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## INTERIM REPORT BY THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF THE HELIOS PROGRAMME PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Adoption of the programme

Under Article 8 (2) of Council Decision 88/231/EEC of 18 April 1988 establishing a second Community action programme for disabled people (HELIOS)<sup>(1)</sup> the Commission was required to submit a summary Interim report to the European Parliament and Council by 1 July 1990 on the implementation and results of the programme.

The HELIOS programme, covering the period 1 January 1988 to 31 December 1991, was not adopted by the Council until 18 April 1988.

### 2. Establishment of structures

Certain administrative and consultative structures had to be set up to assist the Commission in implementing the HELIOS programme ( see annex 1).

#### a) HELIOS team of experts

Following publication of an invitation to tender in the Official Journal of the European Communities<sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission concluded a contract with Lucas Stichting voor revalidatie in Hoensbroek, Netherlands, on 2 August 1988, for the financial and administrative management of the HELIOS Team of Experts created to assist the Commission in carrying out the activities planned under the HELIOS programme<sup>(3)</sup>. Following recruitment of experts in all Member States, the team became operational on 1 October 1988.

#### b) Creativity and sport team

This team, created by the Commission at the end of 1989, currently comprises one expert and an assistant. Its purpose is to stimulate coordination of activities in the areas of creativity, sport, and ultimately tourism in the Member States, and it is responsible for cooperation with the European non-government organization (NGO) EUCREA, the European Association for Creativity by and with disabled people, whose function is to stimulate such creativity and coordinate activities at both national and European level. EUCREA was a Commission initiative, initially formed through the creation of national associations in all twelve Member States followed by democratic election among the representatives of the twelve national associations.

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(1) OJ No L 104 of 23.4.88, p.38

(2) OJ No C 64 of 9.3.88, p. 11

(3) Annex to the HELIOS programme, section 2.f

c) Consultative bodies

In implementing the programme, the Commission is assisted by two consultative bodies: the Advisory Committee and the Liaison Group.

The Advisory Committee

This is composed of two government representatives from each Member State, its function being to give an opinion on prospective measures under the HELIOS programme submitted by the Commission. The Committee met eight times during the reference period: on 24 June and 12 October 1988, 22 February, 22 May, 3 July and 11 October 1989 and 23 February and 21 June 1990.

The Liaison Group

Before consulting the Advisory Committee, the Commission obtains the opinion of the Liaison Group, whose members include the government representatives on the Advisory Committee along with nine representatives of the disabled or their families appointed by the Commission at the proposal of certain organizations, preferably European based, and one representative respectively from employers' associations and trade unions, appointed by the Commission at the proposal of the organizations representing these interests at Community level. The Liaison Group met eight times during the reference period: on 23 June and 11 October 1988, 21 February, 19 and 20 June, 10 October and 7 and 8 December 1989, and 22 February and 20 June 1990. As well as measures put forward under the HELIOS programme, the Liaison Group examined certain legislative proposals or other Commission policy initiatives to assess their impact on disabled people, particularly in the areas of:

- transport policy: driving licence
- taxation policy: fixing of VAT rates
- structural funds: Social Fund with particular emphasis on Community Initiatives, and the Regional and Agricultural Funds
- the situation of disabled people in the former GDR and measures to be taken following German unification
- creativity, sport and tourism for disabled people
- statistical quantification of the needs of disabled people
- coordination of Community programmes in the area of new technologies
- heightening of public awareness via the media etc.

d) Other specialized consultative bodies

Coexisting with the formal advisory bodies are working parties specializing in particular areas:

- Working Party on school integration of handicapped children whose role is to oversee implementation of the European collaboration programme on the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools<sup>(1)</sup> under the HELIOS programme. The Working Party, composed of 2 experts from each Member State, met eight times during the reference period: on 29 February, 2 June and 10 November 1988, 28 February, 6 July, 25-27 October 1989, and 1 February and 7 June 1990.

- Working Party on employment of disabled people

This Working Party is responsible for implementation in the Member States of Council Recommendation 86/379/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the employment of disabled people in the Community<sup>(2)</sup>. It comprises two government experts and met three times over the reference period, on 21 March, 26 May and 27 October 1988.

HELIOS - NGO Dialogue Group

This currently comprises 31 non-government organizations selected by the Commission mainly on the strength of representativeness in a particular field at European or International level. The Dialogue Group meets in full session once a year. During the reference period, the nine NGOs belonging to the Liaison Group met on a further eight occasions: 24 June and 12 October 1988, 10 January, 22 February, 21 June, 11 October and 5 December 1989, and 23 February and 21 June 1990. The Dialogue Group's main area of responsibility is promoting dialogue between persons directly involved in the field and administrative and legislative experts and authorities.

- HANDYNET Working Party

This group, comprising specialists in informatics and handicap, is responsible for analysing the technical problems arising in setting up the HANDYNET system, finding solutions and assisting the Advisory Committee in policy formulation.

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(1) OJ No C 211 of 8.8.87, p. 1

(2) OJ No L 225 of 12.8.86, p. 43.

The Group was established by the Commission as a result of the Advisory Committee's opinion of 11 October 1989, and met twice over the period under review, on 22 and 23 January and 19 April 1990.

- Mobility and Transport Working Party

Recently created by the Commission as a result of the Advisory Committee's opinion of 23 February 1990, this Group comprises two government experts in the field of transport and the specific problems of disabled people. Its function is to examine the draft legislation on measures enabling workers with reduced mobility to use public transport to travel to their place of work and/or vocational training.

The exchanges of views during meetings of the various committees and working parties necessarily entail direct participation of government experts, researchers, professionals working in the field, worker/employer organizations and organizations for the disabled, their families and representatives.

II. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF THE HELIOS PROGRAMME

Both general (Art. 4, §1) and specific (Art. 4, §2) actions are implemented to achieve the aims (Art. 3) of the HELIOS programme in respect of

- development of economic and social integration and an independent way of life through a Community approach based on the most successful pilot projects carried out in the Member States
- establishment of exchange and information activities
- non-discrimination in employment and vocational training
- support of cooperation between non-government organizations on a European scale.

The Commission is also bound to give due consideration to the special needs of disabled women and to persons with specific responsibilities in the area of home care for disabled people. Its responsibilities include new policy initiatives and legislative proposals.

1. General actions

These are applicable under Article 4, §1 in respect of:

- i) coordination and exchange of experiences
- ii) setting up the HANDYNET system
- iii) cooperation with Community programmes in the area of new technologies
- iv) cooperation with the Community programme on equal opportunities for women.

