



# **EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR REHABILITATION**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2002**

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## **I. Organisational development**

### **I.1. EPR structures**

- *Board of Directors*

According to the new EPR Handbook, the 'Steering Committee' was renamed as 'Board of Directors'. This change of name should highlight the decision-making and supervisory role of the Board as well as the fact that it represents the chief executives of the full members. The Board of Directors met four times during 2002:

Madrid	15-16 February
Porto	25 April
Oulu	13-14 September
Brussels	3 December

The Executive Committee met four times in Brussels for a half-day meeting (11 January / 28 March / 1 July / 6 November) to follow up the daily management of the EPR and to prepare the Board meetings.

- *Centre coordinators*

The role of the centre coordinators was slightly revised during 2002. Due to the creation of some new EPR structures (e.g. Academy Council, Health and Social Care Forum...) and the reinforcement of the EPR secretariat, the focus of their duties was within the centres rather than on EPR level. In line with this new approach, the number of meetings was reduced to a couple of (full day) meetings per year in Brussels rather than to link a short coordinators meeting to every Board meeting.

Madrid	16 February
Brussels	6 September

- *Task Forces*

The Future Development Task Force, in charge for drafting the new EPR Handbook, had a last meeting on 31 January on which it finalized its task. The Task Force submitted a draft EPR handbook to the Board of Directors which was approved on 25 April.

A Task Force on medical rehabilitation and social care was set up to explore the impact of the enlarged scope (from EPVR to EPR) on the activities and structures of the EPR. A brainstorming meeting on 2 October resulted in a proposal to establish a Health and Social Care Forum for a period of two years, which was approved by the Board of Directors on 3 December.

## **I.2. EPR secretariat**

- *Staffing*

Mairead O'Leary resigned from the EPR as assistant general secretary 12 January 2002. The function of Assistant Secretary General was replaced by a halftime secretary and a halftime Academy coordinator. In this scenario, the function of Bénédicte Dubois as administrative officer was upgraded in a way that she took over the more organizational tasks (minutes, direct assistance to general secretary) of Mairead and kept the more complicated administrative tasks (Finances, website). The more simple administrative tasks and office management was be handed over to a new halftime secretary.

Ms. Julie Thorne, research officer at the Department for Research and Innovation of the Rehab Group was detached to the EPR as coordinator of the European Rehabilitation Academy for a period of 80 days between 1 March and 31 December 2002. In sometimes difficult circumstances (pilot year for the Academy), she did a good job and managed to finalise the Academy Programme for 2003 by September 2002. Due to the required profile of the Academy coordinator for 2003 and other professional obligations within the Rehab Group, the assignment was temporary and a selection committee decided on 3 December 2002 to recruit Mrs. Brigitte Van Lierop as Academy Coordinator during 2003.

The EPR secretariat faced various problems in recruiting a secretary. As there exist a large job market in Brussels for secretaries that speak various languages, the EPR secretariat involved an Interim Agency. From the beginning of February until half of March, Mrs. Sophie Leonard worked as secretary, but was dismissed due to an insufficient performance. Ms. Maria Marro took over for another month but left when she was offered another job on a full-timer basis. During the summer holidays, a job student was hired to provide basic secretarial support in the EPR office. From 15 October 2002, Ms. Valentina Danese was detached to the EPR secretariat from Opera Don Calabria for a period of 6 months (on a half-time basis). Seen her background (master in managing non-for profit organizations), the purely secretarial tasks were divided between herself and Bénédicte Dubois, so that both could also be involved in coordinating and content-related tasks. This solution has proven to be successful, and the EPR secretariat functions smoother and more efficient since half October.

- *Logistics and services*

During 2002, the policy centralizing all vital EPR services under direct control of the secretariat in Brussels was continued. The IT support that was before provided by the SRL was subcontracted to a consultant in Brussels. Also the financial management was entirely transferred from the SRL to the Brussels secretariat (Bénédicte Dubois), and a recognized external accountant controls the accounts on a regular interval. The transfer of both finances and IT worked out without substantial problems and achieved its strategic and operational goals, be it that this solution requires additional inputs from the secretariat in terms of time and money.

The website was already transferred from SRH to Brussels in 2001, but was fundamentally redesigned in accordance with the new EPR Handbook that was approved in April 2002. The design and maintenance of the website was subcontracted, while the updating is done by the secretariat.

