

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)



Co-funded by
the European Union

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Introduction

Dear EPR members and partners,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Annual Report capturing key moments and achievements of our network throughout 2024. This year, we worked on settling into our new organigram at the Secretariat in Brussels, waved goodbye to some colleagues and welcome new ones. It has been a busy year where we took firm steps to bring forward the know-how and expertise of our members to contribute to EU policy developments. We can happily say it made an impact as our organisation becomes more visible at EU level.

In 2024, we kept growing our community of members and welcomed five new organisations to our network: Inkendaal (Belgium), Fundacion SASM (Spain), EKA (Greece), Fundacion Atades (Spain), Agenzija Support (Malta). We stayed ahead of trends by organising our Annual Conference on AI & New Technologies. It was a successful conference joined by renowned international experts and co-hosted by Fundacion ONCE and our Spanish members (Fundacion INTRAS, Fundacion Ramon Rey Ardid, Aura Fondatio) in Malaga, Spain. We made a comprehensive report and briefing on AI that includes the challenges and opportunities current technological developments present for the sector.

Quality of life and quality of services continued being key topics for our organisation over 2024. Our Task Force on Quality developed recommendations to contribute to the EU Framework of Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities, one of the key deliverables of the European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It set the basis for the work of the revision of EQUASS - a journey we kicked off in autumn and that will continue over 2025. And we brought European experts and gathered practitioners around the topic of Quality of Services and Quality of Life in Lisbon, Portugal, at our National Awareness Raising Event (NARE).

EPR Working Groups provided our members with opportunities to mutually learn from each other around the various topics they cover on mental health; digital skills, technology; return to work; youth, funding and ICF. Our networks created a space for information and discussion around key policy issues at EU level related to our sector and communications. Study visits brought EPR members to Heliomare (The Netherlands), URI (Slovenia) and to Polo Digital in Malaga (Spain). These are excellent occasions to get to know first hand and be inspired by the work of EPR members and their professionals.

This year we got into our first partnership for a Horizon Europe project that will start in 2025. This is a great step for our network to scale up our work in EU funded projects. Our regular funding alerts kept our members informed about upcoming opportunities. We developed with our members recommendations on how to successfully deliver services within the community and which are the challenges our sector currently face to do so. We shared these with the European Commission together with feedback on their Guidance to Independent Living. We were actively engaged in providing feedback to the EU on employment models for persons with disabilities. Our memberships to Social Services Europe and the European Disability Forum helped our voice be stronger in the European arena.

A big thanks to all our members and partners for this excellent year of collaborations, to the committed EPR team without whom every action in this report wouldn't have been possible either. Let's continue working together to provide high quality rehabilitation and services to people with disabilities!

EPR Secretary General,
Alicia Gomez Campos

EPR Board & Secretariat

EPR Board

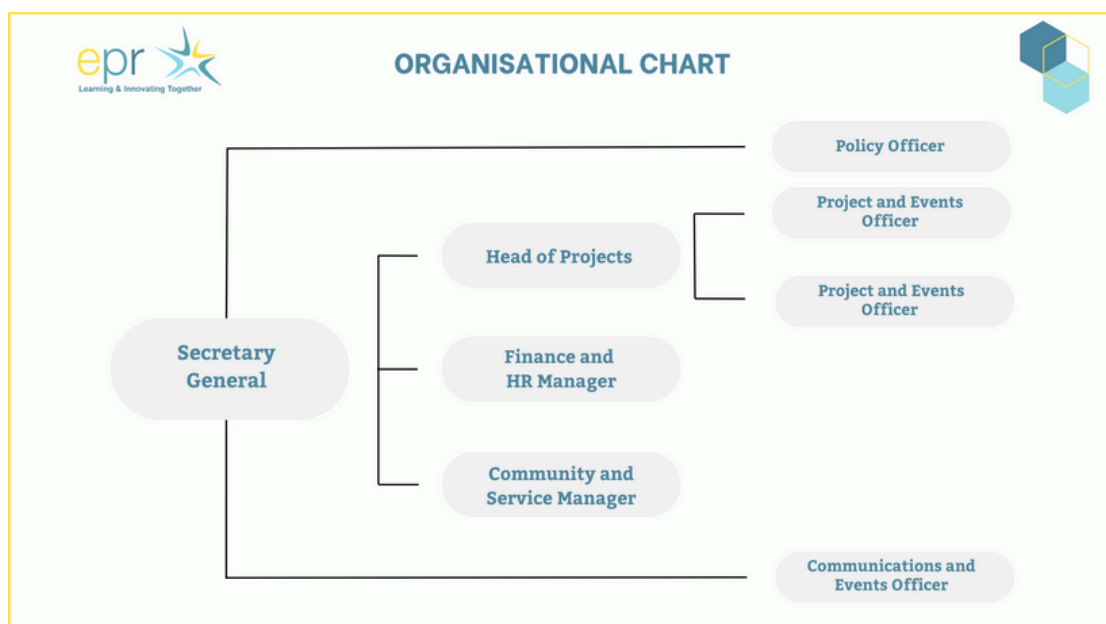
The EPR Board is composed of:

- Patrick Ruppel, GTB
- Sabina Lobato, Fundación ONCE
- Pablo Sánchez, Fundación INTRAS
- Tom Cardoso, CRM
- Anne Marie McDonnell, Rehab Group
- Veronika Kaska, Astangu VRC
- Furio Gramatica, Fondazione Don Gnocchi



EPR Secretariat

In 2024, EPR welcomed two new team members to the Secretariat: Benedetta Galeazzi (Policy Officer) and Raia Mihaylova (Communications and Events Officer).



