



Mental Health Europe News and Policy Work

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY
MHE is completely independent from pharmaceutical companies, and unattached to any commercial interests.

LATEST NEWS

- 02.01.2014
Mental Health Europe meets EU Commissioner for Social Affairs, discusses social investment and monetary union
On October 7, MHE met with the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion László...
- 24.10.2013
MHE supports Romanian member in organizing large European conference
On October 23-24, Mental Health Europe was in Bucharest, attending the conference organized by its...

DONATIONS
If you believe our work to be important, please consider making a donation.

NEWSLETTER
Subscribe to our newsletter and keep informed!

Mental Health Europe launches new website

MHE launched its new website in the end of January. The address is the same but the design and content has changed! We hope you will like this new, more user-friendly and interactive design and we will continuously update it with more content.

www.mhe-sme.org

MHE adopts its “Myth buster” on forced treatment

Thanks to the work of MHE’s human rights committee, our position paper on forced treatment has adopted. It has the form of a “myth buster”, challenging some of the most common misperceptions in relation to psychosocial disabilities and forced treatment and looks into the alternatives available.

In a short and simple way, the paper explains about what compulsory psychiatric treatment is about, what informed consent is

and what the possible alternatives are.

The position paper is downloadable from our [website](http://www.mhe-sme.org).

European Alliance on Investing in Children

PA European Alliance for Investing in Children, of which MHE is a member, was launched in the end of February.

A year ago the European Commission adopted the Recommendation Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage, which called for concerted efforts across Europe to end child poverty and promote child well-being. The aim of the new alliance is to work jointly on the implementation of this recommendation. National Alliances will also be established through pilot projects first in the UK and Spain, and our members in these countries have been

Editorial

Dear readers,

I am pleased to present this latest newsletter to you, the first one since I am back at the MHE office after some months of maternity leave. Through this newsletter you will discover a few of the numerous activities that MHE has been involved in since the beginning of the year. Due to the unexpected and sad news received in the end of last year that the application for core funding to MHE was not accepted by DG EMPL, MHE will send trimestrial newsletters in 2014 rather than the monthly newsletters published previously. We hope that this is only a temporary measure as we are currently in the process of working on a number of project proposals which could hopefully reverse our current situation.

MHE is remaining an active stakeholder in the European arena thanks to our big network of members. From all challenges come opportunities, and we look forward to an intensive year where we will do what we can to put mental health high on the European agenda, not at least through the European Parliament elections and the appointment of the new European Commission. An NGO alliance on mental health is also in the process of being set up which will further strengthen the joint work in the field of mental health – we’ll keep you posted!

Maria Nyman
Director

Let’s socialize



Highlights

Mental Health Europe launches new website

MHE adopts its “Myth buster” on forced treatment

European Alliance on Investing in Children



full statement is downloadable from [MHE's website](#).

Position Paper on National Reform Programmes 2013

MHE adopted its 2013 position paper on the National Reform Programmes (NRPs). This paper analyses the extent and nature of MHE members' involvement in the NRPs 2013 in their respective countries based on results of a targeted annual survey.

Findings point to a considerable lack of involvement and the need for more information, transparency, and established consultation mechanisms to guarantee democratic ownership and advancement towards the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. In view of the mental health crisis that accompanies the economic challenges in the EU, the need to involve civil society representing the social, health and psycho-social sectors, including service users, acquire a particular urgency.

NRPs are part of the European Semester – the annual policy cycle of the European Union in the social and economic areas. An important objective of the European Semester is to ensure progress towards the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which include achieving a 75 percent employment rate and lifting 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion. The full position paper is available on [MHE's website](#).

invited to come on board. To know more about the alliance, please read the press release available on [Eurochild's website](#).

New MHE advocacy video features good practice of supported decision-making

Last summer, a team from MHE's secretariat went to Sweden to discover the Personal Ombudsman (PO) system, which is a best practice example on supported decision-making for persons with mental health problems. By interviewing a number of PO's and service users, MHE developed a video advocacy tool which explains the system in an easily accessible way. Do not hesitate to take a look at the video (available on our website and on YouTube) and to share this positive example which shows one way of implementing the right to legal capacity in practice!

