



Annual Report 2005

In May 2005, the members of EPSA met in Prague for their General Meeting.

The Steering Group of EPSA met 4 times during the year 2005.
They worked hard to implement the work plan that was decided in 2004.



EPSA had 4 objectives.

Here is the work that has been done to achieve each one of them:

1. Help people to decide more by themselves

- The project “Mainstreaming Mental Disability Policy” trained people with intellectual disabilities from the Eastern countries to become self-advocates.
However, these self-advocates will still need support from EPSA in the future.
- We published a new leaflet on EPSA.
In this leaflet, there is an explanation about what self-advocacy is.



2. Tell people about the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities

- Each year, the European Commission organises a conference for the European Day of Disabled People.
For the first time, in 2005, this conference was accessible for persons with intellectual disabilities.
This was an important achievement.
8 persons with intellectual disabilities attended this conference, including some members of the Steering Group.
- Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe held a workshop in Romania.
It was about the new Convention of the United Nations on Disabled People.
10 persons with intellectual disabilities made comments on this Convention.



These comments were given at the United Nations in New York in January 2006.



- The European Disability Forum has a committee on “disabled women”. The president of EPSA took part in this committee’s meeting. They speak about rights of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of disabled children. She brought the point of view of people with intellectual disabilities to the Committee.



- A self-advocacy officer working at Inclusion Europe supports EPSA. He attended a working group on transport around Europe. Representatives from Ministries of Transport from all European countries attended this meeting. He explained what is important for people with intellectual disabilities in terms of accessibility to public transport.



3. Help groups of self-advocates at local level



- The brochure “Rules for good support” developed in 2004 was widely distributed in 2005.
- The project MMDP helped to set-up new groups of self-advocates in different Eastern towns and villages.
- The president of EPSA participated in a conference in Ireland with 300 self-advocates to explain what is being done at European level.
- To reach more self-advocates in Europe, the pages on self-advocacy, from Inclusion Europe’s website, were translated into 20 languages.
- To help self-advocacy organisations exchange information, the newsletter “Europe for us” was published every two months.



4. Get more accessible information and website

- The Accessibility Pack and the “Rules for meetings” developed in 2004 were widely distributed during this year 2005.
- The Anti-Discrimination Unit of the European Commission translated part of its website into easy-to-read. This is a really good achievement. It is the first time that a website of the European Commission is accessible for people with intellectual disabilities.



- The European Disability Forum has translated part of its annual report into easy-to-read.
- The European Disability Forum has also agreed to have an easy-to-read section on their new website.
- We developed an easy-to-read brochure on the work of the United Nations.
- We developed an easy-to-read brochure on the European Constitution.
- With the project “Fighting for our rights”, we developed an easy-to-read brochure on the new Directive for Employment.

