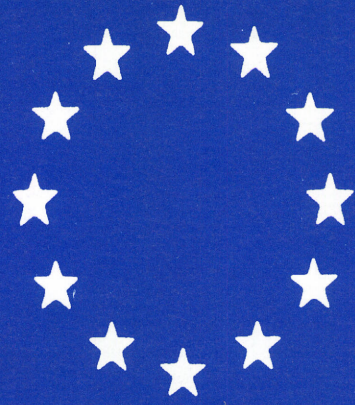


helios



1990
N° 4 - 2nd YEAR

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
PROGRAMME FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

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It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of addressing all of you - and there are many of you - who are interested in the problems of disabled people. As the Member of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibilities for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, one of my major concerns centres on all those among my fellow citizens who are disadvantaged and marginalised, as disabled people unfortunately so often are. Their integration in the education system, in the working world and in social life, is far from being achieved and is being hampered by obstacles of a psychological and material order.

That is why the Commission, in implementing the HELIOS programme, is contributing, on the one hand, to the development of a policy based on the best experiments and the best results obtained in the twelve Member States of the Community. On the other hand, the Commission is setting up a computerized information service, accessible in the Community's nine languages, relating to the various fields which are of major interest for disabled persons.

Implementation of the four-year programme is at present at mid-term and it is perhaps too early to draw any final conclusions from it.

Nevertheless, the lessons already provided by seminars, conferences, study visits and training courses are enabling us to draw increasingly specific guidelines about the activities which should be pursued. The results of the work already undertaken must therefore not only be analyzed, but lead to successive adjustments enabling us to define more effectively the activities we have yet to pursue.

The experience derived from the national pilot activities, grouped within the various European networks, provides vital material for the establishment of increased coordination and coherence of the measures set in hand by the Member States.

The Commission has launched a number of initiatives by putting before the Council a report on the employment situation among disabled persons and a proposal aimed at improved use of new technologies to solve a number of fundamental problems relating to information. Furthermore, the Commission intends to put before the Council before the end of the year a proposal for a Directive to improve the travel conditions of workers with motor disabilities.

In October 1987, the European Parliament stressed the importance of that initiative, pointing out that such an improvement was



an essential prerequisite for vocational training and employment.

These measures are essential if disabled workers are to occupy the place to which they are entitled in the single market after 1992. They are a way of acknowledging that disabled people have an important contribution to make; all doors should open to them. Non-government organizations representing the interests of disabled people have a vital role to play in this field.

Disabled persons must likewise have access to education and obtain the right to vocational training enabling them to find employment. In a climate of growing prosperity, we must ensure the availability of the resources needed to improve the quality of life of those whose disability is such that they are unable to work. Thanks to these measures the disabled are able to assume responsibility for themselves and the whole Community

will transform itself into a society which is more open and more caring; disabled persons will be seen as fully-fledged partners in such a society. The vision of a social Europe, in which disabled persons will be regarded by all as equal partners, can be implemented only by stages. One of these - and it is a far from negligible one - is that of making people more aware of the problems of disabled persons and the objective informing of the general public by such means as this brochure or the media in order to change people's attitudes to the ability of disabled persons to contribute to a better and more human world.

Vasso PAPANDREOU

Independent Living Awards: the beginning of an adventure!

In the last issue we looked at the lead-up to the first HELIOS Independent Living Awards, which were presented in Brussels in December 1989. Here we speak to some of the winners.

A world that is accessible to everyone, no matter how able or disabled - could this really happen? The winners of the first HELIOS Independent Living Awards need no convincing. The awards are not just about promoting examples of good practice, they are about giving more and more disabled people the choice to lead independent lives. "The awards will harness the experience and apply it for the benefit of society", said Mr Wycliffe Noble, chairman of the jury. "They show that there is not just one different answer but a variety of excellent propositions... They demonstrate the adventure has just begun."

The awards were presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana of the Netherlands on 8 December 1989 as part of the exhibition and conference "Independent Living for Disabled Persons" (report on page 7). Mrs Papandreou, member of the Commission, Mr Gommers, director, Mr Wehrens, head of division (DGV) and members of the jury were present. The 29 winners were selected from a range of entries representing every member state. All set standards of excellence in one of the three award categories: mobility and transport, access to buildings used by people, and housing and supporting services.

High-flying award winner

Terminal 4 at Heathrow airport (UK) was an award-winning project in the buildings section. Designed by British Airports Authority PLC, the terminal provides excellent access and facilities for all disabled people. Departures and arrivals are located on two separate levels and there are comprehensive transport links, including a fully accessible bus service between London and the airport.

"It is a user-friendly terminal, which aims to meet the needs of all its passengers," explained Alastair Duff, General Manager of Terminal 4. Facilities for disabled people include an extra large lift and passenger walkway, unisex disabled toilets, signing, loop induction, and a special car park. Specially trained staff are on call 24 hours per day.

And the importance of the award? "It is important to the organisation, to Heathrow, to Terminal 4 that it is seen internationally as meeting the highest standards of provision for disabled passengers."

Terminal 4 is used by some 38 million people annually, of whom probably 15 percent are people with disabilities. As Alastair Duff explained: "With a million square feet, it is very easy to forget the detail. But each one of these people has needs, the disabled passenger perhaps more than most. We aim to make life as easy as possible for all of them".

Plain sailing for disabled sportsmen/women

Integration through sailing is the key to the project entered by the Danish Yachting Association in the mobility section. Described by the jury as the fun prize, it gives mobility to all members of the club.

The project began three years ago. Today the Yachting club is fully accessible and has 25 disabled members, including Alf Holter who first came up with the idea. Alf, a keen sailor before he became disabled 20 years ago, described how he felt when he had the chance to sail again:

"It was the first time that I had done something active, it was an incredible experience being able to act for myself again and to plan so that I could only trust myself. Many disabled people are taken care of and nursed - suddenly you can be responsible."

A unique combination of floating and non-floating piers makes it possible for disabled people to transfer to and from the boats at a constant level. The MINI 12 meter one-person sailing boat can be sailed by disabled as well as non-disabled people: "it gives a unique opportunity for competing on equal terms," Alf said.

Having conquered Denmark with the sport - there are now over 30 clubs with 200 disabled members all over the country - Alf would like to spread the success to other countries. He would also like to enter the MINI 12 in more regattas, perhaps on an international scale, and see sailing included as an Olympic event in 1992.

