CATALOGUE OF EPR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES 2020

Learning and Innovating together

EPR's mission is to build the capacity of its members to provide sustainable, high quality services through mutual learning and training.

Our strategic objectives

- EPR provides and facilitates valuable learning and development opportunities for members
- EPR equips members to address trends impacting service delivery
- EPR network of innovative organization grows
- EPR contributes to policy discussions based on members' expertise

Our Activities

Guided by our strategic objectives, our annual Catalogue of Activities and Services is developed through individual consultations with each of our members, outlining what EPR offers members and the public in the coming year, as well as services that members of the network can benefit from.

The agenda and content for the events are developed with members. Further information about the individual activities and registration information will be circulated as soon as they are available and posted on the website[1]. A full calendar for member activities will be available in the first quarter of 2020.

Contents

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[1] https://www.epr.eu/event/

Mutual learning meetings for members

EPR EPSR Study Days

Following the pilot edition in 2019 EPR will organise 3 events in the same week to link the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights to service delivery good practices. Hosted by EPR members; visits, discussions and development of recommendations will focus on:

1. services on social inclusion and early intervention for children
2. community-based services focusing on homecare
3. technology for social inclusion.

Recommendations and good practices will be collated and disseminated.

Working group – Employment, Inclusion and ICF

Following a successful first exchange in March 2019 the group decided to continue to work together. They will share experiences and developments in their use of ICF since the last meeting; the challenges and recommendations of its use in policy and disability assessment and explore possible project opportunities.

Working group – Mental Health

The group gathers EPR members to discuss, collate and develop resources on services provided to people with mental health issues, focused on tackling social inclusion and poverty risk challenges, and will develop policy recommendations. The WG will further develop the resources created in 2019 on burn out, post trauma rehabilitation and will deliver a public workshop aimed at professionals.

Working group – Disability Management

This new working group will build on the employment benchlearning workshop from 2019 and existing resources on building partnerships with employers, focusing on employers aiming to support their staff facing the impacts of an accident or chronic disease on return to work. This group will explore service design, service packages, profiles and responsibilities, strategies to address employers, web-based services and marketing.

Working group – Digital Skills

This Task Force of members led by secretariat meets online and in-person, discusses practices and programmes that providers use to support disadvantaged groups to develop digital skills/competences and the impact that technological change has on end users. The Task Force will discuss possible EU funded project ideas, plans future work, leads a session at Annual Conference and its outputs contribute to development of online resources and the analytical paper.

Thematic Incubator: Services for People on the Autistic Spectrum

The aim of this meeting is to explore what future work could be done within EPR on this topic, as well as promoting mutual learning among the participants. Members will share and compare experiences in service provision for people on the autistic spectrum for their social and employment inclusion, including the challenges faced and success factors. Autism Europe will contribute.

Workshop for Directors

EPR will organize a 1-day workshop on innovative strategies and tools in the digitalisation of the workplace and harnessing digital tools in management. It will feature expert input, good practice sharing and will address how to engage staff in digitalisation. It will be followed by a General Assembly.

General Assembly meetings (GA)

After Workshop for Directors, before Annual Conference, before Public Affairs event)

EPR organises GAs where key strategic, financial & organisational issues are discussed & decisions taken, progress on implementation of work programme discussed, political & organisational issues & innovative actions discussed. The GAs take place next to other meetings to ensure effective use of resources.

Centre Coordinators (CC) meetings

Dublin (before Annual Conference), Brussels (Before Public Affairs event)

EPR leads two Centre Coordinators meetings which include sessions dedicated to sharing EU policy information and discussing policy, EU funding opportunities and project proposal development; coordinating and evaluating EPR activities, upcoming events. CC meetings also focus on EPR members' mutual learning & ideas sharing. Recommendations, EU funded projects and service developments are shared through the EPR network with stakeholders and EU policy makers.

Public meetings

Annual Conference – Digital transformation

The Annual Conference is the flagship event of EPR, attracting service providers, practice and policy experts for one and a half days with an interactive approach and mutual learning sessions. External experts will provide insight, good practices will be discussed in depth, stakeholders work together on the theme approaching it from the angles of learning, . The EU added value will be to spread knowledge of policy and good practices in the EU, develop recommendations, enhance service providers' digital competences.