- v) activities in connection with integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools
- vi) cooperation with international organizations.

a) Coordination and exchange of experiences

Through its many bilateral contacts, the Commission has been able to stimulate coordination in the Member States between the various Ministries concerned by the specific needs of the handicapped (e.g. Social Affairs, Public Health, Education, Transport, Public Works, Housing, Telecommunications etc.). National interministerial committees have been established in a large majority of the Member States, meeting at regular intervals several times a year, sometimes with the participation of representative non-government organizations and the two sides of industry. Coordination is providing a general picture of the action required at national and European level resulting in implementation of a timetabled programme of activities. The benefits are increasingly being felt at local, national and European level.

Cooperation within the Commission on legislative proposals for submission to the Council was commenced in 1989 and has already borne fruit in the areas of transport, taxation and telecommunications.

Exchanges of experience with an emphasis on publicizing the most successful take place regularly within the consultative bodies and working parties, through conferences, seminars, study visits and training sessions and a wealth of bilateral contacts. The considerable increase in the number of requests for information and documentation bear witness to the interest which has been aroused in Community activities in this field.

b) Establishment of the HANDYNET system

HANDYNET is a computerized Community information system on the problems of handicapped people, functioning in all nine official languages. In accordance with the HELIOS programme, priority has been given to developing the HANDYAIDS system, which is a European database comprising an inventory of technical aids available and a directory of public and private organizations involved in the whole process of production and allocation of aids.

Following the Commission's report to the Council of 27 September 1989 on establishment of the HANDYNET system<sup>(1)</sup>, the Council decided on 18 December 1989 that development of the system should be continued under the HELIOS programme<sup>(2)</sup>. Priority was given

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(1) COM(89) 450 final

(2) OJ L 393 of 30.12.1989, p. 35

to completing and rendering operational the HANDYAIDS module on technical aids for persons suffering from motor, visual, hearing, mental or communication disabilities. The HANDYNET system will be operational in this field in 1990.

c) Cooperation with Community programmes on new technologies

The Commission has undertaken the following activities to ensure close coordination with these programmes:

- 12 to 16 March 1990: participation in work under the COST 219 programme (HELSINKI)
- 21 to 23 March 1990: participation in the Committee of Experts on application of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) within the Council of Europe (STRASBOURG)
- 24 March 1990: participation in work on Improving mobility, organized as part of the concerted action programme (DG XII) (MILAN)
- 20 to 23 May 1990: participation in the seminar organized by Rehabilitation International (DUBLIN)
- 29 May 1990: participation in work under the RACE programme (DG XII) (BRUSSELS).

d) Cooperation with the Community programme on equal opportunities for women

To ensure close cooperation with the Community programme on equal opportunities for women and give due consideration to the specific needs of disabled women and persons responsible for home care of the disabled, the Commission has carried out a study on occupational rehabilitation of disabled women in the European Community. The study, which was discussed within the Liaison Group and has been summarized and translated for ease of distribution, demonstrates that disabled women are disadvantaged on two counts, having to cope with running a home while contending with their handicap. The study covers all aspects of the lives of disabled women, including employment. Two seminars dealt with the problem of disabled women, with specific emphasis on their economic integration. Furthermore, an "attention plan" specifically concerned with the economic integration of disabled women has been drawn up to promote awareness among HELIOS network members. Its short-term aim is to collate statistics and experiences on a European scale, in the long term providing the basis for a positive discrimination policy in respect of equal opportunities on the labour market and in all areas of everyday life.

e) Activities in connection with integration at school

In accordance with the programme of European collaboration on the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools, the Commission organized the first European Conference on Handicap and Education (Rotterdam, 25-27 October 1989) to support action taken within the Member States. The themes of the conference were:

- special systems and integrated situations
- the learning environment
- transition from school to work.

The conclusions of the conference can be summarized as follows:

- integration of disabled people into mainstream education should be considered an important and integral part of promoting social integration;
- a policy of integration means changes in the education system, providing better prospects for all children to realize their potential;
- in the medium or long term, the work of special schools should be seen as complementary to integration into mainstream education, giving due regard to the preferences of handicapped children and their parents;
- the HELIOS programme should foster cooperation between all institutions catering for handicapped children, whether in the area of school education, vocational training, the transition to working life, health or the social services;
- the educational possibilities offered by new technologies should be explored.

On the basis of the conclusions of the Rotterdam conference, the Council, under the Irish presidency, presented in February 1990 a draft resolution concerning integration of children and young people with disabilities into ordinary systems of education. Under the resolution, adopted unanimously by the Council and the Ministers of Education on 31 May 1990, Member States were called upon to direct particular effort and the necessary political will to implementing some ten pragmatic and concrete measures facilitating integration into mainstream education of children and young people with disabilities, in close collaboration with special schools and centres.

The Commission was required to draw up a report on the projects carried out in the Member States by the end of the first half of 1992.

f) Cooperation with international organizations

Cooperation with international organizations is also an essential element of the Commission's work in the area of disability. The organizations involved are the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe.

There is particularly close cooperation with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Ad Hoc Group within the OECD on mobility and transport of disabled persons.

2. Specific actions carried out in accordance with Article 3 of the HELIOS programme concern:

- \* the Community Network of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centres and Experiences fostering exchange of experience and implementation of training or vocational rehabilitation measures.
- \* The special programme to promote independent living, covering the areas of:
  - mobility and transport
  - access to public buildings and services (including cultural and leisure facilities)
  - housing, including equipment and home support services allowing disabled people to lead an independent life in their own home.
- \* The local model activity networks promoting school integration (LMA I), vocational training and rehabilitation and economic integration (LMA II) and social integration and independent living (LMA III).
- \* Coordination and further development of the HANDYNET system, giving special priority to the database on technical aids.
- \* Europe-wide cooperation with independent organizations, particularly associations run by or for disabled people.
- \* The documentation service.

a) Community Network of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centres and Experiences.

Restructuring of the Community network from the first action programme has increased the number of centres and projects from 38 to 50 to ensure more diversification and better representativeness of the various categories of handicap (see Annex 2).

The 50 vocational training and rehabilitation centres and projects were selected on the basis of proposals from the Member States during the second half of October 1988.

The aim of the network is to promote vocational training and rehabilitation on a European scale through participation in conferences, theme-based seminars, training sessions and study visits.

1) Conferences

The conferences bring together those in charge of the 50 centres or projects in order on the one hand to ensure properly coordinated operation of the network across Europe, and on the other to promote one or more specific aspects of vocational training or rehabilitation.

