



EASPD NEWSFLASH

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EU AND YOU



First findings of the PESSIS project: social dialogue in the social service sector needs to be strengthened!

On the 16 and 17 April 2012, the partners of the project "Promoting Employers' Social Services Organisations in Social Dialogue" (PESSIS) gathered in Brussels. The first results of the national mapping exercise on social dialogue in the social services sector were presented. Project partners came across an urgent need for strengthening social dialogue and collective bargaining in the sector to ensure decent work and quality employment. The sector has important employment and growth potential and it needs to reinforce the social dialogue internally to act collectively.

The first findings presented during the project meeting were the following:

- "Due to fragmentation in the social services sector, low recognition and organisation of social service providers as employers and a lack of common understanding as to what social dialogue includes, the social services sector still shows an underdeveloped social dialogue system in most EU Member States".



The PESSIS project, coordinated by EASPD aims to redress the lack of qualitative and quantitative data on labor and social dialogue issues in the sector of social

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services from the perspective of the employers. Thus, a research across 11 European countries will produce national reports that will be compiled in a European Summary Report.

The report will be validated during the final conference on 22 June in Brussels and political recommendations for promoting social service providers involvement in social dialogue and collective bargaining will be presented.



Supported by: DG Employment, Social
Affairs and Inclusion

Social Services Europe in action!

The newly established network Social Services Europe had an intense policy activity in the last month. Indeed, it took position on the Proposal for a Directive on Public Procurement, it had a meeting with Lieve Fransen, Director for Representations and Networks at DG Communication of the European Commission and it published a reflection paper on the job creation potential in the health and social service sector.

The position paper on the Directive Proposal on public procurement supports the approach of the Commission and welcomes the recognition of specific feature for social services as well as the settlement of specific procedures in the award of public service contracts. Nevertheless, SSE suggests some change to the draft proposal:

- a clearer and more consistent definition of what kind of services fall exactly under the special regime;
- public authorities should have “wide discretion to organize the choice of the service providers in the way they consider most appropriate”;
- a stronger stress should be put on quality, as a mandatory element of Most Economically Advantageous Tender;
- regarding social production characteristics, non-economic services should be eliminated from Annex XVI: social security services, religious services, trade union services;
- another request is to explicitly allow public services contracts to be reserved for non-profit organisations
- in order to ensure the correct application of the Directive, the Commission should create a support, training and monitoring mechanism for the relevant public

authorities and stakeholders to ensure full understanding and correct implementation of the directive

- contracting authorities should be able to take into account relevant information on the bidders' positive past performance

The meeting with Ms. Lieve Fransen, on 16 March set the foundation for a future cooperation of the network with the European Commissions. Important issues, such as the role of social services with regard to social cohesion, inclusion and poverty reduction were discussed.

As a follow up of the discussion with Ms. Fransen, the network asked for a stronger action to implement the Voluntary European Quality Framework. Two were the proposals of SSE:

- Set up a call for proposals under the PROGRESS Program
- Give exposure to Member States that have themselves launched initiatives to implement the VEQF.

To strengthen the proposal of the Commission, the network released a paper on the initiatives to improve and promote the quality in social services in Portugal, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia.

SSE lately also launched a reflection paper on the employment in the social and health sector calling for "5 million new jobs before 2017!". It analyses the distinctive characteristics of the sector and of its workforce and its performances in the last years.

"The health and social services sector can represent a strategic solution to the growing needs for care and of employment. Non-profit social service providers have a big role in the provision of social and health and exchange and moved by the principle of reciprocity, should be recognized".



Documents' and policies papers can be found [here](#)

Toronto Declaration on bridging knowledge, policy and practice in aging and disability

The participants at the Growing Older with a Disability conference a part of the Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Ageing and Technology (FICCDAT), held in Toronto, Canada June 5-8, 2011 produced this declaration and invite governmental, non-governmental, professional, and consumer stakeholders to join it in supporting and implementing this plan of action.

The Toronto Declaration calls for a change in the pension and social security systems; preparation of health and social service providers; prevention and management of age and disability associated secondary conditions and chronic diseases; design of sustainable policies to support healthy aging and community-living as well as long-term and palliative care; and the development of disability and age-friendly services and settings within our societies.

This declaration builds upon two important EASPD declarations, above others: the [Graz Declaration on Disability and Ageing, 9th June, 2006](#), [the Linz Declaration on Independent Living for Ageing Persons with Disabilities, January 2012](#).

[The Toronto Declaration is available here!](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

EASPD in cooperation with BAG:WfbM and Unapei publishes a report on Article 27 of the UNCRPD



The report focuses on the role of adapted work settings in the international framework provided by the UNCRPD; in particular, special attention has been given

to Article 26 and 27, as they both deal with principles, measures and services offered by adapted work settings.