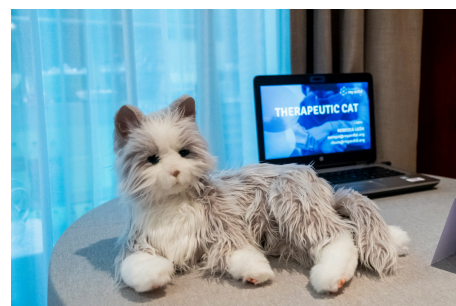
Staying Ahead of Trends: New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

EPR Annual Conference 2024

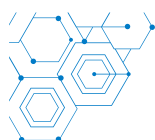
As Europe prepared to embrace the future with Artificial Intelligence (AI), setting the stage for a regulatory framework in the ever-evolving landscape of AI, in 2024 EPR held its Annual Conference on the topic of ***‘AI and New Technologies for Inclusion: Leaving No one Behind in the Digital Transition’***. It was co-organised with Fundación ONCE and in collaboration with our Spanish members – Fundación INTRAS, Fundación Rey Ardid and AURA Fundació at ILUNION Hotel in Malaga, Spain.

The Conference brought together EPR members, tech experts and policy-makers to learn from each other and exchange ideas on how we can “future-proof” our services and safely harness the rapidly increasing opportunities of AI and new technologies. Experts-led panel discussions and workshops together with short dynamic presentations filled the agenda around the topics of Ethics, Employment, Accessibility, Inclusion, Challenges and opportunities of AI.

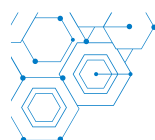
Exhibitions of different robots, including a therapeutic cat, showcased how technological advancements can contribute to rehabilitation and services to people with disabilities.



Key topics:



Exploring new AI and technologies for inclusion



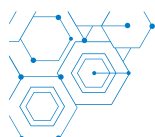
Technology-enabled and community-based continuity of supporting services



Ethics in the Age of AI



Meaningful stakeholder engagement



The impact of AI on employment



Access the Annual Conference report [here](#).



Press Highlights

The EPR Annual Conference 2024 drew in lots of buzz from Spanish media!



1 Nation-wide online media

1 of the lead Barcelona-based media

2 Madrid-based media

3 Cadiz-based media

1 Malaga, Sevilla, Grenada, Cordoba, Almeria, Huelva



Málaga acoge esta semana la Conferencia anual de la Plataforma Europea para la Rehabilitación



.. (EPR), que es la red europea de entidades que prestan servicios a personas con discapacidad. Será en el hotel Ilunion este martes y miércoles. Así lo han informado desde Fundación ONCE en un comunicado, en el que han señalado ..

Málaga acoge la Conferencia anual de la Plataforma Europea para la Rehabilitación



El hotel ILUNION Málaga será, este martes y miércoles, 18 y 19 de junio, la sede de la Conferencia anual de la Plataforma Europea para la Rehabilitación (EPR), que es red europea de entidades que prestan servicios a personas con discapacidad.



Study visit to the National Digital Content Pole (Malaga, Spain)

Ahead of the Annual Conference, EPR members had the opportunity to join a study visit to Polo Digital, a public company established by the Malaga City Council to provide a complete ecosystem for learners, talents, freelancers and startups engaged in digital initiatives. Amongst various projects 'housed' there, the group learned about an initiative aiming to enhance the representation of people with disabilities in the digital world by making a virtual figure part of a metaverse environment.

EPR Online Campaign: Assistive Technology



EPR's 2024 online campaign promoted the benefits of Assistive Technology (AT) for people with disabilities, and aimed to also raise awareness on the challenges to its widespread access. It highlighted important findings from the World Health Organization and UNICEF Global report on AT, good practices from EPR members on making AT more accessible for people with disabilities, the impact of Artificial Intelligence on AT, and more. Within the context of the campaign, we also promoted EPR recommendations for the Ethical Use of AI in services for people with disabilities.

Briefing on Ethics & AI

As AI deployment accelerates, experts are examining its ethical implications due to its broad impact on European citizens' lives. In 2024, EPR published a briefing providing recommendations to policy-makers and service providers on how to safely do so.



Access the briefing [here](#).

European Funded Projects



The Video Online Learning and Training Project (VOLT) project aims to empower staff and learners to become digital collaborators, innovators, and creators making videos to suit learners who prefer to learn using videos. During the last 2 years of VOLT, the project partners developed the VOLT Video Platform of over

200 accessible, educational and indeed inspiring videos co created by service users and staff from Mariaberg, Rehab Group, INTRAS and Theotokos Foundation.

Discover the project highlights and milestones [here](#).



Elias, Greece



I took part in the Video Online Learning and Training (VOLT) project to learn to co-produce better quality videos that inform people about issues that exist in our lives. The VOLT project promotes cooperative relationships through co-designing videos and it's helped me to collaborate and communicate better with others. I learnt about co-designing videos and creating the scene and dialogue. Taking part in designing these videos makes me feel proud and satisfied that my ideas are heard and considered. I feel that I offer something important to others and I feel creative. Take the opportunity to learn skills and take advantage of creative experiences.

