

JANUARY 2012



The priorities of the Danish Presidency: what about people with disabilities?

From the 1st of January until the end of June 2012, Denmark will be in charge of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

According to its [work programme](#), presented at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the Danish Presidency will focus on “Europe at work” to create an European Union which will be responsible, dynamic, green and safe.

Despite the great expectations that rose during the European Day of Persons with Disabilities, when the Danish Minister for Social Affairs and Integration announced a cross-cutting plan to tackle disabilities related issues, the actual work programme refers only

few times to people with disabilities.

To foster a dynamic market, the Danish Presidency is focusing on “securing a future labour market, health, and a labour market in need of everyone”.

This includes promoting “the participation of older people in the labour market and in the voluntary sector and at the same time initiate a discussions on how modern technological aids can make life easier for older people and for people with disabilities, so that their resources can be used for the benefit of society”.

The plan also foresees “the implementation of the EU strategy for people with disabilities”.

Above all, the Presidency plan announced the increase of technological helps to actively involved people with disabilities in the society.

Overall, the Danish Presidency wants to focus on the creation of sustainable jobs and at the same time in fighting against poverty and social exclusion or equality.

EASPD will participate to the conference on “[Conference on accessibility and participation](#)”, organised by the Danish Presidency on the 5th and the 6th of March 2012 bringing its contribution to the fruitful debate.

Website of the Danish Presidency: <http://eu2012.dk/en>

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New EU Directive on public procurement

The European Commission on the 20th of December 2011

has issued a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and Council on public procurement. This is the first wholesale revision of public procurement law in the EU since 2004 and represents a substantial change in approach in a number of significant areas.

The main objective of the proposed Directive, together with the all package is to simplify rules and procedures and make them more flexible. Therefore, the Commission proposes in particular:

- ⇒ the possibility of increased recourse to negotiation, enabling the contracting authorities to purchase goods and services which are better tailored to their needs at the best price;
- ⇒ the extension and, in the medium term, generalisation of electronic communication in public procurement, since it offers an essential means of simplifying public tendering;
- ⇒ a drastic cut in the administrative burden, including the number of documents required from economic operators, thereby making their lives

easier.

The revision of the public procurement Directive announced by the Commission is part of an overall programme to thoroughly modernise public tendering in the European Union. Indeed, the reform of legislation on public procurement is one of the twelve priority actions set out in the Single Market Act adopted in April 2011.

Michel Barnier, European Commissioner responsible for Internal Market and Services, has declared: "This reform is necessary, ambitious and realistic. The current Directives have proven their worth. But Directives must move with the times. I would like to make sure that the public procurement procedures become simpler and more effective and that they make life easier for those whose daily work involves public procurement."

Concerning social services, the evaluation on the impact and effectiveness of EU public procurement Directive has shown that social, health and education services have specific characteristics which make them inappropriate for the application of the regular procedures for

the award of public service contracts. Indeed, these services are typically provided within a specific context that varies widely between Member States due to different administrative, organisational and cultural circumstances. The services have, by their very nature, only a very limited cross border dimension.

The European Commission explains that Member States should have large discretion to organise the choice of service providers. The proposal takes into account this by providing a specific regime for public contracts for services with a higher threshold of EUR 500 000 and imposing only the respect of basic principles of transparency and equal treatment.

A quantitative analysis of the values of contracts for the relevant services awarded to economic operators from abroad has shown that contracts below this value have typically no cross-border interest.

[Here the Commission proposal .](#)

EASPD and its Policy Impact Group will assess the directive in detail and it will contribute actively to the debate.



Commissioner M. Barnier in charge of Internal Market and Services



Social Services Europe Network: promoting non-for-profit social service providers in Europe

On the 12th of December 2011, the Europe Network Social Services Europe was launched to strengthen the profile and position of social services, and to promote the role of not-for-profit social service providers throughout Europe. The network brings together seven Europe-wide networks of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services, **SOLIDAR, Eurodiaconia, the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR), Workability Europe, European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) and the European Platform for National Non-Profit Umbrella Organizations and for National Associations of General Interest (CEDAG).**

EASPD, together with other organisations, was the driving force for the

creation of this network. The President Franz Wolfmayr and the Secretary General Luk Zelderloo, represented EASPD at the inauguration!

