



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE SANTE MENTALE EUROPE

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Mental Health Europe is the EU Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion.

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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health

The conference was organised in Helsinki, 12-15 January 2005, by the Regional Office of the World Health Organisation and was hosted by the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The European Commission and the Council of Europe were key partners in this event.

MHE President Claude Deutsch, MHE Director Mary van Dievel and Policy advisor John Henderson represented Mental Health Europe at the conference.

Board members Pirkko Lahti, Brian Howard and Petr Nawka, as well as other 13 representatives of MHE member organisations attended the conference.

Claude Deutsch highlighted that Mental Health Europe has been fighting for years for the rights of people with mental health problems, as well as for their inclusion in society. He welcomed the WHO Declaration and Action Plan and said that MHE would do its best to make them known.

Approximately 500 people attended the conference, from which 31 Ministers of Health. Representatives of people with mental health problems and their families and carers had the opportunity to express their concerns about their involvement in mental health policy-making, and to talk about stigma, taboos and discrimination they are facing in everyday life.

John Henderson talked about "Reforming Policy and Services in Europe".

(see page 5 for further information on the conference).

Committee on Human Rights and Mental Health

We would like to remind you that you are welcome to join MHE Committee on Human Rights and Mental Health.

The Committee was set up in the framework of the EU Co-ordination Non Discrimination Programme and had a first meeting in November 2004, during which the Council of Europe "Recommendation REC(2004)10 concerning the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder" was discussed. The Committee will mainly work by e-mail.

We would like to strongly encourage you to send your comments and suggestions concerning the Recommendation MHE Secretariat at info@mhe-sme.org, fax +32 2 280 16 04

The Recommendation can be downloaded from: [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Legal_Affairs/Legal_co-operation/Bioethics/News/Rec\(2004\)10%20e.pdf](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Legal_Affairs/Legal_co-operation/Bioethics/News/Rec(2004)10%20e.pdf)

Reminder—membership fee 2005

We would like to kindly remind you to support our activities by paying your membership fee for 2005 as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

For further information: Mental Health Europe, Secretariat, info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Seminar on European Policies

MHE will organise a seminar entitled "European policies towards the integration of people with mental health problems", which will be held in Brussels on Friday 4 February 2005.

The seminar is organised in the framework of the EU Co-ordination Non Discrimination Programme (Co-ordination of capacity building, the fight against discrimination and awareness raising in the mental health field)

Presentations will look at the role of the European Parliament in the development of European policies in the mental health field, the global strategy of the European Union regarding disability issues and equal opportunities for people with psychosocial disability, discrimination in the field of disability and EU Health Policy in the mental health field.

The main objective of the seminar is to make NGOs in the new EU Member States acquainted with EU policies that are relevant for people with mental health problems. Representatives of all MHE member organisations are also welcome.

For further information: Mental Health Europe Secretariat, info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

MHE participation in various meetings

Policy adviser Josée van Remoortel participated in the meeting of the European Coalition for Community Living, on 18 January 2005 and was involved in the EDF internal audit on 12 January 2005.

She also represented MHE at the meeting "Governance and NGOs of the Future", on 12 January 2005, organised by the European Policy Forum.

During 9-11 December, she attended a European Commission conference on equal opportunities for people with disabilities, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Mary Van Dievel attended the meeting of Directors of European Disability NGOs on 17 January in Brussels, at which the cooperation meeting of European disability NGOs was further prepared (cf p. 5).

Board Member Elizabeth Muschik attended the Social Platform Social Policy Working Group, on 25 January 2005.

Project co-ordinator Roxana Radulescu attended the Policy Co-ordination Meeting (19 January), which is regularly organised by the European Public Health Alliance to brief its members on European health policy issues.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Finnish Association for Mental Health—Conference for NGOs

The Finnish Association for Mental Health co-organised a Conference for NGOs on 11 January, a day before the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health. This was the NGOs Pre-conference of the official WHO Ministerial Conference.

The scope and purpose was to raise to discussion issues that the organizing NGOs consider significant for mental health policy making, especially in promotion and prevention, and social innovations.

The meeting also aimed at compiling the NGOs recommendations for the WHO Ministerial Conference on mental Health. A Declaration was adopted and

presented as the message of European NGOs for the Health Ministers present at the Conference. The Declaration highlighted the need for enhancement of social inclusion, equality between people and the minimization of all non-voluntary treatment and stressed that more economic and social resources have to be allocated toward empowerment, political participation and service provision by user, family and other civil society organizations..

