



EASPD NEWSFLASH

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EU AND YOU



EASPD and ENIL address an open letter to European Leaders

BRUSSELS, 4 DECEMBER 2012

EASPD and ENIL addressed an open letter to European leaders who met in Brussels in early December to discuss about disability and poverty at two high level conferences with key policy makers and representatives of civil society (the European Day of Persons with Disabilities Conference and the Second Annual Convention against Poverty and Social Exclusion).

The letter highlights that budgetary cuts have had serious consequences on the availability, accessibility and quality of social services thus endangering the quality of life for persons with disabilities and preventing them from enjoying their rights on an equal basis with others, as documented by studies carried out over the last two years.

Investments in a Social Europe and in the social sector have a positive impact on the quality of life persons with disabilities and also a big potential in terms of employment creation, something that can contribute to pave the way out of the crisis.

It is not too late to change direction and to make sure that the most powerless don't pay for this crisis!

You can find the open letter [here](#).

The European Expert Group launched Common European Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation

More than one million children and adults live in institutions across Europe. As highlighted by numerous reports, living conditions endured by the residents in segregating institutions are a real concern.

As a result of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights treaties, the EU and its Member States have an obligation to move away from institutional care to better family and community-based alternatives.

On the 20th of November 2012, the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care launched a set of key guidelines on how to make a sustained transition from institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives for children, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health problems and older persons.

The Common European Guidelines are based on European and international best practice and were developed through a process of consultation involving organisations and individuals representing all the user groups and other stakeholders, including public and non-profit service providers and authorities.

Their goals are challenging:

- to influence policy and decision makers at national, regional and local levels, as well as the EU institutions;
- to plan and implement the transformation of care and support services;
- to facilitate the inclusion of children, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health problems and older persons in society.

The Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care and the Toolkit on the use of EU funding are available in English from <http://deinstitutionalisationguide.eu/>. Translations into a number of other languages will be available by the end of the year.

"The European Year of Citizens"

2013 will be the year of the European Citizenship. This was proposed by the European Commission in 2010 and then approved by the European Parliament and the Council. "After 20 years of EU citizenship, much has been achieved. It is time to reflect on where we stand and what the future should bring," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, the EU Commissioner responsible for Justice and Citizenship.

The purpose of the year is to familiarise all European citizens with their rights and EU policies and programmes. The European Year will also stimulate an EU-wide debate with citizens on the shape that the European Union should have in the future and the needed reforms to improve their everyday lives.

The European Year 2013 represents an important anniversary for the European Union. 20 year ago with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty Member States decided to introduce the concept of EU Citizenship. At the same time, the Commission will adopt its next EU Citizenship Report ([see the 2010 report: IP/10/1390](#)) in the course of 2013.

Tools and materials to get EU citizens in contact with this initiative will be soon available on the web.

As part of the Year, politicians have started holding debates with citizens directly about the future of Europe. Such debates will be held all across the Union over the course of 2013. [Everyone will be free to join the debates.](#)

The European Year of Citizens will be officially launched by a debate with citizens in Dublin on 10th January 2013, coinciding with the start of the Irish Presidency of the Council.

PROJECT UPDATES



NOT PATIENTS, BUT CITIZENS WITH RIGHTS!

Over the past few years, many employers currently working with the medical model of care have requested an urgent change from this 'old' model of care towards a social care and human rights based model, using the principles of the **UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities as a starting point**.

Employers **often need a total change in staff attitudes** as well as the tools to apply the new model in practice. In the entire EU we need to end the view that people needing support are patients needing a doctor. They are citizens with rights - like all of us.

The **main aim** of this two-year project, funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission, is to renew services by **altering staff attitudes using trainers & training courses based on the new model of care**.

This project is based on the previously developed **European Care Certificate (ECC)**, an award gaining recognition across the EU for the mainly female, poorly paid workforce with little access to training.

The **first transnational meeting** of the partnership and the launch of the project took place in Chesterfield **in November** and was certainly **successful** as we are already ahead of schedule thanks to the enthusiasm and competence of the project partners!

With **EASPD as coordinator**, our partnership consists of 16 partners from 15 countries, i.e.

- ❖ AIAS, Italy
- ❖ ARC, UK
- ❖ CECD, Portugal
- ❖ CUDV Draga, Slovenia
- ❖ DIVOS, Austria
- ❖ FAT, Romania
- ❖ Hand in Hand Foundation, Hungary
- ❖ Kolping, Lithuania
- ❖ LATMIL, Latvia

- ❖ LCE, Cyprus
- ❖ Marlin Sro, Czech Republic
- ❖ RKA, Germany
- ❖ SCIE, UK

NUIG from Ireland, Laurentius from Poland and Foundation Net from Bulgaria are support the project as observers.