Yorgos, Greece



I took part in a VOLT project (Video Online Learning and Training), an Erasmus+ Programme, and used co-design and co-production to share ideas and create videos. I learnt how to write a script, create, shoot and edit videos. Through peer-learning, we co-create our learning experience and I hope my peers have taken away new skills and tasks from my videos. I'm very proud of myself and the video creation skills I learnt and I don't want this programme to end and I am looking forward to using my skills to create more videos and inspire others to learn.



The InDiCo: Increase Digital Competences to Promote Inclusion project was initiated to better foster the inclusion of persons with learning difficulties into the digital age. To do so, the project aims to first understand the challenges they face in acquiring relevant competences, such as the ones identified in the EC Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp). Based on the gained insight, several resources will be created to support the development of digital skills of persons with learning difficulties.



Online Training 'AI in Project Management: Practical Applications and AI Tools'

On 7 November 2024, EPR hosted online a capacity-building workshop on 'Practical Applications of AI in Project Management'. The two-hour hands-on training was designed for project managers seeking to integrate AI into their project workflows. Kristjan Zemljic, a renowned expert in AI-driven project management and EU funding, led the session.

Digital Skills Working Group

The Digital Skills Working Group held three online meetings in 2024, gathering representatives from up to eleven EPR member organisations. Sessions provided opportunities to better understand the European AI Act, its legal implications and its contribution to AI literacy. The Secretariat also invited members to comment on draft recommendations to be included in the EPR Briefing on the Ethical Use of AI in Services for Persons with Disabilities.

INTEREHA Working Group

The INTEREHA Working Group met three times over the year. EPR members discussed, presented and shared good practices on technologies of common interest and aimed at developing recommendations. The group focused on rehabilitation robotics, virtual and mixed reality, smart environments and independent living and data management. The Working Group also provided support to the organisation of the Annual Conference on the topic of AI. Members were also updated on EU policy initiatives focused on technology and innovation and initiatives like the European Health Data.

Study Visit to Inkendaal

On 22 and 23 October, the EPR INTEREHA Working Group organised a study visit to Inkendaal Hospital, one of EPR's Belgian members. The group was introduced to the many initiatives that Inkendaal is implementing in order to provide everyday high-quality and technology-based rehabilitation services to its patients, ranging from robotics, hydrotherapy, smart homes, healing gardens and horse therapy.



European Pillar of Social Rights: Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Public Affairs Event – Building Better Services: Improving Assistance and Support for People with Disabilities in Europe



Services for people with disabilities play a key role in contributing to the well-being, quality of life, and access to opportunities for their users. Nevertheless, maintaining high-quality standards in the sector is often met with significant challenges, from staff shortages to lack of funding.

In 2024, our EPR Public Affairs event addressed how the upcoming Framework for Social Services of Excellence for Persons with Disabilities, a flagship initiative of the European Union Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021- 2030), is an opportunity to boost the sector and increase autonomy of persons with disabilities while ensuring quality service provision. EPR members part of the Task Force on Quality shared their work experiences, while the European Commission, together with EPR partners like the European Disability Forum (EDF), European Association of Services for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) and Social Employers exchanged views and updates on this topic.

Task Force on Quality

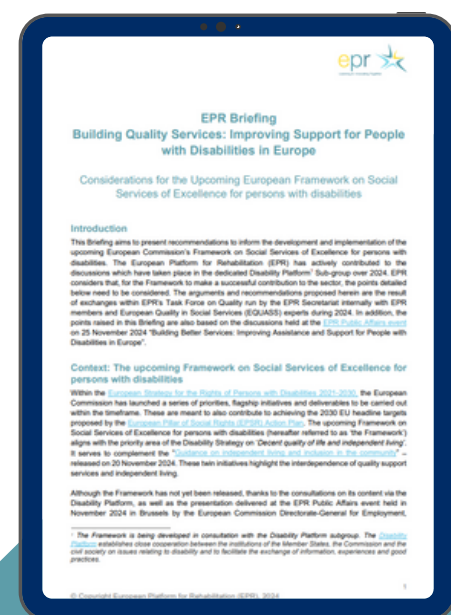
The Task Force on Quality gathered EPR members and EQUASS experts to elaborate recommendations for the European Commission's Framework for Social Services of Excellence. The Task Force also contributed to the revision of EQUASS, with work being launched in October, supported the National Awareness Raising Event (NARE) on Quality, and took centre stage at the EPR Public Affairs Event 'Building Better Services: Improving Assistance and Support for People with Disabilities in Europe'.

Two online meetings in May and July were followed up with written inputs shared with the European Commission after each meeting, including recommendations on some of the principles to be included in the Framework such as person-centred approach, independent living, workforce and good governance or outcome orientation. The Task Force determined: if a service is provided based on assessed individual needs, rights are respected, quality of life is improved and expected outcomes achieved, it can be considered a quality service. Key findings from the Task Force also provided the basis for the EPR Briefing "Building Quality Services: Improving Support for People with Disabilities in Europe".

