



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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NEWSLETTER N°9/2007 SEPTEMBER 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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I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Information to Patients

MHE has been actively involved in the Stakeholder Consultation Group on Information to Patients, set up by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). The aim of the group is to coordinate action with other health and consumer organizations for a common advocacy strategy to maintain public health concern in the debate on information to patients.

The Group has prepared a *"Joint Statement on Information to Patients: the Way Forward"* which was sent out on 20 September 2007, together with a press release, to the Steering Committee of Pharmaceutical Forum, European press, Commission's officials, Commissioner Kyprianou (responsible for health), Commissioner Verheugen (industry and enterprise) and all EPHA members.

The Joint Statement outlines concrete actions to be taken by EU policy makers to define an accurate and forward looking health information strategy, whilst reaffirming the commitment of several organisations, who wish to have an active role in developing such a strategy. According to the undersigning organisations, it is important to prioritise the European Medicines Agency project "EudraPharm", to foster national platforms for health information, to develop health literacy for patients and networks of libraries for Health.

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

ProMenPol Conference, "Promotion of Mental Health - Improving Practice and Policy", Berlin (Germany), 11-12 October 2007

The main issue to be addressed at the ProMenPol conference (MHE is a member of the ProMenPol project) is to gain agreement between the project actors and outside interested parties on the conceptual framework for the project. It also aims to widely disseminate information concerning positive mental health and to amend it on the basis of the feedback obtained at the conference.

For more information: ProMenPol website,

<http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/?i=promenpol.en.events>

MHE representation at various meetings

On 6 September, Elisabeth Muschik and Sogol Noorani participated in the Social Policy Working Group at the Social Platform in Brussels.

On 12 September, John Henderson and Fanny Muller represented MHE at a Work Package 4 meeting of the CAMHEE Project in Barcelona (Spain).

On 13-15 September, John Henderson and Mari Fresu participated in the IMHPA (Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action) Conference, *"Joining forces across Europe for prevention and promotion in mental health"*, which took place in Barcelona (Spain).

On 13 and 14 September, Josée Van Remoortel participated in the meeting of experts for the study on the *"Specific Risks of Discrimination against persons in situation of major dependence or with complex needs"* led by Inclusion Europe.

On 17 September, Mari Fresu attended an EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) meeting on information to patients in Brussels.

On 18 September, Fanny Muller attended a meeting with the Danish Institute for Human Rights on the forthcoming EU study on multiple discrimination which was held at the Social Platform.

On 25 September, Mary Van Dievel and Sogol Noorani participated in a meeting with the Social Inclusion Unit of the European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

On 27 September, Mari Fresu participated in a dissemination seminar of the Mental Health Economics European Network (MHEEN) in London (UK).

On 28 September, a meeting of the MHE Executive Committee took place in Brussels.

On 29 September, a meeting of the MHE Board was organised in Brussels.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

BELGIUM - Next LBFSM Conference

The next LBFSM (Ligue Bruxelloise Francophone pour la Santé Mentale) Conference will take place in Brussels on 17-18 January 2008. Plenary sessions and workshops will be organised around the theme "*De l'autre côté du miroir*" ("*The other side of the mirror*").

This two-day event will focus on the difficulties encountered by adults with mental health problems and their children, both on a theoretical and practical perspective.

The event is open to all professionals working with children, psychiatrists, pediatricians, social or education workers, and to all the professionals working with adults with mental health problems.

For more information: LBFSM Secretariat, tél +32 2 511 55 43,

E-mail debloudts.lbfsm@skynet.be

FRANCE - 3rd Advocacy France Forum on a citizen's mental health policy, 27-29 February 2008, Paris (France)

This 3rd Forum, «*Choisir sa vie: l'égalité des chances pour une vie indépendante*» (*Choose one's life: equal opportunities for independent living*), is coordinated by Advocacy France and organised by a group of associations including European NGOs, national and/or European associations.

It will be a place for expression, exchange and work towards exclusion and discrimination.

On the basis of the experience gained during the previous Forums, Advocacy France wishes that users play a greater role in the organisation of the event. The activities and responsibilities of disabled people will be highlighted during the debates and various activities which will be proposed and presented by disabled people and/or people experiencing discrimination.

The Forum is organised in the frame of the European Year of Equal Opportunities.

For more information: contact persons, Martine Dutoit, E-mail mdutoit@erenis.fr, and Claude Deutsch, E-mail deutschclaud@neuf.fr

Thanks to Claude Deutsch, from Advocacy France, for this contribution.

ITALY - AISMe celebration of WMHD

World Mental Health Day (WMHD) will be celebrated for the thirteenth consecutive times by the Italian Association for Mental Health (AISMe), together with other organisations and the support of the Florence Municipality.

World Mental Health Day (10 October) represents an opportunity to stress the very important role of associations, also in Italy, as active subjects in society at every level and especially at the local level. AISMe wants to play an active role in the construction of important ideas and experiences and looks for close collaboration with all the people working in the mental health field.

AISMe supports the creation of a "Joint experiences sector" (gathering users, services and local organisations) which overcomes the concepts and practices of therapy and rehabilitation delivered by professional services and focuses mainly on integration in the local community. AISMe believes that this new model of practice will have a beneficial influence for individuals (users, relatives and professionals) and foster a better understanding of mental health issues at local level.

