

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

June 2004



Editorial

Inclusion Europe annual congress took place on 27 - 29 May 2004 in Dublin, Ireland. About 200 participants from whole Europe spend 3 inspiring days in Dublin.

It was very nice to get together.

It was very useful to talk about different problems.

There is still a lot of work to be done in Europe for people with intellectual disability

Part of the conference was the meeting of European Platform of Self-advocates.

Ulla Topi
President of EPSA



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Europe in Action 2004

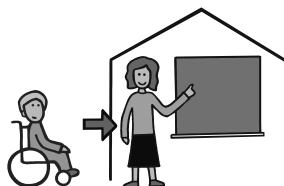
The congress was called Europe in Action 2004.

The main themes of the conference were:

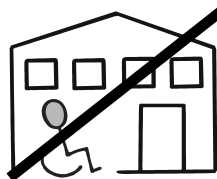
- Non-discrimination



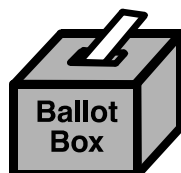
- Inclusive education



- De-institutionalisation



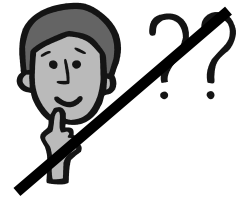
- Lived democracy



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Discrimination in employment

Some employers do not want to employ people with disability.
This is called discrimination in employment.



One parent from Ireland was talking about her daughter
and her experience in work.

For her daughter it is very important to have a job.

But it is not easy to keep the job.

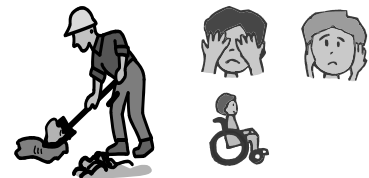
Some people don't treat her well.

She doesn't have a support worker.



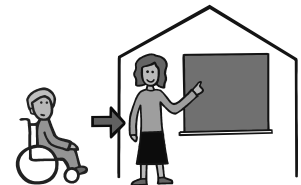
Christy Lynch from Ireland talked about his agency
for inclusive employment in Ireland.

He said that they even manage to find jobs
for people with severe disability.



Inclusive education

Inclusive education means that children with disability
go to regular school
together with children without disability.



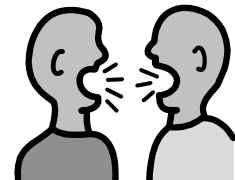
Ingrid Körner from Germany talked
about her fight for her daughter

to be able to go to regular school with other children.

She had to fight but finally it was possible for her daughter
to go to regular school.

It was very important for her

and for the other children in the class too.

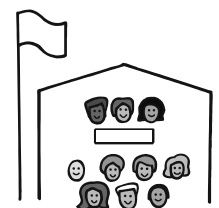


Speakers from Mental disability advocacy program
talked about their work.

They are looking at inclusive education
in 15 different countries in Europe.

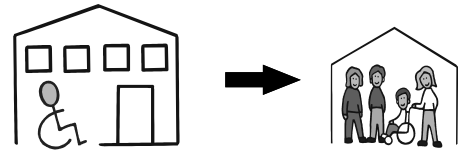
They will write reports about each country.

They want to give the reports to important people.

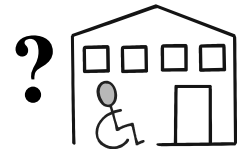


De - institutionalisation

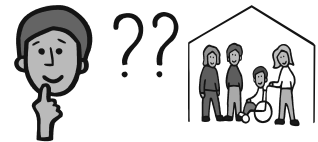
De-institutionalisation is a process when big institutions for people with disability or mental health illness are replaced by smaller community services.



Jim Mansell from Great Britain talked about the project “Included in Society”. The main aim of this project is to find out about institutions for people with intellectual disability in Europe. For example to find out how is the life for the people who live there.



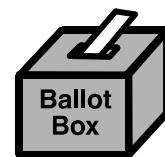
Jan Tøssebro from Norway described how the institutions were replaced in Norway by smaller services. He said that it was successful process. People with intellectual disability live in better conditions now. But there are still things to be improved.



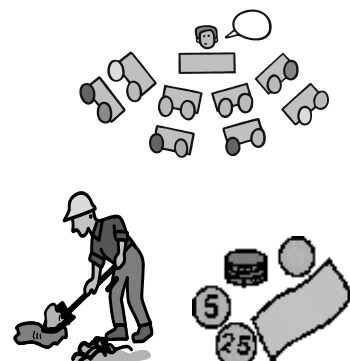
Lived democracy

Donald Sterling and Jack Collet from Scotland talked about the work of the Scottish organisation Enable.

They talked about brochures that they have printed. These brochures were explaining to people with intellectual disability how to vote and how to decide who to vote for.



The last day of the conference there was a meeting with candidates for European Parliament. First the candidates talked about people with disability and how they want to help them. On the end people asked different questions. They asked for example about jobs and salaries for people with intellectual disability.



The conference party

The conference party was in the conference room.
First there was an Irish country dancing.

Irish band came to play after the dinner .
Everybody was dancing.
Everybody had a good time.



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

Please contact us!

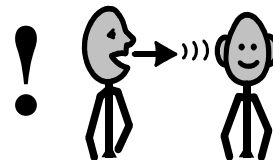
Inclusion Europe

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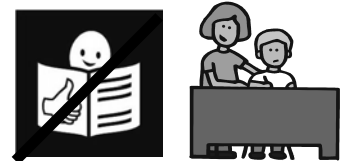
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Europe in Action 2005

It is important to meet together and talk
about our experience
and about problems.
It is also important to learn new things.



You can read some of the presentation from the conference
at the Inclusion Europe website.
Most of them are not easy-to-read.
You may need someone to help you to understand them.



Next year conference will be in Prague
from 19 to 21 may 2005.

The title of the conference is **Towards living in the community.**

Everybody is invited to take part at the conference in Prague next year.
You will find more information about the conference at the website:

www.EuropeinAction.org

See you in Prague next year!

