

Catalogue of EPR Activities and Services 2023



CATALOGUE OF EPR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Learning and Innovating together

Our mission is to build the capacity of our members to provide sustainable, high quality services through mutual learning and training.

Our strategic objectives

- EPR enables service improvement through mutual learning, training and networking
- EPR facilitates innovation through resource development and projects
- EPR equips members to address trends impacting service delivery
- EPR network of innovative organization grows
- EPR engages members in policy development drawing from their expertise
- EPR grows its policy influence through targeted contributions and strategic partnerships

Our Activities

Guided by our strategic objectives, our annual Catalogue of Activities and Services is developed through individual consultations with each of our members, and includes the multi-annual projects that EPR is leading or partnering in. It outlines what EPR offers members and the public in the coming year, as well as services that members of the network can benefit from. We run working groups, task forces, training workshops, expert-led workshops, projects, conferences, webinars and more. EPR is a “matchmaker” helping members to identify mutual learning opportunities and supporting the development of tailor-made exchange and training activities. We organise a mix of online, in-person and hybrid meetings; always ensuring participants are engaged, no matter where they are. Most activities are completely free for members of the network and there are activities aimed at both managers and professionals.

Further information about the individual activities and registration information will be circulated to Centre Coordinators or the working group members as soon as they are available and posted on the website¹. Agendas for meetings will be available at least two months in advance, for the Annual Conference and Public Affairs event this will be 3 months in advance. The agendas for task forces and working groups are developed by the members of those groups but new people are welcome to join the meetings. Meeting dates for the working groups and task forces are also set by the members of those groups.

This Catalogue is structured around the strategic objectives, then the activities are grouped in relation to the topic that they are addressing. It includes activities for all members, as well as the projects that EPR is involved in, and the team member responsible for it.

¹ <https://www.epr.eu/event/>

Table of Contents

EPR enables service improvement through mutual learning, training and networking; EPR equips members to address trends impacting service delivery	5
Prevention and early intervention; Vocational rehabilitation, vocational education and training; Employment support.....	5
Working Group – Return to Work / Partnerships with Employers.....	5
Working Group – Digital Skills	5
Green Jobs mapping.....	5
Project: VOLT	5
Project: LMI4Dis_Abled.....	5
Project: Change For Inclusion	5
Project: Supported Apprenticeship Scheme (SAS).....	5
Social care, support and housing and social rehabilitation; medical rehabilitation	5
Working Group – Youth.....	5
Event on supporting older PWD	6
Project Particip.Age.....	6
Particip.Age project Reference group – ageing of PWD	6
Study: Rights-based approach	6
EPR Study Visit Autism Foundation	6
Working Group - Mental Health	6
Project: DUB-IN.....	6
Project: T2O	6
Project: Equal Treatment.....	6
Cross cutting activities	7
Annual Conference	7
Project: Social Services Helpdesk SESK.....	7
Working Group – ICF	7
Working Group – Intereha	7
Online training workshop: empowerment.....	7
Project: QOLIVET	7
Online training workshop measuring QoL.....	7
General Assembly features	7
Environmental strategy.....	8
Knowledge hub	8
EPR facilitates innovation through resource development and projects	8
Funding working group.....	8
Other Working groups	8
EPR network of innovative organization grows.....	8
Project Management, Coordination	8
General Assemblies	8

Board of Directors	8
Centre Coordinators	9
Ensuring member satisfaction	9
Fundraising	9
Mapping member expertise	9
EPR engages members in policy development drawing from their expertise	9
Policy Working Group.....	9
Other Working Groups	9
Policy monitoring & analysis.....	9
Pathways to employment	9
EPR grows its policy influence through targeted contributions and strategic partnerships	10
Policy engagement.....	10
Social Services Europe	10
Other Strategic Partnerships	10
Cross cutting objective: EPR achieves higher visibility of activities of the organisation and its members.....	10
Online Awareness Raising Campaign	10
EPR Newsbulletin	10
General communication, dissemination, outreach and network.....	10
Communications Network	11

