

helios

flash 5

handynet

The HANDYNET system is at a crucial stage of its existence: the Commission has just submitted a comprehensive evaluation of the system and a proposal for a decision on its future development to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament.

Prior to this, as announced in Flash No. 4, a European evaluation session, jointly organised by the Commission and the Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft, was held in Cologne (D) on 17 and 18 May, drawing over 60 participants.

The session concentrated on two important aspects of HANDYNET's development: the technological improvement of the system and the identification of the direct priority user.

Technological adaptation is, of course, a constant feature of the HANDYNET system, since the design of the CD-ROM, which is set to remain the system's main tool, is being reviewed regularly. There is also room for other, more direct and instantaneous means of communication, however: one of these is the electronic mail facility, which is due to be gradually extended to all the partners of the HELIOS programme as of the end of the year.

But the central issue is: who is the system's direct priority user? At its inception, HANDYNET was designed essentially for use by the technical aids experts, who were expected to formulate disabled people's queries and consult the database on their behalf. Nowadays, it is increasingly the case that disabled people consult the database directly – a trend confirmed by representatives of German and European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the meeting in Cologne. This does not, however, prevent anyone wishing to consult HANDYNET from seeking assistance from a specialist familiar with the CD-ROM's structure and technology.

The HANDYNET system must be flexible and meet the needs of the disabled people it is designed to serve. This implies in particular greater geographical proximity to the customer, and therefore broad dissemination of the database in all the Member States, right down to local level. With this in mind, the CD-ROM is scheduled to be commercialised at the end of this year.

Bimonthly
newsletter
of the Community
action
programme
to assist
disabled people



Under the HELIOS programme, the European Commission can co-finance a number of activities with a European dimension (*such as conferences, seminars, working parties, etc.*) organised by non-governmental organisations of disabled people. Grants for these «Euro-programmes» are governed by very precise regulations, available on written request from:

Mr B. Wehrens, Head of the Division «Integration of disabled people», DG VIE/3, European Commission, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels.

NB: the deadline for submission of the full application file for 1995 activities is 1 November 1994.

NGOs: Euro-programmes

Below are some of the major public activities scheduled as part of the Euro-programmes for the fourth quarter of 1994. The NGO listed against each event is not the organiser, but the sectoral European coordinator which can supply general information on the conference.

Conference on the parents of visually impaired children in the context of integration and education in Europe, Paris (F), 4-5 November.

Contact: European Blind Union, tel.: +33-1-45.51.20.08, fax: +33-1-47.05.69.24

Conference: Telecommunications for deaf people, Rotterdam (NL), 2-4 November.

Contact: European Union Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf, tel.: +32-2-735.72.18, fax: +32-2-735.53.54

European Congress: Mental health and deafness, Paris (F), 24-27 November.

Contact: as above

Conference on the specific problems of hereditary ataxias, Munich (D), 7-9 October.

Contact: FIMITIC, tel.: +49-228-36.30.71, fax: +49-228-36.15.50

Conference: Shaping modifying environments, Paris (F), 3-6 December.

Contact: International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped - European Association, tel.: +32-2-647.61.80, fax: +32-2-647.29.69

Conference: Social exclusion and schooling, Aveiro (P), 21-22 October.

Contact: European Regional Council of the

World Federation for Mental Health, tel.: +32-2-735.54.01, fax: +32-2-736.32.90

Seminar: Autism, present and future, Athens (GR), 15-16 October.

Contact: Autism-Europe, tel.: +32-2-675.75.05, fax: +32-2-675.72.70

Conference on the role of multidisciplinary centres for people with MND, Madrid (E), 23-25 November. **Contact:** as above

Conference: Special education and the International Year of the Family, Manchester (UK), November.

Contact: European Association for Special Education, tel.: +45-98-99.2115, fax: +45-98-99.2115

Seminar on the legal rights of disabled people at work in Europe, Brussels (B), 26-27 October. **Contact:** Action européenne des handicapés, tel.: +49-228-820.930, fax: +49-228-820.9343

European Congress of the Union européenne des associations de spina bífida et d'hydrocéphalie, Noordwijkerhout (NL), October. **Contact:** as above

Seminar on the user's viewpoint with regard to the transition towards open employment, Bonn (D), 21-25 November.

Contact: as above

Social dogs and their use, Groesbeek (NL), 14-20 October.

Contact: Mobility International, tel.: +32-2-410.62.97, fax: +32-2-410.68.74

Conference on the link between art and disability in a cultural, social and economic context, Lisbon (P), November.

