

OCTOBER 2011

Final Project Conference - ImPaCT in Europe project: Connect, Personalise, Care: Person Centred Technology for Greater Quality of Life

Brussels, 9th and 10th November 2011

This European Conference is organised in the framework of the project ImPaCT in Europe - Improving Person Centred Technology in Europe sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Programme of DG Education and Culture. Its programme has been designed to deliver an exciting agenda bringing together key people from across Europe to demonstrate how assistive technology can significantly support independence for people with disabilities in a person centred way.

Key speakers hail from all

relevant stakeholder groups to debate issue from all perspectives and to reach a consensus on how to bring the PCT agenda forward.

Key topics that will be debated include:

- Ethics
- Training needs for care staff
- PCT for Communication
- Domotics (domestic robotics/intelligent houses)
- PCT and education
- Technology at work

The conference is aimed at

policy makers at all levels, service deliverers, organisations of end users and care professionals, researchers and other European stakeholders.

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INVITATION TO THE FINAL PROJECT ABI CONFERENCE

Friday, 21st October, 2011 in Ljubljana

Acquired brain injury - or "ABI" – is a pervasive health and social problem worldwide. Over 1.000.000 Europeans have an ABI each year. Medical and surgical advances have improved the odds for surviving an ABI. Of those who survive their initial injury, approximately 10.000 Europeans each year become permanently disabled, according to the Brain Injury Association (EBIS, www.ebissociety.org). A slow, very often lifelong, healing process is common.

Coping with the life-changing consequences of ABI presents also a great challenge for all staff who provide care and assistance to people who have had an ABI, especially

in settings with no special expertise in working with issues related to ABI. They often find it difficult to understand ABI because its effects are so varied and they are not easy to describe. However if the changes after the injury are not understood or managed appropriately, there is a direct effect on the quality of care and support provided to persons with ABI and an increased risk that long-term psychosocial, emotional and behavioural problems may emerge.

Effective ABI rehabilitation, care and support will lead to decreased dependency, opportunities for individuals with ABI to take their place as community members and re-

duced costs relating to care. ABI is a project that has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Program Leonardo da Vinci Call for Proposals 2009. The overall aim of project ABI is to build better lives for people with ABI and those affected by it by improving the quality of care and support given to them. During the past two years the ABI Partnership has developed and tested a basic training programme, which will provide staff the specific skills, knowledge, attitudes and responsibilities necessary to offer the highest standard of care and support possible.

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Most brain injury training programs are problem-focused as they emphasise the deficits and difficulties and focus on strategies to address these and on methods of therapy. The ABI training programme is centred on the individual with ABI and emphasises the approach, the principles and values that guide practice, taking into account all aspects of the lives of people with ABI and their families. Although the person-centred approach to care and support is emphasised, an important part of the ABI training programme is also understanding the complexity of ABI, developing appropriate intervention strategies to address the presenting challenges and highlighting available resources that may be of use to staff, persons with ABI and their family members.



Seminar on “Deinstitutionalization in Western European Countries” Brussels, 3rd and 4th October 2011

On 3rd and 4th October 2011 EASPD organized a closed seminar on the theme of deinstitutionalization in Western European countries. The seminar has been organized in cooperation with KVPS (the Service Foundation for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) and was sponsored by Ray, Finland. Although Eastern European countries seem to have a more solid tradition in institutionalized care, due to a not accomplished yet shift from the medical to the social model of care, Western European countries are not necessarily acting as positive leading examples. Community based services are much endorsed by international human rights treaties, but this doesn't transfer to a direct appliance of the rights they recognize in reality. Recently, austerity measures and cuts in the social expenditure are slowing down the process of deinstitutionalization, if not leaving aside the issue. Civil society activists, however, are putting forward the topic claiming institutionalized persons not to be considered as a minor problem or, worse, not a problem at all. People with disabilities, as well as children, minorities and persons with mental health problems living in institutions often are isolated from the broader community, do not have sufficient control over their life and the decisions that affect them and are not actively part of society; in a few words, they do not enjoy the fundamental rights that were sanctioned to them by the UN CRPD. During the seminar a group of experts in the field of deinstitutionalization discussed strategies on how to realize community based living in line with the principles of the UN CRPD and, particularly, with Article 19. In the process of deinstitutionalization they emphasized the importance of support to families, the need of training for staff, the active involvement of every person concerned in the process, including users themselves, their families and carers, staff and decision makers. On the side of stakeholders and decision makers, awareness raising was recognized as an issue of major importance in order to build up inclusive societies and inclusion practices should start from the very early stage of life. Alongside with this person centered arrangement should be the leading principle for every person moving out from an institution to a community based setting. The seminar led to the draft of a set of recommendations (based on the report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based care) and a full report will soon be available on EASPD's website. For further information contact Sabrina Ferraina at: sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu.

