

EDF MEMBERS MAILING WORD ONLY VERSION

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European Disability Forum | Square de Meeus 35, B-1000 Brussels

www.edf-feph.org | T +32 2 282 4603 | F +32 2 282 4600 | info@edf-feph.org

Welcome to Members' Mailing: the newsletter from the European Disability Forum – the voice of Europeans with disabilities.

The French translation of the Members' Mailing will soon be available on the EDF's Members Only website

EUROPE

Mihailovs v Latvia

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS JUDGEMENT INDICATES VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The case of **Mihailovs v Latvia** concerned the complaint of a man who had been divested of his legal capacity and had been put against his will in a social care institution for more than ten years without possibility of release.

EDF submitted jointly with **IDA, ENUPS (European network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) and WNUPS (International network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry)** written comments to the **European Court of Human Rights**. In our comments, we highlighted the **latest standards of international human rights law concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

Based on its **judgement of 22 January 2013**, the **European Court of Human Rights** found that **Mr. Mihailovs' placement in the institution had been unlawful**, in particular as there had been no objective medical opinion to justify his detention. The Court also found that there was no possibility under Latvian law for a person in such situation to have their detention reviewed by the courts.

The Court held that there had been a **violation of Mr Mihailovs' right to liberty and security** (article 5, §1 of the European Convention on Human Rights) and his right to have the lawfulness of one's detention decided speedily by a court (article 5, §4).

[Find EDF third party intervention on 13 February 2012 here](#)

[Find the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 22 January 2013 here](#)

[Find the Press release issued by the European Court of Human Rights here](#)

Contact EDF: ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org

Web accessibility

REMINDER: COMMISSION TAKES STEPS TOWARDS WEB ACCESSIBILITY STAY UPDATED!

On the occasion of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, the European Commission released a **legislative proposal on the accessibility of public websites**. Once adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council, it will allow, by 2015, Europeans with disabilities to have **equal access to information on websites and benefit from services provided online**.

[Read more on EDF's website](#)

EDF members will be soon consulted for the paper that EDF prepares on the legislative proposal.

Contact EDF: nadege.riche@edf-feph.org

Sea passenger rights

EU REGULATION TO PROTECT PASSENGERS WHEN TRAVELLING BY SEA

On 18 December 2012, the **Regulation EU 1177/2010 on passengers travelling by sea and inland waterways was entered into force**. With this regulation, passengers travelling by sea and inland waterways in the EU, and in particular disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility, will benefit from similar rights to those passengers travelling by air or by train.

[Find what these new rights include at European Commission's website](#)

Following the entry into force of the maritime passenger rights Regulation, the free of charge **application** launched last July by the European Commission to cover air and rail transport, **will also be extended to bus/coach and waterborne transport in 2013**.

[You can download the application on the European Commission's website](#)

[Remember the toolkit that EDF produced for its members concerning the EU Regulation on the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway here](#)

Contact EDF: guillaume.dufresne@edf-feph.org

EDF CALLS FOR ACTION

European Year of Citizens

TAKE ACTION!

In the framework of the European Year of Citizens, **EDF invites its members to take part in the national debates and national coordinating bodies that are being established at national level**.

Important issues such as **citizens' rights**: freedom of movement, right to vote, right to political participation from which persons with disabilities are often excluded **are being discussed and the results of the debates will feed into follow up proposals that the European Commission will develop.** In addition, debates on the future of Europe are being organised in all EU countries.

[You will find information about planned events per country and date here](#)

Please also note that EDF is part of the [EYCA – European Year of Citizens Alliance](#) that has produced a **manifesto** for the year and is also working on follow up **recommendations**. EDF is co-chairing a working group on “**inclusive citizenship**”. Should you be interested to join the e-mail discussions, please contact EDF director, Carlotta Besozzi: carlotta.besozzi@edf-feph.org.

You can also contact the EYCA for more information on national civil society networks that are being put in place at national level.

Education

SURVEY ON ACCESS, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF PUPILS IN NEED OF HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT REPLY BY 18/02!

Access to education is a fundamental right embedded in the **European Charter of Fundamental Right**. This right should be enjoyed by all EU citizens; however persons with disabilities are often excluded or not having adequate access to education services in their communities. This is why, in the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, article 24, access to education has been specified as an unalienable one for persons with disabilities.

EDF and its members advocate for the **right of all pupils with disability to access education**, and could not help but denouncing that **students who require high level support are the most excluded from mainstream education**.

In order to properly develop efficient policies and legislation and advocacy campaign, it is important to gather as much **evidence** as possible **of how students in need of high level support are included in mainstream education systems across Europe**.

[This questionnaire will serve the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the enjoyment of the right to education by pupils with disabilities and in need of high level support.](#)

Please answer the survey and send your contribution to simona.giarratano@edf-feph.org at the latest by 18 February 2013.

