

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

May 2004



Editorial

Have you ever felt excluded?
Have you ever felt included?
Exclusion—Inclusion
We read this two words often.
But what does it mean?
With this publication of Europe for us
we will try to learn more about exclusion and inclusion.
We will see what we can do.
We will see what others can do.

Ulla Topi
President of EPSA

What is social inclusion?

Social inclusion means that people who are poor or have other problems take part in the life of society.

Social inclusion is the opposite of social exclusion.

These people should live like everybody else.
They should have jobs.
They should take part in social life.
They should take part in cultural life.



To participate, people need equal chances.
They also need the necessary money.

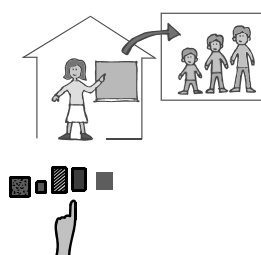


Social inclusion also means that people
take part in decisions that concern their lives.
It also means that people can claim their rights.



What social inclusion means for disabled people:

- A good education together with other children.
- The possibility to learn at all ages.
- The possibility to get a paid job.
- Good work or day activities for people with more severe disability.
- Having contact with other people.
- Have own choices.



Information

Editorial 1

What is social inclusion? 1

What is social exclusion? 2

Risks for social exclusion 2

The European Union fights exclusion 3

How it works 3

The Action Program 4



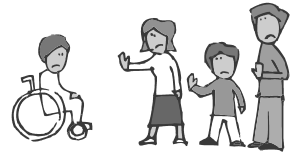
With support of the
European
Community

What is social exclusion?

All people want to have friends.

They want to take part in society.

Some people can not take part, because others do not let them.



There are many reasons why this happens:

- ↪ Some people earn very little money.
- ↪ Some people could not go to school.
- ↪ Some people can not learn new things.
- ↪ Some people are discriminated against.



Discrimination is when people are treated badly because they are different.

These people often cannot take part in society:

- ↪ They do not find a job and cannot work.
- ↪ They do not earn enough money and are poor.
- ↪ They cannot get a good education.
- ↪ They do not have control about decisions that concern their lives.

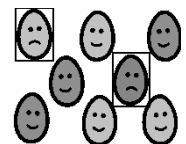


Exclusion is when people are not allowed to take part in the life of society.

Risks for social exclusion

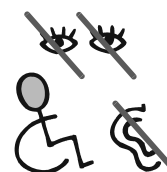
Many people in Europe are at risk of social exclusion.

You probably know many people who are at risk of social exclusion.



These people have a special risk to become excluded:

- People who do not have a job and people who are unemployed since a long time.
- Single mothers with children.
- Older people who live alone.
- Families with many children.
- People who cannot follow the new technologies.
- Young people who have no good vocational training.
- Children who are excluded have less chances in their further life.
- People with disabilities are also at risk.
- People who depend on long term care.
- Homeless people.
- People from other countries.



The European Union fights exclusion

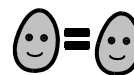
The European Union fights against poverty and social exclusion.



All people in the European Union should have equal chances.

There should be more jobs.

There should be better jobs for everybody.



The European Union has agreed on 5 main goals:



1. More employment



2. Better access for all



3. Preventing exclusion

4. Help the most vulnerable



5. Working together

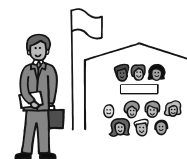
All policies should include the fight against social exclusion.

For example

- by involving all authorities.
- by having a good coordination.
- by taking care of special needs.

Governments should work together with organisations.

For example with disability organisations.



How it works

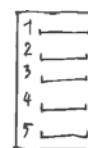
The European Union works with all the national governments against social exclusion.

They have worked out the “**Open Method of Coordination**”.

It works like this:



1. Everybody agrees on the same goals.



2. All governments must work out a plan how to reach the goals.

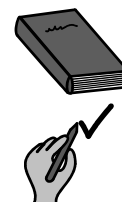
These plans are called “**National Action Plans against Exclusion**”.

3. Every 2 years the governments report about their work.

The European Union checks

if the governments have done what they promised

The European Union then writes a report.



4. Every 2 years there are new National Action Plans.

The Action Program

The fight against social exclusion must be done where the people live: in cities, towns and villages in all countries in Europe.



But some work can also be done by Europe. The European Commission has money for international projects. This is called the "Community Action Program to Combat Social Exclusion". It runs from 2002 to 2006.



The Action Program wants to do 3 things:

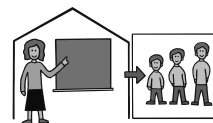
1. Understand what exclusion is. They want to compare the situation in different countries.



2. Pay for exchanges between people from different countries.

3. Train people to fight better against social exclusion.

The Action Program pays for many projects. There are also some projects for disabled people. One is called : "Justice, Rights and Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disability".



There are not many easy to read texts about the work against social exclusion. It is better to ask people to explain what is being done.

Here are some people you can ask:

- **The government**
- **The national member society**
- **The European Commission**
Employment and Social Affairs
Directorate E/2
B-1049 Brussels
Tel.: (32)2-299.11.11
E-mail: empl-info@cec.eu.int
- **Inclusion Europe**



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

Please contact us!

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