

July and August 2017



# Europe for Us!

The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates



## Summer of Love



# Introduction

Hello to all self-advocates!

It is summer now.

So you can read this newsletter while you sunbathe!

This time, the main topic is Summer of Love.

It is about the interviews that we did during the Europe in Action event.

The theme of the interviews are love, life and friendship.

You can read the interviews on pages 3 to 10.

You can read about Pavla Dohnálková.

Pavla speaks about her movie.

The movie is about love.

You can also read about Adrian Margineanu.

He talks about his life and how he is living on his own.

You can also read about Rózka Horvátová and Matúš Kubove.

They talk about how they live together and want to get married.

On page 11 you can read about the Civil Society Prize.

This prize is for projects that help people with disabilities to get a job.

On page 12 you can read about a letter that Inclusion Europe wrote to the United Nations CRPD Committee.

The letter is about independent living.

If you have any ideas for stories we should write about, please send them to [s.el-amrani@inclusion-europe.org](mailto:s.el-amrani@inclusion-europe.org).



**Editor**

Soufiane El-Amrani

### Summer of Love- Interviews

Summer is the time when we think about love.

We also had a conference about it.

We did three interviews with self-advocates.

They told us about their experiences with love and relationships.

You can read the interviews here:

#### Pavla Dohnálková (Czechia)

Pavla Dohnálková played the lead role in the film “Unfair love”.

This movie was shown at a local movie festival.

The movie festival was about films

where people with disabilities play a role.

Pavla is one of the main actors in the movie.

The movie won the first place at the festival.

Pavla won the prize for a woman actor as well.

Pavla is in a relationship in the movie.

She is also in a relationship in real life.



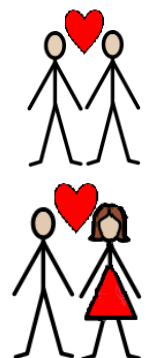
**You played the lead role in the film “Unfair love”.**

**What was the film about?**

The movie is about 2 relationships.

The first one is between 2 boys

The second one is between 1 boy and 1 girl.



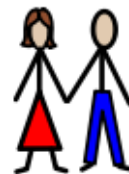
## How was the experience filming the movie?

It was a great experience.

I filmed with my friend Stephen Boubalik.

I enjoyed making the movie.

In the movie I had a relationship.



Many people do not understand and do not want to accept

that people with intellectual disabilities are in relationships.

According to the law in my country we should not have a relationship

because of our disability.

The movie is about persons loving each other and how some people try to prevent them from having a relationship.

In the movie, the relationship takes place in an **institution**.

In this institution professionals do not support the relationship.

**Institutions** are places where people with intellectual disabilities live with other people with intellectual disabilities.

They live apart from other peoples. This is what we call “separate”.

Sometimes this happens against their will.

The people who live in institutions have to follow the rules of the institution and cannot decide for themselves.

## What do you like best about the movie?

I like that the partner in the movie does not want to be with another girl.

He only loves her.

She is the person I play in the movie.

**You are also in a relationship in real life.**

**How old were you when you started your own relationship?**

I was 18.

**What is your advice for people who are looking for a partner?**

They have to be in love.

Love will make you happy.

People have to trust each other and they will find someone.

Do not lie to the person you are in a relationship with.

## **Adrian Margineanu (Romania)**

Adrian Margineanu is a self-advocate from Romania.

He is part of Pentru Voi.

Pentru Voi is Inclusion Europe's Romanian member.



**Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I am 41 years old.

I lost my father when I was 2 years old.

I lost my mother in 2005 and I had no relatives anymore.

From 2005 to 2007 I used Pentru Voi's services.

Pentru Voi owns an apartment where I live.

**How are you living now?**

Now I live in a flat.

I get money because my parents died.

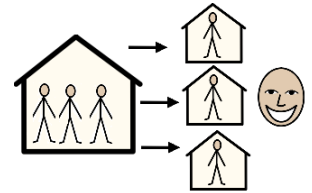
I also get some money as I have a disability.

I live **independently**.

**Independent living** means that people with intellectual disabilities can choose with whom and where to live.

They also can:

- Live in the community.
- Decide how they want to spend their time.
- Have the same experiences as all other people.



**You are looking for a relationship.**

**What have you tried already to find a girlfriend?**

I do not have a girlfriend at the moment.

I have female friends and I go out with them.

I bought a chocolate box for one of them.

**Is there something else you would like to talk about?**

Yes, there is.

Someone stole my money some years ago.

Because of this I am under **guardianship**.



**Guardianship** allows some people to make life choices for others.

The person who makes choices for you is your guardian.

Your guardian can decide things for you, like where you live.

Sometimes people under guardianship like Adrian are not allowed to vote or get married or take care of their kids.

## **What does the guardianship mean for you?**

For example I don't have the right to vote.

It also means that I cannot be paid for my work.

Pentru Voi has contracts with some businesses.

Some of them make perfumes.

They put the perfumes in boxes.

I am working for one of these businesses.

But I'm working for free because I cannot be paid  
because I am under guardianship.

