

## Special:

- Interview with Bjorn Paulsen, CEO of Durapart
- Workshop for Directors in Malta, May 2008
- Public Affairs Event in Brussels, December 2008
- EPR joins the Social Platform
- Martin Ohridski leaves EPR secretariat

## Editorial

Dear EPR members,

More participation, a wider range of expertise and increasing enthusiasm! These are results of the growing membership of EPR which nowadays has 15 full members and 9 associate members in 15 different European countries. At the same time, EPR is very much aware that providing good services to its members and building up credibility among external stakeholders should continue to get priority over growth, as rightly indicated by a Norwegian CEO in this newsletter.

Additional organisations and new faces in our network also require more focus on internal communication and networking. More than any seminar or workshop, personal contacts and further bilateral exchange of expertise between professionals from different countries are the keys to make best use of the EPR network. Consequently, EPR made during the first half of 2008 considerable investments in the launch of a new website, the further development of the Knowledge Management Centre and a set of professionalised information materials. Based on inputs from

the centre coordinators and external consultants, EPR will during the second half 2008 further optimise the communication with and between the members.

Throughout Europe, the natural tension between universality, sustainability and quality of social services challenges service providers to do more and better with the available resources. Not-for-profit social service providers are expected to act as businesses, while still respecting their mission to improve the lives of people in need. During the strategic workshop in May in Malta, EPR directors shared the view that this double bottom line should be considered as a drive for innovation and change, rather than as a threat. At the same time, all sectoral stakeholders should be aware of the risks of unlimited modernisation. The EPR is currently integrating the various views and visions on this issue into a 'Charter on modernisation of disability-related health and social services', which will be discussed at the Annual Conference (18-19 September) and launched at the Public Affairs Event in Brussels on 11 December.



Talking about public affairs, I would like to use this editorial to express my thanks to Martin Ohridski who served over the last five years as public affairs officer in the EPR, and who took up a post in the European Commission from 1 July onwards. I wish you well Martin and will never forget your enormous contributions to the current success of EPR !

Let me finally wish all of you a nice summer holidays, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Conference on 18-19 September in Roermond.

Best regards,  
 Jan Spooren, General Secretary

## Sections:

Upcoming Events	2
News from the members	3-6
Public Affairs	7
CAPs	8-9
EQUASS	10
EPR Secretariat	11

# Calendar of EPR events 2008

## August

- Executive Committee Meeting, 28 August, Arendal (Norway)

## September

- Learning Group: Using the ICF in Rehabilitation, last session, 16-17 September, Roermond (the Netherlands)
- Board of Directors Meeting, 17 September, Roermond (the Netherlands)
- Annual Conference: Outcome Measurement of Services to People with Disabilities, 18-19 September, Roermond (the Netherlands)

## October

- In-house Seminar on Distance Learning Programmes for Vocational Training, 16-17 October 2008, Neckargemünd (Germany)
- Empowerment, second session, 21-22 October, Brussels (Belgium)

## November

- Housing Services for People with Disabilities, 12-13 November, Groesbeek (the Netherlands)
- Disability Management: Training of Trainers (Reintegrate Project), 11-12 November, Porto (Portugal)
- Executive Committee/EQUASS Management Committee, 18 November, Brussels (Belgium)
- EQUASS Awarding Committee, 26 November, Brussels (Belgium)

## December

- Public Affairs Event: Modernisation of disability-related Health and Social Services. A way ahead, 11 December, Brussels (Belgium)
- Board of Directors Meeting, 12 December, Brussels (Belgium)
- Centre Coordinators Meeting, 12 December, Brussels (Belgium)

\* Please note that the KMC Administrators Meeting from September has been cancelled

\* List of meetings and events as known at the moment. In case of any changes you will be duly informed. It is advised to always confirm details of events with the secretariat prior to attending.

## News from the members

### National Learning Network is Recognised for Excellence

National Learning Network, the training and employment division of Rehab Group, is delighted to announce that it has achieved *Recognised for Excellence Level 4*.

Following a recent assessment against the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Excellence Model, National Learning Network recently achieved *Recognised for Excellence Level 4* acknowledging its commitment to excellence in all

its activities.

The award, presented by EFQM recognised the Network's delivery of high quality person-centred services, its success in meeting the individual needs of learners and its ongoing commitment to continuous improvement in all its activities.

