

European Disability Forum Members' Mailing

Issue 3, February 2011

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EUROPE

FOCUS ON A CITIZEN FRIENDLY EUROPE FOR THE HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY

The Hungarian Presidency focuses on the creation of a citizen-friendly European Union; it also advocates EU citizens' actual "access" to their fundamental rights laid down in the **Charter of Fundamental Rights**. To achieve this, every member state and its institutions should respect the Charter and promote its enforcement. This has also been a legal obligation of member states and EU institutions since the Lisbon Treaty came into force.

Ministers of Justice held a public debate on 25th of February on the draft directive which would grant prosecuted persons broader rights to information. The aim of the draft was to harmonize and unify the process of providing EU citizens accused of criminal offences with information about their rights. The draft directive, which is already agreed on by the member states, is among the Hungarian Presidency's priorities. The adoption of the proposal would also strengthen confidence between member states.

How would the amendment affect the everyday lives of citizens?

The aim of the amendment is to abolish the so-called "exequatur" procedure. Specifically, a **member state's judgement in a civil matter would automatically become enforceable in other member states without any further procedure**. This initiative would also assist EU citizens in asserting their claims. Discussions on the amendment will start during the Hungarian Presidency but will only be concluded during the next trio's term.

[Video](#) interview with Tibor Navracsics, Minister of Public Administration and Justice
Hungarian Presidency [Agenda](#)

BUS PASSENGER REGULATION FINALLY ADOPTED

After more than two years of difficult and lengthy negotiations, the **regulation on the rights of bus passengers was finally adopted** by the European Parliament on the 15th of February. The same text was endorsed by the Council two weeks earlier.

EDF was actively contributing to the discussions and called for an ambitious regulation, ensuring **equal travel opportunities for passengers with disabilities**. Although the final regulation does not include all our demands, it still provides for a set of important rights for passengers with disabilities such as the right to transport, the right to information under certain conditions, full compensation of wheelchairs or other mobility equipment that are lost or damaged. Furthermore, the transport personnel needs to undergo basic training on how to meet the needs and assist persons with disabilities. Assistance should be provided if possible, as long as the passenger has notified his or her needs beforehand. If the operator is unable to provide suitable assistance, a passenger with a disability has the right to be accompanied at no extra charge by a persons of his/her choice.

The Parliament adopted the legislation under the co-decision procedure (third reading conciliation agreement) by 504 votes to 63 with 89 abstentions.

EDF now calls on Member States not to ask for exemptions to the regulation and that they ensure that the needs of passengers with disabilities are respected as far as possible during all parts of the transport chain, preferably above the minimum requirements under the regulation. **EDF's members will have a key role to play** in order to ensure a constructive dialogue with national bus operators and transport authorities resulting in an ambitious implementation of the regulation, thus leading to non-discrimination of bus passengers with disabilities in Europe

[Access the document](#)

[Read more on EDF website](#)

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WORK PRIORITIES SET FOR EESC PRESIDENT AND LIAISON GROUP

The Liaison Group, of which EDF is a member, has met in February to explore topics for common work with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and to make agenda-setting proposals instead of only feeding the work in progress within the Committee.

The proposals took into account the EU's key priorities for action in the months and years to come; they were based on discussions held on this subject during the meeting of representatives of European civil society organisations and networks in the Liaison Group. In general, the work priorities decided by the Liaison Group and implemented under the aegis of the two co-presidents should cover crosscutting concerns of common interest to the EESC and the European organisations and networks belonging to the Liaison Group. They should not duplicate the work

carried out by the Committee's bodies (sections, observatories, etc.). Furthermore, it was proposed that the outcome of this joint work, when deemed necessary and appropriate, will be assessed internally by the EESC, mainly in the form of communications during plenary session discussions or the "civil society days" co-organised by the EESC and the Liaison Group's member organisations and networks, and which would be held each year at the EESC, as was the case for Group III in 2009 and 2010.

Staffan Nilsson has identified three priorities for his presidency of the EESC: dialogue and participation, sustainability and growth, and solidarity and development.

