



EASPD NEWSFLASH

JUNE 2012

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EU AND YOU



Findings of the International Zero Project Report 2012

A PRELUDE TO THE EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT



In 2011, the Essl Foundation launched the Zero Project with the objective of redressing the lack of expertise on how to plan and execute policies and strategies on disability. The Zero Project envisions a world without barriers. It monitors the national implementation of the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities around the world, creating platforms for sharing models that clearly improve the daily lives, and legal rights, of persons with disabilities.

One of the aims of the project is to identify and highlight both good practices and, in collaboration with the World Future Council, good policies which actively protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

As a prelude to the European Accessibility Act, Dr Ádám Kósa MEP, President of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament, hosted a joint conference organised by the World Future Council and the Essl Foundation. At the conference knowledge collected over the last year by the Zero Project in cooperation with over 100 experts from NGOs and foundations, academics and persons with disabilities was presented and discussed.

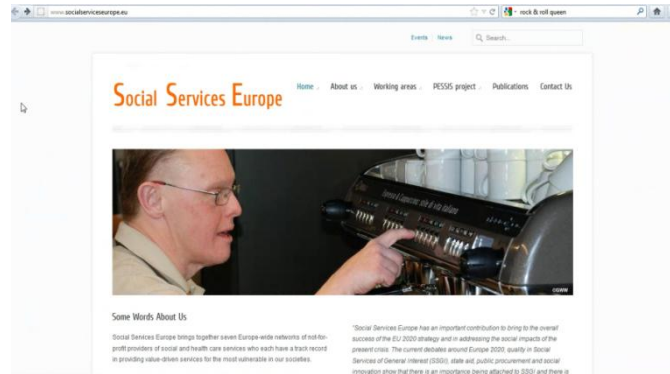
The main areas covered by the project are social indicators, good practices and good policies. The policies concern the most pressing issues Europe's stakeholders will need to address in the near future, such as anti-discrimination, accessibility and equality, supported decision-making, education, access to justice, personal assistance, and independent living.

During the lecture, organized in collaboration with the European Disability Forum, the findings of the international Zero Project Report were examined with a special focus on accessibility, in order to contribute to the discussion thereon within the European Commission, the European Parliament and the member states of the European Council.

Experts spoke on the accessibility of goods and services, illustrating fundamental elements needed to achieve access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, as well as to other facilities and services open, or provided, to the public.

The full Zero Project Report for 2012 and the Essl Social Index Pilot Study 2010, both in PDF and easy-to-read format can be accessed at: [Zero Project web site](#) .

SOCIALSERVICESEUROPE.EU has been launched!



With the launch of its brand new website, Social Services Europe (SSE) aims to spread the word about the role of social services in Europe, through easy and accessible data, documentation and news on a wide range of topics such as public procurement, social innovation and employment in the health sector.

SSE is a recent established organisation which brings together seven Europe-wide networks of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services. These organisations have a track record in providing value-driven services for the most vulnerable persons in our societies.

Keep yourself updated on our forthcoming events, consulting the section: “Events Calendar”!

You can find more information regarding [Social Services Europe](#) projects on our web-site!

Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities

On 13 June 2012, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the *Recommendation CM/Rec (2012)6 on protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities*, which was prepared by CAHPAH-WGD working group of experts last year in Strasbourg.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE **CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

In the document, the Committee of Ministers addresses all the member states, stating that all States must continue their efforts to reach the objectives of the *Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015*, with a particular focus on its cross-cutting aspect “Women and girls with disabilities”.

A mechanism will be set up, allowing member states to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the provisions stated on the Recommendation through the adoption of the appropriate legislative measures and of positive actions likely to encourage the participation of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life.

Women and girls with disabilities are citizens holding equal rights and obligations, particularly considering the following fields, included in the appendix of the recommendation:

1. equality and non-discrimination legislation,
2. research, data and statistics,
3. participation in political and public life as well as decision making,
4. education and training,
5. employment and economic situation,
6. health care and rehabilitation,
7. access to social protection and community-based services,
8. sexual and reproductive rights, motherhood, and family life,
9. access to justice and protection from exploitation, violence and abuse,
10. participation in culture, sport, leisure and tourism,
11. raising awareness and changing attitudes;

You can find the text of the recommendation in the [English](#) version.

Ombudsman ethical principles for EU officials

The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration in the institutions and bodies of the European Union.