During a three-day assessment visit, the assessors visited National Learning Network centres in Limerick, Portlaoise and Tallaght where they met with staff

and learners. They also met with a wide variety of staff from throughout the organisation and with support staff from the Rehab Group.



*'I would like to congratulate all of the staff in Network on this excellent achievement. It is a great accomplishment for all of us involved in Network and we are delighted to have achieved this recognition'.  
(Marie Kelly, Director of Training and Employment services, Rehab*

**Contribution of David Muldoon, National Learning Network, Ireland**  
[david.muldoon@nln.ie](mailto:david.muldoon@nln.ie)

### Momentum: Waterways to Motorways

Service users from Momentum's Work Matters programme in Paisley have been working with Renfrewshire Council on a project linked to the completion of the M74 motorway.

The 'Waterways to Motorways' exhibition charts the history of the former Glasgow, Paisley and Ardrossan canal. The exhibition is designed around a historical study undertaken by a research group from Momentum's Work Matters programme which provides vocational rehabilitation and training for people who are long term unemployed and who have suffered a mental health or stress related illness.

Created, produced and constructed by artist Colin Begg in collaboration with members of Work Matters, the exhibition comprises a

painted floor -cloth showing the route of the canal, a timeline highlighting significant dates in the canal's story and seven 'tea-chests', each of which carries a particular part of the canal's historical cargo.

Displayed in the Paisley Museum until 27 July, the exhibit also includes an animation inspired by 19th century photographs, an interactive model of life on Barr Street in the 1840s, and an educational game based on the historical competition between canals, roads and railways.

The project was funded by the M74 Completion Project partners, Transport Scotland, Glasgow City Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Renfrewshire Council.

For more information on the Work Matters programme or the 'Waterways to Motorways' exhibition contact Lil Brookes on + 44 141 842 3410 or e-mail [lil.brookes@momentumscotland.org](mailto:lil.brookes@momentumscotland.org).



**Contribution of Laura Delaney, Momentum, Scotland**  
[laura.delaney@momentumscotland.org](mailto:laura.delaney@momentumscotland.org)

*M74 and A74(M) are two major motorways in Scotland, running from South Glasgow to the Anglo-Scottish border. In conjunction with the M6 motorway, it forms one of the two major cross-border routes between*

*Scotland and England.*

*(Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))*



*'(...) EPR has used the effort to build up an image and credibility among stakeholders more than getting new members and this has been a good strategy.' (B. Paulsen)*

## Focus on Norway: Interview with Bjorn Paulsen, CEO of Durapart

**EPR has currently 3 full members and 1 associate member in Norway out of a total of 24 centres in Europe, which makes a strong representation of the Nordic countries. Durapart was the first Norwegian organisation to become full member of EPR and it is also hosting the Executive Committee Meeting in August. Good enough reasons to interview its CEO about the added-value and expectations of EPR membership.**

**As a non-EU country, why is membership in a European network interesting for a Norwegian organisation?**

Even if we are not an EU-member we have seen throughout the past years that Norwegian social policy is influenced by the modernisation process in EU member states and that Norwegian service providers were meeting the same challenges just a few years later. Through EPR membership we can be aware and learn from other EPR members how to handle these challenges before having to face them.

**EPR has currently many Norwegian members. Can we talk about a 'trend' and how would you explain it?**

Norway is geographically a long country with 4,5 million inhabitants. In order to offer good rehab services to all of them, providers are spread all over the country. We have more than 100 VET companies and more than 250 sheltered work companies. In this respect I do not think that 3 full members are many. Over the past years the VET companies

in Norway have focused on core business as service providers of rehab services and building rehab competence. Our member organisation AVRE has played a great role in this competence enlargement process, but today more companies are looking to other networks for an additional increase of their competences and strengthening of business opportunities. In this context EPR is an interesting network for more Norwegian companies. There is a possibility that EPR will receive several application letters from other Norwegian organisations.

**How does Durapart intend to disseminate knowledge about EPR in Norway?**

Durapart plays a leading role in the enhancement of service providers in Norway in AVRE south. Consequently, other companies from all over Norway, ministers, local politicians and different bodies and stakeholders often visit us. We always inform them about our membership in EPR as a strategic development, what EPR has to offer to the Norwegian service providers and how we use our membership to increase the competence of our employees.

