

CATALOGUE OF EPR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES 2021

Learning and Innovating together

Our 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.

Further information about the individual activities and registration information will be circulated 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 Workshop for Directors, 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.

Meetings are online unless stated otherwise. All meetings before the summer are online. Meetings that are planned to be in-person may be moved online should the situation around the pandemic require it.

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¹ <https://www.epr.eu/event/>

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These events and activities receive financial support from the European Union, from the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

Working Groups, Task Forces

Working Group – Employment, Inclusion and ICF

Building on previous years' ICF-related activities, the task force will meet online throughout the year. The work in 2021 will focus on the core sets to be used, the type of disability with which to apply them and the relationship with the quality of life with the aim of optimizing the use of ICF to support the inclusion of PWD. Aside from plenary meetings, meetings dedicated to subgroups will be organized to discuss in more detail elements of the ICF of interest in particular areas. Recommendations of its use in policy and disability assessment will be discussed.

Working Group – Mental Health

The Working Group gathers EPR members in 2 online and 1 in-person meeting with a study visit. It will discuss & collate innovative resources on services to people with mental health issues, focused on tackling social and active inclusion through employment, education & VET. The WG will develop policy recommendations & continue to work on a project concept for Erasmus+. The WG will identify and benchmark comparable services to support inclusion and share practices in the EU Health Platform run by the European Commission.

Working Group – Disability Management

This newly formed group will focus on working with employers aiming to support their staff facing the impacts of an accident or chronic disease and their 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 – INTEREHA

The INTEREHA working group will continue to share practices among tech-based (or willing-to-be tech-based) organisations, work to establish a metric to evaluate practices in the fields of rehabilitation and training, bring their voices to policy makers' level, as well as consider project development.

Working Group – Policy

EPR will organise at least two online meetings to update members on EU policy initiatives and co-develop recommendations and analysis to feed into EU policy making.

Task Forces – Digital Transformation

The taskforces that were started in 2020 will continue to share experiences with the aim of mutual learning and identifying resource needs for development, including via EU funding.

Organisational transformation

Following last year's initial task force meetings under the pandemic and Workshop on leading digital transformation this task force will bring members together to share and learn from each other about implementing sustainable digital transformation at organisational level. It will include activities from last year's workshop materials.

Teaching and training online

This was a task force created in 2020 and a first exchange on this topic was organised. The aim of the task force is to facilitate mutual learning among teachers and trainers about platforms and adaptation of course material and teaching methods for online formats.

Digital Skills

This task force is focused on sharing digital skills needs and challenges, both for learners and staff, and developing project proposals to meet address them.

Other mutual learning meetings

Thematic Incubator: Youth

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. Topics are to be determined with interested members.

Thematic Incubator: Employment

Building on previous years' activities on this topic EPR will lead an online group to analyse practices and compare the success of approaches building partnerships with employers, with sub groups on supporting people with autistic spectrum disorders, young people and people with mental health issues to access the labour market. External experts will contribute. Participants will decide whether to create a taskforce to continue to work together.

Webinar mutual learning exchange outcome and impact measurement

EPR organizes a webinar, with an external expert, where good practices are exchanged among EPR members on measuring outcomes and impact of services and interventions. The QOLIVET project that is developing EPR's tool to measure service impact on quality of life and beyond would be presented for discussion. Participants will discuss how funders can support them and use such tools in the best way. The group would decide if any follow up activity would be beneficial.

EPR European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) Study Days (in person)

The in-person meetings had been cancelled in 2020 so the destinations remain the same. These days combine study visits, mutual learning, and discussion of how the service sectors in question can be better supported by policy makers and funders, in the context of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Mariaberg, DE (community-based care)

Identified topics for potential study visit in person 2021: Accessible and affordable care and Assistive Technology solutions to complement quality home care; Training of staff; Showcasing good practices; examples of integration of services.

Theotokos, GR (early intervention with children)

Identified topics for potential study visit in person 2021: Feeding program by Theotokos Foundation; education and access to schools; Person-centred approach to children and access to community-based services; Developing self-confidence, self-esteem through person-centred group-based activities. Explore opportunities to call for action from the EU on children with disabilities and help for families; early diagnosis and adequate local funding.

