

European Community based Mental health Service providers Network

Newsletter 4, year 1

May 13th, 2016

Report first EuCoMS network meeting available

On 5 and 6 April 2016, 35 participants representing 13 countries met each other for the first *EuCoMS* network meeting. GGZ Nederland – the Dutch sector organisation of mental health service providers – hosted a wonderful dinner in the “Trog” to kick-off the meeting. On April 6th, the group worked very hard to lay a solid foundation under the *EuCoMS* network. After the kick-off meeting GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord – a mental health services organisation in the Netherlands – hosted two shadow sessions in Flexible Assertive Community Treatment teams in the cities of Heiloo and Alkmaar.

Alongside this newsletter, you will also find the following documents:

- The meeting report from the *EuCoMS* network meeting in Heiloo;
- The final version of a briefing document on *EuCoMS*, which combines the two previous memos discussed in Heiloo (values and ambitions & development network) and includes all comments and suggestions members have made so far .
- The final list of this *EuCoMS* meeting participants.



Questions, additions, comments and suggestions are very welcome at: eucoms2015@gmail.com.



Next EuCoMS network meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health (NIAMH) will host our next network meeting in Belfast in November or December 2016. More information on the date, programme and locations will be announced as soon as possible. Preliminary agenda points include:

- Draft consensus document
- Support for *EuCoMS* in the participating countries
- The European Compass for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Activity plan 2017

We will also look at opportunities to have working groups, masterclasses and shadow visits to local services. If you would like to give a workshop or masterclass, or if you have suggestions for other items for the agenda, please send them to eucoms2015@gmail.com.

Towards consensus about community based mental health services: first steps

The consensus document on community mental health is the first major activity of EuCoMS. Guido Pieters has offered to take the lead in this important project. The project will start in July aiming to finish the draft version by the end of September 2016, well before the next Network meeting. We will keep you informed about the process in our next newsletter.

Expanding the network in participating countries

After the first successful meeting in Heiloo, all participants have a mission to expand and strengthen the national networks. Please share your successes with us and let us know when we can help you!

Organisation of the network

The network will work with a steering group. The important role of peer experts is emphasised with two dedicated seats. The steering group will mainly meet through skype meetings, conference calls and email, face to face meetings will be limited to EuCoMS Network meetings. In Heiloo it was decided there is no need for a separate advisory board. All participants will have the opportunity to give feedback and advice.

After the April meeting, Rene Keet has been in touch with all candidates for the steering group to explore their wishes and availability and this is the result:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Rene Keet (chair) | Netherlands (GGZ Noord-Holland Noord) |
| Niels Mulder | European Assertive Outreach Foundation |
| Torleif Ruud | Norway (Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo) |
| Peter McBride | United Kingdom (Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health) |
| Mirella Ruggeri | Italy (Scuola di Medicina e Chirurgia, Università degli Studi di Verona) |
| Juanjo Martínez Jambrina | Spain (Área de Gestión Clínica de Salud Mental San Agustín) |
| Raluca Nica | Romania (Romanian League for Mental Health) |
| Peer experts | (two vacancies) |

COST Application

Just before the deadline on April 25th, the secretariat successfully submitted the application for a COST Grant. This grant would provide EuCoMS a small amount of funding over a period of 4 years, covering costs for travel, meetings and congresses and other content driven activities.

We will be able to share the application with you after COST has made a decision. The final decision regarding the approval and funding is expected at the end of October 2016. For now we can provide just a glimpse.

Following up the discussion at the network meeting about planning, these are the proposed activities:

- Create a consensus document on key components community mental health services
- Develop an implementation toolkit and repository for services and stakeholders
- Develop, collect and present quality indicators for community mental health services
- Develop a methodology for needs assessment on a community level
- Strengthen peer expert leadership
- Engage with European decision makers

Next newsletter

The next newsletter we will arrive in your mailbox as soon as we can give you an update on the consensus document, the next network meeting and the COST application. Your contributions and news are welcome at: eucoms2015@gmail.com.