

EFPA NEWSHEET EU



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2012- 03



CONFERENCES

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September 20-21, 2012

**EFPA Expert Conference : PSYCHOLOGY FOR HEALTH
Contributions to Policy Making
Brussels, Belgium**



More information soon at <http://congres.efpa.eu/>

Thanks to the broad scope of psychological research and their close collaboration with other professionals in schools, businesses, communities, and health care institutions, psychologists are in a unique position to contribute to the improvement of physical and mental health in Europe.

The aim of this conference is to highlight findings from psychological research and to demonstrate how psychologists can add to the work of other experts in safeguarding and promoting the health of European citizens. A particular emphasis is put on the role that psychology can play in developing healthy life styles, the early discovery of health risks, and various forms of prevention.

This conference will bring together experts from various areas of psychology, offering different but complementary perspectives on promoting health and reducing illness, with the purpose of sharing insights and experiences with policy makers and formulating policy statements as well as recommendations for future policies at the European and national level.

We expect 250 participants, including key actors from European institutions and EU Member States, the health sector, and NGOs, particularly those involved in the EU's Health Programme.

The conference is part of the "Psychology for Europe" initiative (2011) by which the European Federation of Psychologists Associations aims to raise the visibility and impact of psychology as a broad and potent field of science and professional activity that can bring substantial benefit to Europe, socially and economically.

Areas of expertise that will be covered

1. Health promotion via behaviour change: life style, addiction and health
2. Life-long learning and health: what school psychologists can do
3. Enhancing the prevention and early treatment of mental ill-health: depression and suicide
4. Employment, working conditions and stress: from research to practice
5. Managing serious illness: focus on patients and care-givers
6. Health inequality in times of crisis: alleviating the impact of unemployment and poverty
7. Health improvement through physical activity: lessons from sport psychology

8. Psychological contributions to healthy ageing and longevity

The programme will also provide room to address other health issues, such as the behavioural immune system, medically unexplained symptoms, and social violence.

June 27, 2012

Alcohol harms you, others and the society - why does Europe need an alcohol strategy? European Parliament - Brussels, Belgium

The current EU Alcohol Strategy is coming to an end in 2012. However Europe is still the world's heaviest drinking region. Alcohol is the world's number one risk factor for ill-health and premature death amongst the 25 – 59 year old age group, a core of the working age population.

Alcohol is an economic commodity that crosses borders and several elements related to alcohol policy must be solved at the European level. This event will build on the Call for Action from 87 health and social NGOs from across Europe and will be an opportunity to address the issue in the European Parliament to ensure continuation of the efforts to tackle alcohol related harm.

http://www.eurocare.org/newsroom/upcoming_events/alcohol_harms_you_others_and_the_society_why_does_europe_need_an_alcohol_strategy_27_june_2012_european_parliament_brussels

July 9-11, 2012

Active Ageing – the Potential for Society, Conference and Brokerage Event, Dublin Castle, Ireland

NET4SOCIETY, the network of NCPs for Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities, will host a transnational research and brokerage event as a satellite event of the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF).

<http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm?fuseaction=article.Detail&rcn=30051>

September 26 -30, 2012

6th International Adventure Therapy Conference Czech Republic

As practice and interest in adventure therapy continues to grow internationally this conference will critically examine the key issues in developing an innovative and ethical profession. Whether practice is labeled as adventure therapy, wilderness therapy, outdoor therapy, eco-therapy, nature therapy, or other variations, the conference will, amongst other things, examine international trends, share examples of culturally diverse practice, debate professional standards and ethics, develop strategies for collaborative practice, review the research evidence and research agenda, and discuss future strategic initiatives.

The conference aims to map out key aspects of adventure therapy, while it's emerging as a recognised psychological therapy across the world.

The 6th International Adventure Therapy Conference (6IATC) will provide a unique opportunity to showcase and exchange ideas and insights about the therapeutic use of adventure and outdoor practices.

<http://www.6iatc.eu/>



October 10-12, 2012

Think Parents! - European conference on parenting support The Hague, The Netherlands

The Netherlands Youth Institute in cooperation with the University of Amsterdam takes the initiative to organise the First European Conference on Parenting Support in partnership with the Council of Europe, Eurochild and many other organisations.

