

European Community based Mental health Service providers Network

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Save the date for 2nd EuCoMS Network Meeting: 15 – 17 January 2017

All network partners are invited to join the second EuCoMS meeting between 15 and 17 January 2017. Our network partner NIAMH will host the meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The preliminary program is as follows:

Sunday January 15th

Arrival and informal dinner

Monday January 16th

EuCoMS meeting:

- Commitment to shared values and ambitions
- Consensus document on community mental health
- Next steps in knowledge exchange, capacity building and lobbying

Tuesday January 17th

Knowledge exchange activities:

- Seminar “community mental health in a post-conflict area”
- Masterclasses / workshops

Wednesday January 18th

Visits to community services in Belfast

We will present a more detailed program in the newsletter of September together with information on hotel and travel arrangements.

Commitment to Shared Values and Ambitions

The EuCoMS network wants to be an active link between policy and practice through advocacy, capacity building and support for practical implementation.

To fulfil this role, it is important to clearly state what we stand for and what we will do. These will be our shared values and ambitions.

After our meeting in Heiloo, several partners responded by email and suggested to add the issues of deinstitutionalisation, human rights and the use of coercive measures. The rewritten introduction addresses these issues explicitly. Please see Annex 1 for the latest version.

Now that the values and ambitions in the briefing document are widely accepted within the network, it is possible to take the next step. For EuCoMS to have more impact, the steering group would like to propose that all partners will sign the statement at the 2nd network meeting in Belfast. After the Belfast meeting, the statement will be published with the logos of all network partners that have signed it.

For some network partners this will require a decision by their Board or General Assembly. To make sure this is feasible, we would ask all network partners to send the answers to the questions below to eucoms2015@gmail.com:

- Is it feasible for your organisation to commit to these values and ambitions at the next EuCoMS meeting in January 2017?
- Will you as the delegate of your organisation have the authorisation to sign the statement on behalf of the organisation?
- Does your organisation give permission to use the logo of the organisation on this document?

Towards Consensus on Community Mental Health Services

The development of the consensus document is the main activity of EuCoMS in 2016. Find out more about the development of the consensus document and your role in this process below:

At the Heiloo meeting last April, Guido Pieters has offered to take the lead in this key project. At the moment, these are the people who will join him in the writing group this summer:

- Michiel Bähler (The Netherlands, psychologist at Community Mental Health Service GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord; expert on recovery oriented practices)
- Jaap van Weeghel (The Netherlands, professor Rehabilitation and Social Inclusion at Tilburg University; director of knowledge centre Phrenos; manager Research and Care Development at Dijk en Duin)
- Billy Murphy (Northern Ireland, Director of Mental Health Services Beacon)

Your role as network partner is essential. We agreed in Heiloo that client and family representatives should be involved from the start of the process: “Nothing about us without us”. Following these values, this is our idea about the involvement of client and family representatives in the development of the consensus document:

- On the European level, the steering group will consult European representative organisations of users and families.
- On the national level, the network partners will consult their national counterparts.

It is clear that there will be differences between countries and organisations. For some organisations this does not have to take too much time as they have consultation mechanisms already in place. This might not be the case in other countries. To prevent unequal consultation of service users between countries, the consultation on the European level could make up for this as much as possible.

The steering group and writing group will make a work plan together outlining the scope, requirements, milestones and a detailed planning for the final consensus document. The work will start in July 2016 aiming to finish a first draft by the end of October. If all goes well, the first two weeks of November would be dedicated to the first consultation of service users and family representatives on both European and national level, after which the writing group will adapt the consensus document and make a final draft for the final consultation of stakeholders. The second consultation round is in the first two weeks of December. Ideally the final draft will be discussed in the EuCoMS meeting of January 2017. Please see annex 2 for a more detailed overview of the development process of the consensus document. In the interim between now and the first consultation round we will be in contact to with you to determine your role in the consultation process of service user- and carer representatives at the national level.

Masterclasses and workshops in Belfast: Call for Organizers

EuCoMS partners have let us know that knowledge exchange is their main interest. To address this, we would like to ask you to contribute and organise a workshop or masterclass at the next EuCoMS meeting. As the theme of the 2nd EuCoMS meeting is “community mental health in a post-conflict area” we are looking for people who would like to organise a masterclass or workshop related to this theme. Interviews with EuCoMS network partner between January and March 2016 partners showed that they were interested in the following topics:

- Mental health legislation, funding mechanisms, leadership, governance and public affairs
- Service models, workforce development, service monitoring
- Innovative practices and research findings, implementation strategies
- Support of people with complex needs (dual diagnosis, homelessness)
- Collaboration with partners in other sectors including education, work and income, justice, housing etc.

Please send your proposal to eucoms2015@gmail.com including a title, a brief description of your intervention/intended results, and the facilities and amount of time you would need.

Knowledge Exchange: Call for Educators and Trainers

One of the ambitions of EuCoMS is to connect network partners to exchange knowledge and skills improving community mental health care Europe wide. We got the question if EuCoMS could be a partner in a project as a training provider. Following discussion we concluded that our remit does not extend to the provision of training, however we see it as our role to facilitate the connection between training organizations and the organizers. Therefore we would like to develop a list comprised of training organizations that exist among our network partners to share when requested. If you are, or know of a training organisation that would like to be included in this list please send an email with the name of the organisation and a short description of the specialisation to eucoms2015@gmail.com.