Alf compared the growth of the sport to making rings in water - it started with a thought and is now spreading outwards, changing the media image of disabled people. "They are often associated with being taken care of, and stereotyped as inactive. But this sport gives the picture of the disabled person as someone active, and able to organise their own lives."

The sport has been given a lot of media coverage and backing. According to Alf, it is easier to get sponsors for this kind of image: "We don't need charity - we just need the same support as non-disabled sportsmen".

Prototype housing: an integrated approach

An exciting project of purpose-built housing for disabled people being integrated into a residential area, was submitted by Laois County Council in Ireland.

Her Royal Highness Princesse Juliana of the Netherlands and Mr Wehrens, head of division (Directorate -General V) present the award to Paul Rauca, President of the Rotary Club Brussels East (centre).





Adapted housing integrated into existing housing area in Portlaoise.

The three houses were designed with able-bodied as well as disabled people in mind. "A great amount of research and reading went into the planning of the houses. We wanted to be able to ask the right questions of the right people - architects, professionals, occupational therapists, disabled people - to achieve the best balance", explained Brendan McGettigan, one of the project leaders.

This approach seems to have paid off. The buildings are seen as prototypes: with the residents' full agreement, local planners, architects, professionals - in fact anyone involved in providing accommodation for

disabled or elderly people - are regularly shown around. Not only can they see the layout and design of the houses but they also have the chance to speak to the occupants and find out their views.

The houses incorporate a wide range of adaptations and, while some are not new, they have never before been developed to such an extent or brought together in such a way. "We would like to pick say 10 of the features in the houses and see these become a standard for Europe", said Noel Heavy, one of the architects involved. But as he also pointed out: "The unusual thing about the houses is that there is nothing unusual!"

Members of the jury

The jury for the HELIOS Awards 1989 was made up of 12 distinguished figures, one from each of the European Community member states: Mr C. Wycliffe Noble, Great Britain; Mrs M. Bollani, Italy; Mr V. Sgoutas, Greece; Mr D.G. Cabezas, Spain; Mr L.P. Grosbois, France; Mr R. Hoffman, Luxembourg; Mr R. Lempp, Germany; Mr J.M.F. Carretas, Portugal; Prof. Dr. J O'Connor, Ireland; Prof. Dr. C.L. Thomas, Belgium; Prof. Dr. A.J. Bekke, the Netherlands; Mr H. Kallehauge, Denmark. They all hold prominent positions in their respective fields: architecture, social administration, management, planning, engineering, the question of disabled people. George Wilson and RADAR (The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) of London organized the secretariat.



Building for the future

These are just three of the 29 deserving award winners for 1989. For the future the jury members would like to review the scope of the award categories and build on the experience. "We shall all be encouraged to increase our efforts in the knowledge that there is such support for our concept of independent living for disabled people," Mr Wycliffe Noble told us.

"We within HELIOS have not completed our journey, we are travelling upon it with more resolve."

The next HELIOS awards will be held in Brighton, UK, at the end of the year. On with the adventure! ■

Members of the Helios Awards Jury 1989. C. Wycliffe Noble, Chairman (centre).

Rotary Club Brussels East
c/o rue Marie-Thérèse 37
B-1040 Brussels

A service club which has provided a tactile relief map and additional information to help blind people find their way around Brussels.

Danish Yachting Association
Idraetten Hus
DK-2605 Broendby

Yachting Association which provides sailing opportunities for disabled people and where the club house has been made accessible to all its members.

Sozialreferat der Landeshauptstadt München
Orleansplatz 11
D-8000 München 80

The local authority in Munich provides over 4000 severely disabled people with free use of taxis or special vehicles to meet their mobility needs. It is also working towards a fully integrated public transport system.

Institut Municipal de Disminuits
c/Creu Coberta 1-3
E-08014 Barcelona

The local authorities working with volunteer groups are developing a totally integrated

transport system. Currently they are running a micro bus service.

Semitag/Ville de Grenoble
BP 258X
F-38044 Grenoble Cedex

The Grenoble tram service is the only one in the world which is totally accessible to disabled people in wheelchairs. It provides the highest quality design levels of safety both for able-bodied and disabled citizens.

Town Hall
Piazza Prampolini 1
I-42100 Reggio Emilia

Public "door-to-door" transport service for physically handicapped people, seen as a stage before the entire urban transport network is made accessible. Schedules and routes can be adjusted to meet individual needs.

Administration Communale de Luxembourg
Hôtel de Ville
L-Luxembourg

ROLLIBUS is a transport service offered to all disabled people in and around the city of Luxembourg who use wheelchairs. The system uses specially adapted buses.

Stichting Noordelijk Verkeersoefenterrein Diltweg 5
NL-9751 ND Haren

The Northern Traffic Training Centre is a special traffic education and training facility for people with disabilities which is also accessible to non-disabled people. Research findings of the centre have been useful in developing new regulations and legislation.

Commissao Regional de Deficientes do Centro
Rua Bernardo de Albuquerque 19
P-3000 Coimbra

A committee is responsible for many of the services for disabled people in this area. It delegates transport to commercial organisations and they operate a fleet of 12 adapted vehicles.

London Regional Transport
55 Broadway
UK-London SW1

The two Airbus express bus services between Heathrow Airport and Central London are accessible to all passengers, including people in wheelchairs. The service operates on a regular schedule timetable and serves all terminals. ■

Access to buildings used by people

Danish State Railways
Selvgade 40
DK-1349 Copenhagen K

Hojek Taastrup is the centre of the award to Danish State Railways. A totally accessible station and a special IC/3 train have been designed with special facilities for disabled travellers enabling them to manage their journey alone from start to finish.

Sozialamt Stadt Frankfurt
Berlinerstrasse 33-35
D-6000 Frankfurt am Main

Plans have been developed to make the city accessible, eg. networks of wheelchair routes combining with accessible facilities - toilets, low telephones, parking places. This planning concept sets the standard for architects and builders.

The Greek Board of Employment and Labour
Mirakis 8
GR-16610 Glyfada

The project made four existing training colleges completely accessible and gives the disabled students the possibility of integrated education.

Institut Municipal de Disminuits
c/Creu Corberta 1-3
E-08014 Barcelona

Creation of a public centre for the vocational, occupational and cultural training of severely disabled people. The centre provides physical access and also full access to equipment, social life and to employment opportunities.

Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie
30 avenue Corentin Carriou
F-75109 Paris

The building, a disused abattoir, has been converted and made accessible to all disabled people, including those with sensory and mental disabilities. Information is adapted and accessible for all levels of disability. The library and the reading rooms have information equipment, texts, synthesizers and braille.



Office of Public Works
51 St. Stephens Green
IRL - Dublin 2

Glendalough is a heritage site and education centre where exhibitions, audio-visual material, literature and guide services about the local area are completely accessible to all visitors.

Musei Vaticani e Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
I - Vaticano

The rich historic value of the Vatican museum and library can now be enjoyed by

all, including blind and deaf people. Completed in December 1988.

Gemeente Gouda
afdeling verkeer
Postbus 1086
NL-2800 BB Gouda

Project by the Gouda local authorities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Traffic and Waterways, to improve the freedom of movement of people with all disabilities in the daily traffic. A network of routes through the town of Gouda covering 25 kms is now suitable for all disabled people. Facilities include surface textural cues at crossing

points, information symbols etc.

British Airports Authority
130 Wilton Road
GB-London SW1

Terminal 4 is the newest terminal at Heathrow Airport and provides facilities for all people with disabilities, including loop induction, visual cues and full access for wheelchair users. ■

housing and supporting services

Association Nationale pour le Logement des Handicapés
20, rue Fleur d'Oranger
BP 213
B-1150 Brussels

This project provides accessible accommodation integrated within the rest of the community and is managed by disabled people.

Arkitektfirm Poulsen og Therkildsen
Klostergade 70
DK-8000 Aarhus C

Conversion of a historic textile mill retaining an industrial building, made suitable for disabled people without changing the characteristic features of the house and its situation in the environment.

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Clubs Behinderter und Ihre Freunde
Eupenerstrasse 5
D-6500 Mainz

Integrated housing project for disabled and non-disabled people. The site is centrally placed and its club rooms and other facilities provide a focus for the community.

Institut Municipal de Disminuïts de Barcelona
c/Creu Coberta 1-3
E-08014 Barcelona

The elimination and non-creation of architectural barriers in the building of houses; awareness, information and training campaign, aimed at architects, builders, planners and users.

Association Amplitude
F-26400 Chabrillan

The association has provided integrated accommodation for hearing impaired people with safety and communications to allow them to live an independent life.

Laois County Council
County Hall
IRL-Portlaoise

The scheme comprises three houses purpose-built to enable disabled people to live independently integrated with the community as a whole and with able-bodied occupants of the houses.

Association Luxembourgeoise des Aveugles
Route de Luxembourg
L-Berlingen Mersch

Scheme to integrate visually-impaired people into the community. There are a variety of innovative solutions, including lift activated by audible signals, tactile cues for inside and outside environment.

Stichting Crossroads Nederland
Revelant 80
NL-8303 ZD Emmeloord

The project consists of three Crossroads departments where support is given to the carer of the disabled person living at home to prevent him/her having to leave their home.

Associacao Portuguesa de Surdos
Av de Liberdade 157
P-1200 Lisbon

This is a sign language interpreter service which aims to support the deaf population of the Lisbon region in a number of situations: going to the doctor, taking a driving test, attending meetings and conferences etc. It also offers sign language interpreter training.

ASBAH
22 Upper Woburn Place
UK-London WC1H 0EP

The Towards Self Care programme provides a variety of fully accessible accommodation with extensive support services and is open to young people over 18 years of age. ■



First European Conference on Independent Living

The first European Conference on Independent Living, hosted by HELIOS, was held in Brussels on 6,7,8 December 1989. On the first day, some 80 members from the Social Integration Network were involved in a seminar proposing a varied programme, which included speeches and working groups looking at different aspects of the central theme: transition from institutional to community life.

The morning sessions focused on individual contributions. Mrs van Remoortel, from the European Regional Council (World Federation for Mental Health), focused on the specific needs of mentally ill people: they have suffered from a long history of often oppressive institutionalisation. This system is now being dismantled, but appropriate alternatives are not always available. The speaker works for a non-government organisation which promotes autonomous living for mentally ill people. She believes it is essential to give the individuals concerned the responsibility to make their own choices, something denied them within the structure of the institution.

Mentally handicapped people

Another group traditionally "cared for" in institutions are mentally handicapped people. Mr Ceccotto, from a local model activity in Luxembourg, also discussed the theme of de-institutionalisation and the problems of normalisation and integration. Mentally handicapped people who have experienced institutional life very often need active help if they are to feel equal and have their own dignity. This task can be difficult as they must first diminish the dependency that is fostered by institutional life. This is an important stage to be worked through before they can strengthen their attitudes and prepare for an independent life. Mr Ceccotto based his contribution on the results of a joint meeting in Luxembourg of 10 local model activities from eight EC member states.

Blind people

Independent Living has been the aim of a course on autonomy for blind people, CAPP, which has been running for 10 years. This point was made by Mr Roland Roux, president of GIPH (Grouping for the insertion of physically handicapped people), together with Miriam Dugay. GIPH Aquitaine is a unique project for the re-education of blind people living at home. The scheme takes account of psychological, family, cultural and socio-professional factors and is based on team work. A psychologist, braille expert, re-educators and an instructor in movement work together to prepare visually disabled people for greater autonomy. The scheme, which is being run by disabled people

themselves, is so successful that other regions in France are starting to organise similar services.

Technical aids

The wider application of technical aids was the focus of the paper by Mr Loperfido, the co-ordinator of a local model activity in Bologna, Italy. Mr Loperfido demonstrated how technical aids can often have a powerful symbolic value for the people who use them; this psychological function can be as important as the physical function for which the aid has been designed. It mediates between the person and the surrounding environment, bringing out the person's capabilities in relation to the world. For this reason, he suggests that technical aids should always be personalised in order to fully promote the process of autonomy.

In the afternoon sessions, working groups covered a number of important themes: mental handicap and the question of normality and abnormality, sensory disabled children and school integration.

Responsibility for their own futures

This first day's seminar culminated in some very clear conclusions - disabled people must take responsibility for their own futures. The existing system leads to far too much apathy among too many groups. If disabled children are not given the experience of positive integration while at school they can become lost and apathetic. Once in this state, future rehabilitation is very difficult. Information is vital. It plays a crucial role in motivating disabled people, politicians, professionals and the general public, and in supporting family and friends. Finally, a message for us all: the best equipped to understand the problems of disabled people striving for independent living are disabled people themselves. They must be given the chance, and the training, to act as advisors to other disabled people.