Parenting support is an important and growing domain in professional practice, research and policy all over Europe. Evidence starts to show that parenting support can make a difference and knowledge is made available through research on what works in parenting support. Parenting support concerns practitioners, decision makers and researchers, as well as parents. We will bring these disciplines together to discuss how parenting support contributes to better outcomes for children and parents.

<http://www.nji.nl/thinkparents2012>

October 18-19, 2012

European Debate on Evidence-based Alcohol Policy- Berzelius symposium 87 · The Fifth European Alcohol Policy Conference Stockholm Sweden

<http://www.sls.se/EuropeanAlcoholPolicyConference>

November 15-16, 2012

International Conference ICT for language learning – 5th Edition Florence, Italy

The objective of the conference is to promote the sharing of good practice and transnational cooperation in the field of the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to Language Learning and Teaching. The conference will also be an excellent opportunity for the presentation of previous and current language learning projects and innovative initiatives.

The Call for Papers is addressed to language teachers and experts as well as to coordinators of language projects and initiatives.

We would like to encourage you to submit an abstract of a paper to present during the conference. The abstract should be written in English (500 words) and sent via e-mail to conference@pixel-online.net no later than 22 June 2012. In order to prepare the abstract we kindly invite you to use the template downloadable from the following link:

http://pixel-online.net/ICT4LL2012/common/download/Template_abstract.doc

Important dates:

- 22 June 2012: Deadline for submitting abstracts
- 20 July 2012: Notification of Acceptance / Rejection
- 10 September 2012: Deadline for final submission of papers
- 10 September 2012: Deadline for speakers' registration
- 15 - 16 November 2012: Dates of conference

At the ICT for Language Learning Conference there will be three presentation modalities: Oral and poster presentations (in-person) and virtual (for those who cannot attend in person). An ISBN publication will be produced with all the papers of the articles that will be presented during the Conference.

For further information about the ICT for Language Learning Conference, please contact us at the following address: conference@pixel-online.net or visit the conference website: <http://www.pixel-online.net/ICT4LL2012>

October 18-20, 2012

Let's apply for the International Conference "GIVE VOICE TO SPECIAL NEEDS"
Province of Ravenna, Italy

This international conference aims to give visibility to the experiences, sharing best practice aiming to ensure sustainability of the new "European Platform for Adults with special needs". The main objective of the conference is:

- to discuss the future of inclusion in education and training for adults with special needs with particular focus on LLP-Grundtvig;
- to recognizing the rights and capacity of excluded people, hearing disabled adults, to play an active role in society;
- to identify patterns of under-representation among those currently involved in the Lifelong Learning Programme;
- to share "what can we do together for adults with hearing disabled";
- to discuss about key barriers identified;
- to exchange good practice and lessons for the future and recommendations on "how to encourage more participation of deafness groups".

Active inclusion and the fight against poverty of adults with hearing disabled and their families should be central in the further developed through the initiative "European Platform for Adults with special needs".

We reserve the right to cancel the Conference in the unlikely event of the number of participants not reaching the 30 unit minimum. If so, we will inform you immediately so as to allow you to use the Comenius/Grundtvig grant for another European course.

Feel free to spread this information further to people that might be interested in the topics. See you in Italy! TRAMES team www.italytrames.eu - E-mail : info@italytrames.eu

November 7-9, 2012

12th IFMAD - International Forum on Mood and Anxiety Disorders
Barcelona, Spain



This 12th IFMAD Forum will aim to address the following very important topics such as educational strategies to prevent suicide, the place of antidepressants in bipolar depression, new approaches in treating alcohol abuse, improving placebo control groups and a core focus will be on the new antidepressants on the horizon. Please see the scientific program here: http://www.ifmad.org/2012/?page_id=93

November 22-24, 2012

Call for contributions open for the 7th European Quality Assurance Forum on Higher Education
Tallinn, Estonia

EURASHE (the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education) together with ESU (the European Students Union), EUA (Association of European institutions of higher education) and ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) are organising the 7th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF).

EQAF is a unique space of dialogue for stakeholders to exchange and reflect upon developments in this field, to finally create a common European understanding of Quality Assurance. Contributions can be sent until 31st July 2012.