Three conferences were organized during the period under review, in Verona (Italy, 19 and 20 December 1988), Marseille (France, 20-22 November 1989) and Brussels (Belgium, 11 and 12 January 1990).

The Verona conference was an opportunity to provide network members with details of the HELIOS programme, emphasising the need for cooperation within the network itself as well as with non-member centres and projects, the local model activity networks and the European non-government organizations representing the disabled.

The main achievement of the conference was to identify the network members and the nature of their work and so allow fruitful exchange. The resulting directory lists the identity of each member, the relevant contact person, the categories of disabled concerned and the training provided in each case.

The Marseille conference dealt with the practical conclusions to be drawn from European developments in provision for handicapped people, particularly the conclusions of the Council of 12 June 1989<sup>(1)</sup> on the Commission's report concerning application of the Council Recommendation of 24 July 1986 on the employment of disabled people in the Community, the conclusions of the Social Affairs Ministers of 29 September 1989 following the note issued under the French presidency concerning a global and coherent policy in favour of disabled people, the draft Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights for Workers and the guidelines concerning European Social Fund intervention<sup>(2)</sup>. Cooperation between the network and other Community activities was also discussed.

The Brussels conference brought together the network of 50 centres and projects and the network of 27 local model activities in the area of vocational training and economic integration.

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(1) OJ C 173 of 8.7.89, p.1.

(2) OJ C 45 of 24.2.89, p.6.

Its purpose was to analyse the practical implications of the various recommendations and resolutions from International organizations such as UNO, the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Council of Europe, concerning disabled persons. Topics covered were evaluation of individual disability, vocational training and rehabilitation, and employment in open and sheltered environments.

II) Theme-based seminars

Each seminar is devoted to a specific theme, bringing together the members of the relevant network. Seven seminars were organized during the period under review, in Maastricht (Netherlands, 19 to 21 April 1989), Worms (Germany, 26 and 27 June 1989), Brussels (Belgium, 5 and 6 October 1989), Porto (Portugal, 18 and 19 December 1989), Münster (Germany, 22 to 24 March 1990), Dublin (Ireland, 18 and 19 May 1990) and Birmingham (United Kingdom, 28 and 29 June 1990). They covered such themes as employment of persons with mental disorders, the various systems of rehabilitation and access or return to employment, the participation of women in vocational training, vocational training and employment of the mentally handicapped, vocational training and preparation for work of psychiatric patients, rehabilitation of persons with a neurological handicap and vocational training for the blind.

Work carried out in these areas allowed certain practical conclusions to be drawn on points such as the positive and negative impact of new technologies in training, the importance of in-service training, the fact that handicapped women are at a disadvantage in obtaining vocational training compared with men for reasons such as insufficient information, and that training and employment of mentally handicapped people is directly related to their social capacity and particularly their level of social integration, the important role of ergotherapy in rehabilitation of people with a neurological handicap and the observation that training for the blind is very highly specialized.

III) Training schemes

The training schemes are designed to enable staff of centres to visit centres in other Member States to study and train in the techniques used there.

They provide an opportunity for gaining new knowledge and, through the exchange of experiences, for constructive comparison and development of methods. A report is made on each visit. Together, these reports provide a basis for assessing the situation of vocational training in Europe. A table of the training visits carried out is given in Annex 3.

#### IV) Study visits

The study visits are generally shorter than the training schemes and enable network members to see at first hand projects etc. of which they have been made aware through reports or at seminars or conferences. Such visits are essential to the dynamism of the network, strengthening links through exchanges between members. They also make it possible for non-member centres to be associated with the network. A table of study visits carried out is given in Annex 4.

#### b) Special programme to promote independent living

The aim of the programme is to promote an independent way of life by drawing maximum benefit from and heightening public awareness of the most successful projects in the following areas:

- mobility and transport
- access to public buildings and services (including cultural and leisure facilities)
- housing, including special equipment and home support services, allowing disabled people to lead an independent life in their own home.

From 6 to 8 December 1989, the first HELIOS European Conference on Independent living for disabled people was held in Brussels. It included a seminar on the transition from a sheltered to an independent way of life, a conference covering mobility and transport, access to public buildings and adapted housing, a European awards ceremony and exhibition of the winning projects in the areas of transport for people with reduced mobility, access to public buildings and adapted housing. The winning schemes in each category for each Member State were selected by an International Jury of specialists on Independence for the disabled, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, who awarded the prizes in the presence of Mrs Vasso Papandreou, Member of the Commission.

- c) Local model activity networks (LMAs) promoting integration at school (LMA I), vocational training and rehabilitation and economic integration (LMA II) and social integration and independent living (LMA III).

The members of the three local model activity networks were appointed by the Commission at the proposal of the Member States during autumn 1988. The school integration network comprises 21 members (Annex 5), the economic integration network 27 (Annex 6) and the social integration network 32 (Annex 7).

The networks were created to undertake research into and promote the exchange of information and experiences in the following areas:

- school integration:  
teaching in special and ordinary schools, measures to promote school integration (1989 theme), the needs of teachers and parents (1990 theme) and measures to promote full participation in school life (1991 theme);
- economic integration:  
evaluation, planning and guidance (1989 theme), preparation for employment and vocational training (1990 theme) and employment in an open or sheltered environment (1991 theme);
- social integration:  
material support for social integration in the areas of housing (1989 theme), mobility and transport (1990 theme) and accessibility (1991 theme); and psychological barriers.

Work on achieving these objectives took the form of participation by network members in conferences, seminars and study visits and, in the case of the social integration network, financial aid to cover local coordination costs. Each local model activity is supported by a local advisory committee whose members are taken from authorities and organizations concerned with handicap.

#### 1) Conferences

Three conferences, i.e. one per network, were organized during the period under review, in Rotterdam (Netherlands, 25 to 27 October 1989) for school integration, Brussels (Belgium, 11 and 12 January 1990) for economic integration, and Brussels (Belgium 6 to 8 December 1989) for social integration.

The Rotterdam conference (LMA I - school integration), entitled "European Community Conference on Handicap and Education", concentrated on special education systems and integrated environments, handling differences in the learning environment, and the transition to working life.

The conference demonstrated that school integration must be seen as an important part of social integration for handicapped people, and revealed a need for better educational strategies and more flexibility in teaching methods and systems to respond to individuals needs, and the need for integration into mainstream education to be seen as complementary to special schools and centres, with active cooperation between the two.