For more information: contact person, Dr Pino Pini, E-mail ppini@usl4.toscana.it

Thanks to Dr Pino Pini for this contribution.

SCOTLAND - New Positive Mental Health Forum for Young People

In collaboration with Penumbra (MHE member) and a group of young people, the Scottish National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing has developed a positive mental health forum on "Bebo" (a social networking website) for 13-18 year olds. The aim of the forum is to raise awareness of positive mental health and wellbeing, and help to create a young people's "mental health movement".

We know that young people who are confident, resilient and have good self-esteem are better equipped to deal with life's challenges. The aim of the forum is to encourage young people to think about their mental health as something to be looked after and to communicate simple and subtle messages on how they can do this.

The forum uses a virtual character "*Positive Pete*" to represent the target audience and their life challenges. Using diary entries, polls and short animated films to stimulate debate, Pete talks about what he enjoys doing and what keeps him positive, providing an opportunity for friends of the forum to discuss topics such as "*What does mental health mean to you?*"

To visit the forum: <http://positive-twist.bebo.com>

Source: Scottish National Programme e-bulletin

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

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

ATD Fourth World

ATD Fourth World's petition "Ending extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace!"

To increase the impact of 17 October, the International Day Against Poverty, ATD Fourth World and other human rights NGOs from all different backgrounds have come together to launch a petition to support their call to action titled "*Ending extreme Poverty, a road to peace*".

The declaration will be presented to the United Nations on 17 October 2007.

For more information and to read the declaration: <http://www.oct17.org/Count-me-in.html>

EDF - European Disability Forum

2007 European Day of Disabled People Conference

The European Commission and EDF started preparing the 2007 European Day of Disabled People conference, which will take place in Brussels on 6-7 December 2007.

Although the official title of the conference has not yet been defined, this year the European Day will be focused on Disabled people in European Union's Free Internal and Single Market.

The aim of the conference would be to support the analysis of the current situation within the internal market regarding access by people with disabilities. In the past years, the European Union has put a lot of its efforts in developing freedom of movement of goods, persons, services and capital, but not all citizens can benefit from these freedoms on equal basis. The lack of a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of people with disabilities in the internal market is further disabling them. The challenge of the conference will also be to debate on how the current barriers can be removed and how potential new barriers can be avoided in the future.

For more information: contact person, Ann Vervaecke, Tel +32 2 282.46.00,

E-mail ann.vervaecke@edf-feph.org

ENIL - European Network on Independent Living

Disabled people rally in Strasbourg for their rights

On 4-6 September, more than 125 disabled citizens and their personal assistants participated in the third edition of Strasbourg Freedom Drive (France). This event was organised by the

European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) and the Center for Independent Living Carmichael House (Dublin).

It was an opportunity for people with disabilities from all European countries to join together and converge on the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where they met Members of the European parliament (MEPs) of different countries and the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament, including its president Richard Howitt MEP.

Freedom Drivers demanded the ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities by both the European Union and the Member States; a continuation of the deinstitutionalization process and the establishment of a personal assistance system; an enhanced co-operation between the European Union and the Member States; the mainstreaming of disability in policy formulation; and the full participation of people with disabilities.

For more information: visit the Freedom Drive dedicated website, <http://freedomdrive.blogspot.com/>

EuroHealthNet

DETERMINE: a new consortium on socio-economical determinants of health

EuroHealthNet, in close collaboration with the Czech National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), in July 2007 launched a new EU consortium for action on socio-economic determinants of health entitled DETERMINE.

DETERMINE will concentrate on the underlying socio-economic determinants for health. It will build on and take forward existing work in the area of the social determinants of health and on health inequalities in an EU context.

To undertake this work it will establish a consortium of high-level, multi-stakeholder bodies and take forward the work of the WHO Commission on social determinants of health applying it to the EU context.

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is a collaborating partner in this new project.

In July 2007 the first management meeting of the executive group of work-package leaders took place.

The first (out of 3) consortium meeting will take place on Tuesday 30 October 2007 and Wednesday 31 October 2007 in Lisbon in the context of the Portuguese Presidency.

For more information: visit the EuroHealthNet website, <http://www.eurohealthnet.eu/content/view/232/158/>

Source: EPHA Newsletter

MDAC – Mental Disability Advocacy Center

People with disabilities turn to the European Court of Human Rights for protection

In August the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) filed three applications at the European Court of Human Rights. The reason is simple. Abuse of people with disabilities remains pervasive. Many States simply sit back and watch.

The abuse, physical and mental, of adults with actual or perceived intellectual or psycho-social (mental health) disabilities varies in its intensity, form and the country in which it takes place. Common to each of the three cases (which involve Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Estonia) launched by MDAC at the European Court however, is a single feature: State apathy. As a result of such apathy human rights abuses can, and do, occur with impunity.

For more information: MDAC website, www.mdac.info

MDRI – Mental disability Rights International

MDRI Named Winner of the Thomas J. Dodd Prize for International Justice and Human Rights

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut (USA) announced in September that MDRI has been chosen to receive the 2007 Dodd Prize for its efforts in advancing the cause of international justice and global human rights.