A strong social Europe: *“Under my presidency, the Committee will continue efforts to reinforce and consolidate the social dimension of the EU, efforts that will **improve employment conditions and promote social integration**. We will go on **fighting the poverty and exclusion** that are afflicting already **vulnerable groups**.”*

A civil society: *“The new treaty provides for **civil society involvement in the EU's work**, albeit there are clear indications that people in Europe are far from feeling a real commitment to European cooperation. The 27 Member States must still find solutions and reach decisions jointly in the Council, and there is a risk that the final outcome will be determined purely on the basis of national advantage or disadvantage. European affairs are most often notable by their absence from national policies and election campaigns. Political leadership that still sees European integration as a policy objective is needed at national and EU level. We need a **civil society that can explicitly defend the values of the Union**, and build support for and take part in the collective construction of Europe.”*

Human rights: *“Security and justice policies must safeguard the values of freedom. These policies should take **protection of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** as their starting point. EU policy and legislation on immigration and borders must give due respect to human rights and place the freedom and security of all centre stage.”*

[The Liaison Group website](#)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PACT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The “European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being” was launched at the High Level Conference “Together for Mental Health and Well-Being” in June 2008. The Pact is a statement of commitment from European Member States to a long-term process of exchange, cooperation and coordination on key challenges relating to mental health, and provides an EU-framework enabling exchange and cooperation between stakeholders in different sectors including health, employment and education on the challenges and opportunities in promoting better mental health.

The European Commission with the German Federal Ministry of Health are organising the conference: “**Promoting mental health and well-being in workplaces**” on 3rd – 4th March 2011 in Berlin. This conference aims to make the public health case for action, and address the following questions:

- How can a more holistic approach to mental well-being at work be strengthened?
- What opportunities exist for social welfare to support workplace initiatives to strengthen the ability of individuals to cope with the stress and strains of working life?
- How might funders of health care systems and social welfare/security collaborate with workplace stakeholders to implement measures to promote and protect mental health?
- What specific principles are salient to foster well-being and increase mental capital in different types of organisations - private and public, small, medium or large?

The event will present examples of good practice corporate leadership initiatives, strategies and programmes to promote mental health, prevent mental health problems, and to retain or reintegrate people with mental health problems into work, and consider how these can be transferred to different contexts across Europe. Outcomes of the conference will include recommendations for action.

Around 350 participants are expected to attend this event, which is by invitation only, including high level representatives from Member States’ governments, international institutions, employers, social partners, NGOs, relevant experts and workers’ organisations.

[More information and programme](#)

EDF NEWS

80 MILLION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIVERY ON THE COMMITMENTS MADE

Leaders of the European disability movement debated during the weekend about the main issues that European Union institutions will be dealing with in the upcoming months. These were formed after very decisive developments in disability rights legislation and policies in 2010. European citizens are feeling the **effects of the financial crisis in their everyday lives** and we want to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected and promoted in the midst of this. The European Disability Strategy and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities will serve as the supporting instruments, together with the EDF top campaign on Freedom of Movement.

EDF's Top Campaign for 2011

Basic freedoms are enshrined by the European Union Treaties: free movement of persons, goods and services. The EDF Top Campaign for 2011 aims to **remove the barriers to active citizenship, to tackle the barriers to the free movement of goods and services, and facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities**. The endeavours are based on Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Accessibility is also one of the most important aspects of the European Disability Strategy.

EDF calls on the European Commission to ensure that the future proposal of a **European Accessibility Act** can become an effective legislative tool to improve the lives of 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe. EDF is ready to participate in the process of elaboration of this proposal as for the proposal of legislation on accessibility of public sector websites and websites providing basic services to the public.

A commitment to ensure that the UNCRPD is fully implemented in the EU

Further to the conclusion by the EU of the UNCRPD, the EDF Board has adopted a proposal for a coordinating mechanism based on the creation of a **European Disability Committee**. EDF calls on the European Commission to take concrete actions based on obligations coming from the UNCRPD in areas such as the creation of an independent body, the reporting on the actions taken to ensure compliance with the UNCRPD and the full participation of organizations of people with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of it. The European Disability Strategy is a good framework to take action in some of the areas foreseen in the UNCRP and will work to ensure the success of this strategy.