The organisation has published a set of “public service principles” that should guide the conduct of EU civil servants. Five principles were found through an initial consultation with the European Network of Ombudsmen and are based on the best practice of the Member States.

1. Commitment to the European Union and its citizens

According to this principle civil servants should be conscious that the Union’s institutions exist in order to serve the interests of the Union and of its citizens in fulfilling the objectives of the Treaties.

2. Integrity

The principle of integrity is one of the most important ethical principles. The European Ombudsman recommendation on it imply that Civil servants should take steps to avoid conflicts of interest and the occurrence of such conflicts. They should take swift action to resolve any conflict that arises. This obligation continues after leaving office.

3. Objectivity

The aim of this principle is the impartiality of the Civil Servant, he has to be open-minded and guided by evidence. He should be ready to acknowledge and correct mistakes.

Another important characteristic is regarding the anti-discrimination which should drive the work of the Civil Servant.

4. Respect for others.

They should make genuine efforts to understand what others are saying and express themselves clearly, using plain language.

5. Transparency

Concerning transparency proper records and welcome public scrutiny of their conduct should be provided, including their compliance with these public service principles.

The entire Recommendation are available on the [Ombudsman website!](#)

EU's framework to monitor, promote and protect the implementation of the UN CRPD

On the 23rd of December 2010, the EU ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). According to Article 33 (2) CRPD, States parties to the Convention should establish or designate 'a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the CRPD.

During the last High Level Group on Disability on the 10th May, the announcement was made of a new framework that will be set up by the European Commission and Council, to carry out the implementation of Article 33 (2) on behalf of the European Community.

According to the proposition, the framework will be composed by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Commission, the European Ombudsman and the European Disability Forum (EDF).

EASPD believes that next to Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), the major actors concerned with the promotion and protection of disability rights, service providers, as well as other mainstream actors, should be included in the framework.

This is in line with the CRPD ethos as well as with the Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights', commonly called the Paris Principles.

The Paris Principles outline the responsibilities, composition and working methods of so-called national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In addition to setting out the functions of NHRIs, they lay emphasis on two fundamental principles: independence and pluralism.

The Paris Principles also mention a series of categories who should be involved in the work of NHRIs, such as Non-governmental organisations responsible for human rights, trade unions, concerned social and professional organisations, for example,

associations of lawyers, doctors, journalists and eminent scientists, universities and qualified experts, parliament and government departments (in an advisory capacity).

The practice of European countries such as Austria, Belgium, Slovenia, Italy, Denmark show that the framework can include actor such as service providers, academic institutions, labour unions, social security institution.

The pluralism in the composition of the framework provides for expertise from different perspectives and facilitates cooperation between people working in different sectors. DPOs remain however the major actors concerned with the promotion and protection of disability rights. While other actors are involved in the work of the framework, these organisations keep their predominant position in this framework, thereby avoiding an imbalance to be created in its membership.

Not including other civil society actors would be a missed opportunity to really mainstream disability and involve a broad societal network next to social service providers and DPOs. CRPD is about the society we want and is owned by all actors advocating for a more inclusive society.

Establishment of the Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities



COUNCIL OF EUROPE **CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

A Committee of Experts on the rights of People with Disabilities has been set up by the Committee of Ministers. This new organism will have the task of assisting Member States in the promotion and implementation of the Council of Europe *Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society*, under the supervision of the European Committee for Social Cohesion.

The aim of the Committee of Experts is to improve the quality the life of persons with disabilities in Europe through the development of relevant national legislation, policies and practices.

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The main focus of the work of the Committee of Experts will be:

- the implementation of the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life;
- the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities;
- the protection of specifically vulnerable groups of children and young people with disabilities and in the participation in cultural life.

To pursue these main objectives, the Committee will build and provide a platform for the exchange of information, experiences, knowledge and good practices among Member States.

EASPD strongly supports and participates in the work of the Committee being part of the Observers group with the right to send representatives and to vote during the session meetings.

You can find the whole document on the [Council of Europe website](#)

Guide to gender mainstreaming in public disability policies

In February 2012 The Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI) launched the Guide to gender mainstreaming in public disability policies.

CERMI is the Spanish umbrella organisation representing the interests of women and men with disabilities in Spain. The Guide is one more step forward in CERMI's strong commitment in its advocacy efforts to securing recognition for women and girls with disabilities as rights holders worthy of the same protection and recognition as other citizens.

