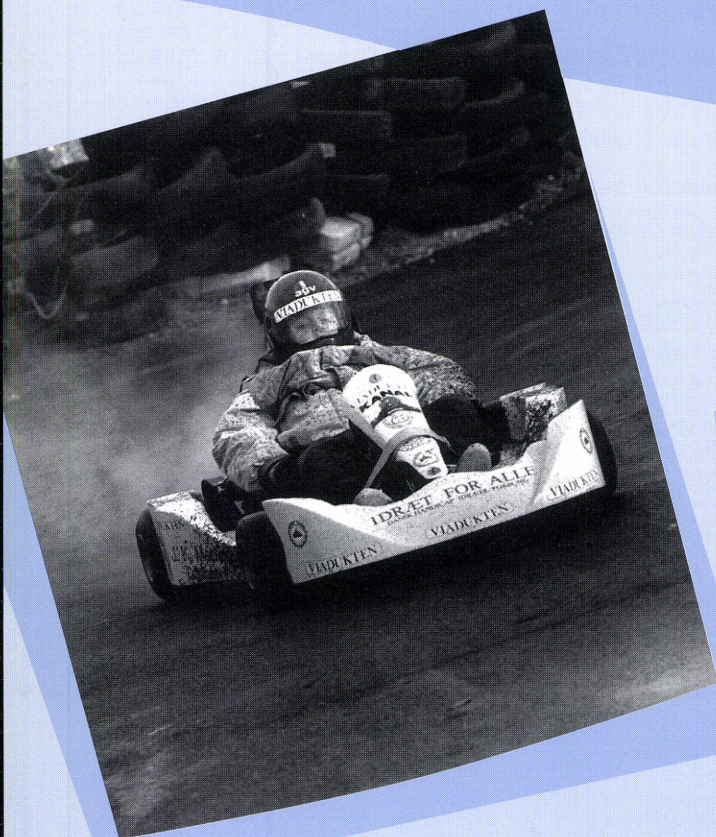
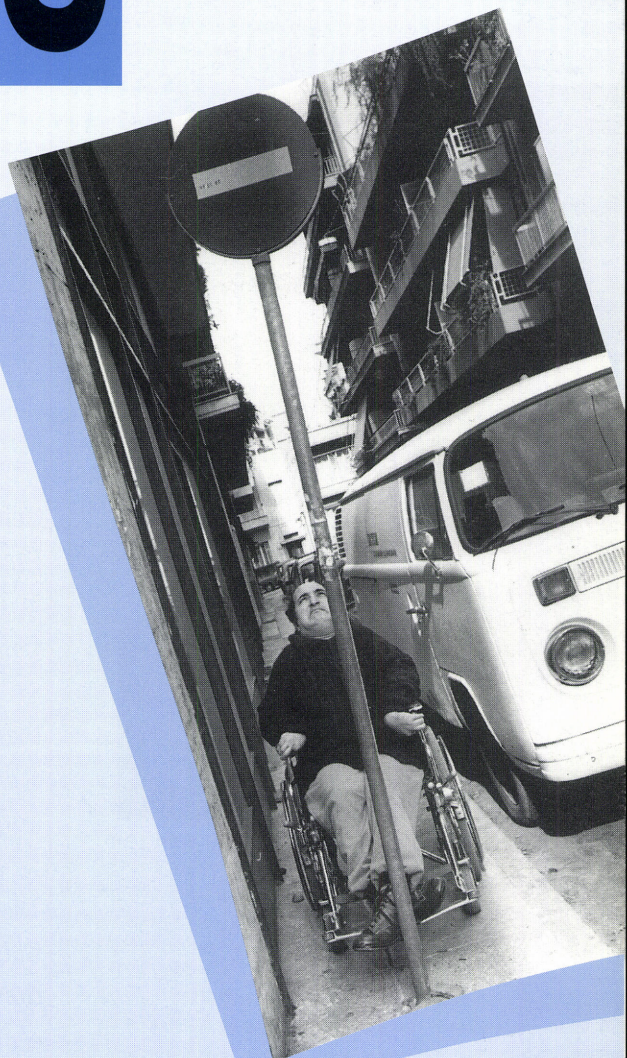


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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
PROGRAMME FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

**E**

**N° 8 - 3rd year 1991**

Bureau de dépôt : Bruxelles X  
TRIMESTRIEL : MAI





*Coinciding with the accession of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Presidency of the European Communities for the first term of 1991, I am pleased to introduce this year's first issue of HELIOS magazine, edited by the Commission as part of its programme in support of disabled people.*

*I can only congratulate the Commission's efforts to facilitate a better integration of disabled people into society in the most wide ranging areas, such as schooling, work, housing, transport and leisure.*

*The government of Luxembourg readily supports the work of the Commission, which is inspired by a humane and brotherly vision. This action is designed to complement the private and public initiatives of different countries by giving a common impetus to their work. It reflects a commitment to the well-being of our fellow man as a consequence of social justice. It is therefore vital that the purely material and economic dimensions of the Community are exceeded.*

*I am also pleased to underline that HELIOS magazine extends way beyond the EEC territory, reaching 56 countries in the nine official languages of the Community. Such an effort of diffusion is worthy of recognition.*

*It is my sincere wish that the Commission wholly succeeds in implementing this second programme in support of disabled people.*

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG



**Jacques SANTER**  
(January 1991)

Prime Minister



## LMA and RCE : 1991 programme of activities

Every year the same principle governs the organisation of the work of the three networks of local model activities (LMA / school, economic, social integration) and of the network of centres and experiences of rehabilitation and vocational training (RCE).

For the LMAs, activities focus on an annual theme which allows discussions, the search for solutions, initiatives and exchanges of experience to concentrate on a key subject in the sector of activity of each network.

The RCE network continues to look at rehabilitation globally, but takes a more specific approach to vocational training according to a general type of disability.