Training sessions and webinars

Workshop for Directors

Building on activities from 2018 and 19 & inspired by challenges of managing remote teams under COVID19, the workshop will be led by an HR expert on strategies to ensure good staff morale, engagement, training & motivation in teleworking/digital work environments; leading, engaging and supporting staff remotely. It will take place in two sessions.

Webinar Assistive Technology

This meeting aims to reinforce interest in the topic of AT within EPR, discuss project ideas, share information, experience and good practices, including on involving people with a disability in the AT innovation process. External experts would also present trends and WHO initiatives and directives.

Webinar Disability Work Integrating Social Enterprises project

ONCE Foundation and their partners would present the findings of their study on regulations and good practices in work integrating social enterprises for PWD for discussion. This is part of “The European Observatory for Inclusive Employment and Sustainable Development Goals” project.

Webinars - the new funding programmes

- 1st: more general and will cover the new programming as a whole.
- 2nd: more focused on the most useful funding programs in the disability sector (practical examples, differences with the previous programming).

Training sessions – Inclusive Job Design

Following the successful webinar on the same topic held in 2020, EPR plans to organise an in-person training workshop on this method, led by an external expert. It will be open to the public for a fee. The aim is to provide new skills to staff supporting employment of PWD to create sustainable jobs for people with disabilities, support collaboration with companies, facilitate innovation in job placement services, draw from experiences across Europe, develop recommendations for funders.

Training workshop on Goal Oriented Project Planning and the Logical Framework Approach. In-person, Brussels

EPR will lead a two-day interactive training course addressing the above topics.

Public events

Annual Conference – Digital Transformation: from first steps to first results. Challenges, impact, what next?

Drawing from outputs & conclusions of the 2020 AC and the working groups related to digital transformation, and in consideration of the forced digitization linked to COVID19, the 1.5-day AC will gather service providers, users, policy and external experts to discuss in depth the topic; The AC will provide sessions dedicated to the working groups, where their outputs will be presented and discussed. Good practices, internal and external to EPR will be shared; international experts will be invited: policy recommendations will be collected;

National Awareness Raising Events

Employment, Finland, online

Ageing of PWD, online Social economy and enterprise

Spain, in-person

These events raise awareness of challenges, good practices, EU initiatives and the work of EPR's members, as well as EPR's work and value of EPR membership. They are organised with members and national partners and include interventions on EU policy and the link with the national level, policy discussions and recommendations from the public to policy makers, good practices and innovation from other European countries.

Working Seminar - families & service providers working together

This seminar is co-organised with EU family network COFACE; bringing together PWD, families of PWD and service providers to share experiences and discuss how to ensure effective cooperation given the key role families had in ensuring service provision to people with disabilities during COVID-19. The meeting will also develop recommendations.

Public Affairs Event: Adapting Services under COVID19

Ensuring service provision to PWD under emergency situations: resilience and creativity during COVID-19.

The findings and conclusions from the study (see below) and practices featured would be presented for discussion. Participants, including EU policy makers & partners, are invited to reflect on the findings and learning.

Research, resources, analysis

Mapping good practices and EPR Prize: Adapting Services under COVID19

Ensuring service provision to PWD under emergency situations: resilience and creativity during COVID-19. EPR will gather and analyse good practices in adapting service provision during COVID-19, which will also be entries for the prize. They will be evaluated and success factors in different services will be analysed, with a focus on resilience, creativity and co-production. Aims include to promote understanding of challenges services experience during emergency situations, highlight good practices to overcome them and pave the way for addressing future similar situations at EU level via recommendations.

Knowledge hub and observatory of trends

www.knowledge.epr.equass.be/

This will be updated with good practices and other resources of potential interest to members, including the trends relating to digital transformation, the green deal and the SDGs. It will build on the section quality of life drawing from the outcomes of the Quality of Life for All project.

Analytical paper – the Green Deal

EPR will research and write a paper for service providers with key information and analysis on the impact that moving to a green economy will have on providing services to pwd; social inclusion, employment opportunities, skills needs & the operation of services. Informed by the new European Commission Green Deal, this paper will aim at helping service providers across Europe respond to the move to a green economy while delivering high quality services & identify EU policy support needed on this key step towards sustainability of services. The analytical paper will examine challenges and opportunities for service providers working with PWD, including skills needs and the impact on operations of service providers.

