

# Annual Report 2009

Inclusion Europe



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**Inclusion Europe**

Inclusion Europe fights for respect, solidarity and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.  
[www.inclusion-europe.org](http://www.inclusion-europe.org)



Ingrid Körner is the President of Inclusion Europe.



In this report she talks about new topics that Inclusion Europe is working on:



Inclusion Europe worked against poverty and social exclusion of people with disabilities.



Inclusion Europe and Inclusion International worked together on inclusive education.



Inclusion Europe wrote rules to make information easier to understand for people with intellectual disabilities.



Inclusion Europe used new technologies to report about disability issues.



Inclusion Europe started new projects.

2009 was a very active year for Inclusion Europe. The principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities were the guidelines for all of our activities. In preparation for the **2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**, Inclusion Europe published a Position Paper entitled "**Poverty and Social Exclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities**". This Position Paper tackles the correlation between disability and poverty, unemployment and limited access to education.

2009 has also been a very successful year in promoting inclusive education. One of the most outstanding outcomes is the publication of the **Global Report on Inclusive Education**, together with Inclusion International. The Conference on Inclusive Education in Salamanca, Spain, highlighted the progress made and the shortcomings in the last 15 years, since the adoption of the Salamanca Statement in 1994 and the Framework for Action on Special Needs Education. The report reflects the perspectives of families and self-advocates on inclusive education and presents, on the basis of their personal stories, strategies and recommendations to achieve the goal of inclusion. I would like to thank our members for their active participation and their contributions!

In addition, Inclusion Europe has produced **European standards for easy-to-read information** in six European languages to allow people with intellectual disabilities to access information in a format they understand. The European standards were welcomed with great enthusiasm by our members and I am very happy to see that some members are planning to translate these rules into their own language. It is a very important tool to support their autonomy and independence!

By using new communications strategies involving the Web 2.0 and social media such as Facebook and YouTube, Inclusion Europe reached out to a much broader audience. These strategies also proved to be beneficial for further awareness-raising about disability-related issues and the implementation of the United Nations Convention.

Inclusion Europe successfully embarked upon new projects at the end of the year. One of them addresses the situation of children with intellectual disabilities who remain one of the most vulnerable groups. Inclusion Europe's new project "**Children's Rights for All**" intends to assess their situation in relation to the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Another new project, **ADAP (Accommodating Diversity for Active Participation in European elections)**, aims at making the electoral process easier for people with intellectual disabilities. Thus it falls in line with Inclusion Europe's efforts to increase participation of people with disabilities in the elections to the European Parliament in June 2009, for which Inclusion Europe produced and disseminated easy-to-read material in 13 European languages.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members, organizations and individuals who supported Inclusion Europe's work and objectives in 2009.

*Ingrid Körner*

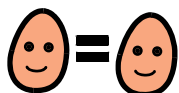
Ingrid Körner  
President



Inclusion Europe has 66 member societies.



They are organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families and friends.



Inclusion Europe works for the interests and equal rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



Equal rights mean that people with disabilities take part in everything like all other people.



Inclusion Europe works together with organizations, politicians and service providers in Europe.

Founded in 1988, Inclusion Europe has a 20-year track record of representing people with intellectual disabilities and their families organised in **66 member organisations** in 33 European countries. It works towards the realisation of the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities, regardless of the degree and complexity of their support needs, and their families.

Based on the values of **respect, solidarity and inclusion**, Inclusion Europe's policy priorities follow the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**, the **EU Disability Action Plan (DAP)** as well as the **PROGRESS** priorities. Inclusion Europe's work is based on the principles of mainstreaming, equal opportunities and full participation of people with intellectual disabilities in all aspects of society, e.g. at school, work, in health care, culture or marriage. Achieving this vision needs constant awareness-raising and policy work at local, regional, national and European level.

Inclusion Europe's primary target audiences are people with intellectual disabilities, their families and their organisations. Inclusion Europe involves its members at national and local level in the realisation of its work programme, despite the fact that most people with intellectual disabilities speak only their native language. Inclusion Europe's work is also targeted at other national, European or international stakeholders in its policy area, such as the European institutions, national governments, the UN system, other disabled people's organisations, service providers, researchers or mainstream educational or social organisations.

In close contact with the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, European NGOs and national governments, Inclusion Europe is active in all policy areas relevant for our target group.