The LMA II (economic integration) Brussels conference was held jointly with the Network of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centres and Experiences (see section II, 2a)1) above).

The LMA III (social integration) Brussels conference entitled "First HELIOS European Conference on Independent Living for disabled people", dealt with mobility and transport, access to private buildings and services and adapted housing.

## II) Seminars

Seven seminars were organized during the period under review, in Brussels (Belgium 9 and 10 October 1988 - joint meeting of the three networks), Brussels (Belgium, 5 and 6 June 1989 - school integration network), Caudan (France, 21 and 22 September 1989 - economic integration network), Brussels (Belgium, 12 and 13 April 1989 - social integration network), Paris (France, 5 and 6 March 1990 - school integration network), Dublin (Ireland, 2 and 3 April 1990 - economic integration network) and Portalegre (Portugal, 10 and 11 May 1990 - social integration network).

The Brussels seminar held in October 1988 brought together the members of the three local model activity networks to provide them with information on the HELIOS programme, with an emphasis on the need for collaboration with the Network of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centres and Experiences and with the European non-government organizations representing handicapped people.

To build on this basic information, two seminars per network were organized.

The Brussels seminar in June 1989 for the school integration network concentrated on special education systems and integrated situations, and the learning environment. Experiences from each country were presented, giving rise to discussion within the working parties. The theme of the Paris seminar in March 1990 was teachers and parents. Detailed presentations were followed by in-depth discussion within the working parties.

Part of the Caudan seminar held in September 1989 for the economic integration network dealt with stages on the way to vocational rehabilitation and with employment, the remainder being devoted to the specific aspects of economic integration of handicapped women. The Dublin seminar in April 1990 was concerned with preparation for work. On both occasions, local experiences were presented and discussed within working parties. The Brussels seminar in April 1989 for the social integration network was devoted to home support and housing, while the Portalegre seminar in May 1990 dealt with mobility and transport. On both occasions, local experiences were presented and discussed within working parties.

III) Study visits

Visits to other projects by local model activity representatives carried out in all three networks have been a particularly effective way of promoting exchange of knowledge and working methods and improving the coordination and efficiency of the networks. In some cases, group visits were organized to give the participants scope for joint examination of subjects of common interest. An example in the social integration network was a group study visit to Luxembourg to consider how persons with a mental handicap or disability or with multiple handicaps can lead an independent life.

Tables of study visits carried out are given in Annex 8 for the integration network, Annex 9 for the economic integration network and Annex 10 for the social integration network.

IV) Financial aid to cover the coordination costs of the social integration network

The Member States designated the local model activities of the social integration network involved in local coordination of services in the areas of housing (including daily support services), mobility and transport and access to public buildings. Grants not exceeding 50% of the coordination costs with a ceiling of 20 000 ECU per country per year were granted to these activities to promote independent living for handicapped people through improved local coordination.

d) Coordination and development of the HANDYNET system

It was not possible to get work on designing the HANDYNET system, particularly the first module "HANDYAIDS", off the ground until certain consultative structures had been set up under the HELIOS programme: the HELIOS Advisory Committee and Liaison Group, and HELIOS Team of Experts. A services supply contract also had to be concluded with the European Space Agency (ESA).

In structural terms, the HANDYNET system comprises two units: an operational unit in Frascati, at the headquarters of the European Space Agency, and a coordination unit operating within the HELIOS Team of Experts.

The main activities of the operational unit during the period under review were development of centralized databases and data collection and interrogation software. The operational software on technical aids for the motor disabled has been available at the Commission since May 1990.

The coordination unit worked on monitoring and stimulating the activities of the working parties which had been set up, and on strengthening links with the operational unit. Three working parties composed of experts from the Member States met in 1988, 1989 and 1990: the WP on technical aids for the motor disabled, the WP on the visually handicapped, and the WP on education software. A fourth working party was created in 1990 on technical aids for communication. These four working parties met several times and provided the European Space Agency with the elements required to develop an operational computer system. To complement work on the technical side, the Commission asked the Member States to set up a structure enabling the system to function effectively. This meant each country designating a national data collection coordination centre on technical aids for the motor disabled, with each centre liaising with the Commission in constructing the system. The national collection coordination centres participated as partners in developing the system on a European scale, with representation within the HANDYNET Technical Coordination Working Party.

Cooperation between the Commission and the twelve national collection coordination centres needed a formal convention setting out their respective rights and obligations. On 18 December 1989, the Commission therefore submitted a draft contract for approval by the HELIOS Advisory Committee. The 140 observations from the government representatives were examined and discussed at the meeting of the HELIOS Advisory Committee on 23 June 1990.

As a result of this discussion, the Commission drafted the final text of the contract which was signed and forwarded for signature to the twelve national coordination centres.

This meant that work was able to start on training national coordination centre staff and that the system of technical aids for the motor disabled could be brought into operation.

The next stage is for Member States to set up structures at national level in the form of data collection centres and information and advisory centres. Work on technical aids for persons with a visual, hearing, mental or communication handicap is also continuing.

e) Europe-wide cooperation with independent organizations run by or for handicapped people

The European non-government organizations have an important and varied role in the HELIOS programme:

I) Nine European NGOs are members of the HELIOS Liaison Group, six of them permanent and three temporary (see annex 11). There was one replacement at the beginning of 1990. The Liaison Group is empowered to give an opinion on the order of priorities within the HELIOS programme. To this end, the NGOs drew up a working document which was discussed at the fourth meeting of the Liaison Group on 20 June 1989.

An ad hoc working party was created which meets regularly on the day following the Liaison Group meeting to evaluate the results and prepare the next meeting.

II) 31 European NGOs are members of the Dialogue Group (see Annex 12), which met in Brussels on 11 to 12 January 1988 and 1989, and 13 to 14 February 1990. The Commission created the Dialogue Group to allow exchange of information on both the Commission's activities under the HELIOS programme and the activities of the European NGOs and their member associations.

III) The Commission grants subsidies to certain external European-based activities. The European NGOs are the main beneficiaries, receiving Commission aid for their annual programmes covering conferences, special seminars, study visits and Community-based training schemes.

Priority is given to European NGOs linking representative national associations within the Member States according to type of handicap or type of activity concerning disabled people. The number of activities subsidized by the Commission has increased considerably, moving from 90 in 1988 to a probable 150 in 1990. Other criteria for granting subsidies were the importance of the category of handicap, the priority areas for Community activities and fair geographical distribution between the Member States.

f. Coordination in the areas of creativity and sport.

