



## European Platform of Self-Advocates

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### Annual Report 2010

In 2010, EPSA members elected a new EPSA Steering Group.  
The new Steering Group members are:

**Andrew Doyle**, Scotland – President, Vice-President for Inclusion Europe

**Senada Halilcevic**, Croatia – Steering group member,  
Board member of Inclusion Europe

**Fabrice Vannobel**, France - Steering group member

**Krisse Paaskynen**, Finland - Steering group member

**Ciara Evans**, United Kingdom – Steering group member

EPSA members approved a work-plan for 2010-2012.  
The work-plan has 3 priorities:

1. Tell to other people about the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities
2. Help groups of self-advocates at local level
3. Get more training for self-advocates and make the training more accessible

During 2010 there were some activities that helped to meet our priorities.

## **Priority 1**

### **Tell people about the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities**

Since June 2010 we have published 2 numbers of “Europe for Us!”

An article about the participation of Senada Halilcevic in a United Nations meeting and an interview with Ciara Evans was published.

At national level, our members from Croatia, Finland, and Scotland talked about EPSA work and the self-advocacy movement.

Our member from France continued to talk about easy-to-read and the results of Pathways project.

An easy-to-read version of the recommendations on legal capacity was published.

You can download it from Inclusion Europe website.

Our members from Croatia, France and Scotland are involved in a project about voting, the ADAP project. The project is led by Inclusion Europe.

This is important because it talks about the importance of voting and the right to vote.

Our member from England had a meeting with Inclusion Ireland. She is involved in a project about getting better health care for people with a learning disability.

She spoke at a Conference in Vienna about living independently and getting a job, and also about bullying.

Our member from Croatia had several meetings with people from other countries. She talked about EPSA to people from the Republic of Moldova.

She went to a Coalition meeting about living in the community. The goal of the coalition is to advocate for article 19 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She also wrote articles for the Croatian newsletter “The voice of self-advocates”.

## **Priority 2**

### **Help groups of self-advocates at local level**

EPSA steering group developed a new idea for dissemination of self-advocacy and EPSA.

We have asked Inclusion Europe for support to dissemination activities.

For the next 2 years EPSA steering group will test the “Ambassadors” concept.

This means that EPSA steering group members will act as ambassadors for self-advocacy, at local, regional and national level.

We have started to write letters to EPSA members.

The letters tell about the work that steering group members did in 2010.

Andrew Doyle, Ciara Evans and Senada Halilcevic wrote letters to EPSA members and Inclusion Europe board.

Our member from Croatia has build up a network of 10 self-advocates groups, from 10 cities in Croatia.

## **Priority 3**

### **Training for self-advocates**

Our member from Croatia organized a self-advocates conference. They have organized several workshops about living in the community.

Our member from France received money from the State to organize training about easy-to-read guidelines and Pathways project.

### **The future**

EPSA is organizing an European Self-advocates Conference.

The Conference will be in Portugal, from 30 September to 3 October.

The Conference title is “Hear our Voices!”.