### LMA : annual theme '91

The annual themes are discussed by all the network members at the seminar (mid-term) and the conference (end of year). These two plenary meetings are prepared during the year by common study visits; sometimes a particular topic is developed in parallel.

#### • LMA I / School integration : "A full school life" (Theme '90 : "Teachers and parents")

The title covers the following points:

- Elimination of architectural and technical barriers : construction, adaptation and equipment of school and college buildings, allowing children and young people with disabilities to benefit fully from educational equipment.
- Adaptation of school transport for all levels of teaching regardless of the setting (urban or rural).
- Social experience of children and young people with disabilities in a

mainstream educational setting. Also, social experience of the other pupils.

The problem of transition between the end of schooling and post-school life will be studied in-depth as part of the annual theme.

Common study visits will enable the following discussion topics to be developed (non-exhaustive list): New technologies applied to education / School evaluation / Acceptance of multi-handicapped children / Broadening of integration / Information / Development of functional links between special education and ordinary education / Preparation for post-school and adult life.

#### • LMA II / Economic integration : "Employment" (Theme '90 ; "Preparation for employment")

The title covers the following points :

- Access to employment / Elimination of psychological and technical barriers

- Information of the partners concerned

- Salary system

- Role of associations, employers, unions, administration, etc, in the employment of disabled people.

The common study visits will enable the following discussion topics to be developed (non-exhaustive list): Disabled women and employment / Employment of sensory disabled people / Role of parent associations / Training of trainers / Disability, employment and economy : the grass-root realities.

#### • LMA III / Social integration : "Accessibility of buildings open to the public" (Theme '90 : "Mobility and Transport")

The title covers the following points :

- Town planning, criteria for accepting construction plans.
- Elimination of architectural barriers.
- Information and training of professionals (architects, town planners).
- Public awareness campaign.

Common study visits will enable the following discussion topics to be developed (non-exhaustive list) :

- Local services : conflict between disabled people and professionals



for the dignity and right to choose ; participation of disabled people in the management and decision-making ; role of associations and professionals.

- Mental handicap : services (deinstitutionalisation, rights, housing, leisure, etc.) ; role of associations and of the public authorities in the management of services ; growing old.

- Social psychiatry : methodology.

#### **Network of centres : mental illness and handicap**

The year's main meetings will be devoted to the psychiatric and mental aspect of disability, a large concept which will be treated in three specific phases during the following theme-based seminars :

- Luxembourg (May) : "New technologies and mental handicap"
- Rotterdam (September) : "Insertion of mentally ill people in open or special employment"
- Bordeaux (December) : "Medical and vocational rehabilitation of people with brain injuries".

In keeping with its method of technical co-operation with NGOs, LMAs and centres of the outer network, the RCE network joins up with specialists for the preparation and work of each seminar. ■

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HANNOVER : "Disability and employment : preparing disabled people for work"**

**The Hannover conference (10-12 December 1990) fits into the general pattern of the Economic integration network of the HELIOS programme. It rounded off the working year of the local model activities in this field.**

**The aim of the conference was to identify the measures needed to improve the access of disabled people to employment in the EC-member states and to formulate common approaches.**

**The conference also focused on the evolution of the labour market for disabled people — in the lead up to 1992 — and on the special role played by placement services.**

**Particular attention was paid to the transferability of experiences of local model activities concerned with employment to the five new Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

The 1989 annual theme of network II / Economic Integration : "Assessment of the working abilities of disabled people and guidance into the different stages of vocational training and employment", was completed in 1990 by the theme : "Methods of preparation for work, vocational training and the role of placement services in employment".

#### **Assessment**

The first stage in the work process — assessment — can be a difficult time for disabled people, many of whom are long-term unemployed.

Reflections on the assessment of working abilities led to the conclusion that it must be :

- based on the real work situation
- defined in relation to the aim : either to identify precise training or to find and keep a job

- transparent, allowing the disabled person to understand the elements of the assessment and its precise objectives. Disabled people must be an integral part of this process.

#### **Preparation / Training**

The Hannover conference underlined the importance of good preparation for work, and notably of vocational training which relies heavily on the quality of the training of the trainer.

The following points were mentioned as essential factors in the insertion of disabled people in the work setting :

- A job profile for trainers must be identified
- The training of disabled people as trainers should be developed to enable better communication
- The recognition of diplomas at





*This blind student on an engineering course is being taught the use of a braille micrometer*

European level will lead to a higher profile for this work

- Basic training of trainers in an ordinary setting should include a module on the special needs of disabled young people, as a way to improve their integration into training in the ordinary setting

- Specialised trainers should pass through a selection procedure before entry to their basic training, to ensure that they are sufficiently motivated

- Vocational training in an ordinary setting should be promoted

- Good collaboration between ordinary and special systems should be promoted as an essential factor for the success of integration.

- Training should have direct links with the future job. Training at the place of work can be a key element in the success of the placement.

- Training in therapeutic and medical centres should be avoided. Specialists should be available to give advice and information to disabled young people and adults at work.

- The use of new technologies should not be limited to computers, but include applications in fields such as biotechnology, robotics, etc

- Distance learning through new technology has many advantages, provided that the teaching material is high in quality, follow-up is organised and isolation is avoided.

### **Placement**

- With regard to placement, the job should be chosen in consultation with the disabled person, taking account of his/her experience, needs

and aspirations ; the job market must therefore be constantly analysed

- There is a need to heighten the awareness and active participation of disabled people (and not just that of the other actors in the placement process)

- Placement services must take account of the individual abilities of the candidate and the characteristics of the job concerned

- Employers must be made more aware of the needs of disabled people and be supported when employing them, as much at the psychological and social level as in the technical field, i.e. adaptation of the workplace, accessibility, internal mobility, sanitary facilities, transport from home to place of work, ...

