

Our Strategy

EASPD is in the second year of the 2022-2025 multiannual strategy 'Moving Forward: Smart Transformation and Building Resilience'. **Moving Forward** means taking action, doing more and doing it better, and is the mantra of this new Strategy for the coming years. Smart transformation and building resilience are the two guiding forces to ensure this mantra leads to positive outcomes.

Our Moving Forward strategy has 3 main pillars:

Effective partnership

We aim to be an effective partner in policy development.

Innovation, sustainability & community

We strive to lead innovation, sustainable service provision, and community building.

Reference point for learning & knowledge

We aspire to be the point of reference for learning and knowledge exchange.



These are 3 pillars EASPD will implement to increase the resilience of support services, to ensure the sector recovers from the pandemic, as well as to accelerate its smart transformation, to meet the realities of today's world and expectations from those who draw on these services.

Our Team

As a member-led organisation, EASPD's General Assembly holds the highest competence within the organisation, it is with their authority that EASPD's Executive Committee, Board and Secretariat support the implementation of the organisation's activities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD



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Crowe Consultancy
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SECRETARIAT

The EASPD Secretariat in 2023 worked from our office in Brussels and beyond to achieve the goals of the yearly workplan and 2022-25 Multiannual Strategy 'Moving Forward: Smart Transformation and Building Resilience.'

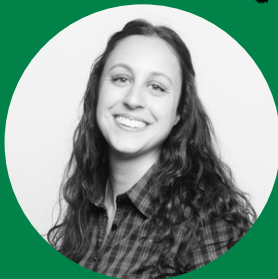


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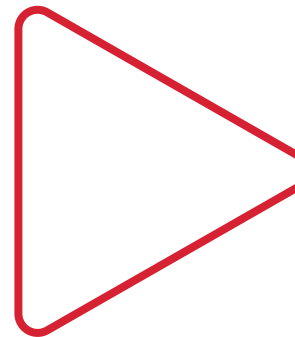


**Andrea
Cociancich**
Administrative
Assistant



Hana Jemli
Finance
Assistant

Effective partnership



In 2023, EASPD continued to build on its work from 2022, placing emphasis on being an effective partner in policy development. Our work this year has included building impactful partnerships with international institutions, promoting promising legal and funding frameworks in Europe, and supporting the development of EU social policies.

Partnerships

Social Services Europe

Social Services Europe – which brings together the major EU networks of not-for-profit social services, including EASPD – continued to grow its policy impact at EU level, becoming a key player on issues related to state aid, public procurement, EU funds, cross-border associations, and other issues.



Social Platform

The Social Platform – the largest European network of Social NGOs – has been very active in 2023 around issues related to minimum income, EU Fiscal policy and the Just Transition. EASPD Chief of Staff, Tim Ghilain, was also elected onto the Management Committee.

European Expert Group on transition from Institutional to Community-based services

EASPD is a member of the EEG, which advocates to replace institutionalisation with family and community-based support. In 2023, the EEG organised a Study Session on national deinstitutionalisation strategies with the participation of the European Commission, national authorities and several NGOs. The event was a chance to help improve understanding of the deinstitutionalisation process in the EU, and to stimulate discussions on how to ensure that reforms and support measures reach groups in vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities. A meeting between the EEG and DG EMPL also took place to discuss the progress of the EU Guidance on Independent Living and Inclusion in the Community, which the Commission will soon release.



Alliance for Investing in Children

The EU Alliance for Investing in Children is a group of organisations that share a commitment to end child poverty and social exclusion of children, and to promote child well-being across Europe. In 2023, the group focused on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee by engaging with EU policymakers and explaining where investment and action is needed to improve children's lives in the EU. As a member of the Alliance and part of the group, EASPD emphasised the importance of investing in children with disabilities and their families, and ensuring they have access to inclusive education, early childhood education and care, and crucial services like family-centred early childhood intervention.

