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**MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE**



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## I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

### MHE General Assembly and Seminar

As we already informed our members by e-mail, MHE's General Assembly and seminar will this year take place on **12 and 13 May 2006** at the conference centre Amazone in Brussels.

The seminar's theme is "*The European Commission Green Paper on Mental Health: Time for Action*" and the draft programme includes:

- an introduction on the European Commission Green Paper and presentation of the comments received from MHE member organisations and other stakeholder;
- an introduction on the implications of the proposed new mental health legislation for England and Wales, and discussion on mental health legislation and its implications in European countries;
- an introduction on community living alternatives for institutionalisation and presentation of the newly established European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL).

The seminar will be held on Friday afternoon 12 May. All member organisations, European non governmental organisations in the mental health field and other interested people are invited.

*MHE member organisations are encouraged to invite their national and local mental health policy makers to attend this seminar!*

MHE's General Assembly will be held on Saturday morning 13 May 2006.

*MHE members will soon receive by postal mail an invitation and the agenda for the General Assembly and seminar.*

*Please contact us should you not have received this invitation by the end of next week.*

The first meeting with the new Board will be held on Saturday afternoon 13 May 2006.

### IMHPA meeting 15-16 March 2006

The second phase of the EU funded project "*Implementation Mental Health Promotion Action*" (IMHPA) started in 2003.

The partners meeting held in Vienna on 15-16 March 2006 was mainly dedicated to the preparation of the IMHPA conference to be held in Barcelona on 14-16 September 2006. Participants split up in 3 working groups, which allowed for intensive discussions on the design of the conference programme and suggestions for workshop themes.

Most of the partners took responsibility for the organisation of one or more workshops of what promises to be a very lively and interactive conference. It was also proposed to organise a training track throughout the conference. This would help participants from the new Member States to get funding for attending the conference.

More information will follow soon!

Maurice Mittelmark presented a progress report on the online EMIP database "*HPSource.net*" (<http://www.caint.com/HP-source.net/frontend/index.html>). This database is an important source for capacity mapping. The database is open to all and is constantly improved.

Mary Van Dievel represented MHE at this meeting. For more information: the IMHPA project website, <http://www.imhpa.net/index.php?id=8&L=1>

### Green Paper on Mental Health Consultation

A second thematic meeting on "*Social Inclusion and Fundamental Rights in Mental Health*" was organised in Vienna (Austria) on 16-17 March 2006, as one of the events under the Austrian EU Presidency.

Purpose of the meeting was to give feedback on the Commission's Green Paper on Mental Health, and more particularly on section 6.2 of the Green Paper "*Promoting the social inclusion of mentally ill or disabled people and protecting their fundamental rights and dignity*".

There was a thematic block on "*Social Inclusion in Mental Health*" and one on "*Fundamental Rights in Mental Health*".

During the discussion on aspects of social inclusion, the meeting focused on stigma and discrimination, including access to employment, and on the shift from institutions to community-based mental health services, including the desirable balance between them.

Mental Health Europe was invited to present some statements to open the discussion on social exclusion and mental health.

The following issues were presented by MHE:

- social exclusion is not a marginal problem in Europe, but a painful reality for millions of people;
- improvement of this situation will also very much depend on the progress that will be made in combating poverty and the taboos which surround mental illness;
- people with mental health problems are excluded at all imaginable levels: housing, leisure, social networking, civil rights...but most of all employment: from the group of disabled and otherwise deprived persons, they are the furthest away from the labour market;
- the importance of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion and the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in influencing the National Action Plans should be stressed;
- importance of funding of NGOs: NGOs are representing civil society and therefore the most efficient vehicle for social inclusion;
- the first question is not how to work towards recovery, but how to promote mental health from the very beginning and how to maintain mental health; social inclusion is definitely the key to this.

In the plenary session on aspects of fundamental rights in mental health, a very much appreciated contribution was made by Gabor Gombos, representative of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) and the European Network of (ex)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP).

Conference facilitator Norman Sartorius presented the conclusions of the meeting.

*Most of the contributions to this meeting are (or will be soon) available on the Green Paper website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/green\\_paper/consultation\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/green_paper/consultation_en.htm)*

### EMIP Project's Baseline Conference

This European conference, entitled "*Creating a momentum for change*", was held in Budapest (Hungary), on 22-23 March 2006. It aimed at sharing knowledge, information and experiences on the determinants of effective implementation of mental health promotion across the European Union, and on how to make a difference through action on the ground. Academics and representatives from health ministries and non governmental organisations discussed future priorities and effective policies for the promotion of mental health and well-being in Europe.

This conference was part of the project "*Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries*" (EMIP), supported by the European Union and initiated in August 2004. The project brings together 8 European Networks and 12 national partners committed to share models of good practices on implementing mental health promotion and prevention.

At the Budapest conference findings from national workshops on good practices in promotion and prevention in Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Slovenia were used to agree an implementation framework.

The German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (FIOSH, Dortmund), in cooperation with other European Networks active in mental health promotion, prevention and information has developed a multidisciplinary and inter sectoral strategic approach towards the implementation of national, regional and local activities in eligible states. National coalitions and partnerships in the partner countries have come together to focus on improving mental health and well-being and preventing mental health problems.

Mental Health Europe, the World Health Organization (WHO) – Europe Network for Suicide Research and Prevention, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promotion in hospitals and health care, EuroHealthNet, STAKES and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) are the European Networks which belong to the EMIP project.

John Henderson, MHE Policy Advisor, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, attended the conference.

More info to follow next month!

For more information: *EMIP Project website*, [www.emip.org](http://www.emip.org)

### EMIP website

A new provisional version of the EMIP (Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries) website is now available at: <http://64.27.28.150/mentalhealth/test/homepage.html>

### MHE representation at various meetings

On 2 March 2006 Mary Van Dievel, Director, and Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, participated in the WHO/EURO Empowerment Non Governmental Organisations Network meeting, which took place in Leuven (Belgium).

On 6 March 2006 Sogol Noorani and Fanny Muller, Trainee, attended the conference organised in Brussels by the Social Platform, in cooperation with EEB (European Environmental Bureau) and ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), on the theme "*Does the Lisbon process produce sustainable development?*" (see p. 4-5)

On 7 March 2006 MHE staff and Josée Van Remoortel, Senior Policy Advisor, had a meeting with Ines Bulic, Coordinator of the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL).

On 7-8 March 2006 Josée Van Remoortel represented MHE at the ECCL Steering Group meeting in Brussels (Belgium).

On 8 March 2006 Mary Van Dievel participated in the informal consultation meeting on the European Commission Green Paper on Mental Health, which was held in Brussels.

The same day Mari Fresu, Project Coordinator, took part in the EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) Policy Coordination meeting in Brussels.

