



## MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### MHE Conference 2008, 7-9 August 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MHE joins the NGO Action Group on the EU Child Rights Strategy as observer

In view of the establishment of a new thematic MHE Committee dedicated to the mental health of children and adolescents, Mental Health Europe has joined the NGO Action Group on the EU Child Rights Strategy as observer. When the MHE Committee mental health and children will be set up, MHE envisages applying for the full Action Group's membership in order to take actively part in its activities.

The Action Group is an informal grouping of NGOs who have committed to working together on the follow up and implementation of the European Commission Communication - Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (CR Communication) and for the purpose of information sharing. The UN (represented by UNICEF) participates actively as an associate member of the group. Key members of the group are: International Federation Terre Des Hommes, World Vision, The European Foundation for Street Children Worldwide, Save the Children, EURONET, Eurochild, Plan International and SOS-Kinderdorf International.

The NGO Action Group calls for the European Union to ensure that children's rights are mainstreamed, child participation becomes a central element of the EU's work and the EU devotes sufficient human and financial resources towards the issue.

In line with this view, MHE makes a plea for a EU Child Rights Strategy that protect the mental well-being of children. MHE believes that providing a legal framework and additional support for vulnerable children is crucial to prevent problems from persisting into adulthood. Vulnerable children, whose psycho-social development may be blocked or damaged, include children who are ill, those with physical or mental disabilities, sensory impairment, those who have been neglected, sexually, physically or emotionally abused, children who have witnessed or experienced extreme trauma and children who are refugees. Such children have the right to obtain specific help, treatment or assistance, including social support, psychotherapeutic interventions and counselling (involving the children themselves, their parents and/or families).

For more information: contact person, Mari Fresu, MHE Project Coordinator, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, E-Mail [mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org](mailto:mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org)

### 4th MHEEN II meeting, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 28-30 June 2007

The fourth meeting of the Mental Health Economics European Network – phase II (MHEENII) successfully took place in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 June 2007. The meeting was organised by the London School of Economics (project leader) with the technical coordination of Mental Health Europe and in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health of Ljubljana, Slovenian MHEENII member.

On the first day of the meeting, the project leaders (LSE) gave an overview of economic evaluations undertaken to date in many countries and some future and ongoing studies were presented. It was stressed that findings show that economic evaluation of promotion and prevention interventions are a growing health policy issue but have still only minor role in some countries, while they have not a significant policy concern in some other countries. Barriers to greater use of economic evaluation of existing mental health promotion programmes are one of the main concerns in all countries.

The second meeting's day focused on the MHEEN questionnaires. The content of the MHEEN questionnaire on mental health financing was discussed by the participants in working groups. The members were asked to discuss the feasibility and appropriateness of the questionnaire for each country. An overview of the information collected so far in the area of balance of care was offered to the floor. The paper on "Balance of Care of Mental Health Services in Europe" was presented and the key results, discussion topics and conclusions were highlighted. Participants were asked to provide a general feedback on the paper.

A discussion took place on main areas of analysis of the MHEEN questionnaire on mental health and employment. An overview was provided on the evidence base on the cost effectiveness of workplace health promotion in a European context and of actions in Europe to help individuals who want to work have the opportunity to obtain or return to open employment.

Finally, on the last day the project leaders updated the participants on the administrative issues and next steps of the network, including the dissemination plan and the organisation of the final event of the project.

*The PowerPoint presentations of the meeting are available online in the "members only" section of the MHEEN II website at <http://www.mheen.org/MEMBEROnly.htm>.*

*For further information please write to Mari Fresu, project coordinator of the MHEEN II, at [mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org](mailto:mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org)*

#### Mental Health Europe participates in the first Global Advocacy Leadership Forum

On 2-4 July Mental Health Europe met in Leuven (Belgium) with four other international mental health organisations whose members represent more than 100 countries for the first Global Mental Health Advocacy Leadership Forum. The participating organisations were the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI), the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN-Europe), the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) and the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (WFSAD).

Leadership of the participating organisations share the belief that this is an important time in the evolution of mental health treatment and services, public mental health policy, promotion, prevention and public awareness worldwide. The primary goal for organising and convening the Forum was to provide a significant opportunity for organisations to:

- build relationships and mutual understanding;
- explore a range of cross-cutting issues that can be effectively addressed through collaboration and cooperation;
- establish a basic plan and procedure for sharing of information among the organisations and their members/constituencies;
- create opportunities to interact formally and informally to enhance their capacity to be heard on matters of importance to the global mental health community.

These leading mental health NGOs recognise the importance of developing a more united global voice to promote effective action to address these and other important issues and to advance mental health as a global health priority.

The participants proposed a five-point plan of action through which to develop and sustain their collaborative efforts:

1. To establish a mechanism for regular inter-organisation communication and mutual support;
2. To work together in developing strategies for building a united global voice for mental health advocacy, promotion, and services;
3. To explore the development and adoption of jointly prepared position statements on selected major issues affecting the mental health sector;

4. To work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote a higher WHO priority for mental health and mental disorders;
  5. To make the Global Mental Health Advocacy Leadership Forum an annual gathering.
- Malgorzata Kmita, President, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, represented MHE at this meeting.

#### MHE contributes to the Social Platform Annual Theme

On 13 July 2007, MHE sent a one page contribution to the Social Platform's Annual Theme: "*Demographic and Social Changes*". Answering to questions on the key trends of demographic and social change in the European society, the potential collective responses and the role of civil society and social NGOs, MHE highlighted two main arguments for the message of social NGOs to the debate on demographic and social change:

1. There are basic human needs that do not change, irrespective of economic and social changes: everybody has a need for belonging, love and affection (people need to feel associated with others) and for acceptance, recognition and power (people need to feel needed). When these basic needs are not met the consequences can be detrimental: poverty and social exclusion, illness, physical and mental disorders, addictive behaviours, violence, suicide, etc.
2. What is needed: strengthening bottom-up approaches to motivate and mobilise individuals and civil society in all EU Member States. This can be achieved through developing, enhancing and sustaining the dissemination of information, exchange, empowerment and cooperation.

On 17 August a first version of the draft common position based on the contributions from members was produced by the Platform's Secretariat. After discussion and likely amendments, the adoption of the final common position should take place on 22 October within the Social Platform Steering Committee.

*For more information: the Social Platform Secretariat, Tel +32 2 508 16 36, E-mail [platform@socialplatform.org](mailto:platform@socialplatform.org), or visit the Platform website, [www.Socialplatform.org](http://www.Socialplatform.org)*

#### MHE representation at various meetings

On 2-4 July, Malgorzata Kmita, President, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, met with representatives of the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI), the Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN-Europe), the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) and the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (WFSAD) in Leuven (Belgium). (see p. 3)

On 5 July, Mélanie Mazier, trainee, attended a Seminar on Equal Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the European institutions – State of Play and Way Forward, which was organised in the European Parliament in Brussels by the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Unit of the European Commission. (see p. 17)

On 11 July, Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, attended the meeting of the Services of General Interest Working Group at the Social Platform offices in Brussels.

On 16 July, the MHE staff had an informal meeting with Pierre Baussand and Richard Poláček, Policy Officers at the Social Platform.

On 17 July, Fanny Muller, Information Officer, attended a meeting of the LIBE Committee (Civil Liberties, Justice and Internal Affairs) in the European Parliament in Brussels.

On 18 July, Mari Fresu participated in the EPHA Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.

On 27 August, Fanny Muller took part in the Social Platform FRAND Working Group meeting in Brussels.

## **II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

#### Latest news from Mental Health Ireland

This year in Ireland early summer has been marked by attempts by the main political parties contesting the recent General Election to form a new Government. On this occasion Mental Health Ireland (MHI) published its own election manifesto which was delivered to all the main political parties before the general election. MHI's manifesto highlighted areas where its national organisations wished to see priority developments in service provision. All political parties responded to the manifesto with varying degrees of support and acknowledgement. It remains to be seen however, whether the incoming Government will respond to the very real and immediate needs to improve mental health services in so many areas.

Summer is also the time immediately following Mental Health Ireland's Annual Conference. The conference, celebrating the European Year of Equal Opportunities, took place in Killarney (Ireland) on 18-20 May 2007. Speakers included Dr Fergus O'Ferrall, Director of the Adelaide Hospital Society, who addressed the Conference on the "*Opportunities and Challenges presented to the Mental Health community by the new emphasis on Active Citizenship*", and Sean Love, Executive Director of Amnesty International (Ireland), made a presentation on "*The Right to Mental Health*", including human rights aspects of the current situation in Ireland. The Conference also included five workshops with an emphasis on mental health issues and support activities relevant to young people.

