

# INVITATION TO THE FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE LED TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROJECT

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



SOCIAL INCLUSION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

VIENNA, 01 JUNE 2007

## Background

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.

Mental Health Europe, together with its project partners from 10 EU Member States - Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Scotland - has gathered evidence and wishes to highlight the success of existing best practices that can help to end the stigma and social exclusion of these persons.

## Aim of the conference

The conference will bring together various stakeholders from the partner countries and other European Member States to reflect on the issue of mental health and social inclusion. Good practices for combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems will be discussed in an interactive and dynamic way with all the participants, and the project's conclusions and recommendations for improving social inclusion of people with mental health problems in Europe will be presented.

### In particular, the conference will:

- address the issue of mental health and social inclusion from a broad perspective and highlight the achievements and challenges in the social inclusion process at the European and national level.
- focus on the outcomes of the project, especially on what has been achieved through the project in terms of raising awareness, establishing cooperation and implementing actions on the national level.
- involve all project partners and (ex)users of mental health services to highlight the need to empower and involve users in the social inclusion process and present ways how this can be realised.
- recapitulate the lessons learned from the project. Recommendations for strategies to improve the social inclusion of people with mental health problems will be presented and the following discussion will allow for exchanging ideas on possibilities for synergies and future actions.



## Programme

**Moderator:** Jo Lucas, *Kastanja Consulting, Mental Health Service Development and Capacity Building*

9.00 Welcome

**Malgorzata Kmita,**  
*MHE President*  
**Josée Van Remoortel,**  
*MHE Senior Policy Advisor*

9.30 **The European perspective:**  
The need to combat social exclusion of people with mental health problems

**Sogol Noorani,**  
*MHE Project Coordinator*

Combating social exclusion at the European level: Achievements and challenges

**Marie-Anne Paraskevas,**  
*European Commission, Social Inclusion Unit*

Where does social inclusion of people with mental health problems stand today?

**Liz Sayce,**  
*RADAR, UK*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 **The national perspective:**  
Combating social exclusion of people with mental health problems at the national level

Interactive discussion including short presentations by the project partners and the experiences of (ex)users of mental health services, and involving all participants of the workshop.

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **The local perspective:**  
The empowerment and involvement of people with mental health problems in the social inclusion process

Interactive discussion including short presentations by the project partners and the experiences of (ex)users of mental health services, and involving all participants of the workshop.

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 **Conclusions and recommendations:**  
Outcomes of the project

**Sogol Noorani,**  
*MHE Project Coordinator*

Mental health and social inclusion – A users' perspective

Representative of the European Network of (ex)users and Survivors of Psychiatry

Improving social inclusion of people with mental health problems – Recommendations for future policies and strategies

**John Henderson,**  
*MHE Senior Policy Advisor*

18.00 Closing of conference

## Practical information and registration

The conference will take place in the frame of the Mental Health Europe Conference 2007, 31 May – 02 June.

**Conference language:**

English

**Conference location:**

House of Industry, Schwarzenbergplatz 4, A-1031 Vienna, Austria.

Please register by sending an email to: [info@mhe-sme.org](mailto:info@mhe-sme.org) or by sending a fax to: +32 2 280 16 04 by **25 May 2007**.

For detailed information about the Mental Health Europe conference 2007 please visit: [www.mhe-sme.org](http://www.mhe-sme.org).

## Contact us

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