

# Final Report Provider Forum, Italy

Turin, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009



Fondazione CRT  
[www.fondazionecrt.it](http://www.fondazionecrt.it)

## Introduction

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009, a first Provider Forum was organised in Italy, in the North Western region of Piedmont. The Forum was organised by EASPD and the Fondazione CRT, a Foundation that has been played a key role in the organisation of the Winter Paralympic Games held in Turin in 2006, and that since then has continued working in the disability field.

This Forum was a unique occasion to meet service providers, civil society and authorities in Italy and it was part of a wider programme of activities organised by Fondazione CRT to highlight the topics of disability and inclusion: "Beyond Paralympics".

## Aims and Objectives

Through the organisation of provider fora, EASPD aims to help local service providing organisations to set up or further develop umbrella structures for providers, and to provide information about the values and principles of the EU. Through these fora, service providing organisations can improve communication with each other in order to fine-tune service provision and exchange models of good practice amongst themselves and other European Union countries.

## Partnership

The forum was organised by EASPD in cooperation the CRT Foundation.

### 1. **Fondazione CRT**

Via XX Settembre 31

10121 Torino

Italy

Contact person: Sara Novara and Massimo Beretta Liverani

### 2. **EASPD, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities**

Avenue d'Auderghem, 63

1040 Brussels,

Belgium

Contact person: Miriana Giraldi

## Date and Place

The provider forum took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009, at the premises of the Fondazione CRT, Via XX Settembre 31, 10121 Torino, Italy

## Programme

Session 1: 9:00 – 9:30: Introduction to EASPD: who we are and how we work – Luk Zelderloo

Session 2: 9:30 – 10:30 EU policies that affect social services – Miriana Giraldi

### Coffee Break 10:30 – 11:00

Session 3: 11:00 – 11:45 Experiences and challenges in the Piedmont region – CPD Consulta per le Persone in Difficoltà

Session 4: 11:45 - 12:45 Networking and the stakeholder approach: how to enhance co-operation at the local and European level – Fabrizio Fea

12:45 – 13:15 Q&A

### Lunch break 13:15 – 14:30

Session 5: 15:00 – 15:30: EASPD approach on quality of social services for people with disabilities in Europe – Luk Zelderloo

Session 6: 15:30 – 16:00 EU Funding opportunities – Miriana Giraldi

## End of proceedings

## Participants List and Profile

A list of participants is available in annex. The audience consisted mainly of civil society representatives, representatives of services for people with disabilities, representatives of local authorities. Moreover, some representatives of the GPDD (Global Partnership for Disability and Development), and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DG for Development Cooperation were also in attendance.

## Main conclusions

The purpose of the forum was to introduce EASPD to Italian service providers for people with disabilities by explaining the structure and activities of the organisation and putting it into the wider context of governance and networking at European level. EASPD introduced its expertise in the fields of networking and the stakeholder approach and highlighted the benefits of working in a wider network for service providers. Moreover, EASPD presented EU policies that are relevant for the sector of social service providers, as well as funding opportunities to participate in European projects.

A representative of the local organisation CPD Consulta Persone in Difficoltà gave a presentation that highlighted examples of good practice of Networks already established in the North Western part of Italy (e.g. an association for accessible tourism, Turismabile) and funding opportunities at the level of regions (INTERREG programmes). There was also a Q&A session that allowed participants to further discuss issues related to the local situation of organisations in Italy.

It was noted that these presentations were very useful for local providers given that they highlighted best practice in and advantages of establishing umbrella structures and participating in pan-European activities. Participants also welcomed the opportunity to learn more about EU policies in the social sector and funding opportunities to promote research, cooperation and the improvement of service provision and living conditions of people with disabilities.

The forum also benefited from the fact that it took place in the wider context of “Open to All”, a joint initiative of Fondazione CRT and Fondazione Paideia: a series of events, seminars, workshops on the topic of disability that took place in Turin during the entire months of October 2009.

More information on all these events is available on: <http://www.fondazioneCRT.it/paralympics/>

### Impact

The overall aims of this provider forum were to provide information about the EU, to provide network opportunities, to facilitate the exchange of good practices.

The more immediate impact was the positive feedback from the participants of the forum. There was a general consensus that it is extremely important to introduce new approaches which can benefit participants in the organization of their services.

### Visibility and Valorisation

The forum was very well received. Important members of local civil society, authorities and service provider participated, together with representatives of GPPD and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. EASPD representatives were interviewed by local media: <http://www.fondazioneCRT.it/paralympics/category/what-happened/vidogallery/>

### Budget

The event was sponsored by the Fondazione CRT.

### Annexes

- Programme of the event
- List of participants



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