EASPD is entering in the EY2012 Coalition

Following the United Nation's International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) adopted in April 2002, all EU Member States endorsed the MIPAA Regional Implementation Strategy for Europe. In adopting it, all EU Member States committed to promoting active ageing by integrating the rights and needs of older persons into their national economic and social policies and by promoting a society for all ages. To mark the 10th Anniversary of this key political commitment, the European Union decided to declare 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012).

The EY2012 will serve as a framework for raising awareness, identifying, disseminating good practice and encouraging policymakers and stakeholders at all levels to promote active ageing and to support greater cooperation and solidarity between the generations.

The main objectives of the EY2012 will be to:

- Promote active ageing in employment;
- Promote active ageing in the community including through active citizenship, volunteering and caring;
- Promote active ageing at home through enabling healthy ageing and independent living;

- Enhance cooperation and solidarity between the generations.

Active ageing, key word of the EY2012, is defined by the World Health Organization's Policy framework as "the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. It allows people to realise their potential for wellbeing throughout their lives and to participate in society according to their needs, desires and capabilities, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need assistance".

The EY2012 Coalition - which at the moment brings together more than 20 European organisations who share a common vision of a society for all ages - believes that this European Year will be an important occasion to address demographic change as an opportunity and to consider innovative solutions to the current economic and social challenges facing our ageing societies. Inviting and empowering older people to age in good physical and mental health and to contribute more actively to the labour market and to their communities should help our societies better cope with the demographic challenge in a fair and sustainable way for all generations.

The aim of the coalition is to

mobilise all relevant actors to commit to taking specific actions and achieving particular goals in the run-up to and during this European Year so that tangible outcomes can be achieved within the next decade.

EASPD decided to enter in this coalition to bring in a social services viewpoint and to promote a disability perspective based on the values and principals enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. EASPD will share the expertise and knowhow acquired in the Annual Conference in Linz "Old? So what? Independent Living for Seniors with Disabilities" where the different situations in various European states were analysed and best-practice-examples compared. EASPD will also to work for the achievement of one of the main objectives stated during the conference: linking service sector for persons with disabilities with mainstream services for elderly people.

**Inclusive Care Teams
People with learning difficulties become colleagues**



The rationale of and the background to the IBB 2 project can be found in the Commission Disability Strategy and the Disability Action Plan 2008-2009. Since 2003 the Commission Disability Strategy has followed the aim of making equal opportunities a reality for all persons with disabilities. The EC Disability Action Plan 2008-2009 focuses on increasing accessibility to the open labour market for persons with disabilities.

People with disabilities are like other employees; they want to have a vocational training of high quality, they want to do a job they like, manage challenges in their job and want to get ahead, but this is not always possible. The current IBB2 project which is a follow up of IBB (2003-2006) wants to offer and open new and sustainable paths to the job market to people with dis-

abilities. The partnership wants to achieve this by offering adapted support systems which involve employers and the whole team in the workplace.

At the end of this project the result of this partnership should be the development of a comprehensive support model with the focus on diversity management and mentoring. More specifically, this will involve compiling a course concept and training materials to successfully implement inclusive care teams, next to the development of guidelines for the implementation of the support system in each partner country.

In this second year of the project's lifetime, we entered the pilot phase, where the training sessions on diversity management and mentoring of persons with learning disabilities were tested in Austria, Poland,

Germany and Spain. More news on the state of play of the project was sent a few days ago in the form of a second project newsletter, sent per email.

If you would like to receive more information on the project, or you would like to receive the second E-Letter, please contact sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu.

An introduction to the project and more information to download can be found in English, German, Polish and Spanish under <http://www.lebenshilfe-guv.at/ibb2>

Successful final conference of the European project "Creating a common foundation in Care" in Bologna, Italy



**For more information
also see
www.eccertificate.eu**

This conference which took place on 15th September 2011, 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. The conference which attracted around 150 participants aimed to investigate the impact of these new perspectives – which we consider essential to the delivery of

quality in service provision - on the professional training and qualifications of all staff in the sector: personal care workers, social care service managers, technical staff, educators, social workers, nurses, facility managers ... 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 certifi-

cate. 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.