### **Transferability**

Within the framework of the HELIOS programme, methods for the exchange of experiences — developed since 1988 — have resulted in several transfers of activities.

Together with the theme *preparation for work*, this conference responded to the request of the Federal Republic of Germany to contribute, at Community level, to the setting up of positive measures promoting the professional integration of disabled people from the east of Germany.

The transferability of experiences was therefore a key discussion topic.

Local model activities in the field of economic integration presented their activities and developments to the participants from the east of Germany, who were numerous and attentive. But they especially offered their co-operation in helping to transfer this know-how to the five new *Länder*.



Since the fall of the iron curtain, the disabled population of the Community has increased. As a result, the circle of partners — direct or not — of the HELIOS programme is expected to widen.



## VALENCIA THEMATIC SEMINAR : training and vocational integration of deaf people

**This thematic seminar — the fifth and last of 1990 — was organised on 13-15 December by the network of centres and experiences in rehabilitation and vocational training (RCE), in collaboration with the Audiofonology Institute of Valencia (Spain).**

**This meeting was the first specific activity of the network concerning deaf people. The content can be divided into two parts : a theoretical, philosophical and legal approach (presented mainly by the Spanish); more pragmatic issues.**

The organisers wanted deaf people to play a major role over the three days. In co-operation with the ECRS (the European Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf), the HELIOS expert team invited eight deaf people, four of whom gave papers at the plenary session (Christine Castel-Niell : "The situation for young deaf people in France" / Gloria Pullen : "Results of a European study" / Sam Pattipeiluhu : "Vocational insertion of deaf people in Europe" / Jean-François Labes : "Personal reflections on the seminar content").

### **Two different approaches**

The main aim of the Valencia seminar was to establish a 'peaceful confrontation' — in terms of the vocational training and employment of deaf people — between the Spanish situation and the position of other member states.

Presentations by the Spanish participants covered education, vocational training and employment. Representatives of local, regional and national administration highlighted activities in these areas.

Particular emphasis was placed on integrated training and specialised courses for deaf people.

Associations and parents also had their say : in the future, they would like to be more involved in the management of training and employment for the Spanish deaf community.

Representatives of the other member states spoke about the experiences developed in their own countries, showing the Spanish contingent that there is a real hope of realising certain aims of integration, provided that every actor in the process is willing to take responsibility.

Finally the meeting of these two currents facing vocational training and employment of deaf people was beneficial to everyone. But much remains to be done to improve the situation, as proved by the conclusions of the seminar.

### **Conclusions**

- Level of qualification of teachers of deaf people must be improved

- A university education/training for sign interpreters should be set up
- Guidance teams of deaf people should be established (including the idea of the "link" person)

- The different educational and vocational systems do not offer enough choice to deaf people

- Lack of awareness about the abilities of deaf people, in particular among trade unions and employment organisations

- Lack of collaboration between institutions working for/with deaf people

- More research into the application of employment programmes (for example, quota schemes) for deaf people

- Developments in new technology for deaf people should be examined; its use must increase

- Adequate legislation for the vocational integration of deaf people must be implemented Community-wide to ensure that their basic rights are respected. ■



## Training session in Luxembourg

After Copenhagen in September 1990, Handynet organised its second training session from 4-6 March 1991. The aim : to reinforce co-operation between the national correspondents of this European computerized information system at the service of disabled people.

Now entering its operational stage, Handynet is called upon to cover step-by-step all information of interest to disabled people in the Community, whether it be technical aids, employment, training or accessibility.

To step up the collection and dissemination of information, Handynet is supported by national organisations with expertise in the area covered.

For example, the module on technical aids is based on co-operation between the information collection centres designated by the member states (called "National data collection and coordination centres"). These centres already have national experience in the processing of data concerning "products for a better life" available on the European market (for example : wheelchairs, cars, beds, etc.).\*

### Second training session

The training session in Luxembourg – jointly prepared by the Ministry of the Family and Solidarity of the Grand Duchy, the European Space Agency and the HELIOS expert team – took place over three days at the offices of the Commission of the European Communities in Kirchberg.

The work programme, focusing on the practical aspects of the system,

enabled 40 experts from 12 member states to develop the content and methodology of the information collection.

The two modules — 'Technical aids for motor disabled people' and 'Educational software' — were high on the agenda in terms of content, as well as for the practical exercises.

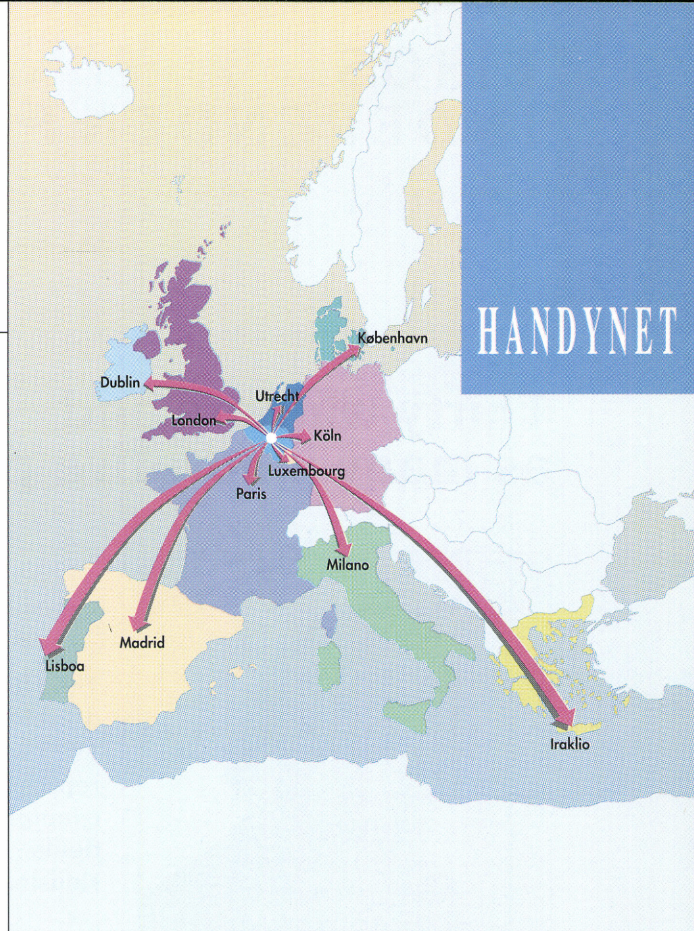
Emphasis was also placed on the method of co-operation, as much at national level between specialists of different categories of technical aids, as at European level between the national data coordination and collection centres.

