

At the Ministerial Conference of the European Office of the WHO the Helsinki declaration was endorsed by all member states of the European Region. The Declaration offered a vision of a comprehensive and inclusive scope of mental health activities. Since then many countries have drafted or scrutinised strategies according to the declaration and activities have been developed in areas ranging from anti-stigma and suicide prevention strategies to the improvement of facilities, development of services and community activities.

There have been numerous successes, but we have also become aware of challenges which need addressing in a variety of ways. These include the absence of evidence in some crucial areas, the cost of service development, health systems not suited to the demands of mental health care, workforce challenges and the stigma and discrimination experienced by users, carers, services and staff.

PR01.02

The views of European psychiatrists represented in the AEP

C. Hoschl. *Prague Psychiatric Centre and 3rd Medical Faculty, Charles University of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic*

AEP is an organization based on individual membership of those working in the field of mental health care and research in Europe. The role of AEP is changing hand in hand with the harmonization process in European policy including the mental health. The activity of the association as well as the participation of its individual members representing different parts of Europe is to some extent parallel and complementary to the official programs on mental health (WHO a EC projects, STAKES, IMPHA etc.). In addition, there is a significant overlap with such programs, which will be briefly summarized in the forum.

PR01.03

The views of family organizations in Europe taking into account the recent developments in WHO Europe and the European community

I. Nilsson. *President, EUFAMI, Molkom, Sweden*

Inger Nilsson will speak about how EUFAMI has been involved with the various policy makers and legislators at a European Level over the past number of years and how the Federation has helped to influence policy making. She will also speak how EUFAMI has worked to promote the role of family and carers in order to recognise them as having a central and crucial role in the care and rehabilitation of those who suffer from mental illness.

Specifically Inger will speak about how EUFAMI played a significant role at the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health in Helsinki in January 2005 and the subsequent Declaration that was produced from the conference.

With regards to the EU Commission Green Paper, Inger will also tell how EUFAMI again has played a pivotal role in the consultative process to date and will continue to fully participate in the next stages of this process.

Finally, Inger will demonstrate how EUFAMI continues to influence mental health policy at both European level and also at national level (through its member associations) by publishing position papers on many related subjects, such as family needs, medication, treatment and care, rehabilitation and care.

PR01.04

The EU strategy - Green/white paper

J. Scheftlein. *European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection, Luxembourg*

The mental health of the EU's population is a value by itself, and a key determinant for health and quality of life. It is an important factor for the realisation of the EU's strategic objectives: prosperity, solidarity and social cohesion, security.

The situation in the EU is marked by significant differences with regard to the mental health status, mental health policies and systems in Member States. At the same time, a commonality across the EU is the increase of diagnosed mental disorders, which severe and growing implications for health, economic and social systems. It can be expected that this trend will continue.

Mental health is a priority of public health policy at Community-level and it is also addressed by other Community policies. Action at EU-level needs to respect subsidiarity and the diversity of situations in Member States. Strengthened exchange and cooperation between Member States can help to tackle the existing inequalities, and action through Community policies can complement measures in Member States.

Experiences through the EU Public Health Programme (2003-2008) showed that responding to the challenges of mental ill health is more effective, if it involves the range of policies and actors who have an influence on the mental health of the population, such as the health, educational and workplaces' areas. The important role of mental health promotion, prevention, early recognition and combating stigma, further to treatment, care and rehabilitation, is now well established.

In October 2005, the European Commission published a consultative Green paper on Mental Health. In this document it proposed the development of a strategy on mental health at EU-level, in line with the competencies established in the European Treaties. The document proposed the following priorities: mental health promotion; prevention of mental disorders and suicidal behaviour; raising the quality of life of people experiencing mental disorders through social inclusion and the protection of their rights and dignity; providing mental health information and research. The document argued that action on mental health at EU-level could promote the exchange and coordination between Member States and between the relevant sectors.

The Green paper initiative attracted much interest and support among EU-institutions, in Member States, in the health and social sectors as well as among patient and family organisations and the civil society. A White Paper to be presented in spring 2007 will draw the conclusions from the consultation.

PR01.05

The views of the European Brain Council and the various disciplines represented in it

J. Mendlewicz. *President ECNP and Secretary EBC, Belgium*

The European Brain Council (EBC) brings together European based stakeholders in the field of "Brain Research". It is an exceptional organisation as it brings together science, society and industry at the European level.

EBC's scientific member associations are European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS), European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP), Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). The patient associations are European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) for the neurological disease groups and GAMIAN-Europe for the