

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Self-Advocates Movement

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Editorial

Dear self-advocates,

Holidays is always a great time.

The sun is usually out.

You can relax.

You can visit other countries.

You can see old friends or your family.



But holidays is not always a good time for everybody.

It is not always easy to travel alone.

It is not always easy to find a good place to stay.



We hope that you had good holidays.

We wish you a great summer time.



Ulla Topi, President of EPSA.

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My holidays in Avignon

Hello everyone.

My name is Ann Nadayiziga.

I live in Belgium.

I work at Inclusion Europe.

I live in a community-based service since September 2002.

When I have holidays, I like to go away.



“Le Bataclan” is a service for people with intellectual disabilities.



They help the persons with intellectual disabilities who would like to live into the society.

They provide support for your everyday life and help to find work.



They organise workshops, sport and cultural activities.



They also organise holidays.



With support of the European Community

My holidays in Avignon

I went on holidays with “Le Bataclan” on a trip to Avignon.
It is a very nice town in France.

We left on Friday, the 15 July 2005.
We took a bus to go there.
We travelled by night, leaving around 8.00pm.
We had 3 stops during the night.
We arrived on Saturday morning.
It was a very long and tiring journey.



We had a very nice breakfast with orange juice, French bread and hot chocolate.
We unpacked our suitcases and in the afternoon, we went for a walk in town.
There was a very nice market but we were very tired.

During the night, I was in the same room than Brigitte, Marie-Laure, Laurence, Laetitia and Catherine.

We stayed for a week in Avignon.
We visited a lot.

The popes palace was really impressive.
Here is a nice picture of it.



And we also walked on the famous “Pont d’Avignon” (Avignon’s Bridge).
But you cannot cross all the river on the bridge because it is broken.

We also visited the town with a little train.
And we even went on a boat.
The famous Avignon Theatre Festival was on while we were there.
We saw several shows
and even the famous “Balladins du Miroir”.



We had a lot of fun and it was very nice.

Ann Nadayiziga

Find a good place to stay...

It is not always easy to plan your holidays.
It can be hard to arrange all the travelling and the accommodations alone.

In several countries, some associations organise trips during the holidays for people with intellectual disability. In Belgium, Ann found "Le Bataclan".

The trips organised can be a bit expensive.
But it is also a good opportunity to meet new friends.

Your national organisation for disabled people can probably help you to find such services.



We fight for accessible transport

In 2002, the Europe for Us of April was on transports. We explained that everybody has the right to travel. Lloyd Page explained how hard it can be sometimes.

EPSA and Inclusion Europe fight to make transports more accessible.



In April 2005, we participated at a very important meeting. The group "Access and Inclusion" of "the European Conference of Ministers of Transport" invited us to their meeting.

It is a very important group. They write suggestions and recommendations for the Ministers of Transport of all the European countries.

During this meeting, we raised some important issues.

1. We asked for more staff training. Staff should be more trained to interact with people with intellectual disability.
2. There are more and more ticket-selling machines. These should be indicated with clear signs. There should be symbols and illustrations to make these machines accessible.



We fight for accessible transport

3. We asked for cheaper tickets for people with intellectual disability. In most European countries, disabled people can get cheaper tickets because they do not work. This is good. This should be the case in all countries and in all situations.



4. We asked for more easy-to-understand communication and information. Timetables should be more accessible. Oral announcements can also create problems when delays or changes. Staff should check that nobody is left behind.



5. Each country should organise travel training for people with intellectual disability.



6. All European Countries should have the same laws in terms of accessibility of transports. Standards should be written for everyone. People with intellectual disability should be involved in this writing.



Apart from that meeting, the European Disability Forum created new groups called "Universal Access Network".

These groups fight for accessibility in different field.

One of them works on the accessibility of transports. EPISA and Inclusion Europe are member of this group, together with other organisations of disabled people.

We make comments on the new laws or recommendations made by the European Commission.

We make sure that they do not forget people with intellectual disability when they write these new texts.



If you want to comment this newsletter,
If you would like to discuss about something you care for,

You can write to self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org



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

Please contact us!

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