On 3 December 2002, the Board of Directors took the principle decision to establish the EPR under Belgian Law. Statutes and the pro's and con's of transferring the EPR from Heidelberg to Brussels would be discussed during 2003, and the exercise should be finalised before the end of 2003.

### **I.3. EPR Strategy**

- *From EPVR to EPR*

The main strategic decision was to widen the scope and to transform the 'Platform for Vocational Rehabilitation' into a 'European Platform for Rehabilitation' (EPR), also covering medical rehabilitation and social care services. One reason for this decision is the trend towards integrated and holistic rehabilitation services where vocational rehabilitation is just a part of a wider process. The second reason is that most EPVR member organisations also offer medical rehabilitation and social care services that could also benefit from EPR membership with a widened scope.

- *EPR Handbook*

The EPR handbook that governs the EPR strategy and activities was adopted by the Board of Directors on 25 April 2002 and replaces the former EPVR Handbook that was approved by the Steering Committee (8 November 2000). The new handbook is based on numerous consultations with various actors in the EPR network and result directly from the work of the Future Development Task Force. The new mission statement clearly refers to the three pillars of activities (Professional development – Research & Development – Public Affairs) that are also reflected in the new EPR structures and operational procedures that intend to professionalize the organisation.

- *Corporate identity*

Following the change of scope and name, the EPR undertook a series of actions to develop and establish the corporate identity of the new organisation:

- New logo
- Information leaflet
- New domain name (epr.be) for the website and e-mail addresses
- Office materials / PR materials
- Official launch in the European Parliament at the occasion of the European Day of People with Disabilities

The EPR presented its new corporate identity to main stakeholders in Europe at the information market that was organized in the margin of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of RI in Aachen (11-15 November).

## I.4. Membership

- *New members*
  - JG Group, Germany (Full member – 25 April)
  - Rehab Care, Ireland (Full member – 14 September)
  - Werkenrode (Associated member – 3 December)

Applications for associate membership received from the Directorate of Labour (Norway) and Heliomare (the Netherlands).

- *Resigning members*
  - After a centre visit of the president and general secretary to BBRZ and strategic discussions with the management team, the EPR accepted in a letter of 30 September the notice of withdrawal which was sent by BBRZ on 20 December 2001 which terminates the membership from 1 January onwards.

Deleted:

- *Contact with members*

As a close contact between EPR members and the secretariat is of crucial importance in the EPR philosophy, the General Secretary visited most of the EPR centres during 2002. For 2003, centre visits to all full members are included as an explicit objective in the work plan. If possible, the centre visits were linked to other EPR events or activities. In the light of the upgraded associate membership, the General Secretary visited all associate members to discuss with them how to maximize benefits from their membership status. Finally, the General Secretary also visited some centres that expressed interest in EPR membership.

<i>Full members</i>	<i>Date</i>
BBRZ	23 August
CRM – Mulhouse	5 April
CRPG – Porto	23-26 April 25-26 June
Heli – Hoikka	31 May
Heli – Merikoski (Oulu)	13-14 September
ONCE – Madrid	14-17 February
Opera Don Calabria – Verona	21-23 February
Rehab UK	8 July
SRL – Hoensbroek	17 April 30 September
<i>Associated members</i>	
Astangu Rehabilitation centre - Tallinn	3-4 June
Cedar Foundation – Belfast	1-2 February
Institute for Rehabilitation – Ljubljana	23 May
Pluryn – Werkenrode Group – Groesbeek	17 September
Stensta - Kristinehamn	19 March
<i>Candidate members</i>	
Heliomare – Wijk aan Zee	21 October
Norwegian Directorate of Labour - Oslo	26 August
COS - Nanteau	26 September
COS – Paris	16 December

## **I.5. General seminar**

Our 2002 General Seminar, which was held in [Centro de Reabilitacao Profissional de Gaia](#), Portugal on 26-27 April proved to be a runaway success, a view which was shared by both the participants and the organisers. The theme of this year's seminar was 'Equal Citizenship in a For-Profit Society'. Keynote speeches on this topic were given by Stefan Trömel, Director of European Disability Forum, Susan Scott Parker, Chief Executive of Employers' Forum on Disability, and Goncalo Torres Pernas, Coordinator for the Portuguese Business Network for Social Cohesion. All of the speeches proved to be interesting and thought provoking.