Inclusive Labour Market Alliance

The Inclusive Labour Market Alliance continued to meet regularly to discuss areas of common interest, including with the organisation of a Webinar on how to create jobs in the public sector for persons with disabilities.

Early Childhood Education and Care Working Group

EASPD is a member of the European Commission's working group on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). This group brings together representatives of the ministries in charge of ECEC in the 27 Member States, as well as international organisations like UNICEF and a few European network organisations. In 2023, the group focused on the topics of monitoring and evaluation and staff shortages. Within the group, EASPD emphasised the importance of including children with disabilities and their families in monitoring and evaluation, and gave a presentation on 'Including Children with Disabilities in ECEC through Co-production', during the group's Peer Learning Activity in Vilnius. EASPD also brought attention to the importance of addressing the needs of young children with disabilities in a holistic way, and making connections between ECEC and early childhood intervention services.

Membership of the Disability Platform

EASPD continued to actively take part in the European Commission's Disability Platform, which is the main platform for discussions between Member States and NGOs around the EU Disability Rights Strategy.

European Disability Forum

EASPD also continued to actively work with the European Disability Forum, particularly on the implementation of the EU Disability Rights Strategy. EASPD Vice President Javier Guëmes is Board Member of EDF.



Policy Milestones

European Partnership for Skills in Long Term Care

EASPD took full advantage of the new EU Care Strategy to create a European Partnership for Skills in Long Term Care. This Partnership will drive discussions around digital and person-centred care skills in the years to come, backed up by the significant Care4Skills initiative.

Position paper on family-centred Early Childhood Intervention

2023 was the year Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) finally got discussed at EU level. The launch of our position paper on family-centred ECI – backed by 17 European and international organisations, as well as many national organisations – finally placed the issue at the centre of conversations. This was followed up with EASPD’s Spring Conference on the topic, alongside our work with UNICEF on the ECDUR project.



European Social Dialogue

In 2023, EASPD’s 15-year campaign to ensure that the social services sector has a recognised voice in European Social Dialogue came full circle. The creation of a sectoral social dialogue committee for social services will enable the sector’s social partners (Social Employers, CEMR, and EPSU) to have a much stronger voice at EU level to tackle the sector’s employment-related issues.

Social Economy

Social Economy was also a priority for EASPD and the EU. The Council Recommendation on creating enabling framework conditions for Social Economy should help Member States set up the right policies – through processes like public procurement and state aid – to enable social economy organisations to work on equal footing with others.

Innovation, Sustainability & Community

In 2023, EASPD continued to play a leading role in the development of innovative support models for persons with disabilities, gathering all the most promising projects. This included identifying and contributing to the design, development and sharing of innovative support models.

Projects

Education

ACT Inclusive - Actors of Change Towards Inclusive Education



December 2022 - November 2025
Erasmus + Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Carmen Hilario

This project successfully concluded its research phase on the current state of play of inclusiveness in mainstream schools in the 5 countries targeted in the project: Cyprus, France, Slovenia, Spain, and Hungary. This study underlined the needs of the schools in such countries and will shape the development of future trainings in 2024. The project also gathered a collection of good practices on non-formal educational activities promoting inclusiveness on school.

DIG-i-READY

DIG-i-READY focused on the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities in VET. In 2023, the project partners published the Good Practices Catalogue and Handbook. The catalogue has a variety of practices followed by VET educators during the COVID pandemic to provide digitally inclusive education. The Handbook is a guide to switch to online education in times of crisis.



January 2022 - January 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Internationaler Bund
Mitte gGmbH
Contact: Tavishi Rekhi



EHECADI - European Health Care Final Dissertation

This project brings together 8 partners to support healthcare students from different disciplines to address broad societal health issues via their studies. In 2023, the project hosted a week-long workshop with healthcare students to co-design the EHECADI course and platform. These materials will be used by future students to complete an international final dissertation on a topic that addresses contemporary societal challenges.