The next MHI Annual Conference will take place in Athlone (Ireland) on 18-20 May 2008.

For more information: MHI website, [www.mentalhealthireland.ie](http://www.mentalhealthireland.ie)

#### Advocacy France sends an open letter to the French minister of Health

In June 2007, Advocacy France sent an open letter to Ms. Bachelot-Narquin, French minister in charge of Health, Youth and Sports, to react on the proposed revision of the French law of 27 June 1990 on the rights and protection of people hospitalised for mental health problems and on the conditions of their hospitalisation.

The letter details Advocacy France's position regarding the proposed legislation and is based on the Recommendation (2004) 10 of 22 September 2004 of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to Member States concerning the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder, the Mental Health Declaration for Europe adopted during the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health held in Helsinki on 12-15 January 2005 and the United Nations International Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities adopted in December 2006.

Advocacy France invited the French government to respect the recommendations enclosed in these legal instruments to ensure:

- the respect of human rights , in particular of the right to individual freedom;
- the principle of non-segregation and the protection against discrimination based on illness and/or disability;
- that attention will be paid to the public authorities' responsibility regarding access to care for all.

For more information: the website of Advocacy France,

<http://www.advocacyfrance.com/Anglais.htm>

#### Mental Health Foundation calls for involvement in the "We Need To Talk" campaign

The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) is part of "*We Need To Talk*", a campaign by five leading mental health organisations (UK) to increase investment in and widen access to psychological therapies on the NHS (National Health System).

People who want to see a therapist on the NHS are forced to wait as long as 18 months for an appointment. The emotional and financial costs to individuals, families and society are enormous.

The MHF invites you to sign the online petition to urge the British government to slash waiting times and release more funds for psychological therapies so that the people who need help can access it.

For more information and to sign the petition visit: [www.weneedtotalk.org.uk/petition.asp](http://www.weneedtotalk.org.uk/petition.asp)

### "Get on board" Conference

The "autArK- Arbeitsassistentz Kärnten"-Society is organising the conference "Get on board" on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The aim of the conference is to present an overview of the current state and the social as well as political developments within the European Union. As a result of the conference a position paper, the "Declaration of Klagenfurt", will be prepared. For more information (in German only): the Society's website, [www.autark.co.at](http://www.autark.co.at)

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

### **III. REPORTS ON CONFERENCES**

#### June Session of the INGOs at the Council of Europe, 25-28 June 2007, Strasbourg (France)

A meeting of the Conference of International Non Governmental Organisations (INGOs) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe was held on 26 June 2007.

The conference was chaired by Ms Annelise Oeschger, President of the INGOs Conference. Oeschger welcomed the participants and announced the forthcoming publication of "INGO news OING infos INGO news OING infos", a semestrial newsletter which will keep them informed about the main working areas of the Liaison Committee of the INGO Conference.

Next she mentioned the signature, on 13 May 2007, of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union, which includes a chapter on "Institutional Cooperation" stating that the contribution of civil society will be encouraged. In the same time, several partnerships between the INGO Conference and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly have been initiated.

Hence the need to reorganise both the Conference's functioning and the groupings' thematic work, so as to achieve greater transparency and efficiency.

On 8 October 2007 elections for the 8 thematic groupings' respective presidencies should take place. During the Conference it was proposed that the mandate of the outgoing presidents of groupings would be extended until October 2008, that is to say until the expected completion of the reform process. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Information on the advancements of the reform process will be published regularly and a specific forum of discussion will be available on a dedicated blog, <http://coliaison.unblog.fr>.

The participants were also invited to adopt the revised rules of procedure of the INGO Conference, Liaison Committee and thematic groupings.

Jean-Louis Laurent, Director General of Democracy and Political Affairs, and Philip Blair, Director of Democratic Institutions, then presented the new structure of the Council of Europe's Secretariat. A Direction of Democracy and Political Affairs - Blair being the new Director of this unit - was created to increase the visibility of the Council of Europe's activities in the field of democracy and to enhance synergies for the improvement of democracy and good governance.

Finally, Taras Poljanec, from the European Action of the Disabled (AEH), and Luc Zelderloo, from the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) were invited to promote the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of People with Disability and call for an involvement of the Conference of INGOs in the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society.

Next meeting of the INGOs Conference is scheduled for January 2008.

The Conference meeting was followed, from 26 to 27 June, by meetings of the various thematic groupings (Health prevention, Health, Education and Culture, Extreme Poverty and Social Cohesion, European Social Charter and Social Policies, etc.) and, on 28 June, by a Study Day on "Sects as a threat to Democracy and Human Rights".

Following-up on this event, and particularly on the meeting of the European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping, MHE decided to collaborate in a reporting activity. The reporting activity will focus on the national reports that are submitted to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the body responsible for monitoring compliance in the states party to the European Social Charter. In order to do so, MHE will however need the support and expertise of its national member organisations.

More information to follow in our next Newsletter!

Fanny Muller, MHE Information Officer and Coordinator of the MHE Committee on Human Rights and Mental Health, took part in the various meetings.

*The full report of this event is available on the MHE website:*

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publications/reports-various-meetings-conferences.html>

*For more information: the Council of Europe website, <http://www.coe.int/T/E/NGO/Public/>*

## **IV. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS**

### **ACN - Active Citizenship Network**

#### European Charter of Patients' Rights - Update

On 29 March 2007 at the European Parliament in Brussels the active Citizenship Network (ACN) organised the first European Patients' Rights Day with the participation of some 180 delegates from 25 countries (including MHE) and representing the interests of patients, the public, policy makers, healthcare providers, legislators, payers, and industry. The event was part of ACN's continuing efforts to promote a multi-stakeholder discussion of Patients' Rights at the European level and secure recognition for the 14 Patients' Rights in the Charter.

Over the last few months there have been a number of important European and national events regarding the European Charter of Patients' Rights. There have been two European Parliament resolutions that mention a need for a common European Charter of Patients' Rights ([http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project\\_europe\\_chart\\_2.html](http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project_europe_chart_2.html)), as well as 4 national seminars where the Charter has been discussed among national political and health authorities together with local organizations

([http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project\\_europe\\_chart\\_3.html](http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project_europe_chart_3.html)).

*For more information: ACN website,*

[http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project\\_europe\\_chart\\_1.html](http://activecitizenship.net/projects/project_europe_chart_1.html)

*Source: ACN Newsletter*

### **AGE - The European Older People's Platform**

#### AGE presents social inclusion project

AGE, the European older people's platform, presented its "AGE/inc" project on poverty and social inclusion at the European Parliament on 26 June. Jean Lambert, MEP and co-president of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Ageing, hosted the event.

The presentation highlighted older people's views, situation and policy priorities. A focus of the project had been to increase the involvement of older people who experience poverty and social exclusion in the processes that aim to address these issues. One of the project outcomes was a toolkit to provide ideas and guidelines to organisations to plan meetings with older people.

*For more information: AGE website,*

[http://www.age-platform.org/EN/article.php3?id\\_article=467](http://www.age-platform.org/EN/article.php3?id_article=467)

### **EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network**

#### EAPN Secretariat moved offices

The new contacts details are as follows:

Square de Meeûs 18

B-1050 Brussels

Tel: + 32 2 226 58 50

Fax: +32 2 226 58 69

#### EAPN Seminar: "An EU free of poverty is possible"

An EU free of poverty... As utopian as this may sound in the current context, we need to be reminded that making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010 was one of the key objectives EU leaders set themselves back in 2000.

Less than three years before the announced deadline, EAPN is organising a seminar on 13-14 September to assess the reasons behind the loss of momentum in the fight against poverty,

but also ways to develop innovative thinking and strategies towards social Europe (in particular ahead of the 2010 Year Against Poverty).

For more information: EAPN website,

[http://www.eapn.org/module/module\\_page/images/pdf/pdf\\_publication/EAPN%20Publications/meetings/EAPN%20seminar,%2013-14%20Sept%2007.pdf](http://www.eapn.org/module/module_page/images/pdf/pdf_publication/EAPN%20Publications/meetings/EAPN%20seminar,%2013-14%20Sept%2007.pdf)

## **EDF - European Disability Forum**

### **REMINDER: EDF "1MILLION4DISABILITY" Campaign**

EDF European wide campaign, aiming to collect 1 million signatures in favour of European legislative measures to combat any form of discrimination against persons with disabilities, protect their rights and improve the quality of life of more than 50 million disabled citizens, was launched on 23 January 2007.

