

epr newsletter

October 2004

Full members



Associate members



Editorial

Dear EPR members, we are pleased to present you with the October edition of the Newsletter.

The current weeks are intensive and important for the EPR as we are actually implementing for the first time the new strategy to concretise outputs from EPR membership (approved in May 2004). Jan Albers and Jan Spooren will have visited all full members by the end of October to discuss their strategic objectives, and how EPR could play a role in achieving these. These expectations and interests from EPR membership will be integrated in centre assessment reports, which serve as a basis to plan EPR activities for 2005. We hope that this individualised and demand-driven approach will indeed make a difference for the members in 2005.

Developing a work plan for 2005 is impossible without looking simultaneously at the EPR budget for next year.

[cont on next page]



Stefano Schena and Jan Spooren watched over by famous Rehab personalities at the last Board of Directors meeting in Dublin.

Inside

- Editorial, **page 1**
- Upcoming events, **2**
- News from the members, **3 & 4**
- Member in focus, **5**
- Public Affairs, General Seminar 2005, **6**
- EQRM, ERA, Project teams, **7**
- KMC, EPR website, **8**

EPR Newsletter is a publication of the European Platform for Rehabilitation. All rights reserved.

Rue de Spa 15 B-1000 Brussels, tel.: +32 2 736 54 44, fax: +32 2 736 86 22

www.epr.be, e-mail: martin.ohridski@epr.be

We welcome your questions, comments and contributions.

Although the EPR is a financially healthy organisation, the experience in 2004 has shown that the continuous expanding of activities (over the last three years) becomes rather difficult without having additional members or alternative revenues. Under the motto 'the network of members is stronger and more important than EPR structures', we will also investigate how the EPR could allocate more responsibilities for implementation of activities to its members (of course as far as this serves their interests).

Finally, we would like to use this editorial to draw your attention to the increasing involvement of the EPR in funded projects. This trend offers a lot of perspectives, but can also entail certain risks. Therefore, the Board of Directors approved last summer a set of procedures to control risks, and to ensure an effective involvement of the members.

On the one hand, EPR participates itself as European network in some large projects (for example, Leonardo da Vinci or 6th Research Framework Programme), and will involve its members for expertise. On the other hand, we see that the EPR members increasingly ask the EPR to participate as a partner in their own applications to enhance the European perspective and chances for success.

We wish all of you strength and enthusiasm in this last quarter of 2004 which is for everybody traditionally a very busy period, and we look forward to seeing many of you at our Conference "Quality Assurance in vocational training to people with disabilities: a European perspective" which will be organised on 16-17 December in Brussels.

The EPR secretariat

Upcoming EPR events October-December 2004

- ERA Learning Group: Strategies for Effective Life Management: working with families
Brussels, 21-22 October
- Executive Committee meeting
Brussels, 3 November
- ENSPER meeting
Brussels, 3 November
- EQRМ Assessors Training
Brussels, 17-18 November
- KMC meeting
Brussels, 22 November
- Coordinators meeting
Brussels, 23 November
- Academy Council meeting
Brussels, 30 November
- EQRМ Awarding Committee meeting
Brussels, 9 December
- ERA Assistive Technology Seminar
Dublin, 9-10 December
- Board of Directors meeting
Brussels, 15 December
- EPR Conference on Quality
Brussels, 16-17 December

News from the members

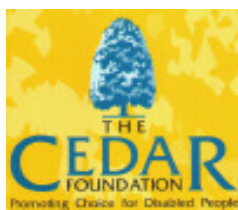


Heidelberg: University of Applied Sciences opens new “Science Tower”

On 4 October, the Heidelberg’s *University of Applied Sciences* opened the new building, located near the river Neckar banks and overlooking the entire region, with a big opening party. “We were very happy to get this building”, said the Major of Heidelberg, Beate Weber, “for the city of Heidelberg this is a very important event”.

The SRH group spent about 30 Million euro to offer its students a creative, challenging and motivating environment. It took 45 companies two and a half years to build the tower with its eleven floors, 30 seminar rooms which can be used interdisciplinary and a lecture theatre for 155 students. According to the SRH’s MD, Prof. Hekking, this new tower is supposed to symbolise dynamic, openness, internationality, innovation and creativity. Therefore, they decided to make the

building as transparent as possible, with huge glass windows and light and open offices. At present, more than 1200 students study 14 subjects at Heidelberg. As stated by the Minister of Science of the federal state Baden-Württemberg, Heidelberg’s *University of Applied Sciences* has gained an excellent reputation far across the region.