On 10-11 March 2006 Claude Deutsch, MHE president, Malgorzata Kmita, MHE Board Member, Sogol Noorani, Pino Pini, MHE Board Member, Mary Van Dievel, Josée Van Remoortel and Colette Versporten, MHE Board Member, participated in the partners meeting of the EU Project "*Good Practices to combat social exclusion of people with mental health problems*" in Paris (France).

On 13 March 2006 Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Board Member, represented MHE at the Social Platform working group on fundamental rights and non-discrimination (FRAND working group) in Brussels.

On 15-16 March 2006 Mary Van Dievel attended the IMHPA Project (Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action) partners meeting in Vienna (Austria).

On 16 March 2006 Elisabeth Muschik and Mary Van Dievel had a meeting with Pro Mente Austria President Werner Schöny regarding the preparation of the MHE 2007 Conference.

On the same day Sogol Noorani and Fanny Muller attended the Bi-annual Meeting with the Commission, which was organised in Brussels by the Social Platform. (see p. 5)

On 16-17 March 2006 Mary Van Dievel and Elisabeth Muschik took part in the European Commission Second Thematic Consultation Meeting on the Green Paper on Mental Health, dedicated to social inclusion and fundamental rights, which was held in Vienna (Austria). (see p. 2)

On 22-23 March 2006 Mary Van Dievel and John Henderson, Senior Policy Advisor, represented MHE at the Baseline Conference of the EMIP (Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and Applicant Countries) Project in Budapest (Hungary). (see p. 2-3)

On 24-25 March 2006 John Henderson and Mary Van Dievel participated in the EMIP consortium meeting in Budapest.

## II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### "Training the Trainers" Project - ESTUAR

The Estuar Foundation coordinates the project "Investment in Quality – Training Centers in Mental Health", a project funded by the European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture, the Socrates Programme, and Grundtvig 1. The partners are from Poland (The Association for Child and Family in Mental Health), Czech Republic (The Czech Association in Mental Health), UK (InterMinds), Belgium (Mental Health Europe), and Romania (Opportunity Associates, Institute for Educational Sciences).

On 13–19 February 2006 the final phase of the "Training the trainers" project took place in Brussels, and focused on specialized issues for Romanian, Czech and Polish specialists in mental health.

The next step of this project is to provide training in specific topics in mental health (such as supervision in social work, motivational interviewing, personality disorder, self harm, domestic violence, etc...) in Romania, the Czech Republic and Poland. The beneficiaries of these trainings are representatives of local authorities, professionals from the mental health field, representatives from other non governmental organisations, users, as well as students from social assistance, psychology, psychiatry and other linked areas.

The project will continue through a Grundtvig 3 application, with courses being there open to the European general public.

For further information: contact person, Luminita Costache, Tel: +40 21 332 17 71, Fax: +40 21 332 29 10, E-mail: [luminita.costache@estuar.org](mailto:luminita.costache@estuar.org) ; or see Estuar website, <http://www.ong.ro/ong/estuar>

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

## III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

### Inclusion Europe

#### Inclusion Europe expert meeting

People with intellectual disabilities and their families are not protected against discrimination in most areas of life. This was the conclusion of a meeting of disability activists and legal professionals from 13 European countries organised by Inclusion Europe in Prague, Czech Republic, on 24 and 25 February 2006.

The participating activists with intellectual disabilities reported many instances of discrimination in all areas of life. Legal experts showed how in their countries an effective protection has been achieved in such fields as education, access to goods and services, employment, or culture. Some countries have also included provisions covering the concept of "discrimination by association" of family members or friends in their laws,

thus following a long-standing demand of associations of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Different national laws thus show that effective protection from discrimination is possible in all areas of life, but that the level of protection of citizens with intellectual disabilities and their families differs enormously among the European Union Member States. Participants therefore renewed their commitment to work for better laws against discrimination following three lines of action:

1. ensure a transposition of the Employment Framework Directive EC/2000/78 that is meaningful for people with intellectual disabilities, if necessary through strategic litigation;
2. use examples of good practice from other Member States to convince their national governments to enact non-discrimination laws in other areas than employment at national level;
3. mobilise political support for a disability-specific European Directive that covers other areas than employment and occupation.

For further information: Inclusion Europe website, [www.inclusion-europe.org](http://www.inclusion-europe.org)

### Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

#### Inhuman Treatment and Punishment in Russian Psychiatric Hospital

On 28 February 2006 the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) sent urgent communications to the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on practices which amount to cruel, inhuman treatment or punishment in a psychiatric hospital in St. Petersburg, Russia.

MDAC calls on Russian authorities to allow immediate access to Mr Pavel Shtukaturov who is being involuntarily detained, denied the right to meet with his attorney and is apparently being punished and intimidated by hospital authorities for applying to the European Court of Human Rights.

For more information contact MDAC: Tel. +36 1 413 2730, Fax +36 1 413 2739, E-mail [mdac@mdac.info](mailto:mdac@mdac.info), or see MDAC website <http://www.mdac.info>

### Social Platform

#### Conference on the renewed Lisbon strategy

A few hundred trade union and Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) activists attended the conference "Does the Lisbon process produce sustainable development?", which was organised in Brussels by the Social Platform, the European Environmental Bureau and the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) on 6 March 2006, to discuss the relationship between the Union's revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs and the European Union's sustainable development goals. Although sustainable development is supposed to be the overarching principle of all EU policies, the Commission's emphasis on competitiveness, economic growth and job creation, has left unions and NGOs concerned about social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

At the conference, President Barroso defended his commission's ambitions on sustainable development. He underlined the need for involvement of stakeholders and member states when implementing the two strategies and pointed to the national Lisbon reform programmes, which he saw as "a sound basis for progress". The Commission President referred to EU initiatives on eco-innovation such as the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) and the drive for eco-efficiency as examples of his commitment to sustainable development.

For the Austrian EU Presidency, economics minister Martin Bartenstein drew attention to the new emphasis on sustainable energy policy. "The EU has woken up to the energy challenge", Bartenstein said. He stated that Europe is the world leader in social cohesion and sustainability.

At the end of the conference, Social Platform President, Anne-Sophie Parent, presented President Barroso the social NGOs road to success of the Lisbon Process. She gave the President a drawing showing the Lisbon strategy four-wheel drive bus (representing society, environment, economics and competitiveness) with "everybody on board" driven by a democratically elected driver. The bus was leaving a dark and gloomy environment and heading towards a bright and sunny future. "That – said Parent – is what social NGOs prospect for the Lisbon strategy, but only if decision-makers get everyone on-board".

Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, trainee, represented MHE at the conference.