Social Services Europe represents 100,000 social and health services active across Europe promoting social inclusion and social cohesion. The sector, employing 10% of the EU workforce, has a long term commitment to vulnerable people and is constantly searching for innovative and cost effective solutions to providing services. It aims to ensure that the specificity of not-for-profit social and health care service providers is recognised and that economic, social and legal conditions exist for quality social and health care services.

“Member organisations of the network have expertise as large scale providers of social and health services on a not-for-profit basis. With the increase in demand for our

input both in consultations and in public fora, such as the 2010 forum on social services of general interest organised under the Belgian Presidency, we decided to make ourselves a formal grouping” explained Jarmo Kökkö, Social Services Europe President and Eurodiaconia Chairperson.

He continued: “Social Services Europe has an important contribution to bring to the overall success of the EU 2020 strategy and in addressing the social impacts of the present crisis. The current debates around Europe 2020, quality in Social Services of General Interest (SSGI), state aid, public procurement and social innovation show that there is an importance being attached to SSGI and there is a space for a formal, strong network that can promote the not-for-profit agenda.”

The thematic priorities of Social Services Europe for the upcoming period will be: the contribution of social services to overall EU policy on staff and human rights issues, social innovation and structural funds.

[READ the presse-release](#)



Daphne III: protecting children, young people and women against all forms of violence in Europe

[Daphne III](#) is a European programme established in the framework of the General Programme on ‘Fundamental Rights and Justice’ aimed to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and

groups at risk.
Priorities 2012:
⇒ Rights of victims of violence
⇒ Violence linked to harmful practices
⇒ Children as victims and perpetrators of violence

⇒ Perpetrator programmes and interventions
⇒ Training programmes for professionals in contact with victims
⇒ Empowerment work at grass-roots level

For more information: [click here!](#)



PROJECT UPDATES

Project PESSIS: “Promoting employers’ social services organisations in social dialogue”

Starting from the 15th December 2011, EASPD is project coordinator of the project PESSIS: “Promoting employers’ social services organisations in social dialogue”, financed by the European Commission, under the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

The project aims to redress the lack of qualitative and quantitative data on labour and social dialogue issues in the sector of social services from the perspective of employers. It focuses on the social and economic role of the social services sector and its major contribution to

employment and growth in Europe. It will last until September 2012 and it represents the first step of a longer term process, as Luk Zelderloo, EASPD Secretary General, stressed: “I think that this project will open a pathway to -finally- a full recognition of the social sector in Europe and at national level”.

The key action will be a mapping exercise across 11 European Countries which will bring to a better understanding of how social dialogue is organised and structured (or not) in the social sector in Europe. It will also increase the understanding of barriers to enhanced cooperation among employers in the sector.

The project is managed by EASPD, in partnership with seven other European networks representing social service providers (Caritas Europa, CEDAG, EPR,

Eurodiaconia, FEANTSA, SOLIDAR, Workability Europe), the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), which comprises 8 million public service workers from over 250 trade unions and ten partners representing NGOs from different European countries that will manage the mapping exercise at a national level. The results of the national mapping exercise will be combined in a European Summary Report on social dialogue on the social services sector. The report will be presented in a Final Conference that will take place in Brussels the 21 June 2012.

The Conference will reassemble key stakeholders to have the possibility to discuss the Report and to draft some conclusions and recommendations that, together with good praxis examples will be put together in a toolkit that will be used as an instrument for capacity building in the sector.



Supported by: DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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EASPD engages in new EU-project “Raising Awareness & Corporate Employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Turkey”

The project RACE which kicked off in Turkey in November 2011 brought together partners from 5 different countries in the endeavor to enable persons with disabilities to enter the open labor market and thus to gain more independence and confidence. This will be achieved through adapting and applying in practice the training materials and tools developed in previous EU funded projects: ‘Conversion’ and ‘Pass it on’, and through creating new tools for the project target groups.

