MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITES

European Network on Independent Living

ENIL as the main organization promoting and advocating Independent Living in Europe will continue to provide information and advice on issues relating to personal assistance users, direct payment schemes, and other support networks.

http://www.enil.eu.com/

Estuar Foundation

The Estuar Foundation’s mission is to offer social options and alternatives to adults with mental health problems in order to reintegrate them into the community.

Our day and nursing home services contribute to:

- The development of community services with a view to reducing long-term placement in mental hospitals;
- Increasing the local authorities and community members’ awareness and understanding of mentally ill persons;
- Promoting partnership and cooperation with authorities and governmental and nongovernmental organizations with a view to developing an efficient community assistance structure.

http://www.anasaf.ro/english/you/ngo/e/estuar.foundation.htm

In Bucharest contact: Cristian Andrei, President

European Network on Mental Health Policy (ENMHPO)

The European Network on Mental Health Policy (ENMHPO) was established in 1995. For the moment, the network consists of
representatives from all Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Slovenia. The core members of the network are the Chief Mental Health Officers of the respective countries, meaning that they work either at the Ministry of Health or at some official organisation under the Ministry, or act as mental health advisors for the Ministry. The members of the ENMHPO are experts in the field of mental health policy and promotion of mental health. The role of the ENMHPO is to represent mainly the governmental viewpoints in these areas. On the other hand, these links provide the network with an outstanding possibility to directly influence the political decision-making concerning these issues in the participating member countries.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/previous_programme/promotion/networks_enmhpo_promotion_en.htm

Geneva Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP)

The GIP works with mental health professionals, lawyers, government officials, relatives of the mentally ill and users of mental health services on reform of former USSR and Central and Eastern European systems.

http://www.geneva-initiative.org/pages/home/default.asp

The Hamlet Trust

The Hamlet Trust was established in 1988 to help develop alternative services for people with mental health problems. Its main focus is in its work with communities which have found themselves in the midst of social and economic upheaval following the collapse of Communism.

One program in the Hamlet Trust is the Pathways to Policy. This is a program that develops local policy forums at the grass roots,
bringing together service users, family members, and other local stakeholders to influence and promote mental health policy in Estonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Slovenia will host the culmination of Hamlet's Pathways to Policy Program, “Rethinking Mental Health Policy,” a mental health conference and policy review 8-10 October 2004.

http://www.hamlet-trust.org.uk/about.html

http://www.hamlet-trust.org.uk/programmes.html#ptp

International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a global non-governmental organization which represents a wide range of national and international member organizations that seek to advance social welfare, social development and social justice. In working to achieve its mission, ICSW advocates policies and programmes which strike an appropriate balance between social and economic goals and which respect cultural diversity. It seeks implementation of these proposals by governments, international organizations, non-governmental agencies and others. It does so in cooperation with its network of members and with a wide range of other organizations at local, national and international levels. ICSW’s main ways of pursuing its aims include gathering and disseminating information, undertaking research and analysis, convening seminars and conferences, drawing on grass-roots experiences, strengthening non-governmental organizations, developing policy proposals, engaging in public advocacy and working with policy-makers and administrators in government and elsewhere.

http://www.icsw.org/
Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC)

The purpose of MDAC is to promote and protect the rights of people with mental health problems and/or intellectual disabilities in 28 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, NIS and central Asia

http://mdac.info

Mental Disability Advocacy Program (Soros Foundation)

The Mental Disability Advocacy Program (MDAP), a part of the Open Society’s Public Health Programs, supports initiatives that seek to address the over institutionalization, lack of community-based services, and general exclusion from society of people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health problems throughout Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. MDAP currently works in more than 20 countries and regions.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/mdap

Mental Health Europe

World Federation for Mental Health and has official relations with several European and international organizations: the World Health Organization/Office for Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Its mission is to ensure a better recognition and understanding of mental health/illness issues. Mental Health Europe also collaborates with major European mental health, disability and social non governmental organizations and belongs to several European lobbying groups and umbrella organizations: European Disability Forum, European Institute of Women's Health, European Public Health Alliance, Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry, and the Platform
of European Social NGOs.