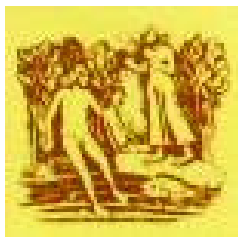
Making a Positive Difference with the Cedar Foundation

The Cedar Foundation’s User Forum re-launched itself at its annual conference held in the Glenavna Hotel, Newtownabbey; last week. Attendees heard about the many changes and improvements that have taken place over the last 12 months that have made the new User Forum bigger and better than before.

But what exactly is The Cedar Foundation User Forum? It’s a dynamic group of people who have physical disabilities and/or brain injury who use the services of The Cedar Foundation, an organisation that works in partnership with people with physical disability in Northern Ireland. After last year’s conference at the Glenavna Hotel new enthusiasm was breathed into The Forum, with new committee members signing up and new ideas being introduced. The User Forum adopted the very appropriate slogan “Making a Positive Difference” and that’s exactly what they have been doing over the last year. Niall Irwin, Chair of The User Forum explains more: “As a group we want to help and guide people with physical disability and their families who ask for advice and offer somewhere for people to turn too to help them answer their questions. Our vision is to be a User Forum that is realistic and focussed about how we can make a positive difference to The Cedar Foundation, its Users and Members and that’s exactly what we have been achieving and will be continuing to achieve”.

Anne Ashe, Secretary of The User Forum, went on to highlight the achievements of The User Forum in just the last 6 months: “We finished training in March and since then we have accomplished a lot, completely down to teamwork. We have our own newsletter “Inform”, promotional literature and business cards. We are on the web, in the generic Cedar Foundation leaflet and have even been in the Belfast Telegraph. We have helped out at the Independent Living Exhibition at The Odyssey, manning the stand, and we have collected on recent Flag Days. A series of information sessions for Cedar Foundation staff on what The User Forum is have been held and we are enjoying social events such as the Charity BBQ in June”.

News from Opera don Calabria



New Sports Centre opened

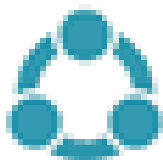
August 2004: the new ODC Sports Centre in Verona was opened. A large set of sport courses and rehabilitation services are offered both in the swimming pools and in the gymnasiums. The official opening of the Sports Centre took place on 9th October 2004, celebrating the anniversary of the death of the founder, don Giovanni Calabria. On the same day a new important building was officially added to the global project of the Opera don Calabria: the second part of the medical rehabilitation centre was officially given to the management of the centre.

“Dopo di noi” (After of us) Foundation established

In September, Opera don Calabria formally founded the Foundation “Dopo di noi” (After of us). The main objectives of the Foundation are to help adults with disabilities that need residential care and assistance and to give respite to their families, with special attention to those in poverty.

Research

Two research studies in the field of disability management are currently conducted by ODC, in cooperation with the Catholic University of Sacred Heart of Rome and the Sapienza University of Rome.



REHABCARE

RehabCare launches Annual RehabCare Bear Week

On 11th of October 2004 RehabCare, launched the annual RehabCare Bear Week which aims to raise €1.3 million over three years for the development of its services throughout the country. As part of the fundraising week, which runs from 11th-16th October 2004, the RehabCare Bear emblem will be on sale from local

volunteers

throughout the country at a cost of just €2 each. The campaign is sponsored by ESB Customer Supply.

RehabCare, the health and social care division of the Rehab Group, delivers a wide range of health and social care services in communities across Ireland for people with disabilities, their families and carers, and those who are marginalised. Each year more than 2,800 people avail of these services, which include Respite Care, Resource Centre Services, Sheltered Workshops, Supported Accommodation, Home Support and Home Based Respite, together with specific supports for people with autism. Speaking at the launch, Dr. Senan Mullins, Chief Executive, Rehab Foundation, said: “The RehabCare Bear Week is extremely important because the money raised will go towards further extending and developing RehabCare’s centre-based respite care and resource centre services in locations throughout Ireland. These services offer essential support to people with disabilities and their families. They not only provide people with opportunities for development, but also enable carers to take a break from full-time caring and provide many people with disabilities with the only opportunity they have to take a holiday.”



Member in focus: Josefs Gesellschaft e. V.

This year, *Josefs-Gesellschaft e.V.* celebrates its 100th Anniversary. The CEO of the organisation - Dr Fritz Krueger – joined us for an interview at his special period his organisation.



1. Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of Josefs-Gesellschaft e.V. It is not only a historic milestone but a real achievement that your organisation has been offering rehabilitation facilities and services for disabled people for so long. Could you tell us something about special events JG organises in 2004 to celebrate its Anniversary?

