

# heli@s



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
PROGRAMME FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

E

N° 10 - 3rd year 1991

Bureau de dépôt : Bruxelles X  
TRIMESTRIEL : DECEMBRE



*In the run up to the Portuguese Presidency of the European Community and the launch of the Commission's third action programme for disabled people, HELIOS II, I have the greatest pleasure in writing to you, the readers of the HELIOS magazine.*

*HELIOS II symbolises continuation: the efforts of disabled people, professionals, the public and associations will be pursued, as well as the groundwork laid during the first HELIOS programme.*

*We are currently witnessing the start of a new era; HELIOS II will allow us to reaffirm our ambitions, both in practice — through our fellow participants in the programme nationwide — and in the official texts which form the basis for European policy and which must by necessity be comprehensive and cohesive.*

*Portuguese participation has been extremely valuable over the last few years in crucial areas of rehabilitation, education, professional training and social and economic integration, as well as in the policy and pilot schemes launched by the European Commission.*

*In Portugal there has been no lack of innovative projects targeting improved living conditions for disabled people and which have played an active part in the HELIOS community networks. As the third programme is launched, I therefore take this opportunity to offer encouragement to Portuguese initiatives.*

*We shall continue to take an active part in this multilateral exchange of information, knowledge and experience in different areas of activity planned for the HELIOS II programme so that all disabled people may play an active role in the social development of Europe.*

**José Silva Peneda**  
Minister for Employment  
and Social Security  
(November 1991)

### VALLADOLID CONFERENCE : "A full school life"

While the need for children and young people with disabilities to be integrated into mainstream education is no longer in question, many barriers to successful integration still exist. The HELIOS network of local model activities for school integration has been exploring the problems and setting out possible solutions. The third European conference on "Education and Disability" held in Valladolid, Spain, underlined three priorities : an adequate education for all ; positive action towards equal opportunities and rights ; and as a result, integration in practice.

These three points call for political willingness and technical competence. Integration can not be the sum of isolated experiences, but rather the result of a global policy which takes account of all elements in the process. In keeping with the work plan of the Swansea seminar held last March (cf HELIOS n° 9), the Valladolid conference tackled all these elements, with the accent on:

- physical and technical realities ;
- socialisation of children and young people with disabilities ;
- pedagogic aspects.

#### The physical and technical realities

Schools are prominent features in any urban landscape. The school is normally an important building within a community, used for all kinds of purposes, not just teaching children. It is a cultural, social and educational space which plays a major role in the socialising process. As such it must be accessible to everyone.

But the elimination of architectural barriers is not just a question of technical or economic problems, but also of mentalities and political will. Minimum standards reflecting the specific needs of disabled people should be incorporated into building regulations for all urban projects. This presupposes a change in the training of architects.

#### The socialisation of children and young people with disabilities

The desegregation of special education was high on the agenda. The accounts of disabled and non-disabled children integrated at school, and of their parents, echoed the same message: cohabitation is beneficial to them all. But integration must take place step-by-step to allow progressive evaluation and re-orientation. Only by bringing together school heads, parents, teachers and pupils themselves can future progress be guaranteed.

School socialisation must go hand in hand with economic integration. Collaboration between schools and the labour market must be reinforced to smooth this transition. Everything starts from education; so the school must fully assume its role of first promoter of integration.

#### Pedagogic aspects

The conference also focused on educational standards and teaching methods. To enable successful integration to take place, the educational system must incorporate mechanisms of prevention, identification and evaluation. Standardised programmes do not always guarantee the full participation of disabled children and may even disadvantage them. Personalised

programmes are the key to an appropriate educational response.

As an effect and result of integration, specialised teaching has progressively entered ordinary education through legislation and new forms of teaching. The quantitative and qualitative evolution of specialised teaching means that the special school is now becoming a vital training, resource and research unit — better co-operation with mainstream education is the result.



