

European Pact for Mental Health and Wellbeing Thematic conference
"Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Stigma
for better Mental Health and Well-being",
Lisbon, 8-9 November 2010

On 8-9 November 2010, the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers and the Portuguese Ministry of Health will organise in Lisbon the EU-conference "Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Stigma for better Mental Health and Well-being". The Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities as well as the Portuguese Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity are cooperating partners, and the conference will have the support of the Belgian Presidency of the EU. The conference will take place in the context the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

This will be the fourth in a series of five thematic conferences under the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being established in June 2008. More information about the Pact and the series of conferences please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/policy/index_en.htm

Purpose of the conference

In line with the overall purpose of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being, the conference will enable EU-Member States and relevant professional and civil society actors to exchange and improve cooperation on challenges and opportunities in mental health and wellbeing.

The objectives of the conference will be threefold:

- To raise awareness about the links between mental (ill-)health and wellbeing, on the one hand, and social inclusion and protection, on the other hand;
- To highlight good practice in policy and stakeholder action to promote the social inclusion of people experiencing mental health problems, and to combating their discrimination and stigmatisation;
- To strengthen the commitment to such action, in particular through collaborative measures between policies and professionals in the health and social fields.

Scope of the conference

The conference will, firstly, consider the social determinants of mental health and well-being and of inequalities in mental health in the EU. Secondly, it will consider measures to provide the necessary social support to people with mental health problems and to prevent their stigmatisation and social exclusion.

In this context, the conference will address the following sub-themes:

- Social protection, social inclusion and mental health
- Breaking the cycle of discrimination due to mental health problems
- Employment and meaningful activities as routes to recovery

- Rights, responsibility and citizenship
- Comprehensive health and social support for people with mental health problems.

The conference will present current research findings, including from EU public health and research projects, highlight good examples in policy action and professional practice, and promote the collaboration between health and social fields.

Background paper and conference documentation

A background paper supporting the conference is under preparation. A conference report will be established and published, together with the conclusions from the event.

Participants

Portuguese Minister of Health Ms Ana Jorge and European Commissioner for Health John Dalli are expected to open the conference. About 250 participants from the health and social fields should participate, representing Member State Governments, regional and local authorities and their networks, professional and civil society organisations as well as research experts.

Time and venue

The conference will begin on 8 November at 12.00 h. It will close at 13.30 h on 9 November.

The conference venue will be the Hotel Altis Lisboa, Rua Castilho, 11 Lisbon, Portugal.