



Workability Europe e-bulletin

July 2006

Championing the right to work of Europeans with disabilities

Workability Europe, Rue de Spa 15, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 235 66 64, Fax: +32 2 736 8622, Website: www.workability-europe.org
Emails: secretary@workability-europe.org and publicaffairs@workability-europe.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	page 1
News from the Secretariat	2
Past events	4
Upcoming events	5
News from the Four Strategic Pillars	7
News from the members	7
Calendar of events 2006	9

EDITORIAL

Dear Members of Workability Europe,

In this summer edition of our e-bulletin we want to give you a quick update on activities and developments in our network before you jet off on well deserved holidays (or just come back from them).

A central priority for us in the coming months is the design of our New Strategic Plan 2007-10. During our Annual Conference 2006 in Amsterdam, delegates gave their strong contribution to shaping Workability Europe's further development.

The process we intend to follow now is the following: First, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations members expressed at our Annual Conference, we will draft an outline of the Plan. This draft will then be circulated to all members for comments. The feedback received will be taken into account and the Plan will be presented to the Board of Directors in November. Once Board members give their opinion, the Plan will be again circulated to members and put for final approval at our Annual General Meeting in May 2007.

For us the development of the New Strategic Plan is much more than a mere formality – the Plan will form the basis of our work for the next few years; it will be a roadmap against which our successes will be judged.

Let me say just a few more words on a couple of areas of work.

In Public Affairs, a very interesting recent development has been the gathering of European NGO networks of social service providers around the table to exchange views and to coordinate their work on the future of social service provision in Europe. Several internal meetings have been held and even joint lobby actions have been undertaken. Workability Europe welcomes this development of organisations coming together on a broad basis as sometimes a disability-specific approach is required and sometimes lobby coalitions need to be broader. This movement, be it informal, has the potential of growing into something quite influential, so it is important for Workability Europe to continue to be part of it and to promote its positions.

On the B2B side of work, as previously announced, we are in the process of setting up a separate legal entity next to Workability Europe which will handle the transactions and agreements resulting from our commercial activities with multinational companies. Meanwhile, the implementation at member country level of the signed agreements with the large hardware and software vendors are progressing well, and should be operational in all countries shortly.

Other main activities and events to look forward to in the months until the end of the year include the Workability International Annual Conference in Washington DC in September, linked to a Workability Europe Board Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

In October Lux-Tex, together with Workability Europe hosts a National Conference in Budapest. Both Pillar II and Pillar III will hold meetings in the margins of this Conference maximising use of their time in Hungary.

Read on to learn about the rest!

All good wishes,

Bertie Hunt
General Secretary, Workability Europe

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Questionnaire on Data from the Members

As you would recall, a unanimous demand expressed at this year's Workability Europe Annual Conference, was to have available more information on the individual member organisations of Workability Europe. Such information, it was suggested, would include the areas of activity of the members, their services, target groups, business interests, etc. Thus, (1) members would get to know each other better which would facilitate their cooperation and (2) WE would acquire a better idea of its representativity.

Workability Europe is following up on its commitment to compile and make available such data. In this respect, a questionnaire was circulated to the members at the end of May and a reminder on 20 June. The questionnaire is short and simple, so it does not take longer than 30 min to fill in if you know your organisation well. In order to acquire as representative data as possible, all members are requested to try and fill in the questionnaire as fully as possible.

However, we still have not received the questionnaire from several members. **Therefore, we request you if you still have not returned the questionnaire to do so at your earliest. If you do not have the questionnaire template, you can request it from publicaffairs@workability-europe.org**. The filled in questionnaire should also be returned to this email address.

When all questionnaires are returned, we will edit and post them on the WE website members' section (to be created) for reference. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and remain ready to answer any questions that you might have.

Workability Europe meets Bulgarian social NGOs

On 1 and 2 June 2006 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the Social Platform - of which Workability Europe is a member - organised a Joint Meeting with Bulgarian Civil Society. About 10 European NGO social networks participated on behalf of the Social Platform.

The Joint Meeting was organised in the form of a Seminar, with parallel workshops and bilateral meetings in the margins. The visit of the Social Platform generated huge interest among Bulgarian NGOs attracting over 40 associations working with various target groups in the social field.

The main aims of the visit included: to provide members of the Social Platform a basis for future cooperation with NGOs from Bulgaria; to exchange experiences and best practices between EU and national social NGOs; to raise awareness about and understanding of EU NGO networks and to raise awareness and understanding about European social policies among NGOs.