MDRI has brought unprecedented international attention to human rights abuses against children and adults with mental disabilities worldwide. MDRI's two most recent reports -- on Turkey and Romania -- had a major impact on children and adults with disabilities in those

countries. MDRI's investigations and international advocacy have also been a major force in gaining support for a new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. For more information: MDRI website, <http://www.mdri.org/>
Source: MDRI Press Release

Social Platform

Social Platform met with Commission's DG Justice, Liberty and Security on Fundamental Rights Agency

A delegation from the Social Platform has met with the Commission's DG JLS on 1st August to discuss recent developments linked to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and Fundamental Rights related issues in the EU.

For more information and to read the report of the meeting: the Social Platform website, <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=14586>

First analysis of the EU Reform Treaty from the Social Platform Secretariat

Ahead of the political negotiations due to start in September (calendar of negotiations), the Social Platform Secretariat provides a brief analysis of the state of play with regard to social requests in the future EU Reform Treaty.

For more information and to read the analysis: the Social platform website, <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=14501>

IV. EUROPEAN UNION

Latest News on the EU Treaty negotiations

Foreign affairs ministers met in Portugal to discuss the work of the IGC (Intergovernmental Conference) at the beginning of September. The atmosphere of the meeting was judged positive by different participants, although not much progress had been made on the contested issues. Poland is now also demanding an opt-out of the charter of fundamentals rights, as it was agreed for Great Britain in the IGC mandate. The Polish government is also asking to have one permanent legal adviser to the European Court of Justice. Still the issue of the voting weights and a minority blocking mechanism in the Council is unsolved. The three Members of the European parliament (MEPs) participating in the IGC, Elmar Brok, Enrique Baron Crespo and Andrew Duff, are particularly defending:

- the Charter of Fundamental Rights place in the treaty text and its legally binding nature,
- a more prominent position for the reference to EU citizenship.

Up to now only Ireland has announced that they will hold a referendum on the Reform treaty. The Danish government will in October discuss if they will organise a referendum while the decision in the Netherlands was expected for 21 September. The Dutch government's highest advisory body, the Council of State, said on Thursday September 13 that there is no legal requirement for a referendum in so far that the Reform treaty does not include constitutional elements.

To read a detailed analysis published by statewatch of the draft Reform treaty: visit statewatch website,

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2007/aug/eu-reform-treaty-texts-analyses.htm>

To read the latest article about the proceeding of the IGC: EUobserver website,

<http://euobserver.com/9/24783/?rk=1>

Source: Social Platform Weekly Mailing

V. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Special Eurobarometer Report on Poverty and Exclusion

A Special Eurobarometer report on Poverty and Exclusion, which has just been published by the European Commission, looks at perceptions about the existence and causes of poverty, attitudes towards homeless people and perceptions on criteria for a decent standard of living.

To download the report:

http://www.feantsa.org/files/indicators_wg/working_group_sept_2007/Report67.1EMPLpovert_yandexclusion20070830.pdf

New Eurobarometer report on Health in the European Union

This report examines the following themes: the overall state of Europeans' health and long-term illness (including specific mental health problems such as anxiety or depression); the effects of some health problems on daily life; the proportion of Europeans taking health preventive measures; specific health issues.

To download the report: the European Commission website,
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_publication/eb_health_en.pdf

Commission proposes agreement for cooperation between Fundamental Rights Agency and Council of Europe

The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has to coordinate its activities with those of the Council of Europe in order to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity and added value.

The Commission has published in August 2007 a proposal for a decision relating to the content of the future agreement between the EU and the Council of Europe which shall clarify the future cooperation between the FR Agency and the Council of Europe.

The Commission's proposal for cooperation foresees amongst others that regular consultations shall be held between the Agency and the Council of Europe Secretariat, with the aim of coordinating the Agency's activities, in particular carrying out research and scientific surveys as well as drafting conclusions, opinions and reports, with those of the Council of Europe in order to ensure complementarity and the best possible use of available resources.

The proposal foresees further that on the basis of such consultations, it may be agreed that the Agency and the Council of Europe shall conduct joint and/or complementary activities on subjects of common interest, such as the organisation of conferences or workshops, data collection and analysis or the setting up of shared information sources or products.

The proposed decision for the agreement needs to be adopted by the Council after consultation of the European Parliament.

To read the Commission's proposal: the Eur-Lex website,

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!DocNumber&lq=EN&type_doc=COMfinal&an_doc=2007&nu_doc=0478&model=guicheti

Source: Social platform Weekly Mailing

Commission launches Budget review for a changing Europe

What should be the structure and direction of the European Union's spending priorities to meet the challenges of the globalised world in the next decade and beyond? What is the best way of providing the resources necessary to fund EU policies? These fundamental and other more technical questions are to guide a broad consultation on the future of EU finances launched on 12 September by the European Commission. An open debate, to which all interested parties at local, regional, national and European levels are invited, will shape the Commission's work on the Budget Review to be proposed in 2008-09.

Adoption, on the initiative of the Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget Dalia Grybauskaitė, of the Consultation Paper in view of the Budget Review marks a first public step in the process of the reform of all aspects of EU spending and resources, as agreed in May 2006 by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

The Commission's work on the review is already ongoing with an imminent "health check" on the Common Agriculture Policy and the adoption in May this year of the 4th Cohesion Report that looked at progress in reducing regional disparities in the EU. Other policy areas will also undergo reviews. In addition, the Commission has launched a series of horizontal and sectoral studies by outside experts to be finalised in spring 2008.