European Expert Group issues statement on use of EU funds

The European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-Based care (EEG), of which MHE is a member, issued a statement on the 30th of January stressing that EU Funds must be used to develop community-based alternatives in 2014 – 2020. The

EU is preparing to implement the next 7 years of the Structural and Investment Funding. For the first time, the new Regulations for the EU Cohesion Policy investment, adopted last December by the European Council and the European Parliament include specific references to support the "transition from institutional to community-based care". This represents a commitment that EU Funds will not be used to perpetuate institutionalisation, but to develop the much needed community-based alternatives. This commitment is crucial in the current times of austerity, as Member States can use EU Funds to cover the cost of transition to community-based services. The EEG therefore welcomes this historic breakthrough in the EU's legislative landscape, which should improve the situation of persons in institutional care and facilitate real effective innovation in the social services sector. The

EU Institutions and other bodies

Council of Europe prepares new protocol on forced treatment

A draft additional protocol to the Convention on Human rights and biomedicine is currently being prepared by the committee of bioethics of the Council of Europe (CoE). The protocol

will concern the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment. As a means for allowing for input to the drafting process, a questionnaire was distributed to civil society. MHE responded to the questionnaire,



expected for later in 2014 include Austria and the Netherlands.

WHO congress in Lille on classification of diseased in relation to mental health

An International World Health Organisation (WHO) Congress on “How to promote empowerment experiences of mental health service users and carers in Europe?” took place in Lille, France on the 30-31st of January. The objectives of this congress were to bring together service users and carers with mental health professionals, in order to explore how to involve the users in the revision of the ICD 10 and the development of the ICD 11 (International Classification of diseases).

MHE’s representatives senior policy adviser Josée van Remoortel and Colette Versporten were among the more than 400 participants attended this congress.

The different perspectives in relation to classification of diseases were presented and discussed.

MHE used this opportunity to present its Bucharest manifesto, through which MHE calls on the WHO to ensure that the forthcoming revision of ICD 10 takes fully into account the worldwide critique of DSM-5 and involves people with lived experience of mental distress as equal partners in its construction. MHE is calling for wider recognition of the crisis of confidence in the increasingly biological/neurological approach taken by western psychiatry and for action to change the culture and practice of mental health services.

emphasizing that the approach of the CoE is currently reflecting the progress made through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, where the right to self-determination is key.

A hearing was organized on the 11th of March in Paris, at which MHE Director attended as well as Board member Stephanie Wooley and Claude Deutsch from MHE member association Advocacy France and a few other civil society organizations.

MHE’s official input to the meeting was based on its new Myth Buster on forced treatment. During the meeting we also called for better user participation in the drafting group, and to allow for more NGO’s to contribute with written input.

As a follow-up, MHE has shared its advocacy video on supported decision-making to the drafting group, as legal capacity is key for reducing forced treatment and placements. The protocol is expected to be finalized for the end of 2015.

New OECD report on mental health at the work place

Tackling mental ill-health of the working-age population is becoming a key issue for labour market and social policies in OECD countries. OECD governments increasingly recognise that policy has a major role to play in keeping people with mental ill-health in employment or bringing those outside of the labour market back to it, and in preventing mental illness.

A series of OECD reports is looking at how the broader education, health, social and labour market policy challenges identified in “Sick on the Job? Myths and Realities about Mental Health and Work” (OECD, 2012) are being tackled in a number of OECD countries.

The most recent report concerns the UK and is downloadable from the OECD website. MHE senior policy adviser Bob Grove participated in drafting the report and attended the February launch event. Other country reports

**Do you wish to share information, make an announcement or contribute to the MHE Newsletter?
Do you have thoughts on the content or the layout of our publication?**

We would love to hear from you!

Please send your opinions or contributions to maria.nyman@mhe-sme.org