Adapted work settings, commonly known also as sheltered workshops, are not referred to in the UNCRPD. This requires clarifications for the thousands of people that benefit from their services and whose future looks therefore uncertain.

The analysis was carried out starting from three main subjects:

- What the Convention brought in general terms through its paradigm shift and the subsequent challenges for social services;
- The analysis of the current text of Article 26 and 27 and the links to the role of sheltered workshop matters;
- The history of the discussions around the inclusion of sheltered workshops in the UN CRPD.

Article 26 dealing with issues concerning the “functioning” of the individual, renews the entitlement to habilitation and rehabilitation service, while Article 27 concerns the right to work, which should lead to the possibility to gain a living and lead a life of dignity. Most sheltered workshops, that are providing rehabilitation and work related activities, seem, according to some, to be not fully compliant with either of the two articles as they provide rehabilitation-based activities on an on-going basis and offer work without fully guaranteeing conditions applying under the labour law.

This concern emerged as well during the negotiation activities of the UN CRPD and was partly responsible for their exclusion from the current article on the right to work. However, the implementation of the Convention presents some challenges, especially when it comes to rights and obligations concerning overlapping fields of action, as may be the case for Article 26 and 27. Services like sheltered workshops may sometimes and very often fulfill more than one function for persons with disabilities, thus their compliance to the UN CRPD articles is particularly sensitive. In the framework of a holistic approach to persons with disabilities, where disability itself is not the focus of attention, but everything is about the individual and the enjoyment of his rights, it is of utter importance to keep a good balance between the multitude of skills, personal choices, possibilities of individual development and society’s response.

The report provides a state of play of possible links existing between sheltered workshops and the UN CRPD in order to gain a view on future developments needed in the provision of work opportunities to persons with (intellectual) disabilities.

[The full report is available at on our website.](#)

For more information on the report please contact Ms. Sabrina Ferraina at sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu.

***One of the Neighbours* project: evaluating cost-effectiveness in community-based housing**

The project “One of the Neighbors” is a project funded by Finland’s Slot Machine Association (RAY) and the section dealing with cost-effectiveness was conducted by the Tampere University of Technology (TUT). This project was launched in 2012 and it is coordinated by the Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disability. The aim of this project is to promote the implementation of the human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities by enabling the abolition of institutional housing in Finland. The objective of this study is to assess the cost effects of abolishing institutional housing. The research section of the project serves a complementary function and aspires to provide information about the costs and potential other measurable effects of different forms of housing to help the project and all parties involved in decision making.

People who participated were all people with relatively profound disability and the results in costs are interesting and at the same time not surprisingly: there is only minor increase in costs and the changes in quality of life are huge!

The report is available [here!](#)

EGDMS (European Guide Dog Mobility Standards): 3rd newsletter online!

The 3rd newsletter of the European Guide Dog Mobility Standards (EGDMS) is now available! Please find out more about what the project is about and what has been done [here!](#)

More information on the EGDMS project: [website](#)



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

WORDS FROM MEMBERS

Draga: supporting people with disabilities suffering from additional impairments in Slovenia!



Training, Education and Care Centre "Dolfke Boštjančič", Draga is providing services in education, training, work, health care and rehabilitation of children, adolescents and adults with intellectual disabilities and additional impairments.

The Centre was established in 1984 by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and it is situated in the outskirts of Ljubljana. The service provides support to individuals with disabilities suffering from additional impairments and double diagnosis (physical impairment, epilepsy, deafness blindness, behavioural disorders, etc.).

Draga is currently involved in these programs:

- Training: in accordance with valid programmes approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports. These programmes include: pre-school education, obligatory elementary education, further education and adult education.
- Health care: Various doctors and specialists are engaged (GPs, neurologists psychiatrists, specialists in physical and rehabilitation medicine, orthopaedic surgeons, dentists ...), together with physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists;
- Social work and psychological treatment;
- Accommodation: smaller residential home units or day care centres are in use;
- Sheltered workshops: users produce all sorts of items, i.e. greeting cards; they grow mushrooms and flowers, take care of animals, etc.

Draga works in tight cooperation with parents, families, institutions, research centres (i.e. dedicated to training of staff). It is developing ethical and professional principles/framework that each staff member working for the organisation should respect. The organisation is very much involved in the active participation of its users (especially children, adolescents and adults) to the every-day environment stimulated also thank to staff members and families.