<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/quality-assurance/qa-forum.aspx>

PUBLICATIONS

The Danish Presidency of the Council of Health Ministers of the European Union published the Third multi-annual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2012-2020.

The proposed changes could improve aspects of the original Commission text to strengthen actions on health determinants and inequities. The European Parliament has yet to consider its opinion, and the process continues through working groups and meetings during the Danish Presidency. In addition the overall EU Multi Annual Financial Framework (i.e. the budget 2014 - 20) has yet to be agreed.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st08/st08221.en12.pdf>

Eurofund published 12th April 2012 an overview report on the 5th Working Conditions Survey.

European Working Conditions Survey series aims to: Measure working conditions across European countries on a harmonised basis; analyse relationships between different aspects of working conditions; identify groups at risks and issues of concern, as well as areas of progress; monitor trends over time; and contribute to European policy development, in particular on quality of work and employment issues.

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2011/82/en/1/EF1182EN.pdf>

The EU Commission published its “Employment Package” on 20 April 2012, entitled ‘Towards a job-rich recovery’.

It aims to draw governments' attention to potential job growth areas in the years to come, among them two overlapping sectors: health and social care; personal and household services. The Commission sees both as providers of new jobs because of population ageing and demand for more formal care of higher quality. In the health and social care area, the employment package includes proposals for Member States to “improve health workforce planning and forecasting to match the demand and supply of health professionals better.

” It also proposes to create EU-led opportunities to “exchange on innovative and effective recruitment and retention strategies”. The Commission's paper identifies challenges for health workforce development, including integrated care models. It argues that “a shift from care in hospitals to the delivery of primary care closer to home – to cope with elderly patients with multiple chronic conditions” would require “different skill mixes and new ways of working within a wider interdisciplinary team.”

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1270&furtherNews=yes>

The EU Commission adopted a report on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The report describes the range of activities developed as part of the campaign in 29 countries and at European level. Most of them were geared towards information and awareness-raising, direct support to those at risk, research and policy initiatives. In total, around 900 activities were directly co-funded across the EU, with an additional 1800 framed within the campaign but without direct financial support.

Eurydice published the study “The European higher Education Area in 2012”

which reveals that while much progress has been made, countries face significant challenges in modernising higher education. The report covers a broad range of higher education issues, such as the demographic and funding context for higher education; degree structures and qualifications; quality assurance; the social



dimension of higher education; outcomes and employability, as well as lifelong learning and mobility.

The report shows to what extent the higher education landscape in 2012 has been transformed by the Bologna Process and describes the state of implementation of the process from various perspectives. The Bologna Process Implementation Report was supported by the European Commission, and combines information provided by the 47 countries participating in the process with statistical data collected by Eurostat, and Eurostudent information on student living conditions.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/138EN.pdf

The EU Parliament published a briefing paper "EU Framework of Law for Children's Rights".

The paper presents an overview of international and regional instruments for the rights of the child and of the European legal framework before and after the Lisbon Treaty. It provides an assessment of their impact for children's rights and puts forward key recommendations to consolidate the EU legal framework in this field.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/fr/studiesdownload.html?languageDocument=EN&file=72971>

Also end of March 2012

- **the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe has adopted the recommendation to member states on participation of children and young people under the age of 18,**

considering the necessity of ensuring the effective implementation of existing binding European and international instruments protecting children's rights.

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1927229&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021BackColorLogged=F5D383>

- **Eurochild published a working paper on "De-institutionalisation and quality alternative care for children in Europe"**

<http://eurochild.org/fileadmin/ThematicPriorities/CIAC/Eurochild/Eurochild%20Working%20Paper%20-%20DI%20%26%20Quality%20Alternative%20Care%20FINAL.pdf>

- **UNESCO published a report on "A rights-based approach to monitoring children and young people's well-being",**

which explores understandings of a rights-based approach to monitoring children and young people's well-being, in particular, the relationship between rights-based obligations and well-being. It includes analysis of the debate on the relationship between child rights indicators and well-being indicators currently used to monitor outcomes for children and young people. In doing so, the report seeks to provide clarity for policy makers and those working with, or on behalf of, children and youth.