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

#### Bi-annual meeting between the Commission and the Social Platform

This meeting, which took place in Brussels on 16 March 2006, gave the participants, coming from various European non governmental organisations (NGOs), the opportunity to discuss some of the social issues that are currently at stake with, amongst other keynote speakers from the European Commission, Commissioner Špidla, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

It was co-chaired by Anne-Sophie Parent, President of the Social Platform, and B. Jansen, Director of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Commissioner Špidla started off as the first speaker talking about the revised Lisbon strategy and the work towards growth and employment that the Commission has accomplished so far.

He emphasized that we must, from now on, strengthen the partnership between the European Commission, the Member States and the social partners through sharing roles and responsibilities.

The following interventions included:

- a presentation by J. Vignon (Director DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) on demographic change (contribution of the European Commission Green Paper on Demographic Change) and the consultation on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market;
- a short speech from C. Magnant (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal

Opportunities) on the preparations for the European Year of Equal Opportunities for all 2007, informing the audience that a dedicated website will be active by the end of March 2006;

- a talk by M. Kröger (Secretariat-General, Unit B/2) on the Transparency Initiative Communication;
- a presentation on the Plan "D" and the "Communicating Europe" project;
- a report on the Roadmap for Equality between women and men by L. Pavan-Woolfe (Director, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

The participants and the chair reacted and debated on these various presentations with their respective authors.

Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, and Fanny Muller, trainee represented MHE at this meeting.

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

## **IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

### 2006 World Mental Health Day campaign

The theme for the 2006 World Mental Health Day campaign is "Building Awareness – Reducing Risk: Mental illness and Suicide". This campaign will call attention to one of the world's greatest public health epidemics. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are one million suicide deaths each year, representing 1.4% of the total global burden of disease.

Suicide often represents a tragic consequence of failing to recognize and treat serious mental illness. Studies from a number of countries show a high prevalence of mental illness among those who die from suicide.

In fact, the WHO estimates that 50% of all people who complete suicide have at least one (often undiagnosed) mental illness or abuse alcohol or other drugs. The 2006 World Mental Health Day campaign will provide an in-depth look at the role in which mental illnesses play in suicide, and will serve as a powerful strategy to counter the commonly held perception that mental illnesses are a "luxury" health concern that can be delayed until more "immediate and pressing" healthcare concerns have been addressed.

The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) is entering onto collaboration with the International Association for Suicide Prevention to jointly promote World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) and World Mental Health Day (10 October). This collaboration will add to the impact and benefit of both of these global awareness days, and will increase the value that each of the days has in improving public awareness, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting service and policy advocacy to address the global impact that suicide associated with mental illnesses has on the global burden of disease.

To consult the latest updates on plans for World Mental Health Day 2006 and the 2006 campaign materials packet and planning guide: the WFMH website: <http://www.wfmh.org/>

For more information: contact person, Debbie Maguire, [dmaguire@wfmh.com](mailto:dmaguire@wfmh.com)

#### Relocation of the WFMH offices

On 1<sup>st</sup> March the WFMH moved to a new address. The new address and contact information is as follows:  
World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)  
6564 Loisdale Court, Suite 301  
Springfield VA  
22150-1812 United States of America  
The new telephone and fax numbers are:  
Tel. 001-703-313-8680  
Fax. 001-703-313-8683  
WFMH e-mail addresses remain the same:  
[pgarrison@wfmh.com](mailto:pgarrison@wfmh.com), [bjones@wfmh.com](mailto:bjones@wfmh.com),  
[dmaguire@wfmh.com](mailto:dmaguire@wfmh.com), [dtacker@wfmh.com](mailto:dtacker@wfmh.com),  
[eberger@wfmh.com](mailto:eberger@wfmh.com)

### **V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

#### World Health Day 7 April 2006

The World Health Organization (WHO) is making human resources for health the focus of World Health Day 2006. This is also the subject of *The World Health report 2006*, which will be launched on World Health Day.

The slogan for World Health Day is "Working Together for Health". This area of work, and challenges such as the migration of health workers, demand partnership and cooperation within countries and across the world. In addition to launching *The World Health report 2006* on World Health Day, WHO is working to ensure that World Health Day celebrations will include hundreds of high profile events around the globe. These events can provide an important catalyst for collective action among governments, international donors, non governmental organizations, the private sector, the media, community-based groups, and individuals to learn about plan for and undertake sustainable activities that aim to strengthen the health workforce. For more information on the activities surrounding World Health Day 2006: WHO website, <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/en/>

### **VI. EUROPEAN UNION**

#### Ratification of the EU Constitution

On 8 February 2006 the regional Parliament of Flanders in Belgium approved the ratification of the draft European Constitution by 84 votes in favour, 29 against and 1 abstention. This decision finalise the ratification procedure of the Constitutional Treaty in Belgium. The procedure has been a particularly complex in this country due to its federal structure: no less than 7 Parliamentary Assemblies were called on to vote on the text.

Belgium is therefore the 14<sup>th</sup> Member States to have adopted the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

After the Constitution had been rejected in the French and Dutch referenda, member states agreed at the European Council on 16-17 June 2005 on a Declaration on the ratification of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, calling for a period of reflection

during which a broad debate could take place. The deadline for ratifying the treaty was prolonged indefinitely, and decisions about further ratification of the Constitution were put on the hands of each member state, with the immediate consequence that most of the member states froze their ratification processes; only Luxembourg stuck to its original timetable, ratifying the Constitution by referendum on 10 July 2005.

There were many reasons for the No vote. The domestic economic and social situation played its role in both France and the Netherlands. The perception that the Constitution was too liberal, too market oriented and the belief that it could be renegotiated was another reason, foremost in France. But also the lack of information was seen as one of the causes which provoked the rejection of the Constitution.

For more information visit the *European Union Constitution's website*:

<http://www.unizar.es/euroconstitucion/Home.htm>,

Or visit the *European Union's website*:

[http://europa.eu.int/constitution/ratification\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/constitution/ratification_en.htm)

### **VII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

#### Better Policies, Better Outcomes – Promoting Mainstreaming Social Inclusion

On 22 February 2006 the publication "*Better Policies, Better Outcomes – Promoting Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*" and its complementary website were launched at the European Parliament. The launch was being hosted by Mr Proinsias De Rossa, MEP, currently, Joint Rapporteur on the European Social Model.

In 2003, EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network), along with eight other national and European partners started a three-year research project to advance the understanding of mainstreaming as a policy tool to realise social inclusion. The "*Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*" (MSI) project derived its impetus from the growing priority given to tackling poverty and social exclusion in EU Member States by the European Council – particularly through the goals adopted by the Lisbon Strategy. The study was funded by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, through its Trans-national Exchange Programme (TEP).