This guide is a technical document who seeks to explore how to effectively include women and girls with disabilities in different areas of life, often overlooked in public policies, and to offer guidance to policy makers and third-sector activists on the topic.

In eleven chapters, the guide covers a number of themes including accessibility, independent living, training and employment, education, violence and abuse, health and sexual and reproductive rights, among others, under the guiding principles of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender or disability.

You can find the entire guide on [CERMI website](#).

PICTOGENDA: a new device for children and adults with cognitive disabilities



“I cordially support and encourage any effort in favor of disseminating the PICTOGENDA internationally.”

Dr. Wil H.E. Buntinx (FAAIDD),

Associate research professor, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

We are pleased to present you PICTOGENDA, a breakthrough technology to help persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities learn to apply self-management strategies.



Pictogenda is a special diary that uses pictures and pictographs to allow children and adults with cognitive disabilities or with difficulty in reading, writing and/or talking, to plan and schedule their activities. Using PICTOGENDA stimulates the user's sense of time, ability to communicate and independence.

The author, speech therapist Ms. Martina Tittse-Linsen, developed the diary in her daily work with people with intellectual disabilities. PICTOGENDA was first published in 1997 and every year since new pictographs have been added and the results of follow-up studies integrated.



PICTOGENDA has a sturdy and easy-to-clean imitation leather cover. Pages can be easily added or removed thanks to a handy binding system. The diary also contains a number of sticker sheets with pictographs. These pictographs are specially designed for PICTOGENDA. But it is also possible to use pictographs from other (online) sources ([pictogenda](#); [pictoselector](#)).

There are currently over 13,000 PICTOGENDA users in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. In 2013 a English- and French-language ([pictogenda](#)) Pictogenda will be published.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Launch of FRA Reports on the discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities

On 07 June 2012, The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights launched two new Reports on the Discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities and people with mental health.

These Problems persist despite the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by the EU and twenty of its Member States.



The aim of FRA is to help and to ensure that fundamental rights of people living in the EU are protected. One of the most important works for the Agency is to collect evidence about the situation of fundamental rights across the European Union and providing advice, about how to improve the situation.

The two new FRA reports are a research work which captures the experiences of exclusion and discrimination of people with intellectual disabilities or mental health problems. The reports highlight the need to move from institutional to community-based living arrangements and to reformulate laws and policies to make them more inclusive.

Both FRA reports provide a basis for EU and Member States' discussions on how to protect and fulfill the rights of people with disabilities, and can be used to support them in fulfilling their obligations under the CRPD. The reports are being presented during an international conference on "Autonomy and inclusion" in Copenhagen on 7-8 June 2012.

You can find the FRA Reports [here!](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

Final conference of the project PESSIS: “Promoting employers’ social services organisations in social dialogue”



On the 22nd of June the final conference of the project PESSIS: “Promoting employers’ social services organisations in social dialogue” took place at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

The project started in December 2011 and is promoted by EASPD in partnership with the members of Social Services Europe, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, Caritas Europa and 11 national associations. It is co-financed by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

The aim of PESSIS is to better understand how social dialogue is organised and structured (or not) in the social sector in Europe. The objective is contributing to the development and promotion of social dialogue in the social service sector including not for profit employers as key actors.

To achieve this, a mapping exercise has been done across 11 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, UK) delivering 11 National Reports. The reports were combined in a **European Summary Report** on social dialogue and collective bargaining in the social services sector, next to some political recommendations.

Xavier Verboten, member of the European Economic and Social Committee opened the conferences expressing the interest of the EESC for the process started with the PESSIS project. Luk Zelderloo, Secretary General of EASPD and chair of the conference, underlined the need for establishing social dialogue instruments for the social services sector, not structurally represented by European Social Dialogue at the moment. Jean-Paul Tricart, Head of the Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations Unit, of DG Employment and Social Inclusion, manifested that the EC is interested in

developing social dialogue in the social services sector. He also highlighted that the first step in order to reach the European level is to establish networks of employers at a national level, in a bottom-up process.



Our sector can represent a strategic solution to the growing needs for care and for employment but to do this we have to have a serious dialogue at European and national level on the fundamental issues of working conditions, training and retraining, the gender gap, mobility, informal and undeclared care work, low wages, recruitment and structural investment, said Heather Roy, representing Social Services Europe, new established network representing 100,000 social and health services active across Europe, all involved in the PESSIS project as partners.