EPR Briefing "Building Quality Services: Improving Support for People with Disabilities in Europe"

Within this briefing, EPR provided recommendations to guide the development and implementation of the European Commission's upcoming Framework on Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities. The Framework aims to improve the quality of social services for persons with disabilities, aligning with the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and focusing on enhancing independent living, community inclusion, and respect for human rights.

The proposed recommendations are informed by input from EPR's Task Force on Quality and discussions held at the EPR Public Affairs event "Building Better Services: Improving Assistance and Support for People with Disabilities in Europe", held in November 2024.



Access the Briefing [here](#).

Study visit Heliomare: Raising Awareness on the EPSR and Long-Life Learning

On 22-23 April, a Study Visit was organised at EPR member Heliomare (The Netherlands) for a dynamic one-day meeting focused on Education, Training and Long life learning services. During the study visit, dedicated professionals from Heliomare shared insights into their innovative vocational rehabilitation services and educational facilities.

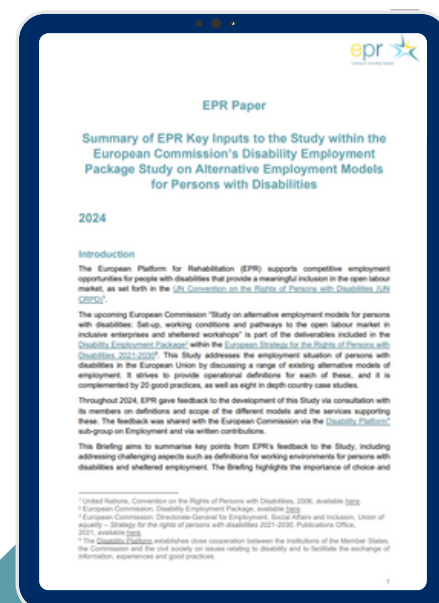
The aims of the visit was to raise awareness on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), learn from each other's good practices, discuss success and challenges and develop recommendations to address them.



EPR Paper: Summary of EPR Key Inputs to the European Commission's Study on Alternative Models of Employment for Persons with Disabilities

One of the awaited outputs of the European Commission's Disability Employment Package is their *Study on Alternative Employment Models for Persons with Disabilities*. It is also foreseen to support the implementation of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030.

Throughout 2024, EPR actively contributed to the development of this study by engaging its members work and sharing their expertise in exchanges and consultations with the European Commission, particularly on the definitions, scope, and services underpinning different employment models. As a result, EPR published a paper providing a summary of our key input to the study. It addresses challenging aspects such as definitions and sheltered employment.



Access the Paper [here](#).

Pathways to Community Inclusion Task Force

EPR organised two online meetings with its members in the form of a Task Force named 'Pathways to Community Inclusion' to discuss transition to community based services and independent living.

At the first meeting in September, EPR members met with representatives of the UN Secretariat of the CRPD Committee who presented the UN Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies published in 2022. This was a great to engage with external experts in conversations around how such policy frameworks impact service delivery especially at a time where the transition from institutionalised settings towards community based care is evermore central. At the second meeting, a European Commission policy officer shared with EPR members insights about the European Commission Disability Strategy flagship initiative "Guidance on Independent Living and Inclusion in the Community". At these meetings, EPR members were able to share and exchange from their work experience and highlight identified challenges.

Publication on Pathways to Independent Living

The outcomes of the Pathways to Community Inclusion Task Force were the basis for the publication Pathways to Independent Living. This publication gathers summaries of both the UN Guidelines and the European Commission Guidance on Independent Living together with good practices shared by some of the EPR members joining the Task Force. In addition, the publication includes recommendations to service providers and policy makers for their implementation.

Recommendation

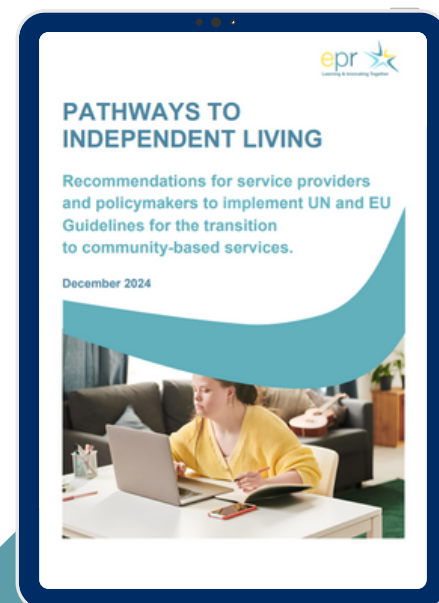
EPR calls for a person-centred approach to employment, where persons with disabilities are supported and empowered to make informed choices about their employment paths.

Recommendation

Safeguarding the "right to return" for persons with disabilities by providing the necessary support to those who want to transition between the open labour market and alternative employment models.

Recommendation

Support the use of public procurement and state aid to promote the employment of persons with disabilities via WISEs.



Access the Paper [here](#).

National Awareness Raising Event: Excellent Services! How to measure and improve services for people with disabilities. Looking at Portugal and Europe



On 24 October, EPR held its annual National Awareness Raising Event (NARE), together with co-organisers Fundação AFID Diferença, Associação Portuguesa para a Qualidade (APQ), and EQUASS national representative.