Members  
(See back cover for  
more information)

# Annual Report 2009

Inclusion Europe

## ABOUT INCLUSION EUROPE

### BOARD MEMBERS



**Ingrid Körner**  
(Germany)  
President

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



**Ivo Vykydal**  
(Czech Republic)  
Secretary General  
President-elect  
2010-2011



**Andrew Doyle**  
(United Kingdom)  
Vice-President



**Maureen Piggot**  
(United Kingdom)  
Vice-President



**Hannes Traxler**  
(Austria)  
Treasurer



**Thomai Mavraki**  
(Greece)  
Board Member



**Jerry Buttimer**  
(Ireland)  
Board Member



**Dana Migaliova**  
(Lithuania)  
Board Member



**Françoise Jan**  
(France)  
Board Member



**Jordi Costa Molina**  
(Spain)  
Board Member



**Helen Holand**  
(Norway)  
Board Member



**Paul Alford**  
(Ireland)  
Board Member



**Senada Halilcevic**  
(Croatia)  
Board Member

### THE SECRETARIAT

Inclusion Europe has a main office established in Brussels, Belgium and one regional office for Central and Eastern Europe in Prague, Czech Republic.

#### Contact information:

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**Catherine Linerte**, Executive Secretary (Brussels Office)  
**Katrina Ward**, Project Officer (Brussels Office)  
**Alejandra Laiton**, Communications Officer (Brussels Office)  
**Soufiane El Amrani**, Self Advocacy Information Officer (Brussels Office)  
**Elisabeth Schmidt-Hieber**, Information Trainee (Brussels Office)  
**Jacqueline Pareys**, Office helper (Brussels Office)  
**Camille Latimier**, Human Rights Officer (Prague Office)

## INTRODUCTION



In 2009 Inclusion Europe worked to make the Convention become a reality by:



■ Helping people with disabilities to take part in elections.



■ Supporting their families.



■ Helping people with disabilities to become part of the community.



Inclusion Europe held seminars on the Convention in Prague.

Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that *"The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."*

Based on the values of inclusion, respect and solidarity, Inclusion Europe's policy priorities have been shaped in accordance with the UN Convention. The UN Convention has also become one of the key documents for disability-related policies at European level. Inclusion Europe campaigns for the implementation of the individual articles of the Convention at European level, through networking with other disability organisations and by addressing policy-makers and stakeholders. In addition, Inclusion Europe reiterates its hopes that the European Union will respect its initial commitment and will complete the ratification process in the shortest period possible.

In 2009, the main emphasis of Inclusion Europe's campaigns and projects was on:

- The ratification and implementation of the UN Convention.
- The right to **inclusive education** for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
- The **right to live in the community** for all people with intellectual disabilities.
- The recognition of **informal care** and of the role of families.
- The recognition of **full legal capacity** for all people with intellectual disabilities.
- **Accessible European Parliamentary elections** in June 2009.

In addition, Inclusion Europe reports about all disability-related policies and developments at European level to its member organizations and supports them with the implementation of the UN Convention at national level.

In 2009, for example, this was achieved through a series of **training sessions on individual articles of the Convention** in Prague in the Czech Republic. The series of ten seminars in Prague aims to train people, mainly members of disability organisations from Central and Eastern Europe, to understand the Convention, the legal framework and underlying conditions for its implementation. The training sessions will be continued throughout 2010.



Participants of the UN Convention training sessions. Prague, Czech Republic.

## MAKING INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL



All people should have the right to accessible information.



Inclusion Europe did a project to make information easier to understand for people with intellectual disabilities.



This project set up rules on how to make information easy to read.



Inclusion Europe is also using new technologies on the Internet.

facebook

For example, Facebook and YouTube.



This way, more people read and hear about the rights of people with disabilities.

*"States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas". (Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).*

Inclusion Europe has produced **Easy to Read Standards** in six European languages and encouraged the development and publication of language-specific standards to allow people with intellectual disabilities to access information in a format they understand, to support their autonomy and independence.

This was the main outcome of the **Pathways Project**, coordinated by Inclusion Europe and funded by the European Commission, which aimed to improve the accessibility of lifelong learning programmes in nine countries of the EU (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, and the United Kingdom).

The project developed products and materials that will help staff and trainers to adapt their lessons to suit the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. On a practical level, the material provides guidelines on how to train staff working in the field of lifelong learning to adapt their teaching methodology to better suit the needs of this particular group.