National Awareness Raising Event – Quality Services for Social Inclusion in Slovenia

This event organised in partnership with EPR members will include interventions on EU policy and its relevance for national level, policy discussions, good practices from other countries, discussions with users, develop recommendations and examine how EVQF and EQUASS system support inclusion. Aims include: increase understanding of relevant EU policy and link to national policy among stakeholders, raise awareness of and promote solutions to promote inclusion of PWD, to raise awareness of EPR and its activities.

National Awareness Raising Event – Active Inclusion of PWD in Sweden

This one-day event will be in partnership with the Swedish Association for Supported Employment and other stakeholders. It would include interventions on EU policy and relevance for national level, policy discussions and recommendations from the public to policy makers, good practices and innovation. Aims include: increase understanding of relevant EU policy and link to national policy among stakeholders, raise awareness of and promote solutions to promote employment of PWD, to raise awareness of EPR and its activities.

National Awareness Raising Event – Active Inclusion of PWD in Germany

EPR. in cooperation with national stakeholders, will organize an event focusing on the employment of PWD. It would include interventions on EU policy and relevance for national level, policy discussions and recommendations from the public to policy makers, good practices and innovation. Aims include: increase understanding of relevant EU policy and link to national policy among stakeholders, raise awareness of and promote solutions to promote employment of PWD, to raise awareness of EPR and its activities..

Public Affairs Event: Active Inclusion; From Care to Employment

The external researchers for the study on the transition from care to employment through rehabilitation would present the findings and conclusions from the study and stakeholders featured would present their experiences for discussion. Participants, including EU policy makers, are invited to reflect on the findings and consider learning for their own organisations.

Online meetings

EU policy webinars and member policy engagement

EPR will deliver two webinars to update members on EU policy initiatives and develop recommendations to feed into EU policy making based on EPR members' expertise to enrich EU policies in the sector. EPR will launch a Policy Working Group facilitating these online meetings and policy development. EPR will engage its membership and supporting their participation in EU meetings. Aim: to contribute to EU written and in-person consultations, policy developments and implementation engaging EPR membership further.

Webinar social inclusion– Sexual education and rehabilitation for inclusion

Sexual education and rehabilitation is a fundamental area in the well-being of people with acquired disabilities. At the same time, however, it is a field still little explored, in which the services have ample room for improvement and the policy has great potential for intervention. The webinar will involve external experts.

Webinar – Labour market inclusion: case management

Following from the benchlearning in 2019 this webinar will invite participants to share their developments and experience in case management for facilitating the employment of PWD. They will also discuss funding and policy barriers to successful case management and integrated care and support. Aim and EU added value: identify success factors and recommendations for policy and practice for service providers across Europe.

Webinar – Labour market inclusion - job customisation

EPR will organize a webinar with an expert giving input on tools to develop job carving and job customization for people with disabilities. The webinar will involve representatives of the project Work4All and other members with experience in this method. Participants will discuss experiences and challenges in this approach. Aim and EU added value: identify success factors and recommendations for policy and practice for service providers across Europe.

EU Funding training webinars

In synergy with other activities EPR will lead at least two webinars focusing on the new funding period 2021-2027. The first: more general and will cover the new programming as a whole; The second: more focused on the most useful funding programs in the disability sector (practical examples, differences with the previous programming). Aim: support members' ability to access EU funds and their sustainability.

Research, online resources and communications

Knowledge hub and observatory of trends

https://knowledge.epr.equass.be/

EPR continues to build, with the support of members, an open source knowledge base of EU initiatives, good practices, studies and glossaries, info on funding programmes, etc. useful for social service providers. In 2020 an Observatory of trends section gathers resources on digitalization and the digital transformation, links to e-learning module and analytical paper on digital skills.

EU Policy Monitoring

EPR secretariat monitors EU policy developments focusing on the call's priorities listed above by attending EU policy events, monitoring EU institutions' and other EU civil society organisations newsletters and social media. The objective is for the EPR to monitor and inform members about latest EU policy developments and implementation initiatives.

Online Campaign on Mental Health

An online campaign will be run via online tools (website, social media, newsletter) gathering key information, resources, good practices in and challenges for people with mental health issues. After the campaign, resources will be compiled into a publication. Autism Europe, Eurodiaconia and Mental Health Europe will contribute. The campaign will also promote and be enriched by the work of the EPR Task Force on Mental Health.

Analytical paper – digital skills

EPR, with output from other activities will research and write a paper for service providers with key info and analysis on technological change focusing on digital skills and tools. Digital skills will be analyzed at different levels and for different targets (NGOs staff, service provision and care, management, etc).