Analytical paper – Artificial Intelligence and services for PWD

Drawing from information gathered at the 2020 Annual Conference and EDF, and in close collaboration with Fundación ONCE, EPR will research and write a paper for service providers with information and analysis on the impact that AI will have on services with and for PWD, challenges, opportunities and good practices in using it in an inclusive way. The paper will be discussed by members and project opportunities will be explored.

Strategic partnerships

EPR will work to maintain and develop relationships with other EU-level organisations for joint activities and advocacy. The SSE network aims to grow its influence in advocacy around the recognition of importance of quality social services, focusing EU funds for the social sector, the implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights, ageing, the social economy and public procurement. EPR will continue to engage in the Coordinated Action group raising awareness of the impact of COVID19 on the social sector and advocating for increased funding and support for resilience. EPR will work with the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance in advocating for the joint recommendations developed in 2020 through one meeting aimed at the EU institutions and another at employers.

Communications

Webinar – delivering impact and awareness via social media

This webinar aims to support members to reach out to more service users and better disseminate their work & related issues. The webinar will bring an expert in social media to support them to develop their social media channels.

Online Campaign on independent living

This campaign aims to raise awareness of challenges and good practices via social media posts, including infographics; working with partners and members to gather content. EPR will collaborate with European organisations such as ENIL to disseminate and raise awareness on this topic.

Newsletters

These disseminate information about EPR and members' activities and developments. They promote mutual learning and good practices from the membership and the value of EPR membership & encourages engagement in the network. The EPR Annual Report highlights EPR achievements, activities publications, engagement with EU policy making & stakeholders and the results of the previous year's EaSI funded work programme.

E-Bulletins – EU news and insights

EPR will keep producing regular e-Bulletins collecting key EU policies and information related to social inclusion and employment, funding programs, skills development, VET, EU/EPR events and EU funded projects implemented by EPR and its members. e-Bulletins ensure EPR members are up to date with EU policy initiatives potentially relevant for their work and can contribute to future EU developments on services for PWD.

Other services and activities

Centre Coordinators (CC) meetings

EPR leads 4 Centre Coordinators meetings (2 in person, 2 online) which include sessions dedicated to sharing and discussing EU policy, EU funding opportunities and project proposal development; coordinating and evaluating EPR activities, discussing upcoming events. Meetings also focus on EPR mutual learning & ideas sharing and feature a Member Focus section where EPR members have the opportunity to present their organisations, facilitating EPR members' work together.

General Assemblies

EPR organises at least 3 GAs, in-person and online, where key strategic, financial and organisational issues are discussed and decisions taken. Developments and strategic issues from members are also discussed.

EU Funding support service

- Producing and publishing EU funding alerts to inform EPR members about EU funding calls related to the social and employment sector, presenting the essential and tailored information for non-profit service providers.
- Matching EPR members needs and resources in order to build effective partnerships for projects
- Supporting members in their project application writing
- Developing projects and applying to EU finds, involving EPR when possible

EPR member policy engagement

EPR secretariat monitors EU policy developments by attending EU policy events, monitoring EU institutions' and other EU civil society organisations newsletters and social media. EPR monitors and informs members about latest EU policy developments and their implementation. EPR Secretariat organises the policy working group but also informs members by briefing them at the Centre Coordinators meetings; supports member engagement in consultations, EU level conferences and other policy activities,

Understanding and meeting members' needs

EPR will carry out "needs assessments" with each member, analyzing and using the feedback to develop the work programme. EPR will continue to look for the best ways of interacting with members, focusing on Microsoft Teams. The EPR team will also connect organisations with each other on topics of mutual interest that are not featured in other activities; helping them to identify and facilitate opportunities learning and exchange.

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

EPR evaluates the quality of its activities, services and work processes through a revised individual event evaluation (supporting the processing of learning from the activity) and an annual online survey.

Implementing financial diversification strategy; fundraising

The EPR secretariat will dedicate time to fundraising and adapting the strategy revised in 2019; including increased income promoting external (paid) participation in EPR's public events and training activities through increased communication and promotional outreach. EPR will also pursue more partnerships to share resources for activities.

Member recruitment campaign

Staff and members will implement the recruitment strategy with support from existing members; continuing contact with organisations already considering membership & proactively pursuing new contacts, prioritizing countries not represented in EPR. At least 2 separate visits to potential members will take place as well as meetings before or after other events.