In the area of creativity for disabled people, the Commission anticipated a need for coordination which prompted the creation of the European NGO EUCREA, composed of existing associations in all Member States. The aim is to stimulate artistic creativity among handicapped people, coordinated at European level. Grant applications are considered first at national, then at European level.

There has been a great deal of progress in establishing national creativity committees with appropriate legal status. The statutes have already been officially adopted in ten Member States. The main activities since 1988 have been the European Colloquia on art and therapy (8 - 10 December 1988 in Lisbon), music, dance, theatre and therapy (24 - 27 May 1990 in Vejle, Denmark), the programme of grants for young disabled artists with "Very Special Arts International" and various projects in all fields of creativity such as exhibitions, theatre, dance, music, painting, use of new technologies etc. as a means of expression, integration and therapy.

In the area of sport, the Commission's objective is to establish coordination between existing organizations.

The main grant-aided activities since 1988 have been the Special Olympics for Europe's mentally handicapped held on 21 to 26 June 1990 in Glasgow, the World Games for the disabled held in the Netherlands in 1990 and several specific sporting events such as wheelchair basketball, sailing and water-skiing for the physically disabled, tennis for the deaf, cycling for the blind etc.

g. Documentation service

Publishing a HELIOS information magazine and setting up an effective documentation centre were the main priorities. Information stands were also set up at international exhibitions to distribute information on the programme's activities.

1) HELIOS magazine

Four issues were published in all nine Community languages during the period under review. Number 1, which came out on July 1989, contained an introduction to all aspects of the HELIOS programme. Number 2, published in October 1989, took form of a directory listing specific HELIOS activities by Member State. Number 3, brought out in December 1989, contained articles on presentation of the "Independent Living" awards, group study visits, network activities and creativity and sports projects. Issue No 4 of April 1990 contained an editorial by Mrs Papandreou, Member of the Commission, and articles on independent living, non-government organizations and the personal experiences of handicapped people.

The magazine has a circulation of 45 000 per issue.

II. Development of a documentation centre

The many internal and external requests for information received over the reference period made plain the need for a documentation service capable of meeting the demand. A documentalist was appointed in July 1989. Various research projects were carried out into needs, methods and possibilities. The best option appeared to be a computerized documentation centre run by the HANDYNET unit, processing European information and concentrating on rehabilitation and integration.

III. Participation in international exhibitions

HELIOS information stands were set up at various international trade fairs and events connected with handicapped people.

3. Policy initiatives and legislative proposals

There were policy initiatives in several areas. Some of the main ones were:

I) Employment and vocational training

The Commission report<sup>(1)</sup> on application of Council Recommendation 86/379/EEC<sup>(2)</sup> of 24 July 1986 on the employment of disabled people in the Community was submitted to the Council meeting of 12 June 1989 in Luxembourg. In its conclusions<sup>(3)</sup>, the Council invited the Member States to continue their efforts in favour of vocational training and employment of disabled people, and the Commission to implement action under the HELIOS programme to promote greater integration of disabled people at work.

II) General policy in favour of disabled people

Following an initiative under the French Presidency, during which a note was presented on a global and coherent policy in favour of disabled people, problems of disabled people were discussed at the meeting of Social Affairs Ministers on 29 September 1989.

A consensus was reached on adopting a global approach to handicap, considering the needs of handicapped people when drawing up legislation, and on the need for a positive action programme and for continued exchange within an ad hoc group.

The Commission took initiatives both at Community level and within the institution itself.

At Community level, it provided the HELIOS Liaison Group with information on such aspects as VAT, driving licences and new technology. Within the Commission, coordination was set up between Directorates-Generals to enable the problems of handicapped people to be given more consideration.

III. Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights for Workers and Commission action programme

The Charter was adopted by eleven Member States at the European Council held in Strasbourg in December 1989. It contains an essential provision concerning disabled persons (section 26) which states:

"All disabled persons, whatever the origin and nature of their disablement, must be entitled to additional concrete measures aimed at improving their social and professional integration.

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(1) COM (88) 746 final

(2) OJ No L/225 of 12.08.1986, p. 43

(3) OJ No C/173 of 08.07.1989, p.1

These measures must concern, in particular, according to the capacities of the beneficiaries, vocational training, ergonomics, accessibility, mobility, means of transport and housing."

Implementation of the Charter is through the Commission's action programme<sup>(1)</sup>, which provides for:

- further development of the HANDYNET system;
- a proposal for a Council Directive on improved travel conditions for workers with reduced mobility;
- a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the third Community action programme for disabled people (HELIOS II).

IV) The European Social Fund and action for disabled people

In line with Community policy on the employment and training of disabled people, the Council invited the Commission to "continue to give effective support, particularly within the framework of the European Social Fund rules, to national measures for the occupational integration of disabled people, taking account of the special problems they experience and the aims of Community social policy"<sup>(2)</sup>.

Steps were taken within the Commission to draw up a programme of financial support through the European Social Fund for vocational training and employment of disabled people.

V) Exchange programme for young disabled people

Following the Council of Social Affairs Ministers on 29 September 1989, the Commission took internal measures to promote integration of young disabled people into European programmes such as PETRA, LINGUA, ERASMUS etc providing for exchanges of young people.

VI) Research projects

In order to obtain the kind of information needed for directing European policy in favour of disabled people, the Commission carried out a number of studies, including:

- Employment of disabled people in the Member States
- Mobility and transport for disabled people

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(1) COM (89) 568 final, point 13

(2) Conclusions of the Council, 12.6.1989 (89/C173/012) Article 11b

- Social services for the deaf in the Member States
- Social integration with particular emphasis on the leisure infrastructure for the mentally handicapped in the Member States
- Reform of the psychiatric services in Greece
- Sheltered workshops in the Member States
- The network of rehabilitation centres in the Member States
- Statistics on the socio-economic situation of disabled people in the Member States.

