

FEAFES – CONFEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE AGRUPACIONES DE FAMILIARES Y ENFERMOS MENTALES (THE SPANISH CONFEDERATION OF FAMILY GROUPING AND MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE)

Our associative movement begins at the end of the 70's decade, coinciding with the beginning of the Spanish Psychiatric Reform. At the beginning of the 80's only a few organisations gathered their efforts to work for the collective welfare and in 1983 the Spanish Federation is founded (at that time the Federation is composed of associations of Alava (Vitoria), Valencia and Murcia). In 1988, thanks to a great effort developed by the Mental Health partnership, FEAFES turns into the current SPANISH CONFEDERATION OF FAMILY GROUPING AND MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE.

FEAFES gathers 164 associations more than 26000 family members and users
The aims of our association are:

- Representing the mentally ill and their families
- Defending their interests
- Advocating for the appropriate social and health services for families and people with mental illness
- Promoting the rehabilitation and labour integration of the collective
- Bringing about awareness on mental health issues
- Reducing the burden associated with mental illness by means of developing community care services
- Influencing policy and decision making
- Co-ordinating the collective demands and propositions, defending their rights and fostering their participation in the decision making
- Co-ordinating the activities with other National and international organisations with the same goals
- Developing up-to date information on Mental Health issues
- Strengthening the principle of solidarity
- Fostering research and prevention

The activities that are organized every year are:

- Legal advice to associations and individuals
- Information service
- Documentation service
- Formation

FEAFES also publishes two magazines:

- "FEAFES PUNTO DE ENCUENTRO" New newsletter aimed at professionals and technicians and those interested on mental health issues.
- "ENCUENTRO" bulletin for families, people with a mental illness and the public as a whole.