All submissions in this consultation process should be sent to: budget-review@ec.europa.eu by **15 April 2008**.

They will be published on the website http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm where the Consultation Paper and other useful information on EU finances can be found.

After the consultation the Commission will propose the Budget Review in 2008-09.

DG Education and Culture

New Communication on the promotion of young people's full participation in education, employment and society

The European Commission has adopted on 5 September a Communication entitled "*Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society*". The document, prepared jointly by Commissioners Ján Figel' and Vladimír Špidla, has become an example of cross-sectoral approach to youth policy in the EU, covering a broad range of issues from education through to employment, and social inclusion through to health and active citizenship. It calls on the EU to invest more effectively in the young generation against the background of demographic ageing and increased world competition. It will serve as the basis for the further development of youth policy coordination in the EU.

For more information: the European Commission website,

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/342&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Source: EC Press Release

DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL

Closing Conference of the EYEO

The closing Conference of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) will take place in Lisbon, on 19-20 November 2007, under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency. This one and half day event will bring together around 600 participants from all over Europe and is due to be opened on 19 November by high-ranking representatives of the Portuguese government and by the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and equal Opportunities, Vladimír Špidla, and by Vice President of the European Parliament, Martin Roure.

For more information on the event: send an E-mail to esousa.lisboa@abreu.pt, or visit the EYEO dedicated website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?language=EN

High Level Group of experts on ageing population

The European Commission set up a group of governmental experts to study the problems related to the ageing of the population and to make recommendations to the Commission. The group will also serve as platform to exchange good practices and experiments regarding care for the elderly.

For more information: the European Commission website,

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/789&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Source: EC Press Release

Commission announces antidiscrimination training dates

The European Commission is supporting a series of new training seminars for non-governmental organisations (NGOs), trade unions and businesses.

Dates for seminars for NGOs and trade unions have now been confirmed in almost all of the 28 countries where they will take place between September and November this year.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and trade unions have a particular need to be well-informed on the European Equality Directives and their transposition into national legislation, not least because they are often best placed to provide direct assistance to victims of discrimination. These seminars follow previous efforts in this area supported by the Commission, such as the development of a training manual.

For more information: DG EMPLOY website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/events/events_en.htm

EUFIN organises trainings to promote fundamental rights

EUFIN is a project to develop common tools for public authorities and financial institutions with the aim of promoting fundamental rights in the European Union. Financed by the European Commission, a series of workshops will be held in different locations throughout Europe.

These 10 training sessions during the second half of 2007 are intended for public authorities and mainstream financial institutions to draw their attention to promoting fundamental rights. The trainings are also directed to civil society organisations active in the social economy sector.

For more information: the EUFIN website,

<http://www.eufin.org/work-calendar%2Cen%2C40.htm>

National non-discrimination awareness-raising activities

The anti-discrimination website's August Spotlight highlights national non-discrimination awareness-raising activities, which complement the Europe-wide information campaigns. This year several are also tying in initiatives underway for the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

The current crop of national awareness projects is underway in 23 different European countries. Activities are taking place in European Union countries (including Romania and Bulgaria, EU members since 1 January 2007) and in EFTA countries Norway and Iceland.

For more information: the anti-discrimination website,

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/aug07_en.htm

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

Health-EU Portal issues multilingual newsletter

The Health-EU Portal started issuing a multilingual newsletter, which aims to better inform European citizens on what is going on in the field of health at European and international level. The newsletter, an electronic publication produced twice a month, is published in 20 European languages and hosts links to interactive features on public health. It aims to keep citizens updated on health-related events and publications, conferences and campaigns, while in each edition a topic would be dedicated to a European or international day of action in the field of health. For instance, September 14 marked the European Prostate Awareness Day and the first edition of the newsletter provided links to numerous sites focusing on this important area and on men's health in general.

Citizens and stakeholders wishing to receive the newsletter can register to its mailing list now at:

http://health.europa.eu/newsletter/1/newsletter_en.htm

CORRELATION - European Network on Health and Social Inclusion

Correlation - the European Network of Social Inclusion and health focus on developing and implementing effective strategies to provide health and social services to people in hard to reach situations and to persons who show risk behaviour.

The main aim is to set up an expertise centre that will establish and share researched based models of good practice for health care, health promotion and health policy, to promote exchange of experiences and information on drug demand reduction and infections prevention strategies, to gather relevant data and epidemiological information and to improve the comparability of data on European level.

The network will provide a forum for service providers, self help organisations, researchers and decision makers in order to identify the most effective health strategies on different levels and to disseminate the outcomes on trans-national level. It will contribute to the enlargement process and the inequality agenda.

For more information on the project: DG SANCO website,

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2004/action3/action3_2004_08_en.htm

Final report of the Project "EU for Health and Wealth"

The final report of the project *"EU for Health and Wealth Project - Impact assessments in improving population health and contributing to the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy"*, is now available on DG SANCO website.

The goal of this project, which started in November 2005, is to show the broad benefits of using all available measures across policies for the improvement and protection of Europeans' health, and to stimulate the parallel development and implementation of such measures in the EU and its Member States. The purpose is to clarify and concretise the links between policy decisions, impacts on health determinants, health outcomes and their distribution, and demonstrate that in-depth health impact assessment may contribute to the broad social and economic objectives of the EU. The project underlines the links between improved population health and effectively contained future health care costs.

