

EPR and Workability Europe organise successful Training Seminar on Funding Opportunities

On 1 March 2007 EPR and Workability Europe jointly organised a full day Training Seminar entitled *A New Cycle of Funding Opportunities for the Disability Sector (2007-2013)*. The event took place in the pleasant atmosphere of Leopold Hotel in Brussels.

The new financial framework of the EU recently entered into force opening up a fresh generation of funding opportunities that will cover the period between 2007-2013. They have replaced the previous cycle of funding programmes, and will offer to the disability sector another wide range of opportunities to finance training, development and dissemination activities at both national and European level.

In this respect, the Seminar was a timely occasion to acquire an insight into the new streams of funding that will soon be available for the disability sector, and to understand how an organisation might benefit from them.

The Seminar - which was also held last year under a slightly different format - was again well attended attracting 24 persons from 14 European countries. Participants came from member organisations of the EPR and the Workability Europe (WE) networks as well as from external organisations.



The trainer of the Seminar was Jan Dröge - a top consultant in the field of funding opportunities. He was assisted by Jan Spooren, EPR General Secretary and Martin Ohriski, EPR/WE Public Affairs Officer, who contributed with their specific experience and knowledge of the disability sector.

Overall, the Seminar balanced professional expertise with theoretical and practical approaches, allowing participants to become familiar with:

- The main upcoming funding opportunities under different programmes such as PROGRESS, the ESF and the Lifelong Learning and 7th Research Framework, including the specific actions and activities they can fund
- The application procedures for each funding programme as well as the framework for implementation and reporting
- Evaluating budgets and financial reports
- Strategies to transform a project idea into the a decision to submit a project proposal, and tools for proposal writing
- Best practice in partner search and partnership-building
- Project implementation and project management

“EU Funding is today driven mainly by the Lisbon Strategy for growth & jobs. The solidarity element is only secondary.”

Jan Dröge, the trainer

The specific funding related services which EPR and WE offer to their members such as funding alerts, search for partners, advice and training, were also described. A Training Pack was given to participants.

Judging from the evaluation forms collected, the Funding Seminar was very well received, scoring about 8 out of 10.



“The trainer was great! His presentations were clear and I found his practical examples very helpful. He also welcomed questions and this created a positive atmosphere.”

A participant



“The Seminar offered a good mix of information giving and practical exercises.”

A participant

For more information on the Seminar or to request the training materials contact Martin Ohridski at martin.ohridski@epr.be