

Joined European and World Conference of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Vejle, Denmark, July 17 – 21, 2004

Summary of the general assembly at the closing ceremony (July 20, 2004)

by Iris Hölling, board member of WNUSP

From the workshop reports we have just heard you can conclude how diverse and productive the work we have done at this conference has been.

A lot of work remains to be done for the newly elected board. I am very happy that this time we achieved the goal of this board being inclusive of all the regions of the world and representing a world network that deserves its name.

The success of this conference lies of course in all the meaningful contributions by all the participants from all over the world.

I'd like to briefly summarize the results of the general assembly of WNUSP.

- The work on the UN convention for the human rights for persons with disabilities will continue. Lobbying national governments and continuing the work at the Ad hoc committee will be part of it, fighting the so-called "[Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States to ensure the protection of the human rights and dignity of people with mental disorder, especially those placed as involuntary patients in a psychiatric establishment](#)" of the Council of Europe Bioethics Steering Committee (CDBI) at the same time as well. (Cf. [Resolution on the Disability Convention](#), and workshop reports Tina Minkowitz and Gábor Gombos.)
- WNUSP created a committee for information and communication technology coordinated by Sylvia Carras.
- WNUSP created a fundraising committee coordinated by Ron Carten as finding funding for WNUSP and its activities will be a crucial issue.
- The African countries decided at their regional meeting that they will create a Pan African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry and decided on three regions and responsibilities for the regions in order to increase the user/survivor movement in Africa. We are very happy about this outcome.
- The Asia/Pacific region decided not to go for a regional network right now because they think it is too early for a formal network and the region is too diverse, but they are thinking of partnership proposals.
New Zealand is going to sponsor a paper on force and human rights with regard to international law written by Tina Minkowitz that WNSUP members will be able to use, too.
- The Americas also decided that they will work on creating an Americas Regional Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.
- For Europe Mary Nettle the newly elected chair of ENUSP will report back to you.
- The [Vejle Declaration on How we propose to deal with each other](#) that was prepared by the workshop Peter Lehmann facilitated got approved by the general assemblies of WNUSP and ENUSP.
- ENUSP and WNUSP also decided to work closely together.
- The need for a WNUSP newsletter in addition to the website and the mailing lists was reaffirmed. We are still looking for volunteers to do it.

As we see, there is a lot of work to be done, but we got a lot of people involved here at this conference who will hopefully get more people involved in their countries to make our network stronger.

Thank you all for participating and networking and working so well together here in Vejle. I wish us fruitful cooperation in the future.