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Supported by:

AGE – European Older People's Platform

EAPN – European Anti Poverty Network

EDF – European Disability Forum

EUFAMI – European Federation of Associations of Families
of People with Mental Illness

EuroHealthNet

Euro-Psy-Rehabilitation

FEANTSA – European Federation of National Organisations
Working with the Homeless

Interminds

SMES-Europa – Mental Health and Social Exclusion

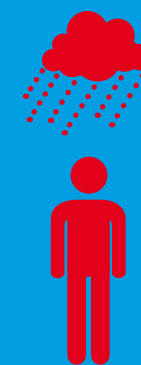
Social Platform



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SOCIAL INCLUSION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

GOOD PRACTICES FOR COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS



TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE
PROJECT UNDER THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME
TO COMBAT SOCIAL EXCLUSION

MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE - SANTE MENTALE EUROPE (AISBL)
[WWW.MENTALHEALTH-SOCIALINCLUSION.ORG]

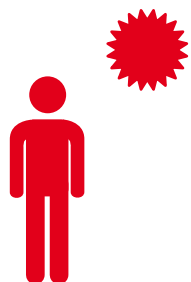
Social exclusion of people with mental health problems

Millions of people suffer from mental health problems. Some people are able to resolve them, but for others, mental health problems can be both a cause and a consequence of social exclusion.

Social exclusion is what happens when society marginalises people so that they are not able to play a full and equal part in their community. Many people who suffer from mental health problems live in poverty and experience stigma and discrimination. They may find it hard to access employment or to find adequate housing. The result is that people can become seriously isolated and excluded from social and working life.

In the last few years, there has been some progress in addressing these concerns, but a great deal still needs to be done in order to further reduce the social exclusion of people with mental health problems.

MHE, together with its partners, wishes to provide evidence and highlight the success of existing best practices that can help to end the stigma and social exclusion of these persons.



Aim of the project

The project aims to demonstrate the link between mental health problems and social exclusion. The focus is in particular on existing best practices that can contribute to tackling the inequalities that people with mental health problems encounter, in access to health and social services, employment, education, training services, housing, transport, leisure activities as well as the protection of their civil and human rights. Through transnational exchange and comparison of effective practices, policy proposals to achieve greater social inclusion will be prepared.

The objectives of the project are:

- to identify, collect and analyse good practices combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems in the participating countries
- to assess the transferability of the practices to other European countries, taking into account the major existing socio-economic and cultural differences
- to organise exchange visits to selected good practices in the partner countries and to meet with policy makers, civil society and other stakeholders
- to organise consultation at the European level with European NGOs active in the field of social inclusion in order to mainstream awareness about mental health issues
- to establish an online database of best practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems;
- to organise a European conference in order to raise the awareness of policy makers and to ensure that the findings are taken up in the Social Inclusion Process at the local, national and European level
- to disseminate the results and to raise awareness at all levels: local, regional, national and European.

Activities

A European Advisory Committee has been established. This Advisory Committee, composed of various European networks, supports the monitoring of the project and evaluates the project's outcomes based on each of the networks' specific and European point of view.

The partner organisations analyse and comment on the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion and look for good practices in their country. The selected good practices are evaluated by the partner organisations at focus group meetings with the different stakeholders in their country, in particular people with mental health problems, and by the European Advisory Committee.

Visits to the "best practices" in some of the participating countries have been organised.

MHE has set up an online database of good practices, which will be continuously updated and extended to include good practices from other Member States of the European Union.

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