

Inclusion

Solidarity

Respect

Respect

Inclusion

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Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe



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Inclusion Europe

Respect, solidarity and inclusion for persons with intellectual disabilities



A LETTER FROM **THE PRESIDENT**

Maureen Piggot is the President of Inclusion Europe

She talks about the work Inclusion Europe did in 2015.

Inclusion Europe worked hard to make sure that the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities take into account the views of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Europe organised important meetings and worked on several projects.

Dear friends,

In this report we share with you the outstanding achievements of Inclusion Europe in 2015.

2015 has been a unique year for the disability movement, with the European Union's progress on implementing the UN CRPD being examined by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Throughout the year, Inclusion Europe consistently voiced the expectations of citizens with intellectual disabilities and their families. After a year-long process of reports, meetings and lobbying we were pleased to see that our points were taken into account in the Concluding Observations published by the UN CRPD Committee. This will lead, in turn, to the improvement of living conditions of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in all countries of the European Union. To ensure that these rights are turned into reality, we have to continue to work together, using the Convention to focus and coordinate our work at national, European and international levels.

Through exchanges between our member organisations we have had chances to get to know each other and to strengthen the bonds within the movement. Projects or events also provided opportunities to successfully include persons with disabilities in roles that challenge prejudice and demonstrate what equal participation looks like.

In 2015, we celebrated two important gatherings of the intellectual disability movement. First, we took action to strengthen the self-advocacy movement in Europe at our annual conference held in Rome. Then, we all gathered in Madrid for Hear Our Voices, the European conference of self-advocates, where we once again had powerful examples of people taking control of their own lives and moving testimony to what that means to individuals who have had their rights so emphatically denied.

The following pages provide an overview of some of the highlights of the past year. We look back on these achievements, knowing that we could not have done it without the support and commitment of our members and partners.

I would like to express Inclusion Europe's gratitude to all members, organisations and individuals who supported Inclusion Europe's work and objectives in 2015.

We look forward to working together in 2016, when, through our strategic review we will be asking for your ideas about how we can do even better in the future!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Piggot".

Maureen Piggot
President



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in short, the UN CRPD) is an important document that describes how the rights of people with disabilities must be respected.

This year, the United Nations tried to find out whether or not the European Union was doing a good job.

Inclusion Europe worked to make the UN CRPD a reality in Europe.

We worked on a project called Topside+ to make sure that adults with intellectual disabilities can learn new things throughout their life.

We also worked on a project to help organisations and services understand the needs of persons with intellectual disabilities and respect their choices.

Review of the implementation of the UN CRPD in the EU

2015 was a historical year for disability rights in the EU. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reviewed how the European Union has complied with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Throughout the year, Inclusion Europe has actively participated in the review of the EU in front of the CRPD Committee and collaborated with the rest of the European disability movement to ensure that all the issues important for persons with intellectual disabilities were made very visible in the process.

Inclusion Europe had a comprehensive advocacy strategy to raise priority issues of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families through position papers, background documents, press releases and personal meetings with the Committee



At the side event in Geneva, Inclusion Europe President Maureen Piggot recalled the importance of consulting with people with intellectual disabilities in a meaningful way.

members and other stakeholders. While Inclusion Europe recognised that the EU has limited legal competences in several policy areas, we were convinced that the European institutions could do a

Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

lot more to ensure the fulfilment of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. Inclusion Europe emphasized the areas where the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families are routinely violated, whether this refers to political participation, legal capacity, accessibility, independent living or education.

In April, Inclusion Europe was in Geneva to voice its main concerns on the measures taken by the European institutions to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are considered in all relevant legislative proposals, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU policy. Later that month, the Committee adopted a List of Issues, a set of questions and requests for clarification by the European Union. Inclusion Europe also provided the Committee with information and answers to some of the most important questions from this list and advocated for our main priority goals.