http://www.childrenandyouthprogramme.info/pdfs/pdfs_cyp_publications/2011_10_24_Full_Report.pdf

- **The European Social Network published a position paper on "Child poverty and well-being in Europe"** <http://www.esn-eu.org/get-document/index.htm?id=676>

OECD published a report on "Equity and Quality in Education - Supporting Disadvantaged Students and Schools"

Across OECD countries, almost one in every five students does not reach a basic minimum level of skills. In addition, students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are twice as likely to be low performers. Lack of fairness and inclusion can lead to school failure and this means that one in every five young adults on average drop out before completing upper secondary education. Reducing school failure pays off for both society and individuals. The highest performing education systems across OECD countries combine quality with equity.



This report presents policy recommendations for education systems to help all children succeed in their schooling.
http://www.oecd.org/document/42/0,3746,en_2649_39263231_49477290_1_1_1_1,00.html

“Promoting safety and health in a green economy” - A new report by the ILO launched for World Day for Safety and Health at Work says the greening of the economy should be accompanied by the proper integration of workplace safety and health measures.

The report looks at different “green industries” from an occupational safety and health (OSH) perspective, and shows that while green jobs improve the environment, revitalize the economy and create new employment opportunities, they may also present a number of known and unknown risks for workers.
http://www.ilo.org/safework/info/publications/WCMS_175600/lang--en/index.htm

The EU Expert Group on Sport, Health and Participation held its second meeting in Brussels on 21 March 2012.

The report is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/b24/xg-shp-201203-final-rpt.pdf> The Expert Group is among the six Expert Groups established by the Council's Resolution on an EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014 to carry out specific tasks within the 2011-2014 timeframe. They are composed of experts appointed by the Member States with support from the Commission and report to the Council Working Party on Sport.
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:162:0001:0005:EN:PDF>

Recent publication of a report on an EU-wide overview of community-based initiatives to reduce childhood obesity requested by the European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/docs/report_cbis_childhood_obesity_en.pdf

CALLS

European Commission – Education and Culture Pilot projects for the development of "Sector Skills Alliances" Not funded on a fEC basis - The deadline for submission of applications is: 16 August 2012

The Directorate General for Education and Culture invites proposals for pilot projects for the development sector skills alliances. This call is for a various industry areas and includes health and social work.

Pilot projects should be aimed at gaining experience of transnational partnerships which address the challenges of skills mismatches and shortages. The lessons of the call will feed into European and national policy making as well as into the implementation of the future European programme in the field of education and training. The results will also boost VET policy and strategy in the economic sectors concerned. The projects shall be designed in such a way as to have a systemic impact on training provision in order to foster its relevance for the sector in question, and encourage economic competitiveness.

For further information please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/education/calls/s0112_en.htm

EFPSA Summer School (ESS) – Call For Sponsors



This July 15-22 the ESS will take place in Vila Nova de Foz Côa, Portugal. We are inviting 36 students and 6 Ph.D. supervisors as well as a number of academics speakers from various European countries to join us.

The ESS however, is not just a weeklong event, but a research program: over a 10-12 month period following the week spent in Portugal, students will meet with their supervisors online, collect data, and complete a full-scale report to be submitted to conferences and journals. Data is collected from different countries, enabling cross-cultural comparisons of various empirically studied psychological phenomena. This year, all lectures and research will be conducted under the theme of Bias and Decision Making.

Offering the opportunity to collect cross-cultural research data, the ESS will contribute to the accessibility of comprehensive microdata for European Research Area, not least serving the European researchers' right for access to research data whilst increasing their mobility and cultural exchange in the context of an open and united Europe.

To date, ESS has been awarded by several grants including Youth in Action support and sponsorship from respective institutions and associations such as the International Association of Applied Psychology. Being one of the sponsors of this valuable event will contribute to the network development and promotion of the sponsoring organisations among psychology student population and member organisations of EFPSA in particular.