Please visit the website in 6 languages:  
[www.life-long-learning.eu](http://www.life-long-learning.eu)

### Using New Information Technologies

Inclusion Europe has designed new dissemination and promotional strategies for our work, taking advantage of the possibilities of **social media**, to reach out to more families and people with intellectual disabilities, as well as organisations working with and for this group of people.

On **Facebook**, the world's largest social online network, Inclusion Europe [www.facebook.com/inclusioneurope](http://www.facebook.com/inclusioneurope) has reached over 1.000 people, interested in receiving relevant information on the inclusion movement in Europe.

On **Twitter**, a real-time short messaging service (SMS) that works over multiple networks and devices (mobile and web) to keep people updated using a maximum of 140 characters, Inclusion Europe has created an account [www.twitter.com/InclusionEurope](http://www.twitter.com/InclusionEurope) (in English) where we receive and share updates about our activities.

The **RSS feeds** of Inclusion Europe (RSS -Rich Site Summary) deliver regular content from our news website e-Include [www.inclusion-europe.org/einclud](http://www.inclusion-europe.org/einclud) directly to the user's browser, email account, desktop or mobile device, in **English, German, French and Spanish**.

Inclusion Europe also has created video channels on **YouTube**, the leading online video website for watching and sharing original videos worldwide through the Web, [www.youtube.com/InclusionEurope](http://www.youtube.com/InclusionEurope) and the for the 2010 World Congress of Inclusion International at: [www.youtube.com/Inclusion2010](http://www.youtube.com/Inclusion2010).

## EQUAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND LEGAL CAPACITY



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities says that:

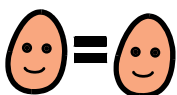
- People with disabilities can decide for themselves.
- People with disabilities should be treated like everyone else.



In 2009 Inclusion Europe organized a seminar in Prague to teach members of disability organisations about these rights.



Inclusion Europe also organised a big conference in Finland.



At this conference they talked about the rights of people with disabilities.



Inclusion Europe has started a new project which looks at the rights of children with intellectual disabilities in the European Union.

*"Persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life" stipulates Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.* Inclusion Europe was engaged in ensuring that Articles 12 and 13 on equal recognition before the law and access to justice become a reality.

One of the seminars on the UN Convention organised by Inclusion Europe and held in Prague, focused exclusively on these two articles of the Convention. The issue of **legal capacity** was approached from a social, legal, sociological and educational perspective. Models of **guardianship reform and supported decision-making** were explained to the 30 participants. In addition, practical pilot projects and models were outlined. Participants endorsed future small scale projects which will allow people with disabilities to make decisions with adequate support by others.

### Europe in Action, Finland 2009

From 24 to 27 June 2009, Inclusion Europe, together with the Finnish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, organized the **Europe in Action Conference** in Tampere, Finland. The conference attracted more than **300 self-advocates, family members and professionals**. Under the title "My Life" they discussed how the UN Convention will affect the rights of people with disabilities in the future. In this context, topics such as employment, access to services and housing, legal capacity, supported decision-making and education were addressed by numerous speakers.



Europe in Action 2009 "My Life". Tampere, Finland.

During the conference, Inclusion Europe's **Position Paper on People with Severe Disabilities and/or Complex Needs and the UN Convention** was adopted by the Annual General Assembly. The Position Paper demands that the implementation of all articles of the Convention also take into consideration the needs of people with severe disabilities.

### Children's Rights for All

**Children with intellectual disabilities** are among the groups most at risk of being denied their rights. In light

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## Inclusion Europe

### EQUAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND LEGAL CAPACITY

of this, Inclusion Europe launched a project in 2009 which aims to assess the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) from the perspective of children with intellectual disabilities, in cooperation with the Charles University in Prague and with Eurochild in Brussels.

The two-year project will conduct **research throughout all 27 EU Member States**. National reports will be produced, together with a **European Comparative Report**. **Policy Recommendations** will also be developed at national and EU level. The outcome of the project will be to **empower children with intellectual disabilities** as well as disability NGOs at national and European level to lobby for a higher impact of the CRC and to better combat all forms of violence and discrimination against children with intellectual disabilities. The project received funding from the European Commission DAPHNE programme.