### III CONCLUSIONS

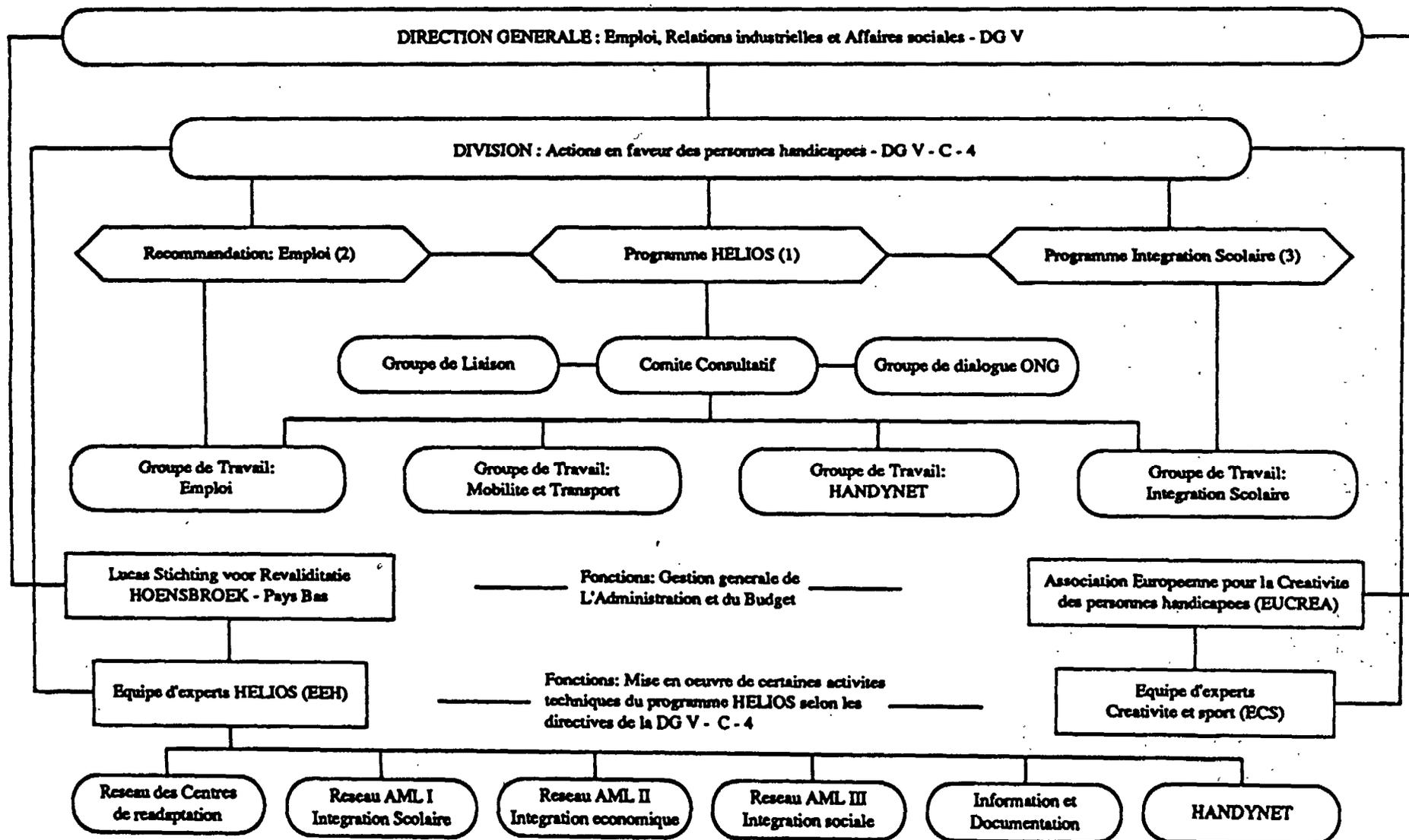
The Commission considers that action implemented under the HELIOS programme since October 1988 has been of benefit to the some 30 million disabled people in the Community.

The programme has established, for the first time in the European Community, a basis and framework for developing a coherent global policy at Community level promoting integration of disabled people. The Commission considers that implementation of such a policy at both national and Community level is absolutely essential to an active social policy which will contribute to economic and social cohesion in respect of completion of the single market, which is intended to benefit all Community citizens without exception. This objective can only be achieved by promoting exchange of information and experience at all levels. The information accumulated by the vocational rehabilitation and training centres and experiences network and the local model activity networks is a valuable resource to aid formulation of a European policy on integration of disabled people. There are therefore sound reasons for continuing efforts in this direction until 31 December 1991 in the form of legislative proposals or other policy initiatives.

The Commission will also work jointly with the HELIOS Liaison Group and Advisory Committee on drawing up a proposal on establishment of a HELIOS II programme.

- Annex 1. Administrative organization chart
- Annex 2. List of training and rehabilitation centres
- Annex 3. Table of training schemes run by the centres network
- Annex 4. Table of study visits carried out within the centres network
- Annex 5. List of LMA I
- Annex 6. List of LMA II
- Annex 7. List of LMA III
- Annex 8. Table of study visits carried out within the LMA I network (school integration)
- Annex 9. Table of study visits carried out within the LMA II network (economic integration)
- Annex 10. Table of study visits carried out within the LMA III network (social integration)
- Annex 11. List of NGO members of the HELIOS Liaison Group
- Annex 12. List of NGO members of the Dialogue Group.

-23-



(1) J.O. L104 du 23.04.88, p. 38: Decision 88/231/CEE du Conseil du 18 avril 1988 portant etablissement d'un deuxieme programme d'action communautaire en faveur des personnes handicapées (Helios)  
 (2) J.O. L 225 du 12.08.86, p. 43  
 (3) J.O. C 211 du 08.08.87, p. 1

LIST OF THE NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIMENTS  
IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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Expériences de formation  
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rue du Meiboom 14  
1000 BRUXELLES

Brailleliga - Ligue Braille  
Beroepsopleidingscentrum  
Engelandstraat 57  
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 Heiglhofstrasse 63  
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Fondation "THEOTOKOS"  
Nea Liossia  
Attikis  
131 22 ATHENS

Psychiatric Hospital of Thessaloniki  
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PROMOFAF  
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COPE Foundation  
Bonington  
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 7500 BA ENSCHEDE

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 6561 KE GROESBEEK

PAMEYER Stichting  
 Baan 50  
 3011 CC ROTTERDAM

Stichting Nieuwe Werkvormen  
 Alexander Battalaan 53B  
 6221 CB MAASTRICHT

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 Enham Alamein  
 Andover  
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 EH3 8DQ EDINBURGH

NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIMENTS IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (RCE)

TRAINING SESSIONS 1989

FROM \ TO	Cork	Gent	Abee - Scry	Verona	ENAIIP - Cagliari	Porto	Bruges	Groesbeck @	Lisboa	Maastricht	Barcelona	Outer network (Mulhouse)	Outer network (Mulhouse)	Outer network (Lille)	Training sessions completed	Number of participants
	Verona	3														1
Sintra		1. 1.													2	1
Theotocos			1									1*			2	2
Porto				2	2										2	4
ENAIIP - Cagliari					2										1	2
Roslyn Park							3								1	3
Nostra - Famiglia (Como)								2							1	2
Thessaloniki		1.								1.					2	1
Birmingham											2				1	2
Lisboa												1	1*		2	2
Billingham					2										1	2
Outer network (Bruxelles)												2*			1	2
Outer network (Gent)													3		1	3
Training sessions received	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	18	
Number of participants	3	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	2	1	2	1	4	3		