January 2022 - January 2025
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Fundacio
Universitaria Balmes
Contact: Rachel Vaughan

BUSTA - Building skills through Training Therapy Animals



April 2022 - March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Lietuvos juru
muziejus
Contact: Dimitri Papakoch

With the BUSTA project, professionals will develop research and cooperative actions to integrate service animal training into learning activities. The project results include a documentary (co-created with students) about the practical research process experienced by them and stakeholders, an assessment report of the predicted skills development via training therapy animals, and guidelines for schools for integrating skill-building in students through animal training. All project results have been translated into French, Dutch, Lithuanian and Bulgarian.

EMBRACE

The EMBRACE project aimed to enhance inclusion for children with intellectual disabilities in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). The project focused on piloting the "Fostering a Culture of Inclusion" Handbook, targeting ECEC staff and leaders. Additionally, partners developed an awareness-raising toolkit for the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in ECEC. The closing conference in Brussels, was attended by 204 people.



January 2022 - December 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: TEATR GRODZKI
Contact: Irene Bertana



GREEN ENOUGH - Educational program to raise ecological behaviour through an inclusive methodology using Augmented Reality Technology



This project aims to empower adults and adolescents with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities to adopt more sustainable practices by creating an adapted educational programme for professionals working with them on a daily basis. In 2023 the project made the first steps in developing a training curriculum for social service staff to be able to educate people with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities on environmental topics.

December 2022 - December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Astiki Etaireia
Psichokoinonik on Meleton
Contact: Rachel Vaughan

Workforce Development

Perhouse - Personal and household services

August 2022 - July 2024
SOCPL-PJG

Coordinator: CENTRAL EUROPEAN
LABOR STUDIES INSTITUTE CELSI
Contact: Ángela Corbi

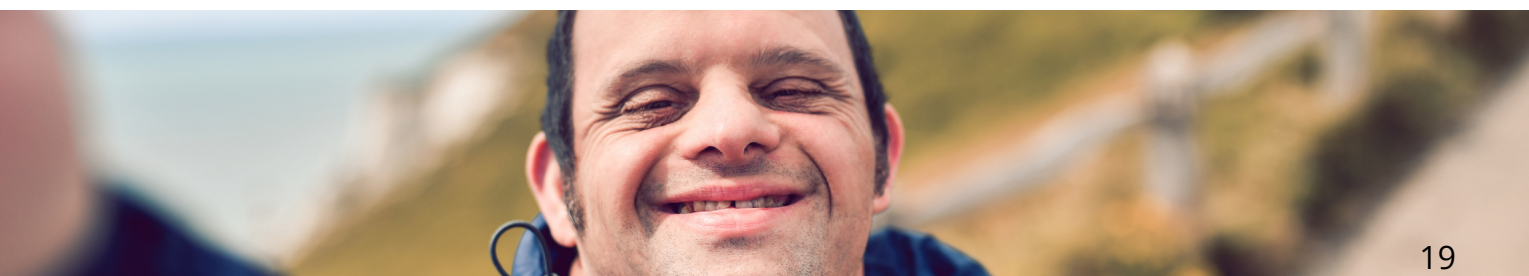
Given the increasing demand for Personal and Household Services (PHS) Perhouse aims to gather data about the working conditions of PHS workers in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. In 2023 the partners collected information to map the PHS sector in CEE countries. This information was used to develop national reports, and will also be presented in the national events taking place in early 2024.

B-WISE - Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in Work Integration Social Enterprises

B-WISE targets the skill needs and gaps of disadvantaged workers who do not have equal access to the labour market, their support workers (such as job coaches), and their managers in the Work Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) sector. After 2 years of research, in 2023, the B-WISE partnership identified areas in need of strengthening and developed a universal training curriculum for each target group. The training curricula is currently in its piloting and certification phase in 13 countries.



