

CATALOGUE OF EPR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES 2022

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 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, 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 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.

EPR's meetings will take place in a mix of online and in-person settings. Meetings that are planned to be in-person may be moved online should the situation around the pandemic require it or the group or EPR Board of Directors decides to move it online. EPR is also active in various projects – see <https://www.epr.eu/ongoing-projects/> for more information.

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¹ <https://www.epr.eu/event/>

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Working Groups

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 2022 will focus on presenting and discussing the latest research, studies and use among members of ICF for inclusive ability assessment. The Working Group will aim to build database on EPR's knowledge hub of tools used by members and research/studies. The group will discuss also the proposal of how to use statistics from the use of ICF to provide relevant data to the Commission.

Working Group – Mental Health

The Mental Health Working Group will join online meetings throughout the year. The participants will meet in person for the study visit. The Working Group will focus on developing resources on supporting people experiencing trauma and will develop a project concept. There will be also a joint session on young people with MH problems with youth WG to develop leaflet with success factors. Participants will meet in person for the National Awareness Raising Event in The Netherlands – see later.

Working Group – Disability Management

This 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. It will discuss the barriers, success factors and good practices for return-to-work programmes, job retention and reasonable accommodation. External experts and regulators from the relevant fields will be invited. A practice-oriented report with promising (integrated) models and approaches of disability management, indicating their contribution to policies and regulatory frameworks will be elaborated.

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

Identifying opportunities to feed recommendations developed in other EPR activities into policy development. Drafting responses to written EU consultations and contributing to consultation meetings, 2 online meetings, discussing and exchanging information from EU and national levels on: the European Semester, RRP focusing on employment/services; Disability Strategy; EPSR. Develop recommendations to policy makers on above topics; gathering input from members during the drafting process

Working Group – Digital Skills

At least 3 meetings (2 online and 1 in person) will take place. The group will assess needs and develop a project concept or application as well as recommendations to service providers in development of programmes for digital skills of staff & students and recommendations to policy makers on support to PWDs digital skills.

Working group – Youth

The Youth WG will meet online twice and once in person, including a study visit. There will be a focus on transitions of young people, feeding into the publication of good practices and an event on the topic, and inclusive education and training will also be addressed. There will be a joint session on young people with MH problems with the Mental Health WG to develop a leaflet with success factors.

Working Group – Funding and Project Development

Topic 1: Exchange among EPR members on project planning, sharing results, discussing challenges. Topic 2: Sharing ideas for joint projects, partners matching, kick-off applications. Identification of needs/challenges/topics of interest for EPR to be the focus of the group, discussion of relevant funding calls, drafting of project ideas to be then further developed jointly with Innovation Taskforces/Working Groups where relevant.

Task Forces

Pathways to Employment

There will be 3 online meetings of member experts in a task force to develop an in-depth analysis of social protection and employment legislation relating to PWD – see publication and public affairs event. The aim to feed into the planned employment package for PWD under the disability rights strategy. The final output will be presented at the Public Affairs event for discussion.

Teaching and learning online

There will be 2 online meetings, discussing success factors and challenges to organise teaching and learning online, on the use of technologies and tools to do this and the related reorganisation of VET for online or hybrid settings. The aim is an exchange and mutual learning on the measuring of the impacts of online teaching and learning and the gathering of resources, as well as feeding in of insights into policy work.

Other mutual learning meetings

Centre Coordinators (CC) meetings

The EPR Centre Coordinators will meet 2 times in-person, Dublin and Brussels, prior to the Annual Conference & Public Affairs event, with at least 1 meeting online. During CC meetings, the participants will share members' organisational and service developments, discuss key EU policies, hear about projects, engage in networking and the evaluation of EPR activities.

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

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.

Study Visit I: independent living and quality of life

1 in person Study visit focusing on independent living and quality of life. There will be an exchange of good practice for mutual learning with the identification of success factors and development of recommendations for funders/policymakers on how to support services. Consideration of a project concept

Study Visit II: employment

1 in person Study Visit focusing on employment. There will be an exchange of good practice for mutual learning with the identification of success factors and development of recommendations for funders/policymakers on how to support services.

Training sessions and webinars

Webinars - the new funding programmes

"Digital Europe, programme, objectives and opportunities for funding"

"EaSi Programme: programme, objectives and opportunities for funding" with participation of an external expert

Project Management Squared (PM2) for NGOs

EPR will run a 0.5 day training workshop on PM2 as a tool to manage EU projects implemented by NGOs with the involvement of an external expert. There will be a collection of needs related to projects to choose topics for 2023.

Training workshop on Goal Oriented Project Planning

EPR will run a 1.5 day training workshop in-person, in Brussels, as a follow on from the 2021 training session. The focus will be on GOPP tools to involve stakeholders, manage resources, identify risks.

