

Europe for us!

The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates

Editorial



Hello to all self-advocates.



In this summer edition of Europe for us you will get to read about a lot of interesting topics.



Hear Our Voices conference

The biggest self-advocates conference is going to take place in Madrid, Spain.



Able to Include

A project that Inclusion Europe created to help people with intellectual disabilities be safe online.



European Year of Development

You will read about the theme the European Commission chose.



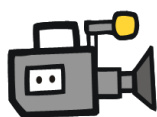
We all need friends campaign

It is a campaign that wants to help people with intellectual disabilities in making new friends.



Forrest Gump restaurant

You will also read about a Chinese restaurant offers jobs to people with intellectual disabilities.



If you have any stories or video you want to share 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

Hear Our Voices Conference



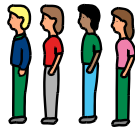
The Hear Our Voices conference took place from 2-4 October. It was a huge success.



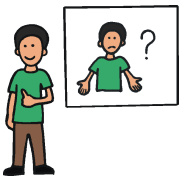
Inclusion Europe, Plena Inclusion and the European Platform of Self-Advocates co-organized the event in Madrid.



FEAPS is a member of Inclusion Europe. FEAPS changed its name to Plena Inclusion.



People with intellectual disabilities and their support persons came from 27 different countries to be part of the conference.

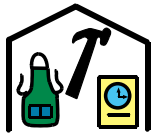


At the Hear Our Voices conference, self-advocates got the chance to meet other self-Advocates from all around the world.

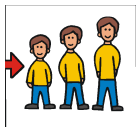
The whole conference was run by self-advocates.



The conference was accessible.



There were 10 different workshop sessions which happened during the conference.



Workshop 1: Who can support me better?

Workshop 2: Making decisions about my life



Workshop 3: Legal capacity: what does it mean for me?

Workshop 4: Support decision-making



Workshop 5: It's my vote! Ideas to ensure an accessible voting

Workshop 6: If I can't understand it, it's not useful



Workshop 7: Talking about self-advocacy

Workshop 8: At the hospital: I want respect!



Workshop 9: Managing my money

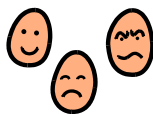
Workshop 10: Let's talk about sexuality

You could choose 2 different workshops you wanted to go to.

Hear Our Voices Conference



There were also 8 expression workshops that took place during the conference.



The expression workshops were:

Workshop 1: Feelings and emotions



Workshop 2: Creative ways to find a job. How to make a video curriculum?

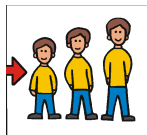


Workshop 3: Music and body language



Workshop 4: Rights and Poetry

Workshop 5: Painting to express



Workshop 6: “Safe Surfing” I decide how to protect my privacy

Workshop 7: “No words” Other ways to take decisions about our life



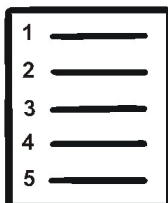
Workshop 8: Easy-to-read in practice



At the end of each workshop we chose 3 important messages that we wanted to share.



For example, here are some messages that self-advocates wanted you to hear from them:



- We are people first and we contribute to society.
- We are experts in our lives.
Nobody can make a decision about us without us.
- Policy-makers should meet persons with intellectual disabilities and talk with them to understand them.



You can find more information at <http://self-advocacy.eu/>

Able to Include



Inclusion Europe is part of a project called 'Able to Include'.



This project wants to help people with disabilities talk to their friends online by making phone and tablets applications more accessible.



Able to Include

In that way people with disabilities can fully enjoy online surfing.



'Able to Include' will create tools that will make applications easier.



These tools are.



- A tool that translates text into images



- A tool that translates text into voice

- A tool that translates text into easy-to-read

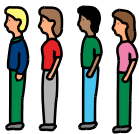
Partners from 5 countries in Europe are working on this project.



Inclusion Europe is one of 9 project partners.

Other partners include, for example, the University of Leuven, that is currently developing a tool that translates words into images.

Thomas Moore is also a partner in the project.