Contact: as above

Seminar on life at home for families confronted with mental handicap, Legnano (I), 20-22 October. **Contact:** COFACE,

tel.: +32-2-511.41.79, fax: +32-2-514.47.73

NGOs: other activities

More than 200 people representing nine platforms of European NGOs active in the social sector, including the European Disability Forum, attended the first meeting of the NGO Forum on European Social Policy in Brussels on 8 and 9 April (see Flash No. 4, page 3). Mr P. Flynn, the European Commissioner responsible for social affairs, opened the proceedings at the forum's first plenary session.

The meeting was called to discuss the Green Paper on European Social Policy and the social repercussions of the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness

and Employment, to compare social conditions in each of the Member States of the European Union, and to agree on a common position for recommendations and proposals for action in line with the priorities for a social Europe, namely: combatting unemployment and promoting solidarity and integration.

The proceedings and the text of the declaration adopted at the meeting are available from EAPN, NGO Forum, rue Belliard 205, boîte 13, B-1040 Brussels.

"QUALIFIKATION 94", Hanover (D)
The world's biggest vocational training fair. The European Commission will have a stand providing information on several of its initiatives in the employment and training field, including the HELIOS programme. Several events and debates are scheduled, in particular with partners of the HELIOS programme. We look forward to seeing you there.

A seminar bringing together partners of the programme from the education and employment/vocational training sectors is also planned as part of the fair.

Hanover from 27 to 30 September.

For further information: Deutsche Messe AG, Messengelände, D-30521 Hanover. Tel.: +49-511-893.21.03 Fax: +49-511-893.21.17.

NAIDEX 94, London (UK)

An international exhibition on equipment, technical aids and services for elderly and disabled people. There will be a HELIOS and HANDYNET information stand (stand No. 157B), where demonstrations of the HANDYNET CD-ROM will be given. The stand will be organised jointly with Disabled Living Foundation, a member of the HANDYNET technical coordination group.

London from 27 to 29 September 1994 (Wembley Exhibition Centre, London)

For further information:

Reed Exhibition Companies Ltd, 26 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1DL, United Kingdom. Tel.: +44-81-948.99.09 - Fax: +44-81-940.21.71

AUTONOMIC 94, Paris (F)

Independence in daily life for elderly and disabled people is the central theme of the AUTONOMIC 94 fair. There will be displays of products and services by 220 exhibitors from Europe and North America, and seminars and conferences are also planned.

Paris from 4 to 7 November

(Parc des expositions, Porte de Versailles)

Contact: P. Le Bras, tel.: +33-1-43.39.58.74.

Social security on the Scandinavian model

The Nordic Information Network is organising a conference on the Scandinavian social security system and the respective merits of each of the Member States of the European Union in terms of social policy following the accession of new members in 1995. A registration fee will be charged.

Brussels on 12 and 13 September

Contact: Nordic Information Network, Social Consult, Ladegaardsgade 19, DK-5610 Assens, Denmark. Tel.: +45-64-71.33.41 Fax: +45-64-71.33.41

Evaluation of the HELIOS programme

Many organisations from across Europe responded to a call for tender published in the Official Journal of the European Communities for a contractor to head an objective and independent evaluation of the HELIOS II programme, as provided for in the Council decision of 25 February 1993. The contract was eventually awarded to the Tavistock Institute in London (UK), which heads a team from four countries including the European Center for Work and Society (NL), Prisma (GR) and Nexus (IR). All four institutes have considerable experience in undertaking research in the field of disability and in evaluating major European programmes.

The evaluation to be undertaken by this team will address five key issues:

- In what ways and to what degree are disabled people and their families involved in the programme?
- What is the impact of HELIOS II activities on the quality of life of disabled people?
- By what means and to what extent has there been a transfer of effective

and innovative practice and successful experiences at local, national and European levels?

- What is the value added to local activities of Community participation?
- To what extent has there been consultation and synergy with other relevant initiatives at local, national and European levels?

A number of principles will underpin the evaluation activities.

One central principle is that disabled people are key «stakeholders» in the evaluation of the programme, and for this reason a number of consultation mechanisms will be developed through which disabled people and organisations of disabled people will be able to participate in the evaluation, set criteria by which the programme is evaluated, and provide their feedback on the impact of the programme.

Another important principle is that the team's evaluation activities will build on, and contribute to other local evaluations. The research team will therefore

draw up an evaluation framework following initial consultations, and will also provide support for local evaluation activities via workshops. There will also be a number of other core activities, including a survey of participants in local activities, and case studies which will examine different aspects of the functioning of the programme.

An outline of the evaluation plan is available on request from Dione Hills, Evaluation Development and Review Unit, Tavistock Institute, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA, UK. Fax: +44-71-794.46.61

HELIOS exchange and information activities

The exchange and information activities are continuing, largely in the form of study visits (*see Flash No. 3, page 1 and Flash No. 4, page 4*).

