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For more information, please look at the web site [www.eufami.org](http://www.eufami.org) or contact EUFAMI at [info@eufami.org](mailto:info@eufami.org)

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## **Family burden and policy making**

The first in the series of mental health topic updates is now available on the World Health Organisation (Who) website. This is a contribution by Dr Lorenza Magliano from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health at the University of Naples, Italy.

The paper "Families of people with severe mental disorders: difficulties and resources", gives an overview of several European studies that define the needs and coping strategies of carers, giving input to effective practice and policy making and successful collaboration between mental health professionals and users' relatives.

It makes the case for family involvement as a fundamental ingredient of the management of severe mental disorders, and maintains that support for families and collaboration between mental health professionals and users' relatives should be explicitly identified as one of the objectives of mental health policies, nationally and internationally. The paper is available under "Highlights" on the front page of the mental health website: [www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth](http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth)

## **News from Australia**

Melbourne-based Sane Australia is launching a national advertising campaign, called 'Signs', to help the Australian public understand the early signs of mental illness. The three-year campaign, which runs on the Internet, radio, television, and in print, hopes to highlight the importance of taking action, so that people affected can get the help they need. Sane Australia describes the campaign as "taking a fresh approach to helping people affected by mental illness".

[www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org)

## **Global Mental Health Course**

The Harvard Programme in Refugee Trauma (HPRT), Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) with the support of Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS - Italian Ministry of Health) present a Master Certificate Programme in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. This Global Mental Health Master Certificate Programme offers a transformative training experience to create a network of global leaders in mental health recovery.

An intensive six-month blended learning experience (2 weeks onsite training in Italy followed by 5 months on the internet) with international faculty and trainees. Applications due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008. For more information see [www.hpvt.cambridge.org](http://www.hpvt.cambridge.org).

## **From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems**

Despite the prevalence of mental health problems in all the European countries and the magnitude of stigma, discrimination and social exclusion faced by people who experience a mental illness, there is general need to strengthen the general understanding and recognition of this issue.

A new publication "From Exclusion to Inclusion – The Way Forward to Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems" can be downloaded from the Mental Health Europe website. Email [www.mhe-sme.org](mailto:www.mhe-sme.org)

## **News from our members - Action on Suicide Alliance**

The Action on Suicide Alliance, of which Schizophrenia Ireland is a member, was formed in 2007 to highlight the tragedy of suicide and to push for increased action by Government to reduce the numbers of lives lost. In February 2007, the Alliance submitted a mandate to the Irish Government about the subject of suicide. The Alliance held a Remembrance Procession Dublin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The Procession was for bereaved families, friends, communities and associated groups, organisations and individuals that have lost loved ones and friends through suicide. The Procession proceeded through Dublin City Centre and arrived at the Irish parliament where the Mandate was again handed into the Government.

## **EPF Annual Spring Conference**

The European Patients Forum, of which EUFAMI is a member, held their annual Spring Conference in Brussels on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April. EUFAMI was represented at this conference by Reina van Mourik, Secretary of the Executive committee. The recently appointed EU Health Commissioner, Mrs Androulla Vassiliou from Cyprus, opened the conference. EUFAMI would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Vassiliou to her new position and also to wish the outgoing Commissioner, Mr Kyprianou, the very best in his post.

## **EU Mental Health Conference – 13<sup>th</sup> June, Brussels – update**

A series of 4 consensus papers is currently being drawn up by a number of working groups for presentation at the planned EU conference, due to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> June in Brussels. EUFAMI is an active participant and has attended the preparatory meetings for two of the strands – *Prevention of Suicide and Depression* and *Youth and Mental Health* - and has also submitted comments and views to the working groups.

## **EUFAMI's Board of Directors Meeting 2008**

Members of the Board of EUFAMI will gather at the EUFAMI offices in Leuven, Belgium from Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May until Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May to attend the next meeting of the Board of Directors. It will be both an interesting and also busy weekend for all Board members.

*Note to members – if you have any short pieces of news which would be of interest to our readers, please send them to Willemien Schut at the office [admin.office@eufami.org](mailto:admin.office@eufami.org).*