

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Movement of Self-Advocates

Nov-Dec 2006



Editorial

I hope that you enjoy the latest copy of Europe for Us.

In it you will read about the MMDP final conference. There is also a report about Inclusion International's conference in Acapulco.



It looks like 2007 will be a busy year for us. So I wish you a good Christmas and New Year and I hope that you will come back ready for some exciting new challenges!



Andrew Doyle
President of EPSA



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Final Conference of the "MMDP" project

The project "Mainstreaming Mental Disability Policies" (MMDP) has ended.

Mainstreaming means that people with intellectual disability use the same services and structures as everybody else.

It means that policies must be made with disabled people in mind.



We presented you this project already in the Europe for Us of March-April 2005. It lasted 2 years and involved 8 countries from Central and Eastern Europe.



The goal of the project was to make decision-makers aware of problems of disabled people.

In October 2006, Inclusion Europe organised a conference to give the conclusions and results of the project.



With support of the
European Commission
and Inclusion Europe

Final conference of the MMDP project

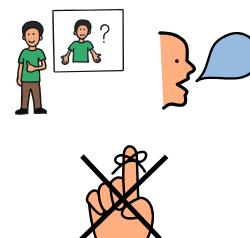
It has been a great project for those 8 countries.
Partners set up new groups of self-advocates.
They organised national conferences
and invited policy makers.



Those training of self-advocates
and meetings with policy makers led to some great results.



For example, in Hungary, the Minister of social affairs
has asked self-advocates to be part of a consultancy group.
This means that self-advocates
will have to say what they think about the new laws.
They will also have to make sure that
people with intellectual disabilities are not forgotten anymore.



A manual for trainers has been published
for further information.

You can order it at
self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org

The world congress of Inclusion International



Zdenka Petrovic, from Croatia, is a Steering Group member of EPSA.
She agreed to attend the world congress of Inclusion International in November.
She was even elected as board member of Inclusion International.
She will represent the self-advocates from Europe at this board.
She is telling us about the highlights of this world congress.

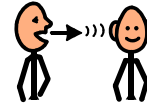


I attended the World Congress of Inclusion International.
The title was:
Building an inclusive future: a challenge for Globalization.
The Congress took place in Acapulco, Mexico.
At the same time I also attended the General Assembly
and Council meetings of Inclusion International.

Self advocates from all continents participated at the Congress.



At the meetings, we discussed many important things.

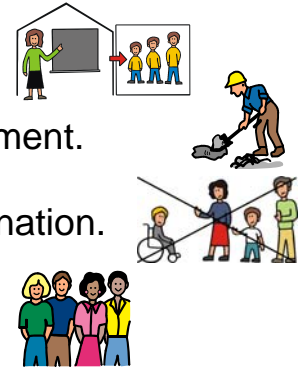


I had 3 presentations.

• I explained that people with intellectual disabilities are still discriminated in the fields of education and employment.

• I invited all participants to continue fighting against discrimination.

• I invited all self-advocates to establish better cooperation.



Self-advocates played a key role at the Congress.

We discussed about all important issues.

We discussed a lot about the new Convention of the United Nations.

This new Convention is on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.



We concluded that the Congress addressed many issues that are important for people with intellectual disabilities.



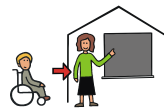
We agreed that every country should adopt this Convention as soon as possible.

At the end of the Conference self advocates representing the different regions of the world made conclusions about the following important issues:

• The Right to Self-determination and full citizenship



• Access to inclusive services



• Life and participation in the Community



• Adequate income and employment



• Support for Families



We agreed that all those issues are very important for improving the position of people with intellectual disabilities in the world.



I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to learn how such a big organization as Inclusion International works.

The world congress of Inclusion International

Also I'm very proud that I was appointed as the representative of European self-advocates at the Council of Inclusion International.

I will try to represent the interests of EPSA in the best way.

I think the Congress in Acapulco was very valuable and successful.

The next world Congress of Inclusion International will take place in Germany in year 2010.

I sincerely hope that many EPSA members will participate at the next world Congress.

Zdenka Petrovic



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

Please contact us!

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Europe in Action 2007—Citizen's rights for all

Europe in Action is Inclusion Europe's annual congress. It will take place between the 10 and 12 May 2007. It will be held this year in Warsaw, Poland. The title of this congress will be "Citizen's right for all".



In many European countries, people with intellectual disabilities are denied some of their basic rights. This means for example that they cannot choose where they want to live. Or they cannot choose what they want to do with their own money.



People with intellectual disabilities might need support to know what to choose or what to buy.



But this does not mean that their rights should be taken away from them. People with intellectual disabilities should be protected, but they should also still enjoy all their rights.



Many speakers will come to speak about this topic at the conference. We will hear about training and information, about rights and legal capacity. There will also be many working groups where you can give your opinion.

If you want to register for this conference, or if you want more information, please go to www.europeinaction.org