For updates and information about this project, go to: [www.childrights4all.eu](http://www.childrights4all.eu)

#### Inclusive Development Aid for People with Intellectual Disabilities

In 2009, Inclusion Europe, in partnership with Mencap (UK) and Lebenshilfe Germany also launched the project "Inclusive Development: Full Inclusion in Development Aid for People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families". The project aims at ensuring that development aid programmes at national and European level include the needs and interests of people with disabilities, their families and their organisations.

In 2010, a toolkit on the support for people with intellectual disabilities in developing countries will be developed for associations and authorities. **National Networking Meetings** will be organized in the United Kingdom and in Germany and a **European Networking Conference in Berlin**. The project is financially supported by the European Union.

You can find updated information about this project at: [www.inclusive-development.eu](http://www.inclusive-development.eu)

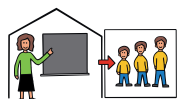


Europe in Action 2009 "My Life". Tampere, Finland.





The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities says that every person with a disability has the right to inclusive education.



Inclusive education means that people with disabilities can go to school with people without disabilities.



Inclusion Europe and Inclusion International organised a conference about inclusive education in Spain.



Inclusion Europe was also part of a project. This project trained parents to campaign for inclusive education.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, inclusive education and lifelong learning should be directed towards: *"The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity."*

### Striving for inclusive education

In 2009, Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe developed a **Global Report on Inclusive Education** based on reports from more than 20 European and 40 other countries. The Global Report was released in October 2009 at the **Salamanca conference on Inclusive Education** co-organised by Inclusion Europe and Inclusion International where more than 400 participants shared their experiences, good practices, as well as difficulties in realising the right to inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities.

A specific **European report** was published by Inclusion Europe on the basis of a more detailed analysis of data and information from Europe, offering a good overview of the situation and a roadmap on how education for all can be supported and implemented by the European Commission and the Member States.

Although some examples of **good practice** exist, there seems to be no country in which parents of all children have a real choice of education within the mainstream school system as stipulated by the UN Convention. The main reason for this is the **lack of support and adaptations** to accommodate special needs. Inputs and efforts are required at three levels: **micro level** (classrooms, schools and local communities), **mezzo level** (education systems), and **macro level** (policies, legislation) to make the right to inclusive education a reality for all.

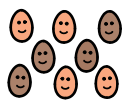
An overview of the Global Report and the results of the Salamanca conference will also be part of a **training session** conducted by Inclusion Europe in Prague on inclusive education in 2010.

### Training on Inclusive Education in Russia

Within the framework of a two-year project implemented by five Russian disability and parents' organisations, Inclusion Europe conducted **training sessions for parents on inclusive education**. The key priority areas in the context of inclusive education were capacity building, lobbying, information-sharing and awareness-raising. The main source of funding was the European Commission Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) - Support to Civil Society and Local Initiatives. The project was co-financed by USAID Russia and UNICEF Russia

As important outcomes of the project, a cadre of **26 parent activists** from five regions became leaders, trainers and peer counsellors on **inclusive education** and **disability legislation** for families of disabled children, education officials, educators and special educators. In addition, an effective tool to train and support other parents of disabled children to effectively advocate for inclusive education and to carry out public education activities - a **"parents-to-parents" curriculum** - was developed and tested. The curriculum will support the future work of parents as trainers and counsellors.

## | EQUAL PARTICIPATION



In 2009 Inclusion Europe wanted to make sure that more people with disabilities take part in elections.



So they made booklets in easy to read about the elections.



Inclusion Europe has also started two new projects about taking part.



One project helps people with disabilities to plan their own life with support.



The other project aims to help people with disabilities to participate in elections.

Article 29 of the UN Convention stipulates that *"States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others"*.

On this premise, in 2009, Inclusion Europe and its members actively campaigned for the participation of this group of citizens in the elections to the European Parliament in June. Together, they developed accessible **information about the EU elections** in 13 EU languages and printed and disseminated more than 25.000 leaflets to explain and encourage participation in the European elections in easy-to-understand language.