Many of the participants were service provision or quality assurance professionals working for organisations with EQUASS certification. The event featured participation of European and local practitioners in the field of services to people with disabilities focusing on quality of life and quality of services. European experts provided insights in their work with QIAT, EQUASS and the upcoming EU Framework on Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities. National experts shared their views on practical use of quality systems including organisations obtaining certification as well as auditors conducting certification processes.



EXCELLENT SERVICE!
How to measure and improve services for persons with disabilities. Looking at Portugal and Europe.

National Awareness Raising Event

Date: 24 October 2024
Time: 14:15 – 17:45
Location: Hotel Tivoli, Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon

Co-funded by the European Union

EQUASS

In 2023, EQUASS continued carrying out its quality certification services in close collaboration with the four EQUASS National Representatives (ENRs) in Portugal, Slovenia, Norway and Lithuania. Our National Representative in Lithuania signed a contract for 2024/2025 that ensures government support for 80 organisations to conduct EQUASS quality audits and certifications.

In addition, the Secretariat assembled a group of EQUASS experts and EPR members to launch joint work on a planned EQUASS revision, including updating definitions and descriptions for scope, characteristics, and criteria in auditing. The launch of the revised EQUASS framework is foreseen to take place in the beginning of 2026. In parallel, regular certifications continue and a new training framework is being developed.



Certified Organisations

 **Norway 35**

 **Lithuania 23**

 **Portugal 14**

 **Slovenia 6**

Employment

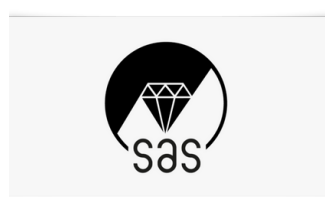
Working Group Return to Work & Partnerships with Employers

The Working Group held two meetings in 2024, and undertook the task to gather expert views on the topic of Sheltered Employment, for which the European Commission announced work in 2024 in the form of a Disability Employment Package deliverable. Members presented insights from their national landscapes, including on respective government policies, labour market conditions and service provider approaches.

Capacity-Building Workshop: Job Recruitment and Job Retention in Social Services

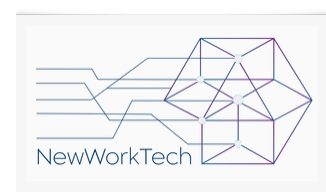
On December 16 2024, EPR held an online capacity-building workshop, focusing on job recruitment and job retention in social services. The goal of the meeting was to reflect on the challenges and difficulties that social services in Europe face when recruiting new staff or retaining existing staff within their organisations. The Human Resources Manager of Mariaberg (EPR member) shared his experience and introduced the platform Kununu (www.kununu.com), where organisations are evaluated by their own staff.

European Funded Projects



The **Supported Apprenticeship Scheme** (SAS) aims at improving employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. Unlike traditional vocational training or apprenticeships, SAS takes a holistic approach, addressing the professional, educational, and personal spheres of the apprentice.

The **NewWorkTech project** focuses on empirical research to enhance the employment opportunities for people with disabilities. It aims to generate new insights into the world of work, including workplace practices and interactions, identify how technologies can improve working life and job prospects for this population, and uncover new skills relevant to the workforce in general.



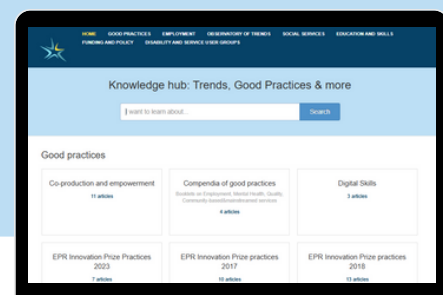
Mental Health

Working Group Mental Health

The Mental Health Working Group assembled for three meetings in 2024, including one in-person study visit to Slovenia. Members used the meetings to share insights into service development by sharing good practices from their own organisations, and for seeking cooperation with other EU-level networks working on the topic. This included reviewing a draft paper developed by several mental health civil society networks for the World Mental Health Day. All collected best practices were also shared on the EPR Knowledge Hub.



From trauma-related interventions and support services to return to work processes, EPR members share their experience on what approaches effectively work. Explore good practices on topics related to mental health on the EPR Knowledge Hub [here](#).



Study visit to URI Soča

In May, Mental Health working group members travelled to Ljubljana for a two day study visit, hosted by URI Soča. The agenda provided insights into various departments and programmes concerned with vocational rehabilitation, including meetings with patients, therapists, technicians, medical professionals, and partner organisations cooperating with URI Soča.

The study visit concluded with a trip to the Day Centre “Štacija” in Kramnik, further enhancing working group members’ understanding of community-based support for people with mental health issues, as well as the differences between services in urban versus rural context.



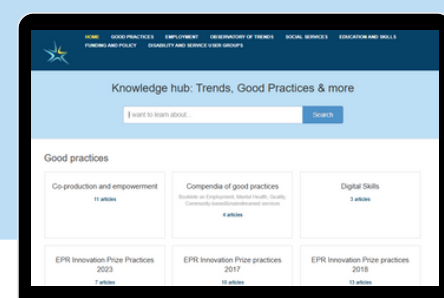
Youth

Working Group Youth

The Youth Working Group held three meetings in 2024, opening the discussion to common challenges in supporting young people's mental well-being. The group noted the growing importance of both treatment and prevention, with an emphasis on building resilience. The last meeting was joined by the Director of the European Volunteer Centre to present volunteering opportunities in the context of disability and rehabilitation. She highlighted how volunteering can promote inclusion, recovery, and employability, and emphasised viewing young people with disabilities not just as recipients of support, but as active contributors.



