



Annual Report 2011

In 2011, we have continued to implement EPSA work-plan 2010-2012 that was approved in Berlin.

The work-plan had 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 2011 there were some activities that helped to meet our priorities.

Priority 1

Tell people about the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities

In 2011 we have published 4 numbers of “Europe for Us!”

We have talked about the European Union Disability Strategy and the accessibility of elections and the Voting for All project.

“Europe for Us!” also informed our members about the rights of children with disabilities, person centered planning and a world campaign to help people with intellectual disabilities live in the community.

At national level, our members from Croatia, England, Estonia, 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.

We have produced a statement on how to refer to people with intellectual disabilities.

Some of our members are involved in two projects from Inclusion Europe:
The Topside Project and Pathways 2.

Topside project is about Training Opportunities for Peer Supporters with Intellectual Disabilities in Europe.

Pathways 2 project is about producing easy-to-read and understand training materials.

Our member from Croatia organised 1 conference for self-advocates and they are preparing the next one in 2012.

We have organised a self-advocates Conference in Peniche, Portugal.

The Hear our Voices! Conference was a big success and it was attended by more than 150 people.

The Conference was organised and managed by EPSA steering group, with the support of Inclusion Europe, Inclusion International and FENACERCI, one of the Portuguese members of Inclusion Europe.

Main messages from the Conference were:

- Acknowledge that people with intellectual disabilities are here.
- Do not cut the funding for services.
- Make efforts to shut down institutions.
- We want self-advocates in politics!
- We want results, not only words!
- Make things in the community accessible.
- Do away with institutions that don't let us live independently.
- We have the same rights to work.

Priority 2

Help groups of self-advocates at local level

EPSA ambassadors continued to spread the word about EPSA at national level.

They have had several meetings with self-advocacy groups and policy makers.

They have done this using own financial resources.

We have wrote 4 letters to EPSA members, telling about our work at national and European level.

Our member from Croatia has now 13 self-advocate groups, from 13 cities in Croatia.

They have also set up a Coalition for Community Living in Croatia

Priority 3

Training for self-advocates

Our member from Croatia organized several workshops about elections and voting.

Our member from France continued to organize training about easy-to-read guidelines and Pathways project.

During the Hear our Voices! Conference there were several workshops on voting, working with the media, employment, starting a family, living in the community, starting a self-advocacy group, health and using the new social media.

The future

We still need to work the relation with our members.

We want to do this using the Ambassador's fund.

We are planning our next Conference, in Croatia.

The Conference will be in the beginning of October 2013.

We want to make sure EPSA grows and matches the needs of European self-advocates.

In a time of crisis, we need to do this with very little financial resources.

This is a challenge!