In August 2015, Inclusion Europe went again to Geneva to attend the Constructive Dialogue between the CRPD Committee and the delegation of the EU. The Constructive Dialogue is a very important step of the review process, as it provided Committee members with the opportunity to directly question high-ranking European Union officials on the measures that have been taken by European Institutions to ensure equal rights for all Europeans, regardless of their disability. We are delighted that the CRPD Committee had taken our points into account and asked particular questions revealing the main gaps in the implementation of the CRPD in the European Union. Legal capacity and the violations of the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, including the right to vote and active participation in policy-and decision-making processes topped the agenda of the Constructive Dialogue.

Early September, the Committee adopted the Concluding Observations on the EU's implementation of the UN CRPD. We were pleased to note that our advocacy work was very successful

as many of the points we raised were directly addressed in the Concluding Observations. Inclusion Europe fully supports this document and welcomed the strong language the Committee used to call for better implementation at EU level.

Promoting models of supported decision-making

In 2015, we continued to collect and publish best practices of supported decision-making on our dedicated website www.right-to-decide.eu. The website presents different models of supported decision-making that could apply to a range of areas – from banking to health, personal relationships or housing. As the different presented practices show, support can be both formal and informal, provided by family members, friends or peer-supporters and can vary in type and intensity.

We hope that this exchange of good experience will help self-advocates and policy makers to improve the situation of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Developing peer-support

Our TOPSIDE+ project provides some answers in the area of supported decision-making of people with intellectual disabilities. We have found that peers (people who have an own experience with living with an intellectual disability) can provide a lot of support to other people with intellectual disabilities to take decisions. The project opens up opportunities for self-advocates to train and support their peers in making decisions, living independently and taking part in the community.

During the year 2015, our project has further developed this concept by finding ways that people with intellectual disabilities can be involved in the training of peer supporters. Teams of trainers with and without intellectual disability in France, Portugal, Lithuania and Germany have had many successes in training supporters to have the necessary skills. By preparing people with intellectual disabilities to act as peer supporters, helping others with useful advice stemming from

Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

their personal experience, we have seen immense personal developments, both for the Trainers and the Peer-Supporters involved in the project.

Inclusion Europe and our partners are very excited about the positive results that are one part of the response to the challenge of providing support in decision-making stipulated by the General Comment No. 1 to the CRPD. Some preliminary results of the work are already available at www.Peer-Support.eu in all project languages. The final results will be released in June 2016.

Promoting inclusive and person-centred services

The NewPaths to Inclusion project ended in 2015, after three successful years. Within the project, 19 organisations from 13 European countries and Canada worked together to deliver a more individualised and person-centred approach to support for persons with disabilities who live in the community.

Over the past year, the New Paths to Inclusion Network has been researching good practices in fostering inclusion of persons with disabilities. The research has helped to develop training for workers in social services enabling them to provide genuinely inclusive and person-centred support to persons with disabilities, as required by the UN CRPD. To make this happen, the network has spread knowledge and skills to help organisations to respond to the individual needs of each person with disability.

The New Paths for Inclusion Network organised a series of conferences and workshops in Vienna in early November. The New Paths for Inclusion Final Conference gave project partners and interested participants the occasion to share their conclusions on the best ways to make sure that support services respond to the individual needs of persons with disabilities and help them live included in the community.

The final event of the project was a policy seminar, "Putting citizens at the centre of politics," fittingly held in the European Parliament. The seminar took



The Policy Seminar, hosted at the European Parliament, was the final event of the New Paths to Inclusion Network project.

the learning and the success stories of person-centred planning in a large number of countries and settings to the policy makers. We heard testimonies of persons with disabilities such as Božidar Kobasić from Croatia, who lived in an institution for more than 30 years and now has "successfully started a new life in the community".

Partners from the New Paths to Inclusion Network shared the good practices they collected during the project, showing how person-centred planning is an effective tool in the implementation of the UN CRPD.

Leading the dissemination and exploitation activities of the project, Inclusion Europe is particularly delighted that the project led to a sustainable European network of person-centred support organisations. In order to share all the lessons learned during the project, we have developed a one-stop online portal: the Online Knowledge Center. With this platform, New Paths to Inclusion Network has a dynamic tool carrying all the knowledge acquired on person-centred planning, community inclusion and organisational change, with a range of background information, tools, stories and learning materials in various European languages. As a partnership, we have made the commitment to continue expanding this living portal with stories and experiences so the platform will keep growing in the future.

www.personcentredplanning.eu



Inclusion Europe works to make sure that people with intellectual disabilities can get information that is easy to read and understand.

