

EASPD NEWSFLASH

JULY 2011

Community living – a reality or a dream? More than 170 participants at EASPD conference in Linz, Austria

From June 30th to July 1st, the EASPD conference "Old – So What? Independent Living for Seniors with Disabilities" took place in Linz, Austria. More than 170 participants discussed with experts from all around the world how an integrative society for everybody could become a reality.

Right at the start of the conference Dr. Max Rubisch, head of the department for Equality for Persons with Disabilities of the Austrian federal ministry, set the tone of the event. "Disabilities should not be seen as a problem or a stigma", Rubisch insisted. "Instead, persons with disabilities should be considered to be an enrichment."

The cooperation between EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) and Caritas for Persons with Disabilities Upper Austria made it possible to host the conference and enable an animate international exchange. A focus was to make the different situations in various European states visible, compare best-

practice-examples and set agendas for the future. As the number of seniors with disabilities is rising, services have to be developed in the areas of professional care, medical support, but also simply in the area of support in everyday life. The aim is to enable persons with disabilities a high quality of living up until old age.

In workshops and seminars the participants identified problematic areas that have to be overcome. All agreed that the specialized service sector for persons with disabilities has to be linked with mainstream services for elderly people. In the living and housing sector, institutions have to move away from the traditional model of residential buildings towards a more innovative community-based living. Gerhart Hofer from the Kathi-Lampert-School explained the problem of residential buildings. "The paradigma of protecting hinders development", Hofer emphasized. "Because of that, persons with disabilities are cut off from society."

On a European level the participants found great po-

tential in the transfer of know how and the sharing of knowledge. At the moment, too little information is accessible on a European level and in easy-to-read language. In the future, this can be a cornerstone for developments in the field of seniors with disabilities.

Next to the subject-specific core themes another topic was tackled that was seen as significant for a higher quality in living for seniors with disabilities. Dirk Jarre from the European Federation of Older People (EURAG) advocated to critically look at contemporary values. "Values change as life changes", he explained. "Our values are our legacy for those who are not born yet."



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Polish EU Presidency should focus on anti-discrimination directive

On 1st of July 2011, Poland took over the rotating presidency of the European Union from Hungary. The sixmonth rotating Presidency provides the Member State holding this function with many formal and informal possibilities to influence the shape of the EU anti-discrimination legislation and to enhance its significance by means of e.g. wide promotion.

A few weeks before the formal beginning of the Presidency, the Polish government presented its priorities. They include the multi-annual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, the Internal Market, Eastern Partnership, energy policy, Common Security and Defence Policy as well as the full exploitation of intellectual capital in Europe. Unfortunately, the list of priorities of the Polish Presidency does not mention equal opportunities or the fight against discrimination apart from a general statement relating to the need of providing persecuted Christians with help. This does not mean, however, that by neglecting this issue the Polish government can just ignore the necessity to implement such an important EU policy during its Presidency. The current EU agenda encompasses numerous legal acts and issues concerning measures against inequalities to be enforced.

One of the tasks that the Polish Presidency should treat seriously is the project of the so-called horizontal anti-discrimination directive proposed already in 2008 during the French Presidency. It introduces the ban on discrimination based on sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in the access to services and goods. education. healthcare and social security. This proposal is highly important, because it meets equality standards set by the Treaties and it puts an end to the so-called hierarchisation of protection against discrimination. which has encountered harsh criticism. The current EU legislation prohibits discrimination on the above mentioned grounds only in the sphere of employment and work, at the same time granting greater protection to those who experience racial, ethnic or gender discrimination. It has to be emphasised that the European Commission proposal was strongly supported both of European NGOs acting on behalf of the discriminated and of the European Parliament, which adopted the 'Buitenweg Report' on 2 April 2009. A substantial majority of Member States (including Poland) supports

in principle the need to implement the directives. The Polish government should, therefore, take advantage of the current favourable conditions for this initiative in Europe and convince the German and the Czech republic governments (two of the few countries opposing the legislation) to support the proposal. From the legal and social point of view, it is incomprehensible that particular social groups are still unequally protected against discrimination.



