



## European Community Based Mental Health Service Providers Network

### European Partnership for Delivering Quality Community Mental Health Services

It has been a long time since you have received a newsletter from us. That does not mean that we have not been active in the last year. On the contrary, we have been busy with the creation of a clear EUCOMS identity, the organisational structure, partnerships and we made our voice heard across Europe. We are ready to grow! This newsletter will give you an update of our activities.

#### EUCOMS Meeting in Màlaga – Register Now

The next EUCOMS event will take place in Màlaga on the 4th and 5th October. The theme of the meeting is: “Integrated Community Mental Health Care: The challenge of an intersectoral approach” and will be hosted by Ms. Evelyn Huizing (Andalusian Health Service) and Mr. Juan José Martínez Jambrina (Director of the Mental Health Area Avilés, Asturias). Attending the meeting is free and there are still some places open. Register and find more information via this [link](#).

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## Follow our Activities

Besides our bi-annual newsletters we now also update you about our, and our partners', activities via the [website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#). One of our biggest aims as a network of community mental health care services providers in Europe is of course to connect, and why not connect via existing platforms? Connect with us and share your interesting and inspiring scoops, research and events with other service providers in Europe. Would you like to share something with all the EUCOMS partners? Email us and we will take care of it.

## Completion of the Consensus Paper

Many of you probably already know this; the consensus paper outlining the six key principles of community mental health care is finalized and even translated in Japanese and French (thanks to our partners). According to EUCOMS quality community mental health care is based on human rights (1), works with a public health perspective (2), supports recovery of clients (3), provides effective interventions (4), has a network approach (5), and uses peer experience as a source of expertise (6). We expect to publish our first scientific article this year based on the consensus paper. We will keep you updated. [Here](#) you find the complete consensus paper.

## Strengthening collaboration with IIMHL, MHE & IMHCN

There are a number of networks active in Europe in the field of mental health care. Important networks that complement the work of EUCOMS as the representative of mental health care service providers in

Europe are; the International Initiative for Mental health Leadership ([IIMHL](#)), Mental Health Europe ([MHE](#)) and the International Mental Health Collaborating Network ([IMHCN](#)). EUCOMS has in the last year sought, and still seeks engagement with these important players to support each other's mission to eventually improve access to quality community mental health care services for all citizens in Europe.

## Learning and Exchange visits

The first learning and exchange visits take place this summer between mental health care service providers from Belfast, Verona, Oslo and Màlaga. The purpose of these site-visits is to learn from different services about how they think, act and work in order to bring in practice the principles of good community mental health care as described in the 'Consensus Paper on Fundamental Principles of Community Based Mental Health Care'. As a guidance they use the [exchange tool](#) that has been developed for this purpose. The service providers will report their findings at the next EUCOMS meeting in Màlaga coming October. Would you like to take part in an exchange visit and have a look behind the scenes of another mental health care service and get to learn more about their practice? Send us an email and we will connect you!



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## What can EUCOMS do for you?

Coming October in Màlaga we want to present to you the statutes of the network to discuss and find agreement on the government- and financial structure and the services that we provide. We decided to make a distinction between the different stakeholder groups; service providers and umbrella organisations (partners), service users and their carers (collaborators), knowledge institutes (collaborators) and policy makers (collaborators). Each stakeholder can benefit from involvement in the network:

### *Service Providers and Umbrella Organisations*

EUCOMS connects you with other service providers across Europe and facilitates mutual learning and support on the implementation of quality community mental health service providers. Moreover, EUCOMS represents you and other community mental health service providers on the national and international level to advocate for better community mental health care across Europe.

### *Service Users and their Carers*

One of the six key principles of quality community mental health care described by EUCOMS is that services should be shaped in collaboration with service users (including professionals) tapping into their experience and expertise. EUCOMS facilitates this collaboration and connects you with European service providers who are eager to use this source of expertise and want to learn

how to improve their services. Moreover, EUCOMS advocates on national and international level for the implementation of quality community mental health care services benefitting the citizens of Europe in needs of such services.

### *Knowledge Institutes*

EUCOMS connects you with service providers and their users across Europe to develop research projects and to disseminate research results supporting the implementation of quality community mental health care in Europe, narrowing the gap between research and practice. Moreover, EUCOMS advocates for quality community mental health care on national- and international policy level also stressing the need for more knowledge on what ‘quality’ entails and how quality community mental health care could be best implemented.

### *Policy Makers*

EUCOMS connects you with services providers their users and facilitates learning about the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of quality community mental health care in practice in a variety of European countries. Also, you will be connected with knowledge institutes specialised in this field. Both the academic and practical knowledge would be of use to inform you to develop evidence-based policy and to narrow the gap between policy and practice.

## EUCOMS Welcomes Partners

Below you find the new partners and collaborators since our last newsletter. Welcome!