We also want to make sure that persons with intellectual disabilities can use the internet and technologies like everyone else.

This is why Inclusion Europe is working on 2 projects to help persons with intellectual disabilities use the Internet and applications on their smartphones and tablets.

SafeSurfing helps persons with intellectual disabilities to use the internet in a safer way.

For the SafeSurfing project, we have created videos and online training to give tips on how to stay safe on the internet.

You can learn how to protect your personal information or how to have a safe Facebook profile for example.

Able to Include will help persons with intellectual disabilities use social media and applications on their phone or tablet with tools that:

- Translate text into easy-to-read
- Translate text into voice
- Translate text into pictures

Inclusion Europe works towards promotion of intellectual accessibility and universal design in all areas of life.

In 2015, Inclusion Europe continued to produce easy to read information on its work and important European and international developments. We also worked together with a number of international

organisations to help them make their documents easy to read and understand. We continued to promote intellectual accessibility through the use of accessibility cards. As a result, more institutions know about and pledge to use accessibility cards and produce easy-to-read documents.

Moreover, Inclusion Europe is working on two

Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe



The EPSA Steering Group carefully reviewed the SafeSurfing training materials.

innovative and complementary projects in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT can produce valuable tools for persons with intellectual disabilities for accessing services and offer opportunities for social inclusion, networking and participation. Persons with intellectual disabilities face several barriers in accessing on an equal basis with others the benefits of digital media and ICT. Together, these projects provide people with intellectual disabilities with the skills and confidence they need to take full advantage of the digital world.

Able to Include

The inaccessible design of devices, websites and social media platforms as well as the cost of assistive technologies prevents persons with intellectual disability from fully enjoying the digital world. Able To Include is working to facilitate online communication. The Able To Include project, where we are leading the dissemination work package, aims at breaking down some of these barriers to enjoying full access to the information society and promoting the social inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Project partners are producing innovative technologies to make the use of mobile apps and

devices more accessible for persons with intellectual disabilities. As reading comprehension is a key skill in almost all types of tasks related to the use of digital media, these technologies allow the users to translate text into speech, pictograms or Easy-to-Read in order to ease the understanding of text based communications. The development of these tools has a tremendous potential in alleviating the obstacles faced by persons with intellectual disabilities when using the internet to look for job opportunities, travel, or socialize with their friends online.

The project, which brings together software developers, universities and organisations working with and for people with intellectual disabilities, aims at creating an open source and context-aware accessibility layer. Integrated with existing and future ICT tools, particularly in mobile applications, the accessibility layer will help people with intellectual disabilities to interact with the information software. This new technology has been tested by focus groups composed of persons with intellectual disabilities. Project partners are currently incorporating their feedback in order to release the final version in the coming months.

www.able-to-include.com

SafeSurfing

SafeSurfing is an innovative project aiming to train persons with intellectual disabilities on data protection and safe online behavior. As social media has rapidly opened up the possibilities of social interaction, persons with intellectual disabilities are especially exposed to cybercrimes, such as cyberbullying or online sexual harassment.

SafeSurfing partners have developed interactive online training to help persons with intellectual disabilities navigate different aspects of data protection. From understanding what personal information is, to setting up secure profiles on social media, handling privacy settings on mobile devices, or managing potentially risky situations,

Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

participants have the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills on the safe use of ICTs through e-learning.

Partners met throughout the year to develop the training materials and videos, available in English, French, Italian, Polish and Spanish. Throughout the process, we discussed the best ways to engage the training participants in discussion. Each module has specific learning objectives and includes practical exercises.

This approach was appreciated by the members of the EPSA Steering Group who reviewed the training in December. "It is important that participants learn

by doing things themselves, not just by watching you" said Senada Halilcevic. The feedback of the EPSA Steering Group has helped partners to make sure that the training modules were comprehensive and accessible, while integrating all the concerns shared by persons with intellectual disabilities when they use the internet.

