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Greece - Training seminar for service users, family members and mental health professionals

SOFPSI N. SERRON, one of EUFAMI's Greek member associations, recently held a four day training seminar for service users, family members and mental health professionals from all over Greece. On day one, the theme was: "Hope, Resiliency and Recovery", a programme structured by the Center of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University; Day two was entitled: "Are we negotiating our right to work? Are we negotiating our rehabilitation?" Day 3 was structured around "Principles of communication & skills development" and day 4 continued with "Principles of communication & skills development" including a session with experiential exercises and finally the seminar ends with a session on "Strengthening the Therapeutic Alliance".

New self help workbook for carers

Rethink Mental Illness has produced a new self help workbook for carers. It is available online as pdf download http://www.rethink.org/living_with_mental_illness/caring/caring_for_yourself.html.

EU publication - Health for the EU in 33 success stories

The European Commission (DG Health and Consumers) has just launched a new publication on public health: "Health for the EU in 33 success stories".

The booklet details 33 projects funded by EU Health Programmes, showing how they contributed to improve public health in the EU. This is the second edition of the booklet initially prepared in occasion of the Health Programmes Conference held in May 2012. The projects cover a wide range of issues such as nutrition and healthy lifestyles, health inequalities, youth health, cancer, health threats and health information.

Following the Commission policy to give priority to digital publications, you can find this publication at http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/success_stories_full_en.pdf.



WHO Mental Health Strategy for Europe

EUFAMI was represented by John Saunders, Board Member and Treasurer at the recent WHO meeting in Oslo during which the Draft Mental Health Strategy for Europe, which EUFAMI and its members had been given the opportunity to comment on, was discussed. EUFAMI has been involved in the process to draft the European Mental Health Strategy from the beginning and has been successful in ensuring that the interests and perspective of families is included in the document. He also reported that the WHO tabled the first draft of a global Mental Health Strategy. EUFAMI is in the process of examining this draft and will forward its comments and findings to the WHO in due course.



European Commission Health Department issues call for expression of interest for experts

The European Commission has issued a call for the expression of interest for experts to join its multisectoral and independent expert panel which will advise the Commission on effective ways of investing in health. Detailed information on the expert panel can be found at

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:198:0007:0011:EN:PDF>.

More information on the application procedure and the application form are available at http://ec.europa.eu/health/healthcare/consultations/call_expertpanel_healthinnovation_en.htm.

Closing date is the 23rd November 2012.

EU Health Commissioner Dalli resigns

On the 16th October the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Mr. John Dalli, resigned following the allegation of fraud as mentioned in the official press release. This follows a complaint which was made by Swedish Match, a tobacco producer, and which was investigated by the EU's antifraud office OLAF. The official press release states that the 'OLAF report did not find any conclusive evidence of the direct participation of Mr Dalli but did consider that he was aware of these events. The report also showed clearly that the European Commission's decision making process and the position of the services concerned have not been affected at all by the matters under investigation.' Mr Dalli has rejected the findings and decided to resign in order to be able to defend both his reputation and that of the Commission. EUFAMI regrets the current situation and feels that the affair raises many questions in respect to transparency and lobbying at the EU. It is hoped that the focus on mental health issues is not lost as a result of this affair and EUFAMI expresses its wish that the new Commissioner, when appointed, will be committed to and treat mental health as a priority item.

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Friday, 24th May 2013

EUFAMI, in cooperation with Shine, is hosting a major European Family Conference

A perfect vision for Mental Health 2020

Dublin, Ireland

This conference is one of a number of events which EUFAMI will be hosting to mark its 20th Anniversary



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

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