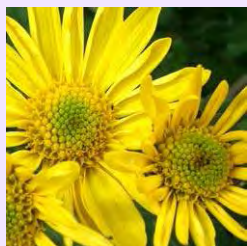




November 2008



International Conference on the integration of persons with mental illness into society

EUFAMI was represented by its immediate past President, Inger Nilsson, and Per Torell, a member from our Swedish member organisation, Schizofreniförbundet, at this conference which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 23rd October. Inger presented a paper titled 'From Empowerment Towards Recovery: Scandinavian Experience' and Per's presentation, titled 'Training as a Concrete Help for Family Members to Increase their Participation in the Social Integration of Disabled People' was based around **Prospect**, EUFAMI's peer to peer empowerment programme.



WHO Europe's website on Mental Health

This website, which is claimed to be the most visited website operated under the aegis of WHO Europe, now contains a number of new items which should be of interest to anybody who is interested in the subject of mental health. The items include the Merano Declaration, new user stories and a report on Mental Health in Tajikistan. The website can be accessed at <http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth>.

MEP's Roundtable discussion on 'Mental Health – Fighting Stigma and Combating Social Exclusion'

This meeting took place in the EU Parliament on the 6th November and was hosted by the new Rapporteur for the mental health report currently being discussed in the Parliament, Evangelina Tzampazi, MEP, from Greece. Around 40 stakeholders attended and a very dynamic discussion ensued. Representatives from a number of advocacy groups spoke including Sigrid Steffen, EUFAMI President and Kahlil Thopmson-Coyle from the Irish member association of EUFAMI, Schizophrenia Ireland. Jürgen Schefflein from DG Sanco also spoke at the event. Sigrid spoke on the effect of stigma on families and carers of those with mental illness.



Festival of Nursing – Malta

Horatio – the European Psychiatric Nurses, held its *Festival of Psychiatric Nursing* in Malta from the 5th to the 9th November. Sigrid Steffen, EUFAMI President, addressed the conference in one of the plenary sessions on the topic of 'Caring for a person with mental illness – The burden on the family'. EUFAMI also had an exhibition stand at the festival and Connie Magro, a member of the EUFAMI executive and also a member of the Malta Mental Health Association, was on hand throughout the festival to provide information on EUFAMI. EUFAMI looks forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the members of Horatio.



European Parliament Interest Group on Carers

The meeting of this group took place in the European Parliament on the 3rd November and was hosted by Irish MEPs, Kathy Sinnott and Marian Harkin. EUFAMI was represented at it by Reina van Mourik, Secretary of the Executive committee. The main topic of the meeting was 'The Social Package'. Alvaro Oliveira (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) presented the recent Commission proposal on reconciliation of work and family life as well as a proposal in relation to anti-discrimination outside the workplace. Henk Nies, Vice President of Eurocarers made a response, which was followed by a discussion.



European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness
 Europese Federatie van Verenigingen van Familieden van Psychisch Zieken
 Fédération européenne des Associations de Familles de Malades Psychiques
 Europäische Föderation von Organisationen der Angehörigen psychische Kranker

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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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