The 7 and 8 December were devoted more particularly to a conference and an exhibition. Three essential aspects of independent living were dealt with: mobility and transport, access to public buildings, and adapted housing. Each of these themes was illustrated by model projects, for which prizes were awarded. ■



Marry van Dongen is President of Independent Living Nederland and a member of the Nederlandse Gehandicaptenraad (Dutch Council for the Disabled). Within the framework of the Helios programme, she is very active in all areas of activities in favour of disabled people at European level. The following article is based on the paper she presented at the Independent Living Conference. 1989.

Independent Living

The concept of Independent Living originated on the campus of Berkeley University, California. In order to enjoy a full social life, the disabled students joined forces to provide the services of paid assistants. This student movement grew into a political movement, culminating in the passing of an anti-discrimination law. Persons suffering from a disability can now appeal to this law to demand equal chance and facilities. Access to buildings, public transport, personal assistance: this law has made them all possible. In the meantime, the concept of Independent Living has continued to gain ground in Europe and other parts of the world: disabled people are now demanding the right to assume responsibility for their own lives. The right to self-determination has become a key concept.

Personal assistance

In April 1989, 70 disabled people from 14 European countries met in Strasbourg. Their common interest was a need for personal assistance. They all felt that the disabled themselves played an insufficient role in present policy at national and international level. In order to be heard, they set up the "European Network on Independent Living". The E.N.I.L. is a mutual aid organization of disabled people. It provides a forum where members can express their philosophy, their aspirations, and share experiences. They,

after all, are the real experts at organizing their own lives!

The central theme of the Strasbourg meeting revolved around the notion of "Personal Assistance". The basis of this concept is that, for the disabled person, any restriction brings the automatic right to personal assistance, that is, the assistance required for everything which the disabled person cannot do him/herself. This will be done by assistants on request, and under the supervision and responsibility of the disabled person. Personal assistance is not dependent upon circumstances, but upon the individual. It must be seen as a possibility in the home, at school, at the place of training or work. In fact, in just about every setting where the disabled person may be. Personal assistance is a major factor in the area of integration.

The Strasbourg meeting also provided the opportunity to thrash out a number of resolutions. The most noteworthy being : personal assistance is a human and civil right; those concerned must be able to make a choice between various models of personal assistance associated with specific levels of control; these services must be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; the financial resources must be made available to the individuals concerned so that, if they desire, they can provide appropriate training for themselves and their assistants.

These resolutions were approved and even served as a point of departure for the Rehabilitation International meeting on the theme "Personal Assistance, as a key to independent living", which was held in October 1989 in Rome.

Peer-counselling

In order to stimulate autonomy and determination, a special methodology has been developed : Peer-counselling.

This methodology is designed to make people aware of their possibilities and circumstances. In the framework of organized meetings and spontaneous contacts, companions in misfortune exchange ideas, experiences and solutions. Role playing, with other disabled people serving as role models, prepare the participants for practical situations.

Greater autonomy for disabled people also has its consequences for services, which are invariably very traditionally structured on the basis of the medical model. The concept of Independent Living approaches the problem from two angles : that of the user of the service and that of the provider of the service. According to their point of view and responsibilities, they both redefine the values and the content of the service structure. As part of Peer-counselling, the recruitment groups in Sweden provide a good example of the independence towards which the movement of independent living is tending. In the past, recruitment groups transformed disabled people into impressive athletes ready to compete in the Olympic Games. This process has proved so positive that these athletes have accepted to act as role models and visit road accident victims and other disabled people in hospitals and re-education centres. By showing them just what is possible, their attitude considerably improves. The result is that the disabled person is able to assimilate and overcome the disability much more quickly. Comments such as "you must" or "we'll help you" are a thing of the past. They have given way to "you can". Everyone is free to make his own choice, totally independently.

The movement towards independent living in the Netherlands

Independent Living Nederland and Independent Living Vlaanderen work closely together with a view to organizing peer-counselling meetings and developing a



personal assistance model. The aim ? To develop a model which can be used by the various EC member states.

In the Netherlands, four working parties have been set up : a "Public Relations" working party to promote the idea of I.L. and organize advertising around pilot projects; a "procedure" working party which seeks to guarantee equal treatment on the basis of pilot processes and jurisprudence; a "Peer-Counselling" working party which organizes sessions and which constitutes a network of experts in the matter of experiences; and, last but not least, a "Personally-oriented budgetary system" which works towards personally-oriented budgets so that people can provide for their own assistant services. The development of a personal assistance model is vital within the Independent Living movement. The fight for equal rights in the areas of transport, employment and leisure is, furthermore, equally vital.

Marry VAN DONGEN



disabled women and employment today

With active collaboration from the Local Model Activities and the Rehabilitation Centres networks, an Attention Plan for the Economic Integration of Disabled Women has been drawn up. Here the background to this important initiative is explored.

The HELIOS programme is an essential development for many reasons. Disabled people are not fully integrated into European society, and do not enjoy the level of support in education and training that they deserve as citizens with equal rights. Disabled people are poorly represented in the professions and at all levels of employment, although those who do work prove that they are as proficient and successful as their able-bodied counterparts. All these reasons add up to the fact that disabled people are educationally, socially and economically disadvantaged.

However, other minority groups within our society might argue that the same applies to them. And in spite of great improvements in recent years, the situation has scarcely improved for one extremely large group in our society, a group which makes up over half of the population - women.

It could then be argued that disabled women are doubly disadvantaged. This claim has been substantiated in an important research project, "The Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Women in the European Community" by Mary Croxson John.*

The report contains some interesting statistics. In all but one of the 12 EC member states (Ireland), women outnumber men. Although all member states have legislated for equal rights for women, in most countries women are paid less for comparable jobs, and risk losing them if they decide to have a baby. Women in full-time employment enjoy only two thirds as much free time as their partners, largely because of their traditional "housewife role", a major duty that remains unpaid. Disabled women have a further problem, that of managing a disability.

It is a comprehensive study of many areas in the lives of disabled women, including the labour market. In this area, disabled women are among the most underprivileged. Even the "lucky" ones who find jobs face difficulties. For many, problems that arise in the workplace have their roots in the earlier experiences of childhood. Early education, both formal and informal, plays a large part in determining how disabled women come to view themselves. Special schools isolated from normal life can severely limit an individual's horizons. The report discusses this issue of special versus integrated schooling: "The importance of the integration

debate to the subject at hand is, therefore, that by integration into mainstream education disabled girls are exposed to new thinking and new practices in relation to consciousness-raising about equality of opportunity."