For the full text of the Declaration, the Conference programme, abstracts of presentations, please visit: <http://www.kriisi.net>.

Mary van Dievel and Claude Deutch represented MHE at this meeting. Board members Brian Howard and Petr Nawka also attended the conference. MHE Board member Pirkko Lahti (director of the Finnish Association for Mental Health) was the main organiser.

Danish Association for Mental Health

The Danish Association for Mental Health has moved offices to:

Jernbane Allé 45, 3, DK-2720 Vanløse

Palle Heilesen is the Head of Secretariat.

For further information: landsforeningen@sind.dk, www.sind.dk.

Advocacy France – concern for the tragedy in Pau

After the murder of two nurses at the psychiatric hospital in Pau, southwest France, Advocacy France expressed solidarity with the families and colleagues of the victims and urged for a coherent mental health policy and adequate support for mental health care staff to practice their profession.

Advocacy France expressed also concern that this dramatic event, exploiting the feeling of fear, might lead to increasing discrimination and social exclusion of people with mental health problems.

The National Federation of Associations of Patients and ex patients in Psychiatry, together with the National Union of Families and Friends of mentally Ill People made also a public statement highlighting the high level of bed occupancy in psychiatric wards and the need for an appropriate mental health plan.

For further information: Martine Dutoit, tel. +33 1 45 32 22 35, Fax +33 1 45 32 22 35,

advocacy.france@noos.fr,

<http://www.advocacyfrance.org>

Estuar Foundation – change of Director

Roxana Braga, the Executive Director, of Estuar Foundation has left the organisation on 31 January.

Roxana has been the Executive Director since Estuar founding in 1993 and has led it, with professionalism and dedication, to becoming a nationally and internationally recognised centre of excellence.

Estuar provides supported living for people with mental health problem and has developed a network of 5 community centres across Romania.

MHE has had a close working relationship with Estuar, on various projects, notably the recently completed one - "Parents' school, lifelong learning for mental health" - and will continue the partnership on another project which focus on aspects of mental health awareness - "Training Centres for Mental Health".

Roxana Braga will continue working as an independent consultant in organizational management, human resources management and strategic planning.

We wish Roxana only well in her future professional and personal life!

The newly appointed Director is Luminita Costache. She has an extensive experience in social services, especially in the area of homeless and abandoned children and their families. She worked before for Holt International and for Holt Romania.

We wish Luminita a warm welcome and every success in her new position and look forward to collaborating with her!

For further information: www.estuar.org

III. EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS NEWS

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

Cooperation with European NGOs

The European Disability Forum is preparing a cooperation meeting of European level NGOs member of the European Disability Forum.

Participants at this meeting will exchange their views on how the policy and work of ENGOS (disability-specific European NGOs) has changed in the past and how they can adapt strategically to maintain their central position and involvement at European disability level. The aim is to propose solutions to strengthen cooperation among ENGOS.

Mental Health Europe is a founding member of EDF and is represented in the Board by Josée van Remoortel. She will attend this meeting and present the process and development during the past 10 to 15 years. It will highlight the changed political situation and structures as well as the impact that creation of and growth of the EDF and Social Platform had on the work of ENGOS.

For further information: <http://www.edf-feph.org/>

Business and Disability: a European Network

On the eve of the European day of People with Disabilities (3 December 2004), Business and Disability launched its programme to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. The founding members of Business and Disability- Adecco, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Manpower, Microsoft and Schindler – are proud to work together with the European Disability Forum at the forefront of industry management on issues related to physical Accessibility, e-Accessibility of products and services and Employment and to rise awareness of the business case for disability, through the promotion of disability inclusion initiatives and encouraging the exchange of ideas among business, political actors and people with disabilities.

For further information: Helena Gonzales-Sancho communication@edf-feph.org, www.businessanddisability.org.

European Conference - Equal opportunities for people with disabilities

The European Commission organised in Sofia (Bulgaria), from 9 to 11 December, an European Conference on the issue of equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

MHE was invited, together with a limited number of participants from the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia) to share experiences to promote the exchange of good practices and to provide information on the approaches taken at EU level across a wide number of policies.