January 2021 - December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Konstantina Leventi



IN-TOUR - Accessible Tourism Manager and Operator



January 2020 - September 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Associazione Italiana
Sclerosi Multipla Onlus Italy
Contact: Giulia Bergamasco

Over the past 4 years, the In-Tour partnership has worked to help make the tourism sector more inclusive and barrier-free for people with disabilities. The project has developed training modules and a MOOC for tourism professionals, educating them on accessibility. The project's final conference was held on 28th September 2023, which was an opportunity to reiterate the importance of inclusive tourism education, in order to build an accessible European tourism sector.

Technology

ADILE - Accessible Distance Learning

ADILE aims to promote the empowerment and social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities by promoting the accessibility of ICT tools for distance learning. In 2023, the project completed its Training Toolkit as well as a Methodology and Guidelines for Educators, and developed and trialled the ADILE Educational Platform. The project's Guidelines were also published, which identify the main challenges facing accessible online distance learning and propose recommendations to help overcome these challenges on a national and European level.



February 2022 - February 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: CONTROVENTO
Contact: Catherine Lau

SEURO - Scaling EUROpean citizen driven transferable and transformative digital health



SEURO

May 2021 - May 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Renaud Scheuer

SEURO made progress on its trial tests to end users to improve the PROACT application for self-monitoring of multimorbidities. It also developed key features for the ProInsight tool that takes those tests for reference to build up a digital tool that enables health and care services to measure the efficiency of adopting new technologies within their facilities. The project also obtained recognition and visibility thanks to its participation in International Conferences (AAATE), and nomination for awards (AI in Ireland).



VIRTUS - Upscaling Vocational Pathways



VIRTUS

March 2022 - April 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: GEWERKSTATT
Contact: Freddy Jussien

VIRTUS aims to create an educational programme that entails vocational training adjusted to the needs of autistic individuals by integrating in vivo training seminars and virtual reality technology. In 2023, VIRTUS developed a Training Kit for Trainers, focusing on social, pre-vocational, and vocational skills, incorporating digital teaching methods. The year ended with a trial in 3 countries, piloting interactive training modules. The project concludes with a final conference in Brussels on 22 February 2024.

RTCN - Right To Connect Now

RightToConnect project aims to support the active participation of people with intellectual disabilities in society by developing their digital skills. In 2023, the partners developed an accessible e-learning platform co-designed with people with intellectual disabilities. A series of workshops, including a 2-day international workshop took place.



April 2022 – March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Omor Ahmed

DDS-MAP - Dynamic Digital Resilience for Medical and Allied Professions in Health Services



DDS-MAP

March 2022 - September 2025
EU4Health Programme
Coordinator: South East Technological University
Contact: Omor Ahmed

DDS-MAP aims to develop new training provision for healthcare and allied professionals in the EU, focused on the acquisition of new digital technologies in the delivery of care services. The project consists of 15 partners including HEIs (Medical, Nursing, Education and Digital Technology), NGOs, health authorities and health insurers across the EU. To kick-off the project, the project partners met in Dublin. The project is currently conducting a European-wide survey to identify the digital skills needs of healthcare and allied professionals.



Employment

CO-RESP - Community Resilience Through Social Procurement



May 2022 – May 2024
SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Miguel Buitrago

CO-RESP aims to provide support to the local economy to create new jobs for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups via public procurement. In 2023, CO-RESP published its research on Socially Responsible Public Procurement for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities. The project has brought together public authorities, social economy organisations, DPOs and procurement experts, resulting in the CO-RESP Declaration on Public Procurement. Furthermore, the City partners of Dobrich, Gleisdorf and Marina de Cudeyo carried out local roundtables with local and regional stakeholders to develop a plan for improving the use of public procurement.

Safe4All - Safety 4 Disability: Inclusive Training on Safety & Health at Work for Workers with disabilities

Safe4All is centred around health and safety at work. In 2023, project partners have developed and finalised 3 main work packages: a workbook (collection of good practices), a toolkit (including an e-learning course), and policy recommendations for EU stakeholders and national authorities. EASPD has been leading the policy recommendations through a Design Thinking Methodology, in co-creation with project partners.



