



ADVOCACY FRANCE

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Report of French National Focal Point for 2012

1. Lobbying - Social Inclusion/ Employment:

- We responded to the questionnaire to report on how we were able to be involved in shaping our country's National Reform Programme (NRP) 2012 on the 22nd of May.
- We responded to the questionnaire designed to help and guide our analysis of our country's NRP (questionnaire sent on the 22nd of May).
- We responded to the MHE survey on the impact of the financial crisis on mental health services and the mental health of the population (in February).

2. Lobbying - Human Rights:

- We contributed to the drafting of the country report for our country for the MHE "Mapping Exclusion" report on the status of de-institutionalisation (survey sent by Gabor Petri first in 2011 with reminders in 2012).

Indeed, several members of Advocacy-France spent many hours on contributing to the drafting of the country report for France, both in 2011 and in 2012 when a high quantity of additional information was requested. National experts were also called on to participate free of charge and numerous documents were collected on the subject. All of this information was translated by Stephanie Wooley into English. She also assisted by translating into French the final country reports for France and Belgium and the conclusions of the Mapping Exclusion Report.

- We also undertook activities in the relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as described below.

Presentations given by Florence Leroy, Vice President (user member) and Claude Deutsch, Secretary General (professional member) at the Seminar organised by the *Syndicat de la Magistrature* (Union of French Magistrates) entitled "*Liberté, Sécurité, Soins : La nouvelle diagonale du fou*" on 23 November 2012 at the prestigious *Palais de Justice* Courthouse in Paris. This was an opportunity for both of them to defend the rights of users on the basis of the UNCRPD. The presentations given are available on the Advocacy-France web site (www.advocacy.fr). This was also an opportunity to explain MHE's action to support the Convention.

Presentations given by Annick Derobert, Deputy Secretary (user member) and Claude Deutsch, Secretary General (professional member) at the Conference organized by the *Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale* in Angers on 4 and 5 December. Entitled "Supporting vulnerable adults: position and action of local social services together with their partners". This presentation was an opportunity to present and promote the UNCRPD and the proposals and recommendations of Inclusion Europe on the implementation of Article 12, approved at the EDF General Assembly. These presentations and the proceedings of the Conference are

available on the Advocacy France web site. Once again, the work done by MHE in this field was also highlighted.

Members of Advocacy-France actively participated in the Training Seminar on the implementation of the UNCRPD organized by the *Maison des Sciences Sociales du Handicap* and the French Disability Council for European Affairs (CFHE). This was an opportunity to put forward Advocacy-France and MHE's position and to network with researchers.

Finally, Advocacy-France also participated in promoting the UN Convention through active involvement in the 2nd International Seminar for Concertation with Civil Society to implement the UN Convention in French-speaking countries held on 10 and 11 December 2012 in Paris. The contribution of civil society to monitoring and applying the Convention is essential.

- We maintain contacts with human rights bodies in our country, such as the CFHE, the *Ligue des droits de l'homme*, national human rights institutions, the Syndicat de la magistrature (which now has a major role pursuant to the "judicialisation" of hospitalization without consent), and the *Office pour la Francophonie* in order to work together on equal representation, the rights of persons hospitalized in psychiatric institutions, the rights of persons maintained in institutions, and the rights of persons placed under guardianship (*tutelle / curatelle*). We also created a "Pair-advocacy" volunteer and citizen service with links to human right NGOs.

- At MHE's request, we contacted the relevant Ministers as a reaction to the decision by the EU Council of Ministers to take away the so called "ex-ante conditionalities" from the draft regulation for the future EU Structural Funds (14th May).

- We also provided our opinion on the draft of the "Common European Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation" (4th April).

3. Lobbying - European Parliament:

- Stephanie Wooley attended both of the MHE hearings in the European Parliament on the 13th (joint hearing with FEANTSA on health inequalities) and 14th of November (launch of MHE publication "Mapping Exclusion").