# HELIOS NETWORKS

## REHABILITATION CENTRES AND EXPERIENCES

### ROTTERDAM SEMINAR : “Employment placement for people with mental illness”

Statistics show that disabled people are four times more likely to be unemployed than their able-bodied counterparts. But for people with mental illness, the odds stacked against them are even higher. In spite of recent initiatives, many remain unemployed, unskilled, demotivated, and with poor work records.

Meeting in Rotterdam last September, members of the network of Rehabilitation Centres and Experiences (RCE) tackled this issue by exploring ways to help mentally ill people find and retain employment. With the gradual closure of mental hospitals and moves towards community care, the seminar underlined the vital impact of work for their re-integration into economic and social life.

Vocational training and preparation for work play a major role in this process. Although many mentally ill people respond successfully to rehabilitation, few go on to higher level training or open employment compared with other disability groups. Difficulties coping with pressure, inconsistent productivity, low motivation, the need for ongoing medical treatment and lack of stability were all cited.

The seminar heard from five HELIOS projects bringing innovative approaches to the vocational training of people with mental illness. All underlined the need for careful, caring assessment with good social support and back-up, plus special staff training. The need to provide ongoing support to trainees in employment, as well as to their employers, was also stressed.

In certain cases sheltered employment — traditionally the domain of

mentally handicapped people — may be a viable option, as well as structures like industrial therapy units which have been specifically created for people with mental illness.

#### Working group discussions

- Strict divisions between mental health care and vocational training programmes are counter-productive (for example, offering no possibilities for relocation of resources). There should be more collaboration between programmes, but the “medicalisation” of vocational training should be avoided at all costs.

- Need to set realistic goals — to be reviewed regularly — in terms of vocational training and employment for people with mental illness. Even when no work opportunity is apparent, pre-vocational activities should not be written off: they prepare the individual for a better social life and more independence.

- Need to overturn some of the stereotype images society, and in particular employers, have of mental illness. By changing discriminatory attitudes, legislation aimed specifically at safeguarding the rights of people with mental illness will not be necessary.

- Programmes and services should

be geared to meet individual needs. Users should participate from the outset in their own planning, not only to gain responsibility and self-respect, but also to inform trainers, develop and adapt training programmes, and evaluate results. Too often people with mental illness find it hard to articulate what they want to do and there is a danger of over-protection by case managers and others.

- A common language / frame of reference should be developed and used by all those involved in the vocational rehabilitation process — users, practitioners and mental health professionals.

*Further details :*

**HELIOS Information Service**

### Placement questionnaire : the results

In December 1990, the conference of the HELIOS Economic Integration network highlighted employment and disability as a major issue for the 90s. Discussions centred upon the findings of a Europe-wide survey on employment placement, based on a questionnaire completed by local model activities (LMAs) belonging to this European network. The final result is a comprehensive report which provides details of placement services within individual systems across all EC member states. Here we focus on those issues which have widespread interest or impact.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Success in the workplace is still a long way off for many disabled people. Yet according to a recent HELIOS survey, all 12 EC member states have specific, mostly national activities targeting the employment of disabled people. From awareness campaigns for employers to help for self-employment schemes, from assistance for adaptation of workplaces to follow-up services and quota systems... So what's going wrong ?

All too often insufficient training and support are to blame, and employment opportunities are wasted. One way forward is the setting up of specialist placement services for disabled people, designed to help them develop skills and find jobs matching their needs and experience. Several LMAs run placement schemes and the survey highlights their practical experiences, plus lays the groundwork for future initiatives ...

#### Placement : general situation

Every EC member state has some form of national job placement scheme available to all its citizens. The majority offer special services

for disabled people, including counselling, mediation, vocational assessment and funding for salary subventions (Belgium and Denmark are the two exceptions). However the feeling among respondents was that these schemes rarely have proper resources — in terms of expertise, experience and funding — to deal with the sometimes specialised needs of unemployed disabled people. For example, the chances of staff having even basic sign language skills are very low. Lack of confidence in the capabilities of disabled people was another factor cited.