The report takes examples of good practice from established fields and applies them to the situation of disabled women. For example, the problems facing a woman trying to rejoin the job market, after an absence to bring up a family, are not dissimilar to those of a disabled woman looking for her first job. The woman needs information in order to be able "to clarify career goals and develop realistic strategies to achieve them." Disabled women in particular need help in making use of this information, and women with specific disabilities, such as deafness, might need considerable help in gaining access to this information in the first place. Counselling is important and may take many

forms, including help with self-presentation and interviewing skills "to develop feelings of self-worth and confidence". Practical areas need attention; for example, unsuitable accommodation can interfere with the choice of jobs. Technical aids may give severely disabled women new opportunities and they must have reasonable access to them. Once in suitable employment, disabled women need continued support in a variety of areas, from childcare to mobility.

Future developments: Implications for HELIOS

The study makes some important recommendations, which could be regarded as a blueprint for policy development. Human rights issues feature strongly. Other recommendations clearly focus on work issues. Positive early intervention with young disabled women while still at school is advocated, so that they can be fully prepared



New technology using Braille opens up employment possibilities for visually disabled persons. Photograph from LMA Hasselt (Belgium), a project which is forging vital links between education and the labour market.



for the world of work. Greater use of the experience of disabled women themselves in training and rehabilitation is recommended. They should also share their invaluable knowledge by setting up and running support groups and networks.

The study depends on active collaboration with disabled women, many of whom contributed case-study material. In all previous studies little, if any, account was taken of their views: "the value of their insights gathered from long, often arduous years of experience have rarely been sought or considered in policy developments that concern them. This fact in itself emphasizes the way in which disabled people have been marginalised."

The report acknowledges the work of the HELIOS programme, and in particular its aim to give "appropriate attention to the vocational needs of disabled women and the promotion of their social integration and independent way of life." ** First steps were taken last year when HELIOS held two seminars on the economic integration of disabled women, with the active participation of members of the LMA Economic Integration Network and the Rehabilitation Centres Network. Mary Croxen John, author of the report, and several others, presented papers on their experiences.

Making demands for equal rights

Irene Perreira from Portugal told us her story, which fully illustrates the difficulties for a disabled woman trying to gain employment. After struggling to become educationally qualified, she applied this same determination to the job market. The authorities warned her that she was naive to think she could compete with able-bodied people, but she proved them wrong. Housed at the time by the "Cheshire Home" association, she found a job in Lisbon, five hours' journey away. On a salary that made

purchasing a car impossible she had to rely on public transport and taxis. She made some vital contributions to the spirit of integration in her day-to-day interactions with able-bodied people, who helped her with everything from trains to taxis.

However, it all finally proved too much, the system was stacked against her. She had managed to achieve what she always dreamed of, only to find that it was just a dream. Now back within a sheltered environment like so many polio victims and other disabled women, she hopes that her story will encourage the younger generation to demand more equality of opportunity. Otherwise, as she said at the HELIOS Seminar: "I have to ask myself, what are we doing here?"

This article began with some of the evidence showing just how disadvantaged women, and in particular disabled women, are within our society. We have presented the evidence and we are taking account of the recommendations. But are we doing enough?

Within its brief and within its budget, the HELIOS programme is working to ensure that these very real issues are voiced and that the real needs of disabled women are identified. An attention plan - Specific Aspects of the Economic Integration of Disabled Women - has been drawn up to "raise consciousness" among the Local Model Activities of Network II (We are publishing it in full on the opposite page.) In the short term, the plan will collect appropriate knowledge, experience and statistics Europe-wide. For the future, it must provide the basis for a policy of positive discrimination, providing equal opportunities in the job market and in all areas of life. Disabled women are doubly disadvantaged within our society: HELIOS must be doubly determined to restore the balance. ■

** The Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Women in the European Community (Programme of Research and Actions for the Social Integration of Disabled People, sponsored by the Commission of the European Communities)*
by Mary Croxen John (V/600/89)
- available from the HELIOS Documentation Service

*** Council Decision of 18 April 1988 establishing a Second Community action programme for disabled people, Article 3, paragraph (e), from the Official Journal of the European Communities, L104, Volume 31, 23 April 1988*

Editor's note

The study visit of LMA Hannover to LMA Dublin (HELIOS magazine no.3, page 10) created a lot of interest among our readers. Unfortunately, a misunderstanding in the reporting led to two errors:

The trainees of the computer workshop are not employees of the Eastern Health Board. They attend an Eastern Health Board sponsored training centre.

The net training allowances are about half the gross earnings for a similar job in industry, not a third of the salary as stated in the report.

Attention plan on the economic integration of disabled women

II - Evaluation-Orientation-Guidance

LMA's should consider:

- obtaining up-to-date statistics of all disabled people within their geographic area of responsibility, including details of the ratio of men to women;
- whether any attempt is being made to find out why there are people identified by the statistical survey who are not making use of the activities provided;
- whether appropriate information, counselling and assessment are available to enable disabled women to have realistic objectives regarding potential employment prospects. This should take into account the interests and abilities of the disabled person, as well as availability of work;
- the need to inform all LMA staff about the specific problems and other issues relating to the economic integration of disabled women;
- within programmes of economic integration and employment, the need for

adequate provision for those disabled women who have childcare needs and other domestic responsibilities.

II - Preparation for work

LMA's should consider:

- whether there exists equal access for disabled women and men to all vocational training schemes; also to training schemes which enable disabled people to become effectively self-employed. If not, what are the reasons for non-equality?
- whether training schemes are organised in a flexible way so that disabled women with responsibilities at home are not excluded;
- the need for special services (e.g. childcare);
- the need for trainees to be able and qualified to train disabled women and whether experienced disabled women themselves are involved in the training;
- whether those training facilities funded through work accident insurance are also

accessible to women who have become disabled due to accidents during work in the home.

IIa - Placement

- whether employment services are appropriate in terms of both quality and quantity to provide the best links between the qualifications and interests of disabled women and the opportunities on the employment market;
- whether up-to-date statistics for both successful and unsuccessful employment placements of disabled women are provided;
- that a special information action could be launched in public and private institutions to increase awareness of disabled women's working abilities and of the necessary organisational, technical and psychological adaptations.

