



*Building capacity for excellence  
in service provision for people  
with disabilities*

## CATALOGUE OF EPR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES 2018

This catalogue outlines the main events and other initiatives organised by EPR for members and for the public in the coming year, as well as services that members of the network can benefit from. There is a brief description of each activity. The dates will be made available in the calendar and further information about the individual activities and invitations will be circulated amongst members as soon as they are available and posted on the website. These will include a description of the learning objectives and draft agenda.

The working groups will continue to work with the secretariat to plan the meetings in their fields and identify good practices. There will be an emphasis on identifying gaps in methodologies and practice in the mutual learning meetings and where joint work could be undertaken to develop new tools and approaches, either within regular EPR activities or looking to get EU funding for the development. There will also be discussions on the challenges experienced by members in the area of service provision that each meeting addresses, with the aim to identify possible practice and policy recommendations to address the challenges.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Mutual learning: Building partnerships with employers (Nov)

This popular meeting would continue the exchange of practices to continuously improve services and develop innovative approaches to create partnerships with companies and promote employment of people with a disability (pwd).

### Training workshop at AC: meaningful communication with colleagues and clients

The workshop would enable participants to learn and discuss tools/methodologies to empower clients and staff in communication and engagement.

### Webinar: job carving/customised employment (Sept)

The webinar will present the benefits of using customised employment model to uncovers pwd’s strengths and talents to create meaningful work. Participants will reflect on how to implement it in their services. Co-organised with the US Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation and Microsoft.

### **Guidance: job carving/customised employment**

Good practices and information would be gathered to support members to convince employers of the viability of customising jobs for pwd.

### **Study: employment of people with disabilities through social enterprise**

Led by ONCE, and in cooperation with Workability International and EASPD, EPR will commission research on social enterprise models for the employment of pwd, to map and assess good practices, trends, legislation and support schemes in the different countries.

### **Public Affairs event: employment through social enterprise (Nov)**

Part of the research on social enterprise will be presented for discussion. The event would be organized in with service user organisations and feature input from EU policy makers, followed by a reception. This event is public.

## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Mutual learning: supporting transitions from education and training to the labour market and society (Oct)**

This exchange would have a focus on young people, would draw out success factors and would provide the opportunity to update 2014 report analysing good practice: [Transition services for young persons with disabilities in EPR member organisations](#)

### **Mutual learning: online exchange on training in digital skills/competences (Apr)**

A first online meeting would gather members to share experiences on training people in digital skills and using digital tools safely and discuss a potential project to be developed together.

### **Webinar: work-based training (May)**

Members would share how they structure and develop the content of dual training programmes and support the move to more work-based training.

### **Training workshop at Annual Conference: Restorative approaches to manage challenging behaviours in education**

An expert trainer would lead a workshop that would equip professionals to use a restorative justice approach to help them work with pupils and students exhibiting challenging behaviour in the classroom.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION/INDEPENDENT LIVING**

### **Training workshop at Annual Conference: Person-centred support skills for community inclusion (Sept)**

An expert in person-centred approaches will support the participants to develop their skills to support their clients to participate in the community and become active citizens.

### **Service Impacts on Quality of Life (SIQOL) benchmarking group (Sept – pre-AC)**

At the beginning of 2018, EPR will liaise with different EPR members to promote the use of the QOLIS in more centres. The creation of an internal committee supports the future development of the SIQOL group, in collaboration with the expert and EPR Secretariat. Webinars and online meetings are foreseen for both the French and EU group, who will be invited to meet the day before the AC2018.

### **Webinar: Developing social skills in young people through serious games (June)**

This webinar will be led by Theotokos and will feature a presentation and discussion on their EPR Prize winning game. Members will be invited to present their own use of serious games to develop social skills in young people and discuss challenges and opportunities for implementing such models.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Mutual learning (May)**

Members would share good practices and identify benefits of the involvement of family and the community in people with mental health conditions' recovery journeys. Members would start the development of a tool for outcome measurement on the recovery progress. The meeting would also examine and prioritise the following issues for future cooperation: educating stakeholders on recovery models, motivation of clients, creating employment opportunities for people with mental health conditions, innovative MH services in rural areas. EPR will investigate project funding opportunities to support the work of the development of a tool for outcome measurement on the recovery progress.

## **QUALITY**

### **EQUASS Quality Conference**

The event will include workshops about new concepts, methodologies and EU initiatives about quality in the sector, relevant EU projects, service-user perspectives on quality and good practices.