**As a relatively new member of EPR, how does Durapart perceive EPR as an organisation existing for already 15 years?**

From our point of view EPR has been a relatively unknown organisation until the last few years. In addition to rehab competences we noticed that EPR has a lot of know-how and experience in EU policies and especially social policy. We also perceive EPR as an organisation well known by EU politicians, user organisations and other not-for-profit service providers. This means

to us that EPR has used the effort to build up an image and credibility among stakeholders more than getting new members – and this has been a good strategy.

**What are your expectations from EPR in the upcoming years? How do you think EPR membership would benefit Durapart?**

We feel that the CAP is a good tool both for EPR as an organisation and for each member to focus and monitor the involvement in common activities. Our expectations from EPR in the upcoming years are to continue and strengthen this work.

EPR is well-known by user organisations and other stakeholders in Europe but rather unknown in Norway. What could EPR together with the Norwegian member organisations do to change this? I think this would influence the choice of future service users and our business opportunities.

**You recently participated in the Workshop for Directors in Malta. What were your impressions about this event and the added-value it brought to Durapart?**

First of all I want to thank you for an excellent workshop in Malta. The place, the facilities and the program fulfilled our expectations. We noticed during the discussion that some social services, which for us are naturally supplied by our public welfare system, are a part of the strategic discussion among service providers in Europe.

### Durapart fact sheet

- Located in Krøgenes - Arendal and Vinterkjær - Risør
- Established in 1972
- Ownership: public corporation
- No. of staff: 50
- No. of clients: 200
- Turnover in 2007: 12 million Euros
- Provides rehabilitation services both in VET and sheltered work in electromechanical production, gas station, kindergarden, second-hand shop, catering and caretaker services
- Awarded with EQRM Mark for quality in service provision in 2006



## Durapart strengthens its position in the graphic market

By taking over the company 'Arendal Profiling' Durapart strengthens its position in the graphic market and more than double the turnover in this segment.

The reason for this takeover is to improve education and work possibilities for our service users and give new and exceeded tools to the professionals at Durapart.

The name of this new department in Durapart is 'Profilsenteret'. Profil-

senteret brings a lot of new products into Durapart which are easily recognised in the shops and in the local community. The new work processes related to the new products will hopefully increase the possibilities for new jobs for our service users.

**Contribution of Grete Kristiansen, Durapart, Norway**

[grete.kristiansen@durapart.no](mailto:grete.kristiansen@durapart.no)



*Decoration of a garbage car in Durapart community*

## Fretex with a new VET-program in the High North

Fretex is located all over Norway, also in the northern part, right next to the Russian border. In the past few years there has been quite a lot of collaboration in this area. The Norwegian Government considers the High North to be Norway's most important strategic

priority area in the years ahead. A lot of efforts are put into creating sustainable growth and development in this part of the country.

Fretex wants to contribute with its resources and competence in the field of vocational rehabilitation in the High North. After several years of preparation concerning the facilitation and the financial issues in creating a program, we are now happy to announce a new VET-project in Kirkenes. Five Russians from the area around Murmansk will be offered vocational education and training in both Russia and Norway. The objective of the project is to increase the participant's chances of getting employment in the open

labour market in Murmansk.

Several Norwegian companies are also situated in this area. There are many contributors and partners in this project:

- the Norwegian Government (Directorate for work, welfare and inclusion)
- the Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Enterprises in Norway (AVRE)
- Kirkenes High School
- the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration
- the Employment Services in Finnmark
- Murmansk

The first participants will arrive in Kirkenes on 1st August. We are looking forward to welcoming them to Norway and to Fretex!

**Contribution of Trine Gjermundbo, Fretex, Norway**

[trine.gjermundbo@fretex.no](mailto:trine.gjermundbo@fretex.no)



*Toine C. Sannes is the leader of Fretex Nord-Norge AS*

## CRM: When sport and disability meet

During the day of 19 June, the Rehabilitation Centre of Mulhouse welcomed 18 associations coming from Alsace and from other four nearby departments.

These associations for children, teenagers and adults with disabilities, were present in the CRM to participate in the 18th edition of the day 'Sports for All'.

Around 500 people out of which 249 were external met for a strong moment of sport without competition.