The conference was opened by Mrs. Mrs Christina Christova, the Bulgarian Minister for Labour and Social Policy and Mrs. Odile Quintin, the Commission Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

The key themes were:

- Right-based approach to disability,
- Promoting action and dialogue for a stronger civil-society,
- Creating the conditions for equality of opportunities.

Each of the themes were introduced by eminent speakers and lively discussions proved participants' enormous interest and expectations.

It is important to stress that on several occasions, the specific needs of people with mental health problems were mentioned.

Removing the psychological barriers and changing the attitudes were challenging issues for all the countries, together with providing with providing specific and separate support care for people with mental health problems and people with learning disabilities.

An important theme of the event was the need for action through dialogue and a stronger civil society.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/disability/conference_bulgaria/index_en.html

(Thanks to Josée van Remoortel, who represented MHE at the conference, for this contribution).

SOCIAL PLATFORM

Call for proposals to aid for a Strategic Plan

The Social Platform launched a call for proposals for a consultant to aid the creation of it's multi-annual strategic plan (3 to 5 years). The consultant will not be responsible for writing the plan, or for producing substantive ideas for the plan, but rather for devising consultation mechanisms, facilitating the full and active involvement of members in the process, and helping to identify the key structural elements of the plan and design implementation measures.

Those interested should submit a short written proposal, including CV and brief costing, to Social Platform Director, (simon.wilson@socialplatform.org) by **14 February 2005**.

For Terms of Reference and further information:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/termsreferenceforSocialPlatformStrategicPlanFINAL2.doc>

Change of address

The Social Platform has settled in new offices: Square de Meeus 18, 1050 Brussels.

Training seminar on the European Constitution

The aim of the seminar is to improve the knowledge Social NGOs have of the European Constitution. The issues that will be addressed include: the social dimension of the Constitution treaty, democracy and governance, fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination, citizenship issues and services of general interest. The training will take place on the 16th of February, from 13.30 to 17.30 in Brussels, under the auspices of the Social Platform.

Draft Programme of the seminar:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/TrainingSeminarEuropeanConstitution.doc>

Registration Form:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/module/FileLib/RegistrationTrainingSeminarEuropeanConstitution.doc>

Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Board member, will represent MHE at this meeting.

NGO Space for Debate

The conference "Ratifying the Constitutional Treaty and Developing Participatory Democracy" is organized by the Social Platform, in the framework of the Act4europe Campaign and will be held in Brussels, on 17 February 2005, in the presence of Commissioner Margot Wallström, Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy.

The aim the conference is to enable members of national NGOs to come to Brussels, meet with colleagues from across Europe to share experience and ideas on the key issues of ratifying the Constitutional Treaty, the role of NGOs in the process and the further development of participatory democracy at European and national level. It will also provide a space for group discussion on practical issues for NGOs surrounding ratification - e.g. how to campaign in favour, or how to remain neutral but foster debate.

Act4europe can cover travel and accommodation costs only for a limited number of participants, particularly those based in the new Member States.

For further information:

http://www.act4europe.org/code/en/actions.asp?id_events=60

Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Board member, will attend this meeting on behalf of MHE.

Study visit to Latvia

The Platform organised a study-visit to Latvia on 25-26 November. The delegation was composed of six people: Fintan Farrell (Director of EAPN), Edward Thorpe (AGE), William Lay (COFACE), Anne Williams (EUROCHILD), Juris Lavrikos (ILGA) and Simona de Lisi (platform secretariat). Unfortunately, MHE was not able to participate this time in the visit.

During the visit, the Platform members had the opportunity to strengthen ties with Latvian NGOs, as well as meet with high-level officials of the Latvia government. They introduced the Social Platform and its activities, giving particular emphasis to the Lisbon process and the Social Policy Agenda, as well as their own organisations.

The Latvian representatives gave an overview of the Civil Society situation in Latvia, presenting three case studies from different Latvian organisations.

For further information:

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

OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS

EPHA - NGOs Directory

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) has recently launched online a directory of NGOs working on health and environment issues.

To access the directory, please follow the weblink below: www.ngo.ephpa.org

You can use the directory in two ways, searching for NGOs based in a given country or according to their main area of interest.

For further information : www.ephpa.org

Alzheimer Europe

Alzheimer Europe participated in a think-tank meeting of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations in order to discuss possible areas of interests and developments. At its meeting of 29 September 2004, Alzheimer Europe signed the revised memorandum of understanding between patients groups and the EFPIA, as agreed upon the meeting.