"*Better Policies, Better Outcomes – Promoting Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*" documents the MSI project's exploration of how social inclusion can have a more central role in the formation of political and administrative policies in EU Member States. It provides an in-depth analysis of the policy processes in the Member States involved in the project. It also examines how people experiencing poverty or their representative organisations can be more involved in such processes. The publication illustrates operational mainstreaming tools, which have been developed to assist those involved in the policy formulation, service provision and non-governmental organisations which are representative of people experiencing social exclusion and poverty. The complementary website provides a 'how to' guide to mainstreaming social inclusion into public policies for government officials, service providers, NGOs and others involved in the design and implementation of policies.

Sogol Noorani, Project Coordinator, represented MHE at this event.

You can find further information under: [www.europemsi.org](http://www.europemsi.org) or by contacting: [msi@cpa.ie](mailto:msi@cpa.ie)

### MEPs call for zero tolerance to all forms of violence against women

The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) voiced their concern about gender-based violence, a problem that affects women of any age, irrespective of education, income or social position, by adopting an own-initiative report asking for "zero tolerance to all forms of violence against women" and proposing EU measures to raise awareness and overcome this complex problem.

The report drafted by Maria Carlsharme (ALDE, SE) was adopted with 545 votes in favour, 13 against and 56 abstentions. It states that "large-scale prevalence studies in Sweden, Germany and Finland show that at least 30-35% of women between 16 and 67 have at one time been victims of physical or sexual violence" and "surveys show that 65-90 % of prostituted women had already been subjected to sexual abuse as children or later".

MEPs say that male violence against women should be regarded as a "violation of human rights reflecting unequal gender power relations". They stress that there is a need for proactive and preventive strategies aimed at the perpetrators and those at risk of becoming perpetrators.

Preventing and banning female genital mutilation and prosecuting perpetrators must become a priority in all relevant European Union policies and programmes.

MEPs call on the Member States to provide all necessary support to the victims.

To mark International Women's Day 2005 (8 March), the European Parliament held a range of events to highlight the problem of violence against women.

For more information: the European Parliament website,

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress\\_page/014-4909-33-2-5-902-20060131IPR04892-02-02-2006-2006--true/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/014-4909-33-2-5-902-20060131IPR04892-02-02-2006-2006--true/default_en.htm)

### Directive on services

The European Parliament adopted a first-reading report on the Directive on services. The Commission's initial proposal has been thoroughly revised. In particular, Parliament voted to exclude both public and private health care from the directive.

Parliament also clarified that the directive will not alter workers' social rights nor will it change existing labour law. Moreover, the crucial "country of origin" principle has been dropped and replaced by a clause on the "freedom to provide services".

The Directive on services in the internal market was presented by the Prodi Commission in January 2004 as one of the key elements of the Lisbon reform agenda. Then known as the "Bolkestein Directive", it aimed at breaking down legal and administrative barriers to trade in services across the EU.

It is now up to the Council of Ministers to decide its position on the directive and the amendments adopted by MEPs. If all Parliament's amendments are acceptable to the Council, the legislation will be adopted in its modified form. If the Council rejects any of Parliament's

amendments or adds any of its own, the text will return to Parliament for a second reading.

For further information: the European Union website, [http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/services/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/services/index_en.htm)

## **VIII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

### White Paper on a European Communication Policy

Falling participation in European elections and several surveys have made clear that the European Union (EU) has a growing problem connecting with its citizens. To tackle this "demographic deficit", Commissioner for institutional Relations and Communication Strategy Margot Wallström unveiled in July 2005 a 50-point Action Plan to modernise the Commission own internal communication culture.

After the "No" votes in the EU constitution referenda in France and the Netherlands, European leaders decided to call for a period of reflection and Mrs. Wallström launched the idea of a Plan "D" for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate to stimulate broader debate between the EU institutions and the citizens.

On 1 February 2006 she presented the European Commission White Paper on a European Communication Policy. The document aims to set out a more coherent vision for communication policy. It states five areas for action:

1. the development of a European Charter or Code of Conduct on Communication in order to anchor the right of information in the EU and national institutions;
2. the "Empowering of citizens" through tools and instruments to improve civic education, connect people to each other and strengthen the relationship between citizens and institutions;
3. the improvement of the work with the media, in particular through new technologies;
4. the better understanding of European public opinion (set up of a network of national experts in public opinion research and of an independent Observatory for European Public Opinion);
5. the emphasis on the need to "do the job together", in partnership between EU institutions, member states, regional and local levels, political parties and civil society organisations.

The White Paper is based on an interactive approach, which includes to better listen to citizens' concerns. It is not a traditional White Paper since many questions remain open, and since its main goal remains yet unclear: is it about informing, delivering a "message" or ensuring effective citizens' participation?

A consultation has been launched, which will last until July 2006. At the end of the consultation period, the Commission will provide feedback, and will work with stakeholders to draw up plans of action.

Contributions can be sent by e-mail at [whitepaper@europa-direct.cec.eu.int](mailto:whitepaper@europa-direct.cec.eu.int) or to the following postal address:

EU Communication Policy White Paper Consultation  
European Commission  
Directorate General Communication  
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium

To access the full text of the White Paper on Communication:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/communication\\_white\\_paper/doc/white\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/communication_white_paper/doc/white_paper_en.pdf)

To access the White Paper's website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/communication\\_white\\_paper/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/communication_white_paper/index_en.htm)

#### Investigation into work-equality measures

The European Commission has launched an investigation into whether anti-discrimination laws are being correctly implemented in the EU 25 member states. Letters seeking details of what measures have been taken to implement a 2000 EU directive on equality in employment have recently been sent to all of the Union's governments, sources close to Vladimir Špidla, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, have confirmed to the European Voice.

The law forbids discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

European Commissioner Špidla has said that the Commission will start legal proceedings against any government which is not implementing the directive correctly. The deadline for transcribing the directive onto the national statute books was December 2003 for the 15 "old" Member States, while the 10 newer entrants had to have it transposed by the time they joined the European Union in May 2004.

For further information: the European Voice website, <http://www.europeanvoice.com/archive/issue.asp?id=480>

#### Consultation on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market

Comprehensive social assistance policies are in place in most Member States and activation policies have been implemented to bring excluded people back to the labour market, but there is still a sizeable "hard core" of people with little prospect of finding a job who, for that reason, remain at high risk of falling into poverty and social exclusion. The main challenge 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.

So the European Commission's communication on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market has two goals:

- to review the progress achieved in the context of an enlarged Union towards the aim of fostering labour market access for those who are excluded;
- to launch a public consultation on possible guidelines for action at EU-level, with a view to promoting the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market.

This consultation asks for views on what the EU should do to respond to this challenge. Deadline for comments is 19 April 2006.

To access the European Commission Communication COM(2006) 44 on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market :

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/docs/com\\_2006\\_0044\\_f\\_acte\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/com_2006_0044_f_acte_en.pdf)

For more information: the website on Social Inclusion:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/news\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/news_en.htm)

#### EC Conference on "Civil Society and Drugs"

There are up to two million problem drug users in the European Union and around 8000 people die of a drugs overdose every year. Drug use is at historically high levels and remains a threat to the entire international community. To confront this challenge the European Commission organised in Brussels a two-day conference (26-27 January 2006) on "Civil Society and Drugs".