For example, training sessions will take place between two or more national centres according to their specific needs or problems (computing, information content, collection procedure, etc.), so that they can benefit from individualised training.

### Collaboration

Collaboration between centres and the commercial organisations which produce, import or distribute technical aids, is also being stepped up with the comprehensiveness of the Handynet system in mind.

This second training session has reiterated the value of a European



*Handynet, a community network of co-operation via a national coordination and collection centre in every member state*

information system at the service of disabled people, as well as the importance of co-operation between the organisations belonging to the Handynet network.

This co-operation should become even more extensive — with an increased training activity — thanks to the Horizon community initiative (cf last page and HELIOS n°6, p.12).

(\*) : details of new technology products will be given in the two following modules (soon to be operational) : 'Technical aids for visually impaired people' and 'Technical aids for communication'; these products are : optics and electro-optics, telephony, specific computerized systems and computing accessories, etc. ■



# HELIOS INDEPENDENT LIVING AWARDS 1990

## Thirty winners and as many innovative projects ...



The HELIOS awards for projects promoting an independent life for disabled people have been held for the second consecutive year. The 1990 winners — one or several candidates from each member state, representing a wide range of public or private organisations — are all examples of good practice and innovation in one of the following fields : Transport and Mobility ; Access to Buildings and Environment; Housing and Supporting Services.

Before reviewing the winners (see p.9-11), Mr Wycliffe Noble, Chairman of the jury, explores the benefits of this unique competition, explains how the projects are judged and evokes the hopes inspired by them.

*“Some may say that the HELIOS independent living awards are of little value, that it would be far better devoting time and resources to meet individual needs ; in brief, that they are not the best way to advance the cause of integration.*

*This narrow perspective restricts our vision and our aspirations for the future.*

### **The awards, a benefit to us all**

*Launched in 1989, this unique initiative of the Commission is only part of a broader strategy.*

*By using the awards as a tool, the Commission has prised open our minds and directed our attention to some remarkable and also some simple, unobtrusive projects, all so worthy of exposure and recognition.*

*I believe that to heighten public awareness to what can be changed, to redeem what is unsatisfactory and unworthy, and to demonstrate with skill and imagination what can be achieved is sufficient credibility for the founding of these European awards.*

### **Three categories of projects**

*It is inevitable that certain nominations strayed and sometimes overlapped the criteria for the three award categories — Transport and mobility; Access to buildings and environment; Housing and supporting services.*

*Indeed, no project can be considered in isolation : for example, an effective transport project depends upon many related features within engineering, traffic management, architecture and communication. An accessible railway station with an inadequate information service for those with sight or hearing impairments, inaccessible rolling stock and inferior routes or networks is not an integrated system.*

### **A winning approach**

*I advised my Jury that however impressive a particular presentation, we had to reach the heart of the project. A distance of 100,000km was covered involving visits to a total of 46 projects —from the 82 nominated— where the expertise of*

*the jury was needed on the spot.*

*To discover the contribution of the project toward a life of independence for disabled people, the jury set itself a three-part questionnaire :*

- *Function : Did the project fulfil the technical and user requirements ?*
- *Quality : What distinguished it from a similar project of the same country ?*
- *Uniqueness : Did the project reach the aims of the HELIOS programme in identifying an initiative worthy for others to consider ?*

### **Building for the future**

*None of these projects must be forgotten once the competition is over. They are examples of good practice, of quality, of imagination, of enterprise worthy not only of brief inclusion in this magazine, but in a future publication and reference point for those who wish to build upon what we have discovered when planning for a truly integrated society.”*

**C. Wycliffe Noble**



## CATEGORY A : MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

### BELGIUM

Research Unit of the University of Antwerp  
Groenenborgerlaan 171 — B-2020  
Antwerpen

Automatic equipment which, when mounted on a wheelchair, is able to avoid static or mobile obstacles in its path (for example, a person passing in front of it). The equipment enables severely disabled people with little control to circulate without danger to themselves or others.

### DENMARK

Danish Sports Federation for Disabled  
People

Idraettens Hus. Brøndby Station 20 —  
DK-2605 Brøndby

This project has made a new sport, go-karting, available to disabled children, integrating them into club life with other young people. A specially designed go-kart driven by joy-sticks — one for steering and the other for braking and accelerating — allows disabled children to compete with their peers at speeds of up to 70km per hour!

### GERMANY

Universität Hamburg. Forschungsgruppe  
BILOS

Von Melle Park 8 — D — 2000 Hamburg  
13

Transmitters, operating on infra-red rays, are strategically placed at the railway station, post office, etc. and give signals to a receiver which translates them into an oral message. A blind person can then receive instructions, directions, and other information.

### GREECE

Spastics Society, Athens. Archemidous 42  
Pangrati — GR — Athens 116 36

This project merits an award as the first comprehensive survey into ac-

cessibility in Athens by disabled people. It examines all aspects of the city and their suitability for disabled people.