It's a proud moment for us to celebrate our 100th anniversary. Thank you very much indeed for your congratulations. In 2004 we

organise a lot of special events. In May we hosted the General Seminar of EPR in Cologne and you probably remember the speeches of Prof. Graf and Mr. Meyer about ethics in rehabilitation and technical assistance. On 12 September more than 130 runners and hand bikers of Josefs-Gesellschaft did the Cologne Marathon and joined a big party at night. On 15 September the main event was the anniversary at our "place of birth" in Bigge. On 16 October there is the "Rhine-Festival" for disabled people. "We should make hay while the sun shines". 650 people are invited to participate in this event with some popular bands. Finally, at the end of November, there is the General Seminar for our staff. The title is: *JG between tradition and innovation*.

2. Which in your opinion are the most important benefits and opportunities to JG from membership in the EPR?

The main point is – as I've learned from Jan Albers – to learn from each other and to prepare the Josefs-Gesellschaft for the European dimension of social services; to influence the shaping of framework conditions for further development of the social sector in Europe; to cooperate "via Rue de Spa" with all relevant authorities in Europe and the different countries; and to reaffirm or commitment to quality by obtaining the European Quality in Rehabilitation Mark (EQRM).

3. How familiar would you say JG's employees are with EPR? How do you disseminate information about EPR?

The internal dissemination about EPR is not so good yet, I'm not really satisfied. In this context, it was a good idea to schedule the centre visit which gave us the chance to discuss the benefits and opportunities from EPR membership with Jan Albers.

4. JG has shown its interest in the European Quality in Rehabilitation Mark (EQRM). Josefsheim Bigge is currently running an Initiation Programme and two more JG centers will follow next year. How important is excellence in rehabilitation service provision to JG?

Our philosophy is to be one of the best providers in rehabilitation services and EPR can help to keep at this level.

5. The rehabilitation sector in a number of European countries is facing serious budgetary cuts, is Germany – and hence Josefs-Gesellschaft e.V. – also affected by such developments?

The cut of budgets is a problem in Germany too, but we did not oversleep the problems and with great foresight we are prepared to accept the challenge for the next years.

6. Are there significant differences with regard to service provision to disabled people between Western and Eastern Germany?

I don't think so, in rehabilitation we have grown together since reunification.

7. Unemployment in Germany stands at around 10% today. Has this relatively high rate made it more difficult for you to integrate disabled people in the open labour market?

Our integration rate depends on the quality of vocational rehabilitation. On the German labour market a disabled person must be twice as good as a "normal" worker.

8. Apart from being a full member in the EPR, Josefs-Gesellschaft e.V. is also a member of the Brüsseler Kreis. Do you as a speaker of Brüsseler Kreis think there could be opportunities for potential cooperation between the two networks?

The latest discussions in the Brussels Circle give rise to such hopes. I think a real cooperation would be very useful. Incidentally, I'm not the speaker anymore. The speaker now is Christian Tölken and his deputy is Dieter Czogalla.

Thank you for your time and all the best.

Public Affairs



ENSPER responds to Commission's Green Paper on anti-discrimination

In June the European Commission published a Green Paper on *Equality and non-discrimination in an enlarged European Union*

ENSPER participated in this important consultation process by not only filling in the relevant questionnaire but also by submitting a written contribution on behalf of EPR, Workability Europe and Rehabilitation International. The ENSPER response addresses eight key issues which service providers would like to see tackled by Europe's anti-discrimination policy makers. In this way, the document effectively represents ENSPER's Public Affairs agenda for the near future.

The ENSPER position paper is available at www.ensper.org ; click on documents.



EPR at the Rehabilitation International Congress

Rehabilitation International (RI) Norway hosted the 20th World Congress of RI in Oslo, between 21-24 June 2004. The World Congress is held every fourth year in countries around the globe. The EPR made an important contribution to this prestigious event by chairing a half-day session on the topic '*The role of rehabilitation in an inclusive society*'. In relation to this topic, Jan Spooren, Donal McAnaney, Guus van Beek and Frans Nijhuis delivered speeches and/or presented EPR services and products.



Jan Albers and Martin Ohridski at the EPR info-stand in Oslo.

EPR Newsletter is a publication of the European Platform for Rehabilitation. All rights reserved.

Rue de Spa 15 B-1000 Brussels, Belgium, tel.: +32 2 736 54 44, fax: +32 2 736 86 22

www.epr.be, e-mail: martin.ohridski@epr.be

We welcome your questions, comments and contributions.

General Seminar 2005

It has now been decided that RehabCare will host the General Seminar 2005. The General Seminar will take place on the 12th and 13th of May (half day) 2005.

The title of the Seminar is at this stage conceived as "*Rehabilitation - An Excellent Economic Investment!*" This theme is also in line with the European social agenda.