#### **The official closing of the campaign is 4 October 2007.**

On 12 July 2007, the president of the European Parliament officially expressed his support for the "1million4disability" campaign.

So far, the campaign has gathered more than 300,000 signatures electronically and manually in the EU-29.

MHE members are strongly encouraged to sign up the campaign and to broadcast it in their respective countries and networks. Documents are available in several EU languages.

For more information and to sign the campaign: the campaign dedicated website:

[www.1million4disability.eu](http://www.1million4disability.eu)

### An open sky for disabled passengers?

The first provisions of the EU regulation on the rights of disabled air passengers entered into force on 26 July 2007. The overall aim of the Regulation is to guarantee equal treatment for all passengers, including "any person with reduced mobility or sensory impairment, intellectual disability or any other cause of disability, age, and whose situation needs appropriate attention and the adaptation to his or her particular needs of the service made available to all passengers".

Only articles 3 ("Prevention of refusal of carriage") and 4 ("Derogations, special conditions and information") of the new Regulation entered into force. The entire Regulation, which is directly applicable to European airports and airlines, will be totally effective in one year.

For the EDF, there is still room for improvement: according to the Regulation, an airline can still refuse the boarding of a disabled passenger due to "safety reasons established by national, Community or International law". EDF campaign on air passengers' rights will therefore target the adoption of common safety rules in Europe, as well as the wide dissemination of the provisions of the law. The EDF will also concentrate its efforts to improve the Regulation, as well as to obtain similar legislation for all forms of transport.

For more information: the EDF website:

[http://www.edf-feqh.org/en/policy/transport/trans\\_pol.htm](http://www.edf-feqh.org/en/policy/transport/trans_pol.htm)

To download the text of the Regulation:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l\\_204/l\\_20420060726en00010009.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_204/l_20420060726en00010009.pdf)

Source: EDF Press Release

### EDF Annual General Assembly to take place in Brussels on 5 October 2007

The EDF General Assembly will be held in Brussels on 5 October 2007, the day after the "1million4disability" gathering event which will take place on "Rond Point Schumann" (Brussels) in a festive and political atmosphere. The European Parliament, officially supporting EDF campaign and EDF work, agreed to host the EDF General assembly in its premises.

The morning session will be devoted to internal related issues to be discussed and approved by the delegates. Whereas the afternoon session will be devoted to an official EDF 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration session followed by a cocktail. The afternoon session will be open to delegates as well as observers according to the capacity allowed by the European Parliament.

For more information: contact person, Valérie Asselberghs, Tel +32 2 282 46 03, E-mail [valerie.asselberghs@edf-feqh.org](mailto:valerie.asselberghs@edf-feqh.org), or visit the EDF website, <http://www.edf-feqh.org>

European Conference on "Recognising the Rights of Girls and Women with Disabilities – An Added Value for Tomorrow's Society", Madrid (Spain), 16-18 November 2007

The conference is jointly organised by the Disabled Women Committee of EDF and CERMI (Spanish Committee of Representatives of Disabled People).

The purpose of the conference – which is targeting women and men of the European Disability Movement – is to promote equality and improve the lives of girls and women with disabilities in Europe, within the framework of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, in order to mark the tenth anniversary of the European Disability Forum (EDF) Manifesto by Girls and Women with Disabilities in Europe.

The participants will actively contribute to achieve the objectives of the conference, which are:

1. Analyse in depth the key issues affecting girls and women with disabilities in terms of their full participation as citizens;
2. Raise awareness within the European Disability Forum and its member organisations of the need to develop specific measures to guarantee equal opportunities in the involvement of women, thus addressing the risk of multiple discrimination and exclusion from the movement on the grounds of gender and disability.
3. Promote equality between men and women by setting up and supporting women's committees or groups in national and regional structures of the European disability movement, thus facilitating dialogue on key issues related to girls and women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities.

*For more information: contact person, Valérie Asselberghs, Tel +32 2 282 46 03, E-mail [valerie.asselberghs@edf-feqh.org](mailto:valerie.asselberghs@edf-feqh.org), or visit the EDF website, <http://www.edf-feqh.org>*

**EMHF - European Men's Health Forum**

Vienna Declaration on the Health of Men and Boys in Europe

On 12 June, UEFA (the Union of European Football Associations), the governing body for European football, pledged its support to the European Men's Health Forum by signing the Forum's Vienna Declaration, which calls on Europe's politicians to do a great deal more to improve the inadequate support for men's health.

The Vienna Declaration states that men must have the opportunity to achieve the highest possible level of health and well-being, gain access to equitable and affordable healthcare services, and receive health advice and information appropriate to their experience and concerns.

Since its launch in 2005, the Declaration has received the endorsement of two EU commissioners, 25 Members of the European Parliament and 250 organisations from 27 European countries.

*To sign the Vienna Declaration: the EMHF website,*

[http://www.emhf.org/index.cfm/item\\_id/27/CFID=7324228&CFTOKEN=78492262/](http://www.emhf.org/index.cfm/item_id/27/CFID=7324228&CFTOKEN=78492262/)

*Source: EMHF Newsletter*

**EPHA – European Public Health Alliance**

EPHA concerned about health provisions in the new EU Reform Treaty

EU leaders gathered in Brussels on 21-22 June 2007 to re-launch the debate on the future of Europe. They outlined the mandate of an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) which will draw up a new Treaty by the end of 2007.

Several Member States have joined forces to stop any major transfer of competences to the European Commission (EC). This means that the articles that were negotiated during the European convention that gave any extra competences to the EC are being revised.

The health community is not happy, as there are clear indications that EU leaders will abandon the key positive elements related to health that were introduced in the former Constitutional Treaty: the European Commission was granted a stronger mandate to fight health threats, including tobacco and alcohol. It was also given a bigger role in the co-operation between Member States against communicable diseases.

Independently of domestic politics and anti-European feelings, the fact is that health threats respect no boundaries. The risk of a flu pandemic is still casting its shadow over Europe, and the European Commissioner for Health admitted that he had more powers to protect animal health than human health.

But the decision-making is now in the hands of the heads of government and state, and the negotiators that represent the governments in the preparatory work. However, this will not stop the health community making their voice heard. EPHA shall be following the negotiations closely through a dedicated section on its website and regular calls for action to its members.

For more information: EPHA website, <http://www.eph.org/r/29>

Source: EPHA newsletter

## **FEANTSA - European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless**

FEANTSA European Observatory on Homelessness, "Rethinking Homelessness Policies", Research Conference, Lisbon (Portugal), 28 September 2007

Policies preventing and tackling homelessness are still too often based on prejudices and assumptions. This European conference will be a call for more evidence-based policies and a demonstration of the importance of research for effective policies.

For more information: contact persons, William Edgar for research related questions, E-mail [w.m.edgar@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:w.m.edgar@dundee.ac.uk), and Christine Lambert for organisational questions, E-mail [christine.lambert@feantsa.org](mailto:christine.lambert@feantsa.org)

### New resources on participation from the FEANTSA Participation Working Group

FEANTSA's working group on participation has prepared two new documents on the topic of participation, which are now available online. The "*Participation Toolkit – Redistributing the Power!*" addresses organisations providing services for people who are homeless, and the people that use those services. The second document entitled "*Shared values for participation*" is a reference and evaluation tool for homelessness services that are developing participation of people who are homeless.

Furthermore FEANTSA has made a compendium of interesting examples and models from across Europe and it is worth consulting for ideas.

For more information: contact person, Dearbhal Murphy, [dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org](mailto:dearbhal.murphy@feantsa.org), or visit FEANTSA website, <http://www.feantsa.org>

### FEANTSA Annual Theme 2007: National reports on employment and homelessness available online

Most of the national reports for the FEANTSA annual theme 2007, "*Multiple barriers, multiple solutions: Inclusion into and through employment for people who are homeless*", are now available online.

On the basis of these reports FEANTSA will prepare a European report on employment and homelessness. The main findings of the report will be presented at the FEANTSA European conference in Zaragoza (Spain), 18-19 Oct. 2007.

For more information and to download the national reports: FEANTSA website, <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=36>

## **Social Platform**

### Social Platform Annual Conference - new date

The Social Platform conference will take place this year on Monday 26 November and will address the social challenges facing Europe: the ageing population, rising poverty, surging inequalities, fight against discrimination among others. The conference will be the end result of one year reflection on how our societies will change in the coming years and will present the social NGOs' recommendations on policies and financial means needed, as well as the role of civil society organisations.