<http://ess.efpsa.org>
summerschool@efpsa.org

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Developing Knowledge Alliances for an Innovation Union - deadline 28th June 2012

This call for proposals is aimed at developing Knowledge Alliances that are part of the Innovation Union flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Alliances are partnerships between education institutions and business to develop new curricula addressing innovation skills gaps. After the successful pilot project launched in 2011, the Commission decided to reiterate the call for projects that will contribute to the preparations for the implementation of the upcoming Erasmus for all programme. http://ec.europa.eu/education/calls/s0312_en.htm

VP/2012/001 Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue - deadline 4 September 2012

For actions commencing no earlier than 4 November 2012 and no later than 21 December 2012. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=334&furtherCalls=yes>

CALL FOR TENDER

Call for tender n° EAH/2012/Health/01 concerning Multiple Framework Contracts in cascade for the "Scripting, planning, conduction and evaluation of exercises, training and assessment implementing the draft Decision on cross-border threats to health"

In December 2011, the European Commission made a draft proposal to the Council and the Parliament for a "Decision of the European Union on serious cross-border threats to health". The purpose of this proposal is to streamline and strengthen capacities and structures on health security to improve the protection of the citizens of the European Union from serious cross-border threats that can affect public health. In support to the implementation of the proposal and its subsequent undertakings, the organisation of exercises, training sessions, evaluation processes and other underpinning actions is an essential tool to evaluate, test and identify gaps in the processes in place or under development.

The current call for tender encompasses the following activities: table top exercises, command post exercises, field exercises / Demonstration exercises, case studies, training seminars / workshops, exchange of experts' modules, online training course(s), assessment of

specific events and processes and surveys/studies. The choice of the type of activities to be organised will be made on an ad-hoc basis depending on its appropriateness and a cost effective way of achieving the aims and objectives identified. The setting in which each of the activities are to be delivered will vary as a result of this choice. The activities could vary in scale and dimension depending on the nature and scope of the event, the number of participants, the level of the event (regional, national, EU wide or international) as well as its duration.

The maximum volume of the Framework Contracts for the maximum duration of 4 years (covering the possible extension) is EUR 6 Million.

The deadline to submit tenders is the 1st June 2012.

See: http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/tenders_H01_2012.html

Call for tender n° EAHC/2012/Health/06 concerning Action to prevent and reduce harm from alcohol

The purpose of the contract is to contribute to the protection of children and young people from harmful alcohol consumption by collecting good practice in the enforcement of legal age limits for selling or serving alcoholic beverages and to contribute to raising awareness of lower-risk consumption patterns by examining the state of play in the use of alcoholic beverage labels to inform consumers about health aspects.

Lot 1: Good practice in Member States to enhance compliance with minimum age limits for selling or serving alcoholic beverages. Examples of good practices will be collected and the exchange and dissemination of good practices will be facilitated.

Lot 2: State of play in the use of alcoholic beverage labels to inform consumers about health aspects. The objective is to contribute to a comprehensive picture through fieldwork to gather representative samples of alcoholic beverage packages from retail outlets across the Member States to assess the effectiveness of health-related information provided on them.

The maximum volume of the service contracts of Lot 1 and Lot 2 is EUR 100 000 each.

The deadline to submit tenders is the 1st June 2012

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/tenders_H06_2012.html

MISCELLANEOUS

EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: legislative proposals

The European Commission has adopted a draft legislative package which will frame cohesion policy for 2014-2020. Through Partnership Contracts agreed with the Commission, Member States will commit to focussing on fewer investment priorities in line with these objectives. The package also harmonises the rules related to different funds, including rural development and maritime and fisheries, to increase the coherence of EU action. Especially interesting chapters for psychologists in part 2 concern transport page 23 ff and employment, social inclusion, education (page 26 ff) .

Working Staff Document Part 1

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/strategic_framework/csf_part1_en.pdf

Part 2

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/strategic_framework/csf_part2_en.pdf

Overview EU Cohesion Policy http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm

2012-13 Healthy Workplaces Campaign

Pan-European or international organisations/companies willing to get substantially involved in the new Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13 on "Working together for risk prevention" are invited to submit their applications to become official partners of the campaign. The first round of applications is open from 28 March to 11 May 2012.