The workshops covered a vast range of topics, which included; Quality Systems, Mental Health, Women in Vocational Rehabilitation, TBI, Partnerships with Employers, Transition Methodology, Special Client Groups and Interaction with Policy Makers at a Local Level. The workshops were met with a positive response from all participants, a view which is highlighted by the Evaluation Questionnaire completed by all present at the seminar.

## **II. Professional development**

### **II.1. European Rehabilitation Academy**

- *Academy Council*

In accordance with their work plan, the Academy Council met four times during 2002:

Madrid, 14-15 February  
Porto, 24 April  
Brussels, 1 July  
Oulu, 13 September  
Brussels, 2 December

In addition, the chairman of the Academy organized two meetings with the General Secretary and Academy Coordinator in Verona, and various discussions in the margin of the meetings of the Academy Council.

- *Academy Coordinator*

See under I.2.

- *Program 2003*

In February, the Academy Council selected topics and themes for the 2003 program on the basis of a training needs analysis in the centres. The final program for 2003, including contents, speakers, dates and locations was approved on 13 September. In addition to the FTEP Programme and the English language courses that were already offered since some years, two new concepts (learning groups and summer school) were introduced.

For the 2003 programme, the financial management and responsibility are shifted from the hosting centres to the Academy. Moreover, there exist a clear division of tasks which is based on contracts and payments. Consequently, the EPR signed contracts with all hosting centres and most trainers (some contracts with trainers still need to be signed during 2003).

- *Academy Operating Manual*

Both the Academy Council and the Board of Directors approved the Academy Operating Manual. The Academy Operating Manual intends to establish procedures and allocate responsibilities for all training activities as well as for all administrative and management issues related to the European Rehabilitation Academy. A first objective is to co-ordinate and standardise many actions in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness. Secondly, the Operating Manual will introduce various control mechanisms that should guarantee quality and coherence.

- *Public relations and marketing*

For 2002, separate brochures (1.000 copies) were printed for each FTEP seminar and distributed within the EPR centres by the centre coordinators, throughout Europe by the EPR secretariat and in the hosting country by the seminar coordinator.

The 2003 Programme was already disseminated within the EPR network via the centre coordinators in October 2002 via e-mail. 1.000 Academy brochures with the entire programme were distributed within the EPR and to other actors in the field of rehabilitation in Europe via a mailing in December. The detailed programmes can also be found on the EPR website, and people can directly register via the website.

The European Rehabilitation Academy got its own logo which is based on the new EPR logo.

## **II.2. Implementation of 2002 Programme**

- *Further Training and Development Programme*

With the exception of one cancelled seminar (due to lack of participants), the FTEP 2002 achieved its objectives in terms of participants, quality and concept. The quality of the FTEP 2002 was at the same high level as the FTEP 2000-2001. (average participant rating of 4.2 at a scale from 1 to 5). Despite the quality of the product, it seems to be difficult to attract many participants. Reasons could be a limited demand and/or barriers such as costs, language and time. Three seminars had a truly international audience while the participants in two seminars came mainly from the hosting country.

<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Date/location</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Case management	Verona 21-22 February 2002	20
TBI	Bischofsberg 7-10 May 2002	20
Client involvement	Gaia 25-26 June 2002	22
Assistive technology	Dublin 19-20 September 2002	32
EU project funding	Brussels 10-11 October 2002	20
Distance learning	Heidelberg 21-22 November	Cancelled

- *English language course*

9 people from Heli, 1 from SRH and 1 from ODC participated in the two-weeks English language courses that were organized in Dublin during the summer. It became clear that the language school that is subcontracted by the EPR did not meet the requirements with respect to accessibility, and solutions are worked out for 2003.

### **III. Research & Development**

#### **III.1. R&D Committee**

Although the format and objectives of an R&D Committee were described in the new EPR Handbook that was approved in April 2002, it lasted until 3 December 2002 before the Board of Directors actually took the principle decision to establish this structure.

The R&D Committee would have a similar role and function as the Academy Council in the ‘professional development’ pillar, and its main objectives were defined as follows:

- Formulate a strategy and procedures for all R&D activities
- Identify areas and topics in which the EPR should start up R&D activities
- Establish pre-project groups
- Evaluate draft business plans and project proposals before they go for final approval to the Board of Directors
- Monitor the work of the project teams (when implementing the projects)
- Ensure that a plan to actually use and disseminate the project results is in place and carried out.

