

# Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

April 2003



## Editorial

I would like to wish to all member societies of EPSA a very good European Year of People with Disabilities. I hope this year will be a successful year for us.

I wish you welcome to Tallinn from 7th to 10th May to participate in the General Assembly of Inclusion Europe.

And especially, I hope we will meet at the conference of EPSA from 28th to 30st June in Brussels. I wish you all success and hope to see you in Tallinn and in Brussels

Ulla Topi  
President of EPSA



## Information

Editorial	1
Sudmobil	1
EPSA Conference - June 2003	3
Meetings	4

## Sudmobil

### What does Sudmobil mean?

Sudmobil stands for:  
Self-advocacy and being  
directly mobile in Europe.  
People with learning difficulties or  
disabilities travel abroad.

They study and work there.  
Or they do work experience training.  
They gain new experiences.  
Learn more. They are mobile.

The EU project Sudmobil is financed  
by the Leonardo Da Vinci programme  
of the European Union.

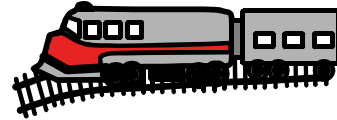
Up to now, people with learning difficulties  
have hardly ever traveled abroad to study.  
Many people do not even think  
that people with learning difficulties  
could study abroad.



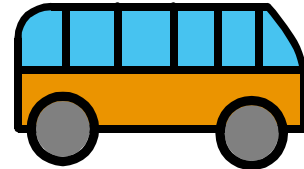
With support of the  
European  
Community  
Activities in Favour  
of Equal  
Opportunities for  
Persons with  
Disabilities

---

We must first gather experiences and pass the knowledge on that people with learning difficulties could study abroad.



People with learning difficulties or disabilities need appropriate training to prepare for going abroad. This training still needs to be developed.



We will write a handbook with recommendations about what can be done to make studying and working abroad easier

for people with learning difficulties or disabilities.

We will also make a CD-ROM. On this CD-ROM there will be advice about how you can prepare for a trip abroad.

On the CD-ROM there will also be many practical exercises for learning important sentences in a foreign language and for preparing for life in a foreign country.

Four self-advocates with learning difficulties will prepare themselves for work experience abroad using our CD-ROM.

They will do their work experience at Inclusion Europe in Brussels in June 2004.

They will stay there for 3 weeks.

At Inclusion Europe they will learn about representing the interests of people with disabilities in Europe.

2 assistants will help them.

The four self-advocates will report on their experiences in the partners' countries

Partners from different countries will work on this project: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Italy, Slovenia and the United Kingdom

---

# EPSA Conference - June 2003

---

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, EPSA will hold a big conference in Brussels. The name of this conference is :  
“Empowerment” - Together against discrimination

People with an intellectual disability from all over Europe will meet there. They will talk about their lives. They will discuss how they can work together to fight against discrimination, in their own countries and in Europe.

The conference is being prepared by a group of self-advocates, with the support of the secretariat of Inclusion Europe.

The self-advocates would like to talk about their experiences in the areas of **education, training and employment.**

Another topic on the agenda is **legal issues.** The team would like to raise some questions regarding the weak legal position of people with an intellectual disability.

The issue of **health** includes **sexuality**, a very difficult, but important subject.

EPSA wants the self-advocacy movement To become stronger, all over Europe. In this context, EPSA fights for more **accessibility of information** and **participation** of self-advocates at all levels.

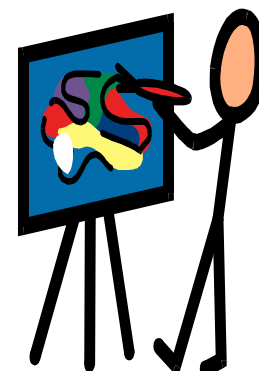
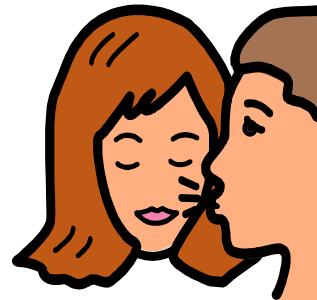
We will also talk about the consumer project of Inclusion Europe And what it means to be a **consumer**, a client of a support service. Important also for everybody are the **living conditions** and the **private and family life.**

**This conference will not be a boring one!**

Because the people with an intellectual disability will get the first word.

Because we will use accessible methods like video, theatre, easy-to-read, symbols, interviews and lots more.

Because you can participate in creative workshops.



Because we will organize a fun evening program.

At the end of the conference a delegation of participants will bring the main messages to politicians, media, parents and professionals.

We – the organizing committee of EPSA – really want it to be **your conference**.

Tell us what you think!

Give us your ideas on the conference,  
For information or a registration form :

Contact :

Katrien or Françoise

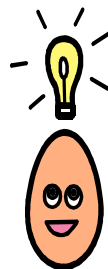
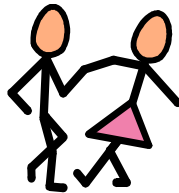
Self-Advocacy Unit / Inclusion Europe

Tel.: 0032-2-502 28 15

Fax: 0032-2-502 80 10

E-mail: [self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org](mailto:self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org)

See you in Brussels?



- 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](mailto:self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org)

---

## **Meetings**

---

### **Our History/ Histories – Through support to self-determination”**

A Meeting for persons with learning difficulties from **1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> may 2003**

in **Kassel, Germany**

Organised by People First Germany

For information or registration you can send an e-mail to : [info@people1.de](mailto:info@people1.de)

### **International congress “Europe in Action 2003”**

Organised by Inclusion Europe and EVPIT

When : **from 8 to 10 May 2003**

Where : **Radisson SAS Hotel / Tallinn - Estonia**

For information : Inclusion Europe - tel +32 2 502 28 15

### **Congress “We want to be involved”**

Organised by : Lebenshilfe and the University of Dortmund in Germany

When : **from 18 to 20 September 2003**

Where : **University of Dortmund**

For information : Lebenshilfe Germany - tel. +49 64 21 49 10

---