The revised text can be now consulted on EFPIA website:

http://www.efpia.org/1_efpia/dialpatients.htm

Conference "Governance and NGOs of the Future"

The European Economic and Social Committee organised together with the European Policy Forum, a conference on key trends and principles in governance and implications for NGOs in the future.

The meeting brought together international organisations, academics and NGOs to discuss trends in governance and their implications for NGOs of future.

The Conference was introduced by Professor Radaelli, from Exeter University and by José Candela Castillo, Head of Unit Governance, Secretariat General of the European Commission. Comments were given by NGO representatives, Jeremy Hobbs, from Oxfam International and Simon Wilson from the Social Platform.

The NGOs were quite clear in asking for a rights-based approach with increased responsibilities, but with no bigger regulations. A change of strategy with a better collaboration could lead to a stronger governance, with more transparency, accountability, participation and responsibility.

For further information:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events/previousConferencesWorkshops/governanceAndNGOsOfTheFuture.htm>

Josée van Remoortel attended this conference on behalf of MHE.

IV. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health

This was the first Ministerial Conference on Mental Health ever held by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Conference took place in Helsinki, during 12-15 January 2005.

The European Mental Health Declaration and Action Plan was signed by Dr Liisa Hyssälä, the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health, on behalf of all WHO Member States, and Dr Marc Danzon on behalf of WHO. European Commissioner Kyprianou and the Council of Europe representative, Ms Vera Boltho were also present.

The Action Plan proposes ways and means of developing, implementing and reinforcing comprehensive mental health policies in the countries of the WHO European Region, requiring action in 12 areas :

1. Promote mental well-being for all ;
2. Demonstrate the centrality of mental health ;
3. Tackle stigma and discrimination ;
4. Promote activities sensitive to vulnerable stages ;
5. Prevent mental health problems and suicide ;
6. Ensure access to good primary care for mental health problems ;
7. Offer effective-care in community-based services for people with severe mental health problems ;
8. Establish partnerships across sectors ;
9. Create a sufficient and competent workforce ;
10. Establish good mental health information ;
11. Provide fair and adequate funding ;
12. Evaluate effectiveness and generate new evidence.

It is expected that countries will reflect these policies in their own mental health strategies and plans, to determine what will be delivered over the next five and ten years.

Through the declaration, WHO has committed to several responsibilities in the years to come. We will be active partners, in terms of providing information, research, policy and service development and advocacy.

Dr Marc Danzon said that he found particularly heartening not only the enthusiasm of Member States but also the backing received from the user and family groups, professionals and collaborating centres.

Both plenary and parallel sessions were open to the press.

The Declaration and the Action plan , as well as other documents, among which 14 briefing sheets on various topics are available on the Conference website:

<http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth2005>

PAHO/WHO Conference on Intellectual Disability

The Montreal Declaration on Intellectual Disability , adopted at International Conference on Intellectual Disability, organised by the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organisation (5-6 October 2004) in Montreal, can be downloaded from:

<http://www.thearc.org/misc/montrealdeclaration.pdf>.

Participants at the Conference were persons with intellectual and other disabilities, families and

representatives of persons with intellectual disabilities, intellectual disability specialists, health specialists and other specialists from the disability field, state representatives, services providers and managers, advocates, legislators and lawyers.

The French version is available on the following website:
<http://www.crdime.gc.ca/pdf/Declaration-Montreal-FR.pdf>

V. EUROPEAN UNION NEWS

Dutch Presidency fails the social NGOs test

The Platform of the European Social NGOs issued a press release on 13 January stating that the Dutch presidency has deceived social NGOs, after doing more to worsen EU social policies than follow its own slogan "Let's Deliver" on a social Europe.

The Dutch presidency was criticised for having failed to anchor issues such as fight against poverty, non-discrimination and social inclusion to a clear human rights agenda.

"On the Lisbon strategy, the President missed the opportunity to ensure a broad debate about the future of the Lisbon Agenda. The job was left in the hands of the High Level Group led by Wim Kok, working behind closed doors, rather than involving citizens. Symbolically, the KoK Group met with the Economic and Financial Affairs Council, but not with the Employment and Social Affairs Council. That shows where they put their priorities" concluded Anne-Sophie Parent, president of the Social Platform.

