

January - February 2017



Europe for Us!

The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates



Conference Europe in Action 2017:
Love, life and friendship



Hello to all self-advocates!

In this edition of Europe for Us you will get to read about many interesting topics.

On page 3 to 5 you will get to read about the “Europe in Action” conference which will take place on 1-3 June in Prague in the Czech Republic.

On pages 6 to 10 you will read my report on a 3 day meeting that happened here at Inclusion Europe.

Many self-advocates from different countries came to this meeting.

They all shared their own thoughts and experiences.

It is where many self-advocates from different countries come together and share their experiences.

On page 12 you will read about Mencap celebrating its 70th birthday.

On page 14 there is an article about a foundation called Pentru Voi which was celebrating its 20th birthday.

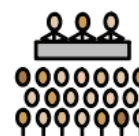
We are trying to improve “Europe for Us” and would love to hear from you.

What do you think about the changes we did?
What would you like to read about in the next issues?

Please send your proposals to
s.el-amrani@inclusion-europe.org



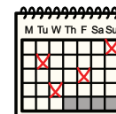
Editor
Soufiane El-Amrani



Europe in Action 2017

From the 1 to 3 of June 2017 Inclusion Europe will have its annual conference “Europe in Action”.

The theme will be “Love, life and friendship”.

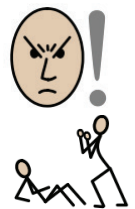
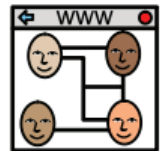


Conference Europe in Action 2017:
Love, life and friendship

Participants will talk about the following topics:

- Findings Friends
- Dating
- Sexuality
- Motherhood
- Social networks
- Parenting
- Medical support
- Support by social services
- Hate Crimes

(Hate crimes are crimes that people do because they do not like a group of people, for example they do not like people with an intellectual disability.)



At the conference people will also talk about sexual violence.

This conference will bring together over 200 people from many countries in Europe.

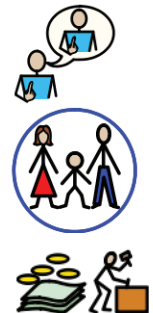
For all people with intellectual disabilities it is very important that they find people who they can be friends with.

Many people with intellectual disabilities find it difficult to make friends because of their disability.

This Europe in Action conference will be a place where everyone can come and share their stories and also make friends.

Europe in Action is open to:

- Self-advocates
- Family members
- Professionals



The conference will be co-organised by Inclusion Czech Republic and Inclusion Europe.

Visit www.europeinaction.org if you would like to participate in the conference.

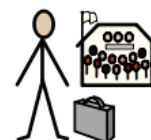
Self-advocacy meeting in Brussels

In January, self-advocates from the EPSA Steering group and from Spain and Hungary got together for three days to think about self-advocacy in Europe and how EPSA and Inclusion Europe can make sure that they voice the needs of European self-advocates.

EPSA is Inclusion Europe's platform for self-advocates.

At the conference, the self-advocates talked about topics which are important to them:

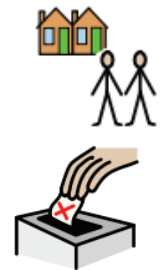
- **How to involve members in their work.**
- **How to change the views of politicians.**
- **How to make authorities aware of self-advocacy and of its importance.**
- **How to make sure that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is implemented.**
- **How to get the money they need to do their work.**



The self-advocates often fight for the same things in their countries.

These include:

- **Having legal capacity.**
(see explanation at the end of the article)
- **The right to live in the community.**
- **The right to vote and be elected.**
- **Access to buildings and information.**
- **Meeting new people.**



The self-advocates talked about the work they do at local, regional, and national level to address these issues.

EPSA

At the meeting, we also talked about how EPSA works.

EPSA offers a chance to self-advocates to meet other self-advocates from Europe and exchange views and ideas.



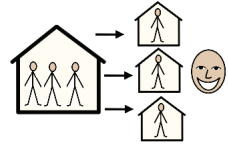
EPSA is a way for people with intellectual disabilities to make sure their voices are heard on a European level.



The participants identified 3 priorities
EPISA should focus on for the next 3 years.