On the spot, 25 sports related activities were presented by various associations: diving, fencing, archery, country dance, handi-bike, football in wheelchair). 90 volunteers were also involved in leading and supervising the activities proposed throughout the

day.

This day allowed the participants to move, to discover new sport activities and to forget about their disability.

**Contribution of Jean-Claude Schrepfer, CRM, France**

[jean-claude.schrepfer@arfp.asso.fr](mailto:jean-claude.schrepfer@arfp.asso.fr)



*Sports for all*

## Heliomare: Science but also Quality of Life

Heliomare participated in world congress 'Science but also Quality of Life' which took place between 8 and 13 June 2008 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Heliomare was present at this important event with three interactive poster sessions. The world congress was organised by physical therapists that are members of the International Federation of

Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists (IFOMT), the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The speakers present at the event are well known in their field and their works are often published.

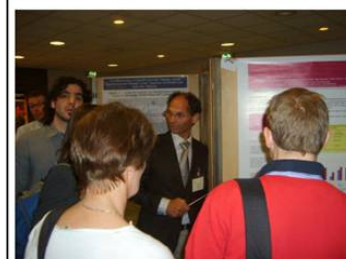
**Contribution of Frank 't Hart, Heliomare, the Netherlands**  
[F.t.Hart@heliomare.nl](mailto:F.t.Hart@heliomare.nl)

### Posters

- A physical therapy approach without paying attention to the pain in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome-I (CRPS-I): RW Kan, M. Spijker, HPLM Vossen, R. Zondervan, K. Rumping, H. Popma, H. Houdijk
- Use it or lose it! A breakthrough in CRPS-I: M. Spijker, HPLM Vossen, RW Kan, R. Zondervan
- Prognostic factors of patients with Chronic Low Back Pain (CLBP) on the field of patient typology: HPLM Vossen, CAM van Bennekom

Connecting "science" to Quality of Life

AND YOU CAN LISTEN TO MANY NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKERS



IFOMT 2008  
Celebrating 50 years of IFOMT  
June 8-13, 2008





## Public Affairs

### Strategic Workshop for Directors, Malta, 29-30 May 2008

*Modernisation of Social Services: Facing the challenges.* This was the theme of the fourth annual Strategic Workshop for Directors on the Island of Malta, hosted by the Eden Foundation.

Together with the traditional objective of strengthening links among EPR's Directors, the Workshop generated ideas for an EPR Charter on Modernisation of Social Services in order to present a unified EPR approach to the modernisa-

tion of our sector to European and national stakeholders. Once again, the annual Workshop for Directors proved to be a very positive and successful event, fostering interactive discussions, fruitful conclusions, excellent networking and a pleasant social time. Related documentation as well as a picture gallery of the event is available on EPR's website, under the section *Workshop for Directors*.



*The Directors enjoyed the beautiful venue in Malta*

### Slovenia Presidency to the EU: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - From Words to Reality?

Jan Spooren, EPR's General Secretary, attended the conference 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - From Words to Reality?' organised by the Slovenia Presidency to the EU 2008 on 22-23 May 2008.

Acting as rapporteur of the workshop on Employment for People with Disabilities, he declared: 'It was a very open and interactive workshop which was chaired by Johan Ten Geuzendam, head of the dis-

ability unit in DG EMPL. All participants shared the view that employment for people with disabilities keeps gaining importance both for the individuals entering (or retaining) a job and for employers and the society at large'.

The most important conclusion of the workshop was that the right to work for people with disabilities (stipulated in the Article 27 of the UN Convention) requires that disabled job seekers have adequate skills and competencies.

Consequently, sufficient resources need to be allocated to prepare people with disabilities for a job via vocational and personal training. Moreover, informing, convincing and training employers on how to involve people with disabilities in their workforce were considered to be more effective than just adopting an approach of 'blaming and shaming'.

*'All participants shared the view that employment for people with disabilities keeps gaining importance both for the individuals entering (or retaining) a job and for employers and the society at large' (J. Spooren)*

### Annual Conference 2008 in Roermond



The preparation of the EPR Annual Conference is on its way. Over 100 participants from nearly all EPR members have already registered and external participants are also expected during the first day. The two hotels reserved by EPR are almost fully booked with only less than 5 rooms available. EPR secretariat in cooperation with SRL as hosting organisation continues to work on the preparation of the programme and various activities. Special

attention will be given to the 'networking event' aiming to link representatives of EPR new members with more experienced ones. All professionals, newcomers and veterans are welcomed to take part in this special social event.