For further information: www.socialplatform.org

Luxembourg EU-Presidency – Priorities

On 1 January 2005, Luxembourg took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Presidency attaches particular importance to the new Social Agenda (2006-2010), which the Commission will submit in early 2005 and which will be closely linked to the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy. Presidency social priorities include more quality employment, healthcare for the elderly and social dimension of Lisbon Strategy, equal treatment when it comes to employment, and the coordination of social security systems.

Moreover, the Luxembourg Presidency will devote a great deal of attention to the proposal for an "integrated action programme in the area of education and lifelong learning" during the first half of 2005. Particular stress will be laid on the issue of integrated learning of a subject and a language.

The Presidency will suggest also adopting resolution on new perspectives for consulting young people (participation in consultative democracy) and awareness raising campaigns for young people to prepare them for their role as citizens.

Concerning research, the development of measures to facilitate and favour the mobility of researchers and to clarify their status, as well as the stepping up of nanotechnology-related activities, will be given due attention.

For further information:

http://www.eu2005.lu/en/presidence/priorites_et_pgm/priorites/index.html#general

The Social Platform has devised 9 Tests for the Luxembourg Presidency and according to the concrete demands of each Test, will evaluate the Presidency's record in each area at the end of its term.

VI. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Commissioner Kyprianou –WHO Conference on Mental Health

Markos Kyprianou, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, has called for mental health to be given a higher political priority in Europe.

Speaking ahead of the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health, Mr. Kyprianou called mental illness "Europe's unseen killer" and emphasised his determination that the EU should do more to promote good mental health.

Mr. Kyprianou addressed the closing session of the conference on 14 January and attended the signing of the Mental Health Declaration for Europe.

Commissioner Kyprianou said: "Mental illness is just as deadly as physical illnesses like cancer. More Europeans die from suicide each year than are killed in car accidents or as a result of murder. Yet mental health receives surprisingly little attention – you could say mental illness is Europe's unseen killer. I am determined to change that."

The Commission is currently preparing an EU strategy on promoting good mental health.

For further information :

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/27&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Call for Proposals for the Public Health Programme

The Commission has adopted the 2005 Work Plan for the implementation of the Public Health Programme (2003-2008). The Public Health Programme is a key instrument for promoting EU action and financing in this field.

A Call for Proposals was launched on 15 January 2005. The 2005 Call for Proposals is the most important means of implementing the 2005 Work Plan and the main financing instrument for the programme's activities.

On Mental health, the following actions will be supported:

- Scientific support for networking to promote mental health and to prevent mental disorders including harmful stress;
- Promote positive mental health and prevent mental disorders focusing on children, adolescents and young people in settings such as pre-school, school and further educational settings as well in community settings;
- Identify the situation including policies, strengths, weaknesses and challenges in all Member States, including country analyses;
- Develop evidence based practices for effective mental health promotion and prevention of mental disorders, including actions on depression, suicide prevention and prevention

of self harm and substance abuse in children adolescents and young people;

- Special emphasis will be placed on evaluation and evidence of mental health promotion effectiveness.

In order to present the programme's objectives and encourage potential beneficiaries to submit proposals in 2005, the Commission is organising an Information Day on Thursday 3 February 2005 in Luxembourg.

For further information :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/ho_wtoapply/infoday_2005/info_day_en.htm

EUROPE AID – CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

The Europe Aid Cooperation Office of the European Commission has recently published two new calls for proposals in the framework of the European initiative for Democracy and Human Rights:

Combating Racism, Xenophobia, & Promoting the Rights of Minorities - **deadline 12 April 2005**;

Support for promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples: , **deadline 26 April 2005**

All the necessary information is available via the following website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

To access the relevant information, please take the following steps:- In the left hand column, (1) under "Status" click on "Open", (2) under "Type": click on "Grants" , (3)- then click on "Submit query".

DG EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

New anti-discrimination website

The new homepage of the Anti-discrimination and Civil Society Unit is now online at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm

The website contains extensive information on the anti-discrimination directives, including sections on rights and obligations under the new laws and on infringement proceedings against Member States. The site also includes information on the many activities funded under the six year €100 million Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination.

Five EU Member States taken to court

The European Commission has announced that it will refer five Member States to the European Court of Justice for failing to transpose the Employment Equality Directive.