In an initial phase, a small group is preparing the composition and working methods of the R&D Committee which is expected to be fully operational from May 2003 onwards. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors assumes the tasks of the R&D Committee

#### **III.2. Pre-project groups**

In the light of the revised strategy and procedures under the R&D pillar, the concept of pre-project groups was introduced. The only objective of these groups is to prepare a project proposal or business plan within a defined field that at a later stage can be implemented by a project team. The pre-project groups have always a mandate which is rather limited in time, and all EPR member organizations are entitled to participate in them.

- *Employment Access*

The pre-project group on ‘employment access’ submitted in April 2002 a project proposal on ‘employability’ and ‘assessment techniques’. This proposal was rejected by the Board of Directors, and the group was asked to conduct a needs analysis amongst the employment specialists in the EPR centres. On the basis of this needs analysis which was finalized by the end of October 2002, the group met to design a comprehensive project proposal on ‘developing instruments to increase initial job retention’, which is to be submitted to the Board of Directors at the beginning of 2003.

- *Women in vocational rehabilitation*

In July 2002, the EPR secretariat organized in Brussels a brainstorming on which further actions could be undertaken to improve the participation rate as well as the success rate of women in vocational rehabilitation. The comparative research (see below) was used as a basis for the discussions. The pre-project group concluded that there existed a widespread interest to develop and implement a specific pre-vocational programme for women. The aim of the programme would be to increase the participation of women in vocational training, work and the community through personal development and basic skills training. A proposal was submitted to the Board of Directors in September 2002, and a decision was taken to set up a small project team of four people that would both develop and implement pre-vocational programmes for women in the four centres involved (SRH – SRL – CRPG – NTDI) during 2003. At the same time, it was decided that also other EPR centres were allowed to send professionals to the group meetings as observers.

### **III.3. Project teams**

- *Women in vocational rehabilitation*

The project team on women in vocational rehabilitation finalized a comparative research on the participation of women in vocational rehabilitation in February 2002. The study was based on information (via questionnaires and interviews) in 9 EPR centres. It identified various barriers for women to enter vocational training and rehabilitation programmes and suggested solution in the form of recommendations.

The report was published on the EPR website and hard copies were distributed to a number of key organizations at European level. The European Commission, the European Disability Forum, the Disability Group of the European Parliament and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work expressed formally their appreciation for this research, and encouraged the EPR to undertake further action in this field.

- *System of Information on Vocational Rehabilitation (SIVOR)*

The SIVOR team finalized its tasks according to the work plan and the SIVOR 2002 report was published as a book (300 copies) and on the EPR website. The publication describes in a standard format 19 innovative projects from various EPR centres and offers as such a nice overview of best European practice. As with the research on women in vocational rehabilitation (see above), the publication was distributed to all major actors in rehabilitation at European level, and contributed in this way directly to the reinforcement of the reputation of both the EPR and its member organizations.

As the Board of Directors was very pleased with the SIVOR 2002 edition (first time this concept was used), it approved in April the project proposal to develop a SIVOR 2003 edition. A core team of 5 experts was composed and organised a meeting in Brussels in October. The core team established links with local reporters in the various EPR centres and briefed them on the reporting format and methodology. According to the agreed time schedule, the SIVOR 2003 will be published before the general seminar in September 2003.

- *EQR*

The pilot project to test the EQR system in two pilot sites (CRPG and Merikoski) started in January 2002 with a kick-off meeting in Hoensbroek. The EQR pilot was finalised by the end of the summer 2002, and an external evaluation had been carried out. All deadlines were met, everything went fine and objectives were achieved which is rather remarkable seen the complexity and intensity of the project. The two member centres involved were very pleased with the work and so were the evaluators. It became clear that there is gap in the market of quality systems that the EQR could fill, and that Mark is not more expensive than other quality marks. The spin-off effects in terms of building up contacts and prestige have been very good, especially within the Quality Committee.

Based on the positive results of the pilot project, the Board of Directors approved in September 2002 a business plan for three years to launch the EQR on the market. It is planned that 10 to 70 organisations will apply within 3 years, and that enough capacity (expertise + administration) is built up to meet the demand. From financial point of view, the business plan provides not only for expenses but also for incomes, and an important innovation is that all (EPR) experts involved are paid for their inputs. The three years business foresees in deficits for 2003 (22.450) and 2004 (16.100) and a surplus of 35.000 in 2005. Guus Van Beek is nominated as manager of the EQR.

