EUFAM Congress – Preparations continue in Basel

With just under three months to the start of EUFAMI’s 5th European Congress, the preparations are well under way to ensure that the Congress will be a great success. All of the speakers are in place and are preparing their presentations. All indications are that their contributions will be of major interest to the delegates attending the Congress. With regards to registrations, we can report that the numbers are increasing on a daily basis and we now have delegates registered from 25 different countries. If you wish to register, logon to www.eufami.org and click the Congress advertisement on the webpage.

EU Journalist “Together against discrimination” Award

Now in its eighth year, the EU Journalist Award – Together against discrimination! is the only journalism competition for print and online journalists focused on discrimination and diversity issues in the EU. Through the Award, the European Commission recognises journalists who contribute to a better understanding of the value and benefits of diversity and the fight against discrimination in the EU. The Commission are at the moment looking for nominations of NGO representatives from all 27 EU member states to the Jury of the award. Proposals should be sent to Ewa.Musialowksa@ketchumpleon.com by 11th July at the latest. Background information about the Journalist Award is available at http://journalistaward.stop-discrimination.info/2704.0.html

Chain of Trust online survey

The European Patients’ Forum (EPF) is implementing, together with other six partners, an EU project co-financed by the EU Public Health Programme called “Chain of Trust”. Started in January 2011, this project aims to assess the perspectives of the main end users of telehealth services, i.e. patients, doctors, nurses and pharmacists across the EU to see whether and how views have evolved since the initial deployment of telehealth and what barriers there still are to building confidence in and acceptance of this innovative type of services. For more information on the Chain of Trust and to take part in the survey (available in 11 languages) please visit the project website at www.chainoftrust.eu.

Council conclusions on 'The European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being: results and future action'

EUFAMI welcomes the outcome from the recent meeting of the Council of the European Union in respect to the Pact for Mental Health and Well-being and especially their call to both the European Commission and EU Member States to develop a Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being under the EU Public Health Programme 2008-2013. The Pact came to a conclusion in March of this year and during the past few years EUFAMI has been an active participant at the various activities connected with the Pact. EUFAMI is committed to continuing to work with all bodies and organisations interested in the advancement of mental health issues. The full report from the Council can be downloaded at Council conclusions on 'The European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being: results and future action'.

New publications from Denmark and France

“The skills of talking about anxiety and depression ... for kids and adults of all ages” is a new book by Karen Gilstrup. Karen is a social worker, supervisor, family-, couples- and psychotherapist MFF. She has a special interest in families that experience mental illness. She offers family consultations to parents with mental illness and their children in SIND’s counselling for relatives. SIND is based in Denmark and is a member of EUFAMI. Together with PsykInfo Forlaget and SIND Karen has just started translating to different languages - English, Dutch, German, Swedish and Norwegian.

“Obscuré-clarté – schizophrénia” (Dark light – schizophrenia) is a book written by Florent Babillot, who is the son of a member of our French member association, UNAFAM. In the book he recalls his illness and his relationship with his family. It is due to be released this month and is available in French. For more information, log onto www.edkiro.fr/obscuré-clarte.html

International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights

The International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights is currently accepting applications for 2011 - 2012. The Diploma, now in its fourth year of existence, is collaboration between the WHO and the ILS Law College in Pune, India. The course builds the capacity of students to advocate for human rights and to influence national legislative and policy and service reform in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other key international human rights standards. It is a one year Diploma and includes two residential sessions and distance learning. More information about the Diploma is also available at www.mentalhealthlaw.in.

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