Over 140 participants attended the meeting, reflecting the interest of civil society in working together with the Commission on drugs issues. There were representatives from European Non Governmental Organisation networks, but also from voluntary organisations in 16 Member States, 4 Accession and Candidate Countries, and Norway.

"The EU's response to these worrying trends is ever closer European Cooperation, and this must include civil society", said Vice-President of the Commission Franco Frattini. The conference was a forum to discuss ways of improving communication with civil society on drug issues at EU level. The voluntary sector in Europe plays an important part in the drugs field, working at regional and local level delivering services mainly in the area of demand reduction, including education and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

As one of the key objectives of the EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008) is to strengthen the involvement of civil society in EU drugs policy development and evaluation, the Commission will publish a Green Paper on drugs and civil society in the EU, in 2006.

For more information: the European Commission website,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/news/information\\_dossiers/drugs\\_conference\\_06/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/information_dossiers/drugs_conference_06/index_en.htm)

#### European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007: Reminder

The European Commission published its proposal for a Decision on the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007.

The main objective of the Year is to raise awareness across the EU of equal opportunities issues which will cover all forms of discrimination and equal opportunities including disabled persons.

This European Year will provide funding for events, information campaigns, surveys, studies and support for cooperation between business and enterprises.

Most activities in the context of the Year will be carried out at national level.

National Coordinating Bodies are being set up in each country. These Coordinating Bodies must include representative organisations of people facing discrimination, including representatives of mental health service users organisations.

It is therefore crucial that Mental Health Europe's members in each country:

- identify the ministry service dealing with the preparations for the Year;

- look for information about the setting up of the National Coordinating Body and try to be included in it;
- influence the work programme at national level for disability to be taken into account within national actions;
- ensure that there will be activities about equal opportunities for people with mental health problems (disability is one of the grounds of discrimination in Article 13).

Please also keep the MHE Secretariat informed of your actions in this area.

To access the Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) - Towards a Just Society:

[http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&lg=en&type\\_doc=COMfinal&nu\\_doc=2005&nu\\_doc=225](http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&lg=en&type_doc=COMfinal&nu_doc=2005&nu_doc=225)

#### A more accessible Commission's anti-discrimination website

The European Commission's anti-discrimination website has been made more accessible. Key parts of the site are now available in easy-to-read format, allowing people with intellectual disability to access them more easily. The new pages were developed in cooperation with Inclusion Europe, a European-level non governmental organisation representing those with intellectual disability. They include an explanation of the EU's anti-discrimination Directives and people's rights and obligations under the legislation.

The new pages mark the first time any website on Europa – the European Union's web server – has been made available in easy-to-read format.

To access the new website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/easytoread/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/easytoread/index_en.htm)

For more information: the Commission anti-discrimination website,  
[www.eu.int/comm/antidiscrimination](http://www.eu.int/comm/antidiscrimination)

#### "Breaking Stereotypes" Poster Competition

The European Union's information campaign, "For Diversity. Against Discrimination", is inviting art and design students from across the EU to make a creative statement for diversity by entering its "Breaking Stereotypes" Poster Competition. The competition, open to art and design students in all 25 EU Member States, was launched on 13 February and will run until 31 July 2006. Winners will be announced at the end of August 2006.

The best designs will feature in a traveling exhibition around Europe as part of the "For Diversity. Against Discrimination" Truck Tour and the lucky winner(s) will be awarded prizes worth up to €2500. A prize will also be available for the winner's art school or college. Students can enter by submitting a CD of their work online or by post.

For entry details see [www.stop-discrimination.info](http://www.stop-discrimination.info)

## IX. COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### The priorities of Finland's Presidency of the EU

Finland's six-month EU Presidency will begin on 1 July 2006.

The progress achieved by the Presidencies preceding Finland's Presidency of the European Union in the current, politically important projects will have a considerable effect on the agenda. The main challenges will be the future of the Constitutional Treaty, the financial framework for 2007-2013, WTO talks and enlargement.

If Europe is to succeed in global competition, Finland considers it important that focus be placed on growth and employment in line with the Lisbon Strategy. The Finnish Presidency wants, in particular, to concentrate on promoting innovation policy, developing the internal market of services and providing better regulation. Finland also underlines social equality and sustainable development.

Intensification of the Union's external operations will also be one of Finland's key issues. During Finland's EU Presidency, work will be continued, e.g., in the fields of military and civil crisis management. Other issues will include reform of the United Nations, the Northern Dimension and relations, in particular, with Russia and the United States.

Finland will continue to work on the programme aiming to develop the area of freedom, security and justice that was started during its previous Presidency. Finland will aim to enhance the external relations related to this field, widen the area of citizen's free movement and fight international crime and terrorism with joint efforts.

The official website for Finland's EU Presidency will be opened on 31 May 2006 at [www.eu2006.fi](http://www.eu2006.fi) The website will provide access to Presidency press releases and statements, meeting calendar and basic information on Finland's Presidency. There will also be a special section for media information.

For further information: contact person, Helena Tuuri, Tel. +358 9 1602 2055 or +358 40 553 3494; or see the Finnish government's website,  
<http://www.government.fi/eu/suomi-ja-eu/2006/en.jsp>

## X. VARIOUS

### EUMAP call for papers

Used in the context of civil society organisations (CSOs), the term "advocacy" has become something of a catch-all term, encompassing a wide range of activities carried out by non governmental organisations. Advocacy can be broadly defined as "activism" or campaigning, around a particular issue. However, its precise definition and content are still an evolving concept.

To open a broad discussion on the theme of advocacy, EUMAP (EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program of the Open Society Institute) would like to ask as many readers as possible to take the time to contribute to their informal survey. They will compile the results of the survey into a short online report on this theme.

The survey can be completed online at <http://www.eumap.org/survey/advocacy>

They are also calling for short papers on the general theme of CSOs and advocacy, with the intention of framing and encouraging debate on this issue. Selected short papers will be published on their website. An archive of past featured articles is available at <http://www.eumap.org/journal/features>.

Papers should be submitted by 5 April 2006.

Please send papers to: [submissions@eumap.org](mailto:submissions@eumap.org).

For more information: EUMAP website, [http://www.eumap.org/journal/announcements/cfp\\_mar06](http://www.eumap.org/journal/announcements/cfp_mar06)

## XI. WEBSITES/ ONLINE INFORMATION

### Free access to European statistics

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It publishes official harmonized statistics on the European Union and the euro zone and offers a comparable, reliable and objective portrayal of a changing Europe. A vast range of data broken down by region and country of the enlarged European Union and by candidate country is available to you.

