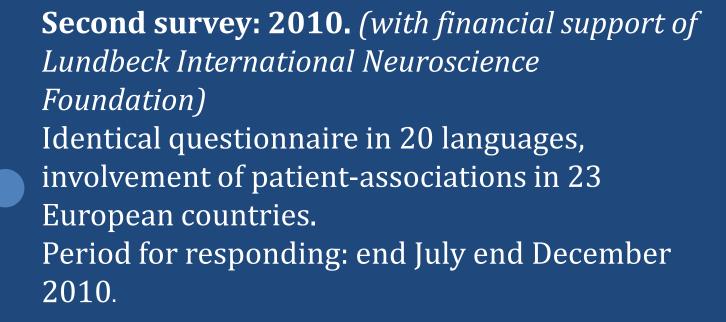
GAMIAN-Europe, a patient-driven pan-European organization, represents the interests of persons affected by mental illness and advocates their rights

First survey: 2006: 20 countries – 4500 responses
Results recently published in the Journal of Affective Disorders and in the Schizophrenia Research (2010)

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User- run initiative:

Self reporting, supported by the local national patient association.

Accessible to all patients:

No language barrier: everyone can respond in his or her own language

Both online and printed version, accessible at the GAMIAN website (more than 7.000 visits of the questionnaire-page)

Importance of research on self stigma or internalised stigma:

- Provide a solid foundation for stigma researchers
- Help policy makers to understand outcomes of actions
- Help clinicians to know the extent to which internalised stigma adversely influences therapeutic outcomes
- Defining target populations for health promotion strategies

Importance of longitudinal research

Building a stronger longitudinal research would improve the potential for identifying people who are at risk for developing a high level of internalized stigma

(Livingston & Boyd, Social Science & Medicine, 2010)

- GAMIAN Europe Pan European Survey containing:
 - Demographic questions: 16 items
 - Internalised Stigma of Mental Illness (ISMI) –
 29 items (Ritscher et al, 2003)
 - Perceived Devaluation and Discrimination Scale 12 items (Link, 1987)
 - Boston University (BU) Empowerment Scale –
 17 items (Rogers et al, 1997)

1447 responses - 1223 Valid responses after cleaning of data

Analysis of results supervised by Prof. Dr. Marc De Hert (University Hospital Kortenberg University of Leuven, Belgium)