Persons with disabilities are vulnerable due to the crisis

EDF President **Yannis Vardakastanis** stated: *"We need to send a clear message to the EU institutions and the governments of Member States that we will not compromise on the accessibility of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society despite the burden of the financial crisis."* As a result of the debate on the economic and financial crisis, we want to make sure that it will not put persons with disabilities in situations which put them at risk of social exclusion, poverty and unemployment. EDF adopted a number of action plans in these areas and is ready to participate in the constructions of effective European legislation and policies.

Download media release [EN](#) [FR](#)

[Video from the Board](#)

[Photos of our meeting:© Lidia Constantini](#)

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E-ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Following a request from the **Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights**, in order to support the work of the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which was transferred by the International Disability Alliance, EDF consulted its members and gathered information on e-accessibility for persons with disabilities. This document lists the feedback received and provides good practices in access to documentation and information, as well as a not-exhaustive list of guidelines, handbooks and other types of documents supporting Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) to deliver e-accessibility to persons with disabilities.

[Download the document](#)

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MESSAGE FROM EDF PRESIDENT TO THE PARLIAMENT: TIME TO DELIVER

EDF President **Yannis Vardakastanis** writes how the EU must implement the European Disability Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The last issue of the Parliament Magazine has published our demands.

[Read more](#)

EDF WANTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO TRANSPORT FOR PWD

Access to transport is one of EDF key priorities as it is a tool for participation and social inclusion. Legislation and policies are adopted at the EU level, but the approach has so far been somewhat fragmented, which has meant that the **transport services in Europe are not yet fully accessible** and therefore, the transport chain is not seamless.

Despite progress and increased understanding of the need for accessibility for persons with disabilities, there is a **series of challenges remaining such as physical barriers** (both to the transport modes themselves but also to the surrounding built environment), lack of accessible information, lack of awareness-training of the transport personnel, lack of compensation rules in case mobility equipment or assistive devices are damaged, lack of adequate assistance.

EDF' solutions to these barriers:

Formal European standardisation to solve the intermodality issue (that involves the use of more than one mode of transport for a journey), but also to facilitate the lives of passengers;

Commitment to accessibility as a part of sustainability both in the economic and social sense;

Short-term and long-term **plans on how to improve accessibility**, with the necessary budget attached to it and elaborated in cooperation with DPOs;

Joint and **coordinated effort by public authorities and transport operators**, they must all feel responsibility.

Training of personnel on disability awareness: An accessible travel chain is beneficial for everyone as accessible transport is comfortable and is of a high quality. Truly sustainable transport which ensures both economic viability and long-term usability must by definition be accessible transport. It is both short-sighted and irresponsible to invest in non-accessible transport. Finally, and most importantly, accessibility is a rights issue.

The theme of this year's **INTERMODES** was accessibility in the widest sense. EDF wanted to ensure that accessibility for persons with disabilities got the full attention at this conference. EDF was thus invited to participate in a roundtable focusing on "Policies adapted to the needs of everyone". As a consequence of the presentation, EDF was invited to make a presentation at the EMTA 'European Metropolitan transport Authorities' working group on accessibility, and was invited to make concrete suggestions to the TEC accessibility policies (Wallon public transport operator).

[Conference website](#)

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THE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE NETWORK

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are vital to making possible the **professional and cultural inclusion of persons with disabilities**. At the same time, when they are not accessible, ICTs can create new obstacles and can lead to new forms of discrimination. The disability movement is collaborating on the eAccess+ project: a network to improve e-accessibility. It is funded by the European Commission/e-inclusion unit under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, ICT Policy Support Programme](#) and will support the implementation of e-accessibility throughout Europe. This project has two main goals: **knowledge sharing and networking** in order to provide accessible forms of communication.

eAccess+ is a thematic network to improve e-accessibility in 3 domains: web, accessible convergent communication (e.g. digital television) and self service terminals. EDF is one of the 25 partner organisations in all 3 domains, as there are serious accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities.