Besides, electronic versions of publications are available free of charge on line and can be downloaded in PDF format. Publications can be searched by theme or collection.

News Releases provide the latest information on euro-indicators and on social, demographic, regional, agricultural or environmental topics.

To directly access the Eurostat website: [http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?\\_pageid=1090\\_30070682\\_1090\\_33076576&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1090_30070682_1090_33076576&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

## XII. PUBLICATIONS

### The impact of ageing on public expenditure

*"The impact of ageing on public expenditure: projections for the EU25 Member States on pensions, health care, long-term care, education and unemployment transfers (2004-2050)"* is a report that provides a detailed description of the projections on age-related expenditure covering pensions, health care, long-term care, education and unemployment transfers for EU25 Member States for the period 2004 to 2050. The projections, prepared by the European Commission (Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs) and the EPC's Working Group on Ageing Populations on the basis of commonly agreed assumptions, describe in detail the potential economic impact and the timing and scale of budgetary changes that could result from ageing populations. These projections provide a comprehensive and comparable basis for assessing further in depth the long-term sustainability of Member States' public finances within the framework of the reformed Stability and Growth Pact.

To download the report: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy\\_finance/publications/european\\_economy/2006/eesp106en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2006/eesp106en.pdf)

### The EU We Want - Views from those fighting poverty and social exclusion on the future development of the European Union

This book is based on the experience of those fighting poverty and social exclusion. It sets out to describe the present reality of the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the European Union while at the same time illustrating, through personal stories, part of the experience which lies behind the shocking reality, that at least 72 million people face poverty in the EU Member States, according to Eurostat figures.

There are two parts to this publication - printed in English and French:

- part one seeks to give a broad overview of the development of EU anti poverty and social inclusion policies and to present statistics that help to give a view on the extent of the problem of poverty;
- part two includes a series of essays which provide evidence that there is a dramatic political failure to efficiently fight and prevent poverty and social exclusion both within and outside of the EU, and a series of portraits of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

The questions raised by the contributors are not just how to be competitive in a globalised economy but rather what type of development model can be pursued which is not dependent on creating enormous inequalities in our societies.

To download the English version: [http://eapn.horus.be/module/module\\_page/images/pdf\\_publication/EAPN%20Publications/book/Livre3-EN.pdf](http://eapn.horus.be/module/module_page/images/pdf_publication/EAPN%20Publications/book/Livre3-EN.pdf)

To order a hard copy: fill the order form at [http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=1822](http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=1822)

### Training manual - Capacity building of civil society dealing with anti-discrimination

This training tool was developed as part of the EU-funded project "Capacity Building of Civil Society dealing with Anti-Discrimination" in 2005 with the aim to provide training on European and national anti-discrimination law and policy to non-governmental organisations in the 10 new Member States and in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. The manual may be useful for individuals and organisations active in the fight against discrimination wherever they may be in the European Union.

To download the training manual: the European Commission website, [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/pdf/civil/trainman\\_bg.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/civil/trainman_bg.pdf)

To order copies of the manual (available in all the EU languages): send an e-mail to Gesa Boeckermann at the European Commission, anti-discrimination unit, [Gesa.Boeckermann@cec.eu.int](mailto:Gesa.Boeckermann@cec.eu.int)

## XIII. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**10-13 May 2006**

**XXIII Congress of the Spanish Association of Neuropsychiatry, "Abriendo claros, construyendo compromisos" (Bilbao, Spain)**

This triennial congress will gather several multidisciplinary groups, in order to make them work on three papers related to:

- psychopathology of the psychotic symptoms
- continuity of mental health care
- consequences of the psychiatric reform in Spain.

The aim is to cover a broad range of current academic and scientific contents, as well as various orientations and professional interests.

Info: <http://www.ome-aen.org/23CongresoAEN/>

**NEW!! 12-13 May 2006-03-15**  
**Conference "Europe with no Lunatic Asylums"**  
**(Hrastovec, Slovenia)**

Danger has been associated with mental distress only from mid 19th century (monomania). Closing mad people in the lunatic asylums was a way of restoring or guaranteeing certainties – both in public realm as in private domain.

Deinstitutionalisation, a move from closing people toward care in the community, coincides with the coming of the risk society where certainties are replaced by the risk and opportunities. This opens possibilities of seeking what we want rather just preventing what we dislike.

In such a context, the Alpe Adria Association for Promotion of Mental Health, the International Mental Health Collaborative Network, the European Democratic Psychiatry, the Social Care Home of Hrastovec and the University of Ljubljana (Faculty for Social Work) are organising a conference on the theme "Europe with no lunatic asylums, Risk – an opportunity not a threat: Enhancing the risk taking capacities in community mental health". The event will take place in Hrastovec (Slovenia) on 12 and 13 May 2006.

The issues to be discussed are:

- Risk assessment: understanding the risk taking situations, risk as part of everyday life...;
- Risk taking: enhancing risk tolerance and risk minimisation techniques;
- Responsibilities: legal issues associated with risk, guardianship and advocacy, risk in crisis situations...

For more information: Contact persons, Petra Hameršak ([petra.hamersak@hrastovec.org](mailto:petra.hamersak@hrastovec.org)) and Vito Flaker ([vito.flaker@fsd.uni-lj.si](mailto:vito.flaker@fsd.uni-lj.si))

**NEW!! 17 May 2006**  
**ECCL Seminar "The Right to live in the Community", Brussels (Belgium)**

The seminar will provide an opportunity for participants to consider and discuss the key issues and challenges in the development of comprehensive, quality community-based services for people with disabilities in Europe. It will be an occasion for those involved in the promotion, development or provision of community-based services to share experiences and models of good practice, identify existing obstacles and develop recommendations for the future strategy on de-institutionalisation.

The Right to Live in the Community seminar is the first event organised by the European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL), a new Europe-wide initiative working towards the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

The seminar will bring together key stakeholders, including self-advocates and users/survivors of

psychiatry, representatives of disability organisations and de-institutionalisation initiatives, representatives of service providers, academic institutions and the European Commission.

For more information about the seminar: contact person, Ines Bulic, E-mail [coordinator@community-living.info](mailto:coordinator@community-living.info), Tel + 36 1 235 6184.

**NEW!! 18-20 May 2006**  
**Inclusion Europe Congress "Europe in Action 2006" (Brussels, Belgium)**

This congress will allow the participants to share their ideas on continuing learning opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The conference aims at identifying the objectives and needs of life-long learning for adults. Several models of adult's education will be presented in order to get some inspiration and to give examples of good practices.

In particular, the conference will focus on the needs and situation of people with mental disabilities in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where these citizens are often excluded from education. In such a context, adult's learning makes specially sense as it replaces the missing primary education.