This is the law in our country.

This is a big problem for me.

At Pentru Voi we ask the government to change the law.

## **What are your goals for the future?**

I want to find love.

I do not want to be alone later.

I have some money and a flat so I want to be with someone.

But I cannot go to the bank to get money.

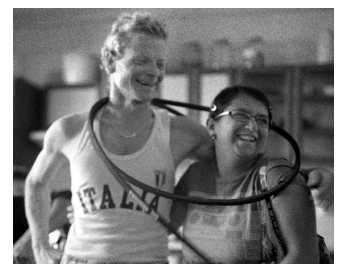
Only my guardian can do this for me.



## **Rózka Horvátová and Matúš Kubove (Slovakia)**

Matúš and Rózka are a young couple from Slovakia.

They live together and they want to get married.





## How did you meet for the first time?

Matúš: We met when I was living in an institution.

Rózka was living in another institution.

We met at a party at one of these institutions.

In page 4 you will see the definition for **Institution**

## What do you like most about each other?

Matúš: I like everything about her.

Rózka: I like his laughter and I like his sense of humour.

## How is it like to live together?

Matúš and Rózka: It is great.

We cook together.

We go shopping and we visit the city.



## You want to get married.

## What are the problems that you have?

Rózka: Marriage is an important decision.

We need to be sure.

The law is a problem for us.

Matúš has to go to see the judges.

Matúš already met with a lawyer to prepare everything.

Matúš does not have full **legal capacity**.

**Legal capacity** means that people with intellectual disabilities can do things



on their own.

This is what they can do:

- Make choices about their lives.
- Get married, start a family and raise children.
- Sign contracts (also working contracts).
- Have a bank account.
- Controlling their money and property.
- Make decisions about their health.
- Take part in politics and have the right to vote.

If you do not have your full legal capacity you cannot marry.

Rózka has full legal capacity because she is younger.

For being younger she is under a new law.

When Matúš entered the institution he lost his full legal capacity.

5 years ago Matúš asked to get back his legal capacity.

But they only gave him back part of his legal capacity.

If you have only half of your legal capacity like Matúš

you have to ask for permission to marry.

This is what the law is like in Slovakia.

### **Where do you see yourself in the future?**

Matúš: One of my dreams is to go to a music party in Bratislava.

Rózka: I want to marry Matúš.

Matúš: In 1 or 2 years I will receive an answer about my legal capacity.

Then I will know if I can marry Rózka.

**To Rózka: You lived most of your life in institutions.**

**How did you leave the institution to live independently?**

**Who helped you?**



Rózka: I lived in a public institution.

It was a place where people should stay only for a short time.

Only until there is something better for them.

People from the staff and other organisations helped me  
to move into a flat.

I am not very close to my family.

### Civil Society Prize

Getting a job is very important for people with intellectual disabilities.

There is a prize called the **Civil Society Prize**.

This year the prize is for projects that help people get jobs.

The prize has a big reward.

If you know of projects that help people with intellectual disabilities get jobs tell them about the Civil Society Prize.

To learn more about the prize you can go to this link:

<http://bit.ly/2sVRA3k>

The information about the prize is not in easy-to-read.

You can have someone help you read about the prize.

The people who want to get the prize must send in information about their project.

They must do this by 8 September 2017.

The prize will be given on 7 December 2017.



## Inclusion Europe Writes to the UN CPRD Committee

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in short, the CRPD Committee) is a group of people that check what countries do to make sure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
In short it is the UN CRPD.  
It is an important document.

It tries to make sure that the rights of people with disabilities are respected.

Inclusion Europe has written to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We did that because we are not happy about a text that this committee wrote about **independent living**.

This is what living independently means: <http://bit.ly/2uUKrPb>

You can read more here: <http://bit.ly/2ugpIDL>

## Leadership training in September

In September Inclusion Europe is organizing a 3-day leadership training. We invite you to join the event.

This leadership training is for self-advocates and their families.

The training will happen in Brussels from the 26th to the 28th of September.

The training will have self-advocates and their families.

During the 3-day event self-advocates will learn about many things like:

- How to be a self-advocate at the European level.
- Violence against women with intellectual disabilities.
- How to advocate for more protection from violence.

At the training you will get to meet other self-advocates and family members.

You can see more information in this link: <http://bit.ly/2uaWomV>

## Test summary

You have read a lot of important things today.

Maybe you would like to let others know.

Explain to your friends what you have learned:

1) What does Adrian want to find in the future?

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2) Why can Rózka and Matúš not marry?

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3) What does it mean for Adrian to be in a guardianship?

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## Events

### Hear our voices

EPSA organises a conference for self-advocates.  
It is called “Hear our Voices”.

At this conference, self-advocates come together  
to share ideas and experiences  
about intellectual disability.

The next Hear our voices conference will take place  
from 5 to 7 December 2017 in Brussels, Belgium.

You can learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2tj6BNg>

### Contact Us



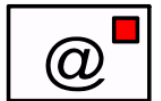
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