The first day is foreseen as a public event addressing, in addition to the EPR participants, a wider (mainly) Irish international audience. The event will offer an opportunity to promote both EPR and RehabCare. It was agreed that RehabCare will charge a registration fee to external participants.

RehabCare will soon develop the draft programme of General Seminar in consultation with the EPR secretariat. All Board members are invited to propose some speakers (from their country) in order to get an international orientation of the conference. The draft programme will be discussed with the centre coordinators at the meeting on 23 November in order to obtain their inputs on the programme, concept, formats and practical arrangements. The final programme will be submitted to the Board of Directors in December.

More information on the General Seminar will be available in next edition of the Newsletter.

EQRM



The EPR would like to once again extend its invitation to the Conference "*Quality Assurance in vocational training to people with disabilities: a European perspective*" to those of you who for one or another reason have still not learned about this event.

The Conference is organised in the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme and will take place on the **16th and 17th of December 2004 in Brussels.**

The overall objective of the event is to identify, analyse and exchange "good practice" in quality management with the view to promoting, controlling and improving quality of public and private Vocational Education and Training (VET) provision. The Conference is organised as a two-day event, divided into four sessions.

Session 1 introduces the participants to different models and systems related to quality in vocational training and thus sets the framework of the Conference. The session presents the views of the main stakeholders and analyses the specificities of vocational training services to people with disabilities also describing the main challenges in the New Member States.

Session 2 features the Awarding Event of the European Quality in Rehabilitation Mark (EQRM).

In **Session 3** professionals from vocational training centres demonstrate how various theories and various aspects of quality are implemented in the regular activities of a provider of vocational training services. In a parallel

In **Session 4**, national bodies for accreditation of *Quality in vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities* meet in a workshop to discuss approaches for future cooperation and exchange.

The full programme and registration form are available at

For logistical reasons, we would like to ask those of you who have not yet registered to do as soon as possible by [faxing](#) your registration form to **+32.2.7368622**; OR [emailing](#) it to: nadege.jibassia@epr.be OR [posting it to Rue de Spa 15, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium](#)

EPR looks forward to welcoming you in Brussels!

European Rehabilitation Academy

EPR is happy to report that the European Rehabilitation Academy (ERA) continues its progress. The Academy conducted five courses over the past nine months and three more are scheduled till the end of the year. The general feedback received has been very encouraging: the courses address key needs of rehabilitation professionals; trainers and speakers are excellent; facilities and organisation are first-rate; and the number of participants is on the rise.

Seeing the good results achieved, the Academy Council has decided to maintain the demand-driven approach of ERA and to integrate it into the Centre Action Plans from 2005 onwards.

In order to offer an even better service, the secretariat kindly reminds participants to take a minute to fill in and submit the evaluation forms.

Project Teams

The project team on **Initial Job Retention** - which seeks to develop instruments to increase the initial job retention rate of people with disabilities into the open labour market, and enhance sustainable employment for disabled people - met in October in Brussels.

The objective of the project team at this stage is to finalise the development of instruments to enhance the service-user's ownership on the job by the end of 2004. The team intends to submit to the Board of Directors on 15 December a menu of training modules for service-users as well as the learning objectives and format of a learning group for staff that could be organised in the framework of ERA.

Knowledge Management Centre

When this project was launched last year, the involvement and commitment of EPR members was identified as a critical success factor. At this stage the KMC appears to be a success and the “KMC family” continued to expand during this summer welcoming a growing number of EPR centres. We are delighted to note that there is a good involvement not only from full members, but also from associate members.

The last KMC meeting for this year will take place on the 22nd November in Brussels. It will conclude the testing phase of the project, after which the KMC administrators will promote it in their centres and encourage professionals to use it. For a flavour of the KMC visit <http://www.epr.be/members/KMC.htm>

EPR website: what's new?



- **General Seminar 2005**

The next General Seminar will be hosted by RehabCare in Ireland. The title, dates and place can be found under the section “General Seminar” at the following link: <http://www.epr.be/members/gs.htm>

- **EQRM**

The EQRM organises Assessors’ training on the 17-18 November 2004 and on the 2nd and 3rd May 2005. Information on these trainings as well as the registration forms can be downloaded from the EQRM section: http://www.epr.be/members/MainActivitiesNew/call_for_assessors.htm

- **EPR Conference “Quality Assurance in vocational training to people with disabilities: A European perspective” on (16-17 December 2004, Brussels)**

It is still possible to register to attend this conference organised by EPR. The registration form and invitation can be downloaded from <http://www.epr.be/members/quality%20conference.htm>