After a year of development, SafeSurfing project partners were ready to roll out interactive online training sessions at the beginning of 2016. Each partner of the project offers five interactive online training sessions to participants, with the possibility of asking questions in real time.

www.SafeSurfing.eu



Focus groups are regularly testing the new features of the technologies developed by Able to Include partners.

STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION



Inclusion Europe organised 3 important events this year.

The Europe in Action conference 2015 took place in Rome last May. The conference was about family and self-advocacy. The conference agreed a plan to make self advocacy stronger in Europe. The plan is called The Rome Declaration.

In October, Inclusion Europe with the European Platform of Self-Advocates and Plena Inclusion organised the Hear Our Voices conference in Madrid.

Self-advocates talked about their rights as citizens such as the right to make your own decisions.

Inclusion Europe organised a 3-day leadership training seminar that took place in Brussels in November.

This seminar was organised to help people with intellectual disabilities and family members make their voices heard in Europe.



Europe in Action has become an unmissable event for self-advocates and family members.

Self-Advocacy" as their topic for the Europe in Action Conference. Persons with intellectual disabilities, their families, carers and representative organisations gathered in Rome to address effective and innovating ways of strengthening the self-advocacy movement at local, regional and national levels, while discussing the impact of self-advocacy on families.

Our annual conference provided for the much-needed debate on ways in which families and self-advocates can work together to promote the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). A round table on the UN CRPD implementation was organised as a pre-session to the Europe in Action conference.

Europe in Action 2015: Families and Self Advocacy

Inclusion Europe and Anffas welcomed more than 350 participants to the Europe in Action Conference 2015. This year, Inclusion Europe chose "Families and

The conference programme mixed personal stories with sessions delivered by self advocates or other experts in the field or European policy-makers. The personal and political dimensions of self-advocacy were central to the programme, particular in relation

Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

to issues such as legal capacity, political participation, accessibility, health, education and community living. Participants had also the opportunity to learn from each other and exchange best practices and sustainable models of self-advocacy in organisations. Self-advocates emphasized that speaking up for their rights not only contributes to improving their lives, but also helps advance the cause of intellectual disability as a whole.

Hear Our Voices: "My life, My decisions"

The Hear Our Voices conference, the largest self-advocacy conference in Europe, took place from 2-4 October in Madrid. The European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA), together with Inclusion Europe and Plena Inclusion (formerly known as FEAPS) welcomed persons with intellectual disabilities, their families, support persons and interested individuals coming from 27 different countries. More than 350 participants took part in this completely accessible event developed by and for self-advocates. The different sessions addressed ways to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities can fully participate in society and make their own decisions.

Speakers, most of them being self-advocates, also shared their personal stories and presented their work. They also provided the participants with useful advice on how to build or strengthen the self-advocacy movement in their own country.

Self-advocates exchanged views and experiences at the workshop sessions covering topics such as legal capacity, peer-support or supported decision-making. They also had the chance to gain more practical skills on how to create an easy-to-read document, to use technology to find a job or to safely use the internet. At the end of each workshop, participants agreed on three important messages they wanted to share, hoping that they would reach policy-makers. Self-advocates present at the conference were unanimous in demanding the right to make choices about their own lives. Reminding them that everyone should get on board for the journey to inclusion, they urged experts, politicians and support persons to hear their voices.

Leadership Training Seminar

In order to increase the capacity to engage in European policy debates, Inclusion Europe hosted a leadership training seminar for family members and self-advocates in Brussels. Over three days, we discussed how to support self-advocates and members of their families to become leaders of their groups and how to better advocate for full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

The seminar comprised an introduction to different EU policy areas that are relevant for persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as to EU level advocacy work, the work of EU-level NGOs, funding sources, and to the European institutions. Self-advocates and family members gained knowledge and skills by engaging in different workshops. They learned about the functioning of the EU institutions and the best ways to approach them in order to make their voice heard. The Leadership Training highlighted how effective advocacy work at EU level can pervade national level and make a real change in people's lives. Family members also received information from EU officials about the available funding that can support advocacy work in their home country.

The Policy Seminar on the importance of person-centred planning, organised by the New Paths to Inclusion Network and hosted at the European Parliament, concluded the 3-day event. Participants were able to ask questions directly to European Commission staff and learn more about the implementation of the UN CRPD at the European level.