In addition, Inclusion Europe also continued its campaign for the **recognition of informal care** and the role of families caring for a dependent member. On the basis of a consultation done in 2008, Inclusion Europe published a special report on informal care, including recommendations for stakeholders at national and European level and trained around 150 people in Lithuania and neighbouring countries about the importance of unpaid care and the role of families – and especially women – who are often victims of **discrimination by association**. These findings are crucial for **equal opportunities** in employment and **equal rights** at work, thus contributing to a better understanding of the changes needed in EU legislation and policies in this field. In addition, these findings can be used to influence the **Open Method of Coordination** on social inclusion, health care and long-term care in order to better adjust the goals of these policies to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Advocating for the concept of Person Centred Planning (PCP)

Inclusion Europe is a project partner in the "New Paths to Inclusion" project. The project focuses on the transfer of the evidence-based and innovative concept of "Person Centred Planning" and practice from the United Kingdom, to be adapted and conceptualized into new vocational education qualification formats for the rest of Europe. The main objective is to advance **inclusion in all aspects** of society for people with intellectual disabilities in the participating countries. The project is funded by the European Commission.

More information about the project is available at: <http://www.personcentredplanning.eu>

**New project: Making European Elections more Accessible for People with Intellectual Disabilities**

Inclusion Europe, together with its member organisations Inclusion Czech Republic, Enable (Scotland) and Nous Aussi (France), has embarked upon an 18-month project which aims to **increase active participation in European elections** amongst people with intellectual disabilities, the elderly and European citizens who are not members of the European Union State in which they reside.

It will focus particularly on the **electoral process** itself, which can differ greatly from one EU country to the next, and on the **information provided** to the general public before Election Day, including information on how to vote and political party manifestos. As a result, it strives to improve the accessibility of elections both at European and national level. The project is funded by the European Commission.

For updates and more information about the project, please go to: <http://www.voting-for-all.eu/>

## LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND BEING INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY



In 2009 Inclusion Europe worked to make sure people with disabilities are part of the community.



Inclusion Europe took part in the European Day of People with Disabilities.



Inclusion Europe organized a seminar in Prague in the Czech Republic.



The seminar showed how people with disabilities can live independently.



Inclusion Europe worked on a report that shows how to create homes where people with disabilities can live and be part of the community.

*"Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement."* (Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

European Day of People with Disabilities 2009 puts focus on independent living

Representatives of the disability movement and decision-makers in Europe focused on "Creating conditions for independent living" during the European Day of People with Disabilities 2009. The objective of the conference was to contribute to a better understanding of issues

related to independent living, in particular economic autonomy, community services and assistive technologies.

The right of persons with disabilities to live independently in the community with choices equal to other people is established in Article 19 of the United Nations Convention. This right is at the core of ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities, as it is the foundation for equality in all spheres of life. However, the realisation of the enjoyment of this right requires quality support services and also presupposes fundamental changes in several sectors of society.

Self-advocate and board member of Inclusion Europe, Senada Halicevic, also President of the Association for Self



Self-advocate Senada Halicevic and her supporter Ivana Poslon at the European Day of People with Disabilities 2009. Brussels, Belgium.

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## Inclusion Europe

### LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND BEING INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY

Advocacy in Croatia, participated in the conference on the European Day by sharing her story about living in a facility with inhumane conditions. She said: *"My real life began when I was 30 years old, it began the day I left the institution to live my own life: the life I choose. All persons with disabilities living in institutions must have the opportunity to start living their real life."*

#### Empowering users to evaluate support services

Article 19 of the UN Convention was also the focus of a seminar held by Inclusion Europe in Prague. More than 20 participants learned about the ethical and political requirements for closing down inhumane large residential living facilities which offer a bad quality of life for their users. They developed approaches to work with parents and decision-makers at local level and on how to involve the media in addressing the issue in future.

Furthermore, the Austrian user evaluation system **Nueva** was introduced to the participants. People with intellectual disabilities took part in the development and operation of this system of **user evaluation**. Nueva is part of the **UNIQ (Users Network to Improve Quality)** project which aims at empowering the users of social services. UNIQ is coordinated by the Austrian non-profit organization Atempo and funded by the European Commission within the framework of the PROGRESS programme. Inclusion Europe managed the project evaluation and will publish the results at the end of the project. In 2009, Nueva test evaluations were carried out in Prague, Berlin and Baerum/Oslo.

You can find more information about this project at: <http://www.nueva-network.eu/>

#### Promoting Community-Based Care

Inclusion Europe was part of the **Ad-hoc Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care**. The Expert Group worked on a report to give an overview of the current situation in the EU concerning institutional care and defines key challenges of the transition to community-based care.