- *TBI*

Over the last five years the EPR has been collecting data on TBI clients across six centres. This universal data set was originally established as a research tool. Over time, the project team has been realised that the data would be highly useful for assessment, programme Planning and programme evaluation in addition to research. In order to achieve this it was necessary to update the protocol into a computerised format (Access format). At the beginning of 2002, a programmer in Brussels was commissioned to undertake this task and the first draft of the EVRAT protocol in Access was presented to the Board of Directors and at the general seminar in April 2002.

A first attempt to test the computerised Protocol during the summer 2002 in various EPR centres failed, due to both technical problems and a poor communication with the project team. The technical deficiencies were resolved and at meeting on 29 August, the project team agreed on the sample, guidelines and timing to test the Protocol and its various applications in 6 EPR centres on in total 100 cases. The testing phase will run until 31 January 2003, but an intermediate check at the end of 2002 indicated that no technical problems were faced anymore.

- *Mental Health*

The project team in charge of the methodology 'Self-Evaluation of well-being' for clients with mental health problems tested the SEW questionnaire on a total of 100 clients in 5 EPR centres during 2003. One objective was to get feedback from clients and staff on the acceptability, clarity and feasibility of the questionnaire. The feedback was overall positive, and the remarks made were taken into account when revising the questionnaire. The second objective was to find out which questions were relevant and to relate them to various dimensions of 'well-being'. This was done via a scientific statistical analysis in the University of Strasbourg, and resulted in a rather fundamental revision of the questionnaire. The third and most important objective was to demonstrate that the methodology could actually measure in a reliable way change in self-evaluation well-being over time. This was again done via a statistical analysis of the University of Strasbourg, but in contrast to the other objective without success so far. However, the statistical experts identified the weak points in the methodology, and the project team decided to continue the testing in a second pilot project during 2003.

#### **III.4. Projects of the EPR**

- *LABOR – Knowledge centre for employment improving measures and training for people with learning disabilities*

The first step is to collect data on existing vocational training and measures aimed at the integration into employment of people with learning disabilities in the EU Member States + Cyprus and Hungary. This information will be analysed, categorised and made available via an interactive web page. The results of the first step will be tested and validated by key actors. This means that the different perspectives of key actors will be analysed to ascertain if vocational training and employment integration measures are complementary and if they promote the integration of people with learning disabilities into employment. In a knowledge centre, a database will be managed and up-dated containing above-mentioned information.

The EPR participated during 2002 (and will also in 2003 and 2004) in this Leonardo project as partner of a consortium headed by EASPD. The role of the EPR was to participate in the scientific committee, to draft a country report for Germany and Finland and to be involved in the dissemination of the project results. For the country reports, the EPR has concluded subcontracts with SRH and HELI, while the EPR secretariat has taken up the seat in the scientific committee.

- *Train the trainers in vocational rehabilitation*

The EPR is member of a supervisory committee in a Leonardo project 'Train the trainers in vocational rehabilitation'. The consortium is led by the AMB, the Norwegian association of service providers to people with disabilities. The project aims at developing training modules for rehabilitation professionals that start from concrete problems these professionals face in their daily activities. The training formats are a mixture of web-based learning and contact learning and all modules are translated into national languages. The project partners have already agreed to use the European Rehabilitation Academy as instrument to disseminate the training modules developed.

### III.5. Consultancy activities of the secretariat

- *Comparative tables on social legislation in the candidate countries (MISCEEC II)*

The project was running during 2002 and dealt with the legislation of social protection in 10 Central European countries in the pre-accession phase. It was aiming at a structural presentation of their social security systems, including the schemes for self-employed, in such a way that they can easily and correctly be compared with each other and with the systems of the EU Member States. At the same time, the changes in the national social security systems of each of these 10 Central European countries were mapped and a synthesis of the common major trends and key areas of legal reform was produced.

The input of the EPR in this project was limited but very strategic. The EPR was involved in the project co-ordination, and was directly responsible for the organisation of a project meeting in Brussels with the participation of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, civil servants from the candidate countries and local experts from these countries. The project co-ordination also involved liaising with the task manager DG Employment and Social Affairs.

