

Registration of the Association.

The theme for 2006 was the 'Foundation of the Association'. This follows on from the previous year's theme 'Expanding the Network'. There has been considerable interest in the development of the Association and a decision was made to progress towards legally registering the Association in the Netherlands. Registering international organisations in the Netherlands is a straightforward and uncomplicated process. Consequently in April 2006 registration in the Netherlands of the Association took place.

Establishment of the Association

In March 2006 the first draft of the constitution was approved at a meeting in Prague. The structure of the Association was also examined. A decision was made that two committees be formed. The first committee was an Advisory Committee consisting of a panel of experts where issues of professional practice are to be referred to. The second committee was established to organise the Festival of Mental Health Nursing to be held in Malta from 5th -9th November 2008.

In addition an administration office was established and will be responsible for the organisational and operational aspect of the association such as the secretary tasks, bi- annual congresses and general assemblies.

The first official board meeting was held in Gothenburg on the 24th and 25th November 2006 where the constitution was a main item on the agenda. Recommendation for amendments to the constitution were proposed.

Response to EU Green Paper on Mental Health.

In April 2006 a response to the European Commission's green paper on Mental Health "Promoting the Mental Health of the Population. Towards a Strategy on Mental health for the European Union" was sent to the Directorate General of Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO). The paper outlined the relevance of mental health for some of the EU's strategic policy objectives (prosperity, solidarity and social justice, quality of life of citizens), and proposed the development of a strategy on mental health at Community-level. It also contained possible priorities and suggestions for actions. The paper has been referred to the Expert Panel for further consideration and comment.

Public Relations.

A major priority for the Association was identified as maintaining contact with members, relevant stakeholders and the general public. Towards this end a website was established, newsletters distributed and in December 2006 the first bulletin was launched. Promotion of the Association has also been undertaken at conferences and health service sites. Responses to these initiatives have been very positive and considerable interest generated with numerous enquiries and requests for information being made. One indication of the interest has been articles appearing in mental health nursing journals in five different languages about the Association.

General Assembly



Following the writing of the constitution it was decided that a General Assembly be held. The General Assembly is scheduled for 24th March 2006 following the Foundation Congress on 22nd-23rd March in Arnhem in the Netherlands.

Links with other Organisations.

Contact have been made with other European organisation such as the European Specialist Nurses Organisations (ESNO) and with the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), and with the EU Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection (SANCO).

Plan for 2007

The focus for 2007 will be centred on recruitment of members and devising a financial strategy. Action in these areas will be determined at the General Assembly in March 2007.