Knowledge sharing: The [eAccess+ hub](#) has the aim to become the **encyclopaedia that answers concrete questions about accessibility of websites, digital television and self service terminals**. Therefore it collects, good practices, policies, standards, training materials, test tools and studies. An encyclopaedia does not create new things but brings them together, filters out what is relevant and structures content. Technically the website uses the same software as Wikipedia. The search field is your friend- if you do not find what you were looking for, create an account and don't hesitate to add it yourself.

Speak to the right people: Countless studies have demonstrated a very slow increase of e-accessibility. E-accessibility should be mentioned more often, not only within disability related

organisations, but also externally by **contacting organisations and industries** to ask why they are inaccessible and to guide them in the right direction to change this. These include producers of self service terminals, CMS developers, TV broadcasters, web agencies, manufacturers of household equipment etc.

Why is EDF part of eAccess+?

To provide to the consortium the **perspective of users with disabilities** and explaining their accessibility requirements.

To **disseminate information, raise awareness about e-accessibility** and reach out to new external stakeholders at both EU and national level.

To **support EDF members** to find expertise and/or exchange information on e-accessibility.

Contribute to the encyclopaedia

More information

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The EU wants to reduce early school leaving, as indicated in Europe 2020, the EU growth strategy for the next decade. Persons with disabilities represent 15% of the population of Member States: a focus on inclusive education and special needs would reduce school dropout rates. Nevertheless, the European Commission adopted the communication: "Tackling early school leaving" at the end of January and didn't recommend concrete and sufficient actions to include persons with disabilities.

EDF Vice President, **Erzsébet Földesi** attended the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Employment (EPSCO), organized by the Hungarian presidency of the European Union on 17-18 January 2011 in Gödöllő, Hungary. The meeting included a Working Lunch and two Workshops. The Working Lunch was devoted to the complex issue of **reducing regional labour market disparities**. Participants were invited to debate about the **impact of the crisis** and the challenges regarding that particular field, and to provide their views about the best methods to address the problem.

Workshop 1 dealt with the issue of the **integration of youth into the labour market**. In the context of the economic crisis, young people, especially the most disadvantaged ones, are **exposed to the risk of unemployment or confined to underpaid and insecure jobs**. Discussions were thus targeted towards the main labour markets bottlenecks affecting young people, the policies of Member States and their use of ESF funds, and the EC "Youth on the Move" initiative.

Finally, Workshop 2 was devoted to the question of job-creation. Despite a stabilization of labour market indicators after the crisis, prospects remain quite pessimistic. To achieve its Europe 2020 goals in that area, the EU should focus on job creation, and in particular encourage the employment of disadvantaged jobseekers. Discussions focused on the **way job-creation can be supported by economic and employment policies, by structural financial reforms, and by the use of EU resources**, and on the role of job-creation in favour of the employment of less qualified workers.

[Read more on EDF website](#)

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SINGLE MARKET ACT: EDF FOLLOWS UP

The European Commission has presented a communication “**Towards a Single Market Act**” that includes 50 proposals to re-launch the Single Market. It is less popular but more needed than ever for all EU citizens, consumers, workers, SME, enterprises, after 3 years of economic crisis.

The **High Level Conference** provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with Members of the European Parliament, the EU Presidency, governments, regional and local authorities, stakeholders, the academic community, think tanks and media active on European issues. The European Commission will take their ideas and views into account when it will set up an action plan that has with 10-12 priorities to achieve by the end of 2012.

The European Commission launched the proposition for a Single Market Act (SMA) (with its 50 proposals) and its public consultation in order to propose in March 2011 a list of 10-12 priorities. It should **create the right balance between the growth and employment** that will help the European Union to reach a durable and inclusive growth. President Barroso identified the Single Market as a strategic priority to meet the goals for competitiveness and growth under the EU2020 strategy.

It is important for the EDF to follow up this process and make sure that the **people with disabilities' interests are taken into account**. The measures that will be adopted for a better Single Market should benefit to any disabled person in its freedom of movement, in its access to goods and services, or even in its social rights.

