

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

Mar-Apr 2005



Editorial

Inclusion Europe has been leading a new project since December 2004.

It is called "Mainstreaming Mental Disability Policy".

It is a very important project.

It will help self-advocates in 8 Eastern Europe countries.

In this Europe for Us, we will explain this project to you.

Ulla Topi
President of EPSA



Information

Editorial 1

What is mainstreaming 1

Target group 2

What we want to do with this project 2

Activities of the project 3

Last reminder for Europe in Action 2005 4

What is "mainstreaming"?

Mainstreaming is a difficult word. When we speak about mainstreaming it means that people with intellectual disability use the same services and structures as everybody else.



This means that all policies must be made with disabled people in mind:

- Sport programmes must make it possible for people with intellectual disability to take part.
- Education must be the same for children with and without intellectual disability.
- Vocational training must be there for all people, including people with intellectual disability.
- Public transports should be built for everyone.



When all these policies include people with intellectual disability we can say that there is mainstreaming on intellectual disability policies in this country.



With support of the
European
Community

Target groups

This project works in 8 countries:

Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia

Lithuania
Poland
Slovakia
Slovenia

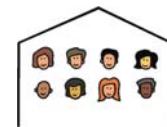
In each country, the project works with 2 groups of people:

- people with intellectual disability
- people with mental health problems.



To make things easier, we will speak about people with mental disability, that's to say people with intellectual disability and people with mental health problems.

There are 16 partners, 2 per country.



These partners are organisations that support people with intellectual disability and organisations that support people with mental health problems.

3 associations coordinate the project:

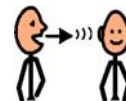
- Inclusion Europe
- The Open Society Institute – Mental Health Initiative
- The Global Initiative on Psychiatry



What we want to do with this project

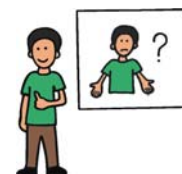
In each country, we want to:

- Help people with mental disability to speak with politicians.
- Change the laws and policies to think about the needs of people with mental disability.
- Make the idea of mainstreaming better known.



Activities of the project

The project is for 2 years.
It started in December 2004
and will go on until November 2006.



The project uses existing tools
to promote self-advocacy and mainstreaming.

Tools are for example brochures, vidéo or posters.



The project will make new tools if they do not exist.

The tools will be translated into the languages of the countries
where the project is run.
The tools will also be translated in French, German and English.

One person with mental disability from each country
will receive a training.
They will learn to use the tools.
They will become experts.



These experts with mental disability will then lead workshops
for people with mental disability in their own countries.



National partners of the project will organise meetings
between politicians and people with mental disability.

There will be 2 national conferences
for staff of administrations and policy-makers in each country.



There will be one international conference
at the end of the project.



Last reminder for Europe in Action 2005

This is your last chance to register at our congress called Europe in Action 2005.



This congress will be about "community based services".



During this congress, EPSA will also have its third General Meeting. This is a very important meeting. It will explain to you what EPSA has done. It will also explain what EPSA will do for next year.



The whole programme of this congress is as follow:

Wednesday 18 May, 1.00 to 4.00 pm :
Preparation meeting for self-advocates



Thursday 19 May, the congress will start at 10.00am with an opening ceremony.

The congress will end on Saturday, 21 May, at 1.00pm



The third general meeting of EPSA will be on Friday, the 20 May, at 10.00 am.

If you want the full programme,
if you want to register,
if you want more practical information,



You can visit the website: www.EuropeInAction.org



You might need the help of your supporter to visit this website and to register.



- 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