EPR enables service improvement through mutual learning, training and networking; EPR equips members to address trends impacting service delivery

Prevention and early intervention; Vocational rehabilitation, vocational education and training; Employment support

Working Group – Return to Work / Partnerships with Employers (Mathias Maucher)

- 2 online meetings of at least 5 EPR members discussing barriers, success factors & good practices for return-to-work programmes &, job retention programmes; Invitation of external experts and regulators from the relevant fields
- Elaboration of a practice-oriented toolkit for partnerships with employers, including the business case for disability management, drawing from 2019 toolkit – open session for sharing of experience with all interested members
- Feeding into European Disability Strategy Employment Package initiatives “securing vocational rehabilitation schemes” and ensuring reasonable accommodation at work
- Feeding into the work of the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance on reasonable accommodation (see later)

Working Group – Digital Skills (Laura Jones)

- 3 meetings (3 online 2 hours each)
- Exchange of good practices, development of recommendations for service providers in skills to teach online, updating resources developed in 2020.
- Feeding into consultation on European Digital Skills certificate

Green Jobs mapping

Development of publication mapping employment opportunities and good practices from members in training and social enterprise in the Green economy

Project: VOLT (Panita Ball)

Video Online Learning and Training aims to create training resources for staff and learners in VET services for people with disabilities; equipping staff with the knowledge and digital skills needed to quickly adapt to online training and learning environments. <https://www.epr.eu/project/volt/> (EPR partner).

Project: LMI4Dis_Abled (Mathias Maucher)

Labour Market Inclusion for those Dis_Abled's assistive toolkit will provide tailor-made and updated information on future oriented VET and career opportunities; with updated guidance methodologies. (starts Feb 2023, EPR partner)

Project: Change For Inclusion, C4I (Mathias Maucher)

The project aims to support employers to work towards inclusive workplaces and a learning and inclusive organisation culture. <https://www.epr.eu/change4inclusion/> (Ends Feb 2023, EPR partner)

Project: Supported Apprenticeship Scheme, SAS (Panita Ball)

The Supported Apprenticeship Scheme (SAS) Project aims to pilot an innovative and improved supported apprenticeship scheme for young persons with disabilities (PwD) to enable them to transition and integrate smoothly into the labour market. [Supported Apprenticeship Scheme | EPR](#) (EPR partner)

Social care, support and housing and social rehabilitation; medical rehabilitation

Working Group – Youth (Mathias Maucher/Alicia Gómez Campos)

- 2 online meetings of 2hrs of Youth WG & one in-person of one day with at least 6 member experts in Germany. Topics: continued exchange on transitions from education and training/VET into employment based on 2022 publication, staffing needs and challenges, mental health conditions and specific support needs/one-to-one services for young people with disabilities

- Public seminar on supporting young people with behavioural challenges (topic TBC with WG)
- Development of recommendations on accessibility, service integration, co-production/co-design and qualified workforce, collecting good practices from WG for knowledge hub

Event on supporting older PWD (Alicia Gómez Campos)

Co-organising conference with Ramon Rey Ardid Foundation in Spain, on new models of care and service delivery in Europe for older persons aiming to reach a non-specialist audience, half day.

Project Particip.Age (Panita Ball)

The project will develop resources supporting community participation and social inclusion of Ageing People with Intellectual Disabilities (starts Jan 2023, EPR lead)

Particip.Age project Reference group – ageing of PWD

Open to all members. Feeding into study *Ageing People with Intellectual disabilities; A pathway to their social inclusion*

- Good practices collection & selection (in policy & regulations); 2.2 Case studies collection (service provision); 2.4 Stakeholders Needs collection
- Feedback on draft

Study: Rights-based approach

Prize and study “Rights of People with a Disability”: A call for good practices developed with members, practices are analysed to identify success factors, challenges and develop policy and service recommendations. Members vote on the practices according to pre-defined criteria developed with them and one or two organisations receive a prize of subsidies to join a meeting in person

EPR Study Visit Autism Foundation (Laura Jones)

1 in person EPSR Action Plan study visit on principle 17 inclusion of PWD (FI); exchange of good practice for mutual learning & identification of success factors. Development of recommendations for funders/policymakers on how to support services in this area.

