Successful Human Ring

On Friday 19th November a human ring was formed around the European Parliament, organised by the European Anti Poverty Network – a coalition of Social NGOs. The action was taken to urge the European institutions and Member States’ governments to give a more sustainable and equitable response to the crisis, instead of making the most vulnerable of the population carry the cost. 85 million women and men – around 17% of the EU population – lived below the poverty threshold in 2008. About 20 million of them are children, which means one child out of five. 8% of the European population is at risk of poverty, despite having a job. 22% of women over 65 live in poverty, as do a third of single-parent families. Amongst the actions being called for are accessible services for all, equality between men and women and an end to all discrimination and decent work to create a sustainable way out of poverty.

WPA Project on Partnerships for Best Practices in Working with Users and Carers

Work is progressing well on the drafting of the final guidelines by the Task Force and they are expected to be released in the near future. Sigrid Steffen, EUFAMI President, is a member of the Task Force and she wishes to express her thanks to all of the members of EUFAMI who recently responded in such an excellent way to the survey related to the work in hand. High amongst the draft guidelines will be the subject of human rights and the need for legislation, policy and clinical practice relevant to the lives and care of people with mental disorders.

Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Stigma for better Mental Health and Well-being

This Thematic Conference, under the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being, took place recently in Lisbon on the 8th and 9th November. It was organised by the European Commission and the Portuguese Ministry of Health. EUFAMI was represented at the meeting and a copy of the various presentations is now available at the following web address http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/events/ev_20101108_en.htm#fragment1

11th European Clubhouse Conference

The 11th European Clubhouse Conference recently took place between the 14th and 17th November in Wesenufer in Upper Austria. EUFAMI was represented at the conference by its President, Sigrid Steffen, who chaired a number of the conference sessions as well as presented on the subject of recovery from the perspective of the family. Sigrid also participated in a number of related workshops.

Prospect – EUFAMI’s Training Programme

Prospect, EUFAMI’s Training Initiative, is currently being used by people in over 14 European countries. Prospect is a very unique peer to peer programme and was developed by EUFAMI members from many countries. If you would like to get further information, contact Rita Geerts on project.admin.office@eufami.org.

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