<http://www.healthy-workplaces.eu/en/about#mainContent#appendix>

Application Form

http://www.euoshapartners.eu/application_form?utm_source=oshmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=oshmail-118

New EU drug policy framework

Commissioner Dalli underlines that the Commission's main role in addressing addiction related health issues consists in fostering coordination, exchange and the development of good practices in the framework of EU legislation on drugs, tobacco and the EU strategy <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:326:0007:0025:en:PDF> to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm. The report on the independent external evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and its implementing Action Plans was presented by the Commission to the Member States represented at the Horizontal Drug Group on 5 March 2012. This evaluation also identified what has been done on drug demand reduction at national and EU level.

Based on the outcome of this assessment, the European Commission will propose a new EU drug policy framework. The Commission is preparing two initiatives related to drugs, one on criminal penalties in the field of drug trafficking and another on information exchange on new psychoactive substances. Both initiatives are scheduled for adoption in September.

RAYPRO

RAYPRO is an online resource on alcohol and youth projects for those who wish to share good practice or find good examples to build on :

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco_eahf/raypro/

„DRIVERS“ - EU 7th Framework Programme funded project

DRIVERS (Addressing the strategic Determinants to Reduce health Inequity Via 1) Early childhood development, 2) Realizing fair employment, and 3) Social protection) is a EU 7th Framework Programme funded project focused on three of the key drivers of health inequities: Early child development, Employment and work environment, Income, welfare and social protection. The project will review evidence and the methods to assess the impact of policies and programmes in these three areas relating to health inequities, develop new methods and evidence, and provide policy recommendations and advocacy guidance.



The three main objectives are: identify and fill main gaps, analyze methods, policy recommendations. The research will be undertaken by a consortium of research bodies – University College London, Düsseldorf University, Swedish Centre for Health Equity Studies CHES in partnership with organisations representing the public health sector, civil society and business (EuroHealthNet, Eurochild, Business in the Community and the European Anti-Poverty Network). Partners will contribute to case studies, testing methodologies and applying participatory approaches to ensure that outcomes are grounded in socio-economic realities.

EuroHealthNet will manage the project and lead on the advocacy research and dissemination. Research outcomes will contribute to meeting the EU 2020 targets and related flagship initiatives. <http://health-gradient.eu/>

A new website, the "Marketplace for Innovative ideas"

This website has been launched as part of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. The Marketplace is an interactive website designed to help those that are interested and involved in the Partnership to work together and develop their innovative ideas. The Marketplace will also include an online workspace for the Action Groups of the Innovation Partnership once they are formed this summer, and will provide more information about the Reference sites once they are selected in 2013.
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eipaha/index>

Youth@Work

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=982>

Youth@Work is an EU awareness-raising campaign to build contacts between young people and small businesses (SMEs). The aim is to:

- help young jobseekers find jobs in SMEs and rapidly gain experience and skills
- raise awareness among small businesses about the potential benefits of recruiting inventive, dynamic young people
- make young people aware of the existing tools that can help them become self employed or set up their own business

The European Commission has launched a competition for young people born in 1992

to make them express what the European single market means to them. Participants can submit creative ideas through various formats (such as photos, cartoons, essays or videos) and on different themes (education and citizenship, jobs and entrepreneurship, culture and leisure, consumers and the environment). The competition is open until 9th September 2012.
<http://www.generation1992.eu/en/participation>

The European Citizen Initiative ECI was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

It will allow 1 million citizens from at least one quarter of EU Member States to invite the European Commission to bring forward proposals for legal acts in areas where the Commission has the power to do so. The Regulation governing European Citizens' Initiatives was adopted on 16 February 2011. However, at the request of Member States who needed time to put mechanisms in place for certifying statements of support, citizens can only launch ECIs from 1 April 2012. ECI website: <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative>
ECI Regulation:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:065:0001:0022:EN:PDF>

Interesting links concerning the topic of "Healthy ageing"

Age-European Platform for elderly people <http://www.age-platform.eu/en>
European Federation for older people <http://eurageurope.org/>
WHO on ageing
<http://www.who.int/topics/ageing/en/>
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Life-stages/healthy-ageing>
OSHA Promoting active ageing in the workplace
<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/articles/promoting-active-ageing-in-the-workplace>

Invitation to Field Trials

The Work Research Centre (WRC) is currently developing Mental Health Promotion Handbooks for three settings, namely:



- Schools (for Teachers and administrations)
- Workplaces (for Human resources (HR) professionals, management representatives and occupational physicians in the workplace)
- Older people's homes (for Care workers, doctors, administrative staff and caregivers in older people's living environments)

The project aims to inform practitioners about the factors critical to mental health maintenance and promotion and to initiate, implement and monitor policy and programme development within their organisations.