At the Leadership Training Seminar, self-advocates and family members discussed ideas on how to make their voices heard.



In 2015 EPSA started to make our Triple A agenda a reality.

The triple A agenda is about:

- **Ambition:** To be the last generation to experience exclusion and discrimination
- **Advocacy:** To change attitudes, starting with young people
- **Ability:** To inspire change by showing what's possible

The Agenda was approved by EPSA members in May, in Rome, Italy. To make it happen, the steering group did a lot of important things. We only had 6 months of work with this new Agenda.

EPSA Steering Group members were invited to talk in different places. All the steering group members talked about self-advocacy and EPSA. They also talked about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They have focused on article 19, living independently and being included in the community.

Senada Halilcevic, EPSA chair, talked at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, at the European Commission, at the European Parliament, and attended project meetings and final conferences.

The topics discussed were deinstitutionalisation, self-advocacy, employment, rights of persons with disabilities, community based services and how to stay safe on the Internet.

She was also involved in the organisation and as a speaker on the 5th National Conference of Croatian Self-advocates and Hear our Voices, EPSA conference.

Luminita Caldaras, from Pentru voi, was active in making people aware of the need to live included in the community and to change the guardianship law in Romania.



Her organisation was involved in a campaign that talked about the right to have a job and the needs of people with severe and profound disabilities.

Elisabeta Moldovan, from Ceva de Spus in Romania, attended a meeting at the Order of Architects, to talk about accessible environments. She was also invited by ANFFAS in Italy, as a trainer, on how to start a self-advocacy group. Ceva de Spus also made some observations to the Romanian government position about deinstitutionalisation.

Harry Roche, from MENCAP, has been talking with self-advocates in the United Kingdom to learn what are the good things and the worries they have.

He is also involved in the Safe Surfing project, and attended the meetings.

All steering group members were actively involved at the Hear our Voices Conference that took place in Madrid.

They were responsible for the program and also delivered some of the workshops and plenary sessions.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2015



Inclusion Europe did managed its money well in 2015.
 We had money for our big projects.
 We saved some money for the future.
 We will try to save even more so we could use it in case of problems.
 We want to thank all the people that supported our work.

2015 was financially a positive year for Inclusion Europe. We were again able to achieve a surplus in operations and to build further our financial capacity. Our External Auditor has again certified that our bookkeeping fully meets all Belgian laws as well as the Commission standards and requirements. Our accounting system is fully geared to ensure effective and efficient financial reporting and control of complex European projects.

As in previous years, most of the activities of Inclusion Europe were co-financed by different projects. We have also been successful in securing a financial agreement with the European Commission that ensures continuing financing for our running costs in the framework of a triennial Strategic Plan from 2015 to 2017. This provides for additional financial stability.

Unfortunately, during 2015 we have had to write off a larger amount of unpaid membership fees. Possibly due to the effects of the continued economic downturn, we see that some members have constraints in paying their fees. This may contribute to cash flow difficulties for the organisation. I therefore urge all members to pay their membership fees in due time each year. Though, I highly appreciate the long-lasting trust of all members in the operation.

While our financial capacity has continuously increased, our level of reserves and the cash-flow remain a constant concern. Reserves are still too small to support our association through possible future financial difficulties.

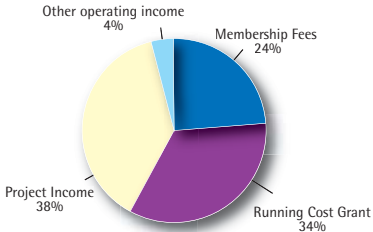
Despite these financial challenges, we look forward to continue the implementation of ambitious projects and reaffirm our commitment to exercise sound financial management and control to meet the requirements of funders and members.