Martin Ohridski, Public Affairs Officer, represented Workability Europe also chairing and facilitating one of the parallel workshops on *Social services and the role of the civil society organisations in the provision of community based services*

During the visit to Sofia, Workability Europe held several bilateral meetings with representatives of Bulgarian NGO social service providers. Workability Europe presented its activities and initiatives at European level and investigated the possibility of attracting a member organisation from Bulgaria. As a result of the meetings, **two Bulgarian NGOs service providers/employers of people with disabilities confirmed their wish to join the network**. One application for membership has been received and will be placed on the agenda of the WE Board in September. Another application is pending. More news on the potential new member(s) will be published in the next e-bulletin.

Call for good practices in mainstreaming disability

The CEP-CMAF Disability Group – a partner structure of Workability Europe – is issuing a **Practical Guide on Mainstreaming Disability** and has approached Workability Europe with a request to contribute to this guide.

The Practical Guide will include guidelines, tips and examples of good practice on how social enterprises and other businesses can successfully integrate people with disabilities in their organisations and activities. The main idea is to show that, although for some groups of disabled people it is quite difficult or even impossible to achieve full integration, organisations can often help by using the mainstreaming approach.

The **areas included in the practical guidelines**, CEP-CMAF is looking for examples of good practice are the following:- employment; education and training; products and services; health care; leisure time; access and accessibility; access to finance; information and awareness-raising, involvement and participation of stakeholders and relationship with partners. The publishers would also like to devote a specific section to multiple discrimination and are looking for ways to tackle multiple discrimination faced by disabled people and examples of good practice in this area.

Apart from contributing to the work of a partner structure, **your contributions will be published in the Guide thus offering you the opportunity to give visibility and promote the work done by your organisations.** The Guide will be widely disseminated at European level.

In this respect, Workability Europe members who would like to share their relevant good practices are requested to send them to publicaffairs@workability-europe.org There is no pre-determined format for the contributions.

PAST EVENTS*

Workability Europe Annual Conference 2006

Workability Europe held a successful Annual Conference from 9 to 11 May 2006 under the banner ***Beyond 2006: Building Workability Europe's Future Together***. The event took place in the area of wider Amsterdam, the Netherlands and was co-hosted by WE Dutch members Cedris and Amfors Group.

This year's Annual Conference was very well attended, attracting over 60 participants from all over Europe. In fact, every single country from the nearly 20 countries represented in the WE network, participated with at least one delegate.

During three busy days delegates discussed and debated the WE future and gave their strong contribution to shaping the next Strategic Plan of the organisation for the period 2007-10.

* Includes WE events outside the framework of specific Pillar Group Meetings.

Over the two main Conference days, insightful presentations were given in plenary by a selection of speakers, invaluable work was done in each of the Breakout Groups and interesting debates unfolded. At the same time, there was plenty of opportunity for social networking at the reception, during meals and coffee breaks, etc. A number of business meetings also took place in the margins of the Conference. No doubt, the 'one-stop-shop' formula of the Conference combining all functions and meetings at the same place, enabled participants to make the most of their time in Amsterdam.

The Conference evaluation forms collected suggest a good overall level of satisfaction with all aspects of the Conference. Crucially, every single delegate thought that the event 'rather achieved' its objectives of laying the foundations of the next WE Strategic Plan.

Log on to http://www.workability-europe.org/europe_events.html where you can find:

- Conference programme
- Conference report
- Participants list
- Breakout Groups: questions and composition
- Pictures
- Feedback from evaluations

UPCOMING EVENTS*

Social Service Providers organise Seminar

Workability Europe, together with several European NGO networks of social service providers, organises a Seminar on the theme **NGO social service providers as actors for social cohesion and inclusion** on 25 September 2006 in Brussels.

The background to this event is that over the past few months, European social service providers have been gathering around the table in an informal way to coordinate the work on the future of social service provision in Europe. Through these meetings, it became clear that all social service provision networks are involved in similar debates about the future of social service provision in Europe, that they face similar challenges and share concerns about developments in the sector.

Therefore, we plan to organise a series of activities throughout 2006 and 2007. The kick off will be this Seminar which aims to bring together European networks of social service providers to discuss their role in future services provision and for social cohesion in Europe. The main themes to be discussed are social service provision in Europe: challenges, opportunities and concerns and the role of social service providers in relation to social cohesion and social inclusion

Workability Europe can offer (for free) its members a couple of places at this Seminar, so if you would like to attend send an email to publicaffairs@workability-europe.org to register and to receive the full invitation and programme.