In certain member states, notably Belgium and the UK, voluntary organisations also exist to help disabled people find jobs.

Eight LMAs run specialist placement services (Genk/Hasselt, Liège, Aarhus, Abensberg, Badajoz, Murcia, Caudan, and West London), taking referrals either from the national placement schemes or from other agencies. Staffing levels vary from one to five placement workers, with most schemes understaffed.

One example : LMA Badajoz, which covers an area with over one million inhabitants, has only two placement workers (a minimum of 15 is required) !

#### II. WELL PLACED FOR SUCCESS

##### 1. The disabled person

Most LMA schemes base their practice on the "individual approach", focusing on the needs and capabilities of each disabled person. According to one respondent : *"It is clear that a range of issues including motivation, requirements for skill training, orientation to the job market and follow up services can only be dealt with effectively by paying detailed attention to all aspects of an individual's life."* The importance of family involvement was stressed by those LMAs working with people with mental handicap or with mental health problems.

The individual approach embraces assessment and professional counselling, preparing disabled people to set their own career goals, in particular :

- to make a realistic self assessment of their disabilities ;
- to develop confidence in the skills they can achieve but also to be able to criticise themselves ;
- to know where to go to get the support and training necessary to develop the skills they need ;
- to have a good understanding of the expectations of their employer.

It is vital that everyone involved — the disabled person, their tutor or trainer, placement worker and the potential employer — has practical and realistic expectations.

## LMA PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES — EXAMPLES

LMA	TARGET GROUP	INNOVATORY ASPECTS	PERIOD IN MONTHS	N° OF DISABLED PEOPLE USING SERVICE		N° FINDING EMPLOYMENT		N° FINDING JOBS 12 MONTHS
				MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	
Genk / Hasselt (B)	Mainly people with motor disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links with education, vocational training and employment</li> <li>scientific research</li> <li>training in information technology</li> </ul>	24	141	39	77	23	74
Århus (DK)	People with physical disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>placements within wide geographical area</li> <li>multidisciplinary approach</li> <li>vocational training at place of work</li> </ul>	7	125	175	60	85 in training	54
Abensberg (D)	People with learning difficulties / mental illness — severely disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multidisciplinary approach</li> <li>networking</li> <li>identifying gaps and initiatives towards a global, coherent service</li> <li>placement on open labour market</li> </ul>	30	86	27	43	15	43
Offenburg (D)	People with learning difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promotion of vocational and social skills</li> <li>training for pupils without school qualifications</li> <li>public awareness activities</li> </ul>	12	12	8	11	6	11
Badajoz (ES)	Mainly people with physical disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>studies about regional employment for disabled people</li> <li>appropriate training courses</li> <li>cooperatives</li> <li>placement activities on open labour market</li> </ul>	36	172	9	115	2	91
Murcia (ES)	People with mental handicap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vocational activities for people with mental handicap</li> </ul>	36	1030	439	343	58	323
Caudan (FR)	People with physical disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>integrated multidisciplinary approach</li> <li>on-the-job training</li> <li>training in information technology</li> </ul>	9	128		67		NO S
Achaia (EL)	All kinds of disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>researching new employment areas in region</li> <li>global approach to integration at local level, encompassing access, independent living, vocational training, employment ...</li> </ul>	11	53	22	28	9	ALL FOR REQ
West London (UK)	Mainly people with physical disabilities / mental health problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>individual approach / personalised training</li> <li>use of new technology</li> <li>network of provision covering all aspects of daily life</li> </ul>	12	14	10	11	8	9

### 2. The placement worker

The placement worker plays a major role in advising, supporting and counselling the disabled person. S/he needs a firm base of training and experience to offer full and ef-

fective guidance. Awareness of vocational training opportunities and links with further and higher education colleges, as well as other relevant agencies, are all important. Placement workers must also be acquainted with the potential job mar-

ket, plus have specific knowledge of all forms of support — financial and human — available to employers.