February 2022 - February 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: PREDIF
Contact: Benedetta Galeazzi



Inclusive Living



SWEETHOME - HOME, MY OWN SWEET (SMART) HOME



February 2022 - July 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Institut für
Lern-Innovation
Contact: Lilith Alink

SweetHome aims to support persons with disabilities, their family members, and professional specialists to better understand what smart home technology is and how it can support a more autonomous and stimulating life. The current stage, which is still ongoing, consists of developing a training course via an interactive e-learning platform on smart technologies and their use in various areas of life, including medical care and monitoring, personal care, home comfort, home safety, home mobility and cleaning.

UNIC (Towards User-centred funding models for long-term care)

UNIC aims to support the transition to user-centred funding models in long-term care. In 2023, project partners finalised a Toolkit designed to support persons with disabilities, service providers and public authorities to implement personal budget systems. The partners also published a study on the future of personal budgets and organised conferences in 6 different countries, including a closing EU-level conference in Brussels.



October 2020 - September 2023
European Union Programme for
Employment and Social Innovation
“EaSI (2014-2020)
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Renaud Scheuer

AtOri

September 2022 - September 2025
Agence Nationale de la Recherche,
France
Coordinator: Université Sorbonne
Paris Nord
Contact: Renaud Scheuer

The AtOri project is grounded in a perspective that views autonomy as an inherent aspect of every individual's ontology. Professional practices in the medico-social context must thereby be questioned from this angle. The first part of AtOri examines the scientific literature on this issue. The project is currently engaging on focus groups and research to further advance the first phase.

COM-IN - Promoting communicative development in young adults with intellectual developmental disabilities to support their inclusion



In 2023, the COM-IN project developed 3 main outputs as part of their objective to promote communicative development in children and adolescents with intellectual developmental disabilities. Based on their survey on needs assessment completed with service providers, a guide for social-communicative development, training modules for communicative development, and a MOOC for communicative development are in the final stages of development.

November 2021 - October 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Universite De Reims
Champagne-Ardenne
Contact: Kalianne Farren

Health

GIAff4ID - Games for Improving Affectivity in Youngsters with Intellectual Disabilities



October 2022 - December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: NATSIONALNA
ASOTSIATSIA NA RESURSNITE
UCHITELI
Contact: Nina Kozlowitz

GIAff4ID strives to break stereotypes around sexual education and affectivity of young people with intellectual disabilities. The partners have embarked on the second phase of the project, focusing on the development of a game-based learning approach in relation to sexual and emotional education. This includes the collection of good practices, the design of a play-based learning approach in relation to sexuality and affectivity, and pilot testing.

CUPID

CUPID will establish a research agenda and knowledge base to raise awareness on the importance of rigorous cancer prevention mechanisms for persons with intellectual disabilities in the European Union and beyond. In 2023 the project launched its new website and visual identity.



March 2022 - February 2026
COAST Action
Coordinator: Shout East Technical
University Waterford, Cork, Ireland
Contact: Tavishi Rekhi

Capacity Building

Helpdesk

Helpdesk aims to support social services in accessing EU funds more easily and to help managing authorities in their use of EU funds to finance quality interventions in the field of social services. Key achievements in 2023 include gathering evidence, producing reports, and launching a website with an online Helpdesk service. A pilot version of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for social services staff is available, and the project is developing a Booklet of Promising Practices.



May 2022 - April 2024
ESF+
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Lilith Alink

Rights

SMARTS - Supporting Me About Rights to Sexuality

SMARTS, which concluded in 2023, aimed to address the support needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions regarding sexuality. The project produced Guidelines on Supported Decision Making (SDM) in Sexuality for family caretakers, professionals, and service managers. Training materials cover general SDM and SDM in sexuality, and an easy-to-read Toolkit informs individuals of their sexual rights while assisting caregivers in identifying supportive services. Policy recommendations are available and an interactive MOOC on SDM on sexuality has been launched.



