



EASPD NEWSFLASH

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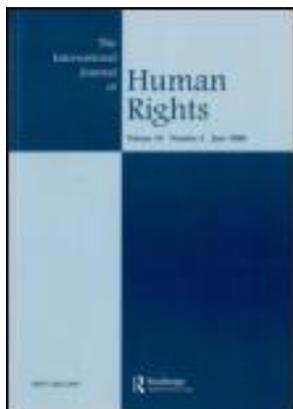
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EU AND YOU



Disability and torture publication

On 31 August 2012 the prestigious International Journal of Human Rights published a special edition on "[Disability and Torture](#)", which was edited by the Mental Disability Advocacy Center. Each of the seven papers addresses aspects of how law can be used to prevent abuses against people with disabilities, especially in places of detention.



The special edition is the culmination of discussions which took place at the seminar 'Evolving Standards in Preventing Torture and ill-treatment against Persons with Disabilities', in November 2011 in Strasbourg on, which MDAC co-organised. The seminar brought together members of the UN and European torture-prevention bodies, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Thomas Hammarberg, former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and now MDAC's Honorary President. NGOs attended, including the European Network of (Ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, and the International Disability Alliance.

The special edition's Foreword is a collaborative effort by Shuaib Chalklen (UN Special Rapporteur on Disability) and Juan Mendez (UN Special Rapporteur on Torture), who urge those working to prevent torture not to forget about people with disabilities. Special editors of this edition Dorottya Karsay (MDAC Detention Monitoring Project Manager) and Oliver Lewis (MDAC Executive Director) set the scene of the special edition in their piece on, "Disability, torture and ill-treatment: taking stock and ending abuses". Several academics presented draft papers and these have been finalised for publication:

- Peter Bartlett: "A mental disorder of a kind or degree warranting confinement: examining justifications for psychiatric detention"
- Anna Lawson: "Disability equality, reasonable accommodation and the avoidance of ill-treatment in places of detention: the role of supranational monitoring and inspection bodies"
- Elina Steinerte, Rachel Murray and Judy Laing: "Monitoring those deprived of their liberty in psychiatric and social care institutions and national practice in the UK"
- Charles O'Mahony: Legal capacity and detention: implications of the UN disability convention for the inspection standards of human rights monitoring bodies
- Nell Munro: Define acceptable: how can we ensure that treatment for mental disorder in detention is consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) has long advocated for a closure of institutions, which are all breeding grounds for abuse and neglect. MDAC's key advocacy themes in this respect are that inspectorates should:

- recognise the range of human rights violations affecting people with disabilities;
- visit disability-specific places of detention;
- apply the standards of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
- train and include people with disabilities to be human rights monitors.

EASPD strongly supports this publication and the effort of MDAC in its advocacy work!

Taking the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) Seriously

The Director of the Centre for Disability Law & Policy of the National University of Ireland (Galway) Professor Gerard Quinn and the Researcher at the Centre Suzanne Doyle published their research on the past and the future of the EU Structural Funds as a tool to achieve Community Living for persons with disabilities.

In their work they point out that the EU is now facing a major test on its commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. An eventual failure in taking the UN CRPD seriously will needlessly expose the EU – and its Member States – to international legal liability if, for example, the Funds are used to build new institutions. Such failure will amount to a wasted opportunity to harness the Funds to ease a major process of transition needed to embed the right to community living for all.

EU disability law and policy has come a long way since the early 1990s when people with disabilities were characterised as ‘invisible citizens.’ Advances in non-discrimination which have included both treaty changes as well as secondary legislation have anchored the human rights-based perspective on disability in EU law. The challenge for EU Institutions is to preserve the integrity of the UN CRPD by binding his perspective at EU level. The conclusion of other international human rights instruments by EU depends entirely on its capacity to deal with this first real test of its commitment on the UN CRPD.

For this reason it is hoped the EU will not fail its first serious test under the UN CRPD and that ways will be found to restore the conditionalities (or their equivalent) proposed by the European Commission to the Structural Fund Regulations.

