



Europe for us



News for self-advocates

Number 3 / 2018



Celebrating

3



years of inclusion



Find explanations for words in **bold**
at the end of Europe For Us (pages 31 to 38).

“Europe for us” is available in: **English**
French
German
Hungarian
Romanian
Spanish

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to find the other language versions.

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Inclusion Europe at the World Congress: a big success!



Inclusion International
17th World Congress | 2018

The **World Congress of Inclusion International** took place from 30 May to 1 June 2018. It happened in Birmingham, in the United Kingdom. **Inclusion Europe** was a partner in the event.



Around 1,000 people came to the World Congress. 500 of them have an **intellectual disability**. Others came because they have a family member with an intellectual disability. Some people came because they work on topics to do with intellectual disabilities. Some came as support workers. They came from 71 countries, all over the world.

The theme was “Learn, Inspire, Lead”. There were workshops and talks where people worked on campaigns and shared their personal stories.

Inclusion Europe organised lots of workshops. For example, about the brothers and sisters of people with intellectual disabilities.



The **Global Self-Advocacy Summit** also took place during the World Congress. **Self-advocates** got together to talk about the big issues for them.

They launched calls to action, saying what needs to change to make inclusion happen. The event showed that people with **intellectual disabilities** all over the world are asking for similar things.



For example:

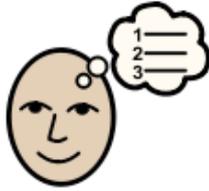
- Being part of the community,
- Having the same rights as other people, including the right to vote,
- Having a real job,
- Inclusive education,
- Closing institutions.



Inclusion Europe also had its 30th birthday party! The theme of the party was “Flavours of European Inclusion”. Our members from 30 countries shared their national foods and showed how they work for inclusion.



There was a wish tree at the party. This was a tree made of balloons. People wrote down what they wish for the future of inclusion on a piece of paper and tied it to the tree.



Here are a couple of the wishes:

- To make sure there is enough money to support self-advocates all over the world.
- For there to be people with intellectual disabilities in government.



European Platform
of Self-Advocates

The **European Platform of Self-Advocates** met at the World Congress. They talked about their activities in 2017.



At the congress, Sara Pickard was elected to continue her role as the self-advocate who stands for Europe in Inclusion International.

You can also catch up with what people said through the hashtag [#LearnInspireLead](#) on Twitter.





Here are some photos of the World Congress!



European Platform of Self Advocates

What is the European Platform
of Self-Advocates?

The European Platform of Self-Advocates
is called EPSA for short.

EPSA started in the year 2000.



It is part of **Inclusion Europe**.



It is made up of **self-advocacy**
groups from different countries in Europe.

EPSA's goals

EPSA wants to make the self-advocacy movement stronger.

It wants people to know about the rights and needs of people with **intellectual disabilities**.

It also wants people to know about all the things that people with intellectual disabilities can do.

EPSA's activities

Here are some of the things EPSA does:

EPSA publishes **accessible** information about important European issues.



For example, EPSA writes about:

- how to get proper support,
- rules for accessible meetings,
- the EU's plans about people with disabilities,
- **legal capacity**.



EPSA organises meetings for self-advocates to get to know each other and share ideas.

EPSA trains self-advocates to speak up for themselves.



With EPSA's support, self-advocates talk to people who make decisions about the way things are run. For example, people in **politics**.

How to take part in EPSA:

- To find out more, go to the EPSA website: www.self-advocacy.eu
- Or simply send us an email to: self-advocacy@inclusion-europe.org
- Read our articles about self-advocacy here: bit.ly/SelfAdvocacyArticles



Europe needs more self-advocates
to help make a better life
for people with intellectual disabilities!

History of self-advocacy in Europe



1997

Inclusion Europe organised the 1st meeting led by self-advocates in Europe.

2000

EPSA started as part of Inclusion Europe.

2003

EPSA held its first big meeting, called “Empowerment. Together against discrimination!”



2007

“Europe for Us” is published for the first time.

2011

EPSA held its second big meeting, called “Hear our voices”.

EPSA decided to call all its future meetings “Hear our voices”.

2017

There was the 5th “Hear our voices” event.

There was also the
European Disability Parliament.

A record number of people
with **intellectual disabilities** came.
Harry Roche, who is part of EPSA
and **Inclusion Europe**, spoke at the event.

Celebrating 30 years of inclusion



As well as our party at the **World Congress**, we are celebrating our birthday online.