### **EQUASS information seminars**

EQUASS will organize information seminars in Greece and Slovenia, and there will be seminar focusing on EQUASS excellence in Tallinn (18/04).

## **KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SHARING**

### **EPR Award/Prize and gathering of good practices**

EPR has revised the innovation prize process for 2018 with the aim to make the process clearer, and will carry out a more comprehensive revision at the end of the year to improve the voting process and ease of applying. EPR is working with members on the method for the collection and dissemination of other best practices (related to the knowledge hub, below). The 2018 call for proposals has been launched<sup>1</sup>.

### **Knowledge hub**

EPR will provide an online space for the sharing of good practices and resources; format being developed in consultation with members.

### **Observatory of trends and analytical paper**

The secretariat will work with members to create an online observatory where information on trends and their actual or potential impact on rehabilitation services can be consulted. This will be discussed at the GA prior to the AC. One paper analysing a trend as selected by members will be produced.

### **Developing platform for member interactions**

The secretariat develops a method for EPR members to interact remotely to promote and reinforce EPR members' partnerships and joint work.

### **Newsletters**

The tri-annual EPR newsletter will be published disseminating key information about EPR and its members' activities, involvement in EU funded projects, linked to the website.

### **E-bulletins**

These gather key EU policy news related to social and labour market inclusion, funding programs, EU events and projects and the link is made to members' activities. It will be linked to the new website.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epr.eu/what-we-do/innovation/innovation-prize/>

## **Funding support service**

The secretariat provides short summaries of relevant calls for project proposals from the European Commission and other actors (funding alerts). The secretariat connects members for partnerships, provides time in the coordinators meetings for discussion of project proposals and supports project applications; advice and project writing, to support service development and innovation. The secretariat will also initiate project proposals, including going back to the project applications that were unsuccessful last year, and consider them for revision for another application or if they would fit for an EPR activity, on a smaller scale.

## **Discussions on EU policy (June for online meeting)**

These sessions are designed to inform EPR members about relevant EU policy initiatives and legislation, how they might impact their daily work and how they could influence the processes. Two short sessions will take place in the coordinators' meetings in Brussels and an online training session will be organised.

## **Advocacy work on the future of the EU funds and public procurement /tendering for quality services**

The secretariat gathered information from members via online surveys and has developed position papers on both topics<sup>2</sup> (key issues identified by members last year). The secretariat has met with European Commission officials to advocate for EPR members' experiences to be taken into account in the future funding programmes (from 2020 onwards) and the Guide to Socially Responsible Public Procurement and will continue to liaise with them.

# **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/PERFORMANCE**

## **Annual Conference workshop (Sept)**

There will be a strategic workshop aimed at managers and directors in the afternoon of the first day of the Annual Conference.

# **CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**

## **Annual Conference: Thriving in fast changing societies<sup>3</sup> (Sept)**

The AC is EPR's flagship event. The AC 2018 marks 25th anniversary of EPR and for the first time registration will be opened to the public. Through interactive plenary sessions, networking, training workshops and mutual learning exchanges, the event promotes the transfer of good practices and innovative experiences to improve services. It will be held in Utrecht and will include a gala dinner.

## **Centre Coordinators meetings (Feb, Nov)**

These meetings are the occasion for the main contact people from the EPR members to gather to discuss developments and activities in the network, examine key EU initiatives, exchange and develop project ideas, share good practices and network.

## **General Assemblies (Sept, Nov)**

The General Assembly consists of the Chief Executives/Directors of full members and is the decision-making body of EPR. Its main task is to set the strategic, financial and organisational framework of EPR, to discuss and approve EPR policies and activities, as well as to present and discuss issues of strategic interest to Directors. Associate members can participate as observers and take part in the discussions.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epr.eu/what-we-do/policy-analysis/social-services-sector/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.epr.eu/?post\\_type=event&p=612](https://www.epr.eu/?post_type=event&p=612)

### **Implementation of new system to understand member interests and develop the work programme**

EPR would consult members individually and organise working group meetings online to develop concrete activities for the work programme, to be approved in November 2018. April-June – needs and interests assessments with members, September – first presentation of findings, October – Working Groups develop activity proposals and gathers good practices, November – members approve work programme.

### **Engagement with potential members – *building the network of innovative organisations***

In the first quarter of 2018 EPR will work with members to identify potential member organisations and connect with them; arranging meetings and inviting to activities. EPR will continue liaising with those organisations having expressed an interest in membership.

### **Development of new membership fee package (by Sept)**

Led by the board and discussed and approved by the General Assembly, EPR will revise its membership fees and review the corresponding package of activities and services for members.