Provider Forum in Estonia 24 – 26 August 2012

The provider Forum that took place from August 24 to August 26 in Estonia was different from the ones organised usually by EASPD.

The organisation of Provider Forum is a central activity of EASPD network, aiming to support service provider organisations in Central and Eastern Europe, candidate and new accession countries, to become self sustainable and independent. Since 2008



EASPD is organising Provider Forum in Estonia, contributing to the creation of an umbrella association of service providers at national level that will be formalised in November 2012.

This year, yet, something changed, as the seminar took place in the Tuksi Camp, a camping for persons with intellectual disability organised yearly by Estonian Mentally Disabled People Support Organisation (EVPIT), in the South Western part of the country, close to the seaside.

EASPD's staff joined the camp on Friday afternoon, taking part both to the general activities and to the seminar on users' involvement on Saturday. The audience of the seminar was composed of service providers, service users and representatives of public authorities.

EASPD's presentation was on the rights included in the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Estonia in May 2012 and on the report that EASPD is producing on users' involvement collecting good practices amongst members. The other presentations given during the seminar focussed on different issues, giving a complete framework on the following subjects: the EQUASS system of quality insurance, the experience on users' involvement of Estonian service providers, self-advocacy and the support given to persons with disability in the city of Tallinn. On- top of that, a workshop with service users' and providers analysed what steps should be taken to improve the involvement of users' in service provision and the awareness on their rights.

The added value of the Forum, has been for sure the informal setting, where the persons with disabilities and the staff working with them could get in contact with the staff of EASPD, allowing moments of exchange and of mutual learning, reducing the gap with the European and the grassroots level. Francesco La Rocca and Irene Bertana



from the policy and communication team of EASPD confirmed that, saying that it has been a great experience both from a professional and a human point of view.

PROJECT UPDATES

EUROPEAN GUIDE DOG MOBILITY STANDARDS PROJECT

FINAL CONFERENCE
20 SEPTEMBER 2012, BRUSSELS



Guide dogs provide blind people with increased mobility and wellbeing and make them more economically active. Research in the UK (Pey et al, 2006) has shown that **guide dog owners are twice as independently mobile as non-guide dog owners and report greater wellbeing; they are more likely to be employed and have more active social lives.**

European citizens are being denied these benefits as the provision of guide dogs has suffered from fragmentation of delivery, low investment in training and poor retention of guide dog instructors. Often, the service is limited by funding which leads to **inconsistent criteria** resulting in poorly trained and inadequate dogs. In some countries, the dog may be trained more as a guard than a guide while in others, a shortage of instructors means blind people cannot count on receiving a dog when needed.

This 2-year project, sponsored by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission, has aimed to address this situation by developing and rolling out a **qualifying programme of training** for instructors which addresses the welfare and training of the dog as well as the instruction of the client in its safe and effective use as an aid to independent mobility.

The project is coordinated by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (UK) and has an international partnership including expert guide dog mobility schools of various countries (BE, BG, PL, RO, SI), the Lincoln University, an authority in the field, as well as CEN, the European Committee on Standardisation and the European

Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD). The European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF) participates on a voluntary basis.

The final project conference, organised by EASPD, takes place on 20 September 2012 in Brussels, NH Hotel du Grand Sablon.

The purpose of the conference is to share results of the project, learn to what extent the project influenced the work of the guide dog schools, share information on the CEN Workshop agreement and finally looking ~~to~~ at the future; **discussing on how to continue building a European-wide standard for the benefit of guide dog schools and users.** There will also be networking opportunities.