* Includes WE events outside the framework of specific Pillar Group Meetings.

Parliament event to promote sheltered workshops as a way of social integration of people with disabilities

As announced at the WE Annual Conference, the German partner BAG:WfbM and the French partner FEGAPEI, together with Workability Europe, launched an initiative to **promote sheltered workshops as a way of social integration of people with disabilities**. Originally, it was planned to hold a session on the subject at a meeting of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup. Although we were informed that this has not been considered a priority for the Intergroup's programme, the Intergroup has nevertheless suggested to submit a proposal to hold a reception/exhibition on sheltered workshops at the European Parliament.

The main aims of such an event would be to

- > demonstrate the value of sheltered workshops as units for personal development
- > showcase best practices in sheltered employment
- > promote quality of services highlighting the economic value of sheltered workshops

Based on an enquiry sent out, a number of organisations have already indicated their wish to participate and contribute to this event. The preferred date for the event is March-April 2007. We will keep you updated on our plans.

Workability Europe Annual Conference 2007 – book the dates in your agendas

Further to the decision taken to organise next year's Annual Conference in Germany our member BAG:WfbM publishes the following update:

Dear friends,

In the framework of the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All" in 2007 our federal association BAG:WfbM, together with Workability Europe, decided to organise the Workability Europe Annual Conference in Cologne. The overall aim is to raise the awareness to integrate the most vulnerable persons into our societies: persons with multiple and severe disabilities.

On the occasion of the German Presidency of the EU, BAG:WfbM as host organisation will organise a three day Conference from 23 to 25 May 2007 in Cologne to discuss equal opportunities towards the open labour market for all. The Conference is supported by all national associations of the German welfare work. A detailed programme will be sent to you after the summer break.

We would be delighted to welcome you at this Conference, so please fix already the dates in your agendas: **Workability Europe Annual Conference: 23 to 25 May 2007 in Cologne, Germany**

Kind regards from Germany.

Thomas Umsonst
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Werkstätten für behinderte Menschen e. V.
Sonnemannstraße 5, 60314 Frankfurt a. M, Germany
Tel.: +49 69 94 33 94 18; Fax: +49 69 94 33 94 25
Email: t.umsonst@bagwfbm.de ; Website: www.bagwfbm.de

NEWS FROM THE FOUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

All four Strategic Pillars have been very active in the past months. In this edition of the e-bulletin we do not provide you with individual reports on the different Pillars Groups but would like to invite you to download the *Workability Europe Strategic Pillars: Summary Report of Activities (April 2005 - April 2006)* available at http://www.workability-europe.org/europe_strategy.html

In the autumn edition of the e-bulletin you will receive a comprehensive update on the work going on in the Pillar Groups.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Shaw Trust meets Secretaries of State

Shaw Trust notched up a rare one-two when it entertained not one, but two Secretaries of State in a single day! Tuesday, 4 July 2006 saw Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt making the keynote speech at a consultation event co-hosted by Shaw Trust in Tower Hamlets. Meanwhile, just up the road in Stratford, Welfare and Pensions Secretary John Hutton visited Shaw Trust's offices to announce the official release of the Government's Welfare Reform Bill. After talking to the press, Mr Hutton stayed to talk to staff and clients. The Bill, which promises the national roll-out of the successful Pathways To Work Scheme, will now be passing through Parliament and will hopefully become law early next year.

News from: julian.burnell@shaw-trust.org.uk

FAB-Sheltered workshop celebrated 40th Anniversary in Linz

The date of birth 1966 marked the beginning of an evolution, which has been forming everlasting social policy in Upper Austria. This innovative facility first offered persons with impairments a chance to achieve fully social integration by means of regular occupation.

The model of "sheltered workshop" prove one's worth not only in the social area, but also in the economic domain. A continuous trust of the companies has been established by means of quality and delivery reliability, which is a leading principle of FAB-sheltered workshops' approach. Nowadays, FAB is a potent partner-company for flexible solutions of outsourcing for a lot of famous enterprises.

The Anniversary celebration was accompanied by a press-conference, statements of top representatives of the regional government and economy, an information-fair and the presentations of the nine different sites.

News from: josef.stockinger@bbrz-gruppe.at

Agreement signed between Icelandic partners

Recently a special agreement between Hlutverk and the Icelandic Labour Union was signed. The Grétar Þorsteinsson, President of the Labour Union and Kristján Valdimarsson, Chairman of Hlutverk signed the document.