For example, by talking about the people who have worked towards inclusion in Europe. Every month, we talk about a new Inclusion Hero.

Two of our Inclusion Heroes are Elisabeta Moldovan and Aimée Richardson. They are **self-advocates**.

Over the next few pages, you can read our interviews with them.



Find out about our birthday on social media by clicking [#30yearsofInclusion](#) on Facebook and Twitter.

Interview with Aimée Richardson



Aimée Richardson is from Ireland,
and has done a lot of great things.

She plays 6 instruments and
has done the voice for a famous Irish cartoon.

She is part of a group in a talent show on TV.

Her work shows what people with **intellectual disabilities** can do when they are fully included.

We asked Aimée about her work, and what needs to change so more people with disabilities can do work like her.

Question 1:
What instruments do you play?



I play lots of instruments, including

- the harp,



- the ukulele,



- and the flute.

I also play some traditional Irish instruments, such as:



- the tin whistle,



- the low whistle,



- and the bodhrán, which is a sort of drum.

Question 2:

What do you like about your instruments?



I love all of them for their different sounds.

The harp is beautiful.
It is hard to play but I want to learn.



I find the tin whistle is the easiest to play.
I love it.
It is small, so it can be played anywhere.
It has a strong sound.
It gets people dancing.



Aimée Richardson and
Lindsey Sedgewick,
the writer who made Punky.

You did the voice for the TV series Punky.

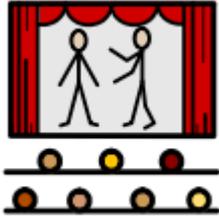
Punky is the first cartoon with a main character who has Down's Syndrome.

What was it like when Punky got so famous in Ireland?



It was great!

I did a lot of interviews for the radio, TV, and newspapers.
I went on a Saturday night TV show twice.
People knew who I was in public!



Question 3:
You are studying acting at college.
You are doing a course for young adults
with learning disabilities.

Yes, I am in my second year.
I love it!

What do you learn at the drama college?

I learn many different things.

For example,



- how to warm up my voice,



- perform long speeches,



- and dance.



We also study old theatre.

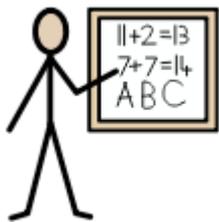


Jacob McCarthy and Aimée Richardson, who are in the film, The Drummer and the Keeper.

Question 4:

What do you think needs to change so more people with intellectual disabilities can be actors?

First, there needs to be more support for people with **intellectual disabilities** to study acting.



Teachers need more training to know how to work with people with intellectual disabilities.



More film roles need to be made for people with disabilities.
More people with disabilities should get roles.

People with disabilities have lots of talents!

This was just part of the interview.
You can read the full interview here:

<http://bit.ly/AimeeETR>

Interview with Elisabeta Moldovan



Elisabeta Moldovan on the right,
with Andreea-Raluca Herbei and Zoltán Szövérdfi-Szé.



Elisabeta has spent most of her life in **institutions**.

In 2012, Elisabeta moved from an institution to living on her own.