Human rights

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHT FORUMS ON THE SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

EDF would like to encourage its members to make **submissions to the international human right forums on the situation of persons with disabilities in their country**. In the first semester of 2013, there will an opportunity for the following EDF members to make written submissions to the UN human rights bodies:

- **Austria** to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: adoption of list of issues during 9th session from 15-19 April 2013 (no deadline available yet)
- **Denmark** to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: 50th session in April-May 2013 (deadline 15 March 2013)
- **Belgium, Austria and Norway** to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Pre-Sessional Working Group of May 2013 (deadline 1 April 2013)
- **Estonia, United Kingdom and the Netherlands** to Committee against Torture: 50th session from 6 May – 31 May 2013 (deadline 19 April 2013)
- **Albania, Finland and Ukraine** to Human Rights Committee: 108th session in July 2013 (deadline June 2013)
- **Latvia** on adoption of list of issues to Human Rights Committee, 108th session in July 2013 (deadline 30 April 2013)
- **United Kingdom, Serbia and Finland** (pre-sessional working group) to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women: 55th session in July 2013 (deadline May/June 2013)

EDF will be contacting each member individually to propose to write a joint submission to the UN human rights bodies.

Contact EDF: ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org

Euro

THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK LAUNCHES THE 2ND SERIES OF EURO BANKNOTES LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

The European Central Bank (ECB) and the national central banks (NCBs) of the Eurosystem are to introduce a **2nd series of euro banknotes**. Called the ‘**Europa**’ series’, it will include a portrait of Europa – a figure from Greek mythology and the origin of the name of our continent – in the watermark and the hologram. The new banknotes will be introduced gradually over several years, starting with the €5 banknote in May 2013.

For **visually impaired users**, the 2nd series of euro banknotes shows the numeral value in large bold letters and in raised print on the front of the banknote. For **blind users**, the denominations can be told apart from its other by their individual dimensions. As a further aid, tactile marks near the edges of the banknotes will be included in all denominations of the 2nd series.

EDF encourages its members to send their feedback on the second series of euro banknotes so that we can inform ECB about possible comments and remarks.

[More information about the new series is available at ECB’s website](#)

Contact EDF: carlotta.besozzi@edf-feph.org

OTHER CALLS

Research & Innovation

COMMISSION SEARCHES FOR EXPERT ADVISORS FOR HORIZON 2020

DEADLINE: 06/03

The **European Commission** has recently launched a call asking experts from all fields to participate in shaping the agenda of **Horizon 2020, the European Union's future funding programme for research and innovation**. This marks the first time that the Commission has launched such a call for its research programme. Advisory groups will provide high quality and timely advice for the preparation of the Horizon 2020 calls for project proposals. Groups will be set up on topics of major concern for European citizens, such as climate change, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring safe food or coping with the challenges of ageing. **The groups will encourage dialogue between all levels of government, civil society and business from all EU Member States, and influence the direction of EU research and innovation funding from now until 2020.**

The expert advisory groups will start their work during spring to provide advice in time for the first Horizon 2020 calls, which are expected to be launched by the end of 2013. Individuals and actors wishing to be considered for the first advisory groups can register by 6 March 2013.

[More information is available here](#)

[Remember EDF's position on Horizon 2020 on its website](#)

FIRAH'S CALL FOR PROJECTS 2013

DEADLINE: 22/03

FIRAH - the International Foundation of Applied Disability Research has launched its call for projects 2013, aiming at the implementation of adaptive response for persons with disabilities.

[More information is available on FIRAH's website](#)

European Yearbook of Disability Law

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES BY 28/02!

The European Yearbook of Disability Law is part of the ongoing research programme of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy of the National University of Ireland, Galway and the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights of Maastricht University. Its editors welcome **submissions of articles for inclusion in volume 5 of the series**. The Yearbook contains a series of articles on current challenges and developments from analysts and academics working in the field of disability law, and is a highly-regarded, peer-reviewed journal in this field.

The Yearbook aims to provide **critical insight into the evolution of European disability law and policy** and offers **analysis of pressing challenges in a broad range of fields**.

The deadline for submission of articles is 28 February with a view to publication at the end of 2013. Articles should be between 10.000 to 12.000 words in length, and authors are asked to provide an abstract of 150-200 words.

If you are interested in submitting an article to Volume 5 of the Yearbook, please contact one of the editors: lisa.waddington@maastrichtuniversity.nl, eilionoir.flynn@nuigalway.ie or charlotte.may-simera@nuigalway.ie.

Transport

ICARUS PROJECT FOCUSING ON IMPROVING AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE!