Some groups have completed their second visit.

Below are details of the study visits scheduled between 15 May and 15 July, plus a few earlier ones not announced in Flash No. 4. The name and fax number listed refer to the person to contact for a copy of the proceedings (available on payment of charges), who is not necessarily from the organisation receiving the visit.

Study groups have also been formed and started their work. There is one for each sector, and their tasks include identifying the key points developed during the study visits, analysing and summarising the results, preparing the European seminars to be held at the end of 1994, and making proposals for events in 1995. The groups' members are participants in the exchange and information ac-

tivities identified by the Member States at the end of last year, and most have experience of active involvement in other European programmes. All the Member States are represented in each of the study groups.

Functional rehabilitation

Study visits

«Quality of the provision of services, treatments and their effect on the quality of life», National Centrum voor Multiple Sclerose Afdeling Revalidatie, Melsbroek (B), 27-28 May, J. Rahbek, fax: +45-86-18.71.11

«Integration of deaf children, training in speaking and hearing, technical means such as cochlear implants», CMAP, Montegnée (B), 27-29 May, S. Demanez, fax: +32-41-63.10.74

«Rehabilitation of children and early intervention», Gailingen (D), 7-10 July, C. Bugje, fax: +34-3-278.01.74

«Programmes to allow people with brain injury to return to their usual environment and professional life», Centre médico-universitaire D. Douady, St Hilaire du Touvet (F), 1-7 July, T. Teasdale, fax: +45-31-54.67.77

«Improvement of the quality of life and of the independence of people with learning difficulties», MHMR, Maastricht (NL), 26-27 May, A. Dosen, fax: +31-4780-279.91

«Independence of people with mental health problems», Aiginito Hospital, Centre of Vocational Orientation, Athens (GR), 16-18 June, P. McDaid, fax: +353-91-75.26.44

«Use and efficiency of technical aids for people with visual impairments», National Council for the Blind, Dublin (IRL), 24-25 June, R. Evens, fax: +32-16-33.23.67

«Standardisation and evaluation of all aspects of functional rehabilitation», Pro Juventute, Pozzolatino (I), 14-16 April, C. Fontana, fax: +39-55-20.84.28

«The function of sports in the rehabilitation process», Sporthochschule, Cologne (D), 4-7 June, K.-A. Jochheim, fax: +49-49-717.82

«Relations between rehabilitation centres, reeducation centres, the structure for vocational training and employment services», Centre de rééducation neurolo-

(continued from page 3)

gique et de réadaptation fonctionnelle, Coubert (F), 16 May, P. Gayet, fax: +33-74.26.40.49

Education

Study visits

«Early educational attention for the under-threes: orientation, information and guidance for families»,

Undervisnings- og kulturforvaltningen, Roskilde (DK), 16-19 June, F. Giardina, fax: +39-931-32.844

«Multidisciplinary nature of integration: cooperation of all the services involved»,

Ministerium für Kultur und Sport, Stuttgart (D), 2-5 June, S. Asmussen, fax: +49-711-279.28.40

«Technical and educational aids for visually impaired children and youth»,

Dirección Provincial del MEC, Valladolid (E), 16-17 May, M. G. Orlandini, fax: +39-174-55.24.26

«The role and training of support teachers»,

Centre national de formation pour l'adaptation et l'intégration scolaire, Suresnes (F), 20-21 June, L. Bertrand, fax: +352-25.23.70

«New technologies and hearing disability»,

Instituto Valenciano de Audiofonología, Valencia (E), 16-18 June, H. Knoors, fax: +31-10-414.94.83

«Individualisation of educational projects. A partnership between the school, family or substitute and specialised psycho-medical centre»,

Centre psycho-médical spécialisé, Mons (B), 30-31 May, J. M. Renvillard, fax: +32-65-35.36.53

«Role of resource centres in continuing teacher training»,

Instituto para el Desarrollo Curricular y la Formación del Profesorado, Bilbao (E), 23-24 May, G. Pantazopoulos, fax: +30-71-22.53.11

«Special education or mainstream education in a special environment?»