Finally, EDF answered the European Commission Public Consultation on the Single Market Act (SMA) on 28 February 2011. EDF Answer is based on EDF previous positions in the different areas concerned and [you can find it here](#).

[Conference website](#)

[Download the European Commission's proposal of the Single Market Act](#)

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**EDF ON THE MOVE:
MAKE SURE YOU HAVE CHANGED OUR MAILING DETAILS**

EDF has moved to new offices. This is our new address:

European Disability Forum

Square de Meeus 35

1000 Brussels ,Belgium

Photos from our Office Warming

EDF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

**NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE (NCDP) OF GREECE –
FOUNDER MEMBER OF EDF**

The National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) founded in 1989 is the national umbrella organization representing people with disabilities and their families. N.C.D.P. has officially been recognized by law as the **national co-partner of the Greek State dealing with disability issues**. They are also a provider of the life long learning programs and has acquired management efficiency certification for the implementation of the Hellenic NSRF 2007 - 2013 projects.

Nowadays, NCDP includes **more than 500 organizations** all around the country representing different types of disabilities. Its mission is to **combat discrimination against disabled people** and protect and promote their human rights as well as the rights of their families. At national level, NCDP participates actively in decision-making, organises strategies, monitors the implementation of legal measures and makes suggestions to the Greek State regarding all areas of social life. At European level, NCDP participates actively in all initiatives and campaigns of the European Disability Forum.

These days, since the Greek economic crisis has a great impact on all Greek citizens' lives, the main aim of the NCDP is on the one hand to protect the vested rights of Greek citizens regarding disability benefits, pensions, facilities and provisions given by the state and on the other, to promote the improvement of their every day lives. NCDP's motto is: **"People with disabilities and their families should not pay for the crisis which they are not responsible for. Instead, the state should ensure the safety and protection of persons with disabilities and their families through public policies and public funding"**.

A great priority for NCDP is the ratification by the Greek Parliament of the UNCRPD, since the Greek legislation, policies and programs will be revised, implementing the paradigm shift from charity to rights, from a medical model to a social/Human Rights model.

Since the unemployment rates of disabled people in Greece have been high, the Greek Confederation is currently trying to promote the adoption of a new quota system exclusively for Greek disabled citizens.

Under the motto "nothing about us without us" and with the strong belief that article 16 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 constitutes a great chance which should be utilized in favor of its members, the NCDP is intervening in the implementation process of the Hellenic NSRF 2007 - 2013 in order to ensure that all and the Operational Programs (OPs) will include the requirements of this article. The NCDP participates in all Monitoring Committees of the Operational Projects of the Hellenic NSRF 2007 - 2013 with voting rights.

In the framework of the implementation of the Hellenic NSRF 2007 – 2013, NCDP is running this year several projects:

«Lifelong Learning and Disabled People», «Strategy Study of Restructuring and extension of the Role and Responsibilities of the National Observatory of Disabled people», «Compatibility's Study of the Greek Legislation with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities», «Empowerment of the Collective expression and the advocacy of People with mental disability», «Accessible Consultation e- services for People with Disabilities» Cross-Border Programs 2007 – 2013 between Greece and Bulgaria.

[More information](#)

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MEMBER OF THE NEXT MONTH

Would you like to share some of your latest interesting activities or particular projects that you are undertaking? At the end of each month, we will let you have more space in our network newsletter hoping you will make use of it.

Send your propositions to: Ewa Pawlowska | +32 2 286 51 83 | ewa.pawlowska@edf-feph.org

EDF MEMBERS' NEWS

VACANCY AT AUTISM-EUROPE: HALF TIME COMMUNICATION-ADVOCACY OFFICER

Autism-Europe is an international association whose main objective is to advance the rights of persons with autism and their families and to help them improve their quality of life.

Autism-Europe recruits a half-time communication-advocacy officer for its Brussels based Secretariat. Reporting to the Director, the Communications Officer will assist with media relations, publications, online presence and events.

