Easy-to-read in Coronavirus emergency

On Tuesday 31 March 2020 Inclusion Europe held the first of a series of online meetings about matters important to persons with intellectual disabilities and their families during the Coronavirus emergency.

Soufiane El Amrani, Inclusion Europe’s easy-to-read and advocacy officer, talked about some of the most important rules to be followed when writing a text in easy-to-read.

*People with intellectual disabilities have to review the text.*

*If you have to use a hard word, make sure you explain the hard word in your document.*

*When creating easy to read text there are rules that you have to follow:*

- You have to use large letter size
- You have to split your sentences onto a new line.

*There are European Standards on how to make information in easy to read and understand.*

*I was part of the team that created the European Standards on making easy to read information easy to read and understand.*

Soufiane explained why easy-to-read is an important to provide accessible information for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Especially with so much information about the coronavirus, what to do and what not to do.

*It is important to for people with intellectual disabilities to know about the Coronavirus in easy to read.*

*It is also important to help people with intellectual disabilities to understand what is going on.*

*The Coronavirus has caused a lot of changes to our lives.*

*So the easy-to-read information is a good start – but it is important to talk to people and to explain what is going on.*

*The easy-to-read texts can help with that.*
Inclusion Europe’s material about the COVID-19

Inclusion Europe created a webpage gathering the materials relevant to the Coronavirus emergency. The webpage is updated daily with new content and can be accessed here.

The participants’ contributions

The participants engaged in the debate and shared different materials produced by different organisations in easy-to-read about the Coronavirus:

- video by the World Health Organization on how to prevent getting the Coronavirus
- materials by an Australian network called First Peoples Disability Network Australia.

There are organisations that produce daily write-up about the coronavirus situation in easy-to-read, for example the Croatian organization Udruga za Samozastupanje (their website and twitter).

Participants also discussed what kind of relevant information about the coronavirus in easy-to-read is still missing, for example:

- How the coronavirus is spreading,
- What quarantine means and why there are so many recommendations right now
- Why people wear masks when going outside.
- What to do if you cannot reach the emergency lines and how to ask for help if you don’t have family members or friends.
- What happens if a person with an intellectual disability have to go to the hospital or needs to talk to a health care professional.

Video recording of the meeting is available here.

Inclusion Europe organises online exchange about the Coronavirus emergency.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn or subscribe to our newsletters to know about them first.

5 steps to prevent harm to people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Coronavirus emergency (.pdf)