III - Employment

LMA's should consider:

- whether equal opportunities for both women and men with disabilities are available on the open job market, in self-employment schemes (co-operatives), home-work schemes, in employment schemes within industry and services under special conditions and in sheltered employment:
- In terms of access and necessary adaptations to the workplace
- In terms of work contracts
- In terms of salaries
- In terms of promotion



Skilled and experienced trainers offer appropriate vocational guidance at LMA Hannover, a project which is training disabled people to use PCs and word processing. Here we see Gabi, one of the trainees, at work.

n ew technologies and training

As regards the Local Model Activities, work in this area is aimed at adapting and developing new school programmes and equipment designed to meet the needs of disabled children.

One example is Ireland ...

More than two thirds of Irish children who suffer from a cerebral disability attend the Central Remedial Clinic (C.R.C.) for support and advice. The purpose of this clinic is to provide assistance to physically disabled and multi-disabled children, as early as possible and for as long as necessary, in the fields of medicine, education, vocational training, and social and leisure activities. It is also a national care centre for children suffering from muscular dystrophy and for motor disabled adults. Finally, the clinic is a reference centre for communication techniques, informatics and the adapting of special equipment. In 1988 alone, 2,500 patients attended the centre for care.

At the C.R.C. school, all classrooms are equipped with micro-computers (Apple and B.B.C.). Two computers are mobile units which can be moved from one classroom to the other. These micro-computers have three principal functions: they are an aid to communication for children who are unable to speak, provide paper and writing supports for those who find it difficult to control the hand functions, and they are a part of a programme of computer-assisted education

and training.

The school has extensive software which falls into 7 categories : communication; training and practice; word processing and aptitudes for writing; perception training; aptitudes for living; instruction; simulation and games. On the B.B.C., the conceptual keyboard is commonly used : it is particularly useful for pupils able to control certain hand functions, but not able to use a normal keyboard.

The recently purchased Apple II GS will soon be operational; one of them will be linked to a vocal synthesizer, designed to help children who are unable to speak, or who find it difficult to control their speech. After objectively evaluating the software used in the classrooms, the school hopes to be able to share its experience and give advice to schools which have only recently introduced computers as an aid to disabled pupils.

Computers are essential to certain children and valuable tools for all; they are also a tool for the teacher, but it does take considerable planning and organization if they are to be used effectively. Computers do not, however, provide a miraculous solution to all problems of education and training, progress is in fact always dependent upon the inherent aptitudes of the children. Certain programmes require supervision and instructions on the part of the teacher, others require supervision only, and others again are operated totally independently by the children themselves. ■

The HELIOS conference on Handicap and Education/Rotterdam, 1989.

The proceedings of the first European Community Conference on Handicap and Education, held in Rotterdam in October 1989, have just been published.

The proceedings are presented in book format, approximately 250 pages in length consisting of 31 separate papers. These reflect the three themes that ran throughout the conference : special systems and integrated situations; handling differences in the classroom; transition into the labour market.

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the conference and will be invaluable to those who were unable to attend. The papers are an excellent source of information about current practice in education, and provide philosophical material about the integration of disabled children into mainstream education.

Copies are available free of charge, in English only, from the HELIOS Documentation Service. ■



C ompiling comparable statistics on the situation of disabled people

REASONS

How many disabled people are there in Europe ? What is the nature of their disabilities ? How many of them are educated within the mainstream education system ? How many of them are employed on the open market ? These are just some of the questions facing those responsible for drawing up policy for disabled people. At present, the answers are based on incomplete information or doubtful estimates.

Consequently, the European Communities Statistical Office, together with Directorate-General - V- Actions in favour of disabled people - has charged the Centre for European Social and Economic Policy with compiling comparable statistics on the social circumstances of disabled people.

AIMS

The study seeks to :

- identify existing statistical data within the European Community member states. Data available within public institutions (ministries etc.) and data collected by non-government organizations are of equal interest.
- analyze the similarities and differences between national statistics to permit comparison at European level.

ASPECTS

The study includes two aspects :

- methodology : analysis of disability classification, methods of collecting data, etc.;
- elaboration of policy : the information gathered should permit a better understanding of the social-economic circumstances of disabled people and promote new policy proposals.

THEMES

The different themes which should be treated by the study include : breakdown of the disabled population on the basis of sex and age group, nature and origin of the disability, disabled workers in employment and seeking employment, as well as the number of non-working disabled people.

INVITATION

You are invited to submit details of the source of any statistical data which you may obtain, together with comments and suggestions. Interested persons will be informed of the results of the study. Please send your information to the following address :

Centre for European Social and Economic Policy (CESEP)
Rue Stévin 98
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel. : 02/230.63.96 ■

Handynet, a multilingual tool for disabled people



In December 1989 the Council of Ministers approved that work on HANDYNET should continue and that the technical aids module should be made operational. Within the next few months the first part of the system will be available on-line to all member states. The data being loaded at present is on technical aids for motor impaired people and this will be followed by technical aids for other categories of disabled people.

Why is HANDYNET multilingual?

The EC has nine official languages. If the potential advantages of 1992 are to be realised and people are to live and work in harmony within an international community, then it is important that tools and services such as databases should have multilingual facilities.

However, autotranslation - the translation of one language into another by machine - is still partly the stuff of science fiction, for the moment. So database creators are left with the choice of translating either both on-screen instructions and data, or on-screen instructions only, the data being presented in a universal form requiring no translation (such as numbers).

From the national perspective, the creation of such a multilingual facility may seem something of a luxury. But if one considers the international aims of free movement of goods and people and greater market knowledge, all leading to better and more economic products as well as more appropriate services, then the sense of being able accurately to compare one product or service with another becomes apparent. Manufacturers will be obliged to be more competitive and will be able to plan services less wastefully.

To achieve the facility of multilingual use, three major tasks have to be carried out. First, a thesaurus of words to describe the data has to be created in the official languages. To enable direct comparisons to be made, it is essential for ambiguities of

meaning to be resolved - a painstaking and time-consuming task. Subsequently, a technique has to be evolved so that alphabets are correct on-screen with the appropriate special letters and marks. Finally, the database software has to be translated into the nine languages so that input and retrieval of data can be carried out in any language. The nature of the solutions applied to the problems of multilingualism will not in fact be apparent to the user, who merely selects one particular language.

The Thesaurus - HANDYVOC

Three existing classification systems were used and a best solution found for each word needed for the description in the records. However, as there were inadequate or incomplete descriptions of certain technical aids for the visually impaired, some creations were made. HANDYVOC is based on the Scandinavian classification of the NORDIC system, ISO (International Standards Organisation) and WHO (World Health Organisation) classifications. This work forms the centre-piece for the translation of the on-screen instructions, i.e. the instructions seen by the user. It is hoped that the work done will be adopted as an international standard for the future.