One priority was:

- **Independent Living**



This means that people with intellectual disabilities should be able to:

- Decide with whom and where to live.
- Live in the community and in inclusive settings.
- Decide how they want to spend their time.
- Have the same experiences as all other people.
- Not live in segregated institutions.

Segregated institutions should be closed and people supported to live in the community.

Segregated means setting someone apart from others.



Another priority was:

- **Supported decision making**

This means that people with an intellectual disability
should have their legal capacity recognised.
(see explanation at the end of the article)

The third priority was:

- **Inclusive Education, Training, Employment**

This means being able to learn and work together with other people without disabilities. This is important for people with intellectual disabilities.

Europe for Us newsletter

As the “Europe for Us” Editor, I explained to everyone how I create the newsletter. I told the participants that the newsletter is published in:

- English
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Hungarian
- Romanian

I also asked everyone if they had ideas how to change the newsletter.

Most of the people proposed some changes to the the way the newsletter looks like.

There was also a discussion on the pictograms used in the newsletter.

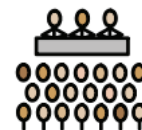
One person proposed to make the newsletter more accessible for blind people.

Some people said that they do not receive the newsletter. So we put them on the mailing list.



Hear our Voices

At the end of the event we talked about the Hear our Voices conference 2017.



This is a conference for self-advocates that EPSA and Inclusion Europe organise every 2 years.

The next one is planned for November in Brussels.

Explanation:

Legal capacity means:

- You can make choices about your life
- You have the right to start a family and raise children
- The contracts you sign are valid
- You can open a bank account
- You can control your money and your property
- You can take decisions about your health
- You can take part in politics and you have the right to vote.



Elections for the EPSA steering group.

Step up, self-advocates!

There will be elections for the steering group of the European platform of self-advocates (EPSA).

The elections will happen at the Europe in Action conference in Prague.

Write to self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org to learn more.

You can learn about what steering group members do and how you can stand up for the elections.

Happy 70th birthday, Mencap!

In the United Kingdom, there is an organisation called “The Royal Mencap Society” – in short, Mencap.

Mencap is a member of Inclusion Europe.

Mencap supports people with an intellectual disability.
Mencap turned 70 years old last year.



The organisation was created by a person called Judy Fryd.

Judy created Mencap because Judy had a daughter with an intellectual disability.



Judy's daughter was being treated very badly while she was at school.



It made Judy very angry.



Judy wrote to a big magazine and many parents responded. That is how Mencap was created.



Mencap provides services for people with an intellectual disability and their families.

Mencap has started a campaign on Twitter to make people with an intellectual disability visible in society.



They have also created a community called FamilyHub.



It is a place where parents, family members and carers can ask for help from others.

Mencap did a survey and found out that parents who have children with an intellectual disability feel that they are not welcome in public.



Mencap says that there is still a very long way to go until people with an intellectual disability can be part of the society.



Mencap will continue to work to make sure this is true for all people with intellectual disabilities.

Happy Birthday, Pentru Voi!

In Romania, there is a foundation called Pentru Voi.

Pentru Voi is a member of Inclusion Europe.

Pentru Voi celebrated its 20th birthday last year.

Pentru Voi offers services to about 200 people with intellectual disabilities.

It was founded by a group of parents who have children with intellectual disabilities.

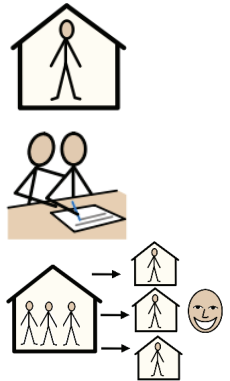
Pentru Voi held an event celebrating its anniversary.

People at the event said that the work that Pentru Voi is doing is very important for all people with intellectual disabilities.



Pentru Voi developed many things, for example:

- A day center for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Supported employment for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Support for independent living.



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:

What is “Europe in Action”?

Which themes will be talked about at “Europe in Action” ?

Who can go to “Europe in Action”?

SUMMARY

“Europe in Action” Conference

From the 1 to 3 of June 2017 Inclusion Europe will have its annual conference “Europe in Action”.

The theme will be:



Conference Europe in Action 2017:
Love, life and friendship

Contact Us



European Platform
of Self Advocates

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For more information or
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Visit our website:
www.inclusion-europe.org



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