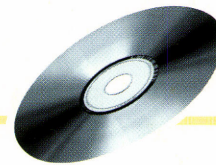


# helios

flash

10

## handynet e-mail system



The HANDYNET information system on technical aids operates an E-mail network. This was previously limited to the national HANDYNET coordination centres, but is now due to undergo substantial extension under an agreement concluded at the beginning of March between HELIOS/HANDYNET and the EURES network.

EURES is a European information network on employment, developed with the support of the European Commission (DG V/D/4). Its objective is to facilitate worker mobility within the European employment market. EURES provides three services: information, advice and assistance with placement and recruitment. Its 350 Euroadvisers, located across the Member States, work for public employment services, institutions dealing with specific groups, trade unions, and employers' organisations. They use E-mail for their internal communications and a data base to answer queries from businesses and jobseekers.

European Disability Forum, and 93 for the HELIOS working groups. The requisite software will be provided by HANDYNET, and EURES will meet the communications and staff training costs up to the end of the HELIOS II programme (December 1996).

Further developments and cooperation are planned once the HANDYNET E-mail system is fully installed and operational. These include the development of an interface for blind people, the publication of an electronic journal and the adaptation of the EURES data base to meet the needs of disabled people (in particular as regards job vacancies).

Initially, cooperation between EURES and HANDYNET will be of a technical nature: software specifically for HANDYNET E-mail will be installed on the EURES network's server in Bruxelles. Information will be transmitted internationally via the INFONET European network.

Between April and September 1995, 249 HELIOS partners will be connected to the E-mail system, to be installed in two stages as follows: 16 terminals for the Commission (DG V/E/3) and the HELIOS Team of Experts, 78 terminals in the HANDYNET national coordination centres and HANDYNET data collection centres, 29 for the members of the HELIOS Advisory Committee, 33 for the members of the

HELIOS Flash No. 9 (January-February 1995) contained a notice of invitation to tender for the production, marketing and distribution of the HANDYNET CD-ROM. 119 companies and organisations have requested the tender specifications. A public information meeting on the invitation to tender was held in Bruxelles on 23 March on the initiative of the Commission. The contract will be awarded to an independent specialist company to be designated in April, once all the tenders have been assessed.

Bimonthly  
newsletter  
of the  
Community  
action programme  
to assist  
disabled people



# NGOs

## 1995 European Day of Disabled Persons

At the forum meeting on 5 and 6 December 1994, the Commission invited member organisations to indicate before 10 January whether they were interested in organising the 1995 European Day of Disabled Persons. Three European NGOs – Autism Europe, the European Regional Council of the World Federation for Mental Health and the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap-European Association – presented a joint project which the Commission has approved. Under the general title Full Citizenship, the project proposes four themes for the agendas of a variety of regional and European events scheduled for 3 December 1995: anti-discrimination, integration, self-determination and family support.

*Secretariat of the organisation committee:*

### ERC-WFMH

Boulevard Clovis 7  
B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium  
tel: +32.2 280 04 68  
fax: +32.2 280 16 04

The forum's working group on the White Paper on European social policy, set up by the forum in December 1994 (see HELIOS Flash No. 9, p. 4), held its first meeting on 15 February with Mr Johan Wesemann in the chair. The group has a mandate from the forum to work with the Commission on internal discussions in preparation for the implementation of the White Paper's proposals, in particular in order to voice the forum's interests and demands. The working group has established four priorities for its work:

- in the context of equal opportunities for all, the introduction of a non-discrimination clause in

- the new European Union treaties following the 1996 intergovernmental conference;
- the establishment at European level of appropriate instruments to enable application of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;
- the strengthening of the European Disability Forum beyond 1996;
- the meaningful involvement of disabled people in all EU programmes and initiatives.

## NGOs: Europrogrammes

### Newsletters

In the framework of the HELIOS programme, the European Commission has decided to provide financial support for the publication of sectorial newsletters by the 12 coordinating European NGOs within the HELIOS forum. The newsletters will be used in particular to disseminate relevant information on the activities of the European NGOs to regional and local organisations, and to draw attention to local and regional initiatives with a European dimension.

### Schedule

Below are a few of the activities scheduled for the coming months. We have indicated the coordinating European NGO to contact for further information (but which is not necessarily organising the event). The definitive official titles of the activities and their translations may differ slightly from those given below.