Working Group - Mental Health (Alicia Gómez Campos)

- 2 online meetings ‘EPR Mental Health Working Group’ (MH WG), 1 in person “MH study visit” 2 days, in Austria.
- Developing resources on how to support social and soft skills for people with mental health conditions, continuing to gather resources on trauma.
- Presentations of good practices for discussion.
- Contributing to joint statement “Mental health in all policies” with stakeholder group led by Mental Health Europe

Project: DUB-IN (Alicia Gómez Campos)

‘DUB-IN: The transformative Power of my Voice’ is a project specifically addressed to people with psychosocial disability (PwPD), suffering from severe mental health issues as schizophrenia. The project not only looks for an improved way to deliver social skills training in terms of effectiveness and applicability but also provides trainers, practitioners, researchers and designers with new prospects and approaches to address the emergency of improving social functioning of PwPD that service providers can try instead.

<https://www.epr.eu/dub-in-the-transformative-power-of-my-voice/> (EPR partner)

Project: T2O (Laura Jones)

This project aims to develop training for sports practitioners to be able to support young people with autism in sports activities and raise awareness through events. EPR as partner. Started Jan 2023

Project: Equal Treatment (Roberto Zanon)

Equal Treatment aims to improve the access of people with intellectual disabilities to secondary and tertiary health care through inclusive European policies in healthcare services; training of healthcare staff on interacting with patients with intellectual disabilities and; stronger collaboration between healthcare staff and professional supporters. <https://www.epr.eu/equal-treatment> (EPR lead)

Cross cutting activities

Annual Conference (Panita Ball)

- In-person only event with plenary sessions, workshops, networking sessions including a dinner & celebration for EPR's 30th Anniversary, hosted by CRM in Mulhouse, France
- Study visits & exchange of experience with host
- Bringing in external and members' expertise to promote mutual learning & understanding of trends in the area of sustainability, including the Green Transition, as well as addressing the crisis in staffing in the social sector, linking to mapping of employment initiatives under 2.5

Project: Social Services Helpdesk SESK (Panita Ball)

The Helpdesk project aims to build capacity and raise awareness about ESF+, ERDF & React EU (and other relevant EU funds), and how they can better support effective social service interventions. This will be done by developing tools to simplify the use of and access to EU funds, facilitate exchange and cooperation between Managing Authorities, social services, and the European Commission (EC) to ensure that funding priorities are based on an assessment of social needs and target effective evidence-based social services interventions. <https://www.epr.eu/project/helpdesk/>

Working Group – ICF (Mathias Maucher)

- Organisation of at least 2 online meetings of 2 hours each
- Presentations & discussion of latest research, studies, use of ICF for inclusive ability assessment and devising offers for training and to participate in vocational rehabilitation
- Enlarging database on EPR's knowledge hub of tools used by members, of research/studies, of projects using the ICF
- Elaboration of recommendations on the appropriateness of the ICF scale and changes needed to use the ICF for inclusive ability assessment and sharing them with the EC, WHO and other relevant stakeholders

Working Group – Intereha (Laura Jones)

- Group of member experts led by Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi meet online and in-person, Italy
- Discussions and presentations on good practices in technology for rehabilitation.
- Continue mapping of unmet needs in tech-supported services for PWD, develop project concepts.