Accreditation and Certification of basic vocational education for disadvantaged people via NQF – Final conference on September 8, 2011 in Gleisdorf, Austria

EASPD News

The NQF INCLUSIVE project is reaching its final phase. The two year EU funded project started in October 2009 and will hold its final conference on 8 September 2011 in Gleisdorf, Austria. During the conference the outcomes of the project will be presented by the partners.

The overall aim of the project is the development of an accreditation model and certificate for non-formal education. It will be of a lower level than the existing vocational trainings/apprenticeships and developed in accordance with the European and the National Qualification Frameworks (EQF / NQF).

The final results will include a catalogue of standards, based on a former project

'Happy farm', which included a model for the classification of learning results, an examination and certification procedure, and a template of a certificate.

The catalogue of standards, together with the learning outcomes of the qualification programs for Austrian confectioners, Danish cooks and Maltese health and social carers at level 1 and 2 of the NQF will be published as a handbook (limited editions). All results and additional project information will be presented on a CD-ROM. From October 2011 onwards, all project results will also be available under www.ngfinclusive.org.

The results will be presented during the different national

conferences in Gleisdorf Austria on the 8th of September 2011, in Stockholm on the 29th of August 2011 and in Paola, Malta at the end of September 2011.

In the third E-Newsletter of the project, which will be disseminated in July, the state of play of the project and the results of the pilots will be presented, together with the announcements of the closing conferences.

For registration to the conference (free of charge) please contact marion.bock@chanceb.at

For any Information please visit www.ngfinclusive.org





Lifelong Learning Programme

EASPD organizes seminar on deinstitutionalization

In this seminar which will take place on 3rd and 4th October 2011 in Brussels we will compare data and approaches, models and strategies in the above mentioned countries and bring together representatives of authorities, persons with disabilities, families, service providers and other key stakeholders.

The starting point of the seminar will be the Expert Group Report: Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care and the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

The key questions of the

seminar will be

Figures – How many persons are living in the institutions in the participating countries?
Facilitators – Who are the facilitators in the deinstitutionalization processes in the participating countries?
Legislation – What kind of legislations is there behind the processes?

Funding streams – What are the funding streams for the process in the participating countries?

Barriers – What are the biggest barriers in this process in the participating countries?

Best practice examples –

What are the good examples of the de-institutionalization in the participating countries? New services – What are the new services for people who are moving from institutions to community-based care services in the participating countries?





Please note that this seminar is on invitation only. For more information contact Sabrina Ferraina on sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu



EASPD NEWSFLASH JULY 2011

Conference announcement: "Professional competence for quality services. Creating a Common Foundation in Care - The role of the European Care Certificate" on 15th September 2011 in Bologna, Italy





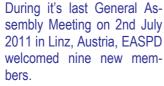


This conference, organized by AIAS Bologna onlus, EA-SPD and their European partners aimed at professionals and specialists working in public bodies, service provision and training in the care sector as well as at service users, celebrates the success of the "Creating a Common Foundation in Care" project which has spread the use of the European Care Certificate (ECC) across Europe, including a trial in Italy. Based on a common standard of key skills agreed at European level for those working or intending to work in this field,

and incorporating the new human rights based perspectives on care, the ECC provides a system for the evaluation of basic knowledge, with successful candidates receiving a certificate. The ECC provides an innovative, streamlined and original tool for assessing the suitability and basic skills of people working or intending to work in the field. At the same time it reveals training needs and testifies to the quality of service. But what is more, it is also a tool that spurs reflection and stimulates the re-evaluation of practices in the field in accordance with new parameters, more attuned to an inclusive society that is capable of ensuring a good quality of life for all its citizens.

For more information contact Charlotte Boetticher at the EASPD office charlotte.boetticher @easpd.eu

EASPD welcomes 9 new members at General Assembly Meeting in Linz, Austria



The new members are

- Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus from Romania
- Center for Society Orientation from Serbia
- Dolunay Association of Adult Disability from Turkey
- Eteva the Joint Municipal Authority (for Disability Services) from Finland

- Foundation "NET" from Bulgaria
- Youth With Disability Forum from Serbia
- Polish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities chapter in Jaroslaw
- The Eden and Razzett Foundation (Inspire) from Malta
- The Royal London Society for the Blind (RLSB) from the United Kingdom

We warmly welcome all new members and hope to see you at our next conference in Brussels on 9th and 10th November 2011.