Inclusion Europe elaborated recommendations on changes of legislation, strategies, methods and good practices to EU Member States and to the European Commission in cooperation with the other members of the Expert Group. The report has been launched in 2010 and is available at: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=3992&langId=en>



European Day of People with Disabilities 2009. Brussels, Belgium. Photo courtesy: European Commission.

## | OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### POSITION PAPERS:

- "Women and Intellectual Disability". EN, FR
- "Poverty and Intellectual Disability". EN, FR
- "People with Severe Disabilities and/or Complex Needs". EN, FR

### STATUS REPORTS:

- "Status Report on Informal Care and Family Support". EN, FR
- "Inclusive Education Status Report for Europe". EN, FR
- "Best Practices in Effective Communication with Persons with Complex Needs". EN, FR.
- "Better education for all, Global report on Inclusive Education". EN, ES

### BROCHURES:

- "European standards on how to make information easy to read and understand for people with intellectual disabilities". EN, FR, DE, PT, LI, FI
- "Training program for lifelong learning staff to learn how to write texts which are easy to read and understand". EN, FR, DE, PT, LI, FI
- "Guidelines on how to involve people with intellectual disabilities in the writing of texts which are easy to read and understand". EN, FR, DE, PT, LI, FI
- "Teaching can be easy. Recommendations for lifelong learning staff on how to make their courses more accessible". EN, FR, DE, PT, LI, FI
- "Users Network to Improve Quality (UNIQ) Brochure on "User Evaluation in Europe" EN, FR, DE
- "European elections 2009". CZ, DE, EN, ES, FR, GR, LUX, PL, PT, SK, SV, LT, SLO, IT.

### ONLINE TOOLS:

- "Online check-list to evaluate the level of easy to read of a text". EN, FR, PT, DE.

### INFORMATION:

- Include: Inclusion Europe's Journal. 2009-I. EN
- Include: Inclusion Europe's Journal. 2009-II EN
- Europe for Us: The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. 4 editions. EN, FR
- Europe for Us: The Newsletter of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. Special edition on Elections. EN, FR
- Inclusion Europe's Annual Report 2008. EN

Visit Inclusion Europe's website in 23 languages to download these and other documents.

[www.inclusion-europe.org](http://www.inclusion-europe.org)

You can also find us on social networks:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/inclusionieurope](http://www.facebook.com/inclusionieurope)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/inclusionieurope](http://www.twitter.com/inclusionieurope)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/inclusionieurope](http://www.youtube.com/inclusionieurope)

Information about European Union policies and about news from our member organisations is regularly provided via our online journal e-Include at: [www.e-include.eu](http://www.e-include.eu)



## THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF SELF-ADVOCATES

**EPSA is the short form for “European Platform of Self-Advocates”.**

EPSA did a lot of work during 2009.

But we had some problems in implementing the work plan for 2009.

One of the reasons was the lack of feed-back from our members.

During the General Meeting 2009 in Tampere, we talked about full legal capacity.

Full legal capacity means you make decisions and act by yourself.

We also talked about “supported decision making”.

Supported decision making means disabled people make their own decisions and get the right support.

EPSA also adopted some recommendations on legal capacity.

They are:

1. People with intellectual disabilities have the same rights as other citizens
2. People with intellectual disabilities must have full legal capacity
3. People with intellectual disabilities must decide themselves about their lives
4. Plenary guardianship must be abolished
5. Alternative solutions must be developed
6. The respect for our choices must be ensured through good support
7. Our protection must be ensured
8. Inform and train people about their rights
9. Provide accessible information
10. More support for self-advocacy

During 2009 we also

- Attended the conference for the European Day of people with disabilities;
- Had 1 meeting of 10 partners to finalize the products from the Pathways project;
- Made 4 issues of Europe for Us to make self-advocacy more visible at national and European level.
- Spoke about people with intellectual disabilities evaluating their services in a project called UNIQ.

You can find more information about all 2009 activities in the full EPSA Annual Report.





Hannes Traxler is responsible for everything related to money at Inclusion Europe.



In this report he says that Inclusion Europe has managed its budget well.



He registers and controls all spending of money.



He thanks all the people who support Inclusion Europe.

It is my pleasure to report that in the financial year 2009, Inclusion Europe has consequently continued with its strict cost-saving policy introduced in 2007. The structural savings implemented in the budget for 2009 have borne fruit and ensured that Inclusion Europe has maintained a small operational surplus. Unfortunately, some necessary financial corrections lead to a small negative financial result for the year.