Importantly, James Churchill is our key person to link previous work done for the ECC through 2 EU funded projects with this project and to keep it on the right track as an external consultant.

For more information, please contact Katrijn Dekoninck at EASPD:
Katrijn.Dekoninck@easpd.eu and/or visit the [ECC website](#)



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PRACTICE AND UNDERSTANDING IN SUPPORTED HOUSING - PUSH EUROPE!



The first meeting of the exchange forum PUSH Europe took place in Paris on 9th November 2012. The meeting was co-organised by **FEANTSA**, **CECODHAS** and **EASPD**. It was hosted at the Jean-Jaurès Hospital by Habitat et Soins.

This meeting was organised as follow-up to a 1,5 day Consultation on integrated housing and services organised by the **OECD**. This important **Consultation** brought together international policy makers to discuss how best to integrate housing and

other social and health services in order to improve outcomes for vulnerable people with high needs, including those who are disabled, elderly, and homeless.

Supported housing for vulnerable groups is increasingly important in Europe. **This reflects the change from institutional to community-based social services.** There is a growing recognition of vulnerable people's rights to live independently, in dignity and to be included in the community, as well as to choose their place of residence, where and with whom they wish to live. In practice, the recognition of these rights means a growing need for housing that is integrated with other support that vulnerable people need to participate in everyday life.

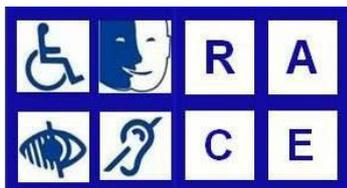
PUSH Europe will contribute to the development and improvement of supported housing by identifying, sharing, developing and transferring expertise and good practices.

PUSH Europe will seek to help supported housing practitioners cooperate and make full use of opportunities within the EU framework.

Push is open to participation from representative organisations, services providers, housing providers, practitioners etc.

For more information or to find out how your organisation can get involved in PUSH Europe, please contact Ruth Owen (ruth.owen@feantsa.org), Katrijn Dekoninck (Katrijn.Dekoninck@easpd.eu) or Julien Dijol (Julien.Dijol@housingeurope.eu).

RACE – PROJECT UPDATE



As a result of the recent policy roundtable discussions organised in Brussels and Ankara in September and October 2012, the policy recommendation catalogue is now ready and available in English and Turkish on the project website: [employdisable website](#). The recommendations have a double role: to raise awareness among political and corporate communities and the society at large on the possible ways of integrating people with disabilities in the open labour market and to offer practical guidance to Turkish policy makers in developing frameworks that promote and sustain the supported employment model in Turkey.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the experts who participated in the policy roundtables and provided their valuable input in developing these recommendations. We are also extremely grateful to all the organisations who shared with us their good practice approaches and instruments consistent with the supported employment model. The “Good Practice Catalogue” can be accessed on the project website.

Furthermore, we have recently launched the RACE folder! Available in English, Turkish and Italian, the folder contains information on the potential benefits of employing people with disabilities, the pilot trainings which will take place in Turkey and Italy in February and March 2013 as well as additional information about the project. The folder can be consulted on: [employdisable website](#). If you wish to receive the hard-copy of the folder, please contact: Sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu

Last but not least... **SAVE THE DATE!** The final conference will be organised in Istanbul on 26-27th September 2013 in close cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policy, İŞKUR - The Turkish Employment Agency and ILO Global Network. The conference is designed as a very interactive event which will focus on the employment of people with disabilities and the promotion of the main outcomes of RACE.



INNOSERV WEBSITE LAUNCHED



In November, partners of the FP7 project 'A social platform on innovative social services' (INNOSERV), met in Dublin for a roundtable on the first results of the project and to launch the website dedicate to [INNOSERV](#).

Since the beginning of the project, more than 150 good practices of innovative social services have been collected. The examples show the strong need for innovation in policies and practices due to different factors such as demographic changes, inequalities, the economic and social consequences of the crisis.

A report showing the entire list of the good practices selected is now available online, check it out and get updated on innovation in Social Services

INNOSERV REPORT



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EVENTS NOTIFICATION

TRAINING COURSE: BUILDING A SCHOOL FOR ALL: MOVING TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

SALZBURG, 21-27 SEPTEMBER 2013



EASPD, together with a consortium of European organisations and universities partners in the “Pathways to inclusion” network will organise the training course *Building the School for all – an inclusive education*, in Salzburg, Austria on 21-27 September 2013. The course will offer guidance and a structural framework for the further development and promotion of inclusive education, as well as a hands-on experience in the planning of such an approach.