@ = Participation of the outer network

. = more than one centre visited in the same study visit

\* = more than one centre completed the same study visit together

NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIMENTS IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (RCE)

TRAINING SESSIONS (1/1 - 30/6/1990)

FROM \ TO	Dublin @	B - L - NL - D @	Billingham	Marseille @	Nyborg @	Maastricht	Rotterdam								Training sessions completed	Number of participants
	Thessaloniki	2				1										2
Porto		1	2												2	3
Enham Industries				3											1	3
Devon					1										1	1
Training sessions received	1	1	1	1	1	1									6	
Number of participants	2	1	2	3	1	1										

- @ = Participation of the outer network
- . = more than one centre visited in the same study visit
- = more than one centre completed the same study visit together

NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIMENTS IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (RCE)

STUDY VISITS 1989

FROM \ TO	Bonn	Gesu Risorto - Roma	Devon	Gent	Abec - Scry	Sintra	ENAIIP - Roma	ENAIIP - Roma @	Milano	Nostra-Famiglia (Como)	Worms @	Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Osnabruck	Porto	Sahva (Kobenhavn)	Sahva @	Rotterdam	Cork	Valencia	Barcelona	Thessaloniki	Madrid	Outer network	Study visits completed	Number of participants	
	Roslyn Park @	8																								1	8
Capellen	6																									1	6
Porto		6																					8			2	9
Valencia			6														3*									2	14
Sintra				5.	5.															5						3	10
Gent					2																					1	2
Abec-Scry					3																					1	3
Madrid						4																				1	4
Lisboa						5.		5.																		2	5
St. Etienne @							4																			1	4
Thessaloniki										4	4	4	4													3	12
Osnabruck											5															1	5
Edinburgh												6														1	6
Milano									5																	1	5
Billingham						6								5	4											2	9
Werkenrode																										1	6
Pengwern Hall @												6.					6.	4								3	6
Devon @																	6*									1	10
Birmingham @																					10					1	10
Maastricht																						2.	2.			2	2
Rotterdam																			6							1	6
Verona																								6		1	6
Study visits received	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	32	
Number of participants	14	6	6	5	5	5	15	4	0	5	9	9	4	12	5	4	9	6	10	5	10	2	8	6			

- @ = Participation of the outer network
- . = more than one centre visited in the same study visit
- \* = more than one centre completed the same study visit together

NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIMENTS IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (RCE)

STUDY VISITS (1/1 - 30/6/1990)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">TO</div> <div style="text-align: center;">FROM</div> </div>		Thessaloniki @	Rotterdam @	Rotterdam	Lisboa - Porto	Theotokos	Dublin	Billingham ERC @	København	Southampton @	Cabra @	Tour de Gassies @	Werkenrode	Outer network @	Sintra @	Cope Foundation - Cork	Milano - Como	St. Etienne - Montpellier @	Edinburgh	Study visits completed	Number of participants
		Maastricht	2																		
Verona		6.																		1	6
Bad Vilbel				7.																1	7
Pengwern Hall					6															1	6
Thessaloniki						4.		5												2	9
Werkenrode							6.													1	6
Enham Industries @								6.												1	6
St. Etienne									4.											1	4
Edinburgh											5.					1.*				2	6
(Bruxelles) @												6								1	6
Valencia @													6.							1	6
Worms														6.						1	6
Porto @															7					1	7
Gesu Risorto - Rome			6																	1	6
Sintra												5								1	5
Billingham ERC																4.*				1	4
Lisboa																	4.			1	4
Gent																		6		1	6
Cork - Cope Found			4																	1	4
Study visits received		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1		21	
Number of participants		2	6	10	7	6	4	6	6	5	4	5	6	6	6	7	5	4	6		

@ = Participation of the outer network

. = more than one centre visited in the same study visit

\* = more than one centre completed the same study visit together

NETWORK OF INTEGRATION IN SCHOOLS  
LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES (LMA)

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RESEAU INTEGRATION SCOLAIRE  
ACTIVITES MODELES LOCALES (AML)

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-----

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING- EMPLOYMENT  
LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES (LMA)

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RESEAU INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE  
FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE - EMPLOI  
ACTIVITES MODELES LOCALES (AML)

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BELGIUM - BELGIQUE

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Mr. J. VOLS

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---

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NETWORK OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION  
AUTONOMOUS LIFE - COORDINATION  
LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES (LMA)

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RESEAU INTEGRATION SOCIAL  
VIE AUTONOME - COORDINATION  
ACTIVITES MODELES LOCALES (AML)

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STUDY VISITS LMA I : SCHOOL INTEGRATION

TO FROM	01.Bruxelles (B)	02.Leuven (B)	03.Hinnerup (Dk)	04.Bonn (D)	05.Reutlingen (D)	06.Oviedo (E)	07.Valladolid (E)	08.Marousi Attiki (Gr)	09.Thessaloniki (Gr)	10.Nanterre (F)	11.Suresnes (F)	12.Cork (Ir)	13.Siena (I)	14.Sardegna (I)	15.Luxembourg (L)	16.Rotterdam (NL)	17.Tholen (NL)	18.Lisboa (P)	19.Porto (P)	20.Swansea (GB)	21.Morpeth (GB)	Visits undertaken	Number of participants
01.Bruxelles (B)						4	1.	1.														3	5
02.Leuven (B)		6		4																		2	10
03.Hinnerup (Dk)			4					3										2	3			4	12
04.Bonn (D)						4																1	4
05.Reutlingen (D)		3	8														3			6		4	17
06.Oviedo (E)		4																2	2			3	8
07.Valladolid (E)		5	5															1	2			4	13
08.Marousi Attiki (Gr)		2								4								2				3	8
09.Thessaloniki (Gr)		2						3										2	2			4	9
10.Nanterre (F)						4	2															2	6
11.Suresnes (F)		2								2			2									4	8
12.Cork (Ir)			5															3	3			3	11
13.Siena (I)						4		2														2	6
14.Sardegna (I)								5	5													2	5
15.Luxembourg (L)																		1	1			2	2
16.Rotterdam (NL)							7											3	3			3	13
17.Tholen (NL)				4																4		2	8
18.Lisboa (P)		1							3			2										3	5
19.Porto (P)		2				2																2	4
20.Swansea (GB)		2	4														2					3	6
21.Morpeth (GB)	5	5													5							3	15
Visits received	1	3	9	3	3	0	6	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	2	1	2	9	7	2	0		59
Number of participants	5	10	32	14	12	25	1	6	10	8	6				4	5	5	18	16	10			

NOTES :

A numeral followed by a full stop (.) means that the same people visited several LMA's during the same trip.