The conference has **free entrance**; registration is still possible by completing a form on: <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/easpd/registration/>

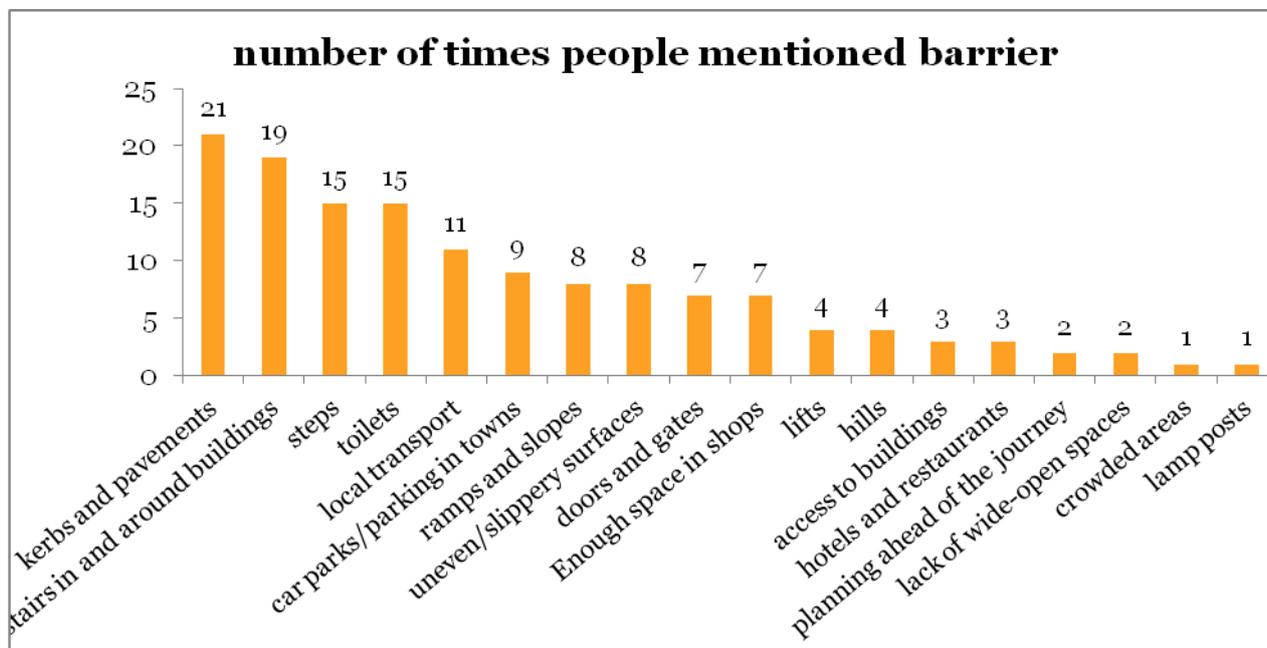
Also have a look at our project website: <http://www.egdms.eu>

Report of the Disability Awareness Day (DAD) in Warrington, UK, 15 July 2012

Three organisations from the EU funded Inclusion project participated in the DAD event: Thalys Alenia Space, Italy, Navevo, UK and EASPD, based in Belgium. The aim was to gather feedback from motor impaired people at the event, to have a better view on current barriers they are facing and what they would be expecting from a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) if it would be marketed.

In total, 46 questionnaires were completed by motor impaired people, sometimes together with their caretaker. A few results! [are to be found below:](#)





The participants also gave suggestions on what they would expect a GNSS device to have as features. Answers given by several participants included easy-to-read, easy-to-operate, available as a download application, having correct data on accessible places and voice recognition.



Overall conclusion

The participation in the DAD event in the UK was successful and gave many suggestions to the developers, as well as information to EASPD about what the most frequent barriers are and how interested people are in purchasing such a GNSS device in the future, as it can make a real difference in their daily lives and functioning.

EVENTS NOTIFICATION

INSPIRE OFFERS A NUMBER OF TRAINING COURSES FOR 2013!



Inspire: The foundation for inclusion, is one of Malta's leading NGO's that work within the disability sector. Inspire currently helps over 1000 babies, children and adults with learning and physical disabilities.

The organisation draws on 38 years of experience and operates through a multidisciplinary team of experts and members of staff specialised in various fields addressing the educational, therapeutic, social and recreational needs of persons with disabilities, focusing on their ability and potential, and promoting their independence and participation in society, using a holistic and multidisciplinary approach across 4 centres within Malta and Gozo.