The Directive, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of age, disability, religion and sexual orientation in employment and vocational training should have been incorporated into national law by December last year.

The five (Austria, Germany, Finland, Greece and Luxembourg) should have implemented the rules – which ban discrimination in employment and vocational training on grounds of age, disability, religion and sexual orientation – more than a year ago. Similar action has already been taken against the same countries for missing the deadline for the Racial Equality Directive, the other key piece of EU anti-discrimination law.

For further information:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1512&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

DG JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

REMINDER: Call for proposals

We would like to draw your attention that the deadline for submitting proposals is **15 February 2005**.

As mentioned in our December issue, the call for proposals aims to support activities of the civil society in the 10 new EU Member States, in areas such as:

- rule of law,
- democracy,
- fundamental rights
- the non-partisan nature of information
- the fight against corruption.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/support_ngo/funding_support_en.htm

Daphne II -two new calls for proposals

(New dates !)

Two new calls for proposals have been launched in the framework of Daphne II, the EU Programme to combat violence against children, young people and women. One call is for specific projects (**deadline 4 March 2005**) and another one is for projects aiming at the dissemination and the use of existing results (**deadline 1 April 2005**).

The Daphne II programme runs from 2004 until 2008 with a budget of EUR 50 million. It aims at supporting organisations that develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect the victims and groups at risk.

For further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

VII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Call for information on inhuman and degrading treatment

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has announced its 2005 regular visits and invites NGOs to provide information on pertinent issues of ill-treatment in places of detention, including psychiatric institutions and social care homes.

The CPT is a body established by the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, that intends to prevent severe forms of ill-treatment.

The Committee has the right to visit, at any time, any place where persons are deprived of their liberty by a public authority. It also has the right to interview in private detained persons, and to enter into contact with anyone else who may be able to provide relevant information.

After each visit, the CPT sends a confidential report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the State concerned. This constitutes the basis for a dialogue between the CPT and the national authorities

in order to strengthen the protection of detained persons from ill-treatment.

For further information :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/visits/2004-11-30-eng.htm>

VIII. VARIOUS NEWS

Spanish nurse looks for collaboration

Carlos Azón is nurse at the Psychological Centre in Zaragoza and co-ordinator of the "Cinco Villas" Community Care Unit. As a member of the Organising Committee of the Spanish Neuropsychiatry Association Day, he is looking for a colleague nurse that would be interested in making a presentation about the mental health nursing situation in France and in Europe.

Those who are interested are kindly asked to contact Carlos Azón, carlosazon@yahoo.es, tel. +34 637 74 83 97.

EUROPTION - consultancy in submitting European projects

Based in Luxemburg, Euroption is a consultancy company that offers analysis and advice for those interested in submitting a European project in the public health domain. Originated from the Health and Consumer Office of the European Community, Euroption offers support in searching for financing on projects, building up files, dealing with financial and administrative aspects of the project, optimising budget and finding European partners.

For further information :

<http://www.euroption.net/4597.html>

Call for submissions – UN Study on Violence Against Children

The United Nations General secretary has appointed an independent expert to lead a global study on violence against children. The study will draw together existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes and impact of violence which affects children and young people. A report will be published in 2006 and recommendations will be presented to the UN General Assembly.

Contributors are encouraged to complete submissions by the end of 31 March 2005. they are allowed in any of the three UN official languages – English, French or Spanish.

For further information:

http://www.dpi.org/en/resources/current_news/01-05-05_UNStudy.htm

Health Professionals and Patients - historic Partnership

19 January 2005, The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) announced a historic partnership with the global organizations representing nurses, pharmacists and physicians.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and the World Medical Association (WMA) have granted official partnership status to IAPO – the global group representing patients of all nationalities across all disease areas.

These partnerships provide an important mechanism for health professionals and patients to work together

towards quality patient-centred healthcare around the world.

For further information:

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

Call for humorous drawings on people with disabilities

The French organisation ARGOS has launched a humorous drawing competition on the theme of people with disabilities. The Moto of the competition is "make us laugh! Draw loudly what everyone thinks silently".

Deadline for selecting the drawings is 31 March.

The jury will select 50 drawings, which will be part of an exhibition.

For further information: Association Argos, 4, allée Georges Seurat 18000-Bourges, France, tel. +33 6 63 94 50 18. e-mail argos@argos.asso.fr, <http://www.argos.asso.fr/>

IX. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

14-15 February 2005

"The Integrated Care Conference" 2005 will be held in Dublin, Ireland.