For more information: the Social Platform website, <http://www.socialplatform.org>

### Social Platform reacts strongly on the composition of the newly appointed Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency

Following a meeting on 13 July 2007 between civil society organisations and the newly appointed Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the Social Platform

has expressed strong concerns with regard to the representation of the European Commission on the Management Board and the question of the Multi-Annual Framework: DG EMPL will not have a full seat on the Management Board of the FRA and the Multi-Annual Framework is clearly led by a DG Justice and Home Affairs agenda.

As a consequence, the Platform sent a message to the Director General of the European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs, Mr. Van der Pas, and hope that he will understand the Platform's concerns about the important role DG EMPL has in the field of fundamental rights and show his support by ensuring the close involvement of DG EMPL in relation to the FRA.

*For more information: the Social Platform website,*  
<http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?DocID=14104>

*Source: Social Platform Weekly Update*

## V. EUROPEAN UNION

### 50 years of the European Social Fund

On 28 June in Potsdam (Germany), a high-level event to mark the official 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the European Social Fund (ESF) brought together EU Ministers and key players in the Fund. Organised by the German Presidency, the event reflected on how the ESF is helping millions of Europeans join and progress in the job market. The next generation of ESF programmes (2007-2013) will have a budget of EUR 77 billion for 27 Member States, providing funding in areas like training, ensuring better access to jobs, fighting discrimination and improving public services.

*For more information: the European Commission website,*  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/965&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en%20or:%20http://ec.europa.eu/esf>

*Source: EC Press Release*

### European Day against Death Penalty

The European Commission is proposing a draft Joint Declaration to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, to be adopted together with the Council of Europe, regarding the establishment of a European Day against the Death Penalty, on 10 October of each year.

There has been no instance since 1997 of capital punishment in any part of the geographical area made up by the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe, including the European Union Member States. Moreover, abolition of the death penalty is assumed as a natural condition of membership in either of the two European organisations.

On the occasion of an International Conference to be held in Lisbon on 9 October 2007, the Joint Declaration would be signed by the European Parliament, the EU Presidency, the European Commission and the Council of Europe, in order to support the promotion of universal abolition.

*For more information: the European Commission website,*  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/850&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

*Source: EP Press Release*

### New Management Board and Chair for Fundamental Rights Agency

The Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) held its first meeting on 12-13 July in Vienna (Austria). The newly appointed Management Board elected Anastasia Crickley as its Chairperson and Hannes Tretter as Vice-Chairperson. With this, the Agency's set-up is proceeding according to scheduled plans.

*For more information: FRA website,*  
[http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp\\_cat\\_content&catid=9](http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=9)

*Source: FRA Bulletin*

### Ombudsman welcomes Commission's moves to facilitate integration of disabled persons

The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has welcomed the Commission's efforts to facilitate the integration of people with disabilities. Among the positive measures he

identified in a recently completed investigation are those to provide easier access to information via the Commission's website and to improve recruitment and promotion conditions. Mr. Diamandouros underlined, however, that more should be done to sensitise the Commission's staff to the needs of people with disabilities.

To read the full inquiry: the European Ombudsman website,  
<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/disabilities/en/default.htm>

Source: Press Release of the European Ombudsman

## VI. PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Priorities of the Portuguese EU Presidency

On 1<sup>st</sup> July Portugal took over the EU Presidency from Germany for the six upcoming months. The Portuguese Presidency has set an ambitious agenda, calling an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) for 23 July to provide a new Treaty for Europe to be adopted at the October EU summit. Concerning Health, the Portuguese Presidency decided to focus mainly on health promotion, disease prevention, access to healthcare and innovation. The main initiative of this Presidency in this field will be the conference on the topic "*Health and Migration in the EU*", which is aiming to mobilise Member States, national and international organisations, and NGOs to discuss and work on proposals of intervention strategies and policies, in order to promote health, prevent disease and improve the access to healthcare by migrants. The Portuguese Presidency will also focus on issues, such as: EU Health Strategy, HIV/AIDS, and Health Systems Impact Assessments.

For further information: the Portuguese Presidency website, <http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/>

Source: EFN Update

## VII. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Outcomes of the EPSCO Council, 5-7 July 2007, Guimarães (Portugal)

On 5 July, European social NGOs participated in the Informal Council of Employment and Social Affairs ministers (EPSCO Council) and were invited to express their views in the Troika meeting (of the Portuguese Presidency, along with its German and Slovenian counterparts) preceding the Council. Fintan Farrell, Social Platform President, called for stronger social objectives to reinforce EU legitimacy. During the meeting the Social Platform also presented the 8 tests devised for the Portuguese Presidency upon which it will be assessed at the end of its term, next December.

During the following days, Labour and Social Affairs ministers discussed matters of concern to the Portuguese Presidency:

- Social Responsibility, including the fight against poverty and the fight for gender equality;
- Employment and Immigration: Portugal wants a more "realistic" approach to legal migration to help solve Europe's looming job-shortage crisis;
- Flexicurity and the European Employment Strategy: strengthening the integration of the European Social Model in the Lisbon Strategy;
- Qualification and employment of young people and senior citizens;
- Work-life balance: Portugal will build on the "Family Alliance" initiated by the German Presidency in order to facilitate the reconciliation of work and private life, especially for women, parents and those in charge of a disabled family member;
- Labour law, in particular health and safety at work and workers' protection.

To read the full text of the Social Platform contribution to the Guimarães Council:

[http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Events/Troika\\_meetings/07-07-05%20SP%20Guimaraes%20Informal%20Council.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Events/Troika_meetings/07-07-05%20SP%20Guimaraes%20Informal%20Council.pdf)

For more information: the Portugal Presidency website,

[http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Reunioes\\_Eventos/Informais/Informal\\_Emprego.htm](http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Reunioes_Eventos/Informais/Informal_Emprego.htm)

## VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### Commission unveiled flexicurity plan

On 27 June the European Commission adopted a long-awaited Communication on "flexicurity". Entitled "*Towards common principles of flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security*," the paper is inspired by the responses to a wide public consultation launched in November last year. It proposes possible solutions for "*Member States to provide more and better jobs and tackle the labour-market challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*". They include at the same time flexible and reliable contractual arrangements, active labour market policies, comprehensive lifelong learning strategies and modern social protection systems providing adequate income support during periods of unemployment.

For more information: the European Commission website,

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/919&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: EC Press Release

### Europe's Social Reality: A "stocktaking"

Dramatic changes are underway in European societies: in the nature of work; modern family life; demographic trends; the position of women in society; social mobility and the incidence of poverty and inequality. Values are changing and societies are becoming increasingly multicultural. This social dynamic presents new challenges.

To seek a wide range of views on these social changes, the European Commission is carrying out a public consultation on the "social reality" of Europe today.

The consultation (which can be accessed in all Community languages) aims to generate debate on social realities across Europe. It seeks views on current social trends and on what contributes to today's "well being". It invites views on access to education and employment as well as on the implications of changing social relationships.

For more information and to directly access the consultation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizens\\_agenda/social\\_reality\\_stocktaking/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizens_agenda/social_reality_stocktaking/index_en.htm)

### Database for EU-related terminology

A database of community terminology was opened to the public on 28 June. This "*InterActive Terminology for Europe - IATE*" brings together terminology specific to each EU institution. It includes 8.7 million terms and is available in the 23 official Union languages. Offering easy access to validated EU-related terminology, it ensures the consistency and reliability of terminology which is indispensable for producing the clear and unambiguous texts necessary for guaranteeing both the validity and transparency of the legislative process and effective communication with the citizens of the Union.

To directly access the IATE:

<http://iate.europa.eu/iatediff/switchLang.do?success=mainPage&lang=en>

Source: EP Press Release

### EUtube

The European Commission launched its own thematic channel on the American video sharing site YouTube on 29 June - entitled EuTube; it aims to inform citizens about EU activities.

To directly access EUtube: <http://nl.youtube.com/eutube>

## **DG Education and Culture**

### European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008

On 26 June, the European Commission DG Education and Culture held the first meeting of the contact group for the European Year of intercultural dialogue 2008. This group is made of Social Platform members as well as of civil society NGOs involved in the cultural sector. It was chaired by the European Commission representative in charge of the year, Xavier Troussard.

The key message of the Year is that intercultural dialogue contributes to:

- mutual understanding and a better living together;
- exploring benefits of cultural diversity;

- fostering an active European citizenship and a sense of European belonging.

On 10 May, the Commission adopted a "*Communication on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world*".

On 26-27 September, the Portuguese presidency will organise a forum on intercultural dialogue.

The launch event of the Year will take place in Slovenia on 8 January 2008 and it will be preceded by a conference on 7 January where mostly civil society organisations will be invited. The launch event conclusions should be brought to the Spring European Council.

