EDITORIAL

25th Anniversary of the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness

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Welcome to The First Issue of the International Journal of Mental Health and Deafness.

Celebrating our 25th anniversary of the European Society Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD) with the publication of this e-journal is a dream come true.

The Executive and Council members of the ESMHD have all agreed to start this journal as an open-access journal in order to make its content available to all professionals in the field of mental health and deafness and other interested readers.

Until now such a specific journal did not exist and many professionals found it difficult to get their research papers published in general psychiatric magazines.

Twenty-five years ago the ESMHD was founded by Mrs Bruning-de Bruin, Dr Remvig, Dr Feuchte, Mr Lars von der Lieth, and Mr A.Oostra to stimulate the development of specialised mental health services in Europe. Soon afterwards, services and networks were developed in several countries.

The professionals of these services met internationally at conferences, research meetings and special interest groups to share knowledge and research. A website was developed and now the ESMHD can even be found on Linked-in and Facebook.

Over the years some services in Europe stopped, pioneers retired or left and there were not always others to take over. There were hindrances due to changes in general mental health policies, insurance policies and local changes in the administration of hospitals.

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communication and behaviour, feels accepted as a person, has a loving family and friends, a rewarding job and social life...however, many patients of the mental health services have severe problems or illnesses to cope with, and often miss ideal environment and people around them.

Ideal psychiatric treatment for deaf patients should take place in a setting in which they are understood and their special needs connected to communication and emotional, developmental, medical, environmental and social aspects.

Only specialised services can provide these aspects.

In the past years specialised services have had difficulties in convincing hospital and insurance company administrators of the need for specialised services in order to prevent services being closed.

As in the past 25 years, the ESMHD vision for the future is to help professionals get this message across.

This International Journal of Mental Health is an important step in that direction.