Public events

Annual Conference – Services Implementing the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

This will be a hybrid event with plenary sessions, workshops, networking sessions including a dinner, taking place over 1.5 days in Dublin, Ireland. Bringing in external and members' expertise to promote good practice, mutual learning & understanding of trends in the areas of inclusive employment, community-based care, equal opportunities, rights-based approach to service provision to people with disabilities and independent living. Policy makers and EU stakeholders will contribute to policy debates.

National Awareness Raising Events

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.

1 in person National Awareness-Raising event 'Young People with Disabilities and Transitions' in Denmark. Developed by EPR Working Group Youth, collaboration with European Youth Forum and European Disability Forum

1 In person National Awareness Raising Event in The Netherlands, developed with Working Group & Alliance of Mental Health and Work: Disseminate and exchange knowledge and innovation on mental health in employment. Development of recommendations for policy makers on mental health in employment settings

Public Affairs Event

This hybrid event will bring together external speakers and stakeholders, along with members, to discuss the work done and publication on pathways to employment (see taskforce and below).

Research, resources, analysis

Publication: Pathways to Employment

Development of recommendations & gathering of case study success stories of integrated holistic pathways to employment aimed at national & EU decision-makers (see task force)

Publication: Young People and transitions

EPR will gather good practices in supporting transitions of young people, in collaboration with the youth working group, and drawing from project experience.

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, the Pillar of Social Rights

Briefings

Briefings will be developed on 3 key EU initiatives (Social Economy Action Plan, Green Paper on Ageing, European Care Strategy) analysing their relevance and impact on disability service providers

Communications

Communication, dissemination & outreach including strategy & guidelines

A communication strategy including guidelines for style and social media will be developed to increase EPR visibility within EU policy makers and other stakeholders. EPR will arrange a refreshed website design, including showcasing social media posts and improved events pages and EU funded projects promotion. EPR website better promotes publications and further develops EPR members' pages. EPR continues increased production of content in social media using graphic materials, a social media calendar and innovative tools to promote information, EPR members' expertise and raise awareness on EU social policy.

Online Campaign

8 dedicated infographics gathering information, resources and good practices covering different initiatives of the EPSR Action Plan & linked to EPR year's theme pathways to employment. 1 feature on EPR website based on information & resources gathered. Connecting to partners through social media and developing ideas for innovative tools for engagement

Communications network

A communications network will be launched to forge EPR members' exchanges of expertise, good practice in communication. One meeting will take place per year online to update on campaigns, tools and social media and how to best communicate and create powerful messages about social rights, services and disability in Europe.

News bulletins

6 regular News bulletins will be published per year, merging the former e-bulletins (EU and project news) and newsletters (members' and EPR news), and one Annual Report highlighting achievements and outcomes. The Newsbulletin design and usability will be improved by an external professional.

Other services and activities

Projects

EU Funding support service

At least 10 funding alerts (relevant calls' summaries with selected info tailor-made for EPR members) will be issued when relevant calls are launched.

Support will be given to EPR members in finding project partners/project leaders for joint applications and in project drafting

Plan to integrate projects into EPR work

Collection of projects' exploitation plans from EPR members, Identification of possible strategies and actions to ameliorate them, Development of "EPR's Project Exploitation Protocol"; plan to integrate projects results and products into EPR work and activities

Policy

Strategic partnerships

- Contribute to work of EU Alliance for Mental Health and Work
- Co-lead work of Inclusive Labour Market Alliance, contribute to one in-person and one online event
- Contribute to EASPD-led working group on excellence and quality in social services, feeding into the EU initiative on a framework for social services of excellence
- Contribute to D-WISE network developing recommendations and showcasing good practices in Work Inclusion Social Enterprises for PWD.

Social Services Europe

Meetings of SSE Board, General Working Group and of Taskforces "European Care Strategy" and "Social Economy Action Plan". Focused contribution to policy development and advocacy work. There will be seminars to discuss SSE's policy and advocacy work on the European Care Strategy, to support the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan and to agree on SSE proposals and requests on socially just green and digital transitions.

Governance/monitoring and evaluation

General Assemblies (GAs)

2 online and 2 in-person meetings alongside Annual Conference & Public Affairs event, updates will be given by secretariat; strategic, organisational and financial issues are discussed and decisions made. At one meeting an external expert brought in to lead discussion on global trends and implications for the social sector

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 and preparation of GAs. Preparation of input into EASPD-led group developing joint contribution to planned Framework for Social Services of Excellence.

Understanding and meeting members' needs

EPR evaluates the quality of its activities, services and work processes through an individual event evaluation (supporting the processing of learning from the activity) and an annual online survey. The annual survey will be revised and a survey developed for key stakeholders, with the support of an external evaluator. The evaluator will also support the drafting of the report of the surveys.

Fundraising

The EPR secretariat will dedicate time to fundraising and adapting the strategy; including increased income promoting external (paid) participation in EPR's public events and training activities through increased communication and promotional outreach as well as research on foundations. 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.