

# Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

Febr 2003



## Editorial

Education is important for everybody.  
Disabled children and adults  
also have the right To a good education.  
In this newsletter,  
We tell you something more about this.  
We also explain what  
ethics, bioethics and biomedecine are.  
Maybe you have never heard about this.  
But it is very important for people with a disability.

Ulla Topi  
President of EPSA

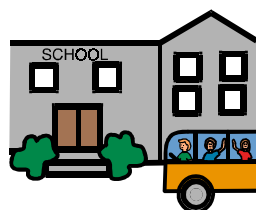


## Information

Editorial	1
Education for all	1

## Education for All

The United Nations said  
that schools must be for everybody.  
Schools must include  
people with learning disability.  
Schools must be organised  
so that everybody can learn.



Learning is important for everybody's life.  
Schools help people  
to think and to make choices.  
Schools offer support for learning.  
They also offer many opportunities  
to meet other children and to have fun.

### **Education is a human right for everybody!**

Children with intellectual disability need education.  
Without education,  
people are excluded from society.  
Disabled children must learn together with other children.



With support of the  
European  
Community  
Activities in Favour  
of Equal  
Opportunities for  
Persons with  
Disabilities

---

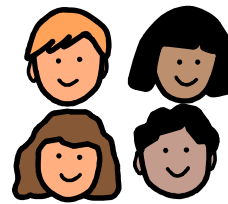
# What is important for children?

---

Disabled children have the same needs as other children. There are some things that are very important for them:

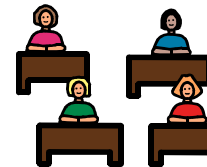
Disabled children should go to a school near to their home.

Disabled children want to grow up among peers with and without disability. They need role-models. They need opportunities for social contacts and integration.



Disabled children need a safe environment.

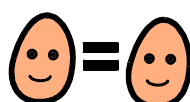
Children with intellectual disability need a plan for their education. This plan must be made especially for them. It must be based on their needs and abilities. It should help them to live included in society.



Parents should have a real choice for the education of their disabled child:

- ▶ Their child could go to a regular school.
- ▶ Or their child could go to a special class in a regular school.

Today, people must continue to learn all their life. People with intellectual disability must have the same possibilities.



---

## What is important for schools?

---

All schools must include disabled people.

Schools must be accessible for people with physical disability. Technical aids can help disabled people to learn better.



A school is also a place to meet other people. Schools should be inviting to meet and start friendships.



Schools should make education plans for every child. They should be based on the needs of each child. Schools should not exclude children with high support needs.

---

## What is important for governments?

---

Governments must provide education for all children. All children have to go to school, also children with disabilities. There should be a law that every school must teach also disabled children.



Governments must provide knowledge and aids. Schools which include disabled children should get extra money for teaching aids.



Schools should see parents as equal partners in education. Governments should pay for life-long learning of people with disabilities.

## What are ethics, bioethics and biomedicine?

Biology is the science about life.  
It is also about human life.  
Biology has developed  
new methods working with human life.

For example,  
they can find out  
if a baby is disabled before it is born.  
Many mothers then decide  
to have an abortion.  
This means that disabled people  
do not have the right to be born and to live.



This is a very difficult discussion.  
Many mothers do not  
want to have disabled babies.



Disabled people want to have  
the right to live.  
These questions have to do  
with the value of human life.  
They are called "ethical questions".  
Because they have to do with Biology,  
the subject is called "Bioethics".  
Sometimes, the medical questions connected with this  
are also called "Biomedicine".

Some disability organisations  
place the right to live for disabled people in the first place.  
They say the right to live is very important.  
They say that disabled people  
must have good conditions to live.  
Mothers of disabled children  
should receive good counselling.  
They say that the new methods of Biomedicine  
lead to a selection between disabled and non-disabled

These disability organisations have published  
a leaflet that explains their position.



- To get information
- To tell us about news and meetings

Please contact us!

### Inclusion Europe

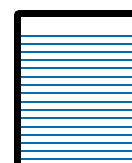
Galleries de la Toison d'Or  
29 Ch. d'Ixelles 393/32  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel.: 0032-2-502 28 15

Fax: 0032-2-502 80 10

e-mail:

self-advocacy@inclusion-  
europe.org



life.