Online training workshop: empowerment

Webinar; exact topic TBC with members: addressing issues related to supported decision making, Person-centred planning & co-production/positive behaviour support. Involvement of an external expert

Project: QOLIVET (Roberto Zanon)

The focus of the project is improving the quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Community Care provision across Europe and raising its impact on the Quality of Life (QoL) of students and end-users. The project set out to build the capacity of systems of delivery and services to impact more positively on the QoL of participants with disabilities through a set of good practice guidelines for services; an online training programme for staff and leaders; and an assessment tool to allow service providers, in all sectors, to monitor their impact on the QoL from the perspective of participants and staff. (EPR lead, end Oct 2023) <https://www.epr.eu/project/qolivet/>

Online training workshop measuring QoL

Webinar – training workshop on tool to measure the impact of services on the Quality of Life of people with disabilities (QOLIVET tool). Participation of an external expert

General Assembly features

At one General Assembly an external expert will be brought in to lead discussion on global trends and implications.

Sharing challenges and good practices on recruitment and retention, developing new resources on knowledge hub, see a previous publication <https://www.epr.eu/publications/epr-mini-study-of-good-practices-on-staff-engagement-motivation-and-retention/>

Environmental strategy

- Implementation of environmental strategy
- Review in Q4 and updates made where necessary

Knowledge hub

Continued updating of website on HelpScout and addition to glossaries (focusing on supporting non native English-speakers), projects, good practices from other activities and dedicated pages addressing the EPSR Action Plan and related initiatives

EPR facilitates innovation through resource development and projects

Funding support service (Roberto Zanon)

- At least 8 funding alerts (relevant calls' summaries with selected info) issued when relevant calls are launched, with tailor-made information for service providers
- Support to EPR members in finding project partners/project leaders for joint applications, support project drafting

Funding working group (Roberto Zanon)

- 2 online and 1 in person meeting in Spain (one day); Exchange among EPR members on project planning, ideas for joint projects, partner matching, kicking-off applications.
- Identification of needs/topics of interest for EPR to be the focus of the working group, relevant funding calls
- Drafting of project ideas to be further developed with Working Groups; 2 project applications as lead, 6 as partner
- **Monitoring and review of “EPR’s Project funding Exploitation Protocol”**
- Building internal resource “toolbox” for writing and managing projects – guidelines, templates, standard content

Other Working groups

See resources produced by MH WG, Youth WG, ICF WG, Partnerships with Employers WG, Digital Skills

EPR network of innovative organization grows

Project Management, Coordination

- Quarterly written activity reports and at least 9 financial reports & forecasts
- Use of event evaluation forms and annual anonymous online survey for members to track indicators
- Survey of key policy makers at year start and year end, developed with external evaluator
- Method to track EPR policy impact developed with external evaluator, analysis done by secretariat
- Evaluation report drafted by external evaluator based on surveys and policy impact tool

General Assemblies

- 2 online (on Zoom for accessibility), 2 in-person meetings alongside AC & PA event
- Activity updates given by secretariat; governance, strategic, organisational and financial issues discussed and decisions made
- Sharing of updates from members on their strategic developments

Board of Directors

- At least 4 online and 2 in-person meetings alongside Annual Conference & Public Affairs event
- Discussion of key strategic, organisational and financial issues to support work of secretariat; preparation of GAs

- Preparation of input into EASPD-led group developing contribution to Framework for Social Services of Excellence

Centre Coordinators (Alicia Gómez Campos)

- 2 in-person meetings prior to annual conference & public affairs event
- Presentations & discussions of: EU policies & funded projects, members' organisational and service developments; networking, mutual learning, input into and feedback of EPR activities

Ensuring member satisfaction

- During in-person or online meetings the Secretary General explores each member's challenges, interests & priorities, updating the previous year's document – “needs assessments”
- Mapping of common interests developed feeding into work programme in line with EaSI FPA, as well as connect members one-to-one on topics of common interest

Fundraising

- Secretariat and board develop and implement fundraising strategy, including promoting paid participation and updating list of foundations
- Through desk research and networking members & SG identify potential members, share tailored information and organise online/in person meetings to explore interest in membership

