



February 2009



EUFAMI, in association with Lietuvos Sutrikusios Psichikos Žmonių Globos Bendrija (LSPŽGB), its Lithuanian family member association, will host  
**THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN**

*A major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of parents with a mental illness*

**Vilnius, Lithuania, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Supported by the World Health Organisation, the scientific backing of the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (formerly Stakes) and with UNICEF and the European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, as collaborating partners.

**Details of the conference programme, registration and accommodation will be published on the EUFAMI website in March. Please log onto [www.eufami.org](http://www.eufami.org) for details.**

### Anti-stigma news from Georgia

Partnership for Equal Rights (PER) in Georgia was founded by users and ex-users, and those who wanted to help them. They are starting a piloting international user research project with an anti-stigma campaign. User participants (as leaders and researchers) are going to run this research and campaign free-willingly and at this point voluntarily and they hope that the initiative will be fruitful for users in the participating countries. PER works in collaboration with CEIMH (Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Mental Health) in Birmingham University and one of the participating countries is Scotland with its experience from the national anti-stigma campaign. PER believes that users and those who are close to them should work together in order to fight stigma and discrimination, and at least know about other activities in this field.

PER was founded in 2003 by mental health service users, ex-users and young people interested in mental health problems. PER is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation the aim of which is to support the people with mental health problems, protect their human rights and form a positive public opinion regarding psychiatric issues. Tel: (995 32) 311-839; e-mail: [per\\_mental@yahoo.com](mailto:per_mental@yahoo.com)

### Recent publications providing real life experience of mental illness

*Voluntary Madness: My year Lost and Found in the Loony Bin* by Nora Vincent. Publisher is Chato and Windus. (Note: *Loony Bin* - meaning a mental institution - is no longer considered politically correct but is used with irony in this publication.)

*Sectioned: a Life Interrupted* John O'Donoghue – Publisher is John Murray.

*Hurry Down Sunshine: A Father's Memoir of Love and Madness* by Michael Greenberg. Publisher is Bloomsbury.

### Overcoming stigma and understanding mental illness

We are aware that much work is going on in various parts of Europe in an attempt to overcome the problems of stigma and also to create a better awareness of mental illness amongst children and adolescents. From time to time, we receive reports of some of these activities and are happy to publicise them. One such report recently received contains news from Fdo Cardona, Talleres de Encuadernación in Zaragoza, Spain about the work that is ongoing there to 'face stigma and the social prejudices'. This work helps to 'develop a more normal approach to mental illness.' Examples of their work can be found also on youtube.com and you see some of these by typing *Nuevos espacios, frente al stigma*.

### Meeting of the EUFAMI Board of Directors and General Meeting – 2009

Both meetings will take place on the weekend of Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June (14.00hrs) until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June (12.00). The venue will be Bled, Slovenia.

Our Slovenian members HUMANA, OZARA and SENT will host EUFAMI.

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#### ▶ Recent publications providing real life experience of mental illness

#### ▶ Overcoming stigma and understanding mental illness

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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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