News from: kvald@smfr.is

News from Fundosa Group

Mr Alberto Durán, new President of the ONCE Foundation

On 31 May 2006, Mr Alberto Durán was named President of the ONCE Foundation for Cooperation and Social Integration of People with Disabilities by the ONCE Board. He was born in El Ferrol (A Coruña) and is 37 years old. He began his career in Fundosa Group, as analyst of new projects of business participation and coordinating projects of external consultancy. In 2002 was named general manager of the ONCE Foundation. From 2003, he was Vice President of the ONCE Foundation. Moreover, he has been member of WE Board and currently, he is member of the CSR Group created by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

“EL RASCA” game launched by ONCE

A new game has been launched by ONCE, “El Rasca”. It is an instant ticket lottery where the client has to “scratch” one part of the ticket and discover his luck. It presents 7 levels of award, from 0,50 € to 3.000 €. A sales forecast of 152 million of euro this year, it will contribute to make sure the social objective of this organisation: education, training, employment and general assistance for people with disabilities. This game has had a warm reception - in 15 days, 60 million of tickets have been sold.

News from: mramos.fundosa@fundaciononce.es

Non-executive Directors appointed to Remploy

Remploy, the UK’s leading provider of employment opportunities for disabled people, announces the appointment of two new non-executive directors.

Joe Mann MBE and Ian Thornley have been appointed for an initial three year period and replace non-executive directors Anna Vinton, who left in January, and Alan Tuffin, who is due to leave at the end of his tenure on 30 June 2006. Joe Mann MBE is a National Secretary of Community, The Union for Life. Having contracted polio as a child, Joe is himself disabled and has spent the last 10 years campaigning for full civil rights for disabled people at all levels including government and parliament. He was General Secretary of the National League of The Blind and Disabled from 1995-2000, during which time he was appointed to the Government’s Disability Rights Task Force. Since 1997, he has been a member of the Labour Party National Policy Forum, and since 2003 a member of the Labour Party National Executive Committee. Joe is also a member of the Executive Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

Workability Europe e-bulletin July 2006

Chartered accountant Ian Thornley joined Northwest Airlines in 1992, holding a number of senior management posts with responsibility for operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He joined a US quoted support services business in 1998 as Corporate Development Director before being appointed Managing Director of Right4Staff Ltd, one of its UK subsidiaries. Ian led a management buy-out of Right4Staff in 2002, serving as its CEO until October 2005.

News from: shiona.williams@remploy.co.uk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006*

Date	Event	Location	Contact person
29 August	Pillar IV: Routes to Employment & Best Practice tele-conference	N/A	Leif Alm leif.alm@samhall.se
6 September	WE Board Meeting	Washington DC, USA	Bertie Hunt secretary@workability-europe.org
7 September	WE Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)	Washington DC, USA	Bertie Hunt secretary@workability-europe.org
6, 7 & 8 September	WI Annual Conference	Washington DC, USA	Alain Rialland workability.international@wanadoo.fr
9 October	Pillar III: Communications & Networking meeting	Budapest, Hungary	François Kuentz fegapei.kuentz@wanadoo.fr Mark Daymond daymond@coachhousebox.freeserve.co.uk
10 October	Pillar II: Enlargement meeting	Budapest, Hungary	Tim Papé sally.clark@shaw-trust.org.uk
10 & 11 October	Lux-Tex & WE Conference	Budapest, Hungary	Tim Papé sally.clark@shaw-trust.org.uk Zoltán Bodnár bodnar.zoltan@luxtex.hu
13 November	WE Board Meeting	Belfast, Northern Ireland	Bertie Hunt secretary@workability-europe.org

✚ List of events as known at the moment. Other events may be added and will be advised. Always confirm dates and location with the Pillar Chair(s) and/or secretariat prior to attending.

Editorial note:

This E-bulletin is issued three times a year exclusively to Workability Europe members. Readers are invited to reproduce the information provided the source is quoted.

Editors: Bertie Hunt (General Secretary) and Martin Ohrdski (Public Affairs Officer). We welcome your questions, comments and contributions.

Address: Workability Europe, Rue de Spa 15, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium; Tel: +32 2 235 66 64; Fax: +32 2 736 8622

Website: www.workability-europe.org **E-mails:** publicaffairs@workability-europe.org and secretary@workability-europe.org