Job description:

- Drafting and editing of Autism-Europe's publications (bi-annual magazine LINK, online newsletters, press-releases as well as awareness-raising documents, position papers, reports, etc), under the supervision of the Director and the Executive committee;
- Liaising with designers and printers to produce high-quality publications;
- Updating the website; Developing press contacts;
- Contributing to fund-raising activities by designing a fund-raising strategy and contacting potential sponsors; Contributing to internal communication;
- Contributing, as necessary , to the organization of governing bodies meetings as well as conferences and events; Supporting the Director with policy work.

Requirements:

- Higher degree in communications;
- Excellent writing skills in English (native speaker level), fluent in French;
- Knowledge of another EU language is an asset; Excellent analytical skills;
- Demonstrated experience in communications and website management;
- Very good IT knowledge (MS Office tools), including Power Point;
- Familiarity with the international non-profit sector Knowledge of EU policy and understanding of disability issues Good understanding of information architecture; Website ergonomics and accessibility skills Perfect conversational skills to use with members and external stakeholders A flexible and can do approach, ability to work to tight deadlines Pro-active, ability to multi-task and prioritise Ability to function in small team

Terms:

One-year contract according to Belgian law, with possibility of renewal. Interviews will take place in Brussels. Start date: May 2nd 2011

Application process: The **deadline for applications is 14 March 2011**; applications received by this date will be given priority; late applications will be considered if the position has not been filled. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Interviewees will be asked to undertake a short written assignment. Applicants should **send a cover letter** (1 page max) **and a CV** (2 pages max), with details of relevant experience to secretariat@autismeurope.org.

Contact: secretariat@autismeurope.org

PROMOTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD: THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERGEN PROJECT

Designed and conducted by **European Blind Union (EBU)** and funded by the Education and Culture DG of the European Commission, the **INTERGEN project** involved five partners from the EBU network: the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV), the Italian Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted (UIC), the Italian Institute for Research, Training and Rehabilitation (IRIFOR), the Turkish Federation of the Blind, and the Turkish Six Dots Foundation.

The aims of the project were to develop methods and techniques which would facilitate the **exchange of experience and knowledge between different generations of visually impaired people**. Throughout the project a series of workshops were held by the different partners, and the evaluation and successive improvement of these permitted the creation of a **workshop facilitation manual**.

These results, and the positive response to the project both from the organisers and the participants in the different workshops, allow us to hope that INTERGEN will continue to have an impact beyond the end of 2010 when it officially ended, and will become a valuable resource for future use. The individual skill forms, designed to enable young and elderly visually impaired people to improve their daily living skills and their capacity to exploit new technology, and translated into five different languages (English, French, German, Italian, and Turkish), are great examples of practical, easy-to-use resources resulting from the project.

Access the document: [on the website](#)

PARTNERS' NEWS

LAST CALL: FEANTSA IS RECRUITING A POLICY OFFICER

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, is looking to hire a Policy Officer to lead their work on Human Rights. The deadline for applications is **4th March 2011**. Candidates should have an excellent understanding of human rights, in particular social and economic rights. Knowledge of housing rights would be an asset.

[Read more](#)

Contact: freek.spinnewijn@feantsa.org

CAMPAIGN FILM AGAINST CUTS IN DISABILITY BENEFITS

Camcorder Guerillas are making a short film to counter negative attitudes towards disabled benefit claimants and to expose the hypocrisy of imposing cuts on the poorest whilst there is tax avoidance by the richest. They will be at the STUC lobby on 5th March and wish to find a couple of volunteers willing to be interviewed.

They wish to film disabled people who will be directly affected by the cuts and who have strong stories to tell. They would be interested in filming people both at the **lobby on 5th March** and before this so that they are able to document their stories and get stories told from an angle which the mainstream media don't cover.

