



EASPD NEWSFLASH

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EU AND YOU



The European Citizens’ Initiative: collect 1 million signatures and ask the European Commission to legislate in the field you proposed!

Starting from the 1st of April, a new instrument of participatory democracy at the EU level will enter into force: the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI). The ECI is a new tool allowing European citizens to collect at least 1 million signatures in 7 different countries in Europe aiming to invite the European Commission to come up with a legislative proposal.

The idea of establishing an ECI finds its rationale in the Treaty of Lisbon article 11 (TEU) and then in the approved Regulation 211/2011. This is a great opportunity for civil society organisations and European citizens to make their voice being heard by proposing the European Commission to take actions in a field where the European Union is competent.

Despite the specific requirements at national level, with different national requirements, there is optimism on the use of this instrument: for the first time in Europe there will be a real transnational participative democratic tool enabling and empowering citizens to participate in the European legislative process since its start.



More information on the step-by-step approach to follow when willing to present an ECI <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/how-it-works>

Being part of the European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance, EASPD supports this initiative wishing for an active involvement of civil society organisations in presenting legislative proposals to the European Commission in the social field.

For more information: [European Citizens' Initiative website](#)

A video contest for Decent Work for Youth

CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO BE REPRESENTED!

The ILO launched a video contest for young people (from 18 to 29 years) who want to show how the global jobs crisis is affecting them, their families and their communities. This is even an outstanding opportunity for young people with disabilities to share their perspective with people around the globe.

Three winners will be offered an all-expenses paid trip to Geneva, Switzerland to present their videos at the *Youth Employment Forum' which takes place at the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 23-25 May 2012. Videos should be submitted no later than 10 April 2012 at 23.59 GMT.

For more information please consult the website. [ILO website](#)

Debrecen declaration on Work and Inclusion

The International SOFT Assembly held in Debrecen 16-18 of February 2012 produced a declaration on Work and Inclusion.

In light of the economic and financial crises Europe is suffering from, the participants to the conference called for a more “effective implementation of the European Union's long term strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.

“We support the effectuation of the EU strategy by designing and implementing innovative educational and training programmes for persons with special needs and professionals as well as volunteers who are facilitating their employment, moreover by raising awareness and understanding about persons with special needs and their added value to society. In order to achieve the goals of the strategy it is necessary to enable the employer and implement life-long educational and vocational training programmes taking into account long-term career perspective of each person with a special need. We recognize the value of persons with special needs who enrich society through their active participation in it”

For more information, click [here](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

INNOSERV in Europe: two important calls for tender

SOCIAL PLATFORM ON INNOVATIVE SOCIAL SERVICES

- 1) EASPD together with the INNOVERV partners is launching a call for tenders with regard to the implementation of the **Innoserv in Europe – project: Social platform on innovative social services**. We are now seeking to award a contract to an independent external new media agency, to carry out the building and design of a web platform for Innoserv in Europe. (max. value: 45.000 euro VAT included)

Deadline: April 11 12hPM

For more information please consult the document [here](#)

For additional information please contact Mr [Philippe Eynaud](#)

- 2) EASPD together with the INNOVERV partners are now seeking to award a contract to an **independent agency to carry out the production of 20 films/clips visualizing innovation in social service provision** . (max. value: 100.000 euro + 13.000 euro travel budget VAT included)

Deadline: April 30 12hPM

For more information please consult the document [here](#)

For additional information please contact Mr [Andreas Langer](#)

What about satellite assistance for people with disabilities?

Find out more about our INCLUSION project aiming to create a satellite navigation device for people with motor impairments, based on Galileo technologies.

Despite some initial difficulties, Market Trials took place from 19 to 30 March, i.e. the testing of a prototype resulting from the joint efforts of technical partners in the project and EASPD. 8 volunteers tested the satellite navigation system for 2 weeks provided project partners with their feedback. Freedom of movement is a key concern in the disability sector, EASPD and its partners hope that the project will represent a significant step forward in exploring the opportunities offered by new technologies for the benefit of disabled persons.

More information on www.inclusion-fp7.org or by contacting Hervé Gauthier, herve.gauthier@easpd.eu.

Please find out more about it also on the Parliament Magazine, page 103: [link](#)



The Rix Centre at UEL kicks off the “Klik in” pilot

DEVELOPING WEBSITES FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



The 20th of March saw the first group training session for Teachers and SLP staff at the Rix Centre in the framework of the W2ID project. Seventeen staff members attended the pilot which it was introduced with presentations, video clips and hands on experience of making an easy-build Klik in website together. Ajay Choksi, a young man with intellectual disabilities who works at the Centre, presented some of his own website building work, demonstrating the way he started with producing personal content. Ajay’s advice website (see: [link](#)) provides information on subjects like safety in the community, travel, work and love presented in visual form with easy-read sentences. It helped the trainees see the type of material that might emerge from the project with their own learners. Ajay’s video on the introduction to his website features his advice for other young people with intellectual disabilities who might be interested in making their own website on independent living: ‘You can do it and you can live it!’