E-learning module/online resource on digital skills

In coordination with the other activities on digital skills, using their outputs as some sources, EPR will build an online learning resource for staff of resources on tools and programmes for training on digital skills to support the effectiveness and the quality of their services provision and on programmes for service users.

Mapping best practices, online repository and EPR Prize for inclusion

EPR collects and disseminates best practices from members through EPR Prize. The process will be revised in 2020 and will focus on a specific topic: service supporting the transition from care to employment through rehabilitation, to feed into the study. A call is launched in the first quarter of 2020, members submit and evaluate proposals and award is presented at Annual Conference.

Study: Active Inclusion; from care to employment

EPR would work with external researchers to analyze good practices collected for the EPR Prize on the transition from care to employment through rehabilitation. Success factors will be identified and challenges underlined as well as solutions. EU added values will be promoting an understanding of success factors in policy and practice for the transition from care to employment through rehabilitation.

Compendium of good practices: services implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

The compendium will gather information and analysis from the practices presented at the 2019 quality conference, including their challenges and success factors in implementing the principles in the EPSR. The compendium will be published on the online knowledge hub.

Research: quality social services for social inclusion - mapping of systems supporting quality services

EPR works with external researchers and members to gather information on regulations & quality requirements for the provision of a selection of social services, as well as feedback from stakeholders on these. Researchers produce comparative analysis and work with EPR to draft conclusions and recommendations. Aims include: to improve understanding of quality requirements and trends and develop analysis of related policy from across Europe; inform EPRs services.

Developing platform for members' interactions - EPR Members' Forum

EPR developed an online forum for EPR members to interact embedded in the website. The objectives are to promote and facilitate exchange among EPR members on challenges, developments, questions, suggestions, proposals, etc. promote and reinforce EPR members' partnership and joint work, guarantee a safe environment to share information they may wish not to share outside of the network.

Mapping members' interests and activity development

EPR develops a clarified process for developing work programme & conducts "needs assessments" in person or online with each member to feed into process and gather information about developments across Europe. Reports written for each member, info on relevant EU policy and funding given, and connections between individual members made: "matchmaking". Objectives: EPR activities match members' needs, mutual learning facilitated.

Communication and online dissemination tools

EPR maintains and improves a user-friendly website to inform about latest EU developments through easily navigated menus and thematically classified information following EPR members' expertise, including an online forum dedicated to members only where discussions and key information is published for them. The aim is to raise awareness and understanding of EU issues, actions and the work of EPR and its members.

EPR Newsletters

EPR newsletters disseminate information about EPR and members' activities. In 2020, the EPR Annual Report will be published in a newsletter format, highlighting EPR activities and reports, engagement with EU policy making and stakeholders.

e-Bulletins – EU news and insights

These collect key EU and international devleopments, policies and information related to social inclusion and employment, funding programs, EU/EPR events and EU funded projects. The aim is to ensure EPR members are up to date with EU policy initiatives and support their contribution to EU developments.

Understanding achievement of results – work program and budget evaluation and monitoring

EPR evaluates the quality of its activities, services and work processes through an online survey, a yearly shared secretariat staff activity dedicated to assessment and re-planning; an evaluation made by Board of Directors and General Assembly. The EPR secretariat monitors activities' implementation regularly collecting data, such as: evaluation of the meetings and activity objectives, the budget and the deadlines.

Other services and activities

EU Funding support service

EPR secretariat will produce and publish EU funding alerts to inform EPR members about EU funding calls related to the social and employment sectors, presenting the essential and tailored information for non-profit service providers. The Secretariat will act proactively and in response to specific requests, identify potential partners, draft and edit project applications for members.

"Matchmaking" – connecting members with each other on an individual basis

The EPR staff are in regular contact with members about their interests and developments in their organisation. The team will connect organisations with each other on topics of mutual interest that are not featured in other activities; helping them to identify and facilitating learning and exchange opportunities both in-person and online.

Implementing financial diversification strategy; fundraising

The EPR secretariat will dedicate time to fundraising and strategy revised in 2019; including increased income from a variety of EU funds, promoting external (paid) participation in EPR's public events, foundations, training activities, and via the EQUASS system. EPR will also pursue more partnerships to share resources.

Member recruitment campaign

Staff and members will implement the recruitment strategy re-developed in 2019, continuing contact with organisations already considering membership & proactively pursuing new contacts with innovative service providers, prioritizing countries not represented in EPR.