



## *Stimulating inclusion, participation and meaningful involvement* **European Seminar on Peer Work and Outreach Work**

**Prague, Czech Republic**  
**18 – 20 November 2010**

The international seminar will bring together a wide range of international experts and practitioners on peer work, outreach work and early intervention. The event aims to boost peer work and outreach work in Europe by sharing experiences, lessons learned and examples of good practice. The seminar will provide a wide range of presentations and skill building workshops to initiate and sustain inclusive working methods and will have a high interactive character.

### **Background of the seminar**

Peer work is often used as an umbrella term to describe a range of methods that involve members of a particular target group in delivering health promotion activities to their peers. It is based on the belief that peers can be more successful than professionals in passing on information, sharing knowledge and supporting their peers. Peer work is seen as a valuable addition to other methods to reach out, inform and support communities. There are various ways of involving peer members in social and health work, varying from involvement of group members of service delivery to participatory forms of engagement whereby communities also develop and adapt responses to health and social issues.

### **For whom is the seminar?**

We would like to invite service providers, agencies who have experience in peer-led outreach work or with peer education programs, early intervention and outreach services, and people with experience in other forms of peer participation. Activists, peer workers, street workers and policy makers are also invited to discuss the current policies and practices and future opportunities. The seminar will provide a wide range of workshops, training sessions and other opportunities for those who are interested in working with peers.

### **What topics which will be discussed during the seminar?**

The seminar aims to link international experiences and advocate and support initiation of peer involvement in outreach settings, service delivery and policy making. The overall focus of the seminar will be on starting and improving quality of services and policies by sharing and exchanging experience. The character of the seminar will be dynamic and interactive with much room for dialogue and learning new approaches.

The following issues will be addressed:

- What is the current **state of affairs** when it comes to peer and outreach work in Europe?
- **Lessons learned** from 25 years of experience. What works and what doesn't work?
- How can we **stimulate meaningful peer work** approaches in service delivery and

- conducting health and social interventions?
- What can be learned from **approaches in the various communities** of youngsters, sex workers and migrants
  - How can we **involve peers in service delivery** and How can **policy makers** support peer involvement
  - What **quality standards** can we identify when it comes to early intervention and outreach work?
  - How to **start up, plan and evaluate** peer projects?
  - How to identify and use the **hidden community knowledge** and information?
  - How to **improve communication skills** in working with colleagues, communities
  - How to improve **advocacy skills** in dealing with policy makers and media

The seminar will also provide a special session on developing and producing **tailor-made health promotion materials** such as life-style magazines.

All these topics and more will be addressed in a wide range of skill building sessions which are being facilitated by international experts.

The costs of the three seminar days are 420 euro which will cover accommodation, meals and conference registration.

We are looking forward to have you and your valuable experiences on this event.  
Join, share and learn. And see you in Prague.

Anniken Sand  
John-Peter Kools

Conference committee