Attendees came from 3 different East London Schools, 2 Local Authorities – who will be engaging adult volunteers and advocates on the Pilot – and from two Community learning Centres that provide vocational training and support for adults with ID in the community.

Surprisingly, the majority of the participants had already had some experience in using digital media as part of their learning activities. This did not reduce their enthusiasm for taking on “Klik In”, as they saw the added value of a system that provides an organised structure with learning resources and a website-building software package that would simplify the process.

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Websites have already been set up for people teachers to start using it, so that they have familiarity with the system before they introduce it to their learners.

For more information about the project visit the [W2ID website](#) or contact Stefana Cankova-stefana.cankova@easpd.eu

EGDMS (European Guide Dog Mobility Standards): helping achieving freedom of movement for all in Europe

EGDMS has the objective to develop a European reference model for the training of Guide Dog instructors. Why this? Because today blind or visually impaired people do not have any mean to assess the quality of the guide dogs they might wish to get to support them daily, except in some countries where nationally accredited curricula have been developed and used for years. The project is taking as a basis the well-tested training system existing in the UK (under the lead of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association), adapting its contents to build up a European-wide reference model. In parallel to the project, CEN (the European Standardisation Committee) has initiated a dedicated workshop, which should result in a broadly accepted framework that can be used in any EU country as a basis for curricula matching the National and European Qualification Frameworks. On 20 September, the EGDMS final conference will take place in Brussels, bringing together project partners and key stakeholders. Registrations will soon be open ! We will keep you informed...

We invite you to access and register to the CEN workshop (open to all individuals and organisations) to contribute to the development of the European reference model for the training of guide dog instructors ! Follow the link [link](#)

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



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

My Rights – My Voice: Staff training by persons with disabilities on the UNCPRD

Respect for human rights, empowerment, quality of life: these are the underlining principles which brought together six partners from across Europe, including EASPD, in the 'My Rights-My Voice' project. Spanning over a three-year period, from October 2011 until October 2014, the project aims at enabling people with disability to use their skills and unique perspective to improve the quality of their life.

The content of the training programme is currently under development and will be finished by end of September 2012. Before its completion, a national expert meeting involving representatives from self-advocacy groups, experts from service providing organisations for persons with disabilities as well as experts from educational institutions will be organized in order to get feedback and recommendation on articles of the UNCRPD and skills to be trained on. Ultimately, the training will be implemented in October 2012 in four countries: Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary and United Kingdom.

For more information on this project please contact Sonia Staskowiak: sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu or visit the website www.myrightsmyvoice.eu. The first E-Newsletter on the project will be sent in the beginning of April.



ETNA, The European Thematic Network On Assistive Information Technologies

(WWW.ETNA-PROJECT.EU)

A review meeting took place the 28th of March in Brussels, bringing together the Foundation Don Gnocchi (project coordinator), The European Commission and some project partners, among which EASPD. It's a milestone in this 3-year project which started in 2011 and aims to develop a European database of databases, making available for citizens, service providers and other relevant stakeholders the broadest possible range of information on ICT-based Assistive Technologies. This project is closely connected with the network ATIS4all (<http://www.atis4all.eu/>), which is developing collaborative tools enabling the community of users, service providers, public authorities etc. to make the most out of web 2.0 to support and feed the outcomes of the ETNA project.



WORDS FROM MEMBERS

ASPA Housing Services Foundation: independent living first!



The ASPA Housing Services Foundation was founded in 1995 by thirteen Finnish NGOs. It represents several disability groups, including people with mental health condition, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. ASPA activities are partially sponsored by public funds.

The mission of the ASPA Housing Services Foundation is to promote opportunities for people with disabilities and people with mental health condition to live an independent and autonomous life in their home as well as in the service they use. ASPA develops tailored, high-quality and safe living solutions in ordinary residential environments. In general ASPA strives to influence the design and construction of housing and local communities' environment so as to treat the needs of all members of the society equally.

ASPA houses are rented to people with physical or mental conditions who need assisted services to be able to live in an ordinary urban or rural neighbourhood. The service user is involved in the acquisition process of his / her new home. Services are provided by the municipality where the person is living with a separate agreement either by ASPA or by other providers winning the public tendering for this service.

ASPA purchases demesnes, maintains and renovates them for the community's good. It develops activities regarding various aspects of housing and services for people with disabilities as well as it assists professionals and stakeholders in the field with information and knowledge on independent living solutions.

The main challenge faced by ASPA today is to maintain the market share in competition with bigger and business-oriented companies. In Finland, many NGOs have a relatively long history and tradition in providing services for people with disabilities. The future of this long and often inherently client-oriented service tradition is at stake: NGOs are losing their importance in providing services to people with disabilities vis-a-vis private business-oriented companies gaining shares in the market.