The main themes of both the plenary sessions and the workshops will be:

- objectives and quality of continuing learning opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities;
- vocational training for a successful working life;
- opportunities for life-long learning.

To find the up-dated program, an application form and other information on the conference: see the conference website, <http://www.inclusion-europe.org/europeinaction/index.htm>, or contact the Inclusion Europe Secretariat, E-mail [secretariat@inclusion-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@inclusion-europe.org)

**24-26 May 2006**  
**14th International Conference on HPH, "Integrating health promotion, prevention, treatment and care for chronic diseases across the health system", Palanga (Lithuania)**

The conference will be hosted by the Lithuanian Network of Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH).

The main topics of the conference will be:

1. the need for action on chronic diseases;
2. integrating treatment, care, prevention and health promotion for chronic diseases within hospital services in order to achieve an optimum outcome;
3. integrating health care interventions on chronic diseases across levels of services;
4. integrating action on wider determinants of chronic diseases across settings.

Contact person: Gabriele Bocek, [hph.soc-gruwi@univie.ac.at](mailto:hph.soc-gruwi@univie.ac.at), Tel +43 1 4277 48282

**28 May-2 June 2006**  
**4th International Congress of the French-speaking world on the prevention of suicide, Montreal (Canada)**

This congress, mainly organised by the Canadian Association for the Prevention of suicide (AQSP), will

be held under the theme "Suicide and Trauma: new perspectives".

The morning plenary sessions will be reserved to speakers coming from different disciplines, such as philosophy, psychology, anthropology... During the afternoons parallel sessions with suicide and trauma specialists, researchers on that area, contributors and clinicians will take the floor.

For further information, in particular concerning the registration's methods: congress' website, <http://www.aqps.info/>

#### **6-8 June 2006**

##### **WPA Thematic Conference on Coercive Treatment in Psychiatry, Dresden (Germany)**

The main objective of this Conference is to provide the state-of-the-art in the different parts of this theme, and this will be done by plenary lectures, symposia, workshops, courses, and poster sessions.

Different thematic issues will be studied: epidemiology of different methods of coercive treatment; clinical issues of different coercive measure; use of coercive treatment measures in special (mental) health care settings; mental health legislation regarding coercive treatment; ethical aspects of coercive treatment...

For more information: the conference website, [http://www.wpa2007dresden.org/frs\\_index.asp](http://www.wpa2007dresden.org/frs_index.asp)

#### **7-9 June 2006**

##### **1st International Conference of Asklepios Foundation (Athens, Greece)**

The first International Conference of Asklepios Foundation will be held in Athens on the theme "Social Inclusion in Europe: Perspectives and Developments in Social Psychiatry", to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hellenic Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health.

The Asklepios Foundation is a European Partnership committed to the improvement, reform and promotion of quality health care in Mental Health and Disability. It supports the rights of all citizens to full social inclusion, and to be treated with dignity as an independent person within their Society.

For more information: contact person, Maria Margeti, Tel +30 210 7665822, E-mail [maria@invgold.com](mailto:maria@invgold.com)

#### **NEW!! 12-16 June 2006**

##### **15th International Congress for the Psychotherapy of the Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses (Madrid, Spain)**

The 15<sup>th</sup> ISPS (International Society for the Psychological Treatments of Schizophrenia and Other Psychoses) International Congress will be held on the theme "Improving services and helping persons and families with psychotic problems". This will be the occasion to both celebrate the ISPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 100 years of schizophrenia psychotherapy.

In this forum participants will be able to explain, make known and report the great variety and growing interest and enthusiasm for more global views of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and for the creation and development of more extensive, complete and effective psychotherapeutic and psychosocial programs.

Mental health professionals and members of involved and interested associations are welcome.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +34 91 531 94 49, E-mail [congresos.mad@viajesiberia.com](mailto:congresos.mad@viajesiberia.com), or see the conference website <http://www.ipspmadridd2006.com>

#### **15-17 June 2006**

##### **5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Health Promotion Research Conference (Esbjerg, Denmark)**

Health promotion researchers, health economists, legal and political analysts, health impact assessors and others with a research interest in health and institutional change are invited to come to Denmark to exchange and share their insights on the conference theme.

Conference office e-mail: [5NHPRC@health.sdu.dk](mailto:5NHPRC@health.sdu.dk)

For further information on the conference: <http://www.5nhprc.sdu.dk/>

#### **19-21 June 2006**

##### **14th European Social Services Conference in Vienna (Austria)**

The overall theme of the conference, prepared by the European Social Network, will be "Young and Old in a Changing Europe: the Demographic Challenge to Social Care and Health".

Workshops (20 in total, 2 of them being on "Employment initiatives for an Ageing Workforce" and "Delivering integrated approaches to working with at-risk youth") will be an important part of the meeting, which will emphasize practical, "hands-on" work and research projects that will be of direct interest to others employed in delivering services.

Contact person: Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 (0)1273 549817, Fax +44 (0)1273 549317, e-mail [sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com](mailto:sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com)

#### **21-25 June 2006**

##### **6<sup>th</sup> CIVICUS World Assembly – "Acting Together for a just World" (Glasgow, Scotland)**

Building on and continuing the success of past CIVICUS World Assembly events, the overall theme for the CIVICUS World Assembly 2006 is "Acting Together for a Just World". This overall theme will be explored through 4 sub-themes: Civic Justice; Political Justice; Economic justice; Social Justice.

All enquiries to [civicusassembly@scvo.org.uk](mailto:civicusassembly@scvo.org.uk)

More information on CIVICUS website: [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)

#### **10-13 July 2006**

##### **2nd World Forum on Human rights, Nantes (France)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights will be held in Nantes, with an official opening on Monday 10 July, followed by three working days (from Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 July). This second edition of Nantes Forum will be organised by the International Convention Centre of Nantes, under the leading responsibility and with the financial support of Nantes Metropole, the urban area of Nantes.

Three main topics will be discussed:

1. Discriminations and diversity in a worldwide context of diversity of cultures;
2. Economic Globalisation and Human Rights;
3. Responsibilities and solidarities.

For more information: the forum's website, [http://www.forum-humanrights.org/index\\_e\\_2006.php](http://www.forum-humanrights.org/index_e_2006.php)

**8 September 2006**

**1st International Suicide Postvention Seminar, Portoroz (Slovenia)**

This seminar that will be held as a one-day pre-event of the 11th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, 9-12 September.

The program will offer a state of the art review of the postvention field, including research, practice, and plans for future developments.

Selected experts will introduce specific topics, followed by subgroup discussions, thus allowing participants to fully engage in the discussion and to bring in their expertise and experiences.