Looking for good resources on young people's mental health, or for the types of services available to youth with a disability disorder? Find them on the EPR Knowledge Hub [here](#).



Study visit to Theotokos Foundation

Theotokos Foundation hosted the Youth working group study visit in Athens, inviting members to meet with staff and service users. The programme featured visits to their different departments and classes, such as daycare, weaving workshop and computer class, as well as joining activities in their healing garden and printing workshop.



Policy-making

Policy Network

EPR Policy Network is an online space where EPR members learn and exchange on EU policies and discuss together with invited speakers key policy matters in the sector of rehabilitation, VET, quality of services and more. Three meetings were organised in 2024, aiming at informing EPR members of related updates and to provide a space for exchange around key policy matters and supporting public consultations. Members also engaged in a fruitful exchange on EPR's key messages on core topics such as independent living, and shared updates from their organisations and national contexts.

Economy of Wellbeing webinar

On 18 October 2024, EPR, in collaboration with EuroHealthNet, organised the public webinar “An Economy of Wellbeing for Inclusion”.

The webinar brought together experts and policymakers to discuss how to move beyond traditional ‘wellbeing’ indicators based on economic performance such as GDP. Experts from Eurohealthnet, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Mental Health Europe shared good practices that exemplified how this economic model can promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the role service providers can take in enabling it.



An Economy of Wellbeing for Inclusion Webinar

epr  in cooperation with EuroHealthNet 

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER, 10.00-12.00 CET

 SILVIA GANZERLA EuroHealthNet	 HANNES JARKE EuroHealthNet	 CAMILLE ROUX Mental Health Europe
 OTTO KYRONEN SOSTE Finnish Federation for	 MARIA NIKOLOPOULOU	 MARIANA DYAKOVA Public Health Wales

Environmental and Sustainability Strategy

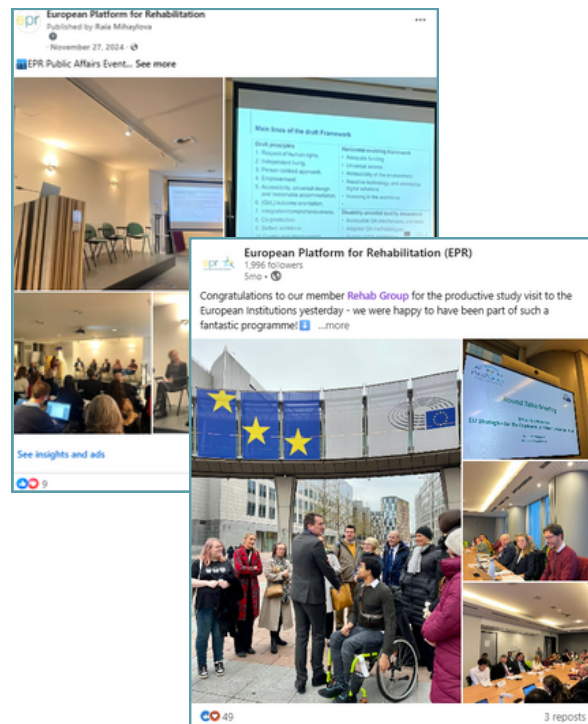
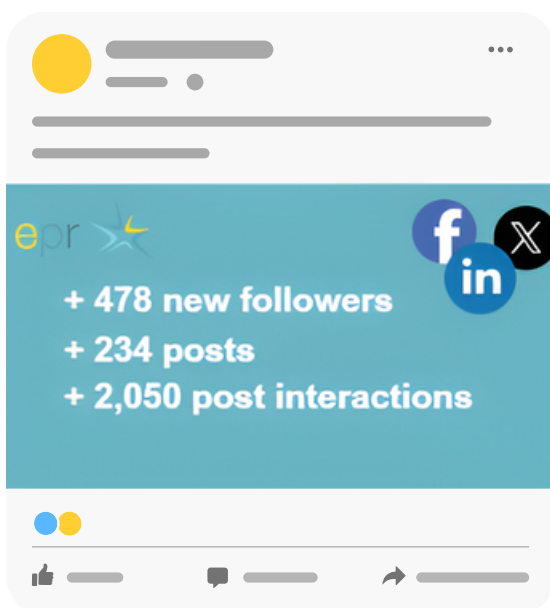
EPR aims to support members in their efforts to be more sustainable organisations, as well as to improve the sustainability of the network and the secretariat’s activities and operations.



In 2024, we update the EPR Environmental and Sustainability Strategy to ensure it is up to current standards. Consult our reviewed Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2024 [here](#).