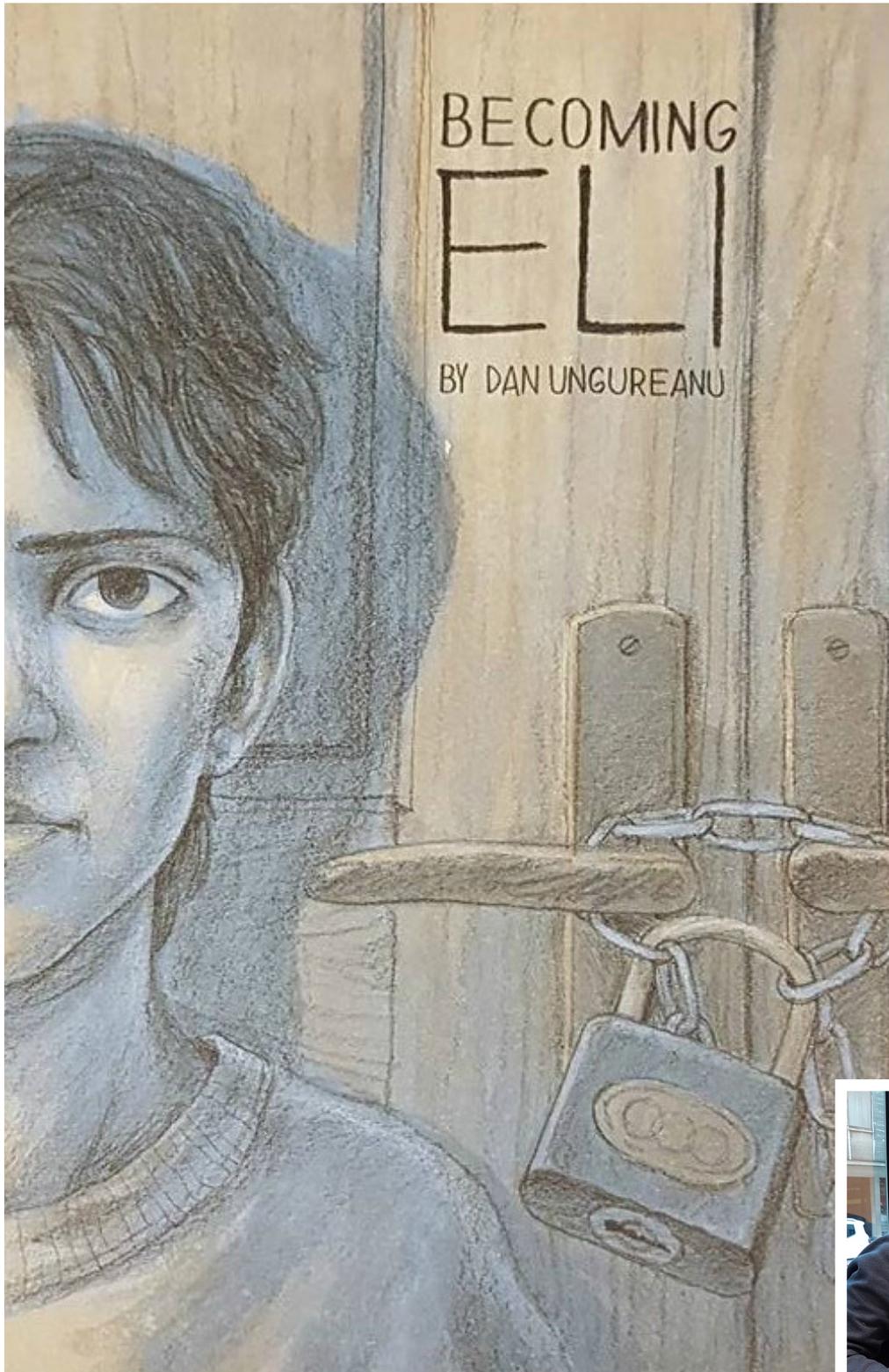


She started working at an organisation for **self-advocates** in Romania called Ceva de Spus.

Ceva de Spus is a member of **Inclusion Europe**.



She is also a member of the **European Platform of Self-Advocates**.



A book was written about Elisabeta.
It is called Becoming Eli.
You can get it in Romanian and English.



We asked Elisabeta some questions:

Question 1:
Why did you become a
self-advocate?



I became a self-advocate because
I wanted to learn about my own rights.
I was treated badly in **institutions**.

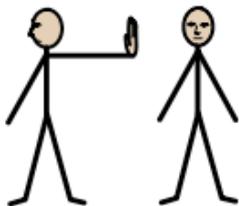
I wanted to make sure other people are not treated badly.



Question 2:
How are people with **intellectual disabilities**
treated in Romania?

People with intellectual disabilities
are often treated badly in Romania.

People with intellectual disabilities are starting to
learn more about their rights in Romania.



But they still face **discrimination**
by many people.

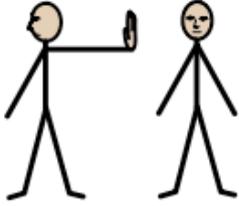


Question 3:
What have you learned and achieved
through working at **EPSA**?

I have learned a lot.
For example, how to talk with others and speak in public.



I have learned about topics such as violence against women.



I have learned what **discrimination** looks like.

Question 4:

Who came up with the idea of writing *Becoming Eli*?

Many people wanted me to make my story public.

My friend turned my story into a book with pictures.



I found it hard to share what happened to me.

But I want people to know about life in **institutions**.

I hope that parents will not leave their children in institutions any more.



This is a drawing from *Becoming Eli* that shows a mother leaving her baby in an institution.

“I hope that people who live in institutions can get out of there and have a chance for a better life.”

Question 5:

How long did it take you to tell your story?