All information on EPR Annual Conference 2008 is available on EPR website.

A last update will be communicated to all Centre Coordinators in the beginning of September 2008.

## EPR joins the Social Platform

socialplatform

*EPR became a full member of the Social Platform as from April 2008*

On 12 April 2008, the General Assembly of the Platform of European Social NGOs approved unanimously the full membership of the European Platform for Rehabilitation to its structures.

After a consolidated and close collaboration in the past years, joining the Social Platform will positively support the wider strategic interests of EPR.

The full membership gives, *inter alia*, access to a wide set of information and contacts, will increment EPR's participation in relevant European events and will allow us to further contribute to the debate on social services of general interest and their quality.

Please read more on the Social Platform and its activities at <http://www.socialplatform.org>

## Social NGOs' quality principles of social and health services

On 6 June 2008, the Social Platform adopted a common position on quality social and health services.

Thanks also to our proactive contribution to the discussion, the document defines quality principles that are fully compliant with EPR's Principles for Quality.

The paper, in fact, aims at

safeguarding the provision of quality social and health services and intends to reach highest quality levels and create equal opportunities and independent participation in society.

The common position can be downloaded from:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?news=17917>



## Public Affairs Event: Modernisation of Social Services. A way ahead



*The classy Théâtre du Vaudeville will host the Public Affairs Event in 2008*

EPR's Public Affairs event on *Modernisation of disability-related Health and Social Services. A Way Ahead.* will take place on 11 December 2008 in Brussels.

Key European disability stakeholders will be attending to debate Modernisation in the service provision sector and to witness the launch of the EPR Charter on Modernisation of disability-related Health & Social Services.

The event will also showcase the latest achievements in the European Quality in Social Services (EQUASS) sys-

tem and the EQUASS Awarding Committee will present certifications to new compelling organisations.

Furthermore, on this occasion we will also have the pleasure to celebrate together EPR's 15th Anniversary.

A draft version of the Programme as well as the registration form can be found on our website.



## Centre Action Plans (CAPs)

### Intense activities under the CAPs

This last period was intense in relation to CAP activities. Training seminars took place in June on three different themes:

- **'Relations with employers'**, an event co-organised with the Employers Forum on Disability (EFD) and which took place in London. With an amazing teaching and facilitation style, Susan Scott-Parker, CEO of the EFD, took the 13 participants on an exploration journey

around a range of practices and strategies for building long-term partnerships with employers. By working hand in hand with businesses, service providers want to enhance the chances of finding sustainable employment for their service users.

- **'Outcome measurement'** was facilitated by Fong Chan and Fred McFarlane, two eminent professors in rehabilitation. The event's goal was to assist participants to inte-

grate the theory of outcome measurement into multi-disciplinary practice. Fourteen participants were around the table to learn about new tools and approaches for measuring the impact of their programmes.

- The training **'Mentoring, Coaching, Motivating'** was the first EPR event hosted by Heliomare in Wijk Aan Zee, the Netherlands. The seminar focused on the skills needed to increase the positive behavior of service users and to reduce the changing behaviours. The seminar was designed to foster high interaction and bring very concrete outcomes by the end of the seminar. The brilliant organisation by the host and the greatly appreciated teaching skills of Fred McFarlane highly contributed to the success of this event.

These three seminars were successful in every aspect and the high and regular attendance confirmed the efficiency of the CAP approach.



*Fong Chan, one of the facilitators of the 'Outcome Measurements' seminar*

Few other seminars will take place in the second half of the year, while EPR and its members will proceed to the evaluation of the current CAP and the design of the planning for 2009-2010.



*Social activity in Wijk Aan Zee*

### Professional Development - Reintegrate Project

After the survey conducted by EPR on issues of return to work, the following project milestone was the project meeting on 14-15 June in Athens. During two days, the project partners analysed the results of the survey to fine-tune the content and format of the future tools for training employers on disability management skills. The partners agreed on the issues of disability management that should be prioritised and the way to reflect them

in the future e-learning environment and training. One of the next meetings will be dedicated to the programme for the training of trainers and will take place on 11-12 November in Porto.