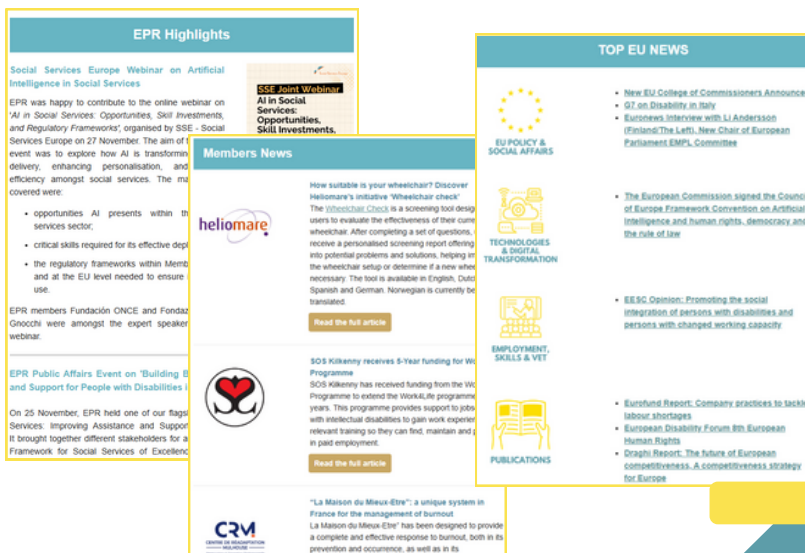
Communication Highlights

Social Media Statistics



EPR Newsbulletin

EPR produced and circulated five Newsbulletins to its members to keep them informed on EPR activities, European policies and news relevant to their work, EPR members' news, EU-funded project updates, and upcoming events and activities that could be of interest to them. To better meet members' needs, in 2024 EPR focused on delivering EU policy news in a more user-friendly way, providing key definitions and context on what they mean on a national level.



Access the 2024 Newsbulletins [here](#).



Communications Network

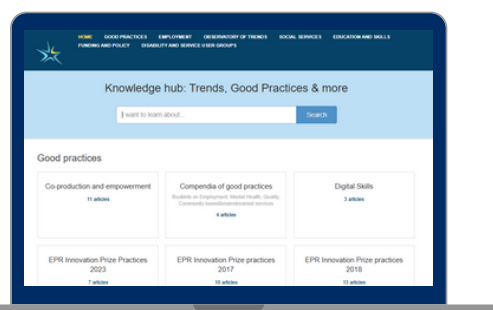
On 4th September, EPR hosted its annual Communications Network meeting. The online event gathered communication experts from our member organisations, and a representative of the Red Cross EU Office as an external speaker. The meeting kicked off with participants sharing good practices and experience with new trends within communications, as many of them are faced with similar challenges within their work. The second part was dedicated to continue the conversation around the use of AI in communications. The majority of members agreed that they're not actively using it, as per ethical reasons and lack of regulation.



Online Resources

Knowledge Hub

EPR updated the website hosted by HelpScout and added glossaries (focusing on supporting non-native English-speakers) for the areas of services EPR is active in, as well as key EU concepts and initiatives. New projects, good practices from other activities and dedicated pages addressing the EPSR Action Plan and related initiatives were also updated.



GOOD PRACTICES

- [EU-funded projects](#)
- [Mental Health](#)

Policy

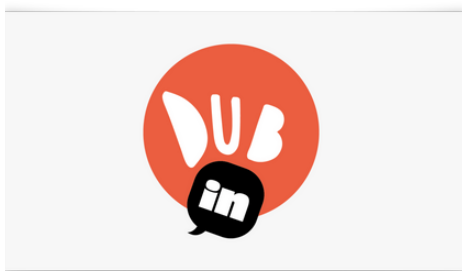
- [AI Glossary](#)
- [Independent Living](#)
- [Employment](#)

Trainings

- [EU-funded projects](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)

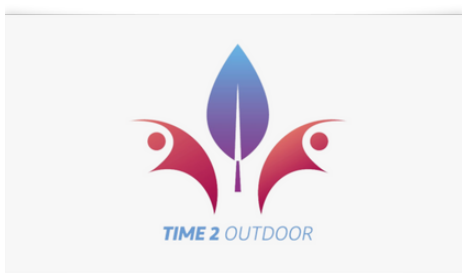
European Funded Projects

Projects concluded in 2024



The **DUB-IN project** aims to improve the social and interpersonal skills of people with psychosocial disabilities. It provides an innovative training course centred around film dubbing techniques where participants practise scenes portraying daily situations that may be challenging for them. In 2023, the project was featured on the EU Employment and Skills website.

Forged through a unique partnership of 16 key stakeholders including EPR, spanning nearly all social sectors, the **Helpdesk Project** worked on leveraging capacity of Managing Authorities and Social Services, improving tools to simplify procedures for accessing and using EU Funds and proposing technical and practical recommendations to better foster quality social interventions with EU Funds.



The **Time 2 Outdoor (T2O)** project aims to enhance sports participation among children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by developing an educational curriculum featuring outdoor activities tailored to children aged 8-10 on the spectrum. Discover more about the project [here](#).

The EPR-led **Equal Treatment project** drew to a successful completion at the end of November. The project's aim was 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. Discover the project final conference highlights [here](#).



Ongoing Projects



AUTHERAPIES aims at improving the competencies of people with autism, their families, and professionals, both in training and in practice, in choosing evidence-based therapies and interventions. In 2024, project partners launched an extensive database with over 200 evidence based therapies, divided by different themes.