SMARTS

September 2020 - August 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Nina Kozlowitz

RESPONSE



April 2022 - March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Giulia Bergamasco

RESPONSE aims to bring together different relevant actors to increase stakeholders' knowledge and capacity around rights-based and gender-responsive services in addressing gender-based violence against women with disabilities. In 2023, the partnership developed a Training and Awareness Raising (TAR) Manual targeting service providers for persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, as well as mainstream service providers from the health, social care and judicial sectors. The TAR Manual was then tested in 6 European countries. The partners also developed policy recommendations for local, regional, national and EU policymakers.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

ECI Greece

The ECI Greece project is paving the way for a reform on family-centred Early Childhood Intervention in Greece by providing technical assistance to the Greek Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family. During the last year EASPD co-created an Action Plan for ECI with Greek stakeholders formulating concrete actions to improve coordination, funding, early identification of developmental issues and service provision. Additionally, the piloting of family-centred methodologies came to an end in seven ECI service providers.



September 2021- September 2024
DG Reform
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Irene Bertana

BurnOut Free

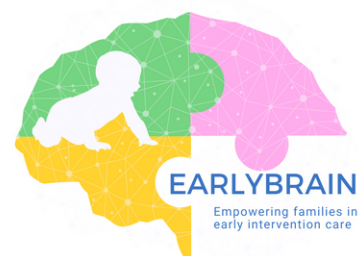


November 2021- December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: AMIMONI
Contact: Kalianne Farren

In 2023, the BurnOut Free project, which aims to address the serious issue of burnout among parents of children with disabilities and professionals working in Early Childhood Intervention services, developed training materials for parents and professionals. These were in turn piloted with professionals and parents, and a methodology guide and report were developed as a result. Alongside this, an E-Learning game is in the piloting stage.

EarlyBrain - Empowering Families in Early Childhood Intervention

The EarlyBrain project aims to provide parents and relatives of children with developmental disorders with specific knowledge and skills to promote the development of their children. Partners met in for the kick-off TPM in January 2023. Since then, the partnership has worked on collecting and revising promising practices. Additionally, the partnership has started the development of a toolkit to provide knowledge and skills in the training and support of families and professionals working with children.



November 2022 - October 2025
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: IRENEA (Instituto de Rehabilitación Neurológica)
Contact: Carmen Hilario

Arts and Culture

REVELLAND



December 2022 - March 2025
Creative Europe Programme
Coordinator: Possibilize
Contact: Nóra Györke



The Revelland project aims to transform live music performances into multisensory events and immersive experiences that offer the audience a deeper understanding of music. In 2023, 6 performing groups were provided training and coaching sessions in immersion, accessibility and sensory effects. After the development phase, the project conducted research on accessibility and immersion.

SIMS - Sports Inclusion Media Seal

Focused on promoting social inclusion through pluralistic media coverage of inclusive sports and sports events, SIMS developed their Road Map for a Certification and Training Process, and started to design their training modules for journalists and media professionals. The project partners held their kick-off meeting in Italy, as well as their second transnational project meeting in Düsseldorf.



February 2023 - July 2025
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: España se Mueve
Contact: Catherine Lau

Emergency Response

ECDUR - Emergency Early Childhood Development Support for Ukrainian Refugees

July 2022 - December 2023
UNICEF
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Lyzaveta Drannikova,
Tiziana Fantucchio

The ECDUR project, a collaboration between EASPD and UNICEF, provided crucial support to 20,400 Ukrainian refugee children and their families in neighbouring countries. Surpassing its target, the project offered direct assistance, and training for 545 family consultants and 571 peer supporters and organised an International ECI Conference. Noteworthy outcomes include a high-level advocacy event in the European Parliament, 4 national assessments on ECI, and a position paper titled "Early Childhood Intervention in the Context of Displacement."

Events

In 2023, EASPD hosted 34 events. Amongst these were the 2 annual international conferences, which gathered members and professionals from the field to discuss important topics.