The Centre welcomes students in the field of social work by giving them a practical training on how to work with people with disabilities. Moreover, together with the Ministry of Education and the Slovenian Social Chamber, Draga organises training for experts, providing and spread the knowledge throughout manuals in relevant activities undertaken (i.e. Lifelong Learning Manual, Music Activities Manual, etc.).

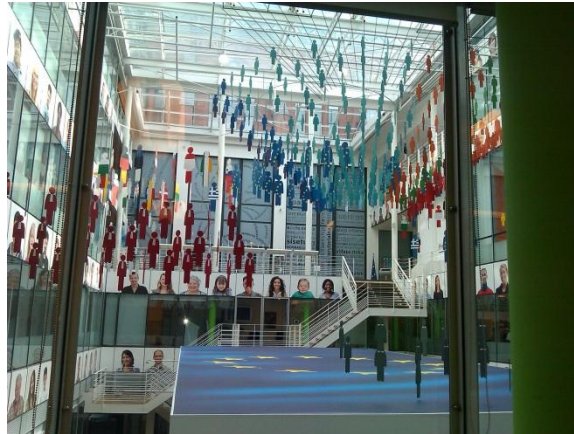
Draga's goal is to offer a comprehensive range of services for children, adolescents and adults to make them leave independently and being actively involved in the society they live in.

In the future Draga wishes to develop a network of modern services and programmes to meet the needs of users and their families as well as to improve the staff training in the field. Indeed Draga's most important goal is to keep the high level quality of service achieved also thank to the staff and to preserve the high degree of satisfaction of current users and their relatives.

Three-days in Brussels for the Austrian students of the Master's Degree Social Work!

From the 18th to the 20th of April a group of students from [the Master in social work at the Volalerg University of Applied Sciences](#) were on a study trip to Brussels organised by EASPD. The degree program in Social Work prepares its students in a professionally, methodologically, practically and personally oriented way so that they will support people, groups and the community in autonomously determining and humanly mastering their (collective) life.

All along their stay in Brussels they visited the European Commission where they met the representatives working for the EY of Active Ageing and the Disability Unit. The visit continued at the European Economic and Social Committee at the European Council. In the EASPD offices, the students discussed with our Secretary General Luk Zelderloo the role of service providers in Europe and they met NGOs representatives working in the social field (i.e. Solidar and Lumos) as well as Mr Egbert Holthuis Head of Unit - "Social Protection - Social Inclusion Strategy" of the European Commission working on Social Protection, Social Inclusion Strategy.



A three-day of study trip where the students could learn more about how the EU and its institutions influence their daily-life (i.e. when legislating in the social field), how EASPD works, what it does to represent service providers at the EU level and what other organisations working in the social field also do to build a more inclusive social Europe.

This was indeed a very interesting experience where a fruitful exchange of information occurred between the grassroots level (future social workers) and the European level, creating a real link to the civil society we are representing.



Serbia: supporting services for people with disabilities in videos campaign together with EASPD

Our member Center for Society Orientation - COD produced, in collaboration with EASPD 5 videos supporting services for people with disabilities in Serbia

The videos have been produced in the framework of a joint project on “Social services for persons with disabilities as support for equal socio-economic development”. These videos have been broadcasted since mid-November on local TV stations in 10 municipalities in Serbia, including Belgrade, and on National Television with in the specialized TV magazine dedicated to persons with disabilities.

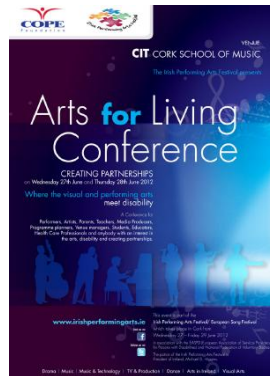
Five videos were produced on the following subjects:

- [Transportation](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Leisure time](#)
- [Community support](#)



EVENTS NOTIFICATION

“Arts for Living” during the Eurosong Festival



Next 27th of June, in Cork, Ireland, the “Arts for Living” international conference will be held between 9am and 5pm in the CIT Cork School of Music. In the framework of the Eurosong Festival for people with intellectual disabilities organised in Cork, from 27th to 29th of June 2012, a conference on “Arts and Living” will take place. This conference will bring together a diverse range of arts initiatives that are happening around the world which contribute to the development of arts & inclusion for people with disabilities.

The conference will be in English only.

For more information on the conference program, please [click here](#).

To access the website, [click here](#).

Conference reminders



[EASPD conference: “ME AND ME, Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities: Dual Diagnosis?” Ljubljana and Project development workshop \(Ljubljana, Slovenia 23-25/05/2012\)](#)



[IBB2- Inclusive Care Teams - People with learning difficulties become colleagues \(Brussels, 19 June 2012\)](#)



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