Among the many personal qualities required of a placement worker, the survey listed: motivation, en-

	PLACED IN :			
	OPEN EMPLOYMENT		SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT	
MEN	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
1	71	22	6	1
6	48	69	6	7
4	43	15	10	3
7	11	7		
2	12	8	54	8
0	315	54	23	4
CS	100 %			
ED HS NT	100 %			
	9	7	2	1

thusiasm, creativity, an open mind, high frustration tolerance and the ability to discuss moral and ethical questions... Developing an appropriate partnership with the disabled person is the key. To quote one UK respondent : "Our best work in

placement is done where the placement worker has gained a detailed knowledge of a person's potential through a close association during training. Where a placement worker is acting as an intermediary in direct contact with potential employers this enables a realistic picture to be drawn for both the employer and the potential employee and the subsequent possibility of a mismatch is substantially reduced."

### 3. The employer

But the route to securing employer commitment is not always an easy one. Lack of knowledge among employers about the support available is cited as one of the main factors hindering the employment of disabled people. Some LMA schemes offer information packs to employers, which might include anything from specific details of the skills and experience of the trainee, to advice on assistance. The information needs to be well balanced, pointing out practical realities such as possible adaptations to the workplace. This scheme tends to have a snowball effect as many employers learn, through the experience of employing disabled workers, that their former prejudices were unfounded.

### III. THE WAY AHEAD : POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The work of creating and developing awareness of the facts relating to the employment of disabled people must be continued and enhanced (including information on support mechanisms, adaptations of the workplace and the practical realities of individual disabilities).

- One option : small scale resource centres giving advice on all questions concerning the employment of disabled people. For example, a placement database — with details of trainee profiles, job vacancies, networks of employers

already experienced in employing disabled people...— could provide invaluable back-up.

- Employers who successfully integrate disabled people into their workforces should be given some form of incentive.

- Call for increased efforts to ensure that specialised placements services become more widely available. The work of many LMAs in enlisting the help and support of trade unions, chambers of commerce and local politicians to promote placements must continue.

- Need long term commitment to funding so that placement schemes can plan their services without a continued threat of withdrawal of support.

- Legislation at EC level should oblige governments to develop better policies for the employment of disabled people. A crucial first step might be to insist on the legalisation of the LMA placement scheme.

Further details :

**HELIOS Information Service** ■

# HELIOS NETWORKS

## HANDYNET

### Handynet... Handyrom !

While most of us are aware of the use of compact discs to store stereophonic music, how many have heard of the *read only memory compact disc* commonly known as CD ROM ? The technology of CD ROM is derived from the audio compact disc, using the same production process and basic reading principle. The CD ROM has enjoyed considerable success in Europe as an information support. Hardly surprising given its capacity to store 650 megabytes, the equivalent of 700 diskettes or more than 270,000 typed pages ... not to mention images and sound ! As a user-friendly system, it provides an ideal support for consulting information locally, and with none of the financial and practical constraints of telecommunications.

#### A new springboard for Handynet

With this in mind, experts of the Handynet national data collection centres concerning technical aids for people with motor disabilities — meeting at a training session, held in Luxemburg last March — put forward constructive proposals which served as a springboard for the development of a version of Handynet on compact disc (to run alongside the on-line system).

The aim of the HELIOS team of experts was to offer the Handynet national data collection centres, and at a later stage the Handynet information centres, a user-friendly system providing rapid, direct access to data.

#### Handynet : data on technical aids

An information system can only be considered operational when it holds a substantial quantity of data ; but direct collection (ie carried out by the Handynet national centres) is very time-consuming. That is why, at the request of the Belgian, German, Danish, French, Italian, Dutch and British centres, computer interfaces have been prepared allowing automatic transfer to Handynet of data already held in national data-

bases (for example : Rehadat, Infatec, Techulp, ...)