Organisers would like to encourage submissions of articles on Integrated Mental Health Care, about experiences to transform mental health services into programs targeted to special groups such as patients with depression, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders and other specific mental disorders.

Info:

<http://www.integratedcarenetwork.org/conference2005/>

23-25 February 2005

"Quality and Choice in Mental Health", Dublin Castle, Ireland

This international Conference is organised by HOPE, the Standing Committee of the Hospitals of the European Union and is supported in Ireland by the Department of Health & Children, the Mental Health Commission, the mental Health managers Group and the North Eastern Health Board.

Info: <http://www.conferencepartners.ie/HOPE/>

10 March 2005

"The health implications of an expanded EU: Threats and opportunities for the UK and Europe?", Royal College of Physicians, London, UK

The conference has been designed to discuss several different areas related to the expansion of Europe. This include the impact on the European health (especially the UK) from the expansion, as well as the impact on healthcare professionals' mobility, and finally the importance and relevance of the new neighbourhood countries. Further debate will cover the economic implications of the changes and the potential for the use of health as a tool of foreign policy.

Audience: public health specialists, infectious disease specialists, hospital physicians, political analysts, health policy analysts, non-governmental organisations and academic institutes.

Info: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/conferences@rcplondon.ac.uk>

4-5 April 2005

Conference on Patients Safety – Making it happen –
The European Perspective

The Conference is organised by the Standing Committee of European Doctors in collaboration with other health partners, under the auspices of the Luxembourg EU Presidency and the European Commission DG Health and Consumer protection.

Info: <http://www.epha.org/a/1572>

20-22 April 2005

“Mental Health Promotion – Going from Strength to Strength”, Dublin Castle, Ireland

The Conference addresses issues like:

- information about on-going research and successful programmes, policies and organisational models;
- collaboration on the development of new knowledge and the implementation of programmes and strategies;
- effective use of scarce resources.

Participants are invited from policy makers and policy administrators in local and national government, professionals in health and social care, service users, researchers, representatives of education, legal and labour organisations.

Info : www.charity.demon.co.uk/dublin

12 -13 May 2005

Congress, “Balanced Care. Innovative Perspectives on Psychiatric Rehabilitation”, Geel, Belgium

The congress is organised by OPZ Geel (Public Mental Hospital) and will offer an opportunity to exchange experiences and innovative ideas on psychiatric rehabilitation.

Info:

http://www.opzgeel.be/en/nieuws/htm/congress_2005.asp

9-12 June 2005

15th Alzheimer Europe conference takes place in Ireland, hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. The theme of the conference is “Dementia matters”

Info: Conference Organisers Ltd, Clifton House, Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel. +353 1 662 01 25, Fax +353 1 662 01 26, e-mail

info@conferenceorganisers.ie; www.alzheimer-conference.org;

18-21 June 2005

9th European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS) – Stockholm (Sweden)

On behalf of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS), The Swedish National Association for Mental Health is arranging a conference on psychotraumatology, in co-operation with the National Centre for Disaster Psychiatry (KCKP).

Patron of the conference is H.M. Queen Silvia.

The main themes of the conference will be: Effects of Disasters and Terrorism, Neurobiology and Trauma, Memory and Trauma, Children and Effects of Early Traumatization, Sexual Exploitation and Trauma, PTSD and Complex Traumatization, Exile Trauma, The Impact of Prevention and Acute Interventions, Methods of Treatment of Today, Helping the Helpers, Media and Disaster.

Info: <http://www1.stocon.se/ecots2005/9/12734.asp>

7-9 July 2005

8th European Conference on Drugs and Infections in Prisons : « Unlocking Potential – Making prisons Safe for Everyone », Budapest, Hungary

The Conference is organised by the European Network on Drug and Infections Prevention in Prison and aims to provide participants with the opportunity to contribute to the development and implementation of effective drug and health promotion policies and services in prisons throughout Europe.

Info : <http://endipp.net/index.php?pid=46>

4-8 September 2005

The 28th Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health – “Equity and mental health” will be held in Cairo.

For further information: www.wfmh2005.com

13-16 September 2005

XXII World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Durban, South Africa

For the first time this congress will be held in Africa. It will include a wide range of topics and themes, with particular emphasis on appropriate representation of speakers and inter-disciplinary communication in suicide prevention in diverse cultures.

