

Europe for Us!

The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates

Editorial



Hello to all Self-Advocates.



In this Edition of “Europe for Us” you will get to read many interesting articles.



You will get to read about the Public Hearing which took place in Brussels.

It was about how the European Parliament can help to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Europe.



You will learn about Lebanon hosting the Special Olympics Regional Games for the first time.



I will tell you about Europe in Action 2016 in May where you can talk and share ideas.



I will present a new application called the “See and Learn Saying More Words” that was created to help children with Down Syndrome.



You will hear about a project in Austria that wants to teach people with intellectual disabilities to write articles in Easy-to-Read.



You will also know that the Spanish Constitution was made into an Easy-to-Read document by Plena Inclusion.



If you have any stories or videos you want to share with us please send them to s.el-amrani@inclusion-europe.org



Best regards,
Soufiane El Amrani



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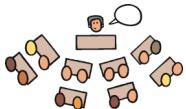


With support of the European Commission and Inclusion Europe

Public Hearing at the European Parliament



There is an important document called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in short, UN CRPD) which explains the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.



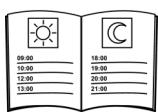
This document says that all people with intellectual disabilities have the same rights and freedom as people without disabilities.

The European Union has to respect the UN CRPD.



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The United Nations Committee reviewed the European Union to see if they were doing a good job or not. They still had more work to do to improve.



The European Parliament is writing a big report on how they can help to better the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in Europe.



There was a Public Hearing which took place on the 27 January 2016 at the European Parliament.



A Public Hearing is a meeting where many people meet to talk about important subjects.

During this Public Hearing, members of the European Parliament, organisations, self-advocate and their families talked about ways to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.



Inclusion Europe was present at the hearing. Inclusion Europe created the Easy-to-Read agenda of the Public Hearing so people with intellectual disabilities could understand what was happening.

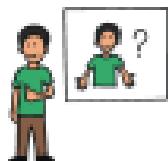


The President of Inclusion Europe, Maureen Piggot, talked about problems in Europe for people with intellectual disabilities. For example voting and legal capacity.

Public Hearing at the European Parliament



For me, legal capacity means being able to make my own choices.
Like living on my own and having my own job.
It also means that I have the right to vote in elections and have my voice heard.



Decisions about my life should not be made for me.
I know what is best for me.

Inclusion Europe gave out Accessibility cards.



People at the Public Hearing were not speaking too fast and I was happy that they did not use difficult words.

I found the Public Hearing to be very interesting and easy to understand.



After the Public Hearing, the European Parliament published a draft of their report.

They also made an Easy-to-Read version of the report.
They invited persons with intellectual disabilities to send their comments.



Inclusion Europe has collected the comments and suggestions from persons with intellectual disabilities and sent it to the European Parliament.



These comments will be included in the final report.

The Regional Winter Special Games 2016 in Lebanon



The Regional Winter Games in Lebanon for the Special Olympics took place from 30 January until 5 February 2016.

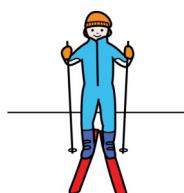
Regional means it was a local competition.



Lebanon is a country located in the Middle East.

This event was to get people talking about intellectual disability. They did this through people with intellectual disabilities playing sport.

There were 4 Olympic Winter games:



Floor Hockey
Snowshoeing
Alpine Skiing
Cross Country Skiing

Floor Hockey

Is a type of indoor hockey.

The aim of the game is to try to score goals in the other teams net.

Snowshoeing

In this sport they travel over snow wearing special boots so they don't sink in.

Alpine Skiing

People with disabilities sit on a mono-ski to compete in this race. A mono-ski is a single wide ski.

This game is a race to beat the other team down the snow slope.



Cross Country Skiing

Cross Country Skiing is recognised as an Olympic and Paralympic sport.

Instead of skiing down a hill you ski across flat ground.



The Lebanese Prime Minister was happy to welcome the Special Olympic event in his city.

He said that the games were accessible to everyone.

Europe in Action 2016



Well it is that time again where Inclusion Europe and FENACERCI are co-organising the “Europe in Action” conference.



Europe in Action takes place every year.

This year it is in Lisbon, Portugal from the 26-28 of May 2016.

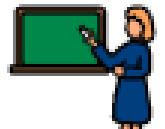


The theme of this year’s conference is Inclusive Education.

It will focus on what families can do to help children with intellectual disabilities go to the same schools as other children.



They will discuss the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



In the Convention, it is written that all children have the right to go to school together.



Inclusive education is very important for people with disabilities.

We will hear from many different people during the conference.

It will also host several important meetings.



On 27 May the European Platform of Self-Advocates (in short, EPSA) general meeting will take place.



EPSA is run by people with intellectual disabilities.

If you want to go to Europe in Action I invite you to register now at www.europeinaction.org

The See and Learn Saying Words app



Down syndrome affects the way a child speaks.



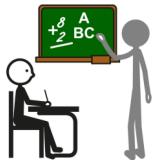
There is a new mobile application (in short, app) that has been created.

It is software for a computer or a tablet.



The name of this application is “See and Learn saying More Words”.

It has been created to help children with Down syndrome improve their speech.



With the help of this app children with Down syndrome will be able to learn new things that will help them through life.



The app will show a set of pictures to a child with Down syndrome.

They will be asked to remember the picture they have seen.

This app can be used in schools or at home.



It is made by a company called Down Syndrome Education who want to improve the lives of children with Down syndrome.



This app is available for:

Apple

Android

Windows

Kindle Fire



If you would like to download this app, please click [here](#).

Newspaper articles written in Easy-to-Read



Many people with intellectual disabilities find websites hard to read when they are not in Easy-to-Read language.

Official websites need to have Easy-to-Read versions for people with intellectual disabilities to use.



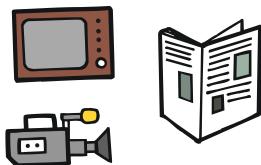
People with intellectual disabilities have the right to have important information in a way that is easy for them to read and understand.



The Zero project in Vienna, Austria wants to make as much online information accessible as possible so people with intellectual disabilities can understand what is written in the news.

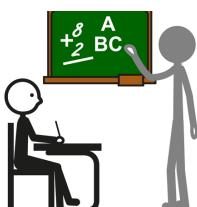


The way the project will do this is by teaching all people with intellectual disabilities to write their own stories in Easy-to-Read.



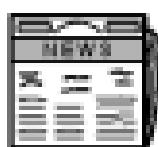
People with intellectual disabilities will also learn how to publish what they have written.

They will publish their work in an Austrian online newspaper called Kurier.



Teaching this course involves four people. Two teachers and two journalists.

The project is planned to run for 3 years.



This project is funded by Fonds Soziales Wien who are based in Vienna.

The articles will be available to read at www.kurier.at.

Spanish constitution now in easy-to-read



Plena Inclusion is a member of Inclusion Europe.

They fight for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.



In the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities it says that people with intellectual disabilities have the right to access information in Easy-to-Read format.



Dilofácil is a project by Plena Inclusion that has helped to make the Spanish Constitution Easy-to-Read.

Cooperativa Altavoz and Fundacion Ademo worked together on the project.



The Spanish Constitution text was checked by people with intellectual disabilities and Plena Inclusion's legal team.



Plena Inclusion chose the European Day of Persons with Disabilities to show the Spanish Parliament the Easy-to-Read constitution in Spanish.



People with intellectual disabilities who live in Spain can now look at the text in Easy-to-Read format.

This text is available in Spanish and it can be viewed by clicking on this [link](#).



For more information or to share stories with us, contact: information@inclusion-europe.org.

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