



To all EUFAMI member associations

Leuven, 1st February 2018

A short report of EUFAMI's 25th anniversary

EUFAMI celebrated its 25th anniversary between 30 November and 9 December with an art exhibition for better mental health around the theme of 'home' at the PsycArt Gallery in Brussels. In total, over 100 participants joined us to celebrate the opening event and show their support for family carers.

I would like to express once more my very special thanks to all participants. It would not have been possible to organise an event like this without the support we received from EUFAMI member organisations, artists, funders and many other supporters. I found your support to be a very significant message that EUFAMI, its members and networks have a special role in Europe to improve the life of family carers. It was important to have a clear common goal and to work together. And it is exactly this what EUFAMI wants to do more and more in the near future.

In connection with the art exhibition, EUFAMI published, with primary focus on mental health and family issues, numerous *articles* on the EUFAMI [website](#), blogposts about the artists and their works on [Medium](#) and more than one hundred photos on [flickr](#). Artists provided great input also when they told their stories around mental health and family issues to the big audience. It may be even more important today than it was 25 years ago that in Europe EUFAMI represents a strong voice for families because mental ill health will be affecting more and more European families -there appear to be more than 15 million family members in this year.

This celebration would not have been possible without the generous donations from a total of 38 artists from 17 countries who produced 66 artworks for the exhibition. We are proud to see that close to one third of the artworks in the exhibition found a new home. And plans are in the making to continue the show.

So EUFAMI's 25th anniversary and its celebration was a unique opportunity to commemorate, learn, understand and appreciate the history of the organisation before us. EUFAMI's first President Gusta Frooninckx helped us to learn more about the history of EUFAMI and donated one of her own artworks for the EUFAMI art exhibition. Gusta is not only EUFAMI's founder but she is an artist too. You can read Gusta's most interesting story about how it all started and resulted in the creation of EUFAMI right [here](#).

I would like to conclude by expressing EUFAMI's special thanks to its members when they committed their support in helping us create the wonderful art exhibition together. This clearly illustrates how strong the family voice in Europe sounds when we work together.

Sincerely,

Miia Männikkö
EUFAMI President

EUFAMI is an NGO founded 19.12.1992 under Belgian law (nr 451 967 342). EUFAMI has members in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

EUFAMI is a full member of EPF (European Patients Forum).

EUFAMI is working with major European organisations, such as the EU and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to help improve the quality of life of persons affected by mental illness