Alphabets and Accents

The second task had no template to follow and the solution is a HANDYNET invention to overcome the translation problems posed by existing telecommunications. The solution is a set of three tables, one each for the latin alphabet, Greek characters, and the special letters and marks. The user therefore sees the language of his choice displayed in the correct form.

Software Translation

The last task is to phrase and write the instructions that are to appear on the screen. Unusual care has had to be taken here to ensure that questions and answers are exact in their meaning and directly comparable, language to language, bearing in mind that most data is presented numerically. This

greatly reduces free text and presents it only in the language in which it was entered. In this way the translation costs are kept to a minimum.

Postscript

It should be noted that if further modules are developed by HANDYNET, then the multilingual aspect may well become more significant. (For example, if there is a module on Access to Public Buildings, it is clear that planning an international holiday would be made easier, etc)

More significant, having solved the problems for one alphabet we can now use any alphabet in the same way, which would enable, for example, a professional working in one language to assist an end-user working in another. With the many ethnic groups in all our countries this is an important potential benefit. ■

European non-government organizations and the Helios programme

Non-government organizations (NGOs) are actively involved in the HELIOS programme. The Commission consults them in a wide range of areas, such as employment, mobility, transport, housing, the arts, sports, etc. They are also the principal beneficiaries of the annual European aid programme.

Involvement in the decision-making process

"Involvement in the decision-making process" is one of the main points of the HELIOS programme (art. 7 of the Council Decision of 18/04/88). This is a matter of great importance to the Commission which does everything possible to involve the persons directly affected, their representatives or their family. The Commission initially planned to be assisted in the coordination of the HELIOS programme by an Advisory Committee consisting of government experts, representatives of disabled people and the social partners. This Commission proposal was subsequently modified by the Council bodies. The HELIOS programme now provides for an Advisory Committee consisting of government representatives only, and a Liaison Group; the latter consists of 2 government representatives per Member State, 9 representatives of disabled people, and 2 representatives of the social partners. The 9 representatives of disabled people are the European NGOs: 6 are permanent members for the duration of the HELIOS programme, the 3 others retire after 2 years. These two bodies act in an advisory capacity concerning specific activities to be undertaken within the HELIOS programme.

This Council decision is perfectly logical, at a time of equal opportunities and the right to be different. However, the action must be positive; to avoid a *fait accompli*, real consultation must be guaranteed not only between the EC and the different countries, but also with the NGOs in each Member State. The International Rehabilitation Charter, the United Nations Action programme in favour of Disabled People, together with demands from disability organizations or their representatives, are all insisting upon such an involvement in the decision-making process. The International Labour Organization (ILO), together with the Council of Europe are also stressing this principle in their recommendations.

Methods of cooperation

The Commission at present has several important means of cooperation: the Liaison Group, the Dialogue Group, consultation on the policy to be pursued, aid for European cooperation and bilateral contacts.

The Dialogue Group meets annually under the Commission presidency to permit the exchange of information and ideas with representatives of the principal NGOs at European and international level. The Group consists of 27 organizations. Some of these are disability organizations in the true sense of the word, while others include disability as an important element within a wider range of responsibilities.

Each association appoints two representatives, at least one of whom must be a disabled person. It is encouraging to note that since the start of these meetings, they have been attended by an increasing number of people with a disability. The Commission contributes to the costs of interpretation by sign language and produces documents written in Braille, while also meeting the costs of organizing these meetings.

When formulating policy proposals, the Commission invites the NGOs both to submit written documents stating their position and to attend multi-representation seminars: these are an important tool in the Commission's process of consultation. This initiative has been applied in a number of fields: notably employment, the HANDYNET databank, mobility, housing, transport, the arts, creativity, sports, social security, VAT, the European charter.

The NGOs are the main beneficiaries of the annual aid programme at European level. This programme establishes direct, practical and amicable cooperation between the Commission and a considerable number of associations at many levels which are concerned by various problems and disabilities.

While recognizing the autonomy of the various associations, it must be stressed that over recent years the Commission's support has helped lend a European dimension to many national and international organizations. Examples are the setting up of "Autism Europe" together with the strengthening of the European activity of the "World Federation of the Blind", the "World Federation of the Deaf" and the "World Federation for Mental Health". Also, Rehabilitation International - European Communities Association (RI-ECA), Mobility International (M.I.) COFACE, the "International League for Aid to the Mentally Handicapped" etc. enjoy close relationships with the Commission and collaborate on many projects. Whenever possible, a Commission civil servant attends these meetings, which are an extremely valuable experience for all involved, contributors and civil servants alike. Equally important are the many reports, conferences and seminars

which constitute the principal sources of information and ideas for the EC. In 1990, the 9 NGOs which constitute the HELIOS Liaison Group will meet, if necessary, prior to each official meeting.

Bilateral contacts are regularly established between the Commission and the many NGOs: these send their periodicals to the DGV and in turn receive information on the Commission's activities.

The HELIOS programme

The main purpose of the HELIOS programme is to provide a European framework with a view to establishing a policy of economic and social integration in favour of disabled people. To do so, the Commission requests the involvement of all those concerned. The concept of involvement/action is the key to success, both as regards legislative proposals and in implementing various political and integration initiatives.

EINSTEIN stated: "It is easier to destroy an atom than to destroy a prejudice". The Commission and society, with the participation of disabled people, are doing everything possible to ensure the progressive removal of these prejudices. Public opinion must be made more aware of the value and real capacities of disabled people.

Erratum HELIOS magazine no3 (page 13, column 3)

Please note that the address of the Action Européenne des Handicapés, in D-5300 Bonn 2, should have read Wurzerstraße 2-4, and not Wurzerstraße 214 as printed in the magazine.

A transformation has taken place at the Division "Measures for disabled people" of the European Commission. Until July, the corridors and other public areas will provide space for a remarkable exhibition of art, organised by the National Rehabilitation Board in association with the Irish National Committee on Creativity. The exhibition, which coincides with the Irish Presidency of the Commission, aims to make people aware of the creative potential of disabled people.

There are two parts to the exhibition. The first consists of 26 pictures, chosen from some 153 submissions by disabled people from the Republic of Ireland. The mixed show of work features drawings, pastels, and paintings produced by persons who have a mental disability, sharing exhibition space with physically disabled artists. All the works show a serious commitment and the standard of presentation is high.