Peer Experts for in the Steering Group

‘Nothing about the client without the client’ is a key principle of quality community based mental health care. We are looking for peer experts who would like to become a steering group member to use their expertise to steer the network into the right direction. If you are, or you know the person who would fit in this role description please send an email to eucoms2015@gmail.com.

Conferences, Meetings, Seminars and Courses

Summer School on Health Service, Health Systems & Implementation Research in Mental Health (Verona Italy, October 11 - 13 2016) Please note the deadline for registration July 20th 2016

The University of Verona and King’s College London Joint Summer School 2016 “Health Service, Health System & Implementation Research in Mental Health” is for students and professionals who want to know how to apply to mental health service and public mental health the most recent research methods not yet in widespread use in Europe within these fields. The summer school includes lectures, practical session, interactive work and the possibility to experience the daily clinical practice of the South Verona Community Mental Health Service. The Summer School will coincide with the 3rd edition of the “Mental Health Promotion Week”, an annual initiative aiming to promote the importance of mental health among the general population.

For detailed program, costs and registration please [click here](#), please note deadline for registration is July 20th 2016.

EU Mental Health Forum (Luxembourg, 6-7 October 2016)

The first EU Compass for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing Mental Health Forum will be held at Hotel Le Royal in Luxembourg on 6-7 October 2016. This two-day event will enable an exchange between EU-policies, Member States and non-governmental stakeholders on mental health and wellbeing. The Forum will also aim to communicate the case for broad societal ownership and action on mental health and wellbeing. To support this, some collected good practice examples as well as the annual Member State and stakeholder activity reports will be presented. You may find more information on the European Compass on Mental Health and Wellbeing in their [newsletter](#) of July 4th.

Fourth European Congress on Integrated Care and Assertive Outreach (Hamburg, Germany, 13-15 September 2017)

Integrated Care and Assertive outreach is done by programs or services to reach persons with severe and enduring mental illness who are sometimes not themselves able to seek support and help. The aim is to support the person in fulfilling their goals, coping with the illness and achieving a meaningful and good life in the community. The person and his network are the key collaborators for the services. The main theme of the Fourth European Congress on Integrated Care and Assertive Outreach is : Learning from each other.... More information can be found via: <http://www.eaof.org/>.

ENMESH The Context of Mental Health Care; Conceptualising Measuring and Influencing Context in Mental Health Care: From the Individual to Society (Groningen, Netherlands, 5-7 October 2017)

Mental health systems need to meet two related challenges: providing treatment and support which is personalised to the individual, and responding to environmental change. From the individual to the community and society levels, understanding context is pivotal in treating mental health problems and their psychosocial consequences. The conference will be organised around four topics: 1) assessment: understanding the context; 2) Epidemiology: Methodological approaches supporting personalised care; 3) Approaches: Novel approaches using the patient's own context; and 4) Policy: Societal challenges for community mental health. More information can be found at: <http://enmesh2017groningen.com/>.

Newly Published Papers

[Determinants of Completion and Use of Psychiatric Advance Statements in Mental Health Care in the Netherlands](#)

Crisis plans are a type of psychiatric advance statement (PAS) that describe how to recognize early signs of a psychiatric crisis and how to handle crisis situations. Although PASs may help reduce the occurrence of crises, their implementation in clinical practice is problematic. This study examined patient and clinician characteristics associated with successful completion of a crisis plan and determined how often a plan was consulted in a crisis situation

[Time for a global commission on mental health institutions](#) (opinion)

Authors propose the establishment of a global commission on mental health institutions. This commission, which would be comprised of mental health professionals, social scientists, representatives of advocacy groups, and legal experts, would develop and carry out a programme of work that would include the following:

- a) establishing a working definition of “mental health institution”;
- b) comprehensively mapping mental health institutions in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa;
- c) documenting and understanding determinants of poor conditions in mental institutions;
- d) identifying the determinants of long-term stay in such institutions; and
- e) compiling a report on successful strategies for bringing about institutional changes

Psychometric properties of the Norwegian version of the Evidence-Based Practice Attitude Scale (EBPAS): to measure implementation readiness

Attitudes can be a precursor to the decision of whether or not to try a new practice. In order to tailor the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs) in mental health settings, we must first consider practitioner attitudes towards EBP adoption. To assess these attitudes, the Evidence-Based Practice Attitude Scale (EBPAS) was developed. The purpose of this study was to investigate the psychometric properties of the Norwegian version of the EBPAS, and to examine differences in attitudes towards implementing EBPs among mental health practitioners.

Hospitalisation of severely mentally ill patients with and without problematic substance use before and during Assertive Community Treatment: an observational cohort study

Co-occurring substance use increases the risk of hospitalisation in people with severe mental illness, whereas Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) generally reduces hospitalisation in patients with severe mental illness and high inpatient service use. Because the superiority of ACT over standard services amongst patients with problematic substance use is uncertain, the present study examined inpatient service use amongst patients with and without problematic substance use in the 2 years before and the 2 years after they enrolled into ACT teams.

Change in secretariat

As of September 1st, Chris Nas has accepted a position at the [Trimbos Institute](#). Therefore he will not be able to continue to work for the EuCoMS Network as coordinator. The steering group has thanked Chris for the results he has achieved in the past year.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published after the summer vacation in September 2016. Contributions, announcements, and news articles are very welcome at eucoms2015@gmail.com.