

Case Study 9

The WHO-European Commission Partnership Project on Empowerment in Mental Health

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the European Commission started a partnership project on “Empowerment in Mental Health” in 2008 with the objective to build environments in which people with mental health problems are enabled to develop and express their full potential as equal citizens, are free from discrimination, and they receive services according to their needs and choice.

Partners from mental health service user and family associations and other experts from policy, human rights, civil society, health services and academia planned and developed a broad range of project deliverables such as the conferences on Mental Health and Well-being at the Workplace – Protection and Inclusion in Challenging Times in Berlin, Germany, in 2009 and on “Empowerment in Mental Health – Working towards Leadership” in Leuven, Belgium, in 2010, a WHO statement on empowerment in mental health including recommendations for action, as well as empowerment indicators applicable at national level and about 100 examples of good empowerment practice from 30 countries across the European Region.

The WHO-EC partnership project, its outcomes and deliverables, will also inform the new WHO Mental Health Strategy for Europe to be presented in 2013. This strategy will signal the direction for mental health activities in the European Region, covering a broad scope including population mental wellbeing across the life stages, protection of rights of service users, effective forms of interventions, access to good health care and social inclusion