For some information on the project and to read the final report:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2005/action1/action1_2005_18_en.htm#3

Evaluation of the Public Health Programme 2003-2008 – Final report

The Public Health Programme underwent an external evaluation during the course of 2006. The purpose of the evaluation is to obtain independent, evidence based information on the implementation and achievement of the programme during its first three years (2003-2005).

Results of the evaluation will be used to provide feedback for future Commission initiatives in the field of Public Health.

To download the final report: DG SANCO website,

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/eval2003_2008_en.htm

Alzheimer disease and other dementias information sheets

Dementia is one of the most important causes of disability in the elderly; with the increasing proportion of the elderly in many populations, the number of dementia patients will rise also.

The European Commission is aware of the importance of the social and health impact associated with Alzheimer and other dementias. This is the reason for which the Work Plan for 2005 for the implementation of the programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008), includes a specific reference to the need of information and definition of indicators on the prevalence, treatments, risk factors, risk reduction strategies, cost of illness and social support as well as what constitutes a "healthy brain lifestyle" related to Alzheimer disease (AD) and other dementias.

The information sheets posted on DG SANCO website deal with the Alzheimer prevalence, the EUROCODE (European Collaboration on Dementia) Project, EU actions on information on Alzheimer and other dementias, etc.

To read the information sheets:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/diseases/alzheimer_en.htm

VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EP Resolution on the Single Market Review: tackling barriers and inefficiencies through better implementation and enforcement

On 4 September MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) agreed to provide the single market a greater social dimension. The resolution was approved by 534 votes in favour, 119 against and 27 abstentions. To reconcile European citizens with the euro MEPs have asked the EU to *"promote Member States' joint social and environmental objectives such as quality employment, equal opportunities, the protection of health and the environment."*

To read the European Parliament Resolution on the Single Market Review: the European parliament website,

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0367+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Members of the European Parliament found "European Alzheimer's Alliance" to make dementia a European public health priority

Following a call by Alzheimer Europe and its member organisations to make dementia a European public health priority, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) met in Strasbourg (France) on 5 September 2007 to formally launch the European Alzheimer's Alliance.

The multinational and cross-party Alliance brings together 27 MEPs from 16 European countries and aims at supporting the 6.1 million European citizens living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, as well as that of their informal or family carers.

At its first meeting, the Members of the Alliance agreed to instigate a European Parliament Resolution on Alzheimer's disease and to call on the European Commission and Council of Ministers to give dementia a higher priority in the definition of the European Union's health policy.

For more information: visit the Alliance's website, <http://www.dementia-in-europe.eu/>

Source: Alzheimer Europe Press Release

European Parliament to tackle NGOs

During the autumn 2007, the European Parliament will work and adopt an own-initiative report about the work of European NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations).

UK center-right MEP Caroline Jackson is likely to be the rapporteur with Dutch centre-left MEP Dorette Corbey as shadow rapporteur.

Source: Social Platform Weekly Update

VII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Report of the Council of Europe on roundtable with national human rights institutions

The conclusions of the 10th Round Table with National Ombudsmen, held on 12-13 April 2007 in Athens (Greece), were recently released by Council of Europe (CoE) Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg. This meeting saw discussions between the ombudsmen, heads of national human rights institutions, representatives of concerned CoE bodies and international experts. The conclusions address how cooperation amongst these actors can be enhanced in order to guarantee the effective implementation of European human rights standards.

To read the conclusions: the Council of Europe website,

<https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?Command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&DocId=1131818&SecMode=1&Admin=0&Usage=2&InstranetImage=98431>

VIII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Health in Prisons. A WHO guide to the essentials in prison health.

Prisoners are known to be at high risk for many infectious diseases and it is widely accepted that public-health policies must not ignore this population. Now WHO's European Region Health in Prisons Project (HIPP) has released new guidance on how staff in European prisons can reduce the public-health risks from compulsory detention, in what are often unhealthy situations.

To download the publication:

http://www.euro.who.int/InformationSources/Publications/Catalogue/20070521_1

WHO publishes World Health Data for 2007

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the World Health Statistics for 2007 in an updated version of their Statistical Information System (WHOSIS).

This third edition of WHO's report includes a section with 10 highlights of global health statistics for the past year as well as an expanded set of 50 health statistics.

WHOSIS database can be either used as an on-line tool or downloaded along with the data tables, and allows access to comparative data from across the world.

To access and download the database: WHO website,

<http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2007.pdf>

Annual World Health Report

The annual World Health Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) for 2007 addresses the health threats to global security.

This year's World Health report, entitled "*A Safer Future: Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century*", was published on 23 August 2007.

Its message is that more than at any time in history global public health security depends on international cooperation and the willingness of all countries to act effectively in tackling new and emerging threats.

For more information and to download the report: WHO website,

<http://www.who.int/whr/2007/en/index.html>

Third Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting

On 17-19 July, the third Milestones meeting was held in Scotland at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, Scotland. The meeting, hosted by the Violence Reduction Unit of the Scottish Executive, marked the five year anniversary of the launch of the "*World report on violence and health*". The meeting focused on scaling up violence prevention globally including primary prevention efforts, service delivery, data and monitoring, and outcome evaluation and presentations highlighted recent advances and ongoing work in violence prevention at the regional and country level. The meeting outcomes included the launch of the "*Third Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention*" report, shared knowledge on the need for outcome evaluation and expansion of effective violence prevention programmes, and identification of joint projects and next steps in the area of evidence-based approaches to violence prevention.