By combining efforts for direct collection and automatic transfer, the Handynet system now holds a large quantity of information and can rightly be termed : 'a Multilingual European Information Resource on technical aids'.

#### Content of the 1st Handynet CD ROM

This strong collaboration between all the national data collection centres, coupled with a will to succeed in one way or another has borne fruit : the first CD ROM contains some 13,700 entries on technical aids available in the member states and on the organisations directly linked to the manufacturing or commercialisation of these products. Profiting from the passage of the Handynet system onto CD ROM and from established links with the General Direction X of the European Commission (Information, Communication and Culture), it has also been possible to compile 4,200 addresses of organisations involved in sports and disability.

Cover of the Handynet CD ROM





The first Handynet compact disk was handed to the national data collection centres at the training session of 9, 10 and 11 December 1991 in the Netherlands. A new edition will appear every four months ... Perhaps even with images ?!

## PROFILE : "HANDYNET FRANCE"

France in the 80s saw a steady increase in the number of information centres on technical aids. In 1990, a feasibility study on the development of a national database linked to Handynet led the Ministry of Health and Solidarity to set up a French network of 14 data collection centres. The CNFLRH was designated as the national centre of data collection on technical aids for people with motor disabilities.

### • During 1990, the following stages were passed :

- May 1990 : setting up of the Handynet team within CNFLRH (coordinator, documentalist, ergotherapist, computer specialist and secretary).
- 13 July 1990 : signing of a convention between CNFLRH and the European Commission.
- Setting up of the French Handynet national network : convention setting out the management and tasks of the 14 collection centres.
- Installation of offices at CNFLRH.
- Publication of a national brochure on Handynet.

### • Handynet France became operational in January 1991 :

- Installation of workposts and staff training at the 14 data collection centres.
- April 1991 : start up of data collection and retrieval.
- Financial participation of four public organisations : Ministry of Health and Solidarity ; Ministry of Research ; Secretariat of State for War Veterans ; National Office of Health Insurance.

• The 1991 target for the direct collection of data was about 2000 technical aids and 350 manufacturers and commercial companies.

Further details :

Handynet France : C.N.F.L.R.H.  
38 Bd. Raspail  
75007 Paris

## Networks of centres and local model activities : first conclusions

As you read this 10th edition of the journal, HELIOS I will have just drawn to a close. At the time of going to press (October 1991), the definitive results are not yet available. Here we make some general comments on the work undertaken by the HELIOS networks, based on three parameters : evolution, changes and transfers.

### I NETWORK OF CENTRES AND EXPERIENCES IN REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

#### I Evolution

At the start of HELIOS I, the diversity of projects making up this network caused certain problems but has now evolved into full co-operation. There was a direct link between levels of participation and the financial resources / means of communication available to each member.

The setting up of an external network ensured greater exchange of expertise and experience, as well as increased participation with HELIOS activities EC-wide (in spite of the limited financial support available). A high level of interest was shown by members of the external network in the exchange activities of the HELIOS programme.

#### 2 Changes

Information exchange and direct contacts were developed at national and European levels by members of the network, leading to a greater understanding of the social policy and solutions being developed or proposed in each country.

Increasing interest was shown in the vocational training and subsequent placement of people with mental health problems. The iden-

tification of mental illness as a priority concern was an important development, preparing the ground for several centres, not previously active in this field, to become involved. The technical contacts fostered by the HELIOS programme have contributed to this change.

The activities of the network of centres and experiences also helped step up contacts between its members and the European non-governmental organisations.

#### 3 Transfers

Study visits, training courses and thematic seminars have all contributed to the exchange of knowledge and experience. Three areas in particular were targeted : new technologies, vocational rehabilitation of mentally ill people, training and placement of people with mental handicap.

