

Inclusion Europe

The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families
L'Association Européenne des Organisations des Personnes Handicapées Mentales et leurs Familles

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Report about the work of the European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA)

Last year in Madrid EPSA has elected
the chairperson and its steering group.

I - Ulla Topi - have been elected as chairperson.
I form the steering group of EPSA together with:

- Donald Stirling
- Lars Olson
- Jean-Marie Coste

I automatically became
vice-president of Inclusion Europe.

Jean-Marie Coste and Donald Stirling became
the other representatives of EPSA
in the board of Inclusion Europe.

EPSA has also chosen their logo in Madrid:



Why this logo?

- The sun in the middle represents the self-advocates.
The idea behind this is that the sun is strong.
EPSA can become strong!
- The stars represent the different countries of Europe.
They are just like the stars on the European flag.
- The circles are open so that more people
can move towards the light in the middle.
EPSA wants to involve more self-advocates
in the future.

EPSA also discussed in Madrid and later on
their action plan for the coming years.

This is what we want to do:

- To prepare easy-to-read information
- To organise a conference in 2003 for the European Year of
Disabled Persons

- To build bridges between self-advocates organisations
- To inform and train self-advocates organisations

EPSA and Inclusion Europe will organise a conference in Brussels at the end of June. In 2003 the steering group of EPSA formed a preparation committee for this conference.

The title is:

Empowerment. Together against discrimination!
People with intellectual disability from all over Europe will meet at this conference. We will discuss how we can work together to fight against discrimination. In our own countries and in Europe. We will talk about our lives, our dream, our hopes and our fears. We will exchange experiences. We will talk about examples of discrimination and inclusion.

After the conference EPSA wants to think about the future:

We have already decided what the tasks of EPSA should be:

- Help the self-advocacy movement in all European countries to become stronger.
- Represent self-advocacy groups in Europe and in Inclusion Europe.
- Teach self-advocates how they can speak for themselves.

Starting from these tasks,

EPSA will talk about these questions:

- **What** do we want to do with EPSA?
- **How** are we going to do this?
- **Who** are we going to involve?

Ulla Topi
President of EPSA
Vice-president of Inclusion Europe