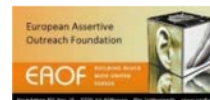
Name	Organization	Country
<b>Kay Herklotz</b>	PTV Dresden	Germany
<b>Katrin Scherer</b>	Gesellschaft für ambulante psychiatrische Dienste GmbH	Germany
<b>Helmut Thiede</b>	Gesellschaft für ambulante psychiatrische Dienste GmbH	Germany
<b>Fran Silvestri</b>	International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL)	USA
<b>Bob Cools</b>	CGG De Pont	Belgium
<b>Stefan Weinmann</b>	Vivantes Clinic "Am Urban"	Germany
<b>Diana Castro Sandoval</b>	European Forum For Primary Care	Netherlands
<b>Sonja Zeimet</b>	Independent carer	Luxembourg
<b>Nisse Berglund</b>	National Swedish Council for Resourcegroup-ACT	Sweden
<b>Matthias Gallei</b>	Horizont Ambulante Hilfen	Germany
<b>Petra Nieuwlaat</b>	De Waterheuvel	Netherlands
<b>Paul Bomke</b>	Pfalzkrlinikum - Service Provider for Mental Health	Germany
<b>Charles Tauber</b>	Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace (CWWPP)	Croatia
<b>Tor Helge Tjelta</b>	City of Oslo, District Gamle Oslo	Norway
<b>Seppo Eronen</b>	SSYK Finland	Finland
<b>Drahoslava Kleinova</b>	Association of Relatives and Friends	Slovakia
<b>Åsa Lidman</b>	NåUt-teamet	Sweden
<b>Ivan Frkovic</b>	Queensland Mental Health Association	Australia

## Upcoming Events from our Partners

An overview of our past events EUCOMS has participated in can be found [here](#). If you want to share your event please send us an [email](#) and we will share it via various channels with the EUCOMS partners.

We can share with you the following upcoming events:

- [EUCOMS Event, Spain, Màlaga, October 4-5](#)  
The theme of the meeting is: "Integrated Community Mental Health Care: The challenge of an intersectoral approach" and will be hosted by Ms. Evelyn Huizing (Andalusian Health Service) and Mr. Juan José Martínez Jambrina (Director of the Mental Health Area Avilés, Asturias). Attending the meeting is free and there are still some places open.
- [European Conference on Mental Health, Split, Croatia, September 19-21, 2018](#)  
The 7th annual European Conference on Mental Health is the place to learn more about mental health and wellness in Europe. Located in Croatia in September, this conference will feature speakers discussing a wide range of mental health topics, including peer support, risk assessment, and pragmatic psychology. It's primarily attended by mental health professionals. Register here.
- [EPIONI Greek Carers Network, Caring for Carers: Young Carers in a Changing World, Greece, Athens, September 28, 2018](#)  
Part of the Greek Carers Network activities is the conduct of informative events with the participation of healthcare professionals, psychologists, social workers and lawyers, who give answers to a wide range of medical, legal, educational and employment issues of interest to the public, especially to caregivers of people with a chronic disease or disability.  
  
EPIONI organizes at the office of the European Parliament in Athens, a conference focusing on caregivers. The event is under the auspices of the Ministry of Health in Greece, the World Federation for Mental Health, the Hellenic Psychiatric Association, the European Brain Council.
- [Preconference CCITP, 'Zero-Strategies: From Dream to Reality', Netherlands, Rotterdam, October 17 & International Conference on Crisis, Coercion and Intensive Treatment in Psychiatry \(CCITP\), Netherlands, Rotterdam, October 18-19](#)  
This conference is being organised in collaboration with the World Psychiatric association. In 2018 the first international conference will take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, during which the latest knowledge concerning crisis, coercion and intensive treatment in psychiatry will be shared and discussed. The aim of the CCITP Conference is to bring together clients, caregivers, professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers and others), managers, policy makers and researchers to exchange knowledge and experiences about CCITP-related topics, and thereby to contribute to prevention of crisis, suicide, and coercion. We hope to welcome people from many different disciplines and countries in order to create an inspiring environment for learning from each other.



- [International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership \(IIMHL\) & International Initiative for Disability Leadership \(IIDL\), Leading the Way Forward: Access, Accountability and Action, USA, Washington D.C., September 9-13, 2019](#)  
No description available yet.
- [Congress of the German Society of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Neurology – DGPPN, Berlin, Germany, November 27-30, 2019](#)  
National and international scientists will present new approaches in the prevention, diagnosis, therapy and rehabilitation of mental illness. Futurologists will show how the world of work and leisure is changing and what effects this has on mental health.

## Publications from our Partners

If you want to share your publication, please send us an [email](#) and we will share it via various channels with the EUCOMS partners.

### *Pfalzkllinikum – a look into the everyday workings of a mental health service*

Mental health is one of the biggest health issues in the world, with many people suffering from an array of life-changing and debilitating conditions across Europe. In this booklet, we get an insight into Pfalzkllinikum, a mental health service which offers round-the-clock care in a variety of creative ways. Based in the Rhineland-Palatinate in southwest Germany, Pfalzkllinikum is a provider of mental and neurology services. It has over 2,000 employees in 14 locations, whose work encompasses approximately 1.4 million people in the Palatinate.

### *A Postcard Showing a Canopy Bed: An ex User of Mental Health Services Shares his Story* (p. 148-149)

In an interview, Franz Josef Wagner tells Elena Posth from Pfalzkllinikum about his experiences as an ex-user of mental health services in the Rhineland Palatinate region of Germany.

### *Mental Health Resource Spotlight in Central and Eastern Europe*

In many countries in Central and Eastern Europe, large psychiatric or social care institutions are still the main care setting for those deemed to require long-term support, despite years of stated policies in support of a process of deinstitutionalisation. Right now, there are hundreds of thousands of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities effectively caught between the stated policy goal of moving away from institutional care and a lack of effective means to bring about that change. The result is that many such institutions are run down, poorly maintained and too often the setting for practices that are inhumane or antithetical to safe, effective, high-quality care. This issue has been recently and extensively evidenced by a number of recent international reports that are highlighted in this article.

## Want to become a partner?

That is possible! Becoming a partner or collaborator is open for individuals and organisations that provide or support services for people affected by mental illness. For more information and to register please visit [www.eucoms.net](http://www.eucoms.net).



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## Contact Information

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments or suggestions for the newsletter. You are welcome to share information with our contacts such as events, courses, new publications and requests.

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