



June 2008



La ronde des cultures

SENT, one of our member associations from Slovenia, in association with Euro-psy, will be hosting a festival in Ankaran, Slovenia to celebrate the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue from the 23rd to the 25th September 2008. The title of the festival is "La ronde des cultures" (circle of cultures). For more information, log onto the festival website - <http://euro-psy2008.sent.si>

New resources on combating Stigma

Health Scotland has gathered a wealth of experience in dealing with the stigma related to mental illness and is now committed to sharing these experiences and resources with other countries planning campaigns or related activities. On 24th April Health Scotland hosted a developmental seminar in Edinburgh, Scotland, supporting Member States in developing their anti-stigma programmes, and launched a European Briefing Paper and Guidebook for Action produced in partnership with WHO Europe. Sigrid Steffen, current EUFAMI President Designate attended and spoke about EUFAMI's Zerostigma programme. A link to the Health Scotland material is available on the WHO mental health website - http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/20080428_1

European Parliament Special Interest Group on Carers

A meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers took place in the European Parliament on the 12th June hosted by MEPS, Kathy Sinnott and Marian Harkin. The meeting coincided with the first anniversary of the Special Interest Group. The topic for the meeting was "The EU, mental health and carers". Michael Hübel, Health Determinants Unit, DG SANCO, European Commission was to have addressed the meeting. However it was unfortunate that he was unable to attend due to him having been summoned to attend the pre conference meeting on Mental Health, which took place also on the same date. Kevin Jones, Secretary General, EUFAMI spoke at the meeting and called for action in relation to any pact which might be agreed at the High Level Conference on Mental Health, which was due to take place on the following day. You can read what he said by logging onto http://www.eufami.org/index.php?option=com_pressreleasesnewsdesc&Itemid=135&titleid=83

High Level Mental Health Conference

The much awaited High Level Conference on Mental Health took place in Brussels on the 13th June. EUFAMI was represented by Inger Nilsson, President, Kristiina Aminoff, Executive member and Kevin Jones, Secretary General. A full report will be compiled and issued to members in the very near future. In the meantime, you can log onto the DG Sanco website to read the "European pact for Mental Health and Well-being" - http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm

Meeting of Psychiatrists – Brussels 13th June 2008

Sigrid Steffen spoke at a meeting of over 400 psychiatrists, organised by BMS, which took place in Brussels on the 13th June. The theme of the meeting was "Empowering Change in Severe Mental Illness" and Sigrid spoke on the subject of "Working towards a better future for people with severe mental illness".

Bologna meeting

Begoña Ariño Jackson, past President of EUFAMI, represented EUFAMI at a recent meeting in Bologna, Italy on the 12th June organised by UNASAM, one of our member associations in Italy. The theme of the meeting was "Mental Health Promotion perspectives in Europe and in Italy" and Begoña spoke on the subject of why there is a need for the view and voice of the family and carer in Europe to be heard. Her talk was well received by all who attended.

UNAFAM gets Government funding for Prospect

It should be of interest to note that UNAFAM, our French member association, has been successful in obtaining funding from the French Government for the running of its Prospect courses. This will be of particular interest to those associations who aspire to become members of the Prospect partner network and who are looking at how to obtain funding.

Calendar of Events

A reminder to all EUFAMI members – you can obtain a full list of events of interest to EUFAMI by logging onto the EUFAMI website at http://www.eufami.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=61

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▶ New resources on combating Stigma

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▶ High Level Mental Health Conference

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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

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