The following meetings were organized in 2012 to lobby elected officials:

- 24 August: Meeting with E. Jardin-Payet, Parliamentary attachée of Laurence Dumont, 1st Vice President of the National Assembly (P. Guérard, C. Deutsch)

-7 September: Meeting with Joel Labbé, Senator from the Morbihan Region

-20 October: Meeting with N. Kils-Nilsen, EMP and his Parliamentary attaché, Patrick Anne. This meeting was followed up by systematically forwarding MHE news and press releases to this MP.

- 29 October: Meeting with Aurore Lambert, in charge of Mental Health as a member of Mrs. Carlotti's Cabinet, Minister for the rights of disabled persons

-30 October: Meeting with Mr. Chambaud and Mrs. Mathide Marmier, Head of Cabinet and Advisor for Mental Health issues, respectively, members of the Cabinet of Mrs. Touraine, Minister of Health.

Advocacy-France's membership in MHE and its involvement on the European level (European Parliament Coalition on Mental Health and Well-being) were stressed at each of these meetings.

4. Participation in meetings, seminars etc:

- We participated in training for NFPs on the 22-23 March in Brussels.
- Participation in MHE conference in Split and associate meetings 13-16 June:

Three members of Advocacy-France attended the MHE Conference in Split and associate meetings, partially at their own expense. Advocacy-France presented the candidacy of Stephanie Wooley to the Board of Directors, who was honoured to be elected and continue the outstanding work done by her predecessors.

- Participation in the DAPHNEE programme:

Advocacy-France participated in the DAPHNEE programme (finalization 2012) to "Train, Improve, Reduce!" In connection with this programme, Advocacy-France organised a training seminar in Paris on "Mental Health and Family Violence" on 28 June 2012, 2:00 – 6:00 pm, at the *La Villette Cité des sciences et de l'industrie*.

Martine Dutoit and four other Advocacy France (Paris) representatives participated in the final DAPHNEE Conference held in Brussels entitled "Hitting the spot - Safeguarding the mental health of victims of domestic violence" on 23 November.

- Participation at conferences/seminars/meetings where information on MHE was provided:

- Inter-organizational press conference held 20 April 2012 at the time the French Constitutional Council was rendering a Ruling on Validity requested by the CRPA association on 4 Articles contained in the French Law dated 5 July 2011 on psychiatric care without consent. This press conference was entitled "*Quelle est la psychiatrie que nous voulons?*". Philippe Guérard, President of Advocacy-France gave a keynote presentation at this event. MHE's position in this field was also presented.

- Participation in the "Mais c'est un Homme" Collective. The organizations that are members of this Collective are as follows: La ligue des droits de l'homme, le Syndicat de la magistrature, l'Union syndicale de la psychiatrie, le nurses' trade union "Sud-Santé-Sociaux", the CRPA - *Cercle de réflexion et de proposition d'action pour la Psychiatrie* (user's organization) and Advocacy-France.

- Members of Advocacy-France participated all year in the monthly meetings of this Group and in drafting press releases. This work led to a meeting at the Ministry of Health on 7th November to reaffirm our position and hopefully enter into future negotiations on the reform of this Law.

5. Communication and information:

Information on the position of MHE is widely circulated by way of our monthly newsletter "*La lettre du Mégaphone*", as well as at the occasion of the conferences and seminars mentioned above. Discussions with staff members at MHE to help Advocacy-France recruit new members and create a "national platform" in France were underway at the end of 2012.

Advocacy-France reported to MHE about important developments in the field of Mental Health in your country:

2013 Prospects

- Preparation of a meeting with potential MHE members and partners in France to create a national platform in 2013.
- Request and lobbying for an official hearing by the Ministry of Health and the Parliamentary Commission on the reform of the Law dated 5 July 2011 on psychiatric care without consent in February 2013.
- Continued participation in the Collective "*Santé Mentale – grande cause nationale 2014*" (Mental Health – major national cause in 2014). The Prime Minister will decide at the end of the year if this health cause is retained.

6. Fundraising:

We were unable to respond to the MHE request for support to identify potential sponsors for MHE activities due to time constraints and a lack of knowledge about these potential sponsors. However, Advocacy-France would be happy to follow up any contacts made with or letters sent to potential sponsors in France.

Enclosure: **invoice for activities as NFP 2012 dated 2012.**

Date, signature



31 January 2013

Philippe Guerard
President
Advocacy-France