**STUDY VISITS LMA II : ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

TO FROM		01. Genk-Hassel (B)	02. Liège (B)	03. Aarhus (Dk)	04. Silkeborg (Dk)	05. Abensberg (D)	06. Hannover (D)	07. Offenburg (D)	08. Badajoz (E)	09. Murcia (E)	10. Daphni (Gr)	11. Patras (Gr)	12. Wasquehal (F)	13. Caudan (F)	14. Dijon (F)	15. Dublin (Ir)	16. Tullamore (Ir)	17. Bologna (I)	18. Rieti (I)	19. Roma (I)	20. Dudelange (L)	21. Amsterdam (NI)	22. Dordrecht/Gron. (NI)	23. Caldas de Rainha (P)	24. Lisboa (P)	25. Netherleikh (GB)	26. West Yorkshire (GB)	27. West London (GB)	Visits undertaken	Number of participants
01. Genk-Hassel (B)								6																					1	6
02. Liège (B)																													0	0
03. Aarhus (Dk)																	3												2	7
04. Silkeborg (Dk)											4																		1	4
05. Abensberg (D)																					5	5						3	9	
06. Hannover (D)																	7											1	7	
07. Offenburg (D)												2									23		4					3	29	
08. Badajoz (E)																	3				5							2	8	
09. Murcia (E)																4	4											2	4	
10. Daphni (Gr)												5																1	5	
11. Patras (Gr)																												3	10	
12. Wasquehal (F)			4	4																								2	4	
13. Caudan (F)							6														4	4						3	10	
14. Dijon (F)																							5					1	5	
15. Dublin (Ir)								3														3						2	3	
16. Tullamore (Ir)																						5						1	5	
17. Bologna (I)																												1	4	
18. Rieti (I)								4	3																			2	4	
19. Roma (I)																2						3						2	5	
20. Dudelange (L)								10																				1	10	
21. Amsterdam (NI)																					13							2	13	
22. Dordrecht/Gron. (NI)																5	5				5			5				4	10	
23. Caldas de Rainha (P)																						5						1	5	
24. Lisboa (P)																									5			1	5	
25. Netherleikh (GB)			5	3	3																	5	5					5	8	
26. West Yorkshire (GB)																							5	5				2	5	
27. West London (GB)																						2						2	5	
Visits received		4	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	6	3	1	1	1	3		46
Number of participants		23	7	7	3	10	4	9	4	5	5	11	12	7	4	14	36	9	22	14	5	5	5	5	12					

**NOTES :**

A numeral followed by a full stop (.) means that the same people visited several LMA's during the same trip.

## STUDY VISITS LMA III : SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

TO FROM		01. Jalhay (B)	02. St. Niklaas (B)	03. Vejle (Dk)	04. Nykøbing (Dk)	05. Peissenberg (D)	06. Gelsenkirchen (D)	07. Nürnberg (D)	08. Stuttgart (D)	09. Mostoles (E)	10. Salamanca (E)	11. Alava (E)	12. Rhodes (Gr)	13. Thessaloniki (Gr)	14. Bordeaux (Fr)	15. Saône et Loire (Fr)	16. St. Quentin (Fr)	17. Val de Marne (Fr)	18. Dublin (Ir)	19. Kilkenny (Ir)	20. Villa Rosa (I)	21. Giugliano (I)	22. Bologna (I)	23. Belluno (I)	24. Esch/Alzette (L)	25. Spijkenisse (NL)	26. Arnhem (NL)	27. Coimbra/Porto- (P)	28. Portalegre/Beja- (P)	29. Walthamstow (GB)	30. East Sussex (GB)	31. Dyfed (GB)	32. Banff (GB)	Visits undertaken	Number of participants	
01. Jalhay (B)		4									1				3	1								4	2									6	15	
02. St. Niklaas (B)																																			0	7
03. Vejle (Dk)											3																								2	5
04. Nykøbing (Dk)											3																								2	13
05. Peissenberg (D)																								13											1	10
06. Gelsenkirchen (D)																									6	4								2	3	
07. Nürnberg (D)																								3										1	0	
08. Stuttgart (D)																																		1	2	
09. Mostoles (E)																									2									1	9	
10. Salamanca (E)																9																		1	5	
11. Alava (E)			2.2.																						3									3	10	
12. Rhodes (Gr)																				4		1	3					2						4	6	
13. Thessaloniki (Gr)							2										2																		3	10
14. Bordeaux (Fr)																																			3	6
15. Saône et Loire (Fr)													4.4.																						2	10
16. St. Quentin (Fr)																																			2	4
17. Val de Marne (Fr)			4.4.																																0	8
18. Dublin (Ir)																																			1	1
19. Kilkenny (Ir)																																			1	6
20. Villa Rosa (I)								3				3			3																			2	9	
21. Giugliano (I)												3																						3	3	
22. Bologna (I)								2.2.																											2	2
23. Belluno (I)			5.5.																																2	5
24. Esch/Alzette (L)	3	5.5.									1					3	1																		6	13
25. Spijkenisse (NL)	6	6																																	2	12
26. Arnhem (NL)											8																								1	8
27. Coimbra/Porto- (P)																				2		3*	5												3	10
28. Portalegre/Beja- (P)								5																											3	12
29. Walthamstow (GB)								6																											1	6
30. East Sussex (GB)															7																				1	7
31. Dyfed (GB)															5																				1	5
32. Banff (GB)			2.2.																																4	12
Visits received		2	0	7	5	0	0	1	1	3	1	5	3	1	2	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	4	6	10	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1		66	
Number of participants		9	28	18			2	3	13	2	16	10	4	12	6	9	6		1	6		11	35	28	6	8	4		2					3		

## NOTES :

1. A numeral followed by a full stop (.) means that the same people visited several LMA's during the same trip.
2. A numeral followed by a star (\*) means that it concerns a visit of either the LMA of Porto or Beja, who are twinned respectively with the LMA of Coimbra and Portalegre.

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