It took 2 years to write the book.
I met my friend who drew the pictures once every month in a coffee shop.
We worked on 1 story at a time, and then put all the stories together.

Question 6:

How did it feel to hold the book in your hands for the first time?



I was happy and felt proud.

What changes would you like to see in Europe?

I would like people with intellectual disabilities to be able to **live independently**.

People with intellectual disabilities have the right to a good life, like everyone else.

You can find out more about the book *Becoming Eli* and where to buy it here: <http://bit.ly/BecomingEli>

Self-advocates in Peniche

Self-advocates from **EPSA**
had a meeting in Peniche.



Peniche is a town in Portugal.
At the meeting, they talked about different things.



This is a photo of Peniche, in Portugal.



They talked about **Inclusion Europe's** Life After Violence project. The project is about violence in **institutions**.

Women with disabilities are often victims of violence in institutions.



Juultje Holla and Ellis Jongerius did a presentation about the project.

Ellis is a self-advocate.

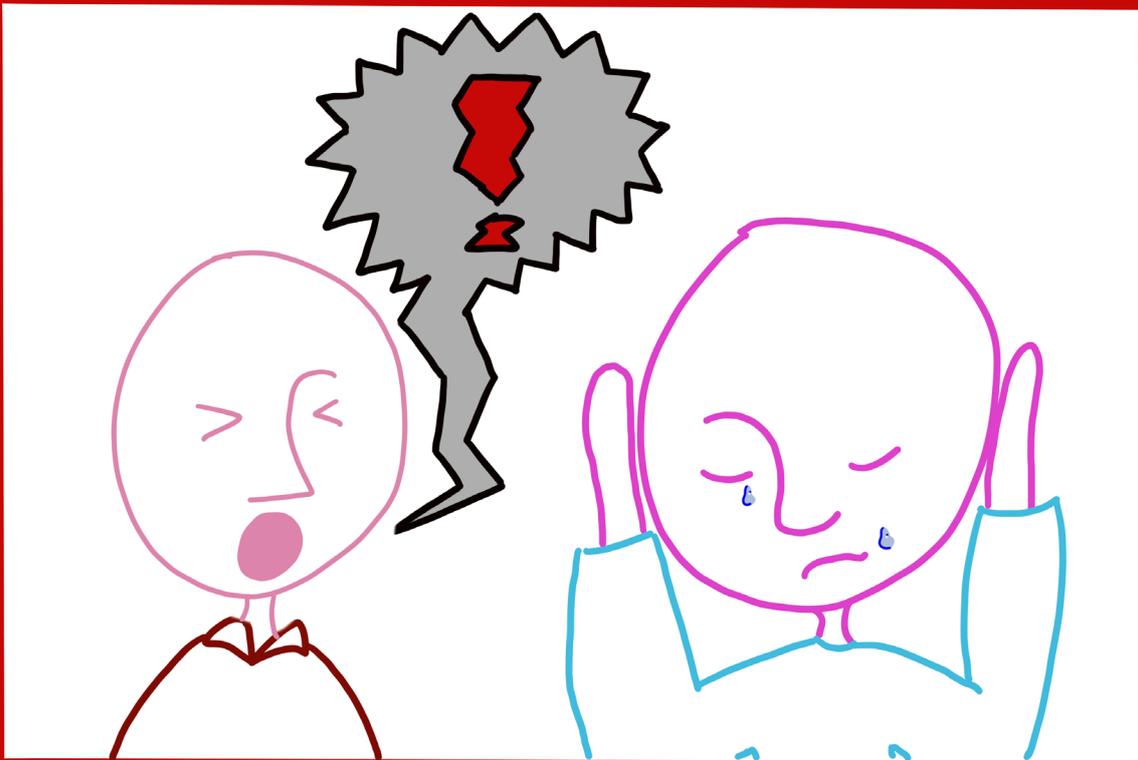
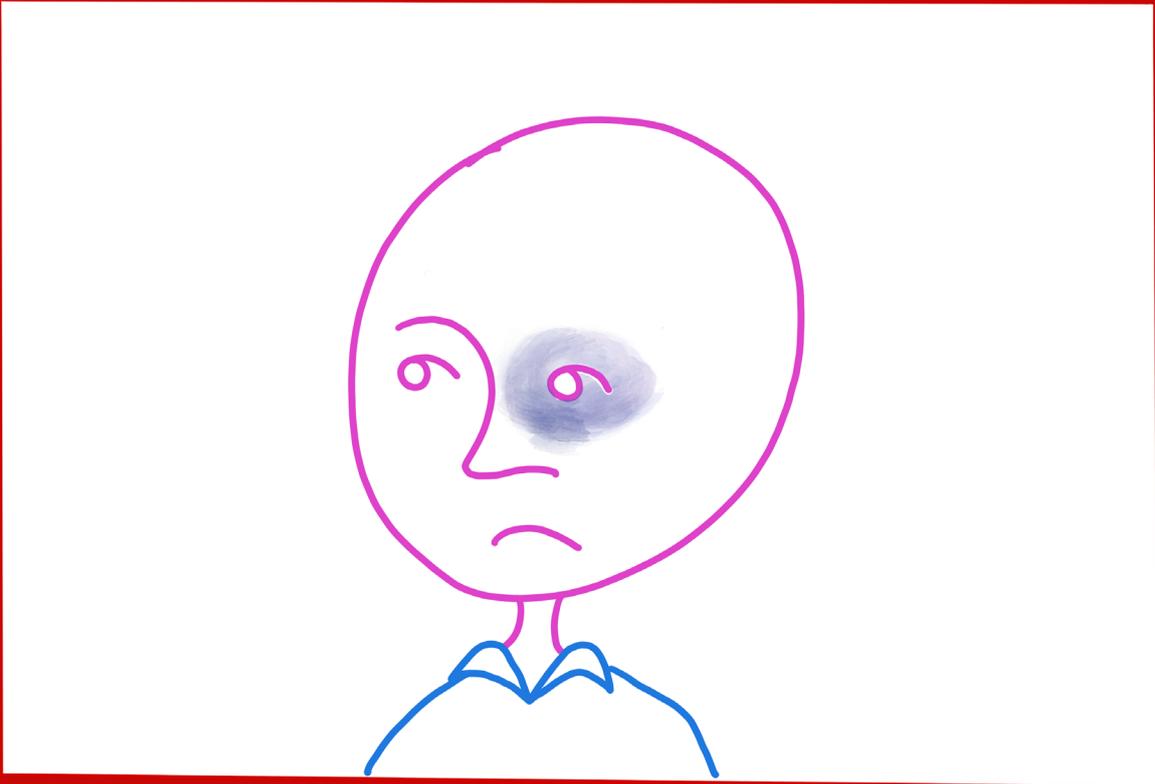