If you are intending to go to the lobby, live in [Glasgow](#) (or the surrounding area) and would be interested in being filmed, Contact: Bill Scott | 0131-555-6887 | policy@inclusionscotland.org

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIMES

The **Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)** is preparing its annual report on Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses. The report provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes as well as of responses to combat hate crimes. It will be launched on **International Tolerance Day on 16 November 2011**. As in previous years, ODIHR encourages submissions from NGOs. **Deadline: April 01, 2011**

[More information](#)

DISABILITY WATCHDOG: CAMPAIGN AGAINST WAITING LIST FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET

The campaign '**10 jaar PAB. En nu serieus**' (10 years of PAB. And now serious), was organized by a **Flemish personal assistance budget (PAB)** holders organization, BOL-BUDIV, based in Flanders, Belgium. It took place from October to December 2010 and had a national impact. PAB

celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2010. Thanks to PAB, a Flemish person with a disability can employ his/her own personal assistant.

The purpose of the campaign was to **disseminate more information about PAB to the public opinion and influence the government to start treating PAB seriously** and as an alternative to institutionalization. It also addressed the issue of the year long PAB-waiting list.

Measures taken: BOL-BUDIV represents hundreds of budget holders throughout Flanders. There are around 1800 budget holders living in Flanders who have their own assistance budgets and, along with their families, can live a more independent life. PAB is a direct payment scheme to support people with disabilities.

The campaigning process

- The campaign '10 years of PAB. And now serious' started with a press conference on the 30th of September 2010.
- A website to promote the campaign was launched.
- A YouTube channel was created to distribute the specially made for the campaign movies about personal assistance budget. A Facebook account was also created to spread the news about the campaign.
- To promote the campaign in the media appearances in national radio programs and TV news were made.
- On the 8th of December 2010 a demonstration against the PAB-waiting list took place at two biggest train stations in Flanders.
- A book entitled 'Vrijheid heeft een naam' (Freedom has a name) was written for BOL-BUDIV in celebration of the 10th anniversary of PAB. The main theme of this accessibly-written book is personal assistance service in Belgium, its history, policy work, present situation and also its future.

Result: The campaign was another call to the government – a call for a change. It resulted in social recognition. Most importantly, however, the people behind PAB –persons with disabilities and their families, friends and supporters – were able to speak out more clearly, share their stories and experiences and start a dialogue with those who were interested in knowing more about PAB.

[Read more about the campaign](#)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PHOTO CONTEST

Amnesty International has launched its Europe-wide anti-discrimination photo contest. The aim is to mobilize people to **express the ideal of a society without discrimination**. The contest is open to everyone in Europe above the age of 14, excluding professional photographers. The best 12 photos will be used in a calendar and other promotional material for the Fight Discrimination in Europe campaign.

Deadline: March 14, 2011x
[More information](#)

FIRAH ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PROJECT

The **International Foundation of Applied Disability Researches** (FIRAH) announced its call for project 2011. Interested organizations will [find application details here](#). The deadline for applications is **April 22, 2011**.

www.firah.org
 Contact: Philippe Chervin | philippe.chervin@firah.org | + 33 (0)6 79 18 86 75

MDAC SEEKS RESEARCH DIRECTOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

In order to achieve its ambitious human rights goals, MDAC is strengthening its senior management team by creating two new senior positions:

Research and Monitoring Director. MDAC is searching for a person holding a PhD in a social science discipline or equivalent experience. The post-holder will lead and develop a range of research and monitoring activities including country reports, policy briefs and working with other NGOs to produce alternative reports to United Nations treaty bodies. For more information about the job and for details about how to apply, see the application pack which is available [here](#). The deadline for applications is **23 February 2011**.

Finance and Administration Director. MDAC is searching for an experienced Hungarian-qualified accountant to facilitate timely, complete and accurate financial control and reporting of MDAC's 1.1 million EUR budget, to oversee the support service functions of MDAC (including human resources, IT, administration), and to be a key player in MDAC's senior management team. For more information about the job and for details about how to apply, see the application pack which is available [here](#). The deadline for applications is **18 February 2011**.

[More information](#)

SOCIAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVITIES

Social Platform has published its issue 8 of their quarterly four-page magazine.

[Download magazine \(only PDF\)](#)

ROUND TABLE ON SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

During the **Lifelong Learning Week** (14-17 March), **SOLIDAR** and **EUCIS-LLL** (European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning) are organising a round table on the "Social dimension of education and training: Investing in new Skills and Competences". The event will take place on **Tuesday 16 March** from 12.30-15.00 in the European Parliament. You can [register your participation](#).