We are planning to evaluate the three Mental Health Promotion Handbooks through Face-to-Face Training Field Trials with the appropriate target group members who will implement exercises within their own organisations. We would appreciate your assistance in assessing the usability and practicality of these handbooks and wish to invite you to participate in the Face-to-Face Field trials of the Handbook which interests you most.

The Face-to-face field trials will be held this year in the following countries: Ireland, Germany, Austria, Estonia, Poland and Finland. If you would like to attend any of these sessions please contact me on the email address cited below. For those field trials held in countries other than Ireland, I will direct you to the appropriate contact in those countries. Unfortunately, we will be unable to reimburse your travel costs should you chose to attend face-to-face field trials in other countries. The face-to-face field trial process will involve:

1. Two half day sessions (5 hours approx.). In advance of the Face-to-Face Training, an invitation letter and an introduction to the MHP-Hands project (1 page description) will be sent out. The first session will commence in April.
2. Between the first and second Face-to-Face sessions, participants are advised to read the MHP Handbook. Trainees will have at least 2 months between the two sessions in which to carry out individual work and implement topic-specific exercise(s) in their own setting. Participants will also have access to web-based support throughout this process.
3. In the final Face-to-Face Training session, participants will be given the opportunity to discuss their experiences of implementing Mental Health Promotion exercises/interventions in their own organisations.

Please note that if you are unable to attend the face-to-face trials, you also have the opportunity to evaluate the handbook electronically. This will entail reading the MHP handbook and answering an evaluation questionnaire regarding the structure and other aspects relating to the handbook. We are very interested in obtaining your feedback and if you would like to support the development of the MHP-Hands programme, please contact Isabelle Jeffares at the following email address: i.jeffares@wrc-research.ie

In your correspondence with me, please specify if you wish to attend the Face-to-Face Field Trials or if you would prefer to read and evaluate the manual electronically. Please also indicate which of the following handbooks you would be interested in evaluating:

1. Schools Mental Health Promotion Handbook
2. Workplace Mental Health Promotion Handbook
3. Older people's residential setting Mental Health Promotion Handbook

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. We very much appreciate any assistance you can offer us on this project.

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STRESSLESS - Improving Educators' Resilience to Stress

is a two-year project (November 2010 - October 2012) funded under the EU Lifelong Learning Programme. It aims to develop a practical tool (a guidebook) that will help educators and educational institutions to be resilient while coping with psychosocial hazards. STRESSLESS will provide an impact in following three key areas:

- Promoting well-being for individuals and institutions;
- Raising awareness on work-related stress management for employees and for organisations;
- Improving quality of work in educational scenarios.

The project is coordinated by Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI) www.spieurope.eu and unites 8 partners from all over Europe and two associated partners, one of them being the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE). The project is in its final phase of development, and we are currently finalizing the Guidebook for educators, which will be available in the autumn of 2012. We are also implementing a European event called „Improving Educators' Resilience to Stress" between the 17th and 21st of September 2012 in Riga, Latvia. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm> please search for reference number: LV-2012-031-001.

The project websites www.spi.pt/stressless and www.facebook.com/stresslessproject

New strategy for a Better Internet for Children

The Commission has set out a plan to give children the digital skills and tools they need to benefit fully and safely from the digital world. The internet was not designed with children in mind, but today 75% of children use the internet, a third of them on mobiles. The new strategy is to build up the market for interactive, creative and educational content online, in a partnership between the European Commission and Member States, mobile phone operators, handset manufacturers and providers of social networking services.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: "I support getting every kid connected. But kids need simple, transparent and consistent internet tools, and the knowledge and skills to use them. Our initiative brings every type of player together so that children get more of the quality content, services and protection they need to enjoy a positive experience online."

Read the Communication and citizens summary

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/policy/index_en.htm

Read press release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/445&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>