*"No entry ! The prohibition of passage doesn't stop at car drivers...". One amongst many irregularities identified by the Spastics Society of Athens in their study of the city.*

### SPAIN

Eusko Trenbideak. Ferrocarriles Vascos  
SA

Atxuri 6 — E — 48006 Bilbao

A fully accessible bus and underground scheme incorporating braille timetables, cues on handrails combined with audible information, colour-coding for safe access and egress, etc.

### IRELAND

Irish Rail. Connolly Station — IRL —  
Dublin 1

Rosslare Harbour is a major rail, road and sea crossroads for travel-

ers in Ireland. The overall design from conception through to completion has the disabled person in mind with the aim of promoting integrated and independent travel.

### ITALY

Istituto Universitario di Architettura  
l'Uomo e l'Ambiente Costruito  
S. Croce 191 — I — 30135 Venice

This project receives an award for its original approach in creating a guide book for people who are blind. The guide has text in braille, tactile maps and tactile drawings of buildings, the vaporetti and gondolas and other sights of the city.

### THE NETHERLANDS

Federatie van Ouderverenigingen  
Postbus 85276 — NL — 3508 AG Utrecht

This project deals with the transport of disabled children and lays down guidelines for good practice and quality of service. It is responsible for the transport of some 83,000 children in 500 schools.

### UNITED KINGDOM

Perth and Kinross District Council.  
Planning and Industry Department  
PO Box N° 57 — 2 High Street — UK —  
Perth PH1 5YH

Creation and landscaping of a woodland park, opening up a new opportunity for those who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the countryside. The visitor centre incorporates fully accessible parking, toilets, reception areas and a shop, managed by a staff of disabled people. ■



# H ELIOS INDEPENDENT LIVING AWARDS 1990

## CATEGORY B : ACCESS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

### BELGIUM

*Entente Carolorégienne pour la Promotion du Sport et des Loisirs pour Handicapés 1a, rue de l'Ancre — B-6000 Charleroi*  
Part of the exhibition centre has been adapted so that disabled people may participate in the sporting activities. Certain special facilities have also been incorporated, enabling disabled people to take part in sports which previously would have been impossible.

### DENMARK

*Tropholt Museum of Modern Art. Aeblehaven 23  
Strandhuse — DK — 6000 Kolding*  
An innovative approach to the problems of accessibility on sloping terrain. For example, all the exhibition halls on the sloping site are linked by a vaulted tunnel on the north side which is one long ramp with access to each hall.

### GERMANY

*Stadt Gelsenkirchen. Zeppelinallee 4 — D — 4650 Gelsenkirchen*  
Gelsenkirchen has a comprehensive plan to make the city accessible, supported by maps for blind people, giving all relevant information. There is also an accessible bus service and a coupon scheme for taxis for disabled people.

### GREECE

*Spastics Society of Northern Greece  
Vasilis Olgas 106 — GR — 54643 Thessaloniki*  
Disabled children and adults are given the chance to take part in cultural and leisure activities with the support of volunteers. They are involved in summer camps and outings to cultural and recreational facilities both in Greece and abroad.

### SPAIN

*Centro Estatal de Autonomia Personal y Ayudas Técnicas — c/Agustin de Foxa 31 — E — 28036 Madrid*

This centre is totally accessible and has facilities for people who come for information or to be trained. It provides details of adaptations and all aspects of the life of a disabled person, with links throughout Spain.

### IRELAND

*Jury's Hotel. Pembroke Road  
Ballbridge — IRL — Dublin 4*  
Jury's Hotel has developed a programme to provide accessible services for disabled people, including specially adapted rooms, ramps, lifts with embossed controls etc.

### ITALY

*Comune di Cremona. Piazza del Comune 8 — I — 26100 Cremona*  
This small centre aims to train and

prepare mentally handicapped teenagers for independent living. The centre is in a converted building in the town and has been provided with all necessary facilities while retaining its non-institutional aspects.

### THE NETHERLANDS

*Gehandicaptenraad. Postbus 169 — NL — 3500 AD Utrecht*  
The award is given to the seventh revised edition of the Dutch manual for an accessible environment. The manual has had a great influence on design in the Netherlands and has resulted in legislation and changes in Dutch culture and attitudes.

### PORTUGAL

*Associação Portuguesa de Paralisia Cerebral. Núcleo Regional do Sul  
Avenida Rainha D. Amélia — P — 1600 Lisboa*  
This project is recommended for its total accessibility. It has all necessary features and facilities and it provides a total training and preparation for work and daily living for young people with cerebral palsy.

### UNITED KINGDOM

*The Leonard Cheshire Foundation. Park House. Sandringham  
King's Lynn — GB — Norfolk PE35 6LA*  
A historic but dilapidated house has been restored to its former elegance, while also providing amenities for 25 guests, many of whom will be severely disabled. Facilities include curtains and doors operated by remote control, loop induction, embossed numbering, gently ramped garden terraces, etc. ■



Photo: Centro Estatal de Autonomia-Madrid (ES)



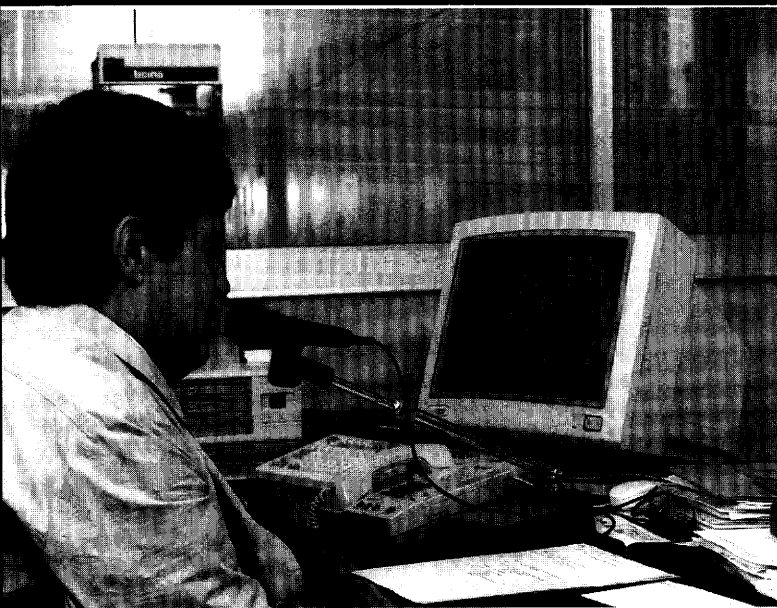


Photo: Gruppo DATARC-Torino (I)