The course targets school heads, middle management, educational guides and counsellors, inspectors and administrative staff willing to challenge their mindsets and to engage in a 7-days course to learn and discover with and from colleagues in an international setting possible ways to move towards inclusive education.

The course will include both information and learning sessions, as well as discussion groups, peer group support and the chance for self-reflection. Participants will have the opportunity to set their individual learning goals and develop a work plan to be implemented in their school.

This course is registered at the Socrates [Education and training database](#) with the registration number: BE-2013-255-001

How to apply?

If you want to register and apply for a grant, it is essential to follow the following procedures:

1. Send a brief message with your contact details by e-mail to:
goedele.avau@easpd.eu;
2. You will be asked to fill in the participant information form;
3. You will then receive a 'letter of acceptance' from EASPD, to add to your grant application.
4. Request a grant application form from your National Agency. You can find the address following this [link](#)
5. Send the application together with 'Letter of Acceptance' to your National Agency.

The **DEADLINE** for submitting your grant application is 16 January 2013 (first round) or 30 April 2013 (second round).

For further information about the training course, please contact:

Karel Casaer, course director
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PROVIDER FORUM IN TURKEY

On 15th and 16th of November EASPD organised its first Provider Forum in Istanbul (TR) in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs.

The event proved to be a successful step in the solid cooperation that EASPD is developing in Turkey since 2010 thanks also to the Dolunay Association (Turkish member of EASPD).

The event gathered over hundred representatives of social service provider organisations from all over Turkey and across all disability fields and set a first important milestone in that it was the first ever occasion for service providers representatives to meet and exchange points of view on service provision in Turkey.

During the forum, three main topics were under discussion: the state of play of service provision in Turkey and the current and future policies on disability were presented by the Turkish authorities, whilst EASPD brought its expertise in international cooperation, capacity building and on the correct implementation of the UNCRPD. Delegates participated actively by providing key information on the



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situation at grassroots level and by giving inputs on the future developments needed in the field of disability.

Important objectives were reached: firstly the Turkish disability authorities initiated a process of involvement of the NGO sector which was invited to cooperate with public authorities in the design and implementation of new and varied types of services for persons with disabilities and, secondly, in the process of redefining and improving both legislation and services EASPD was invited to strongly assist in the future steps by providing expertise and support in this process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PETITION ON FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE EU'S STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The World Future Council (WFC) consists of 50 respected personalities from all five continents. They represent governments, parliaments, the arts, civil society, academia and the business world. Together, they form a voice for the rights of future generations. The WFC is now lobbying for the structural funds not to be used anymore for the rehabilitation of institutions, and instead to be used for person-centered support services and inclusion into communities for people with disabilities.

As part of this effort they launched a petition and they are trying to get as many people and organisations to sign as soon possible.

You can contribute by signing the petition through this [link](#)

TRAINING TRAINERS IN PROVIDING BASIC ICT SKILLS EDUCATION TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The organisation PhoenixKM is organising two training courses entitled "Training trainers in providing basic ICT skills education to people with disabilities", financed by the Grundtvig programme. The training courses will take place in May 2013 in Belgium and in July 2013 in Lithuania.

The courses are suitable for adult educators, trainers, school teachers, career officers, representatives of persons with disabilities, and others, and cover 100% of expenses as detailed in the [course invitation](#).

The course will offer an inclusive approach to teaching, learning and assessment of (accessible) basic ICT skills, aiming at inclusive education (people with disabilities within regular education) and have this inclusive approach also embedded in daily teaching practices.

The deadline for applying for funding to your national agency is 16th January 2013. It is approaching, so hurry up!

Please, feel free to pass this on to your friends or colleagues and do not hesitate to contact us at trainings@eurocyinnovations.com for any further inquiries you may have.

BERLIN WON THE 2013 ACCESS CITY AWARD FOR DISABLED-FRIENDLY CITIES!

BRUSSELS, 3 DECEMBER 2012

EASPD took part to the annual European Day of People with Disabilities conference in Brussels organised by the European Commission and the European Disability Forum when the award for disabled-friendly cities was presented. The prize aims to encourage cities to share their experience and to improve accessibility for the benefit of all. The Access City Award 2013 was handed by European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding to the city of Berlin.

"People with disabilities still face too many barriers in everyday life, but cities like Berlin are leading the way in making life more accessible for all," said Vice-President Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner. "Accessibility offers new business opportunities and can be a real stimulus for innovation and economic growth. That is why accessibility is at the heart of the European disability strategy and why we are preparing our proposals for a European Accessibility Act, which I intend to present next year."

The city of Berlin was selected by the jury because of its strategic plan on the inclusion of persons with disability. The city has invested in turning the formerly divided city into an accessible, barrier-free environment.

For more information

[Access City Award](#)

[European Commission: People with disabilities](#)