The meeting outcomes enabled the partners to develop the first draft of the project tools, including the project website which is now available at <http://www.re-integrate.eu/>.



*Richard Wynn designing training tools*

## Information about the EQUASS representatives



The core activities of EQUASS representatives have been identified as:

- Identification of a potential EQUASS Local Licence Holder and information provision about EQUASS certification programmes, in particular EQUASS Assurance system

- Negotiation with the potential EQUASS Local Licence Holder with the view to sign an EQUASS Licence Agreement

- Carrying out a detailed market analysis of the local jurisdiction. The scope of the market survey would be the relevance and opportunities of implementation/dissemination of EQUASS

certifications in the jurisdiction.

- Undertaking initial lobbying and public relations actions. This involves individual discussions with public authorities and national stakeholders on the EQUASS products and activities as well as investigating the readiness of the sectoral key stakeholders to participate in a National Stakeholders Committee.

For 2008 CRPG in Portugal, Rehab Group in Ireland, Pluryn in the Netherlands and JG Gruppe in Germany have been identified as EQUASS representatives.

In Ireland and Portugal potential EQUASS Licence Holders have been identified and the

issue of EQUASS Licence Holder is discussed with these organisations.

The translation of EQUASS core documents will be available in Portuguese and Dutch at the end of the summer. It is expected that EQUASS Assurance documentation in German Language will be available by the end of 2008.

## Panagia Eleousa in Greece granted EQUASS Excellence

EQUASS Awarding Committee granted Panagia Eleousa with EQUASS Excellence Certification on 28 May 2008. Panagia Eleousa is the first Greek organisation that has achieved the prestigious level of certification and the first organisation which has its core business in the area of social rehabilitation. The or-

ganisation had been previously certified with 'Committed to EQRm' in November 2007.

Panagia Eleousa operates as a Rehabilitative Training, Social Rehabilitation and Daily Care Centre for People with special needs. Panagia Eleousa service was first established in Mesologgi in 1990 and the service is currently located in Mesologgi

and Agrinio. The Agrinio services were established in 2001. The majority of the service users in Mesologgi and Agrinio are persons with mental disability and other related disabilities over 15 years old.



**Panagia Eleousa in Greece**



**EPR on the web**

## EPR on-line: What's new on the website and the KMC

### EPR website

All login details for the members' section on the website have been encoded and are fully functional now. Please login to the website for downloading protected documents.

### New articles

- EPR Public Affairs Event in Brussels
- Relations between service pro-

viders and employers Seminar

- KMC Information Seminar in Malta
- Workshop for Directors in Malta

### New documents

- Newsletter July 2008
- E-bulletin June 2008
- New Funding Alerts

### Knowledge Management Centre

With regard to the Knowledge Management Centre's developments, ODC centre in Italy has been very active over the past months in inserting brand new templates on topics as Adult Rehabilitation Programmes, the Mosaic project, the inclusion and the training of youth and an e-commerce course.

## News from the Secretariat

### Farewell Martin, Welcome Simona!

After nearly 5 years of working as a Public Affairs Officer for EPR, Martin Ohridski left the Secretariat in order to take up a new challenge with the European Commission where he started as a civil servant on 1 July 2008: 'Leaving EPR was not a decision I took easily. Nevertheless, the opportunity to work for the European Commission was not one I could let pass by me and I am naturally excited about this new stage of my career. I heard someone once say that EPR is playing in the "Champions League", so in that case if I left it could only have been to join UEFA'.

Martin has been succeeded by Simona Giarratano who will work in the EPR on a full-time basis. Simona holds a Masters Degree in International Diplomatic Sciences

and has more than two years experience of working for European organisations and institutions in Brussels. Apart from her native Italian, Simona speaks English and French fluently and has a working knowledge of Spanish too. By sharing

EPR's overall mission and understanding our activities, she is motivated in driving our Public Affairs agenda forward, facilitating information management and exchange and in liaising between EPR and its members. Simona is reachable

at [simona.giarratano@epr.eu](mailto:simona.giarratano@epr.eu) and on the general EPR phone numbers. For a while after 1st of July she will also receive emails sent to [martin.ohridski@epr.eu](mailto:martin.ohridski@epr.eu).