## CATEGORY C : HOUSING, INCLUDING MATERIAL AND PERSONAL SUPPORT

### **BELGIUM**

*Didactische Centrale voor Motorisch Gestoorden vzw*  
Poeldendries 32 — B — 9840 Landegem  
Advanced technology enables severely disabled people to control their environment. Special switches and eye interfaces allow a person to use the telephone, a typewriter, control the door, curtains, heating etc. This prototype can also be adapted to allow for control by air (a suck-blow system) mechanically, electronically or by infra-red equipment.

### **DENMARK**

*Danish Association for the Blind*  
Thoravej 35 — DK — 2400 Copenhagen NV  
This resort centre merits an award for its excellent training facilities for independent living, its good design and its total accessibility for all groups of disabled people.

### **GERMANY**

*Soziale Hilfe Marburg eV. Hofstadt 5 — D — 3550 Marburg*  
This project helps integrate ex-psychiatric patients into the local community by providing accommodation and job opportunities, for example through sheltered workshops.

### **GREECE**

*Rhodes Municipal Welfare Organisation. Town Hall — GR — 85100 Rhodes*  
The municipality has a comprehensive policy for services for disabled and elderly people. In a historical site such as Rhodes they have managed to provide facilities

for all the citizens, without damaging the intrinsic features of the town.

### **SPAIN**

*Asociacion de Educacion Especial. Centro de Adulto La Barca*  
c/ Consolacion 21, 4° — E — Torrelavega Cantabria  
The project works to assist families with disabled young people, by supporting them in an open society in pursuit of a life of independence. The therapeutic programme includes counselling, assessment and social training.

### **FRANCE**

*Association Aides aux Personnes à Handicap Moteur. Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie*  
Quai Freycinet 1 — F — 59140 Dunkerque  
This project has adapted old buildings across the town into flats for people with physical disabilities. Adapted transport for visits to theatres and transport round the town adds to the concept.

### **IRELAND**

*Downs Syndrome Association of Ireland. 27 South William Street — IRL — Dublin 2*  
Centre for the therapeutic, recreational, educational and physical advancement of disabled adults. Its aims include: provision, in a home environment, of social training and learning facilities; preparation and education of trainees for acceptable job skills in the community.

### **ITALY**

*Gruppo DATARC. c/o A.I. S. M.*  
Corso Sebastopoli 286 — I — 10136 Torino  
This project, aptly titled "Apriti

Sesamo", provides equipment which allows a severely disabled person to control the environment. The system is controlled by a voice recognition system and allows for normal computer operation plus control of door, windows, telephone, radio, lights, etc.

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

*Nationale Woningraad. Markenlaan 1 — NL — 1305 AB Almere*  
This project is remarkable for its design of houses which may eventually, and as necessary, be adapted for disabled people. All facilities are designed so that they may be easily adapted and with minimum inconvenience.

### **PORTUGAL**

*Delegação de Evora da Associação Portuguesa de Pais e Amigos do Cidadão Deficiente Mental*  
Quinta do Escurinho — P — 7000 Evora  
This project cares for young people with mental handicap. Their house is in the town and near the commercial centre. The whole project is well designed and very accessible.

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Freespace Housing. 5 Bowmont Place — GB — Edinburgh EH8 9RY*  
This project provides housing within the community for disabled people. The design requirements are based on the experiences of the future tenants, who are now involved in the ongoing management of the project. ■



## EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ILSMH (International League of Societies for People with mental handicap)

The International League of Societies for People with mental handicap (ILSMH) was founded in 1960, at the initiative of associations of parents and friends of people with mental handicap and of professionals in mental handicap, anxious to defend the rights and interests of these people, regardless of nationality, race or religion.

People with mental handicap represent a large group in our society : between 1 and 3% of the world population. Among the different areas relating to mental handicap which are covered by the League, we should note : prevention, diagnosis and early treatment, education and vocational training, economic security, social insertion, guardianship, interfamily links, legislation and public information.

### General objectives

The main aims of the League are :

- to determine, in collaboration with disabled people, their families and specialists, the measures allowing their best possible integration. With this in mind, committees have been created, calling upon general goodwill and the readiness of specialists to work voluntarily
- to promote contacts between member societies and communicate any information which may be of use to them. Since 1982, thanks to a "partnership exchange" held during every general assembly, a very fruitful exchange has developed between member societies worldwide, including offers and requests

for specialised support

- to encourage the setting up of new societies. The League now has 138 member societies, spread over 84 countries. In all the countries of the European Community, the League numbers effective, affiliated and associated member societies

- to build up contacts with international, governmental and non-governmental bodies and to be the representative of the member societies

- to supervise the application of the basic principles set out in the "Declaration on the rights of Mentally Retarded Persons" (UN - 20 December 1971)

### International role

In order to achieve these aims, ILSMH organises — with the help of its member societies — international symposia of experts, regional conferences (notably European) and a world congress every four years. It publishes the results of this work, as well as the "News" (title of a periodical translated into the four official languages of the League : French, English, Spanish and German) and various general interest brochures.

The League has a consultative status with respect to UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO (International Labour Organisation), WHO (World Health Organisation), ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United



Photo : ANAHIM - Brissels (B)



Nations) and the Council of Europe.