ICARUS project is led by Foundation ONCE and it is focusing on **improving access to air transportation for disabled people and the elderly**. ICARUS brings relevant stakeholders together to identify and characterise the most relevant research needs and technical solutions. The ICARUS project intends to **foster accessibility in the air transport thorough defining the existing barriers and proposing solutions** that can set a framework for policy influencing.

Technosite is one of the enterprises joined in the consortium led by Foundation ONCE to develop ICARUS project. They will now collect relevant opinions on the needs of persons with disabilities when travelling by air, through an **online survey**.

Moreover, at the project's website, there are **2 fora**. One to discuss about user's needs, preferences and barriers from users' perspective and another to discuss how elderly and persons with disabilities use of air travel from the air sector services' provider point of view.

Should you are interested in participating in the online survey or/and in the fora discussions, please contact Mr. Álvaro Meco Sánchez: ameco@technosite.es

More information is provided on the project's website: www.icarusproject.eu

EDF NEWS

European Accessibility Act

EDF JOINS FORCES WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS STRESSING FOR A STRONG EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT

EDF joins forces with **AGE Platform Europe**, **Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)** and **European Passengers' Federation (EPF)** in order to express their common views on the upcoming European Accessibility Act.

This wide coalition of European organisations acting on behalf of the railway sector and the transport passengers, stresses the need of **an ambitious Act as a key milestone to further improve the accessibility of goods and services to EU citizens, but also to contribute to the establishment of a level playing field between modes regarding accessibility of transport services.**

To this end, the following elements should be duly considered by EU decision-makers:

- Key role of transport for access to goods and services
- Holistic approach of transport
- Increasing market demand for accessibility
- Need of EU incentives
- Strengthened dialogue between stakeholders

[Read the analytical joint statement on EDF's website](#)

Contact EDF: guillaume.dufresne@edf-feph.org

3RD EPPD

A MEETING TO REMEMBER!

Last 5th December, almost **500 delegates from EDF's member organisations from all over Europe met at the European Parliament** with **MEPs and EU decision-makers** to discuss **how Europe can ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in this time of crisis.**

The one-day conference was well attended by European Parliament leaders, with the presence of Parliament's President **Martin Schulz**, of the **Chairs of several political Groups** and of **parliamentary committees chairs**. It was an important opportunity for the disability movement to **demand the implementation by the EU and by EU Member States of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).**

During the conference, EDF made the proposal to hold a **meeting with all European Parliament Group leaders in 2013** so as to discuss **how Parliament can further ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities enshrined in the UN CRPD**, in particular in view of the EU report.

Remember all the important moments of the event by watching the Parliament's web stream here:

- [morning session](#)
- [afternoon session](#)

[Find the pictures of the event here](#)

Contact EDF: etienne.cuche@edf-feph.org

MEMBERS' NEWS

De-institutionalisation

MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE'S REPORT ON 'MAPPING EXCLUSION'

Mental Health Europe issued the **1st European report of the state of de-institutionalisation and community-based care in the mental health field**. Entitled '**Mapping exclusion**', the report consists of a comparative analysis of trends and policy changes in Europe while presenting in the annex 32 country reports (all EU countries as well as Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Moldova and Israel) concerning **community care** (e.g. data about institutional and community-based services, national mental health and de-institutionalisation strategies, information on guardianship and involuntary admission policies).

[Download the report here](#)

Contact Mental Health Europe: gabor.petri@mhe-sme.org

Diversity & inclusion

CERTIFICATION FOR COMPANIES WITH CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY STANDARDS

The **Bequal Foundation**, a **CERMI** initiative led by the **ONCE Foundation**, recently launched its Bequal kite mark for socially responsible businesses.

The **Bequal certification** is the benchmark for companies who wish to show that they meet **corporate social responsibility standards** in a number of areas, including human resource management, strategy and leadership, accessibility, responsible purchasing, customer care, social action and communication. In order to be considered for the seal of quality and among other conditions, companies must comply with Spanish employment legislation for persons with disabilities (LISMI law) and their website must be fully accessible. The certification addresses companies seeking to demonstrate their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

[For more information, contact CERMI](#)

OTHER NEWS

FIRAH RESOURCE CENTRE IS ONLINE!

The **International Foundation of Applied Disability Research (FILAH)** has recently launched a website for its **Resource Centre** aiming at creating **connections and bonds between persons with disabilities, researchers and other legal entities and individuals**. It develops and disseminates research to promote an inclusive social transformation and facilitate full involvement of disabled persons via qualitative support.

It aims to:

- facilitate the establishment of collaborative applied research projects on disability which bring together researchers and people in the field;
- bring awareness to and share new concepts and approaches with project starters and the public;
- help to promote the results of applied research and the sharing of knowledge to facilitate their use on the field (the use of relative materials).

[Visit the Resource Centre's website here](#)

EDF REPORTS

EUROPEAN DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Last December's Conference on the European Day of Persons with Disabilities focused on the **active participation of persons with disabilities in different areas of public life**, such as politics, media and sports.