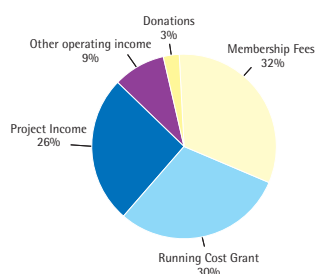
The External Auditor of Inclusion Europe has again certified that our bookkeeping fully meets all Belgian laws as well as the Commission standards and requirements. Our accounting system is fully geared to ensure effective and efficient financial reporting and control of complex European projects. Sound financial management and

control are exercised to meet the requirements of funders and members.

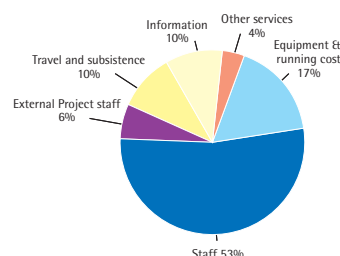
I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our members who paid their fees in 2009. Furthermore, my thanks go to individual donors and to the European Commission for their support for different activities at European level for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Hannes Traxler  
Treasurer

**Income 2009**  
440.275,21 €



**Expenditure 2009**  
441.491,79 €



This brochure is supported by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission. Part of its funding is provided under the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields. The seven-year programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries. PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and the society at large.

For more information see: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html)

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or the opinion of the European Commission.

- **Albania**  
Help the Life Association
- **Austria**  
Lebenshilfe Österreich  
Lebenshilfe Wien
- **Belgium**  
ANAHM/NVHVG  
Mouvement Personne d'Abord
- **Bosnia Herzegovina**  
Zivotna pomoc
- **Bulgaria**  
BAPID
- **Croatia**  
Association for Self-Advocacy  
Association for Promoting Inclusion  
Croatian Association of Societies for Persons with Mental Retardation
- **Cyprus**  
Pancyprian Parents Assoc. for People with Mental Handicap
- **Czech Republic**  
Inclusion Czech Republic  
Sebeobhajci Praha  
Rytmus
- **Denmark**  
Landesforeningen LEV  
Udviklingshemmedes Landsforbund
- **Estonia**  
EPVIT  
EVPIT Self-Advocacy Group
- **Faroe Islands**  
Javni
- **Finland**  
FDUV  
Kehitysammaisten Tukiliitto ry  
Me Itse ry  
Steg för Steg ry
- **France**  
UNAPEI  
Nous Aussi  
Les Papillons Blancs de Dunkerque
- **Germany**  
Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e.V.  
Der Rat behinderter Menschen der Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe  
Lebenshilfe Landersverband Schleswig-Holstein
- **Greece**  
Panhellenic Federation of Parents and Guardians of Disabled People
- **Hungary**  
EFOESZ  
EFOESZ Self-Advocacy Group
- **Iceland**  
National Federation for the Handicapped
- **Ireland**  
Inclusion Ireland  
Union on the Hill Self-Advocacy
- **Israel**  
AKIM Israel
- **Italy**  
ANFFAS
- **Latvia**  
Rupju Berns  
Rupju Berns - Latvian Self-Advocacy Movement
- **Lithuania**  
VILTIS
- **Luxembourg**  
APEMH  
Ligue HMC
- **Macedonia**  
Republic Center for Helping Persons with Mental Handicap
- **Malta**  
Movement in Favour of Rights for Persons with Disability
- **Netherlands**  
Stichting VG Belang
- **Norway**  
NFU Norwegian Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
NFU Self-Advocacy Group
- **Poland**  
Polish Association for Persons with Mental Handicap
- **Portugal**  
HUMANITAS  
FENACERCI
- **Romania**  
Romania Inclusiva
- **Scotland**  
Enable Scotland  
Enable ACE Committee
- **Slovakia**  
Association for Help to People with Mental Handicap (ZPMPVSR)
- **Slovenia**  
Sozitie  
Centre Dolfke Bostjancic Draga
- **Spain**  
FEAPS  
APPS Federacio Catalana Pro Persones amb discapacitat intel·lectual
- **Sweden**  
FUB  
Rikssektionen Klippan
- **Switzerland**  
INSIEME
- **United Kingdom**  
Mencap  
Building Bridges Training
- **Europe**  
European Co-operation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy (ECCE)  
Down Syndrome Education International

## Annual Report 2009



**Inclusion Europe**

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