The aim is to engage and guide the participants in the efforts for creating and facilitating learning and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Why Raising Awareness for Persons with disabilities is important?

Disability is often connected to unemployment and social exclusion. Prejudice and discrimination are the main reasons of low employment rates for people with disabilities in most EU countries. Also in line with EU conventions & strategies the society has the responsibility to create opportunities for them. One way to

do so is through Supported employment which offers a suitable model to avoid segregation of persons with disabilities and is much more inclusive than sheltered workplaces. The model is 'place-train-maintain'.

The benefits of increased independence and inclusion are not limited to the persons with disabilities only, employers benefit as well and so does the society. Still, it is very rare in practice, thus the main project aim is to promote and increase it.

What will be done?

- ⇒ Transfer of knowledge and EU good practices, training materials, guidelines
- ⇒ Support to Turkish policy makers with key materials and expertise
- ⇒ Raise awareness among corporate and politic communities and the society on the benefits of persons with disabilities integration
- ⇒ Enable managers and key staff professionals to implement supported employment
- ⇒ Enable VET, disabil-

ity organizations etc. to support the persons with disabilities in open labor market

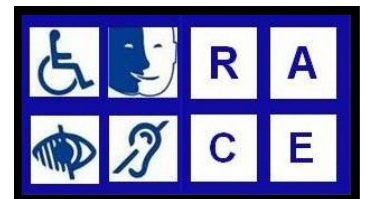
- ⇒ Achieve sustainability through a set-up of national helpdesk

As a result the employers and VET providers in Turkey and Italy will gain competences to facilitate supported employment. This efficient training model will be also offered for further exploitation. The stakeholders in Turkey will get experience with supported employment and access to best practices, as well as EU networks to equip them for decision making for future policies. The awareness of supported employment and its concrete benefits will be raised not only in Turkey and Italy, but over partnership also in other EU countries.

The first E-Newsletter on the project will be sent in February.

For more information please visit the project website:

www.employdisable.eu



Lifelong Learning Programme

For more information, please contact:
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After three years, the ImPaCT in Europe project ended the 31st of December 2011



The project ImPaCT in Europe ended the 31st of December 2011. This was a Networking Project in the field of ICT and disability financed by the Life-long Learning Programme of DG Education and Culture.

The objective of the ImPaCT in Europe network was to “accelerate the effective participation of target groups at risk of exclusion and improving their quality of life” by facilitating the development and implementation of PCT, stimulating the effective use of ICT-enabled services and competence building of the

end users of PCT.

ImPaCT in Europe led to the creation of a long lasting Network, embedded in the structure of EASPD. This platform is used to exchange information, develop innovation and to mainstream and disseminate good practice in the deployment of PCT throughout Europe, especially thanks to EASPD 10.000 members.

EASPD will include the project outcomes in its dedicated « Interest Group on ICT and Assistive technology » keeping the network alive and growing.

Here’s listed the achievements of the partnership:

- ⇒ [stakeholder events](#)
- ⇒ [Mapping of PCT implementation in Europe](#)
- ⇒ [Ethical Framework for the implementation of PCT](#)
- ⇒ [Training Needs Analysis](#)
- ⇒ [web-based Information Centre](#)
- ⇒ [Glossary](#)

To find more about the outcome of the project, please visit the website <http://www.impact-in-europe.eu/> and read our [final newsletter](#)

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT SEMINAR

IBB2- Inclusive Care Teams – People with learning difficulties become colleagues.

Brussels, 19 June 2012

The seminar will be organised in the framework of the IBB2 project -Training for Disability Care Workers: Developing an integrated mentoring model to support starting a career as a disability care worker- sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Programme of DG Education and Culture. The main goal of the project is to open the way for persons with learning difficulties to be employed in the social care sector.

During the seminar, special attention will go to the employment of persons with learning difficulties in the light of the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the UN Convention. Also the importance of diversity management and the main results of IBB1 and IBB2 will be discussed.

More information on the project results and the final seminar will be published in the next IBB2 E-Letter. For any Information on the project please visit www.lebenshilfe-guv.at/ibb2.