The **GOLD project** aims to develop a methodology and tools to enhance the skills of professionals (EQF 4 to 6) and volunteers working in the disability and/or older people's sectors, so that they are better able to provide quality services in the care and support of ageing people with disabilities.



The **Social Prescribing and Civic Engagement (SPACE)** project aims to empower cancer survivors by bringing together Social Prescribing and volunteering to create an environment and approach that supports the health and well-being of people with health and rehabilitation needs.

The EPR-led **Particip.AGE project** aims to enhance the social inclusion and community participation of ageing individuals with intellectual disabilities. Addressing their "double vulnerability"—ageing and intellectual disability—the initiative seeks sustainable solutions to improve well-being and reduce social barriers through the development of policy recommendations and innovative co produced training programs for both service users' staff and ageing individuals with intellectual disabilities themselves.



The main objective of IDEA project is to promote the empowerment and inclusion of adult people with physical disabilities, by creating a positive learning environment reducing misperceptions on disability and promoting their autonomy.

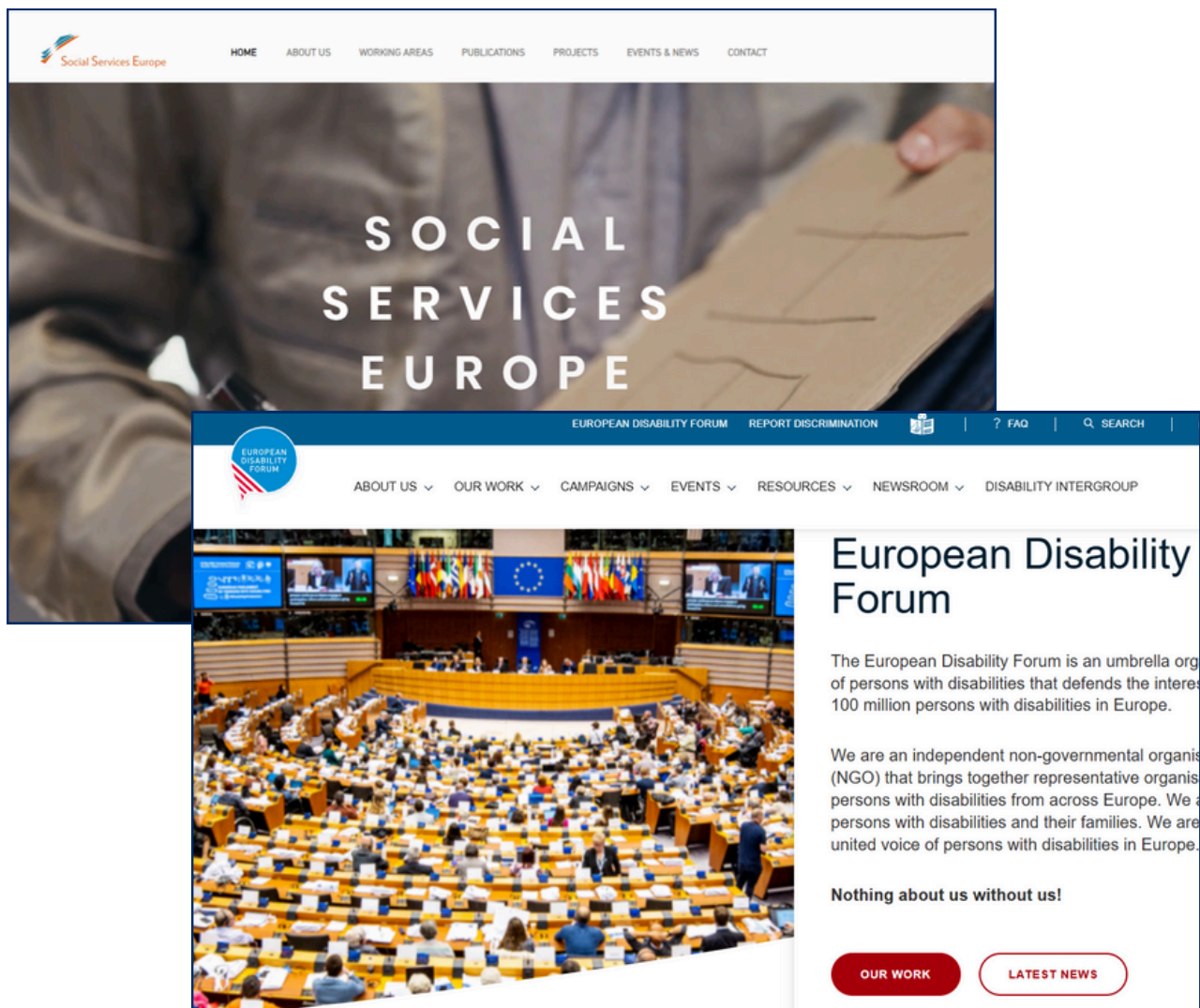
Partnerships



Social Services Europe brings together eight Europe-wide networks of professional not-for-profit providers of social, health and care services. EPR has been a member of the network since its establishment in 2018, and contributes to achieving its aims.



The European Disability Forum is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of over 100 million persons with disabilities in Europe. EPR became a member in 2023 to share experiences, learn and work closer to people with disabilities and participate in coordinated advocacy efforts.



THANK YOU!



The EPR TEAM



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