

European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry



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EUROPEAN NETWORK OF (EX-) USERS AND SURVIVORS OF PSYCHIATRY (ENUSP)

and

PANHELLENIC COMMITTEE OF (EX-) USERS AND SURVIVORS OF PSYCHIATRY

are pleased to announce a conference on

DETERMINING OUR OWN FUTURE:

The way forward for all European users and survivors of psychiatry

Thessaloniki, Greece, September 28 – October 1, 2010

The European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, the Panhellenic Committee of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, the School of Psychology and the Self-Help Promotion Programme of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki invite you to join us in this important conference and capacity-building event for users of mental health services and survivors of psychiatry and our allies across Europe.

Highlights of the event will include:

- a **conference** to exchange experiences and opinions and strengthen support in our struggles against exclusion, injustice and discrimination on a personal, national and European level;
- the second **European Empowerment Seminar** supported by Mental Health Europe, with a focus on using human rights tools (especially under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to achieve reforms and self-determined alternatives for users and survivors of psychiatry;
- a special **working group on rebuilding ENUSP** to identify and plan action against the current organisational, administrative and financial problems that are blocking our efforts to provide effective lobbying and services;
- in-depth **coverage of the human rights and other concerns of the Pan-Hellenic movement** of users and survivors of psychiatry;
- the **Ordinary General Assembly of ENUSP**, including the election of a new Board and Chair.

Attendance and funded places

We are pleased to welcome users and survivors of psychiatry and our allies from across Europe, including especially representatives of ENUSP member organisations and our individual members.

Regrettably ENUSP currently has no organisational funding beyond the membership fees that have been paid by a limited number of our members. We are therefore able to financially support the participation of a very limited number delegates based on the following arrangements:

- Mental Health Europe will fund up to **25 places** for delegates from EU member states for the second European Empowerment Seminar under the Progress Programme;

Soros Foundation will fund **2 places** for delegates from Eastern European countries falling outside the EU.

We are concerned to ensure the attendance at the event of those with the least resources in Europe so that discussions are as representative and democratic as possible. We therefore kindly ask all organisations which can do so to pay for their delegates' travel and accommodation costs, and if possible, to make a contribution towards the participation of under-resourced organisations, especially for delegates coming from countries outside the European Union.

Applications

If you are interested in taking part in this conference, please complete the attached application form and return it to congress@enusp.org by **June 15, 2010**. The ENUSP Board will make a selection of applicants for funded places based on financial need and intend to stand for the board, and delegates will be notified if they have a free place at the conference.

ENUSP General Assembly: Preparations and Participation

According to the Statutes of ENUSP, (ex-) user and survivor member organisations in each country can together send up to three delegates who will have voting rights at the ENUSP General Assembly (ENUSP Statutes, General Assembly, Article 13). England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales can send up to two delegates with voting rights.

Please find a list of member organisations or individual ENUSP members in your country at the following address: www.enusp.org/groups.htm

We strongly suggest that you communicate with the other (ex-) user and survivor organisations in your country to ensure the fair representation of delegates at the General Assembly, considering gender balance and the diversity of opinions about how to reform or abolish psychiatry and create alternatives.

When choosing delegates, please take into consideration that the General Assembly will elect a new Board including its Chair. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the following points:

- ENUSP needs conscientious, energetic and responsible board members who are able to represent us at a European level at conferences, lobbying and advocacy events;
- Equally importantly, board members must be available to undertake key internal tasks, such as holding ongoing consultations with member organisations in their region, including asking these organisations to pay their membership fee.

We also welcome delegates who may be interested in assisting with the board's work – as "support board members" on a less formal basis.

We kindly ask you to let us know your contact details including an email address, if possible, if you plan to send a delegate to the General Assembly.

Membership fees and updating contact information

We would be very grateful if you would update the contact information about your organisation. You will find our form for this purpose attached to this letter, and it can also be accessed at www.enusp.org/org/fee.htm.

We would also ask that you use this opportunity to pay your outstanding membership fees, if possible. This payment will greatly assist us with the preparation of the upcoming Thessaloniki event.

As background about the membership fee, please note that after the rejection of our applications for funding by the European Union, our members decided to introduce an annual membership fee

at our 2004 general assembly. There were no dissenting votes. We agreed that **the yearly fee for each member organisation should be 0.10 € per member and year of the organisation** (see www.enusp.org/congresses/vejele/reports/enusp-minutes.htm#fee).

Unfortunately, we have only received fee payments from a few organisations since the time of this decision. We are very thankful for these payments since they have allowed us to meet minimal costs. Please check your membership payment status here: www.enusp.org/payers-and-nonpayers.pdf

Of course, we understand that some organisations cannot afford this payment or require a discount. If this is your situation, please let us know in the attached form, and the board will approve your arrangements.

How you can help ENUSP: At Thessaloniki and beyond

Because of ENUSP's funding problems, all our board members and support board members give their time on an entirely voluntary basis. Any additional assistance can really go a very long way.

The organisation of this Thessaloniki event is taking considerable work for a very small number of people. We would be very grateful for your input, no matter how small. Please see the attached program-draft and the workshop proposals. At this stage, we would especially appreciate your comments and suggestions for

- additional topics for workshops or
- a feed-back: please pick six workshops you think they are the most suitable.

Please send your suggestions and/or feed-back to congress@enusp.org by **May 31, 2010**.

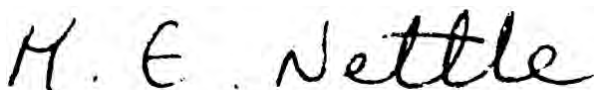
ENUSP always welcomes all contributions of voluntary work, whether short-term or long-term. Some examples of much-needed work include book keeping, translation, website assistance, administration, fund raising and newsletter writing. Send us an email at desk@enusp.org to find out how you can get involved in supporting the European movement of (ex-) users and survivors of psychiatry.

Stay in touch

Good communication among our members is vital to keeping our network alive and relevant. We would appreciate any comments or questions about this letter, the upcoming Thessaloniki event, and the future of our network.

Looking forward to seeing you in Greece!

Kind regards,



Mary Nettle, Chair of ENUSP