The influence of NGOs in a free market should be based on the quality of services concept in connection with the long run profitable investment for the community. Short-term savings turn out to be really expensive in the long run, especially with the current increasing need for service users' health care and social care. Further information: [link](#)



EVENTS NOTIFICATION

EASPD conference: “ME AND ME, Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities: Dual Diagnosis?”

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN ON <http://meandme.sous-slo.net>

Austria Trend Hotel, Ljubljana, 24-25. May 2012

On the **24th and 25th of May 2012**, EASPD together with the Slovenian umbrella organisation, SOUS will organize the conference “Me and Me - Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities: Dual Diagnosis?” in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The conference will tackle the notion of dual diagnosis, meaning a mental development disorder combined with mental health problems - a complicated and complex condition that requires special attention, not only in terms of treatment, but also in terms of support given to the families and staff.

In this regard, the overall aim of the conference is to raise awareness and improve the knowledge on mental health of all those involved in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities – the family, staff, professionals and the general public by exchanging good practices and views and by creating new links at the European and personal level.

We are honoured to have the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Danilo Türk, as a guest speaker.

We hereby invite you to participate at the conference. Registration, accommodation options and conference program: [click here](#) or via www.easpd.eu .

Please make sure to book a flight as soon as possible as the airport in Ljubljana is rather small and airfares options may get quite expensive. For alternative transportation options please [click here](#)

Contact person: sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu

Project development workshop: get involved!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, THE 23RD OF MAY 2012!

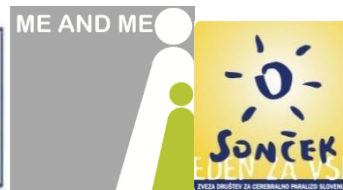
The project development workshop gives the opportunity to further develop and to set up international partnerships for the implementation of innovative project ideas. During a plenary session experts in the sector will give an update on funding options and on practical aspects to keep into consideration when presenting a project proposal.

This year 5 ideas for project will be developed in separate workshops: this is a nice opportunity to take join a project and be part in the developing part.

Please find the programme here: [link](#)

And if you want to get registered: [here](#)

For more information, please contact [Elisa Bruno](#) or [Hervé Gauthier](#)



IBB2- Inclusive Care Teams – People with learning difficulties become colleagues

BRUSSELS, 19 JUNE 2012

The seminar will be organised in the framework of the IBB2 project -Training for Disability Care Workers: Developing an integrated mentoring model to support starting a career as a disability care worker- sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Programme of DG Education and Culture. The overall aim of the project is to open the way for persons with learning difficulties to be employed **in the social care sector**.

During the seminar, special attention will go to the employment of persons with learning difficulties in the light of the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the UN Convention. Also the importance of diversity management and the main results of IBB1 and IBB2 will be discussed.

More information on the project results and the final seminar will be published in the next IBB2 E-Letter. For any Information on the project please visit www.lebenshilfe-guv.at/ibb2.

For registration to the seminar (free of charge) please contact Ms [Sonia Staskowiak](#)

Conference Pathways to Inclusion inclusive education and learning: Challenges and opportunities

13- 14 SEPTEMBER 2012, Budapest, Hungary

Organised by EASPD and the Association of Lifelong Learning in Hungary, in close cooperation with the 'Pathways to Inclusion' consortium



How to apply for a grant in the COMENIUS-GRUNDTVIG TRAINING DATABASE?

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/>

The conference is available in the training database of the European Commission. This gives you the opportunity to apply for a grant, which will cover most of your costs. The deadline for application is 30th April 2012 however, the deadline may change slightly according to your National Agency.

For more information about the eligibility criteria and the deadlines for a Comenius In-Service Training Grant, we kindly advice you to check the website of your Lifelong Learning Programme National Agency: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html

You will find the application form for the grant on the website of your National Agency. This form should be downloaded, filled in and send by post to your National Agency. Step by step instructions on how to fill in and send your application form are found at [website agency](#) - (Applications Guide LLP e-forms 2012)

Your National Agency will inform you if you have been awarded a grant, normally 7-10 weeks after the application deadline. You should then immediately contact EASPD to formally register for the conference. Registration will be open from May 2012 onwards on www.pathwaystoinclude.eu

It is a pleasure for us to invite you to this conference. For more information please contact goedele.avau@easpd.eu. Online registration, programme and general information can be found on www.pathwaystoinclude.eu from May 2012 onwards.

“New Work Opportunities for People with Intellectual Disabilities “

31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2012, THON HOTEL, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The event, organised by Inclusion Europe and L'Association Nationale d'Aide aux Handicapés Mentaux (ANAHM) will provide self-advocates, family members, professionals, and their organisations from all over Europe with a platform to exchange current policies and practices with a wide range of stakeholders. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Flemish will give all participants the opportunity to engage and exchange

For more information: [link](#)

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE



Please find out our new Facebook page with new content and new design!



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