Romanian League for Mental Health

The Romanian League for Mental Health is an NGO based in Bucharest. Recent projects implemented by the League for Mental Health include developing a mental health resource centre, and training in capacity-building for other mental health NGOs. She has also served as a manager for the project "Enhancing Social Cohesion through Strengthening Community Mental Health Services in South Eastern Europe", under the Stability Pact. Raluca Nica is the Executive Director and has a MBA from Case Western Reserve University (USA).

http://www.lrsm.ro/lrsm/index.htm

Social Cooperatives

Social cooperatives have been established in Italy to provide employment opportunities for people with mental disabilities. All cooperatives belong to the Consorzio per L’Impresa Sociale, a special association established in 1991 to support administrative and corporate functions. The social cooperatives have expanded from carpentry and agricultural ventures to include hi-tech business and enterprises. A majority of partners in the cooperatives must be consumers.

Consorzio per L’Impresa Sociale

http://www.noprofit.org/altreco.htm
La Guida Ai Servizi Di Salute Mentale

http://www.triestesalutementale.it/guida/txt_06-coop_soc.htm

SAMHSA National Mental Health Information Center (U.S). The Social Cooperative


World Health Organization (WHO)

In response to increasing mental health problems, lack of care and harm to individuals and societies, the WHO/Europe mental health programme has developed networks and pools of resources. It has also set up four main task forces:

- Morbidity and mortality related to stress and helplessness.
- National assessments.
- Destigmatization of mental ill health.
- Children's and adolescent's mental health,

The program is assisted by a number of networks:

- European network of national counterparts mandated and nominated by ministers of health.
- European network on suicide prevention and research, with national focal points in 29 countries.
- Network of collaborating centres on various topics and problems.

The program works intensively together with other partners, including the European Commission and the Council of Europe, especially in the field of human rights. The pool of resources
represented by the networks and task forces plays a central role and has become an important source of support for Member States at both regional and national levels. Over the past five years, high-visibility ministerial conferences have been held in collaboration with governments in the European Region. These conferences have dealt with mental health determinants, suicide, stress and transition-related morbidity and mortality, stigma, mental health and reconciliation, the need for mental health promotion, disorder prevention and raising awareness about mental health issues on the agenda in the European Region.

http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth

WHO Child and Adolescent Mental Health Task Force
This task force was established in December 2002, to deal with the problems of children's and adolescent's mental health in the WHO European Region. Its tasks are to:

- Collect evidence-based knowledge on the topic.
- Produce a position paper on the panorama of problems and the state of the art in Europe.
- Coordinate the research to be carried out.
- Develop evidence-based strategies and to implement them in demonstration areas as "good examples."
- Develop and action plan to be adopted at a meeting organized by the task force.
- Integrate its work into the preparation of the 2005 WHO conference.

http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/ChildAdolescent/20030718_1
Who Regional Office for Europe

The WHO Regional Office for Europe aims to support countries in:
- Developing health policies, health systems and public health programmes.
- Preventing and overcoming threats to health.
- Anticipating future challenges.
- Advocating public health.

http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/HOME/TopPage

Contact: Dr. Maria Haralanova. Email: mah@euro.who.int.

Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe: Mental Health Project

Strengthening social cohesion by strengthening community mental health services was one of the health topics of highest priority agreed for collaboration in the Dubrovnik Pledge. Support was immediately pledged by the Government of Greece, the WHO/Europe, the Council of Europe and other partners of the social cohesion initiative of the Stability Pact. The governments of Italy, Slovenia and Sweden joined later, and the Ministry of Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to coordinate the initiative.

The initiative focuses on developing new and reinforcing existing community mental health care/services in the sub region, through making mental health policy and institutional links between stakeholders, including social and nongovernmental organizations and education, research and community services. Such services can provide both more affordable and efficient paths to mental health care and rehabilitation, thus strengthening social cohesion and, to
some extent, social stability.

The project's immediate objectives are also to develop, strengthen and implement community mental health care/services in southeastern Europe through:

- Amending mental health legislation in countries to comply with European Union standards for mental health and human rights.
- Establishing a model for community mental health services, as a part of psychosocial services.
- Developing a region-wide standardized training forum and collaboration network on community mental health and related multisectoral issues.
- Establishing a region-wide training curriculum for professionals in mental health, primary health care and social work.

The project time frame is 2 years: June 2002 – June 2004. Country managers and technical experts have been appointed; teams have made assessments in the countries and task forces for policy development and legislation review are in place in most of the countries.

By December 2003, the assessments made were expected to have led to concrete recommendations on policy and legislation for countries, and countries were expected to enter the second phase of the initiative: developing pilot projects.

http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/CtryInfo/20031111_1

Prepared by Martin B. Tracy
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