Lycée Toulouse Lautrec, Paris (F), 16-19 June, J. Greve, fax: +45-66-15.40.75

«Initial vocational training, cooperation with industry»,

Instituto Valliniello, Avilés (E), 3-5 June, A. Moretti, fax: +39-10-54.15.27

«Guidance services for disabled students»,

Centre régional des oeuvres universitaires, Nancy (F), 3-4 June, Myriam Van Acker, fax: +32-16-28.63.79

«The role of guidance services»,

Werkgroep gehandicapte studenten Romero Huls, Leuven (B), 16-18 June, Myriam van Acker, fax: +32-16-28.63.79

«Socialisation and preparation for independent living»,

Elsagercentret, Hjørring (DK), 14-16 May, O. Lauth, fax: +45-86-55.71.40

«Transition in primary education: criteria and instruments»,

Direcção Regional de Educação do Norte, Porto (P), 27-28 June, C. Pellisé, fax: +34-3-280.66.81

Economic integration

Study visits

«Vocational guidance: methods, organisation»,

Centre de Latour de Gassies, Bruges (B), 9-12 June, M. Houze de l'Aulnoit, fax: +33-20.65.07.95

«Assessment for people with sensorial impairment»,

Centre of Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind, Athens, (GR), 9-12 June, N. Bhakri, fax: +44-71-639.09.48

«Involvement of employers in assessment planning and implementation»,

Atlas-EPSP, Vannes (F), 16-17 May, E. Villeneuve, fax: +33-97.47.68.20

«Developing links with employers, including contracts»,

Pedologisch Instituut, Rotterdam (NL), 18-21 June, R. Quick, fax: +49-6241-50.03.54

«Supported employment»,

Pameijer Stichting, Rotterdam (NL), 16-18 May, F. Bellver, fax: +34-71-72.54.85

«Preparation of disabled people for the open labour market, including the need for particular qualifications»,

Media Sources LADAPT, Paris (F), 24-25 June, J. L. Coulon, fax: +33-1-43.55.19.16

«New technologies and opportunities on the open labour market»,

CO.GA.MI., Santiago de Compostela (E), 16-19 June, L. Rossi, fax: +39-51-22.41.16

«Employment of people with mental health problems on the open labour market»,

Berufsförderungswerk, Bad Vilbel (D), 12-14 June, M. Thrun, fax: +49-6101-40.01.70

«Employment of autistic people on the open labour market»,

Société luxembourgeoise pour l'aide aux personnes autistiques, Luxembourg (L), 9-10 June, A. Lemal, fax: +352-45-05.55

«Preparation of disabled people for transition from sheltered towards open employment»,

Enham Resource Centre, Andover (UK), 23-25 June, S. Martínez Cardena, fax: +34-5-278.76.58

«Transition to different sectors of employment, including new technologies»,

Asociación Guipuzcoana por Minusválidos, San Sebastián (E), N. Heintz, fax: +352-30.71.04

«The integration of traditional sheltered workshops in the open labour market»,

Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart (D), 7-9 July, J. Gueguiner, fax: +33-99.00.40.47

Social integration

Study visits

«Peer counselling: a key to independent living»,

ISL e.V., Erlangen (D), 1-3 July, M. P. Ottmar, fax: +49-561-71.31.32

«Technical adaptation and fitting-out of housing.

Types of housing with training and assistance», Fredericia Kommune, Taastrup, Hørsholm & Fredericia (DK), 16-22 May, B. Dunker, fax: +45-79-21.22.06

«The role of technical aids and means of communication in promoting independence for people with a sensorial disability»,

Danish Centre for Technical Aids for Rehabilitation and Education, Taastrup, Hørsholm & Fredericia (DK), 16-22 May, L. Jensen, fax: +45-42-52.70.72

«Technical requirements for the adaptation of housing.

Technical aspects (computer/electronic aids)», Danish Building Research Institute, Taastrup, Hørsholm & Fredericia (DK), 16-22 May, I. Ambrose, fax: +45-42-86.55.94

New phone number

Please note the HELIOS team of experts' new phone number, from 1 July:

+32.2 738 06 00

A new exchange has been installed to allow each member of the team to be contacted directly. The list of direct line numbers is available on request.

The fax number remains the same:

+32.2 735 16 71

HELIOS on disk

HELIOS Flash is now available on disk, to enable transcription for blind and partially sighted people. Please specify the software version required when requesting a copy.

The next issue of HELIOS Flash (August-September-October 1994) is due out in October. Information for inclusion in the October issue must reach us by 31 August at the latest.

«Elimination of social and psychological barriers: preparation of the user, family, professionals and public in the integration process»,

Lega Film and Video Centre on Handicap, Milan (I), 18-20 May, A. Meijer, fax: +31-30-34.38.14 or C. Canetta, fax: +39-2-59.90.25.36

«Awareness programmes on integration policy. Coordination of municipalities for public services»,

Camara Municipal, Portalegre (P), 26-28 May, M. Conradt (B), fax: +32-41-77.16.46

«Tourism-Leisure-

Cultural activities», AIAS, Bologna (I), 17-18 June, S. Donini, fax: +39-51-46.61.05

«Re-integration of people with mental health problems.

De-institutionalisation and maintenance of integration», Mental Hospital of Chania, Crete (GR), G. Kokkinakos/A. Liodakis, fax: +30-821-89.671