**European conference on employment practice and legislation affecting visually impaired people**, Belfast (UK), 22-25 June,  
**contact:** EBU, 58 av. Bosquet, F-75007 Paris,  
tel.: +33.1 45 51 20 08,  
fax: +33.1 47 05 69 24

**Conference on the prevention of hearing loss (Hörgeräteversorgung, Heute und Morgen)**, Bensheim (D), 24-27 May, organised by IFHOH-Europe, (fax: +31.5202 131 35) and the Deutscher Schwerhörigen-Bund (fax: +49.30 22 52 23 88),  
**contact:** European Union of the Deaf, rue Franklin 110, B-1040 Bruxelles,  
tel.: +32.2 735 72 18,  
fax: +32.2 735 53 54

**The first European conference of families of deaf people on social and psychological barriers**, Madrid (E), 7-10 September,  
**contact:** European Union of the Deaf, rue Franklin 110, B-1040 Bruxelles,  
tel.: +32.2 735 72 18,  
fax: +32.2 735 53 54

**Conference and symposium on social development in Europe**, Roma (I), 28-30 September,  
**contact:** FIMITIC, c/o Reichsbund, Beethovenallee 56-58, D-53173 Bonn,  
tel.: +49.228 956 40,  
fax: +49.228 956 43 11

**First congress of the European association Mental Health in Mental Retardation**, Amsterdam (NL), 13-16 September,  
**contact:** ILSMH-EA, Galerie de la Toison d'Or, chaussée d'Ixelles 29, B-1040 Bruxelles,  
tel.: +32.2 502 77 34,  
fax: +32.2 502 28 46

**Time for reflection (users, families and professionals in mental health services)**, Dublin (IRL), 13-18 August,  
**contact:** ERC-WFMH, boulevard Clovis 7, B-1040 Bruxelles,  
tel.: +32.2 280 04 68,  
fax: +32.2 280 16 04

## other information

### HELIOS Team of Experts' activity report

The activity report of the HELIOS Team of Experts for the period 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 is now available (in English and French) from the information service, avenue de Cortenberg 79, B-1040 Bruxelles (fax: +32.2 735 16 71).

### Film festival

Films about disabled people often concentrate on the spectacular or peculiar: human beings

are looked upon as "cases" and the approach taken is rarely devoid of prejudice. But what is life really like for disabled people in our society? The film festival "The Way We Live" seeks to answer this question with a presentation of films produced by or from ideas developed by disabled people. The festival is also a competitive event, and there will be a prize of DM 10,000 for the winner.

"The Way We Live" will be held in München (D) from 22 to 25 November 1995. It receives support in particular from the European NGO EUCREA and the European Commission (DG V/E/3) under the HELIOS programme.

For details of entry conditions, please contact the organisers: **Arbeitsgemeinschaft Behinderte in den Medien e.V.**, "The Way We Live", Bonner Platz 1, D-80803 München,  
tel.: +49.89 307 992 17, fax: +49.89 307 992 22

**European seminar and study visit: a multi-disciplinary approach to care for people with brain injury**, Bavaria (D), June,  
**contact:** *Autism Europe, rue E. Van Becelaere 26B, bte 21, B-1170 Bruxelles,*  
*tel.: +32.2 675 75 05,*  
*fax: +32.2 675 72 70*

**Third European conference on Down's syndrome**, Dublin (IRL), 23-26 August,  
**contact:** *Autism Europe (see above)*

**Towards autonomy: empowering children with disabilities and difficulties as learners; experiences in Europe**, Málaga (E), 25-29 September, **contact:** *EASE, Løkkensvej 987, DK-9480 Løkken, tel.: +45.98 99 21 15,*  
*fax: +45.98 99 21 15*

**Seminar on employment: professional careers for people with mental disabilities and the concept of the special employer**, Paris (F), 16-18 June,  
**contact:** *CEEH, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, IRL-Dublin 4,*  
*tel.: +353.1 269 84 22,*  
*fax: +353.1 283 97 32*

**Tourism for all**, Milano (I), 8-10 September,  
**contact:** *Mobility International,*  
*25 rue de Manchester, B-1070, Bruxelles,*  
*tel.: +32.2 410 62 97,*  
*fax: +32.2 410 68 74*

**The impact of fragile X syndrome on family life**, Firenze (I), 14-16 September,  
**contact:** *Eurolink Age, Place du Luxembourg 1, B-1040 Bruxelles,*  
*tel.: +32.2 512 99 46,*  
*fax: +32.2 512 66 73*

**Seminar on solidarity across the spectrum of disability, Namur (B), 30 June-1 July,**  
**contact:** *Eurolink Age (see above)*

**Training seminar on peer counselling**, Germany, June,  
**contact:** *DPI, 11 Belgrave Road, UK-London SW1W 1RB,*  
*tel.: +44.171 834 04 77,*  
*fax: +44.171 821 95 39*

# HELIOS exchange and information activities

A series of seminars rounded off the 1994 exchange and information activities. The successive seminar reports will shortly be available on request from the documentation service of the HELIOS Team of Experts, avenue de Cortenberg 79, B-1040 Bruxelles. To limit postage costs, we would ask you to enclose two international postal reply coupons for each report requested. As some reports are still being printed, please allow several weeks for delivery.