### **Organisation at European level**

In line with other international associations, the League created a legally autonomous European association — the European Association of ILSMH — on the 28 May 1988 at Gourrock (Scotland). This association maintains official links with the Commission of the EC and is a permanent member of the HELIOS Liaison group.

One of the main concerns of this European association — whose aims are the same as those of the League — is to improve the quality of life of people with mental handicap and their families in the member states of the Community. To this end, it actively participates — in collaboration with the other European NGO members of the HELIOS Liaison group — in the wide ranging work of the Commission towards the development of a common policy adapted to the specific needs of disabled people in the European Community.

*For all further information :*

**European Association of ILSMH**  
**248 avenue Louise – bte 17**  
**B-1050 Brussels**  
**Belgium**  
**Tel: (32-2)647.61.80**

## **5th EUCREA colloquium / festival**

### **“Culture and Disability, a Celebration and Statement”**

EUCREA Ireland hosts the fifth European Colloquium / Festival on culture and disability to be held this year in Dublin from the 15-19 May. The events will form part of Dublin's celebrations as the European City of Culture 1991.

The colloquium features a wide range of activities, including workshops, street pageants and open air shows, with a strong emphasis on the visual and performing arts. One of the highlights will be a “Gala Variety Performance” boasting a galaxy of Irish and international stars with disabilities, as well as celebrities from all over Europe. There will be a major exhibition of work by artists from the EC-member states and presentations from each of the 12 national EUCREA organisations.

Alongside the celebratory events there will be a more formal side to the conference, with a meeting of members of the national organisations to discuss key documents.

It is hoped that a policy statement will emerge to conclude the celebrations, setting the scene for the '90s with regard to Arts, Culture and their accessibility to all people within the Community who have a disability.

*For all further information, please contact :*

**David Rose, Administrator**  
**1 Grotto Avenue, Rock Road**  
**Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**  
**Tel: (01) 831287**

## **EUCREA TO HOLD MAJOR ELECTIONS**

A new board of EUCREA directors will be elected at this year's general assembly, to be held during the Dublin colloquium in May. Members will vote on candidates put forward by the 12 national committees. One of the first tasks of the newly appointed board will be to elect an executive board — President, Treasurer and Secretary. We'll keep you posted on who's doing what and where ...

## **Creativity projects : your guide to funding**

For the period 1992/1993, the Commission of the European Communities is now accepting applications for funding in the area of creativity. Preference will be given to those projects which actively combine creativity and disability.

### **General criteria**

Projects should :

- 1) originate from within the European Community;
- 2) involve at least four member states;
- 3) originate from a legal body (institution, organisation, association);
- 4) be concerned with creativity (the arts) and disabled people;
- 5) demonstrate funding support from agencies other than the European Commission;
- 6) indicate methods of disseminating information about the project and its results;
- 7) reflect an innovative character;
- 8) represent a contribution in the field of creativity and disabled people.

Interested organisations should apply to their national EUCREA committee before the end of September 1991.

*Addresses are available from :*

**EUCREA, 32 square Ambiorix,**  
**bte 47, B-1040 Brussels**



## DIRECTIVE PROPOSAL : Mobility and Transport

**On 6 February 1991, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive to improve the mobility and safe transport to work of workers with reduced mobility. To quote Miss Papandreou, European Commissioner responsible for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs : "This proposal, which forms part of our efforts to strengthen the social dimension in readiness for the completion of the Single Market in 1992, is an expression of Community solidarity and serves to promote the integration of disabled people into the employment market".**

All categories of workers with reduced mobility —whatever their disability— are covered by this directive, which was laid down in the Community charter of basic rights of workers. There is no point in action towards the professional integration of disabled people into the ordinary setting unless they can actually get to their place of work.

The proposal of the Commission provides for the provision of transport geared to the special needs of workers with reduced mobility, in terms of accessibility and the requisite facilities to enable them to travel safely. It also provides for accompanying measures, especially as regards the information and training of the people concerned.

The proposal concerns public transport, transport organised by employers and special transport services for disabled people or any other measure having similar scope. The minimum requirements set out for adaptation and modernisation correspond to initiatives already taken in several member states.

### **An essential directive**

The European Parliament, the European Conference of Transport Ministers, the Council of Europe and the most representative or-

ganisations of and for disabled people at Community level have long been calling for legislation on mobility and transport for disabled workers.

This directive is designed to complement the Community legislation on health and safety at work for workers with reduced mobility, proposed since 1988 by the Commission. The framework directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work adopted by the Council on 12 June 1989 provides in Article 15 for employers to protect certain people— including disabled workers— from the risks specifically affecting them.

In spite of previous initiatives, a gap still existed : absence of measures against the risks run by disabled workers—due to means of transport which are unsuitable for their needs— on their journey to and from work. The gap was filled by this directive. The text also reflects the priority that the Commission attaches to the economic and social integration of disabled people in general and to their insertion on the labour market in particular. According to estimates, the proportion of unemployed disabled persons of working age is relatively higher than that of non-disabled people despite

the positive action taken by several member states to remedy this problem.

### **Content of the directive**

The purpose of this directive is not to make all means of transport accessible for workers with reduced mobility, but to enable them to travel safely either by means of public transport or by other equivalent measures.

Moreover, in order to increase the accessibility of means of transport, three technical alternatives are provided for :

- either a technical aid incorporated in the means of transport ;
- or a technical aid external to the means of transport;
- or a personal aid provided by a specially-trained staff.

These provisions, amongst others, take sufficient account of the principle of decentralisation, which is of particular importance in the field of public transport, which (except for trains) is organised at local or regional level in almost all the member states. The directive sets the aim to be achieved and leaves each competent authority to choose how best to implement the directive according to the real needs of the users.