- *Development of a strategy for CARE to enter into the tendering business with the European Commission*

CARE International is a huge NGO mainly dealing with projects in the field of humanitarian aid. During 2001, the EPR had carried out a feasibility study on CARE International entering into the tendering business with the European Commission. The outcome of that study was that EU tenders offer large business opportunities for CARE, but that the organisation is absolutely not prepared to enter successfully this business. The logical next step was to develop an overall tender strategy that would include a restructuring of the CARE offices in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark and Austria in terms of human resources, communication lines and co-ordination mechanisms. The work included short audit missions to these offices as well as a complete re-organisation of the secretariat in Brussels. The project was implemented during the first half of 2002, and a final report was submitted on 21 August to the Board of Directors of CI.

- *Assistance in developing tender proposals*

CARE Austria and Bernard Brunhes International applied to the EPR secretariat for advice on strategy, procedures and concepts for the development of tender proposals. They contracted the EPR secretariat as a kind of help-desk to which their staff members involved in EU tendering could address with questions.

## IV. Public Affairs

### IV.1. European Corporate Affaires

- *Information on funding opportunities*

The responsibility to compose and update an overview of international funding opportunities for the rehabilitation sector was shifted from the project group on international co-operation to the EPR secretariat. A user-friendly overview (1 standard page per project/programme + direct website link to complete documents) is offered in a protected area of the EPR website and can be consulted by all professionals in the EPR centres via a password. As the regular update of the overview is very time-consuming, the EPR secretariat will evaluate the use of this facility and eventually transform it into a demand-driven service where advice on funding opportunities is provided upon request and in a very targeted individualised way.

- *Facilitating contacts and partnerships*

The EPR continued its efforts to extend the database of relevant people and organisations in the field of rehabilitation. Addresses were gathered via the EPR members as well as via proactive website research and direct contacts. During 2002, the database was extended from 800 entries to 3.000, and most of them include more detailed information on the basis of various indicators (field of experience, project record, service provider/service user...). On that basis, the secretariat assisted staff of member centres that were looking for the right partners (especially in the Leonardo and Equal programme). It goes without saying that this database also plays an important role in all public relations and marketing activities of the EPR.

- *Assistance in project applications*

Only in a few cases, staff from member centres addressed to the EPR secretariat with questions on procedures or methodologies concerning project applications. The limited number of requests for assistance is probably due to the lack of knowledge within the EPR centres about this facility.

### IV.2. Sectoral representation

The EPR Board of Directors Steering Committee concluded there is a need for service-providers to speak with one voice and the EPR should contribute to this aim. The message the EPR wants to give is not a defensive one but that service-providers are innovative and progressive in promoting people with disabilities in society.

During the first half of 2002, the EPR tried to establish a Provider's European Network (PEN) with EASPD and other European Networks of service providers. As this attempt was initially

not successful, a 'Joint Committee' with EPR, Workability Europe and RI Employment Commission was set up and started to define an own public affairs strategy.

In December 2002, a second round of negotiations with the EASPD forced a breakthrough, and led to a bilateral agreement between the Joint Committee on the one hand and the EASPD (including some other European networks on the other hand) to establish in 2003 a Provider's European Network to represent all service providers as one voice. This initiative is considered as a pilot and will be evaluated mid 2004.

Besides these attempts to create a single voice of service providers, the EPR strengthened its own links with the main European players via bilateral contacts of the General Secretary as well as via involving these actors in various EPR activities (EQRM, General Seminar, etc.)

#### **IV.3. International partnerships**

- *Eastern Europe*

The project group on international cooperation transformed itself to an 'Enlargement unit' and started a survey on the situation of rehabilitation in the candidate countries, emphasising the mapping of service providers that are active in these countries. The unit intends to finalise the survey during the first half of 2003.

Some EPR member centres and the General Secretary participated as speakers in a national Hungarian conference (17-19 November) on Disability and Rehabilitation.

- *Euro-American Platform*

The Board of the Euro-American Platform met on 22 February in Verona. For the second Board meeting in Washington (29 October), only the General Secretary participated on behalf of the EPR, and delivered at the same time a speech on the European American cooperation at the bi-annual conference of the National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centres.

During the summer, two people from NTDI organised a two-week staff placement in our partner centre in West Virginia to experience the practice of a case management in an established service.