For more information: WHO website,

http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/events/17_07_2007/en/index.html

Source: Prevent Newsletter

IX. UNITED NATIONS

Inclusion International to assist Panama to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In August, Inclusion International signed a historic agreement with the government of Panama for the first phase of the project "*Living Without Barriers*."

The project will fund a series of initiatives to promote full accessibility, community living, and the full exercise of the rights of persons with a disability and their families. Through the project initiatives, Panama is taking concrete steps towards the eradication of poverty for people with disabilities and their families. Specific projects will include making schools and public buildings accessible for all disabled people, purchasing of accessible buses, construction of rehabilitation centres in rural areas, and crucial direct financial support to individuals and families. Also included is support to individuals and families to start their own businesses, including support to form cooperatives.

The project reinforces the commitment to people with disabilities shown by Panama when it became the first country to ratify the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through its legislature.

This agreement represents a model for Governments and civil society to work together towards the implementation of the Convention.

The project will begin immediately and run until 31 July 2009.

For more information: contact person, Diane Richler, E-mail dianer@inclusion-international.org

Source: EDF Weekly Mailing

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be Highlighted during United Nations Treaty Event

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were highlighted at the annual United Nations treaty event, organised to encourage United Nations

Member States to participate in international treaties on 25 to 27 September and 1 to 2 October.

Every year since 2000, the United Nations has been holding a treaty event coinciding with the General Debate in the General Assembly, to provide Member States with an opportunity to sign, ratify or accede to treaties deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General.

As of 18 September, five countries – Jamaica, Hungary, Panama, Croatia and Cuba – had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 102 had signed it. The Convention needs 20 ratifications or accessions to come into force.

As of 18 September, Hungary, Panama and Croatia had ratified the Optional Protocol and 59 countries had signed it. The Optional Protocol will allow individuals to petition the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on alleged violations of the Convention once all domestic forms of recourse have been exhausted. Subject to the entry into force of the Convention, the Optional Protocol requires 10 ratifications or accessions.

For more information: visit the United Nations website, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable>

Source: UN Press Release

X. VARIOUS

Rome to Peking by train? Are you mad?

"*Rome to Peking by train? Are you mad?*" is the slogan of an extraordinary journey to Paralympics Games of 2008 in Peking for 250 people including people with mental disorders, their families, voluntaries and health care local administration workers'. This unusual group left Rome on 8 August, stopped in Bologna and Venice and arrived in Peking on 28 August.

The journey was organised by Anpis (National Association for social integration) and "Parole Ritrovate" with the sponsorship of Health Care Ministry.

The trip represented an occasion to overturn the prejudices against mental disorders and demonstrate that "doing together", with the participation of disabled persons, their families and voluntaries, is possible.

During this long tour through Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Russian, Mongolian and China, the passengers wrote a "Log book" which collected all the thoughts, images, photos, and experiences thanks also to the collaboration of a journalist and a photographer.

A documentary with all the adventures and episodes will be realised by the associations involved. The aim is again to demonstrate that overpass prejudices and mental diseases is possible thanks to integration, autonomy and respect of the others.

For more information: visit the website of Pace e Diritti Umani,

http://www.paceediritti.it/wcm/pace_diritti/sezioni_primopiano/primo_piano/treno_pechino/treno_english.htm

Irish Human Rights Commission launches strategic plan 2007-2011 for promoting and protecting human rights in Ireland

The Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) calls for human rights to be central to all policy and legislation development. The strategic plan for 2007-2011 emphasises the IHRC's responsibility to promote and protect human rights for all and continue to recognise the universal, indivisible and interdependent nature of the rights of the individual. Equal emphasis is therefore placed on the importance of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Dr Maurice Manning, President of the IHRC, stated that the central focus of the strategic plan is to promote a culture and ethos of respect for human rights in Ireland.

For more information: IHRC website,

http://www.ihrc.ie/press_releases/newsarticle.asp?NID=212&NCID=12&T=N&Print=

Source: FEANTSA Flash

XI. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

Scottish Recovery Network (SRN)

After a year of investigation, interpretation and analysis, the first installment of the Scottish Recovery Networks' awaited narrative research findings is being made available through the SRN web site.

Over the coming months further sections will be released building up to become the most complete set of research findings on the recovery experience ever produced in Scotland.

The narrative research report, titled "*Recovering mental health in Scotland. Report on narrative investigation of mental health recovery*", explores the recovery of identity (chapter 1), engagement (chapter 2) and relationships (chapter 3).

To read the different chapters and for more information about the Narrative Research Project: SRN website, http://www.scottishrecovery.net/content/default.asp?page=s5_4

Effects and side-effects of integrating care: the case of mental health care in the Netherlands

This policy paper written by Giel J.M. Hutschemaekers, Bea G. Tiemens and Micha de Winter is a description and analysis of the effects and side-effects of integrated mental health care in the Netherlands.

