

European Community based Mental health Service providers Network

Newsletter 1, year 1

December 14 2015

Please let us introduce the EuCoMS network

As we know from TS Elliot's wonderful poems *The Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, the naming of cats is very important. And so is the naming of this new network. Although the name *European Network of Community based Mental Health Service providers* is a very good description, it does have a few disadvantages. First, the acronym ENCBMHSP is quite difficult to type properly. Also, the hashtag *#EuropeanNetworkofCommunityBasedMentalHealthServiceProviders* is not very practical as it already uses 60 of 144 characters. So we needed to do better.

After testing various ideas on available internet domain names, Twitter and Facebook, the acronym *EuCoMS* (European Community based Mental health Service providers) was fitting all criteria and at this point in time the best available. So join the *EuCoMS* network!

Save the date for the first network meeting: April 6th 2016

The first meeting of the *EuCoMS* network will take place on April 6th in the Netherlands. On the agenda so far:

- Start our collaboration on a consensus document on community based mental health services. Key topics: 1) What should community mental health services ideally be, 2) What are the essential criteria to be considered as such community-based service and 3) What are the indicators to measure the progress towards these services.
- Presentation of the community mental health services (organisations) in participating countries. Each potential partner in the network will present the state of play in their country with an emphasis on the networks and organisations working in this field.
- Next steps to develop the network further.

Local organisation costs of the meeting will be carried by the initiators of the network, all participants pay for their own travel and stay. The meeting venue will be within 1 hour traveling distance of Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, we will also provide you with advice on accommodation options close to the venue.

One-on-one conference calls

In January 2016, we would like to have a one-on-one call with all participants present at the meeting in Oslo and representatives of other organisations that have expressed interest. The goal of this call is to answer your questions about the network, to identify and clarify your expectations, needs and preferences and those of stakeholders in your country. These calls will set the stage for the meeting on April 6th.

Could you please let us know **before February 12th 2016** at eucoms2015@gmail.com if and when you would be available for a conference call.

Please find below a short agenda for our call, we are happy to discuss other topics as well:

- What questions do you have about the EuCoMS network?
- What are the issues around community based services in your own country?
- What are relevant organisations or networks in your country?
- What are the needs and wants of these national organisations / networks?
- Who will join the taskforce “consensus document / criteria”?
- Will you join the kick off on April 6th 2016? If you cannot be there, who will be there on behalf of the group?

We will make a short executive report after all the calls and share that with the participants. Please note that these calls will be in **English**. If this is not possible and you would prefer to call in another language, please let us know and we will try to find a solution.

Meet the people behind the network

At this moment, the following group of people are working hard to make this network successful.

Steering group

Dr R. (René) Keet	GGZ Noord-Holland Noord
Prof Dr C.L. (Niels) Mulder	European Assertive Outreach Foundation

Secretariat

Chris Nas (coordinator)	GGZ Nederland
Margret Overdijk	European Assertive Outreach Foundation
Laura Shields-Zeeman	Trimbos Institute
Marjonneke de Vetten	Trimbos Institute

Advisory group

Michiel Bähler	European Assertive Outreach Foundation
Jan Berndsen	Lister (Utrecht)
Katinka Kerssens	GGZ Noord-Holland Noord
Ionela Petrea	Trimbos Institute
Marijke van Putten	GGZ Noord-Holland Noord, European Assertive Outreach Foundation

Join the steering group

We would very much welcome 5 – 6 representatives from other European countries in the steering group. We are looking for motivated senior managers/board members of community mental health services, who represent their national/regional network or are in the process of building one. Candidates must be willing to spend approximately 1 day a month in the first 2 years and be able to travel to international meetings. A good working knowledge of English is necessary. If you would like to join the steering group, or you would like to recommend someone, please send an e-mail to eucoms2015@gmail.com and we will be in touch with further information.

Summary

Please let us know before February 12th 2016:

- If and when you would be available for the conference call with René Keet or Chris Nas on the dates provided (in order of preference)
- If you would like to join the network steering group or recommend somebody who would be interested.

Thank you in advance and we are looking forward to your reply.