## Seminar reports available from the documentation service

### Functional rehabilitation

- Coordinated measures to facilitate a rapid return to social and professional life, Paris (F), November 1994 (EN and FR)
- The functional rehabilitation process for people with brain injury, Wijk aan Zee (NL), December 1994 (EN and FR)
- Helping people to live as independently as possible in the community, Ayr (UK), January 1995 (EN and FR)

### Education

- Early intervention in theory and practice: changes and innovation, München (D), December 1994 (FR, EN and DE)

- Educational integration in Europe: values and practice, Lisboa (P), December 1994 (FR, EN and PT)

### Economic Integration

- Sheltered employment with a view to transition to the open labour market, Kortrijk (B), December 1994, (FR, EN and DE)
- Difficulties and opportunities on the open labour market, Ålborg (DK), January 1995 (EN)

### Social integration/independent living

- Social integration of people with mental health problems or learning difficulties, Gent (B), November 1994 (EN and FR)

- Transition from residential care to community life: the issues and perspectives, Bordeaux (F), December 1994 (EN, FR, DE and ES)
- Building design, special equipment and information technology, London (UK), January 1995 (EN and FR)

In addition, a general report has been prepared on the 1994 exchange and information activities in each sector, reviewing the activities carried out over the year and drawing provisional conclusions. The reports have been translated into the nine official languages of the (pre-1 January 1995) 12 European Union Member States and are published in four volumes: functional rehabilitation, educational integration, economic integration and social integration/independent living. They will be sent out to participants in the

exchange and information activities and members of the HELIOS programme's advisory bodies some time in May. Other interested parties can obtain copies from the documentation service of the HELIOS Team of Experts.

Exchange and information activities were resumed in 1995 on the same basis as in 1994 (study visits, study groups and end-of-year seminars). Some working themes have been carried over from 1994 and others are new. Lists of the working themes are available from the information service of the HELIOS Team of Experts (in FR, DE and EN).

# other Commission news

## HESTIA

The findings of the HESTIA/Towards Employment survey announced in HELIOS Flash No. 6, p. 4 were submitted to the Commission in March.

HESTIA (Handicap à l'Est-Intégration-Autonomie – disability in Eastern Europe-integration-independence)/Towards Employment is part of a strategy to forge closer links between the countries of the European Union and those of central and eastern Europe. The goal was to gather general information on the integration of disabled people in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and also practical details of measures and pilot schemes in the field of vocational training and employment. The survey highlights the wish, shared by its authors and the Commission, to move towards involving central European countries in the medium or longer term in certain exchange activities relating to the integration of disabled people.

The report discusses the institutional, legal and social position of disabled people, vocational training provision, employment and the prospects for cooperation. Each section gives an analysis of the national and regional situation. It should be noted that NGOs in the countries concerned, some of which are already in touch with western NGOs, have expressed a desire to collaborate on issues such as human rights, equal opportunities, public awareness-raising, education and vocational training. Some have explicitly voiced the desire to connect data bases they are developing to the HANDYNET information system.

The HESTIA survey is currently being revised and translated at the Commission. It should hopefully be available to the public in late summer.

## GLADNET

On 6, 7 and 8 February in Genève (Switzerland), the Integration of disabled people unit (DG V/E/3) took part, on behalf of the European Commission, in the inaugural meeting of a worldwide network of research and information centres working to promote equal training and employment opportunities for disabled people.

The 53 participants at the meeting, held on the initiative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), represented national and regional research centres, government bodies and international non-governmental organisations of disabled people. Some 100 other centres and organisations have applied to join the network.

The network is to be called GLADNET: the Global Applied Disability Research Network. It has been set up to identify policies and initiatives which genuinely promote employment and training opportunities for disabled people, taking account of the real income of the people involved and the cost/benefit ratio for social structures. The network will then go on to promote the policies and initiatives with the greatest potential by pooling the information available.

*For further information, please contact*  
Mr W. Momm, ILO,  
Vocational Rehabilitation Branch,  
CH-1211 Genève 22, Switzerland  
fax: +41.22 798 86 85

## ICIDH

On 6 April the Council of Europe organised a one-day working meeting in Bruxelles with the European Commission (HELIOS programme), the European Disability Forum and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The purpose of the meeting was to prepare a workshop scheduled for June 1995, at which the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts for the Application of the WHO International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) and the European Disability Forum will have an opportunity to compare views on definitions and establish closer cooperation.

*For further information, please contact the Council of Europe Committee of Experts for the Application of the WHO International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps, Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs, F-67075 Strasbourg CEDEX, France, fax: +33.88 41 27 32.*

## Social Europe magazine

The Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs (DG V) of the European Commission is launching a new magazine to report on its activities and the development of a "social Europe". It will be published quarterly, in three languages at first (English, French and German). Subscriptions are free.

*For information and subscriptions, please contact the company responsible for producing the magazine: Deloitte & Touche Europe Services, rue Royale 326, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium, fax: +32.2 223 19 95*