

MARCH 2011

Possible reform of State aid rules on Services of general economic interest

The European Commission adopted a Communication on the revision of State Aid Rules for Services of general Economic Interest (SGEI) last week. This decision follows a Consultation on State Aid Rules carried out in 2010 which showed that, despite the increased legal certainty for Member States and service providers brought about by the 2005 post-Altmark

package, “certain aspects would gain from being further clarified and the rules further simplified for what concerns small amounts of aid and regarding compensation for social services.”

Draft texts outlining these new ideas will be issued for consultation with Member States and stakeholders by next July. In his statement accompanying the

Communication, Commissioner Almunia declared that “public services are key, even more so during difficult economic times when people come to rely on them more than usual [...] I also believe that in these times of constrained public finances greater account must be taken of both efficiency and quality when assessing the State Aid going into the services.”

UNESCO publishes annual Global Monitoring Report on Education for All

UNESCO’s annual Global Monitoring Report on Education for All, “The Hidden Crisis: Armed Conflict and Education”, released March 1st, warns that “conflict continues to blight the lives of millions of the world’s most vulnerable people. Warfare is also destroying opportunities for education on a scale that is insufficiently recognized. Over 40% of out-of-school children live in conflict-affected countries. While the report draws attention to direct

and indirect impact of conflict on the health of children, it does not adequately examine the particular exclusion from education of children from various disadvantaged groups. Conflict not only results in increased incidents of disability, children with disabilities in conflict areas are disproportionately less likely to have access to education. The report makes one single reference to children with disabilities, “Armed conflict directly and indirectly under-

mines the health and psychological well-being of children entering school systems.

EASPD welcomes this very important report but regrets that it does not give recommendations to tackle the issue of the high number of children who become disabled as a result of armed conflicts and the lack of services to support them.



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Strategic EASPD meetings takes place in Brussels

On 29 and 30 March 2011, members of the EASPD Board, Policy Impact Group, Chairs of Standing Committees and Interest Groups came together in Brussels to discuss the future orientation of the organisation, the new EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the impact of the financial crisis on the social sector in the European Member States.

Guest speakers were Johan ten Geuzendam,

Head of the Disability Unit, DG Justice of the European Commission who presented the objectives of the Disability Strategy 2010-2020, Prof. Chantal Van Audenhove from University of Leuven, Pierre Baussand, Director of the Social Platform and Georgoutsakou Ourania from the Assembly of European Regions (AER).

Two days of intensive meetings and discussions resulted in many ideas that will be further elaborated to

shape the future work of the organisation and its priorities for the next three years. We would like to thank all participants for their active contributions and commitment.

Volunteer trainers needed in Bulgaria

Karin Dom Centre is looking for volunteer trainers to support our activities in working with children with special learning needs. Ideally, volunteers should have Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) training and/or qualifications in Occupational Therapy. Previous experience in working with children aged 0-7, especially with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will be an advantage. Successful applicants should be prepared to spend 1-2 week(s) in Varna, Bulgaria where the training will take place. We will provide free accommodation and subsistence to the selected candidates for the duration of the training.

We offer an excellent opportunity for volunteers to work with a multi-disciplinary team of specialists. Our team consists of speech therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists and clinical psychologists, social workers, and medical workers. Volunteers will gain experience in an organisation, specialising in different areas of intervention for children with special learning needs and their families, including individual consultations, group work, home visits, family support networks, the Montessori system for child development, etc.

Karin Dom is a centre for children with special needs, training and re-

source centre. You can find out more about Karin Dom at www.karindom.org.

To apply : pls send a CV and a motivation letter to mnikolova@karindom.org



Inclusive Care Teams People with learning difficulties become colleagues

The logo for IBB2, consisting of the letters 'IBB2' in a stylized, red, serif font, enclosed in a thin yellow border.

More information
on:
www.lebenshilfe-guv.at/ibb2

IBB 2 is the continuation of the successful EU project, IBB. From 2003 to 2006, an inclusive training model was developed in order to train people with learning difficulties to become disability care workers. With this training model, people with learning difficulties for the first time ever were able to participate in a vocational training in the social sector.

The next step ought to be the successful entry into professional life. Six organisations from five countries started a co-operation in October 2010 to implement this

two-year-project. Until now, people with learning difficulties have not had access to the social and disability sector as a viable field of work. Therefore, the process requires adequate support systems which involve not only the people with learning difficulties themselves, but also their employers and the whole team. The particular challenge now is to acknowledge that roles have shifted: people with learning difficulties are no longer clients, but have become colleagues.

At the end of this project

the result of this partnership should be the development of a comprehensive support model with the focus on diversity management and mentoring. More specifically, this will involve compiling a course concept and training materials to successfully implement inclusive care teams, next to the development of guidelines for the implementation of the support system in each partner country.

For more information on the project, please contact:

Sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu

P2i Training Course 'Building a School for All'

Within the scope of the project 'Pathways to Inclusion' (P2i), the project consortium is organising a 6-days training course offering a framework for the further development and promotion of inclusive education, as well as hands-on experience in the planning of such an approach starting from the actual situation.