In the second part of the conference the national researchers from Belgium, Spain, Ireland, France and Austria gave presentations on the different models on how social dialogue in the social services sector is established.

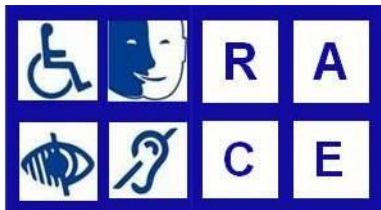
Afterwards, representatives of trade unions, and civil society organizations discussed the policy recommendations. One of the key point that emerged from the panel was the need for mutual recognition on one hand of the role of actors at European level by employers and employees, and of social sector employers as social dialogue partners. Additional research is required to explore new ways of developing social services delivery, drawing on new technologies as well as preserving sensitive local delivery.

All information on the conference and on the PESSIS project can be found on the website socialserviceseurope.eu section PESSIS project.

RACE project moves up to its second phase!

The EU-project Rising Awareness and Corporate Employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Turkey (RACE) which started in November 2011 is steadily moving ahead.

In the past eight months the project partners worked intensively to complete the first phase of the project. Training materials and models of good practices on Supported employment were reviewed. Course materials, modules and curricula from several other European projects in which EASPD was also a partner- Pass It On, Conversion, Atlas and lam2003, were adapted and further developed for the Turkish and Italian specific needs of the employment markets. Furthermore an extensive research on good practices in the disability and labour market policies was conducted. As a result, the partners developed a “Good practice catalogue”.



During the second partner meeting on 25-26 June in Bologna, Italy, the start of the second project phase of implementation of the developed materials in practice was discussed. The first events will follow in September with the organisation of policy roundtables in Turkey and the EU. Next to the policy events the adapted training programme for managers, VET providers, councillors, etc. will be put into practice through different pilot trainings in Turkey and Italy where experts from the former projects will be actively involved.

Along with the policy and training activities the partners will start the preparations for the final project conference which will take place in the autumn of 2013 in Istanbul and will present the project findings, outcomes and achievements.

To get better acquainted with the RACE project visit the website [employdisable](#) and the [RACE page](#) on EASPD website where you will also find the RACE leaflet and first newsletter. More information about the project activities will follow in the second newsletter.

Contact: sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

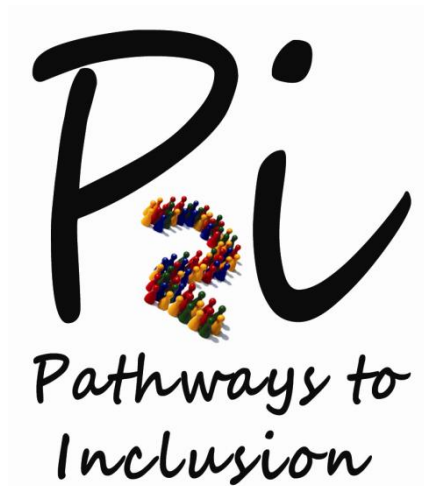
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

EVENTS NOTIFICATION

PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION CONFERENCE

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND LEARNING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 13-14 SEPTEMBER 2012



The right to inclusive and high quality education is universal and applies to all children, youth and adults, including those with disabilities. Since the Salamanca Statement of 1994 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, political initiatives have been taken in the field of legislation and educational reform within the 27 EU countries. In practice, however, reaching the goals of a society guaranteeing equal opportunities for all is still a challenging process. In many

special as well as mainstream schools still much uncertainty and a lack of knowledge can be seen. For that reason, the Comenius network '**Pathways to Inclusion**' (P2i) was developed almost 3 years ago.

The Network's initial Conference in Dublin (2009) represented a fruitful opportunity to examine the major issues concerning inclusive education by sharing ideas, strengthening and creating new networks and agreeing on practical ways of moving forward.

As a follow-up, the Network's **final Conference in Budapest on 13-14th September 2012** will reflect on the current situation of inclusive education in terms of both policies and practices and identify the possible answers to today's challenges. While the focus of attention on the first conference day will be on the results of the P2i network, the scope on the second day will be broader, introducing the concept of inclusive education for all forms of lifelong learning, from pre-school to adulthood.