EASPD June Conference Family-centred Early Childhood Intervention: How to make it work

The first of EASPD's 2 annual conferences was on the topic of Early Childhood Intervention, and took place in Tirana, Albania, on 8th – 9th June. Co-organised by EASPD, Down Syndrome Albania (DSA), UNICEF and Help the Life Association, the conference focused on ECI and the creation of national ECI systems for children at risk or with developmental difficulties displaced from Ukraine. The conference was attended by 287 persons.

A product of the conference was the ECI Position Paper “Family-centred Early Childhood Intervention: The best start in life”, drafted by the EASPD Member Forum on Early Childhood Intervention, and finalised in consultation with several networks and organisations active in the fields of child and family rights, and disabilities.



EASPD October Conference

Enabling Social Innovation: Concepts, frameworks and organisational change

The fall conference, attended by 211 persons, was co-organised with KVPS (Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disability), and held in Helsinki, Finland, 12th-13th October. It raised questions around the meaning of Social Innovation, so that service providers in the disability sector can explore how to better implement the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The conference also hosted the 3rd edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards 2023. The awards' aim is to recognise and applaud practices that have been innovative in social service provision. 6 organisations and their promising practices were selected and showcased during the Social Innovation conference, giving everyone in attendance a chance to learn first hand about them.



Reference point for learning & knowledge

Exchange and Collaboration

Lighthouse Network

EASPD carries out lighthouse network activities each year to bring together our members who are experts in their fields and can help foster peer-to-peer learning. Study visits, trainings, policy papers, short-term projects are the commonly carried out activities by the EASPD Member Fora. There were 3 study visits, 1 training, and 1 webinar implemented by all Member Fora in 2023. Learn more about the lighthouse network activities [here](#).



Lighthouse Network

EURECO

In 2023, the EURECO platform organised a research forum in Brussels on 15-16 March, "Supporting older persons with long-term care needs and persons with disabilities". The forum was attended by 50 stakeholders, primarily researchers from the EURECO Network, and discussed the common challenges and learning opportunities in care and support. Some key outcomes from this event:

- (1) improved connections between both sectors,
- (2) identifying aspects for a future research agenda and
- (3) fostering cooperation for future project proposals.



Learn more about EURECO [here](#).

EASPD Innovation Awards 2023

The EASPD Innovation Awards take place annually that urges our members to submit good practices on a specific topic. To recognise and applaud practices that have been innovative in social service provision, we launched the 3rd edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards in 2023. These awards were in line with our International Conference on Social Innovation in Helsinki. 6 promising practices were selected and showcased during the Social Innovation conference in Helsinki. Read the Innovations Awards 2023 Booklet [here](#)

Publications

EASPD published 5 Reports in 2023.



The Concept of Social Innovation in the Disability Field

This study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of social innovation in the disability field within the framework of service providers across Europe. [Read the report here](#)

Impact of State Aid on the Development of the Social Economy and on Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

The study provides an overview of the State Aid rules applicable to social service providers in relation to the revised EU State Aid Framework. [Read the report here.](#)



Transition from Special Education to Inclusive Education Systems

The study provides a collection of 16 case studies from 11 European countries, ranging from day-to-day knowledge-sharing initiatives within school communities to nationwide reforms of the formal education system, holding the potential for wider adaptation in different countries and local contexts. [Read the report here](#)

Service Provider's Implementation of Quality Approaches

The study looks into how service providers for people with disabilities are monitoring and ensuring quality in their day-to-day operations. [Read the report here.](#)



Social services in Europe: Adapting to a new reality

This study provides lessons learned for the social services sector from COVID-19 on managing social risks. [Read the report here.](#)

Members

EASPD is a member led organisation with 10 Full Members, 23 Candidate Observers and 5 Approved Observers joining us in 2023.

10 New Members



23 Candidate Observers



5 Approved Observers



Member Fora

The EASPD Member Fora represent the interest of EASPD in their own field through active research, policy development, and networking among members. During 2023, each Member Fora had some key achievements.