### II NETWORK OF LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES / SCHOOL INTEGRATION

#### I Evolution

Contacts between LMAs made it possible to assess specific national situations, and tackle problems and possible solutions from a collective point of view. Technical and pe-

dagogic adjustments were also made (for example : creation of new working tools for the application of new technology). As a result, some member states have made clear progress — both politically and practically.

## 2 Changes

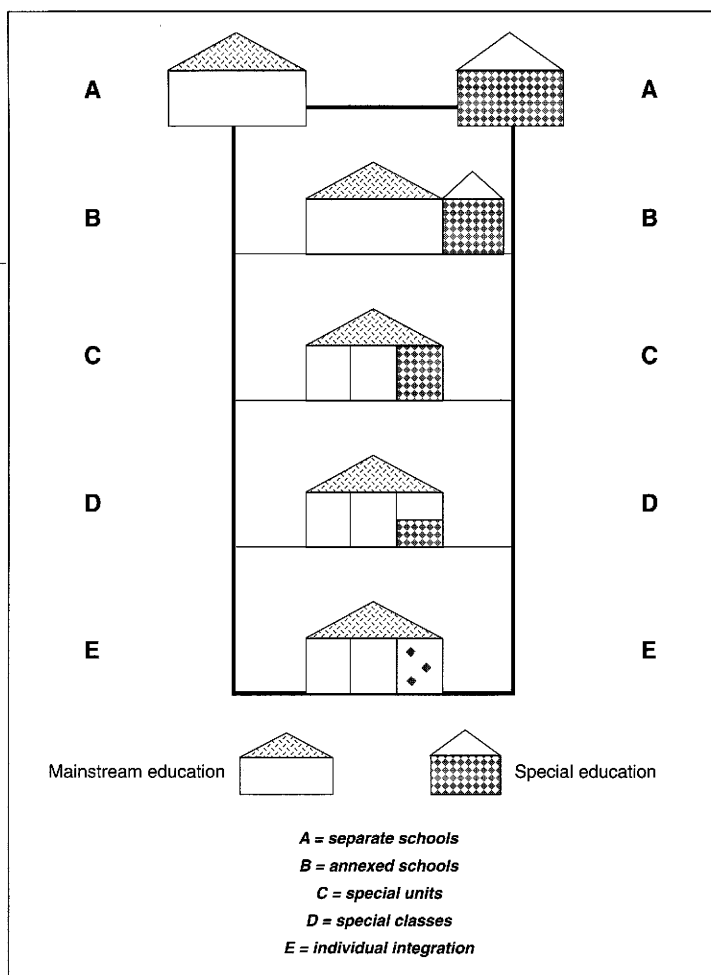
The network has made a major contribution to the school integration debate at national and European levels. Practical solutions on how to achieve successful integration have been set out, preparing the way forward. One example is a Portuguese regional initiative which developed nationally as a direct result of a HELIOS seminar : the educational needs of disabled pupils were assessed and a series of measures for integrated education were developed. Similar initiatives have been taken in other member states, notably France.

## 3 Transfers

There have been many technical and pedagogical transfers. Here are two practical examples :

- Transfers to LMA Porto (Portugal) : school organisation, specific methods and the transition from school to employment (from Swansea, UK) ; the provision of resources (from Valladolid, Spain) ; the training of teachers working with autistic children (from Ile-de France, France) ; principles of integration (from Hinnerup, Denmark) ; co-operation between teachers from mainstream and special systems (from Thessalonika, Greece).
- Transfers to LMA Valladolid (Spain) : an evaluation model of integration programmes (from Bonn, Germany) ; application of new technology for deaf pupils (from Portugal) ; integration of people with mental handicap into secondary schools (from Swansea, United Kingdom).

*Different approaches to school integration*



## III NETWORK OF LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES / ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

### 1 Evolution

Participation in the network has made a great impact on the work programme of most members, although this varied according to the structure and resources of each LMA.

### 2 Changes

Particular stress was placed on helping employers to overcome prejudices they might hold about the work capacities of disabled people. As a result, we have witnessed a marked change in attitudes, especially towards the employment of people with mental handicap who have gained increased access to the open labour market through assisted employment.