Inspire offers numerous training seminars and workshops in disability. For persons living in Europe, outside of Malta, the cost of these courses can be absorbed in full either through the Grundtvig in Service training programme or the Grundtvig Visits and Exchanges programme.

The following is a link which will take you directly to a menu of training offered. Please click on each course to open the document which outlines the course content. All applications for funding must be made by 15th of September 2012.

<http://www.inspire.org.mt/training?l=1>

You would be able to consult their Grundtvig National Agency for details on how to apply by accessing this link :

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html.

Alternatively you should feel free to email Inspire association on info@weaveconsulting.eu to apply for the courses or to request assistance with your funding application.

KADIKÖY SUMMER CAMP 2012 FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SIDE, ANTALYA 29 SEPT -5 OCT 2012



Kadıköy Municipality **Counselling and Solidarity Centre for People with Disabilities (EDDM)** is organising a summer camp for the disabled living in Kadıköy town. The number of the disabled participants will be around 65 (15 blind, 15 deaf, 15 physically disabled, 20 mentally disabled).

EDDM team (20) is made up of social workers, psychologist, and European and Turkish volunteers from the universities or service providers for the disabled. Several workshops in the area of music, dance, mime, handcraft etc., sport activities, cultural nights, plays and games will take place in indoor and outdoor settings. The activities will be organised for each group composed of people with similar disabilities.

EDDM team, volunteers and disabled participants –altogether- will be accommodated in a very comfortable hotel near sea during the camp. The hotel will also host its own clients coming for a holiday and this is particularly so since the aim of the camp is to contribute their socialisation and participation in society.

The main objective is to contribute to the enhancement of disabled people's capacity in terms of socialisation, independent life, learning and, sharing knowledge about other cultures. With the support of European volunteers working with the disabled, participants will learn and practice more about other countries in Europe, their dances, songs, plays, geographies and so on. The working language will be English and the EDDM team will provide translation. Besides, this body and sign language, sport games, plays, arts and, music will facilitate the communication as we have experienced during the past projects.

For further information and volunteer application please contact

kevsercan78@gmail.com

meyseylimaz@gmail.com

EASPD WORKSHOP ON QUALITY OF SERVICES

GLEISDORF, AUSTRIA, 15 - 19 OCTOBER 2012

Quality of services depends on many interdependent, inter-related factors. It is not the simple result of one type of approach or action but rather the result of many interconnected issues.

Quality of services does not only concern the implementation of a simple tool. Quality of services is crucial and essential for all users. Consequently, the discussion about quality of services is, in fact, a discussion about quality of life, for real people.

The interest in the debate on the quality of social services is growing among public authorities, service providers, users and other stakeholders. Quality of services has been very high in the European Agenda, in particular since the ratification of the UNCRPD in 2010. The responsibility of service providers for the innovation of services, striving for quality, and contributing to the implementation of the UNCRPD has increased.

For these reasons EASPD decided to organise a workshop on quality of services. The workshop will be held in Austria, Gleisdorf, and it will be hosted by Chance B,

the first service provider in Austria who followed the goal to support persons with disabilities in their own village in their everyday life.

The workshop is addressed to service providers, quality managers, trainers, quality assurance professionals, quality inspectors and R&D professionals and it will be structured around **4 main topics**:

- **System Perspective:** local, regional, national and international (Local Participation Planning, Supported decision making, Peer counseling; Case management; person centred services; personalized budget; quality frameworks, standards)
- **Individual Perspective:** planning and leading independent lives, maximizing Quality of Life (Person centred planning/services/activities and support)
- **Outcomes and continuous quality improvement** (Quality management, subjective and objective Quality of Life (QOL) measures, peer interviewers, use of evaluation feedback, examples of good practice)
- **Methodology and tools to assess “Quality of Social Services”** (toolbox for Quality of Services and QOL, Peer interviewers, ex. of good practice)

You can register to the course by sending the Registration form to Hiebaum.Elfi@chanceb.at by **21 September 2012**.

You can find the registration form following this link

<http://www.easpd.eu/Portals/easpd/Newsflash/june/Workshop%20Registration%20Form.pdf>