Due to a number of large-scale mergers, Dutch mental health care has become an illustration of integration and coherence of care services. This process of integration, however, has not only brought a better organisation of care but apparently has also resulted in a number of serious side-effects. This has raised the question whether integration is still the best way of reorganising mental health care.

To read the paper: the IJIC online journal, <http://www.ijic.org/>

Creation of the ENHW

The ENHW is the newly created "*European Network of Homeless Health Workers*". It is intended to bring together health professionals working with people who are homeless across the EU. It is a multi-disciplinary initiative, aimed at all persons working with homeless people in a health capacity, across all areas of mental and physical health.

The momentum for the present network has arisen from the networking efforts of Dr Igor Van Laere and Dr Angela Jones and from the interest generated among health professionals working with homeless people across the EU during FEANTSA's year on health and homelessness in 2006.

The network will take form through a newsletter and an online discussion forum.

For more information and to sign up to the ENHW newsletter: send an E-mail to dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org

Launch of Headline Website

Headline, Ireland's new national media monitoring programme for mental health and suicide, launched its website www.Headline.ie. Headline works to promote greater awareness and understanding of mental health and suicide by encouraging responsible and accurate coverage within the Irish media.

The Headline website will serve as a useful tool for journalists, and media and communication students offering information on mental health and suicide, along with media guidelines both Irish and international. It will also give helpful tips and example of negative reporting. Headline will also be sponsoring awards for responsible and positive reporting through the 2007 Smedia awards.

The website will act as a lobbying platform for the general public to become involved in helping to monitor news stories relating to mental health and suicide.

For more information and to directly access Headline: visit www.Headline.ie

Source: *Mensana news*

European Anti-Discrimination Law articles available on the MPG's website

The fifth edition of the bi-annual European Anti-Discrimination Law Review is now available on the Migration Policy Group (MPG) website.

You will find articles on discrimination by association, legal standing, views on challenges for the non-discrimination Directives and UN Convention on Disability, national legal developments, European policy updates, etc.

It was prepared by the European Network of Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field and managed by Human European Consultancy and MPG at the request of the European Commission.

The Law Review is available in English, French and German.

To download the Law Review: MPG website,
<http://www.migpolgroup.com/documents/3795.html>
Hard copies are available from review@non-discrimination.net

XII. PUBLICATIONS

New issue of Eurohealth

This issue includes European Snapshots on: Health worker migration in Europe; Migrant health; Spanish long-term care reform; Mental health policy and the need to refocus on promotion and prevention; and more.

To download the publication: http://www.euro.who.int/document/OBS/Eurohealth13_1.pdf

New Euro Observer

This issue focuses on the challenges of measuring performance and assuring the quality of long-term care services, with an overview article looking at the methodological challenges, national approaches, and future directions. Case studies on the United States and the United Kingdom highlight the specific aims and approaches to long-term care quality measurement within different health system contexts.

To download the publication:

http://www.euro.who.int/document/OBS/EuroObserver_Summer_2007_final.pdf

Reconciling labour flexibility with social cohesion - The experiences and specificities of central and Eastern Europe

Even though the work place has become significantly more flexible in the former socialist countries of central and Eastern Europe, the ideas on "flexicurity" and strategies of reconciliation are usually only developed in the context of the western European welfare states. However, when considering the differences of the transformation process, it is clearly indispensable to go beyond a one-size-fits-all strategy. The realities of central and Eastern Europe and their social institutional systems must be taken into account. This volume contributes to filling this gap and to starting a pan-European reflection on the concepts and issues of labour flexibility and social cohesion. It contributes to the understanding the specificities of certain realities in central and Eastern Europe, including Turkey, in order to conceive adequate strategies for conciliation.

For more information and to place an order directly: the Council of Europe Publishing,
http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2210

XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11-13 October 2007

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

For more information: the congress' website, <http://www.zagrebcongress2007.org/>

11-13 October 2007

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

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

14-18 October 2007

IPA 2007 Osaka Silver Congress, "Active Ageing: Wisdom for Body, Mind and Spirit", Osaka (Japan)

For more information: the conference secretariat, E-mail ipa2007osaka@congre.co.jp, Tel +81-6-6204-1330, or visit the IPA website, <http://www.ipa-online.org/>

15-16 October 2007

EIPA-CEFASS International Conference, "The European Social Fund 2007-2013: Taking Advantage of Good Practices and Past Lessons", Milan (Italy)

For more information: contact person, Davide Minelli, E-mail d.minelli@eipa-it.com, Tel +39 02 67 100 600

16-17 October 2007

8th International HIA Conference, "Healthy Public Policy – Is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone?", Dublin (Ireland)

For more information: contact person, Tara Burke, Tel +353 1 478 6300, E-Mail hia2007@publichealth.ie, or visit the conference dedicated website, <http://www.publichealth.ie/index.asp?locID=561&docID=695>

18-19 October 2007

4th Three-Country Conference on Care in Psychiatry, "Competence - Between Qualification and Responsibility", Bielefeld-Bethel (Germany)

For more information: the conference dedicated website, www.pflege-in-der-psychiatrie.de, or contact the conference's secretariat, Tel +49 521 772 78024, E-mail Bruni.Aussendorf@evkb.de

25 - 27 October 2007

5th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry, "Prevention, Treatment and Management of Violence at the Individual, Institutional and Governmental Level", Amsterdam (the Netherlands)

For further information: the Congress dedicated website, <http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/violenceadam/index.html?1165518627968>

NEW!! 1-3 November 2007

Annual Conference of the German Association for Social Psychiatry (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziale Psychiatrie e.V.), "Europa ver-rückt die Perspektiven!", Munich (Germany)

The annual conference will gather leading international experts who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of health and social issues at the European level. Together with specialists from Germany and the attending participants solutions will be presented in the form of presentations and discussion events. Moreover, existing and well functioning best practice projects in Europe will be presented. Other issues to be covered by the conference include the psychiatric care situation in Eastern Europe as well as for the migrant population in Germany. The conference aims to promote the development of ongoing exchange of experience and effective cooperation.