The second part of the exhibition features the photographs of an exceptional professional artist. Gene Lambert is a photographer of international renown, most recently for his work on the Oscar-winning film "My Left Foot". The black and white photographs in the exhibition are mostly of disabled people. Although some of the images are harrowing, all impose integrity

Mr Wehrens, Head of Division (DGV) and Eric Doyle, Chairman of the National Rehabilitation Board (on the left) officially open the exhibition on 16 March 1990. The artists were also available for more informal discussions



and dignity upon their subjects. A portrait of a child with Down's Syndrome, simply titled "Anne Marie", is captured with the grace of a Holbein painting. Other photographs, particularly those featuring couples or small intimate groups, show exceptional humour.

This collection of 30 photographs is entitled "Work from a Dark Room", a title with metaphorical as well as obvious connotations. Gene Lambert is currently involved in the Clashganna Mills Trust, a non-profit organisation set up to help and encourage people with disabilities.

Further details :

Expert team "Creativity and Sport"
32 Square Ambiorix
B-1040 Brussels
BELGIUM
Tel : (02) 230 05 60

My left foot

Ireland, 1932, and Christy Brown was born into a family of thirteen children. The diagnosis was shattering : the child was suffering from a cerebral paralysis and could look forward to no more than a vegetable-like existence.

Loved, accepted, and defended by all his family, Christy overcame his enormous difficulties and integrated into the difficult circumstances in which he found himself. At the age of nine, he managed to move his left foot and slowly learned to paint and to type. His paintings, full of realism and of humour, together with his novels and poems, were destined to reach a wide public. Christy also experienced happiness the day he met Mary Gover, the nurse who, several years later, was to become his wife.

The film is remarkable in every way. The screenplay is sober and extremely rigorous. It never dwells on the misfortune of the hero and his family and tactfully avoids any hint of voyeurism. Daniel Day Lewis, the actor who plays Christy Brown, is totally convincing. He has just been awarded an Oscar for Best Actor in Hollywood. A film which everyone should see.



Within the Directorate-Generale V, and more particularly the "Actions in favour of disabled people" Division, various committees and working parties meet on a regular basis : the advisory committee, the liaison group, the dialogue groups working with non-government organizations, the school integration working party, and the working party on Handynet technical coordination. In addition to these many activities, two major events of the last two months merit special attention : the Council of Social Affairs Ministers of 29 September 1989, and the adoption of the Social Charter in December 1989.

During the latter half of 1989, the French Presidency took the initiative of preparing a note recommending a global and coherent policy in favour of disabled people.

This note was included on the agenda of the meeting of the Council of Social Affairs Ministers on 29 September 1989. Agreement was reached on a number of points : the need for a global approach to disability; the need to involve disabled people themselves when drawing up the legislation; the need for regular actions in favour of disabled people; the need to continue exchanges of ideas within an ad hoc group.

The Community charter on the basic social rights of workers was adopted by eleven Member States at the European Council in Strasbourg in December 1989. Point 26 of this charter contains an essential provision in favour of disabled people :

"Any disabled person, whatever the origin or nature of his disability, must be able to benefit from additional measures serving to promote his professional and social integration. These improvement measures must concern, depending on the capacities of those concerned, vocational training, ergonomics, accessibility, mobility, means of transport and housing."

The Charter is to be implemented by means of a Commission action programme. The important points of this programme include the further development of the Handynet system; a Council Directive proposal concerning the implementing of measures serving to improve the travelling conditions for workers with reduced mobility; a Council Decision proposal establishing the third Community action programme in favour of disabled people (HELIOS II). ■

1 Up-dating and increasing the scope of the EC Databank on sports for disabled people, organised by the EC Secretariat in Arnhem, the Netherlands in 1990.

2 European Youth Sports Camp in Viseu, Portugal in August 1990. Some 70 participants from Denmark, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal will attend the camp.

3 European Seminar on Sports and Integration of psychiatric patients in Brøndby, Denmark from 17 to 21 October 1990. This event will bring together sports instructors, sports organisers, and other specialists to exchange and discuss experiences on the following themes : sports as "self-help"; sports as a means of social (re)integration; sports as a leisure activity. There will be an estimated 125 participants.

4 2nd European Workshop for Severely Disabled People in Nottingham, United Kingdom from 25 to 29 July 1990. The workshop will aim to increase the development of sports activities (competitive and recreational) for those with severe physical disabilities. There will be an estimated 140 participants.

5 Sports Training Workshop in Viseu, Portugal in October 1990. 8-day course looking at the theoretic aspects of training to date. Instructors from various European Community member states will produce a common syllabus for the training of sports instructors within the Community. There will be an estimated 60 participants.

6 Goalball Referees School in Italy in March 1990. A series of clinics will re-examine existing referees, and certify new referees. The clinics will be aimed at the Goalball certifying programme of the international federation. An estimated 30 people will participate from Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

7 Boccia Referee Accreditation Course in the Federal Republic of Germany in July 1990. Representatives of EC countries will attend a 3-day workshop for referees in Boccia. Observers from the organizing committees of the World Championships Assen 1990 and from the 1992 Paralympics will also attend to ensure the quality of refereeing during these events.

8 European 4-day Wheelchair Endurance Event in Delden, the Netherlands in July 1990. Some 120 participants from all member states are expected to attend this endurance event, which is now in its fifth year.

9 The World Games 1990 in Assen, the Netherlands in July 1990. The World Games will be the largest event for disabled athletes between the 1988 and 1992 Paralympics. Some 2000 top athletes from 64 different countries will participate in these games.

For further details about any of these projects, please contact :

International Fund Sports Disabled
Heijenoordseweg 5
6813 GG Arnhem
The Netherlands

HELIOS MAGAZINE

Periodical magazine concerning the Commission of the European Communities' special programme for the integration of disabled people.

Published by HELIOS - the team of experts responsible for assisting the Commission of the European Communities - 79, Avenue de Cortenberg, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

This issue has been edited by HELIOS as part of its work programme on behalf of the Division "Actions in favour of disabled people" of the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General "Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs".

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Information Service

HELIOS
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B-1040 Brussels
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The editorial team welcomes articles and illustrations (photos, drawings, diagrams, tables) on important events at European Community level, while reserving the right to select from among any contributions submitted.

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Cover story

Self activated hoist for lowering into sailing craft