Mapping member expertise

EPR will develop a format and structure to gather detailed information about members' organisational and service expertise to be hosted on Teams in order to facilitate productive connections and collaboration between members

EPR engages members in policy development drawing from their expertise

Policy Working Group (Alicia Gómez Campos)

2 online meetings discussing and exchanging information from EU and national levels on: European Semester, Disability Strategy; EPSR, Social Economy, Staffing, UN guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, UN General Comment on article 27; developing recommendations

Other Working Groups

See policy work within the Mental Health WG, ICF WG, Return to work/partnerships with employers WG, Pathways to employment Task Force

Policy monitoring & analysis

- Monitoring EU policy developments, attending EU policy events, reading newsletters, social media.
- Writing reports and news articles on EPR website following EU policy monitoring
- Briefings on 3 key EU initiatives (European Disability Strategy Employment Package; new initiatives from the Social Economy Action Plan, Implementation of European Care Strategy); UN guidelines on DI and comment on Article 27, analysing their relevant and impact on disability service providers

Pathways to employment (Laura Jones)

3 online meetings of member experts in a task force to analyse the European Commission initiatives from European Disability Strategy Employment Package and development of proposals and case studies to feed into implementation, with the return to work working group, with a focus on the initiative “exploring quality jobs in sheltered employment and pathways to the open labour market”. Development of policy recommendations for an enabling policy and legal framework for pathways to employment, feed into initiatives with the PES with ILMA.

EPR grows its policy influence through targeted contributions and strategic partnerships

Policy engagement

- Annual advocacy strategy developed and discussed with policy working group
- Identifying opportunities to feed recommendations developed into policy initiatives
- Drafting responses to written EU consultations and contributing to consultation meetings
- Develop recommendations to policy makers; gathering input from members

Social Services Europe (Laura Jones & Alicia Gómez Campos)

- Meetings of Board, Meetings of General Working Group and meetings of Taskforces (Social Economy, Care Strategy)
Other topics:
 - Staffing
 - Funding of services/public procurement & state aid
 - working on ensuring SSE has a sustainable future/working on EU project funding
- 2 Joint Seminars with EU institutions, including one on the energy crisis – impact of service providers and actions needed

Other Strategic Partnerships

- Contribute to work of groups with other NGO level networks: EU Alliance for Mental Health and Work, D-WISE network on social enterprises, EASPD-led working group on excellence and quality in social services,
- Co-lead work of Inclusive Labour Market Alliance, meeting to develop joint recommendations and co-develop online event with EU institutions on Disability Rights strategy employment package initiative
 - Reasonable Accommodation (connected to return to work WG) – hybrid event
 - Employment of people with a disability in the public sector – webinar
- Joint awareness-raising webinar on employment on the autistic spectrum in cooperation with Autism Europe; disseminate and Exchange good practices, discuss challenges and solutions, in relation to the Employment package

Cross cutting objective: EPR achieves higher visibility of activities of the organisation and its members

Online Awareness Raising Campaign

- 8 dedicated infographics gathering information, resources and good practices covering different initiatives of the EPSR Action Plan & linked to other activities, focus on long-term care/European Care strategy
- 1 feature on EPR website based on information & resources gathered
- Connecting to partners through social media and developing ideas for innovative tools for engagement

EPR Newsletter

- 6 electronic Newsbulletins per year with EU news, project updates, EPR and member news, videos
- Annual Report highlighting achievements, publications, new resources and EU policy engagement

General communication, dissemination, outreach and network

- The communication strategy including guidelines for style and social media will be reviewed and implemented
- Continued updating of website, refreshed website design, showcasing social media, events, projects

- Increased social media activity, a social media calendar and tools to promote information
- Professional rebranding of EPR's visual identity strategy.

Communications Network (Alicia Gómez Campos)

- Communication network to forge exchanges of expertise and improve communication of EPR activities
- One meeting online to update on campaigns, tools and social media, how to best communicate messages about social rights, services and disability in Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union