*For more information: the prototype website of the Year,*

<http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/64.html>

*Source: Social Platform Weekly Update*

### The European Commission consults on the future of Europe's schools

The European Commission launched a public consultation on the future of Europe's school. The objective is to identify areas where joint actions at European level could add-value to Member States efforts.

The working paper identifies the following challenges to be addressed:

- in 2005, about 6 million young people (18 to 24 year-olds) left school prematurely;
- 20% of the 15 year-olds do read adequately;
- gender equity is not sufficient in science curriculum.

Eight different fields are particularly identified:

1. The curriculum: How can schools be organised in such a way as to provide all pupils with the full range of key competences?
2. Lifelong Learning: How can schools equip young people with the competences and motivation to make learning a lifelong activity?
3. The economy: How can school systems contribute to supporting long-term sustainable economic growth in Europe?
4. Equity: How can school systems best respond to the need to promote equity, to respond to cultural diversity and to reduce early school leaving?
5. If schools are to respond to each pupil's individual learning needs, what can be done as regards curricula, school organisation and the roles of teachers?
6. Citizenship and democracy: How can school communities help to prepare young people to be responsible citizens, in line with fundamental values such as peace and tolerance of diversity?
7. Teachers: How can school staff be trained and supported to meet the challenges they face?
8. Management: How can school communities best receive the leadership and motivation they need to succeed? How can they be empowered to develop in response to changing needs and demands?

Mental Health Europe members are encouraged to inform the MHE Secretariat if they intend to respond!

Please send us your comments by **20 September 2007**. This will give us just enough time to formulate a joint response to the European Commission.

*For more information and to access the consultation: the European Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/index_en.html)

*To read the working paper: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/consultdoc\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/consultdoc_en.pdf)*

### **DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL**

#### Promoting the social and labour market integration of the most disadvantaged

The European Commission's June conference on Active Inclusion confirmed that the concept is emerging as a powerful means of promoting the social and labour market integration of the most disadvantaged. For this group of people a comprehensive active inclusion strategy is needed, combining adequate income support and better access to quality services with a link to the labour market. The main challenge of the active inclusion strategy is to ensure that social protection policies effectively contribute to mobilising people who are capable of working while achieving the wider objective of providing a decent living standard to those who are and will remain outside the labour market.

Building on the results of the public consultation carried out in 2006, the meeting aimed at collecting and presenting the evidence available in order to inform future policy decisions and at promoting the political debate on these key issues. The conference was opened by the Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, the German and Portuguese Secretaries of State for Social Affairs and a keynote speech by the French High Commissioner for active solidarity against poverty. It brought together around 220 stakeholders' representatives from national and local governments, the European institutions, social partners, civil society organisations and research institutes, actively contributing to an invaluable and constructive discussion.

*For more information: the European Commission website,*

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/active\\_inclusion\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm)

*Source: Exchange – The European Commission Newsletter*

#### Commission launches new anti-discrimination public consultation

The public consultation will help the Commission plan new measures to tackle discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in areas beyond the job market. It comes as the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All – which aims to raise people's awareness of their rights to equal treatment and promote a broad debate on the benefits of diversity to society – enters full swing.

The Commission has announced that it will put forward new initiatives in 2008 to prevent and combat discrimination outside the labour market based on gender, religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Commission initiatives have to be accompanied by an Impact Assessment, which analyses the pros and cons of the various options available. The results of the public consultation will feed into this process.

The consultation is made up of a general online consultation, as well as a consultation targeted at business. It will run from 4 July to 15 October.

*To participate in the consultation: [http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm)*

*For more information: the Anti-discrimination website, <http://ec.europa.eu/antidiscrimination>*

*Source: European Commission*

#### New anti-discrimination and diversity training programme

A new programme of anti-discrimination and diversity management training starting this year and continuing through 2008 has been set up by the European Commission. Anti-discrimination sessions for NGO and trade union representatives will focus on legal matters and civil society dialogue. Diversity management will be provided to participants from the business sector.

*For more information: the Anti-discrimination website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/spot/july07\\_en.htm#new](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/spot/july07_en.htm#new)

### **DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO**

#### ENHPS II - European Network of Health Promoting Schools

The European Network of Health Promoting Schools (ENHPS) aimed at promoting health and preventing disease through addressing health determinants across all policies and activities.

It was originally established as a tripartite initiative, involving the Council of Europe (CE), the European Commission (EC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO). The programme operated in 44 countries. Building on previous experience in ENHPS development, the aims of this phase were:

- strengthening the network, improving the coverage in Member States, and the development of initiatives for the building of sustainability;
- production of a training pack on health promoting schools, manuals and collections of good practice.

The project finished in December 2006.

*For more information on the project: the European Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_projects/2004/action3/action3\\_2004\\_07\\_en.htm#3](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2004/action3/action3_2004_07_en.htm#3)

#### Update: Health Care Quality Indicators

The webpage of DG SANCO website dedicated to Health Care Quality Indicators has been updated recently. The covered areas include: cardiac care, diabetes care, primary care and prevention, mental health and patient safety.

*For more information: DG SANCO website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/indicators/quality\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/indicators/quality_en.htm)

#### Healthier Together in the EU

The European Commission published a new brochure, "*Healthier Together in the EU*", which aims to highlight some of the key health policy areas in which the EU is active. It does not intend to be exhaustive, but illustrative, with a summary of the main facts, objectives and examples of concrete actions for a number of key areas: nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention; alcohol; tobacco; HIV/AIDS; blood transfusions and cell and organ transplants; rare diseases; communicable diseases; patient mobility; health information.

*To download the brochure: the European Commission website,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/documents/healthier\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/documents/healthier_en.pdf)

#### Health Policy Forum

DG SANCO's webpage on the Health Policy Forum has been updated. It now provides up-to-date information on the Forum's member organisations, adopted recommendations and proceedings of the Forum's meetings – these include in particular the presentation made by Mary Van Dievel, MHE Director, during the meeting which was held on 22 November 2006, on "*EU Health Strategy Challenges: Mental Health*".

The aim of the Health Policy Forum is to bring together umbrella organisations representing stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that the EU's health strategy is open, transparent and responds to the public concerns. The intention is to provide an opportunity to organise consultations, to exchange views and experience on a wide range of topics, and to assist in implementation and follow-up of specific initiatives.

*To access the webpage:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview/health\\_forum/policy\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/policy_forum_en.htm)

#### Health-EU launches e-newsletter

From September 2007, the EU Health Portal will be producing an online newsletter. Complementing the wealth of information on the portal itself, the newsletter will give a selection of the latest news and activities in the field of public health at both European and international level.

The Health-EU newsletter will be published twice a month, in 20 of the EU's official languages.

*For more information and to subscribe to the Health-EU mailing list: visit the Health-EU Portal,*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter_en.htm)

### **DG Research**

#### New call for proposals on Health

On 19 June DG RESEARCH published a call for proposals under the Cooperation and Capacities work programmes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007-2013). The call for proposals 2007/C 135/05 relates to the Health theme in the FP7, which addresses a number of issues with mental health-components, including the evaluation of suicide prevention strategies, promoting healthy behaviour in children, health inequalities and alcohol abuse.

*For more information: the CORDIS website,*

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call\\_id=63](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=63)

## **IX. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

### Seminar on Equal Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the European Institutions -State of Play and the Way Forward, 5 July 2007, European Parliament (Brussels)

The European Parliament is running a specific five-month traineeship programme for people with disabilities. The main purpose of this programme is to offer a number of people with disabilities a meaningful and valuable work experience and an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the activities of the European Parliament.

This seminar gave a state of play and a view of the way forward on this issue. It took place following the end of the first year of a programme consisting in the provision of internships for people with disabilities in the European institutions. Several speakers representing the different European institutions and persons with disabilities were present.

Giampiero Griffo, Member of the European Disability Forum (EDF), presented the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He explained how it should help to change the current framework and switch from a medical model of disability to a social model of disability based on a human rights approach. Wallis Goelen, Head of the European Commission's Integration of People with disabilities Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, gave then a presentation on the impact of the UN Convention on the European Disability Strategy.

A roundtable, moderated by Yves Quitin, Director for Human Resources Strategy in the European Parliament's DG Personnel, gave some information on the European institutions' policies and best practices to integrate persons with disabilities in the working life.

Dealing with the theme "*Mainstreaming disability in the selection process*", Erik Halskov, Director of EPSO, the European Personnel Selection Office, and Vincent Van Malderen, Diversity manager of SELOR – Belgium, described what they do to adapt the recruitment process to the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

An open debate followed, with the participation of several stagiaires from the pilot traineeship programme.