She works with Juultje, who is a researcher on the project.



At the meeting, **self-advocates** also talked about different kinds of violence.

They talked about what to do when they see violence happening. They heard about how the police in Portugal have been trained to deal with violence against people with **intellectual disabilities**.



These are drawings by Juultje that show some of the kinds of violence that women with **intellectual disabilities** experience. The top picture shows physical violence. The bottom picture shows **abuse** with words.

In Peniche, people also talked about the **Global Self-Advocacy Summit**.

They made some calls to action to share at the **World Congress**.



Self-advocates together!



A call to action is when you ask someone to do something to make things better.

In a call to action, first you explain a problem. Then you say what should be done to solve the problem.



These self-advocates are part of EPSA.
From left to right:
Senada Halilčević, Harry Roche,
Elisabeta Moldovan, and Luminița Căldăraș.



They also planned their talks about the elections for the **European Parliament**. The **elections** are happening next year.



Inclusion Europe is writing a **manifesto** for the elections. In this document, we will say what we want to happen.

The calls to action that **EPSA** made for the **World Congress** will be used to help make the manifesto.

They also talked about who from EPSA could stand for Europe at **Inclusion International**.



They also talked about the European representative for **Inclusion International**. This person is the link person between Inclusion International and EPSA. They collect information from other self-advocates to tell Inclusion International.



In Peniche, the EPSA members decided that the European representative will take part in all EPSA meetings and events. The EPSA members agreed that they wanted Sara Pickard to remain the European representative.

Participants really liked being in Peniche. They found the meeting useful.

You can read more here:
bit.ly/EPsAPeniche

Explanations

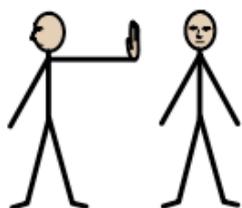
Abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly. It can be that the person shouts at you. It can also be that the person hurts you or is violent in another way.

Accessible

Something that is easy to use for people with disabilities, such as:

- Ramps to get into a building.
- Information in easy-to-read.
- Information in sign language.



Discrimination

Discrimination means that you are treated unfairly or that you do not get the chances you deserve.