The overall theme for the congress is “Scaling the Summit. Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures”.

Info: <http://www.interaction.nu.ac.za/IASP2005/>.

28- 30 September 2005

The International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research (NPNR) launches a call for papers for its 11th conference “Continuing our journey ... the next generation ...”, to be held in St Cross Building, University of Oxford, Manor Road, Oxford, England, UK.

The NPNR is committed to supporting and promoting innovative research and particularly wants to encourage and enable the ‘next generation of mental health practitioners, users and carers to begin their research journeys.

The NPNR particularly invites papers with themes covering the following issues:

- Getting research into practice: the challenge of implementing research and guidelines to improve practice and/or health outcomes
- The Collaborative Endeavour: working with service users and carers
- Education and training: involving students in the research process
- Supporting practitioners to engage and participate in research
- New journeys, new themes and research questions

Closing date for submission of abstracts is 26 March 2005

For further information: Annelie Guard, NPNR and Mental Health Programme Administrator, RCN Institute, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HE, annelie.guard@rcn.org.uk, Tel +44 (0)1865 224640, Fax +44 (0)1865 246787.

X. REPORTS/ PUBLICATIONS

"Activities co-funded from European Community (Public Health Programmes 1997-2004)"

Prepared by Professor Ville Lehtinen, for the European Commission, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, the report provides an overview of the projects and other activities, which the Commission supported during the years from 1997 to 2004.

The report highlights that the projects have produced a great stock of knowledge about mental health, the state of mental health in the EU-population and evidence-based practices to promote mental health and that in future, the Commission will increase its efforts to further valorise the results from this work, together with Member State Governments and stakeholders, such as schools and employers.

To download the report :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/docs/action_1997_2004_en.pdf

"Actions against depression -Improving mental health and well-being by combating the adverse health, social and economic consequences of depression"

The report was prepared by a group of experts for the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection and builds on a whole range of past and current mental-health related activities under the Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008).

The report describes the illness of depression and highlights its economic and social consequences. It presents the evidence base and areas for effective interventions and identifies some of the challenges in developing promotion and prevention strategies and possible solutions. Finally, it presents conclusions and suggestions for the way forward.

To download the report :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/docs/depression_en.pdf

« Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention: A policy for Europe »

This is the outcome of the project "Integrating mental health promotion interventions into countries' policies, practice and the health care system" funded under the EC Health Promotion Programme (2002).

The publication is available electronically on the EC Public Health website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/pubs_mental_health_en.htm

"What is the evidence on effectiveness of capacity building of primary health care professionals in the detection, management and outcome of depression?"

This Health Evidence Network (HEN) report highlights that there is a substantial opportunity to improve the quality and outcome of primary care for depression.

It argues that clinician education and guidelines, when offered by themselves, are largely ineffective strategies. A near uniform finding of the report was that the improved outcomes of successful strategies are associated with increased healthcare costs.

Improved outcome will require a greater allocation of resources to primary mental health care. Some interventions, such as nurse case management, might

be relatively low cost and be easily implemented within many healthcare settings.

Initiated and coordinated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, HEN is an information service for public health and health care decision-makers in the WHO European Region.

The report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/e85243.pdf>

"The Social Situation in the European Union 2004"

The report provides an overview of population trends, living conditions and social coherence in the European Union. It seeks to portray the social dimension of the enlarged Union, looking at both social trends and emerging policy challenges. The complete report is available only in English. A summary is available in Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, Greek, Italian, German, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

To download the report :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/publications/2004/keap04001_en.html

"Social protection in the 13 candidate countries – a comparative analysis" (DG Employment and Social Affairs)

The study analyses the social protection systems of the thirteen candidate countries from an economic standpoint, focusing on how the systems function and on the underlying structures. It examines the socio-demographic and economic challenges faced by the systems, and the reforms that have been implemented and are planned.

Info:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/publications/2004/ke5103649_en.html

ILO Training Guide on Gender and Social Security Reforms in CEE.

The training guide "The Gender Dimensions of Social Security Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe" consists of a number of participatory exercises on pensions and family benefits which can be used as modules for workshops.

The Guide can be downloaded from:

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/soc_sec_gender_training_guide.pdf

Mental Health Europe is committed to:

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

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

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—

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