One significant step : a more coherent approach to the process of placement, particularly when directed at the open labour market. Hand in hand with these develop-

ments has been the emergence of new forms of enterprise within the sheltered work environment.

The salary system has been reviewed by several LMAs and placement after vocational training has been tackled in a more pragmatic and in-depth way through the intervention of employers in this area.

New technology has had a strong effect upon the types of employment available to disabled people — in particular to mentally ill and mentally handicapped people. Another major change has been the development of distance learning packages.

### 3 Transfers

- LMA Dudelange (Luxembourg) for the adoption of a professional support service developed by LMA Caudan (France), as well as its salary system which is now being transferred to the LMAs of Hannover (Germany), Abensberg (Germany), London (UK), Badajoz (Spain) and Murcia (Spain).

- LMA Dordrecht (Netherlands) for the adoption of an assisted employment model recommended by LMA Dublin (Ireland), for the adoption of an evaluation approach to the potential for training and employment of people with mental handicap developed by LMA Neitherleikh (UK) and for its evaluation model transferred to the LMAs of Aarhus (Denmark), Liege (Belgium), Caudan (France), and Lille (France).

- LMA Genk-Hasselt (Belgium) for its concept of the placement service transferred to the LMAs of Dijon (France), London (UK) and Patras (Greece), as well as its distance training system transferred to the LMAs of Badajoz (Spain) and Dublin (Ireland).

#### IV NETWORK OF LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES / SOCIAL INTEGRATION

##### I Evolution

From the national viewpoint, LMA participation in the HELIOS programme has helped improve links with the public authorities and, consequently, has simplified the setting up of concrete projects such as those of Portalegre (Portugal), Sint Niklaas (Belgium), Rhodes (Greece), and Salamanca (Spain). Coordination between local authorities and associations of disabled people has also increased.

From the community viewpoint, discussions during study visits, seminars and conferences meant that practical solutions to different problems were fully explored and often transferred.

##### 2 Changes

Many LMAs have developed a global approach : their field of activities has diversified ; the work of each HELIOS partner, limited at the outset to one single area (housing, transport, accessibility ...) now covers several fields linked to independent living for disabled people.

Mention should also be made of the progressive closure of specialised institutions and the setting up of housing services or integrated assistance within the community.

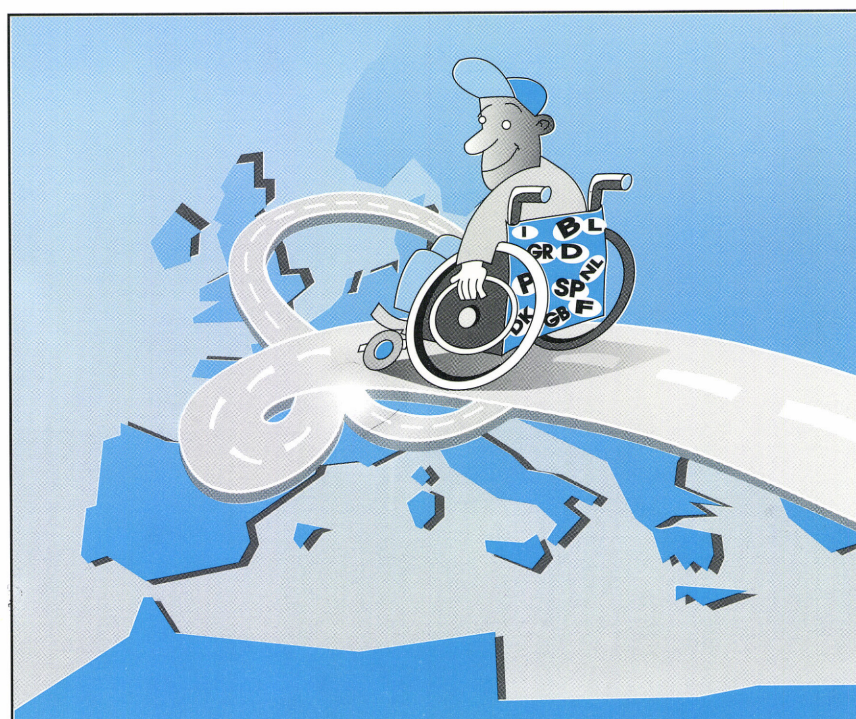
##### 3 Transfers

Practical examples of transfers include :

