

Introduction

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The European Network for Training Evaluation and Research in Mental Health (ENTER Mental Health) completes its third year of existence with a solid record of achievement. Membership encompasses twelve psychiatric centres across eight countries and professional, inter-disciplinary and personal links have strengthened. Three successful international conferences were held in London (2000), Paris (2001) and Warsaw (2002). ENTER Mental Health has published the monograph on the London and Paris conferences and this publication now reports on the Warsaw conference.

ENTER Mental Health believes that the mental health of European citizens will be enhanced through collaborative research which acknowledges cultural diversity and the development of effective cross training of European mental health professionals. It includes within its remit both long term enduring mental illness and early intervention services and moreover acknowledges the interface with carers and user organisations. The network seeks to:-

- Facilitate the opportunity to share ideas such as good practice across Europe
- Create common research, education and training projects
- Develop common methodologies and outcome measures which are sensitive across Europe
- Explore how to deliver education more effectively with particular emphasis on available new technologies
- Support Network members with EU funding applications when appropriate
- Explore the Network's role as a lobby or pressure group

ENTER Mental Health is currently engaged in two large multi-centre studies over three years within Framework 5 European Union grants – the OSCAR Project on occupational stress and the management of violence, and the ISADORA Project assessing co-morbid mental illness and substance abuse. Both are reported in this monograph. The network has also submitted to the EU Framework 6 Programme a proposal for an integrated project to develop and implement improved strategies to prevent and effectively manage severe mental illness – the PROMISE Project. Details can be obtained from the Network's web site – www.entermentalhealth.net. This website also provides updated information on the Network's activities and linked events of interest to members and visitors to the site. Ian Dawson of the Salten Psychiatric Centre in Bodo, Norway, oversees communication within the Network and is contactable on dawson@c2i.net Enquiries can also be directed to Peter Ryan, Chair of ENTER Mental Health, on p.ryan@mdx.ac.uk.

The conference in Warsaw was hosted by the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology in May 2002. It's focus was on Training in Mental Health but subsidiary themes included user representation, information technology and updates on current ENTER Mental Health research projects. The presentations are grouped under these inter-related themes.

Ryan reviews the shift towards more effective community based mental health care across Europe in *The Process of Change in European Mental Health Services – the contribution of education and training* and Murphy – Parker describes current world wide efforts to improve training in *A Collaborative Global Response of Nurses to address the lack of Substance Misuse Education within Nursing School Curricula*.

At a national level Bomba and Lipinska et al. describe medical and nursing training in *Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education in Poland* and *Nurse Education in Transition in Poland*. Nilsson and Erdner (*A Local Training Strategy for Integrated Care of Families and People with Psychiatric Disabilities*) outline training developments in Stockholm while a specific UK course is described by London in *Substance Misuse Training within the Cambridge Masters Course in Primary and Community Care*.

Barriers to training and implementing more effective health care are discussed in papers from the UK and Poland. Cook et al (*Learning from Experience – Barriers to the Implementation of Evidence Based Practice*) consider the difficulties in shifting the treatment focus from an isolated individual to the family network. Wegrzyn et al, while implementing the OSCAR Project in Warsaw, and provide a comprehensive review in *The needs of Mental Health Teams on Acute Psychiatric Wards*.

The central role of the patient as a user of services is recognised in presentations from France, Finland and Norway. Greacen (*A Project on Patient's Rights in Psychiatry – Managing Diverse Options*) and Välimäki (*Developing Health Technology in Mental Health – Searching for Evidence Based Practice*) see information technology as a means to improve both user participation in services and professional training. In *Patient's Perception of Coercion on Acute Psychiatric Wards* Soergaard explores how patients experience psychiatric treatment in particular the use of enforced seclusion.

Updates on current ENTER Mental Health research projects are provided by Bäck Møller in *Research Project ISADORA*. Hill et al continue the theme of information technology in *The Use of Electronic Media in the OSCAR Project*. The Appendix contains the present Membership list for the Network and it's Steering Group.