I express my sincere thanks to all our members who paid their fees in 2015: this shows their high commitment to the work of Inclusion Europe. Furthermore, my thanks go to the European Commission and other funders for their continuing support for different activities at European level for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Hannes Traxler
Treasurer

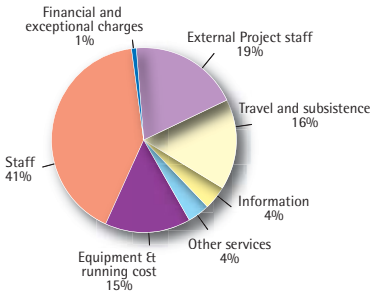
Income 2015

585,766.04 €



Expenditure 2015

579,535.82 €



Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

OUR TEAM



Maureen Piggot
President
United Kingdom

THE BOARD

The Board of Inclusion Europe is elected at the Annual General Assembly and is responsible for managing the affairs of Inclusion Europe.



Gerard Kowalski
Vice-President
France



Senada Halilcevic
Vice-President
Croatia



José Smits
Secretary General
Netherlands



Hannes Traxler
Treasurer
Austria



Jyrki Pinomaa
Finland



Helene Holand
Norway



Denise Roza
Russia



Elisabeta Moldovan
Romania



Rafael Company
Spain



Luminita Caldaras
Romania



Mateja de Reya
Slovenia

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Annual Report 2015

Inclusion Europe

OUR MEMBERS

- **Albania:** Help the Life Association
- **Austria:** Lebenshilfe Österreich / Lebenshilfe Wien
- **Belgium:** ANAHM/NVHVG
- **Bosnia Herzegovina:** SUMERO
- **Bulgaria:** Bulgarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (BAPID) / Karin Dom Foundation
- **Croatia:** Association for Self-Advocacy / Association for Promoting Inclusion / SAVEZMR
- **Cyprus:** PASYGOKA
- **Czech Republic:** Inclusion Czech Republic / Sebeobhájci Praha / Rytmus
- **Denmark:** Landesforeningen LEV
- **Estonia:** Estonian Mentally Disabled People Support Organisation (EVPIT) / EVPIT Self-Advocacy Group
- **Faroe Islands:** Javni
- **Finland:** FDUV / Kehitysvammaisten Tukiliitto ry / Me Itse ry / Steg för Steg
- **France:** UNAPEI / Nous Aussi / Les Papillons Blancs de Dunkerque
- **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM):** Poraka / Poraka Negotino
- **Germany:** Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e.V / Der Rat behinderter Menschen der Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe / Lebenshilfe Landersverband Schleswig-Holstein
- **Greece:** POSGAmA
- **Hungary:** Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability (ÉFOÉSZ) / ÉFOÉSZ Self-Advocacy Group
- **Iceland:** Landssamtökin Throskahjálþ
- **Ireland:** Inclusion Ireland
- **Israel:** AKIM Israel
- **Italy:** Associazione Nazionale di Famiglie di Persone con Disabilità Intellettiva e/o Relazionale (ANFFAS)
- **Latvia:** Rupju Berns / Rupju Berns – Latvian Self-Advocacy Movement
- **Lithuania:** Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability (VILTIS)
- **Luxembourg:** APEMH / Ligue HMC
- **Malta:** Movement in Favour of Rights for Persons with Disability / INSPIRE – The Foundation for Inclusion
- **The Netherlands:** Inclusion Netherlands / Fusievereniging CG-VG
- **Norway:** NFU Norwegian Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities / NFU Self-Advocacy Group
- **Poland:** Polish Association for Persons with Mental Disability (PSOUU)
- **Portugal:** FENACERCI
- **Romania:** Federatia Incluziune Romania / Self-Advocacy Group Pentru Voi / Ceva de Spus
- **Russia:** Perspektiva
- **Scotland:** Enable Scotland / Enable ACE Committee
- **Serbia:** Serbian Association for Promoting Inclusion (SAPI)
- **Slovakia:** Association for Help to People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Slovak Republic
- **Slovenia:** Zveza Sožitje / Centre Dolfke Bostjancic Draga
- **Spain:** Plena Inclusion / Dincat / SOM Fundació Catalana Tutelar Aspanias
- **Sweden:** Swedish National Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability (FUB) / Rikssektionen Klippan
- **Switzerland:** INSIEME
- **United Kingdom:** Mencap
- **Europe:** European Co-operation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy (ECCE) / Down Syndrome Education International



Inclusion Europe

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