Finally, the directive allows the member states time to bring into force the necessary laws, regulations and administrative provisions by the end of 1992 and to present a timetable for their implementation by the end of 1999.



# MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT THE CONTEXT

## I. Situation in the member states

For several years, all member states have been making great efforts to improve access and services for persons with reduced mobility.

Laws in the member states vary considerably in substance and scope. Disparities occur not only between member states, but also between regions and even areas of one and the same member state. However, there are many public authorities which have introduced practical schemes at local or regional level, in the absence of national legislation.

The accessibility aspect is especially advanced in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands.

To take a few examples :

- In Germany, more than 600 low-floor buses are already in operation on existing routes, and 50% of all new equipment ordered for 1991 is for this type of bus.
- In France, the Grenoble tram system was awarded the European Community excellence award in 1989.
- The Lille and Munich underground railway systems are fully accessible.
- The TGV high speed trains will also be made fully accessible.
- In Spain, a prototype accessible taxi has been developed and series production will get underway in the near future.

• In the United Kingdom, London taxis are gradually being converted to make them properly accessible.

• In Greece, the Athens city authorities have just decided to place an order for 20 low-floor buses.

## II. Economic aspect

According to a Commission study in 1990, the extra costs of renewing certain means of transport can be estimated as follows :

- Between 0 and 20% for low-floor buses ; the leading manufacturer - in terms of cost - charges only for accessibility options (extending ramps, lifts etc)
- 10% for low-floor tram vehicles.

The large-scale manufacture of accessible vehicles and competition between manufacturers should lead to reductions in the additional costs for all producers. The increase in the number of passengers will also make it more economical.

Finally, another important consideration is the means of adapted public transport, in particular the accessible bus, which is in general 30% cheaper than transport by a specialised transport service. ■



Photo : Semitag - Grenoble (F)



Photo : Eusko Trenbideak - Bilbao (ES)



## HORIZON : a new Community initiative

In HELIOS n° 6, we reported on the imminent and much awaited arrival of the Horizon community initiative. It came into effect on 18 December 1990, when the Commission of the European Communities decided to create this financial measure in support of disabled people and certain other disadvantaged groups (Official Journal C327 of 29.12.90).

### I HORIZON : the main objectives

With a total budget of 180 million ECU for a period of three years (1991-93), Horizon will give substantial financial support to community actions aiming to promote the professional and social integration of disabled people and certain other disadvantaged groups.

Financial intervention is provided for transnational operations with at least one partner from a Priority I region, i.e. the least economically developed European regions. This co-operation is provided for exchanges of training programmes, trainers or trainees.

The "Disabled Person" section of the Horizon initiative aims to reinforce the HELIOS programme and the Handynet system, and will enable direct financing by the ESF (European Social Fund) and the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) of programmes concerning :

- vocational training and employment of physically and mentally disabled people ;
- adaptation of the infrastructure taking account of the specific needs of disabled people.

### II Guide

A user guide to community initiatives has been published, designed to serve anyone wishing to implement projects within the framework of the Horizon initiative.

The guide aims to answer three general questions asked by those wishing to put forward projects :

1° Is the project eligible? (in other words, does it satisfy the criteria laid down by the Community authorities ?)

2° How to develop a transnational project ? (Search for partners, technical assistance, etc)

3° How to present a transnational project ?

(setting out the procedures to be followed)

### III List of national coordinators

(Underline : official responsible for the Community initiative at national level / bold : Horizon coordinator)

#### • BELGIUM

M. lo Palm.

Mme Demarche (provisional), Communauté française.

**MM. Lodewijckx et Van Den Bossche**, Communauté flamande.

#### • DENMARK

Mme H.C. Laurberg, Arbejdsministeriet, Socialfondssektionen.

**Mme Agnete Heine**, Socialministeriet.

#### • GERMANY

Ministerialrat K. Brüß, Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung.

**Ministerialrat Dr. H. Cramer**, Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung.

#### • GREECE

M.E. Ioannidou, Ministère du Travail — ESF

**M.A. Karidis**, Ministère du Travail — ESF

#### • SPAIN

M.V. Mora Gonzalez, Unidad Administradora del Fondo Social Europeo.

**M. de Los Angeles Riesco Sanchez**, Area de Asistencia Técnica del Insero.

#### • FRANCE

M.J.L. Durand-Drouhin et Mme M. Levy.

**Mme Gomez ou Mme Renard**, Mission réinsertion professionnelle.

#### • IRELAND

Mr. P. Hayden, Department of Labour.

**Mr. G. Heylin**, Department of Labour.

#### • ITALY

Still to be named

**Dr.ssa Antonia Spaziani**, Ministerio del Lavoro.

#### • LUXEMBOURG

M.E. Dornseiffer, Ministère du Travail.

**M.F. Hauptert**, Fondation APEMH.

#### • NETHERLANDS

M.J. Van Baal, Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid — Afdeling Europese Subsidie-Instrumenten.

**Dr. M. Smit**, Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid.

#### • PORTUGAL

Dr. J.A. Cravino Gaspar.

**Dr. A. Charana**.

#### • UNITED KINGDOM

M.B. Niven, European Communities Branch — Department of Employment.

**Mrs. Lorraine Huggins**, ESF Unit — Department of Employment.

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## HELIOS MAGAZINE

HELIOS

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Winners of the HELIOS Independent Living Awards 1990: from left to right and top to bottom — Irish Rail - Dublin (IRL) / Spastics Society of Athens (GR) / Danish Sports Federation for Disabled People - Brøndby (DK) - Photo : Nana Reimers / Didactische Centrale - Landegem (B)

## CORRECTION

In HELIOS magazine n° 7 (centre pages), there was a printing error in the "comparative graphic : mainstream education systems / special education systems". Due to a reversal of two colours, *technical training* (pale blue) should be replaced by *vocational training* (orange) for the following countries (mainstream education) : Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and the UK. Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.