



November 2011



▶ **Counterfeiting the Counterfeiter (CTC) Goes Live**

Counterfeiting the Counterfeiter (CTC) Goes Live

Having been in development for many months, the “Counterfeiting the Counterfeiter” project of the European Alliance for Access to Safe Medicine (EASSM) has now gone live in one European country. However, given that the purpose of the project is to raise awareness of the dangers of spurious websites selling prescription medicines, and that the methods include attracting would-be buyers to this lookalike site, the site address cannot be shared at this point in time. The impact of the project to date has been nothing short of remarkable. CTC supports the spirit of the Falsified Medicines Directive’s goal of education and awareness-raising and EAASM will be meeting and briefing with officials from DG SANCO. EASSM look forward to rolling out the project in other Member States but this is dependent on funding. For more information about EASSM, log onto www.eassm.eu.



▶ **Better Health a Shared Challenge of Hospitals and Primary Health Care**

Better Health a Shared Challenge of Hospitals and Primary Health Care

The European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) published on 8 November 2011 “Better health - A shared challenge for hospitals and primary health care”, a report exploring strategies and means adopted in European countries to improve health of patients and citizens through better coordination between the different levels of healthcare. The report builds on the results of the HOPE Exchange Programme 2011 and clearly shows reforms that aim at fostering healthcare systems’ integration and new pathways of care for the treatment of diseases with high need of coordination.

One of the main implications of a more integrated healthcare system is the change in the role of healthcare professionals. The report is available on:

http://www.hope.be/05eventsandpublications/docpublications/87_better_health/87_HOPE_Publication-Better_health_October_2011.pdf.

▶ **The legal protection of persons with mental health problems under non-discrimination law**

The legal protection of persons with mental health problems under non-discrimination law

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has launched a new report on ‘The legal protection of persons with mental health problems under non-discrimination law’. This publication analyses how national and international non-discrimination legislation and case law defines ‘disability’ and the consequences of this for the ‘duty to provide reasonable accommodation’ for people with disabilities in employment. The findings of this comparative legal research show that people with mental health problems in the EU can benefit from the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability under EU law. The research also looked at the duty to provide reasonable accommodation in employment for people with mental health problems. This means, for example, that an employer should consider the needs of employees to enable them to work, such as adapting working hours or some conditions. According to the report, in most EU Member States people with mental health problems can benefit from such ‘reasonable accommodation’ measures at work. You can find out more by logging onto the FRA website.

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-Legal-protection-persons-mental-health-problems_EN.pdf.

▶ **Participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life**

Participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life

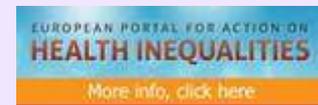
The Council of Europe recently adopted a recommendation on the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life. Recommendations are not legally-binding, but carry significant political weight as they are adopted by consensus by all 47 Member States. The European Court of Human Rights often cites Recommendations in its judgments. The recommendation issued is particularly important as it builds upon the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, calling for European governments to ‘ensure that their legislation overall does not discriminate against persons with disabilities in political and public life’.

▶ **Launch of the European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities**

All adult citizens with disabilities should have the right to vote, the recommendation says, adding that laws should be ‘devoid’ of discriminatory provisions. It specifies that all ‘persons with disabilities, whether they have physical, sensory, or intellectual impairments, mental health problems or chronic illnesses, have the right to vote on the same basis as other citizens, and should not be deprived of this right by any law limiting their legal capacity, by any judicial or other decision or by any other measure based on their disability, cognitive functioning or perceived capacity.’

Launch of the European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities

In mid November the European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities – www.health-inequalities.eu was launched. The new website is an exhaustive source of information on health inequalities at EU, national and regional level, on social determinants of health and on Health in All Policies. It aims to provide visitors with practical and useful information and to give them opportunities to promote their own work. Health inequities are preventable and unjust differences in health status between different population groups. They are shaped by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – the so called social determinants of health. Health inequalities are present in all European countries and evidence shows that health inequalities are currently widening. It provides visitors over 300 examples of policies and good practices implemented at EU, national and regional level. Additionally it gives access to a wide range of useful health inequality tools and resources.



▶ **Prospect**

Prospect – EUFAMI’s Training Programme

Prospect, EUFAMI’s Training Initiative, is currently being used by people in over 14 European countries. Prospect is a very unique peer to peer programme and was developed by EUFAMI members from many countries. If you would like to get further information, contact Rita Geerts on project.admin.office@eufami.org.



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