Inclusion Europe
The European Association of Societies of
Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families

Leadership training for self-advocates and family members

Date: 17-19 November 2015

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Aim of the training: In order to increase the capacity to engage in European policy debates, Inclusion Europe will host a leadership training seminar for family members and self-advocates from the national level in Brussels. The 3-day seminar will comprise an introduction to different EU policy areas that are relevant for persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as to EU level advocacy work, the work of EU-level NGOs, funding sources, and to the European institutions.

17 November 2015

9.00 – 10.00: Welcome of the participants (joint session) – Aleksandra Ivankovic Tamamovic

Who is who?

Expectations of the participants

Overview of the training programme

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

10.00 – 10.30: Short introduction about EU institutions – Silvana Enculescu (joint session)

The focus of this session will be on what EU institutions are doing and how Inclusion Europe works with them. The EU is a very complicated institution, but it can do a lot to improve the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. Therefore, it is important to understand how the EU and its institutions function and what advocacy at EU level can achieve. This will be explained through Inclusion Europe's experiences in how is the best to approach the different EU institutions and through which channels we can make our voice heard.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 11.30: Introduction: What will happen in the European Parliament on 19 November? – Magdi Birtha

The participants will learn about the aim of the event that Inclusion Europe and the New Paths projects organise in the European Parliament on 19 November 2015. The

event will focus on the role of person-centred planning in the process of closing down institutions in Europe and investing in community based living facilities and services.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

11.30 – 13.00: *Session A (family members):* **Why is Europe relevant for families of people with intellectual disabilities?** – Geert Freyhoff

This session will discuss what the European level has to do with intellectual disability, and why it is important to advocate for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities at EU level. Sometimes it is difficult to see all the areas that where EU decisions make a direct impact in your own country, but indeed the EU can do a lot to make the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities better. It is useful to know what topics the EU is currently working on that could bring change for many people and how is the best to get involved in these debates.

VENUE: **European Disability Forum** (Square de Meeûs 35, 1000 Bruxelles)

Session B (self-advocates): **Why is it important to make your voice heard at EU level?** – Magdi Birtha, Soufiane El-Amrani

Introducing what the EU can do for persons with intellectual disabilities and why is it important that self-advocates are active at that level. The interactive session will build on issues that participants are interested, or have barriers in their home countries and will show that the EU can do something to improve their lives.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch (**MUNDO B 'Lotus room'**)

14.00 – 15.30: *Session A (family members):* **How to work effectively at EU level: The example of the Employment Framework Directive**– Geert Freyhoff

The aim of the session is to highlight how effective advocacy work at EU level can pervade national level and make a real change in people's lives. This will be shown through the example of the EU Employment Directive and its impact on the employment opportunities of people with intellectual disabilities. Persons with intellectual disabilities are often excluded from the labour market, and parents who are staying at home as carers of their children with complex needs, face additional barriers. The EU is committed to combat discrimination in employment, therefore persons with intellectual disabilities and their family members should have access to decent jobs and wages. Is this not the case in your country? We will tell you what can be done to improve the situation!

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Urban room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles, 1st floor)

Session B (self-advocates): **How to prepare for a meeting with an MEP?** – Silvana Enculescu

Top tips from Inclusion Europe on how can you be successful when you prepare for a meeting with a politician or a decision-maker. Role play on the preparation, how to understand the topic of the meeting, what needs to be done before an event, how we dress, and how we act etc.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

15.30 – 17.00: Let's get out of the EU bubble! - Sightseeing in Brussels

18.00 – Dinner

18 November 2015

9.00 – 9.30: Summary of Day 1 – Aleksandra Ivankovic Tamamovic

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

9.30 – 10.30: The right to vote: Making our voice heard in EU politics (joint session) Aleksandra Ivankovic Tamamovic

This session will focus on the right to vote and the situation of persons under guardianship who are not being able to participate in the elections at the national and EU level. Why is it important to vote? How can it be that many people still cannot vote? How could we change the situation? Why the EU level can be a good place to raise this issue?

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30: 'Together we are stronger': Roundtable with allies of Inclusion Europe on how to best advocate together (joint session) – Catherine Naughton (EDF), Luk Zelderloo (EASPD), Frank Sioen (ENIL), Haydn Hammersley (Autism Europe), Alva Finn (MHE).

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

12.30 – 13.30: Lunch

13.30 – 15.00: *Session A (family members):* **Top tips on EU funding opportunities** – EC (Annelisa Cotone tbc)

This session aims to help participants to get informed about the available EU funding that can support advocacy work in their home country. A representative from the Unit of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will provide useful insights on what is necessary for a successful application.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Urban room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles, 1st floor)

Session B (self-advocates): **How can you make your voice heard at EU level: The European Platform of Self-advocates** – Elisabeta Moldovan, Silvana Enculescu

This session will introduce the European Platform of Self-advocates and through examples tell the participants what EPSA did to raise the awareness of EU decision-makers about important issues. This year, EPSA advocated among other issues for independent living, or legal capacity. The EPSA Steering Group also organised in October 2015 the 'Hear our Voices' conference in Madrid.

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

15.00 – 15.45: Evaluation of the training

VENUE: **MUNDO B 'Lotus room'** (Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles)

16.00 – 18.00: Visiting the Parlamentarium

19 November 2015

10.00 – 14.00: **Participation in the seminar of Inclusion Europe and the NewPaths to Inclusion project network in the European Parliament:** 'Putting citizens at the centre of politics' **-** *Using person-centred planning in the transition from institutional to community-based living*

(Lunch provided there 13.30 – 14.00)

14.30 – 15.30: Visiting the European Parliament with a guide

15.30: Farewell& goodbyes

Requests for participation should be sent as soon as possible, but at the latest by 16 October 2015 to m.birtha@inclusion-europe.org **. Since the number of places is very limited, we cannot guarantee access to all interested participants. The places will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.**