For registration to the seminar (free of charge) please contact sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu.



My Rights – My Voice: Staff training by persons with disabilities on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities

On the first of October 2011 a new 3-years project started, realized with the support of the European Commission. Six organizations from across Europe, among which EASPD, together to create the My Rights-My Voice project. The project addresses two issues that have primal impact on the quality of life for persons with disabilities, namely awareness of their human rights and quality of specialised services.

The expertise and professionalism of staff working in the service providing sector is determinative for the level of quality these services offer. In this sense there is a direct link between the

quality of staff training and quality of life of disabled persons. Though education and training systems in this field differ from country to country there is one common issue everywhere: persons with disabilities are hardly ever involved in staff training. In the My Rights-My Voice project, we aim at filling in this serious gap in the educational system for service providers' staff. Persons with learning difficulties will be trained to become coaches of professionals working in the field of service provision. The content of the training is based on the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**.

The impact envisaged is to implement this "train-the-trainer" approach into the curriculum of educational institutions providing training and education for staff of service providers in the disability sector. This will have a positive effect on the quality of services people with disabilities receive and will improve their life according to the UNCRPD.

For more information on this project please contact Sonia Staskowiak: sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu or visit the website www.innovia.at.

The first E-Newsletter on the project will be sent in February.



Galileo satellite technologies can help improving quality of life of people with motor impairments!

EASPD is organising the testing of a prototype satellite navigation device for people with motor impairments, in London, in March 2012. The device should enable people to experience barrier-free movement in a urban environment, according to their specific profile and needs.

This activity is carried out in the framework of the INCLUSION Project, co-funded by the European Commission FP7 programme. The project is led by Thales Alenia Space Italy. For further details on the project, please contact Hervé Gauthier - herve.gauthier@easpd.eu



Event Notification

Seminar on the rights of workers in the workshop working environment

On the 9th of March the seminar *Status of the person in the workshop working environment* will take place in Nurnberg, Germany, in co-operation with BAG:WfbM.

The seminar is part of the annual Workshop Fair/ Werkstätten Messe (www.werkstaettenmesse.de), organized by BAG:WfbM, taking place

from the 8th to the 11th of March 2012.

The seminar will deal with the rights of workers with intellectual disabilities inside sheltered workshops. Topics such as the status of the workshop worker, its professional career, its rights and the role of workshops with regard to its workers be thoroughly

discussed together with challenges and models of good practices.

There is no participation fee; during the seminar interpretation to French and English will be provided.

For questions on the seminar please contact Sabrina Ferraina at: sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu

EASPD conference Ljubljana, Slovenia: ME AND ME, Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities: Dual Diagnosis?

Registrations are now open:

<http://krickrac.net/demo/sous>

or via www.easpd.eu

People with intellectual disabilities are at higher risk of developing mental disorders in comparison to the general population.

These disorders may also present themselves in different ways, which can mean they are not properly identified and therefore people do not receive the required support. Diagnosis and subsequent support process can be challenging and complex, especially for people who have severe and profound

developmental disabilities.

EASPD is organising a conference taking place on the 24th and 25th of May 2012 in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the topic of dual diagnosis.

We are honored to have the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Danilo Türk, as a guest speaker at the conference "Me and Me. - Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities: Dual

Diagnosis?". This event will be organised in close cooperation with the Slovenian umbrella organisation SOUS and two of its member organisations Zveva Soncek and CUDV Draga.

We hereby invite you to participate at the conference.

For more information, please contact: **Sonia Staskowiak** sonia.staskowiak@easpd.eu



Charlotte Boetticher will soon leave EASPD

After more than 3 years at EASPD, Charlotte Boetticher, our Communication and Membership Officer decided to step back from her job in order to take on a job at the Brussels office of the European Olympics Committee.

We, at EASPD, are all very sorry to see Charlotte leave. Her work has always been of a high standard and she very much contributed to the success of the organisation.

EASPD would like to thank Charlotte for her passionate work and commitment during the years she has spent with us and wish her all the very best with her future employment.



The Narrative Report of the **European Parliament event** is now available online!

[Click here to find out more!](#)



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