Mélanie Mazier, MHE trainee, attended the seminar on behalf of MHE.

For more information: send an E-mail to [EgaliteDesChances@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:EgaliteDesChances@europarl.europa.eu), or visit the European Parliament website, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm)

### New Health programme 2008-2013

During its plenary session in Strasbourg on 10 July 2007, the European Parliament adopted the report by Antonios Trakatellis MEP (EPP-ED) on the second Programme for Community Action in the Field of Health 2008-2013, with a budget of €365.5m. The programme, which promises a lot in the sensitive field of the prevention of major diseases, will come into force in January 2008, immediately after the end of the first programme and will be completed by the end of 2013.

The main objectives of the programme are:

- a contribution to reducing the frequency of appearance, morbidity and mortality of major diseases and injuries;
- the protection of citizens against health threats like a flu pandemic;
- the promotion of decisive health factors such as the right dietary habits and a smoke-free environment, with the right socio-economic conditions that limit stress and promote a healthier way of life;
- the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of health systems and the promotion of better medical practices;
- at the same time, special importance is attributed to the collection of data, on topics such as the effect of environmental factors on health and the increase of strategies for patient mobility.

For more information: contact Antonios Trakatellis,

E-mail [antonios.trakatellis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:antonios.trakatellis@europarl.europa.eu), Tel +32 2 284 57 62, or visit the website of the EPP-ED Group, [www.epp-ed.eu](http://www.epp-ed.eu)

Source: Press Release of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament

### European Parliament cautious greenlight to the IGC

On Wednesday 11 July, the European Parliament backed up the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on the future Reform Treaty - legal pre-requisite to start

an IGC. MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) decided to send strong messages with regard to transparency of the debate, and the European identity.

In the report, drafted by Jo Leinen, the European Parliament opinion regrets that the mandate abandons references to European symbols (flag, anthem, motto, the term "Constitution"). They also strongly lament on the decreasing courage and goodwill of Member States to move towards more European solidarity and integration.

Of interest for social NGOs:

- The European Parliament strongly disfavours opt-outs schemes and express their concerns that the mandate does not address new challenges the EU is facing;
- The European Parliament supports the legally-binding status of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- MEPs welcome elements of participatory democracy;
- The European Parliament calls on Member States to ensure full transparency of the work done by the IGC, notably by publishing all documents submitted for discussion;
- MEPs also affirm their commitment to work with civil society during the process and call on the European Commission to put forward specific proposals to involve European citizens.

However, they do not mention social clauses.

To read the report of the European Parliament on the convening of the IGC:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2007-0279+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

Source: Social Platform Weekly Update

#### Indefinite contracts must be the rule, according to the European Parliament

On 11 July, the European Parliament adopted a report on "Modernising Labour Law to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century" The report responds to the European Commission Green paper, published in November 2006.

Adopted by 479 votes in favour, the report considers that indefinite full-time contracts must be the general rule of employment. Contractual arrangements should be flexible and secure.

It stresses that labour law must focus on employment security throughout a worker's life rather than protecting particular jobs.

Among other considerations, MEPs call on Member States to remove restriction on access to their labour market and barriers to workers' mobility in the EU.

Brussels-based European NGOs strongly welcome this report and invite the European institutions to take this into account when drafting calls for proposals for EU Programmes and projects. ENGOs face every year the problem of continuity of funding and consecutively the continuity of staff.

To read the report:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0339+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Source: Social Platform Weekly Update

## **X. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH – WFMH**

### World Mental Health Day, 10 October 2007: "Transcultural Mental Health"

The World Federation for Mental Health has spent the last 15 years creating a global awareness campaign, the World Mental Health Day. This campaign now reaches over 120 countries and countless individuals. Since 1992, WMHD has addressed 11 important topics involving mental health and life issues.

This year will focus on a growing issue of concern within health care as a whole. Transcultural Mental Health extends the definition of mental health to look at the interactions of individuals and groups within a culturally diverse environment, to identify specific risks and protective factors for those individuals and groups who may be marginalised within the dominant culture, and to address societal and structural issues within the environment In order to promote their mental health and wellbeing.

This project marks the first year of a new department within the WFMH: the Centre for Transcultural Mental Health. Key issues for the Centre involve the role of cultural orientation in mental health as well as the role that culture plays in perceptions of mental health and illness,

in the interaction of mental health professionals with consumers from cultures other than theirs, in the perspective of mental health in the general workforce, and in public perception about mental health and mental disorders around the world.

For more information: the WFMH website, [www.wfmh.org](http://www.wfmh.org)

## **XI. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

### "Health in All Policies" Seminar

On 25-26 June, the European Commission (EC), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies held a seminar on *"Health in All Policies"* for the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which was developed in 2004 with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned.

The seminar underlined that population health is not merely a product of health sector activities but to a large extent is determined by living conditions and other societal and economic factors. At the same time good health is a key driver of productivity and economic growth.

The seminar reviewed some of the tools for Health in All Policies that can be used both in the Member States and the ENP countries, including EU policies, financial instruments and methodologies for impact assessment. It also looked into the lessons learnt from integrating health into some key policy sectors such as nutrition, employment policies, transport and the environment. Finally, experiences with implementing Health in All Policies in the EU Neighbouring countries were discussed, including success stories, tools and mechanisms as well as opportunities and obstacles for inter-sectoral work.

For more information: the European Commission website,

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_international/int\\_organisations/who\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_international/int_organisations/who_en.htm)

### Annual Conference and Network Meeting of the WHO Health in Prisons Project

This year's Annual Conference and Network Meeting of the WHO Health in Prisons Project will take place in Trenčín (Slovakia) on 18-19 October 2007.

The Conference will be held on 18 October and will be focused on Mental Health and Prisons.

The Network Meeting will take place on 19 October; all areas of prison health will be covered on this day.

Colette Versporten, MHE Executive Committee member, will represent MHE at the meeting.

For more information: contact person, Nina Blinkenberg Koch, E-mail: [nko@euro.who.int](mailto:nko@euro.who.int), or visit WHO website, [http://www.euro.who.int/prisons/20070227\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/prisons/20070227_1)

### "Nurses for Mental Health - How can we overcome the challenges and build on successes to provide effective mental health care in resource poor settings?", Online Discussion Forum, 11-25 September 2007

The objective of this online discussion forum is to bring together health care professionals, policy-makers, non-governmental organisations and researchers interested in mental health services. The two weeks of discussion shall cover identifying the key problems which have created a disparity in the quality of mental health care in low and middle income countries, sharing information and personal experience, and proposing ideas for innovative solutions. Additional controversial topics such as the roles and responsibilities of nurses in relation to other health professionals and the right for nurses to practice independently and to prescribe psychotropic medications will also be discussed.

This online discussion is sponsored by the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in collaboration with International Council of Nurses, and the WHO Department of Human Resources of Health, with support from partners of the Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Initiative.

Register for free at: <http://my.ibpinitiative.org/public/Default.aspx?c=19ed62b3-da8d-4b64-9343-c7d8dd749e1e>

## XII. UNITED NATIONS

### Human Rights organisations urge the United Nations Human Rights Committee to act on human rights abuses of Czech Roma

The Czech authorities still have not adopted comprehensive anti-discrimination law: Roma in the Czech Republic are still subject to discrimination in education, employment, housing and social services linked to child protection.

The UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) will hear civil society organisations on the human rights situation of Roma in the Czech Republic and is currently reviewing the Republic's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In a Shadow Report to the Human Rights Committee submitted by LIGA (League of Human Rights, a Czech NGO) on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, the NGO points out several violations of Human Rights, such as the unlawful sterilisations of Romani women, the absence of an independent body to investigate complaints on the police, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, the persisting segregation of Roma children in education and discrimination in housing and forced resettlement.

The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, the European Roma Rights Centre, Life Together and the Peacework Development Fund have presented a joint submission to the UNHRC, urging it to act firmly on the ongoing flagrant human rights abuses of Romani communities in the Czech Republic

To read LIGA's shadow report:

[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/LHR\\_Czeckrepublic.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/LHR_Czeckrepublic.pdf)

For more information: the UNHRC website, <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>

Source: FEANTSA Flash

## XIII. VARIOUS

### Latest news from the SUPPORT project

The second stage of the SUPPORT project website is now live. The site includes the presentations made by the project at the MHE conference in Vienna (Austria), 31 May – 2 June 2007.