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 pathwaystoinclusion

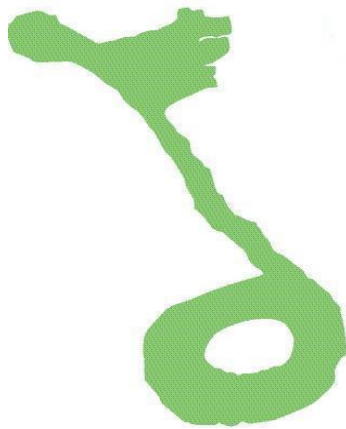
Participants from Central and Eastern European countries have the opportunity to apply for a grant of maximum 500€ at the EASPD office. Deadline: 30th June 2012.

More information on pathwaystoinclusion

International music festival for disabled people

Supremacy of the spirit

BULGARIA, DAVIN, 22 - 28 AUGUST 2012



The foundation “Start” is born in Bulgaria in May 2007 for carrying out socially useful activity using the arts to establish the place of people with a different degree of disability and creative musical talent in the social life of our country.

With this aim, the Start Foundation decided to organise cultural events assuring possibilities for stage performance of children and young disabled people.

The first music festival ***Predominance of the spirit*** was held in the city of Targovishte during 2007. In 2008 the festival moved in the city of Devin and became international.

The aim of this event is to mark a change in the social attitude about the abilities of talented children and young disabled people, to lead them to the front line and to show them as completely equal partners to their coevals.

By the realization of the International music festival ***Predominance of the spirit*** and the other creative musical programs, Start assures the possibility for professional development and establishment of the people with physical problems so they can be active creative personalities.

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The activities of the Foundation are directed toward finding talented children and young disabled people in the field of fine arts and music and organizing cultural events with their active participation.

The Music festival *Predominance of the spirit* gives the possibility to the audience to accept art through the senses of the disabled and to feel that it is humanity which unites us. The purpose is to reinforce the idea for spiritual closeness with those who are different, to direct the attention of society toward the striving of talented children and young disabled people for equality and cultural development, to give an example for respect and tolerance toward difference in all its forms.

The Start foundation is looking forward to meeting you in Davin from the 22nd to the 28th of August 2012 for their next festival!

EASPD WORKSHOP ON QUALITY OF SERVICES

GLEISDORF, AUSTRIA, 15 - 19 OCTOBER 2012

Quality of services is the result of many interdependent, inter-related factors. It is not the simple result of one type of approach or action but rather the result of many interconnected issues.

Quality of services does not only concern the implementation of a simple tool. Quality of services is crucial and essential for all people in need of using the services provided. Consequently, the discussion about quality of services is, in fact, a discussion about quality of life, for real people.

Interest in the debate on the quality of social services is growing among public authorities, service providers, users and other stakeholders. Quality of services has been very high in the European Agenda, in particular since the adoption of the UNCRPD in 2009. The responsibility of service providers for the innovation of services, striving for quality, and contributing to the implementation of the UNCRPD has increased.

For these reasons EASPD decided to organise a workshop on quality of services. The workshop will be held in Austria, Gleisdorf, hosted by Chance B, the first service provider in Austria who followed the goal to support persons with disabilities in their own village in normal life.

The workshop is addressed to service providers, quality managers, trainers, quality assurance professionals, quality inspectors and R&D professionals and it will be structured around **4 main topics**:

- **System Perspective:** local, regional, national and international (Local Participation Planning, Supported decision making, Peer counseling; Case management; person centred services; personalized budget; quality frameworks, standards)
- **Individual Perspective:** planning and leading independent lives, maximizing Quality of Life (Person centred planning/services/activities and support)
- **Outcomes and continuous quality improvement** (Quality management, subjective and objective Quality of Life (QOL) measures, peer interviewers, use of evaluation feedback, examples of good practice)
- **Methodology and tools to assess “Quality of Social Services”** (toolbox for Quality of Services and QOL, Peer interviewers, ex. of good practice)

You can register to the course by sending the Registration form in attachment to Hiebaum.Elfi@chanceb.at by **21 September 2012**.

Be careful: the course can be reimbursed by your National Agency, through the Grundtvig grant for "visits and exchanges", but the deadline for sending the application to national agencies is between 8 and 12 weeks before the beginning of the course.

You can find the registration form following this link

<http://www.easpd.eu/Portals/easpd/Newsflash/june/Workshop%20Registration%20Form.pdf>