Researchers from Thomas Moore already interviewed several people with intellectual disabilities about their experiences with social media.



The site is available in 3 languages

▪ English



▪ Spanish



▪ Dutch



The project also has an easy-to-read newsletter.



To get the newsletter, please e-mail us at

s.el-Amrani@inclusion-europe.org

We all need friends campaign



In the United Kingdom, there is an organization called Sense.



Sense is a national charity helping people who are deaf and blind.



The charity has interviewed people with intellectual disabilities to know if they felt lonely.



They asked people with intellectual disabilities what needs to be done so that they can make new friends and keep them.



They have also found out that people with disabilities spend money on social care which means they have no money to go out with their friends.



People with disabilities have the right to be part of the community.



That is why Sense has decided to do a campaign called “We All Need Friends”

In this campaign, Sense wants to have a place where people with intellectual disabilities can come and meet new people.



Sense and local services have looked at ways to help people with intellectual disabilities to make new friends.

The European Year of Development Cooperation



The European Union (EU) decided the theme of the European Year 2015 will be about development cooperation.

Development cooperation means that governments and organizations work together to make sure people have good lives.

An important part of development cooperation is the fight for more rights for all people with intellectual disabilities.



With this theme, the EU wants to get more people, especially the young ones, talking and caring about our world and our future.



During the European Year for Development cooperation, attention will also be given to the following issues:

- Ways to end hunger and poverty.
- Making sure everybody has the right to go to school.
- Making sure women and men are treated the same.
- Making sure young children don't die from hunger or disease
- Making sure that women have access to hospitals when giving birth.
- To inform people about the risks of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
- Telling everyone that they should respect the environment.
- Having all organizations and governments working together on the goals.



There will be many activities in Europe so that everyone can play an active part. Also, the campaign will be promoted through social media.

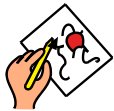
The European Year of Development Cooperation



European citizens are encouraged to take part in discussions and set up projects which support development cooperation across the globe.



Inclusion Europe got involved in the European Year for Development and produced 3 articles that you can read below.



When children are taught about disability, everyone benefits.

Inclusion Europe did a project where they asked students to draw what they thought the word disability meant to them.



A person by the name of Rolando Jr Villamero went to a school to talk to students about the campaign draw disability.

If you would like to know more on this story click on this [link](#).



A tale of Champions

Here you will get to read about two amazing women with intellectual disabilities.



These two women took part in the Special Olympic Games which took place in the United States of America.



If you would like to find out more on this story click on this [link](#)

Supporting children with intellectual disabilities and their mothers in Nepal



In Nepal, there is a lady by the name of Shila Thapa who has a son with Down syndrome.



She is planning to open a day center in Nepal for people with intellectual disabilities.

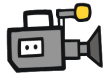


If you would like to find out more on this story click on this [link](#)

Chinese restaurant offers jobs to people with intellectual disabilities.



In China, there is a restaurant that offers people with intellectual disabilities the chance to work.



It's called 'Forrest Gump', after the successful movie starring Tom Hanks.



Hu Yangting, the owner of the restaurant, already employed 12 people with disabilities.



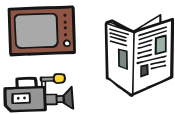
Before getting hired, the staff has to do a training which is given by the local government.



The restaurant is very successful now and they have more clients. It is part of a government plan to help more people with disabilities gain work experience and eventually a proper job.



When they start working at the restaurant, the salary is about 300 Yuan which is around 40 euros.



They earn more money as they gain more experience.

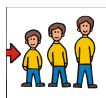
Yangting told media that her restaurant is not aiming at making a lot of money. But she wants to offer people with intellectual disabilities the chance to have a job.



Cheng Dacheng is the chairman of the Provincial Disabled Person's Federation.



He wants to promote this experience all over the province.



People with intellectual disabilities in China remain a vulnerable group.



They are not fully integrated in society.

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

Inclusion Europe
Rue d'Arlon 55
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: 0032-2-502 28 15
Fax: 0032-2-502 80 10