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ENIL newsletter Nov 08/2



European Network on Independent Living

UN Convention – Committee of Experts Elected

Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides for the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, consisting of twelve experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the Convention. The first Conference of States Parties on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) elected the new Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which will be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD. The Committee comprises seven men and five women, of which nine are persons with disabilities. The election took place on 3 November 2008.

Here is a list of the elected members, CVs in pdf are available by clicking on the names:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crpd/membership.htm>

Here is the press release on the election:

http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/documents/Press_release_on_outcome_of_the_COSP_rev_MW.doc



Non-Discrimination Legislation Debated at EU Committee

We already told you in previous newsletters that on 2 July 2008, the EU Commission adopted a proposal for a directive which provides for protection from discrimination on grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief beyond the workplace. This new directive would ensure equal treatment in the areas of social protection, including social security and health care, education and access to and supply of goods and services which are commercially available to the public, including housing.

Report from EDF (European Disability Forum):

On 5 November, the European Parliament Employment Committee discussed the Directive at its meeting. At that meeting, Ms Lynne (ALDE Group) stressed the importance of the future legislation for providing equal protection for all in Europe and paid tribute to Commissioner Spidla for his courage in proposing the Directive.

Members of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament supported the draft report of Ms Lynne and announced that they intended to propose a number of amendments to further strengthen it. The draft report was also supported by representatives of GUE, UEN and Green Political Groups. The speaker representing the EPP-ED Group expressed the view that the legislation is not the right way to fight against discrimination in Europe. However, she said, should there be legislation, it should not overburden businesses and propose feasible rules, with no extra red-tape.

Previous article on the ENIL website:

http://www.enil.eu/enil/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=78&Itemid=82

Good and Bad Practice November

* The Swiss organisation "Egalité Handicap" reports a case of discrimination concerning naturalisation.

* In Germany, a judge was sentenced to 3 ½ years in prison for having ordered that residents of an institution be tied down to their beds with belts, without having seen the residents first and having assessed the situation himself.

* Mainz, a town in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany just received an award for its accessible State Museum.

Read more:

http://www.enil.eu/enil/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=1&Itemid=1

ERSTE Foundation Award for Integration

Katarina from ENIL member YHD points out this campaign:

ERSTE foundation is collecting best examples of projects in the area of social integration. The award is given annually to the best projects and this year's 1st prize winner will get 40.000 €. The countries that can apply are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

More information and an application form can be found at:

<http://www.erstestiftung.org/integration-award/index.php?lang=en&contentid=a>

The deadline has been prolonged to 1 December 2008.

Competition: What is Inclusion?

A group of (former) pedagogy students from Berlin and the association "Parents for Integration Berlin (Efl)", aim to collect worldwide definitions of "Inclusion" and "inclusive education". They are looking for definitions used in scientific discussion and definitions people formulate for themselves. They also want to discover how clearly the idea and term of "Inclusion" is delineated compared to concepts and terms like "Integration" or "Mainstreaming".

more information (in 7 languages): <http://definitely-inclusive.org/>

Video: Living in the Community

Milica and Bozadir live in Croatia, where one in three people with moderate or severe intellectual disabilities lives in an institution. Milica lived in several institutions for 24 years, and Bozadir for 26 years.

In 2001, they left the institution and moved to an apartment together. In the video, Milica and Bozadir talk about their lives before and after leaving the institution and what it is like to live independently.

The video has English subtitles:

http://demo.oddcast.com/witness/api/api_english.mov

ENIL Board Member John Evans in "The Guardian"

Personalisation is no newfound idea - David Brindle talks to John Evans, whose determination to make independent living a reality in the 80s has made him an internationally recognised advocate for disability rights.

Link: http://www.enil.eu/enil/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=93

ENIL European Seminar Postponed

We regret to inform you that the ENIL seminar for December has had to be postponed. We hope to have this seminar later in 2009. We will keep you updated with further developments.

ENIL Secretariat

Address: Gran Vía Marqués del Turia nº 49 - 7º 12ª

46005 Valencia Spain

Voice: (+34)96-325-54-57 Fax: (+34)96-325-54-59

Mail: secretariat@enil.eu

Newsletter by Tanja Richter, ENIL PR Officer

