



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

MHA

Mental Health Association – Malta

- June 2012-

On page 2:

- ▶ EUFAMI – Annual Report 2011
- ▶ HEIDI : A new way of sharing and storing health information in the EU
- ▶ European Public Affairs Awards 2012: Nominations now open
- ▶ The Brain Prize - Call for nominations 2013
- ▶ Publication of a book on mental health services in Europe
- ▶ Prospect – EUFAMI's Training Programme

Family Experiences presented in a book

(An excellent source for teachers, social workers and related professions in the mental health field)



This book provides real-life experiences of relatives of persons with mental health problems and provides insight into the different ways carers coped with their own lives and managed to overcome certain struggles.

The publication Stars Shine, in the Dark, compiled over the span of two years, is a source of hope to those relatives who feel stressed with the responsibility of taking care of a person with mental health problems. Fourteen of the nineteen chapters of the book are written by family members who have been taking care of a mentally ill

family member for a long time. These family caregivers have decided to help others by sharing their personal experiences with the general public to combat the fear and stigma associated with mental ill health and to support other caregivers like themselves. Twenty-five volunteers were involved in the production of the book as part of the organisations' activities for the "European Year of Volunteering 2011."

The book provides information relevant to certain situations encountered through illnesses such as **Depression, OCD, Bipolar disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis and Paranoia.**

Several chapters are written specifically for **teaching purposes** and aim to assist in teaching and other professions. An explanation on the rights of the family caregivers in the local context is also included. This book is recommended to students, teachers, the clergy and all those persons who have at heart family values. The preface is written by the Vice-President of EUFAMI and co-founder of the Mental Health Association (MHA), Ms Connie Magro whilst a closing synthesis is written by the CEO of the St Jeanne Antide Foundation, Nora Macelli.

The books translation into English is underway and is available on order. For further information please e-mail on assistance@mhamalta.com

For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

Do you wish your organisation to become the next "member of the month"?

Get your pens ready and send us your text and photographs as soon as possible!! Please send details to Rita Geerts at the EUFAMI office on project.admin.office@eufami.org.

EUFAMI
Diestsevest 100
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel +32 16 74 50 40
Fax +32 16 74 50 49



- June 2012 -



EUFAMI – Annual Report 2011

The 2011 EUFAMI Annual Report is now available for download from both the EUFAMI website and also from its Facebook page. Yes! **EUFAMI is now on Facebook** – visit the page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/EUFAMI/127281550633653?sk=wall>



HEIDI : A new way of sharing and storing health information in the EU

In May, HEIDI – an internet based wiki that presents reliable and comparable data about health in the EU – was launched by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health & Consumers. Although Heidi has been set up by the Commission, the content is written by European health experts – who are responsible for their contributions and can directly upload and edit information. HEIDI stands for Health in Europe: Information and Data Interface. It is a dynamic tool that collects, updates and shares information about health in Europe, for example on health status, health determinants, systems and policies. The abundance of health data and indicators in the HEIDI wiki is constantly being added to and updated. The data can be sorted per year, by country and by region, allowing at-a-glance comparisons across the years and between Member States and regions in the EU. For a selection of health topics, the tool allows for the data to be presented in a variety of graphs - line chart, bar chart, map chart and table chart. For more information on EU health indicators:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/policy/index_en.htm

European Public Affairs Awards 2012: Nominations now open

Now in their fifth year, the European Public Affairs Awards highlight success and encourage best practice throughout the European public affairs community; bringing recognition to individuals, organisations, issues and campaigns. The results of this year's awards will be announced during the awards dinner on Wednesday 14 November held at the stunning Albert Hall. Amongst the categories for this year's awards is NGO of the Year, which should be of interest to many of our readers. More information and to nominate, logon to

www.epaawards.com

The Brain Prize - Call for nominations 2013

The Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation is seeking help in identifying candidates for the €1 million prize, The Brain Prize, which is to be awarded for the third time in May 2013. The Prize recognizes highly original and influential advances in research on the nervous system. If several researchers have contributed significantly to this achievement, more than one individual may receive the Prize.



Nominees can be of any nationality but the research for which they are nominated must have been conducted in Europe or in collaboration with researchers in Europe. It was awarded for the second time this year, to Christine Petit, France and to Karen Steel, England. This Prize is intended to raise the visibility of European neuroscience and to be a stimulus to this important field of research.

www.thebrainprize.org/flx/the_brain_prize/ for more details

Publication of a book on mental health services in Europe



A book entitled “Mental health services in Europe: provisions and practice” was recently published by Radcliff Publishing, with forewords by Matt Muijen (Programme Manager, Mental Health and Degenerative Disorders, WHO Regional Office for Europe), Peter Carter (General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing, London) and Ian Hulatt (Mental Health Adviser, Nursing Department, Royal College of Nursing, London). Highlighting that there is great variation within EU countries with respect to patient numbers and the range of facilities available to them, this book examines and critiques the state of specialist mental health services in nine EU countries (Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and Portugal), with a particular focus

on nursing. Each chapter focuses on a single country and ascertains existing services, their development, the treatments and care provided, factors preventing better service delivery, and suggestions for improvement. This book aims at increasing the knowledge on the experiences, perceptions, beliefs and values of those accessing and providing mental health services. As such, it provides interesting findings for policy makers, healthcare professionals, families and carers and service users.

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.



--
Note to readers – if for some reason you no longer wish to receive the EUFAMI @Bulletin, please send an email to info@eufami.org, with the words ‘Unsubscribe Bulletin’ on the subject line

For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

EUFAMI
Diestsevest 100
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel +32 16 74 50 40
Fax +32 16 74 50 49