Target group:

- school heads and middle management
- educational guides and counsellors
- Inspectors
- administrative staff

When:

3rd to 10th October 2011, Lisbon

23rd to 28th April 2012, Prague

Registration and grant application:

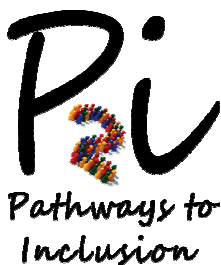
As this course has been officially validated by the European Commission, it is possible to apply for a grant in order to cover the course fee and your travel costs.

More information on the procedure to follow can be found in the leaflet on the P2i website:

[http://](http://pathwaystoinclude.eu/activities/training-course-building-a-school-for-all)

pathwaystoinclude.eu/activities/training-course-building-a-school-for-all

For further information please contact Mr. Karel Casaer at [ka-rel.casaer@vsko.be](mailto:rel.casaer@vsko.be)

The logo for P2i Pathways to Inclusion, featuring the letters 'P2i' in a large, black, stylized font. The '2' is replaced by a colorful, abstract graphic of a globe or a cluster of dots. Below the letters, the text 'Pathways to Inclusion' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Summary compilation of EU project PASS IT ON is available now

The PASS IT ON project was a two year project that was successfully finalized in December 2010. The partnership of the project comprised 8 countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Malta, Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. EASPD performed a promoter's role in the project, which focused on inclusive principles of supported employment for persons with disabilities. The consortium represented partners from both Western and Eastern European countries in order to bridge the existing gap in various aspects of employ-

ment and inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as to disseminate important expertise and know-how. EASPD coordinated the project and the work of partners involved. The ultimate goal of the project was to enable persons with disabilities to enter into the open labour market. Training materials from previously implemented projects were extensively used and adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. As a result, the Summary Compilation was produced by a pool of experts that synthesized outcomes and results of previously im-

plemented projects regarding the employment of persons with disabilities on the open labour market. The project was sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Programme under the Key Activity 4 and made it possible to contribute to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. The experts of the project decided to maintain their fruitful cooperation and prepared a follow-up project submitted to the European Commission in order to further build on the successful outcomes of the project, with a more specific focus on transitions.

For more information,:

[http://
employmentforall.eu/](http://employmentforall.eu/)



Inclusion project: Improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities through a satellite navigation system

EASPD is a partner in the currently running INCLUSION project which started in February 2010. The project aims at providing persons with disability with a possibility of improving their mobility. As the final outcome of the project, a satellite navigation system will be developed that will serve the needs of persons with motor impairments. It will lead to innovative solutions, making use of the potential of the upcoming European satellite navigation technologies, which will allow users to benefit from a high level of accuracy, reliability of the signal and data tailored to the needs of

persons with motor impairments. The project meeting which was held on February 17th 2011 brought together the Contracting Authority (Galileo Satellite Authority) and consortium partners. The meeting was an outstanding opportunity for project partners to discuss project related issues as well as to build a cooperative environment which will facilitate the implementation of project objectives. EASPD is actively involved in the dissemination and promotion of project outcomes. It is also a primary source of user's needs perspective which feeds the development of the navigation

respectively. As the result of successful implementation of the projects objectives the quality of life of both persons with motor impairments and their care providers will substantially improve thanks to opportunities of accessibility. The project is funded by the Seventh Framework Program of DG Research.

More information on:
www.inclusion-fp7.org



“Old? So what? Independent living for seniors with disabilities” Next EASPD conference in Linz, Austria

63% of people with disabilities are older than 45. Nearly 30% of people in the age group 55-64 report a disability and the incidence of disability will increase as the EU population gets older. Over 30 % of people over 75 are disabled to some extent, and over 20 % severely disabled. This development brings new challenges for social and health service providers, families and policy makers at both national and European levels.

The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006 which promotes quality of life, choice and inclusion in society of people with disabilities has already been a huge step forward to launch the discussions and create awareness at a political level but a lot still needs to be done to meet the needs of older persons with disabilities and to ensure their inclusion in society.

In the framework of the research produced for the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, launched in December 2010, the

European Commission has identified persons with disabilities and older people as being at high risk of falling into poverty and social exclusion. This means that elderly people with disabilities are doubly disadvantaged. Due to their difficult financial situation they are also more likely to live in residential institutions and often do not have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and with whom they would like to live, even though article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities clearly underlines the right for all persons with disabilities to “Live independently and be integrated into society”.

In June 2006, EASPD brought the discussion on the special needs of older persons with disabilities on the political agenda by organizing a European conference on “Ageing and Disability” in Graz, Austria. In March 2009 EASPD co-organized a European conference on “Bridging knowledge in long term care and support - Crossing Boundaries between Ageing and Disability” in

Barcelona.

Now, in June 2011, EASPD, in close cooperation with Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen Linz, will bring together important stakeholders and experts from all over Europe to discuss independent living and individualized support in mainstream services for older persons with disabilities. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to participate in the debates and to exchange models of good practice from across the continent.

Registration on

www.easpd-linz.com