Person Centred Technology

- Organised a study visit to Switzerland. Attended by 6 EASPD members
- Hosted workshops on Digital Accessibility and Assistive Technology at EASPD's international conference in Albania, Final ACCESSIBILITECH conference, AccessibleEU and AAATE conferences.



Inclusive Living

- Collaborated on a position paper advocating legal capacity rights for people with disabilities.
- Provided guidance to service providers on implementing supported decision-making.
- Engaged in a study visit at LivesthroughFriends for insights on independent living promotion.



Employment

- Hosted webinars 1 webinar on the inclusive labour market
- Started research on addressing issues such as strengthening service capacities, combating stereotypes in hiring, ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations, retaining individuals with disabilities in employment, and exploring diverse employment settings



Arts and Culture

- Organised a study visit to Cork, Ireland. The member Forum visited Cope Foundation and Suisha Arts and learned their good practices.



Education

- Hosted 30 teachers, lecturers, and service provider staff at its annual inclusive education training. This year's course was held in Greece and co-hosted with EASPD member, the Panhellenic Association of Parents Guardians and Friends of Multiply Disabled Visually Impaired People (AMIMONI).
- The Member Forum began its research into the state of inclusive post-secondary education across Europe.
- Conducted a study visit to Emphasys Centre in Cyprus. Attended by 3 EASPD member organisations.



Workforce Development and Human Resources

- The highlight of the year was the Forum's 2023 Lighthouse Network activity in November 2023. Members from Bulgaria, Catalonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Ukraine attending a training session on the European Care Certificate in Brussels, hosted by Forum Co-Chair James Churchill.



Early childhood Intervention

- Translated the ECI position paper in 4 languages.
- Formed a taskforce that organised the content of the EASPD Family-centred ECI Albania conference.
- Organised a study visit to Karin Dom in Bulgaria to learn about different programmes, including family-mediated intervention.



Policy Impact

- The Policy Impact group Served as a place for dialogue and discussion on key topics of prominence in the EU. These included; the greening of the sector; staff shortages, and current trends in social services.



Provider Fora

EASPD's Provider Fora are national events which aim to strengthen the voice of service providers at a local level. The forums offer an opportunity for service providers to network, discuss key challenges and approaches for the service provision sector in their country, to and learn more about relevant EU policies and funding opportunities. In 2023, EASPD hosted 4 Provider Forums

Innovations in Support Services for Independent Living

Iceland Provider Forum | 10th May

Hosted in partnership with the 2023 edition of the Conference of the Nordic Network on Disability Research, the event gathered over 30 participants, who discussed the key challenges and innovations linked to inclusive living and Article 19 of the UN CRPD. The participants, coming from many different countries across Europe and the world, represented a broad range of stakeholders, from service providers to public authorities, researchers, and representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities.

National System for Early Childhood Intervention

Bulgarian Provider Forum | 22-23 June

The Bulgarian Provider Forum brought together almost 40 participants to increase the capacity on the subject of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI). During 5 thematic panels, representatives of the National Network for Children, UNICEF-Bulgaria, municipal officials, and ECI specialists had the opportunity to discuss both the main conclusions and proposals from the assessment of the national capacity for ECI, as well as various aspects of the regulatory framework, practice and the challenges that face existing ECI services.

Cooperation & Networking NGO & Local Authorities with Social & Environmental Impact

Greece Provider Forum | 15th September

Hosted within the framework of the Connected We Stand Festival in Thessaloniki, the Greek Provider Forum explored the benefits of promoting cooperation and networking between NGOs and local authorities. Participants included support service providers, local policymakers, and representatives of civil society organisations.

The Care Services of the Future

Italian Provider Forum | 4th December

Hosted by AIAS Bologna, our Italian Provider Forum focused on how support services can promote the quality of life of people with disabilities and their ability to participate in the community. In particular, the session explored the topic of the use technologies in care systems. The participants, who came from different European countries, represented a wide range of academics, researchers and representatives of organisations of people with disabilities.