It is discrimination when it happens because of your disability. It can also happen to other people. For example people who have a different skin colour. Or older people.

Easy-to-read

Easy to read is information that is written in a simple way so that people with intellectual disabilities can understand.



Easy-to-read documents often have this logo, so it is easier to find them.

There are rules on how easy-to-read should be done. You can read the European standards of easy-to-read information here: www.easy-to-read.eu



Elections

An election is when people can decide about who should speak for them and make choices for them.

Elections happen in different areas. For example in your town or city, when you can elect a new mayor. Or in your country, when you can elect a new president.

European Disability Parliament

The European Disability Parliament is a meeting of people with disabilities who live in Europe.

It takes place in Brussels in Belgium. It has taken place 4 times so far. The last time it happened was 2017.



EPSA

See **European Platform of Self-Advocates**.



European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place where important decisions of the **EU (definition page 34)** are made. For example: laws and budgets.

Members of the European Parliament (in short, MEPs) make these decisions and represent all the people who live in the EU.

Every five years, the people who live in the EU vote for their country's MEPs.



European Platform of Self-Advocates

The European Platform of Self-Advocates is made up of **self-advocacy** groups from different countries in Europe.

It is called EPSA for short.

It started in the year 2000.

It is part of **Inclusion Europe**.



EU

EU is short for the European Union.
The EU is a group of 28 countries in Europe.

We call these countries “member states”.
They have joined together to be stronger.

The EU makes laws on many important things
for the people who live in these countries.

The EU makes laws in different areas.
For example:

- Laws to protect the environment.
- Laws for farmers.
- Laws to protect consumers.

A consumer is someone who buys things.

Global Self-Advocacy Summit

The Global Self-Advocacy Summit was a big meeting
for self-advocates from all around the world.

The meeting took place on 31st May 2018.
It was part of
the Inclusion International World Congress.
It happened in Birmingham,
in the United Kingdom.

Independent living

Independent living is when people with intellectual disabilities live in the community and have support.

It means they can:

- Choose who to live with and where to live.
- Decide how they want to spend their time.
- Have the same experiences as all other people.



Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. We fight for their equal rights and inclusion in Europe. We also want to make a difference to policies in Europe.

We started in 1988.

We have 75 members in 39 European countries.

We are based in Brussels in Belgium.



Inclusion International

Inclusion International is an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. It fights for their equal rights and inclusion in all aspects of life.

It started over 50 years ago.

It has 200 members in 115 countries all over the world.

Inclusion International is based in London in the UK.



Institutions

Institutions are places where people with intellectual disabilities live with other people with intellectual disabilities.

They live apart from other people. This is what we call “segregated”. Sometimes this happens against their will. The people who live in institutions must follow the rules of the institution and cannot make their own decisions.

Intellectual disability

Intellectual disability means being less able than others to understand information and to use new skills. This makes it more difficult to manage some parts of life.

Intellectual disability often starts before you are an adult. It affects you for your whole life.

There are things that can make life easier for people with intellectual disabilities. For example, easy-to-read information.

Legal capacity

Capacity means being able to make a decision or choice at one point in time.

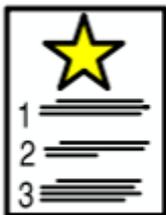
There are laws about how to decide if someone has capacity. Then it is called legal capacity.

Having legal capacity means that people with intellectual disabilities can do things on their own.



For example, they can:

- Make choices about their lives.
- Get married, start a family and raise children.
- Sign contracts (including working contracts).
- Take part in politics and have the right to vote.



Manifesto

A manifesto is a text that explains the goals of a person or an organisation.

It is often made before an election by a person or organisation that wants to be elected. Everyone can read it.

Politics

Politics are the activities to do with running a group of people, such as in a country.

Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy is when people with intellectual disabilities speak up for themselves and for other people with intellectual disabilities.

World Congress



This year, the World Congress of Inclusion International took place in Europe.

The World Congress was a big event for self-advocates, their families and for people who work with people with intellectual disabilities.

The title of the event was Learn, Inspire, Lead. It happened in Birmingham in England, from Wednesday 30 May to Friday 1 June.

Summary

You have read a lot of important things today.
Maybe you would like to let others know about them.

Tell your friends what you read:

1) What is the European Platform of Self-Advocates??

2) What is the name of the first cartoon
with a main character who has Down's Syndrome?

3) What is the book about Elisabeta Moldovan's life called?



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Sign up here: bit.ly/EuropeForUs

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