Site visitors can now register to receive email updates, and to be kept in touch with developments in the site, the project and the proposed EU mental health strategy. Later on this registration will allow them to participate in discussion forums and submit their work to a bank of good practice.

The interactive features are being introduced over the course of the next few months, as projects and individuals engage with the site, register for information and start to contribute.

The site can also be used by projects to disseminate findings, and to promote activities and events.

In addition to working with the Commission on the preparations for the proposed Mental Health Strategy, SUPPORT is contacting projects and initiatives supported by the EU and promoting mental health and wellbeing, to put together a "one-stop" reference on basic project activities and outcomes.

As a first step to create that resource, the SUPPORT project is collecting information about the current and past mental health projects co-funded by Community Public Health Programmes and other programmes under further EU-policies. The information will be used to put together concise information about the content and the outcomes from projects.

If you would like to contribute your activities to this exercise, please contact Chris O'Sullivan at [chris@sdcmh.org.uk](mailto:chris@sdcmh.org.uk).

For more information: the SUPPORT project's website,

<http://www.supportproject.eu/Register.htm>

Thanks to Chris O'Sullivan for this contribution.

### WPA meets with psychiatric survivor movement groups

A number of psychiatric survivor and mental health consumer organisations, including MindFreedom International and ENUSP (the European Network of (ex)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) have united to speak out directly inside a special conference held in Dresden

(Germany) in June 2007 by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) on the topic of ending coercion and force in the mental health system.

To read the Declaration of Dresden against Coerced Psychiatric Treatment:

<http://mindfreedom.org/kb/mental-health-global/wpa-dresden/dresden-declaration-wpa.pdf>

For some more information: contact person, Peter Lehmann, Tel +49 30 8596 3706, E-mail [mail@peter-lehmann.de](mailto:mail@peter-lehmann.de)

#### Mad Pride 2007

Mad Pride is an initiative launched by MindFreedom, an independent nonprofit human rights group.

Mad Pride counteracts some of the discrimination and prejudice often shown towards people who have experienced mental distress and difference by promoting the economic, political, social, and cultural integration of users/survivors of psychiatry into the larger society. It celebrates the creativity, strength and resilience of the human spirit. Mad Pride empowers psychiatric survivors and raises public consciousness through various activities such as art, theatre, music, poetry, protests, vigils and more.

Mad Pride traditionally takes place in July. This year events included:

- The "Great Escape Bed Push": dressed in pajamas activists in England symbolically escaped psychiatric institutions to a place of safety and celebration while raising awareness about the over-use of forced treatments in mental health services and the need for holistic choice based services.
- The first-ever Mad Pride parade in Belgium.
- Mad Pride celebration at MindFreedom's Creative Revolution conference.

For more news on Mad Pride 2007: [www.mindfreedom.org/campaign/madpride/](http://www.mindfreedom.org/campaign/madpride/)

Source: MindFreedom International News

#### Failure in protecting the rights of persons with mental disabilities from Romanian medical and social institutions

The Center for Legal Resources (CLR) has been since 2003, monitoring through unexpected visits the way fundamental human rights are being respected in psychiatric hospitals and recovery and rehabilitation centres for persons with mental disabilities in Romania.

The numerous reports referring to the living conditions, lack of adequate care and necessary treatment, hospitalisation and administration of abusive measures of physical restraint and seclusion as a result of lack of staff as well as physical aggression on some of the residents of these institutions, are enough to show that Romania does neither respect the international standards of respect for human rights, nor the professional codes of conduct in the field.

CLR addresses an appeal to the Romanian Government to treat with maximum of responsibility the respect for fundamental human rights in the institutions for persons with mental disabilities and to speed up the comprehensive and unitary reform both at the level of the psychiatric assistance system and at the level of the of the social assistance for children and adults with mental disabilities system.

For more information: contact person, Georgiana Pascu, E-Mail <mailto:gpascu@crj.ro>, or visit CLR website, <http://www.crj.ro/indexen.php>

Source: CLR Press Release

## **XIV. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION**

#### HandsOnScotland

The SNAP (Scottish Needs Assessment Programme) report on "Child and Adolescent Mental Health" (2003) found that many frontline workers from all agencies feel they lack the practical skills and confidence to help children and young people who have troubling behaviour. These children or young people may be waiting to see a mental health specialist or they may have already received specialist assessment, but need ongoing support from frontline workers. Alternatively, they may not need to see a specialist, but they need someone to help them through a difficult time in their lives.

If help is given early enough on when a problem appears, it may not become a serious issue. [www.handsonscotland.co.uk](http://www.handsonscotland.co.uk) was commissioned by HeadsUpScotland, the National Project for

Children and Young People's Mental Health, to provide the information and tools to help frontline workers to offer help and support to children and young people in such situations.

For more information: visit [www.handsonscotland.co.uk](http://www.handsonscotland.co.uk)

Source: [wellscotland.info](http://wellscotland.info) – the National Programme e-bulletin

#### Web Portal of the European Alliance for Families

The Alliance is based on the assumption that the alarmingly low birth rates currently registered in several EU Member States are not a reflection of changed values and life objectives but primarily a result of the difficulties Europeans are experiencing in founding families and ensuring a good standard of living for them.

The Alliance will serve as a platform for exchanging information and experience on family-friendly policies and for sharing best-practice examples. It will be in full harmony with the efforts of the European Union to ensure equality between men and women, to strengthen solidarity between the generations and to encourage growth and employment.

To visit the website of the Alliance:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/families/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/families/index_en.html)

#### New website on the European Social Fund

The European Commission has launched a brand new website on the European Social Fund (ESF) the EU's main instrument for investing in people. The launch coincides with the Fund's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the start of a new seven year funding period for the ESF. The new website available in 23 languages includes a clickable map of where the money goes and what it pays for, as well as concrete examples of how the Fund has helped people in the job market and information on how to get involved.

Visit the website on: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/esf/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/index_en.htm)

## **XV. PUBLICATIONS**

#### Defining Social Services in Europe - Between the Particular and the General

Social Services are more than and different to ordinary commodities whereas politicians frequently postulate they should be assessed on basis of the same criteria as used when buying a cabinet or going to the garage to get the car serviced. Looking at the debate in the European Union, in many cases the review of legal questions forgets to tackle the core issue, namely the specificities of social services, for instance the fact that they contribute not only to the individual well-being but serve as well the general interest.

The contributions of the present volume approach the topic from different perspectives, gathering views from both theory and practice. They show how these services support individuals who are in specifically difficult life situations and contribute at the same time to the society as a whole.

To order a copy: E-mail [sabine.horn@nomos.de](mailto:sabine.horn@nomos.de), Tel +49 7221 2104 37

For more information: visit the Nomos Publishers website, [www.nomos.de](http://www.nomos.de)

#### Well? Magazine – Special edition on children and young people

The latest edition of "Well?", the Scottish Executive's free six-monthly magazine on mental health and wellbeing focuses on children and young people. The magazine features comments and contributions from young people across Scotland on issues close to their hearts, such as building confidence by "getting involved", the importance of being listened to, the negative effects of media stereotyping and being judged by how they feel – not how they look.

To download the magazine: the Scottish Executive's website,

<http://www.wellscotland.info/news/item.php?id=188>

Source: [wellscotland.info](http://wellscotland.info) – the National Programme e-bulletin

#### Preventing Suicide in Jails and Prisons

In 1999 WHO launched SUPRE, its worldwide initiative for the prevention of suicide. This booklet is the revised version of one of a series of resources prepared as part of SUPRE and addressed to specific social and professional groups that are particularly relevant to the prevention of suicide. It represents a link in a long and diversified chain involving a wide range

of people and groups, including health professionals, educators, social agencies, governments, legislators, social communicators, law enforcers, families and communities.

To download the publication: WHO website,

[http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/prevention/suicide/resource\\_jails\\_prisons.pdf](http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/resource_jails_prisons.pdf)

#### Reports on patients' quality of life

HSCNews International has made public the key findings of a global QoL (quality of life, as seen from the perspectives of patients' themselves) survey conducted in March – June 2007. A first report analyses patients' quality-of-life issues according to age, gender, income and location. A second one looks at quality-of-life issues according to specific diseases and regions of the world.

For more information on the project and to download the reports: PatientView website,

<http://www.patient-view.com/qality.htm>

#### EUMC Activity Report 2006

FRA (the EU Agency for Fundamental rights) succeeded the EUMC on 1 March 2007 and has now published the last activity report on the work of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). The document provides an account of the activities and achievements of the EUMC in the year 2006. The Centre's work focused on data collection and research, as well as on communication and cooperation with EU institutions, Member States, intergovernmental organisations and civil society. EUMC reports have fed into EU and national policy-making and informed a number of new initiatives in the fight against racism. Also civil society has been able to use findings of the EUMC to highlight inequalities and to encourage a response from the relevant authority.