Josée Van Remoortel and John Henderson, both MHE Senior Policy Advisors, will be among the speakers at the conference.

For more information: DGSP website, http://www.psychiatrie.de/dgsp/article/DGSP-Jahrestagung_2007.html

7-11 November 2007

3rd European Conference of Brief Strategic and Systemic Therapy, "European Ways of Brief Therapy. Investigate – Induce – Prescribe", Arezzo (Italy)

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

NEW!! 9 November 2007

Conference "Double Stigma – Double Challenge": Putting Mental Health and HIV/AIDS on the International Agenda", The Hague (Netherlands)

The spread of the HIV virus is a widely acknowledged problem in many countries of the world. Less widely recognized is the fact that the nature and severity of HIV/AIDS also often leads to serious mental health problems for those living with HIV, as well as for their partners, families and friends. People who are depressed or suffering from other psychological problems are, in turn, less likely to follow prevention or treatment regimes and are more likely to engage in risky behavior.

In most contexts, the interplay between HIV/AIDS and mental health problems is neglected or poorly understood by policymakers and those providing care and support to people living with HIV.

The conference will specifically tackle the interaction between HIV/AIDS and mental health.

To register and for more information: contact person, Katja Assoian, E-mail, kassoian@gip-global.org, Tel +31-35 683 8727

15-16 November 2007

International conference on Deinstitutionalisation and community living: comparative perspectives and international implications, Prague (Czech Republic)

For more information: visit the conference dedicated website, http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/news/eu_decl_conf.html

21-23 November 2007

Eurochild Annual Conference, "Preventing social exclusion of children and young people in Europe: Participation and early intervention", Malta

For more information: Eurochild website, www.eurochild.org/malta2007

22-23 November 2007

EQUAVET Final Conference, "A European Approach to quality of disability-related social services", Verona (Italy)

For more information: contact Nadège Jibassia, E-Mail nadege.jibassia@epr.eu, Tel +32 2 736 54 44, or visit the EPR website, www.epr.eu

29 November – 1st December 2007

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

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

NEW!! 14-16 December 2007

International Workshop on "Social investment and social protection as productive factors", Madrid (Spain)

About 15 to 20 experts, from all over Europe, will participate in this seminar, organised by the Comité Español para el Bienestar Social, the Spanish member organisation of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), together with ICSW Europe.

The seminar is expected to yield concrete proposals and recommendations to be submitted to policy makers and to social policy activists.

For more information: contact person, Thea Meinema, Tel +31 30 789 2148, E-mail t.meinema@movisie.nl, or visit ICSW website, www.icsw.org.

NEW!! 17-18 December 2007

International Workshop on "Harm Reduction and Relapse Prevention of Addictive Behaviors", Oslo (Norway)

The workshop will be presented by Dr. Marlatt, who is regarded as one of the most innovative experts, both in research and clinical work, in the field of addictive behaviours.

Day 1 will be dedicated to relapse prevention and day 2 to harm reduction.

For more information: visit the Evidence website, <http://evidence.no/en/marlatt>

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

NEW!! 6-7 March 2008

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

The theme of the conference, co-organised by the International Network of Integrated Care (INIC) and the Region Västra, is: *"Integrated Care and the Management of Chronic Illness: Public demand, technology development, and financial constraints necessitates optimal co-operation between providers of medical and social care"*.

For more information: visit INIC website,

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

NEW!! 10-12 March 2008

World Health Care Congress Europe 2008, Berlin (Germany)

Organised under the high patronage of the European Commission and presented for the 4th consecutive year, the World Health Care Congress Europe is a major international forum where over 600 health leaders share best practices and successful initiatives for improved delivery and outcomes in Europe. Thought leaders include Health Ministers, leading government officials, hospital directors, IT innovators, decision makers from public and private insurance funds, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and health care industry suppliers.

For more information: visit the congress dedicated website,

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

NEW!! 10-15 March 2008

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

The specific objective of the International Health Film Festival, ImagéSanté, is to promote the topic of health among the general public. In order to achieve this, in addition to conferences and live broadcasts of surgical operations, the Festival proposes over a hundred films in competition, dealing with subjects such as health education, prevention, food, sport, environment, or the well-being of the disabled.

For more information: visit the festival dedicated website,

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

NEW!! 5-9 April 2008

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

This annual congress, organised by the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP), provides a unique opportunity for networking with the foremost names in psychiatry and contributing to the future of psychiatric research in Europe.

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

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

Do you wish to share information, announce something or make a contribution to the MHE Newsletter?

Please send it to info@mhe-sme.org