EPR staff would like to express its entire gratitude to Martin for all his achievements and to wish him the best of luck in his future career!

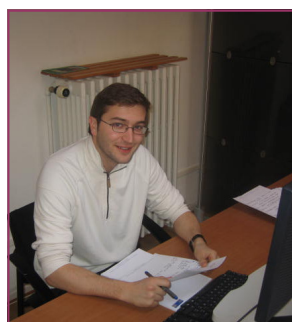
As for Simona, we wish her a warm welcome to EPR and a pleasant stay with us!



Martin successfully passed the Public Affairs portfolio to Simona

*I have thoroughly enjoyed every single day of my time with EPR during these years and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity you gave me to be part of your network. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege to cooperate with you and to work for your interests and needs (...) I am sure that all that I learned with EPR will serve me well wherever I go from here. So, a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU! (M. Ohridski)*

### Interns from the members



Lukas at his workplace in EPR secretariat

Following requests made by our members, EPR Secretariat in Brussels welcomes interns for short-term traineeships in our office.

**Lukas Küttner** joined the secretariat from mid-April to the end of May 2008 as a seconded trainee from Technischer Jugendfreizeit- und Bildungsverein (tjfbv) in Berlin. Lukas is 23 and he studies Business Administration in the Berlin School of Economics. During his time with EPR Lukas acquired a basic understanding of the key actors and policies in the social and disability field at European level by participating in several important events and in a series of bilateral meetings with relevant organisations. In addition, he re-

searched more in detail the EQUASS system and supported its promotion in Germany. He was also introduced to the fundamentals of project management and researched potential funding opportunities for the tjfbv.

**Roberto Madinelli** is 18 years old and comes from Opera Don Calabria in Italy, where he attends a languages and commerce school. He speaks French, English and Spanish in addition to his native Italian. Besides the physiotherapy activities, he also plays wheelchair basketball in ODC. Roberto has joined EPR for a 3 weeks internship and he will be providing assistance in office management duties, mainly by translating presentation mate-

rial and documents in the different languages that he speaks. After his high school graduation, Roberto is determined to continue his studies or to work abroad.



Roberto is eager to give a helping hand in the secretariat



## EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR REHABILITATION



The European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) is a network of leading European providers of rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. EPR's member organisations are influential in their countries and stand for high quality service delivery in the fields of vocational education and training, reintegration, medical rehabilitation and social care.

EPR assists its member organisations in achieving continuous professional improvement, best practice and competitiveness in every aspect of service delivery. Through its Public Affairs activities, EPR enables service providers to contribute to the formulation of European social policy, and facilitates access to EU funding.

Recognised as an important player on the European scene, the network receives structural funding under EU's Life-long Learning Programme. EPR has a seat on EU's High Level Group on Disability and has participatory status with the Council of Europe. EPR cooperates actively with all key sectoral stakeholders.

EPR on the web!

For regularly updated information on EPR and its activities, please check our website:

<http://www.epr.eu>

### Contact us:

Jan Spooren, General Secretary - [jan.spooren@epr.eu](mailto:jan.spooren@epr.eu)

Simona Giarratano, Public Affairs Officer - [simona.giarratano@epr.eu](mailto:simona.giarratano@epr.eu)

Nadège Jibassia, Project Coordinator - [nadege.jibassia@epr.eu](mailto:nadege.jibassia@epr.eu)

Eva Novacean, Communication Officer - [eva.novacean@epr.eu](mailto:eva.novacean@epr.eu)

Sarah De Roeck, Financial Administrator - [sarah.deroeck@epr.eu](mailto:sarah.deroeck@epr.eu)

Jana Kukuckova, EQUASS Coordinator - [jana.kukuckova@epr.eu](mailto:jana.kukuckova@epr.eu)

Guus van Beek, EQUASS Executive Manager - [equass@xs4all.nl](mailto:equass@xs4all.nl)

## EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR REHABILITATION

*The network of leading service providers to people with disabilities*

The EPR newsletter is issued three times a year.

Editor-in-Chief: Jan Spooren; Editor: Eva Novacean

EPR, Rue de Spa 15, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, tel: +32 2 736 54 44, fax: +32 2 736 86 22; website:

[www.epr.eu](http://www.epr.eu)