To read the report: FRA website, [http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/ar07/EUMC-AR-07-p1\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/ar07/EUMC-AR-07-p1_en.pdf)

Source: FRA Bulletin

#### FEANTSA Magazine, Summer 2007 - Criminalisation of People who are Homeless

This issue of the FEANTSA magazine focuses on the growing trends towards repressive and coercive approach used against people who are homeless and their activities in public space. It looks at the situation across Europe and in North America, where it seems there is a growing trend towards the criminalisation of the activities that people who are homeless are forced to carry out in public space (eating, sleeping etc.), rather than a focus on policies to address their situation of poverty and marginalisation.

To read the magazine online: FEANTSA website,

<http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=35>

## **XVI. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **13-15 September 2007**

#### **IMHPA Conference, "Joining Forces across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health", Barcelona (Spain)**

The conference aims to share examples, barriers and opportunities encountered throughout Europe in implementing prevention and promotion action for mental health.

For more information on the conference: visit the conference dedicated website,

<http://www.gencat.net/salut/imhpa/Du32/html/en/dir1662/doc13013.html>

### **14-16 September 2007**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> EUFAMI Congress, "Touching the Stars – Towards a Better Quality of Life", Toruń (Poland)**

The Congress is aimed at family members, people with experience of mental illness and health and social care professionals. The Congress will provide up to date information on the state of mental health services in Europe.

For more information: the EUFAMI website, <http://www.eufami.org/>

**27-29 September 2007**

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

The conference is planned to cover a broad range of topics, targeting mainly the issue of limited access to health and social services for marginalised groups.

For more information: visit the Correlation Network website, [http://www.correlation-net.org/sofia\\_conference/index.html](http://www.correlation-net.org/sofia_conference/index.html)

**NEW!! 1-2 October 2007**

**International Seminar, "European Year of Equal Opportunities and the Labour Market: How to Implement the EU Directives and Defend Equality Rights", Milan (Italy)**

The seminar, organised by the European Training Centre for Social Affairs and Public Health (EIPA-CEFASS), is designed for officials from the EU Member States and neighbouring countries, employers' and workers' representatives, human resources managers, NGO representatives and other stakeholders in the employment sector.

For more information: contact person, Roger Hessel, Tel +39 2 67 100 600, E-mail [r.hessel@eipa-it.com](mailto:r.hessel@eipa-it.com), or visit EIPA website, <http://www.eipa.nl/en/home/>

**NEW!! 6 October 2007**

**Mad Pride Parade, Brussels (Belgium)**

The Mad Pride is the movement by and for people who are mentally different and more vulnerable but willing to fight. This parade, a premiere in Brussels, is organised by UilenSpiegel, a Flemish organisation of mental health service users, inspired by Mad Pride's of Mind Freedom.

For more information on the parade: visit UilenSpiegel website, [www.uilenspiegel.net](http://www.uilenspiegel.net) or send an E-mail at [uilenspiegel@uilenspiegel.net](mailto:uilenspiegel@uilenspiegel.net)

For more information on Mind Freedom's Mad Pride: visit their website, <http://www.mindfreedom.org/campaign/madpride>.

**NEW!! 9 October 2007**

**Conference on "Mainstreaming Children's Rights in EU Policy", European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)**

The conference is a joint event with European Children's Network and Eurochild, hosted by Inger Segelström, MEP from Sweden.

Keynote speakers will include Elda Moreno, Council of Europe, Jaap Doek, former Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Kathleen Marshall, Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People and ENOC representative, and many more.

For more information: contact person, Larissa Majlessi, E-mail [europeanchildrennetwork@skynet.be](mailto:europeanchildrennetwork@skynet.be), or visit the European Children's Network website, [www.europeanchildrensnetwork.eu](http://www.europeanchildrensnetwork.eu)

**11-13 October 2007**

**EAMHID 6<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Mental Health in Intellectual Disability, Zagreb (Croatia)**

Based on a framework of social justice and human rights the congress, titled "Mental Health: A Human Right for People with Intellectual Disability", will have a focus on practice and research related to mental health issues in intellectual disability.

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

**11-13 October 2007**

**20<sup>th</sup> CEFEC Conference, "New work – New culture", Linz (Austria)**

The conference's aim is threefold:

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

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

#### **14-18 October 2007**

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

This 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) will be a comprehensive forum of communication among specialists in the field of mental health of the elderly.

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

#### **NEW!! 15-16 October 2007**

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

A new set of EU funding regulations has brought substantial changes to the European Social Fund (ESF). This conference – the third event in a series of ESF conferences – will deal with the management of the new programmes and their implementation and with issues such as eligibility rules, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, and (online) monitoring.

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

#### **NEW!! 16-17 October 2007**

##### **8<sup>th</sup> International HIA Conference, "Healthy Public Policy – Is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone?", Dublin (Ireland)**

- The conference aims to provide an international forum to debate different perspectives in Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and explore its role across a range of sector.

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

#### **18-19 October 2007**

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Three-Country Conference on Care in Psychiatry, "Competence - Between Qualification and Responsibility", Bielefeld-Bethel (Germany)**

The aim of the conference is to provide and disseminate knowledge and to provide an opportunity for exchange of information in the field of psychiatric healthcare.

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

#### **25 - 27 October 2007**

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

The purpose of the congress is to promote and disseminate current knowledge within relevant areas of the recognition, assessment, prevention, treatment, interventions, post incident care and therapeutic safety management of violence in mental health care within clinical psychiatry.

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

#### **7-11 November 2007**

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

This third appointment is meant to be an in-depth presentation of the most evolved therapeutic techniques regarding the three main phases of therapy: diagnosis, clinical interview and therapeutic prescriptions.

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

**NEW!! 15-16 November 2007**

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

This Conference will include presentations and discussions on the findings and implications from the EU-funded project on "*Comparative cost analysis: Community-based services as an alternative to institutions*" and of other comparative work on community-based services as alternatives to institutions for people with disabilities (including intellectual disabilities, mental health problems and physical and sensory disabilities).

For more information: visit the conference dedicated website, [http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/news/eu\\_decl\\_conf.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/news/eu_decl_conf.html)

**NEW!! 21-23 November 2007**

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

The conference will focus on three core themes to prevent social exclusion and poverty among children and young people in Europe: Child and youth participation; Family and parenting support; Early years education and care.

For more information: Eurochild website, [www.eurochild.org/malta2007](http://www.eurochild.org/malta2007)

**NEW!! 22-23 November 2007**

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

The Conference will provide in-depth information on European Quality Assurance systems and put forward the viewpoint of the main European stakeholders in the disability and social sector. It will also present the results of research and pilot activities carried out in the framework of the project "*Implementing Quality Assurance and Strengthening cooperation in Vocational Education and Training*" (EQUAVET). The project partners will namely present results from a cross-reference study on Quality Assurance systems and recommendations made to the European Commission.

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

**29 November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

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

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

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

**23-25 January 2008**

**SMES-EUROPA 10<sup>th</sup> Conference, "After 15 years...", Rome (Italy)**

The aim of the conference is:

1. A retrospective evaluation: "...what is the situation after 15 years?," what has been changed in a positive or a negative way?
2. Perspectives and proposals for the future, for absolute priorities in right and access to health and social services for homeless people.

For more information on the conference: the SMES-EUROPA website, [http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007\\_10conf\\_SMES\\_UK.htm](http://www.smes-europa.org/Rome2007_10conf_SMES_UK.htm)

**19-21 June 2008**

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

The key objectives of the conference will be:

- To present new data on predictors of depression;

- To debate their significance for health promotion and prevention of depression in family practice;
- To promote inter-professional exchange between mental health and primary care professionals on management of depression and other common mental disorders in family practice.

*For more information on the conference: contact person, Dr. Francisco Torres- González, E-mail [ftorres@ugr.es](mailto:ftorres@ugr.es), or visit the conference dedicated website, <http://www.wpa2008granada.org>*

**NEW!! 7-9 August 2008**

**MHE Conference 2008, Aalborg (Denmark)**

The focus of the conference will be on "*Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing – An Opportunity for intercultural Dialogue*". Lectures, discussions and workshop will give an opportunity for sharing information, ideas and deepening knowledge and an opportunity for exchange of best practices. Participants coming from all European countries will contribute with their own experience on diversities within different dimensions of cultures.

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

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