A registration form is available on [www.esssb11-slo.org](http://www.esssb11-slo.org) and can be emailed to [organising@esssb11-slo.org](mailto:organising@esssb11-slo.org)

For further information: seminar's website, [www.esssb11-slo.org](http://www.esssb11-slo.org)

**18-24 September 2006**

**«Voile en tête 2006», between Marseille, La Ciotat, Les îles du Frioul, Martigues, Les Calanques... (France)**

"Voile en tête" is a water sporting event of European standing, organised under the aegis of "Sport en tête", the Union of Mental Health Sport group.

If interested, application forms are available.

For more information: [http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06\\_gb.html](http://www.sportez-vous-bien.com/v06_gb.html)

**NEW!! 1 October 2006**

**European Symposium "Improving the Lives of Young People with Intellectual Disabilities in the areas of Health, Social Inclusion and Sport", in conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games (Rome, Italy)**

Current evidence suggests that most young people with intellectual disability grow up without the same level of services and support as their peers without disabilities and, as such, reach adulthood without the skills needed to become productive and fulfilled members of society.

At worst young people with intellectual disability are misunderstood and often picked on by their peers, lacking in self-esteem and, in general, socially isolated. In conjunction with the Special Olympics European Youth Games – Rome 2006, a European Symposium is being organized to present and discuss the key issues facing young people with intellectual disabilities in the areas of health, social inclusion (with an emphasis on inclusive education) as well as sport and physical education.

Invitees will include ministers and government representatives from the areas of health, social services, education, youth and sports; members of the European Parliament and Commission; leaders of family associations for people with intellectual disability; University departments; European and national NGOs; corporate CSR representatives.

For information about the symposium, including registration: contact person, Michel Deurinck, Tel. +32 2 538 80 68, E-mail [MDeurinck@specialolympics.org](mailto:MDeurinck@specialolympics.org), or see the Special Olympics Games website, <http://www.specialolympicseyg.org/indexeyg.php>

**NEW!! 5-7 October 2006**

**9th Conference on Drugs and Infection Prevention in Prison, "From the Principle of Equivalence to**

**the Practice of Care: Bridging the Gap" (Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

Since 1995, ENDIPP (European Network on Drugs and Infections Prevention in Prison) has organised a series of successful conferences and events which have provided the opportunity to assess progress, exchange ideas and discuss new developments in the field of drug and infections prevention in prison.

This year's conference is structured to provide opportunities for dialogue on the development and implementation of effective drug prevention and health promotion policies and services for those who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

Participants will include practitioners, policy makers, prison managers, researchers and academics, lawyers, judges, police, NGOs and representatives of service users' organisations.

The conference is designed to:

- promote the notion of prisons as part of the wider community and highlight the positive contributions each can make to the others;
- exchange and review information and good practice in the field;
- promote co-operation between different professions, disciplines, interests and countries;
- continue to exploit the opportunities for co-operation provided by the European Union enlargement;
- consolidate learning from experience in related fields;
- identify issues for further discussion, review and research in the field;
- promote pragmatic, realistic, effective and cost saving interventions with problematic drug users in the criminal justice system.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +48 (0) 22 640 82 71, E-mail [info@endipp.net](mailto:info@endipp.net), or see the conference's website [http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55](http://endipp.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=26&Itemid=55)

**11-13 October 2006**

**Fourth World Conference on the promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, "Developing Resilience and Strength across the Life Span", Oslo (Norway)**

The aim of this conference is to support professionals, scientists, advocates, user organisations and policy makers worldwide, in their collective effort to promote mental health and to prevent mental disorders in their communities and countries. The conference is designed to incorporate contributions from a wide series of disciplines, cultures and backgrounds. Its success depends upon multi-dimensional presentation and debate.

For more information: <http://www.worldconference2006.no/>

**NEW!! 18-21 October 2006**

**7th IUHPE European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, "Globalisation and Equity: Consequences for Health Promotion Policies and Practices" (Budapest, Hungary)**

This conference will focus on different aspects of globalisation and of inequalities in health. A major goal

of the conference is to provide a platform for review, analysis and discussion of tackling health inequalities at the global and community levels to key players in health promotion and health education from across Europe. Over the course of four days, participants and attendees will have the chance to share information about health promotion policy issues, on-going research, existing evidence and practical experience.

It wishes to strengthen the global, professional network of people and institutions coordinated/operated under the auspices of IUPHE (International Union for health Promotion and Education) and thus encourage the free exchange of ideas, knowledge, know-how, experiences, and the development of relevant collaborative projects. Its aim is to contribute to the achievement of equity in health between and within countries of the world and to initiate new actions for the most important issues that will face the community over the next few decades.

For further information: the Conference Secretariat, Tel. +36 1 311 66 87, E-mail [congress@motesz.hu](mailto:congress@motesz.hu), or see the conference website [www.motesz.hu](http://www.motesz.hu)

### 19-20 October 2006

#### **3rd Three-Country Convention Care in Psychiatry – “Wissen schafft Pflege – Pflege schafft Wissen: Psychiatrische Pflege als Praxis und Wissenschaft”, Vienna (Austria)**

The aim of this convention is to impart and promote current knowledge with regard to psychiatric healthcare and nursing: contributions on the application of theory and research, on research about problems in practice and interventions, innovative practices and other contributions.

You are welcome to send abstracts for own contributions and to register for this event.

Contact person: Nico Oud, [nico.oud@freeler.nl](mailto:nico.oud@freeler.nl), Tel +31 (0)20 409 0368

For further information: the conference website, <http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/dreilander/index.html?140446978484>

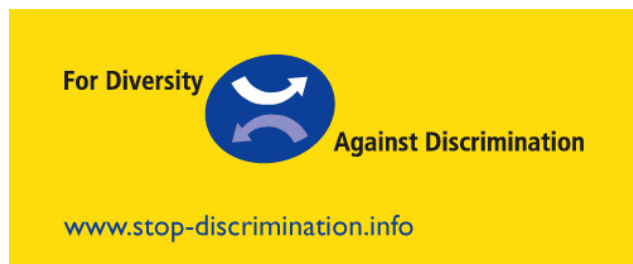
### 22-25 October 2006

#### **ISQua's 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference, “Improving Healthcare: The Challenge of Continuous Change” (London, UK)**

With the theme of “*Improving Healthcare: the Challenge of Continuous Change*”, this multi-disciplinary quality healthcare program will be of value to all health policy makers, planners, professionals, providers, patients and their representatives.

Enquiries only by e-mail: [isqua@isqua.org](mailto:isqua@isqua.org), Tel +61 3 9417 6971, Fax +61 3 9417 6851

For further information: ISQua's website: [www.isqua.org](http://www.isqua.org)



Mental Health Europe is committed to:

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

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

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Completed form to be returned to:

Mental Health Europe  
Santé Mentale Europe  
Boulevard Clovis 7, B – 1000 Brussels  
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E-mail: info@mhe-sme.org