[Read the programme](#)

'LIGHT FOR THE WORLD' IS RECRUITING FOR ITS EU LIAISON OFFICE

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, member of the International Disability & Development Consortium (IDDC), is a European Confederation of national development NGOs, supporting programmes for and with persons with disabilities in developing countries through local partners.

To strengthen thier efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in European Development Co-operation and to work for "Inclusive Development", they are looking for a **Policy Assistant / Policy Intern**, based in Brussels. We encourage persons with disabilities to apply for this position.

Responsibilities:

- Administrative support to the EU liaison office; Assistance in policy activities at European level; Support to internal and external communication.

Her/his activities will include:

- Logistical organisation of meetings and advocacy events; Maintenance and development of contacts in the database and managing correspondence;
- Drafting of some documents; Liaison with service providers; Communication with stakeholders.

Required skills and experiences:

- Sensitivity for and commitment to human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, **international development and non-discrimination**
- Good command of English and French or Dutch.
- Confident communication and writing skills.
- Good command of basic Office packages and web based search.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work independently

Send your application, CV (please avoid Europass CV format) and motivation letter in English to eu@light-for-the-world.org

www.light-for-the-world.org

Celia Cranfield | + 322 275 0085 | c.cranfield@light-for-the-world.org

SOCIAL PLATFORM IS RECRUITING A POLICY ADVISER

Social Platform is recruiting a Policy Adviser in the field of social inclusion and employment. The job description and application pack can be found on Social Platform website. **Deadline for reception of application is March 8 at 5pm.**

[Download the Application Pack](#)

UNITED NATIONS

CRPD RATIFICATIONS REACH 98

The ratification of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD) by Romania on **31 January 2011** has increased the number of the States Parties to the CRPD to 98 while the **Optional Protocol has 60 ratifications**. The number of signatures of the Convention is 147 while the Optional Protocol has 90 signatures.

IDA DISABILITY RIGHTS BULLETIN

This bulletin is intended for experts advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular within the Geneva-based human rights framework. It is prepared by the IDA Secretariat, which also provides support to the Group of States Friends of the CRPD.

To subscribe to the bulletin, EDF Membership can contact Cristina Campos: ccampos@ida-secretariat.org

[Download latest issue](#)

[Download past issues of the bulletin](#)

[More information](#)

Contact: Cristina Campos: ccampos@ida-secretariat.org

UN CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES & REFERENCES ON DISABILITY ACCESS

In support of the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights seeks to compile best practices on accessibility for persons with disabilities in daily life (for example, regarding documentation; access to

information, including websites; interpretation services; public transportation, buildings, etc.). Any relevant accessibility practice is of interest.

In addition, any relevant **standards, guidelines, handbooks** or other references that organisations might be using in order to promote and ensure accessibility. Input received will be compiled in order to document accessibility best practices to support the work of the Committee.

The inputs should be sent to crpd@ohchr.org
 Visit the website of the Committee

EVENTS

DATE	EDF FORTHCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS	VENUE
25-26 March 2011	EDF Executive Committee	Berlin, Germany
28-29 May 2011	EDF General Assembly	Budapest, Hungary
15-16 October 2011	EDF Board meeting	Warsaw, Poland
10-11 December 2011	EDF Executive Committee	tbc

FIRST EUROPEAN FAIR OF YOUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The first European Fair of Youth and Human Rights will be held in Strasbourg, France from **19th – 21st March 2011**, the theme of which is **discrimination**. The fair marks the end of a teacher training course on human rights that took place in 2010. 4000 children, including children with disabilities will attend.

[More information](#)

[DOWNLOAD CALENDAR OF DISABILITY RELATED EVENTS](#)

EDITORIAL NOTE

This Bimonthly Mailing is issued in English and French, and is addressed exclusively to EDF Members.

A Word Document is attached and posted on the Members' Only website, under *General Information*.

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