

Making a strong case for action, this report may be used as a tool of influence, pressure, empowerment and innovation.

Ten practical recommendations are provided to help national and European policy-makers to better address the problems arising from a lack of or an insufficient access to health care for undocumented migrants in the EU.

To read the report: PICUM website, <http://www.picum.org/>

XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29 January – 1 February 2008

Winter 2008 Symposium: "Addictive Disorders & Behavioral Health", Colorado Springs, Colorado (USA)

For more information: send an E-mail to the Academy at IABMCP@att.net, or visit the Academy website, <http://www.iabmcp.net/symposium.htm>

23-25 January 2008

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

For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007_10conf_SMES_UK.htm

20-22 February 2008

IAPO Global Patients Congress, Budapest (Hungary)

For more information: IAPO website, www.patientsorganizations.org/congress2008

27-29 February 2008

3rd Advocacy France Forum on a citizen's mental health policy, "Choisir sa vie: l'égalité des chances pour une vie indépendante" ("Choosing how to live your life: Equal opportunity for Independent Living"), Paris (France)

For more information: contact the Forum's Secretariat, Email forum@advocacyfrance.com, Tel +33 1 45 32 22 35

6-7 March 2008

8th INIC Annual Integrated Care Conference, Göteborg (Sweden)

For more information: visit INIC website,

http://www.integratedcarenetwork.org/Sweden2008/abstract_Call_Sweden2.pdf

10-12 March 2008

World Health Care Congress Europe 2008, Berlin (Germany)

For more information: visit the congress dedicated website,

<https://www.worldcongress.com/events/HR08015/index.cfm?confCode=HR08015>

10-15 March 2008

International Health Film Festival "ImagéSanté", Liège (Belgium)

For more information: visit the festival dedicated website,

<http://www.imagesante.org/en/e2006.php>

5-9 April 2008

AEP 16th European Congress of Psychiatry, Nice (France)

For more information: send an e-mail to aep@kenes.com, or visit the Congress dedicated website, <http://www.kenes.com/aep/>

14-15 April 2008

Conference "From Innovation to Practice: The Promise and Challenge of Achieving Recovery for All", Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)

For more information: visit the conference website, <http://www.bu.edu/cpr/conference/>

10-14 May 2008

Grundtvig training course 2008, "Committed Parents - Training course to work with migrant parents in family education", Wuppertal (Germany)

For more information: contact person, Nina Stücker, nina.stuecke@paritaet-nrw.org, Tel +49 202 28 22 338, or consult the Paritätische Akademie website, www.paritaetische-akademie.de

NEW!! 14-16 May 2008

16th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals, "Hospitals and health services in the health society: Quo vadis, HPH?", Berlin (Germany)

The main conference topics will be:

- Quo vadis, HPH: Reorienting health services by integrating health promotion principles into clinical core services, or by expanding into new health promotion services – or by both?;
- Improving patient orientation: Safety, clinical evidence, cultural appropriateness;
- Improving staff orientation: The challenge of an ageing workforce;
- Improving community and public health orientation: Sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.univie.ac.at/hph/berlin2008

NEW!! 23-25 May 2008

ENMESH (European Network for Mental Health Service Evaluation) Conference 2008, "Good Practice, Good Outcome?", Krakow (Poland)

The 2008 Enmesh Conference will focus on selected research aspects involved in four leading topics.

The key topic is the relationship between the therapist, the patient and the family: this topic pertains to the three entities that take part in the treatment and allows for analytical research from the three perspectives. Another topic is community treatment programs, ranging from comprehensive practice to specific, creative, good practice, in the light of research results. Next, rehabilitation and employment will be discussed, with special attention paid to rehabilitation through work and housing. The fourth topic is coercion and stigma, which pose a special challenge to all professionals engaged in community oriented mental health programs or services.

Further information about this conference, including registration forms, are available on the conference dedicated website: www.enmesh2008.pl

NEW!! 4-6 June 2008

2nd International Conference on Community Psychology, "Building Participative, Empowering and Diverse Communities - Visioning Community Psychology in a worldwide perspective", Lisbon (Portugal)

The Sociedade Portuguesa de Psicologia Comunitária will be hosting the Conference. A number of key thematic areas will be addressed: Changes in systems and policy, Creating new settings, Training, Evaluation, Prevention, Advocacy, Collaboration, Networking, Strengthening relationships, Globalisation and north/south dialogue.

For more information: the conference dedicated website, <http://www.2iccp.com/>

19-21 June 2008

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

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>

7-9 August 2008

MHE Conference 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)

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

27-30 August 2008

12th European Symposium on Suicide and suicidal Behaviour, "Working Together to Prevent Suicide: Research, Policy and Practice", Glasgow (Scotland)

For more information: contact the Conference organizer, E-mail organising@esssb12.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