The 2012 Conference aimed to:

- highlight outstanding examples of active involvement of persons with disabilities in politics, media, sports and other visible sectors of our societies;
- explore how policies at all levels (European, national, local) can support and promote good practice in politics, media, sports.

EDF Vice- President, **Donata Vivanti**, spoke at the opening of the European Day and **Declan Murphy** and **Thomas Garry** (Down Syndrome Ireland) presented their experiences as self-advocates during these opening statements. **Pat Clarke**, EDF Executive Committee member and **Giovanni Padovani**, EDF Youth Committee member, contributed during the session on political participation. **Corinne Clermont**, Vice-President of Nous Aussi talked about her experience in advocating for persons with intellectual disabilities during the last French elections. **Micheline Van Hees**, a Special Olympic self-advocate and **Dora Pasztory**, Paralympic champion swimmer presented some of their achievements in the sport competitions. EDF President, **Yannis Vardakastanis**, closed the event.

On the first day of the conference, the winner of the **Access City Award 2013** was announced and it was **Berlin (DE)**. The other shortlisted cities of Access City Award 2013 were Bilbao (ES), Gdynia (PL), Nantes (FR), Pamplona (ES), Stockholm (SE) and Tallaght (IE).

[Read more about the conference on the European Day of Persons with Disabilities on EDF's website](#)

Contact EDF: ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org

EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS

The first EU-level thematic conference for the **European Year of Citizens 2013** took place in Brussels on 22 January 2013. Up to 200 representatives from civil society, national authorities and European Union institutions participated at this conference.

The topic of the conference was '**Making the Most of the European Year of Citizens**'. Given the broad scope of the European Year, the conference focused on **4 themes**:

1. What do the EU and its citizens stand to gain from better enjoyment of our EU-level rights?
2. Moving beyond 'rights & obligations' to more 'engagement & participation' – how can we encourage more civic participation at the EU level?
3. 'Civic participation' is a common thread running through previous European Years. How can we ensure that their legacy can continue into the European Year of Citizens 2013?
4. What tools exist to facilitate citizens' engagement in EU policy-making?

EDF Director, Carlotta Besozzi, was the rapporteur of the 4rth workshop on the existing tools to facilitate citizen's engagement in EU policy making.

Contact EDF: ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org

JOBS

CBM INTERNATIONAL IS LOOKING FOR A WEB, COMMUNICATION & PR OFFICER FOR ITS OFFICE IN INDIA

Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

[More information is available on CBM's website](#)

CBM INTERNATIONAL IS LOOKING FOR FUNDRAISING OFFICER FOR ITS OFFICE IN INDIA

Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

[More information is available on CBM's website](#)

CBM INTERNATIONAL IS LOOKING FOR A WEB MANAGER FOR 1 MONTH REPLACEMENT FOR ITS OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

[More information is available here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

11/02: 2013 FRENCH ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS, PARIS

Under the care of the European Council, the Accessibility Awards honour initiatives and achievements related to **accessibility for all**, in any of the day-to-day citizen life spheres: accessibility, mobility skills chain, transports, public locations, employment, tourism, leisure, etc. The aim is to publicise attitudes, best practices and exemplary achievements at the level of the 47 state members of the European Council, which result from multiple stakeholders.

[More information is available here](#)

22-24/02: EDF BOARD MEETING, DUBLIN

On 22-24 February, EDF Executive and Board members are going to meet in Dublin, Ireland.

[More information will soon be available on EDF's website \(Members only\)](#)

11-13/06: 11TH EUSE CONFERENCE, DUBLIN

The **European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE)** holds its 11th conference in Dublin. The theme of the conference is **"Building an Inclusive Europe through Supported Employment"**.

[More information is available here](#)

13-14/06: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUTURE PUBLISHING & ACCESSIBILITY, COPENHAGEN

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Denmark and the DAISY Consortium, Nota - the Danish National Library for Persons with Print Disabilities is organising an international conference entitled **"Future Publishing and Accessibility"**. The conference will take place in Copenhagen on 13-14 June anticipating 400 attendees from different countries around the world.

The main focus of the conference will be on who is to guarantee future accessibility for users with special needs. User organisations are encouraged to use an online forum and ask questions which will be passed on to some of the keynotes. The online forum will be available from March.

[More information is provided at the conference website](#)

EDITORIAL NOTE


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Director of publication: Carlotta Besozzi

Editors: Lila Sylviti

Contributors: Carlotta Besozzi | Etienne Cuche | Guillaume Dufresne | Simona Giarratano | An-Sofie Leenknecht | Nadège Riche

Should you wish to make any contribution or notify any e-mail address modification, please do not hesitate to contact: Lila Sylviti | T +32 2 286 51 83 | lila.sylviti@edf-feh.org

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