- Co-operation between LMA Alava (Spain) and LMA Storstroms AMT (Denmark) for the training of staff working with people with mental handicap.
- The LMAs of Luxembourg and Val de Marne (France) plus the French Community of Belgium have devel-

oped a common project concerning the training of trainers for the autonomous living of severely mentally handicapped people.

- Following a study visit to Bordeaux (France), LMA Sint-Niklaas (Belgium) is setting up a door-to-door transport service in collaboration with the regional bus company.
- LMA Temse (Belgium) has developed a programme to help people with mental handicap use public transport. This project has been transferred to all schools in Flanders.
- LMA Salamanca (Spain) and LMA Thessalonika (Greece) have developed a project targeting the elimination of architectural barriers, based on the experiences of St Quentin en Yvelines (France) and Gelsenkirchen (Germany).
- LMA Belluno (Italy) has set up a project for the training of disabled people towards autonomous living which has been transferred to London (United Kingdom), Portalegre (Portugal) and Peissenberg (Germany). ■



"Next stop : Ireland"

## EUCREA/IBM EUROPE join together for a "Special Evening..."

In an attempt to recognise and encourage individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of arts and disability, IBM Europe and EUCREA jointly launched a European Awards Scheme. This year an amount of 32.500 Ecus was awarded.

One person from each of the 12 member states, plus an individual representing the migrant community, were chosen to receive awards and invited to participate in the 5th EUCREA Festival, which this year was held in Dublin. This measure can be seen as a small symbol of encouragement and hope for a better, more promising future for disabled people. Quoting one of the participants at the festival: *"The evening of the awards ceremony was special ... Lots of young disabled people like myself came from various countries in Europe with a deep wish to perform, to dance, to sing, to paint, to mimic, to exchange ideas, experiences, to build up friendship. We were bound together by a common experience — art as a means of expressing ourselves, art as*

*an escape from our own disabilities, art as a cry of intelligent existence ... That night I discovered we were being overheard."*

### 1990/91 Prizewinners

#### BELGIE - Hilde Berghs

Ergo-therapist working with Tevona, a group of mentally disabled people, to develop their artistic potential and talent.

#### DANMARK - Ruth Christensen

Successful graphic designer, currently working in an advertising agency, who writes and paints using her mouth. Member of the Danish branch of the International Association of artists using feet and mouth.

#### DEUTSCHLAND - Oliver Flügge

Former resident and enthusiastic member of a hospital theatre company, now following courses in drama, music (drums) and painting.

#### ELLAS - Sophie Kyryakides

Works as a gymnastics coach with disabled children aged 8-14. Recently formed the successful Wheelchair Breathless Dance company bringing together disabled and non-disabled dancers. Plans to set up a new wheelchair dance company based in Thessalonika.

#### ESPANA - Beatriu Rodriguez

Has been participating in the artistic activities of the association CREI-SANTS since 1988. Major interests: visual arts and poetry, as well as drama.

#### FRANCE - Gilbert Pernot

Photographer specialising in portraits, currently preparing a book on the theme: friendship and expression. Has also held several exhibitions on the subject.

#### ITALIA - Paolo Garganese

Teacher of classical guitar, who has researched and produced studies on the teaching and circulation of musical scores for blind people (retranscribed in digitalised form). Solo tour in Spain and Italy.

#### IRELAND - Mary Duffy

Qualified visual artist and educator who uses photography and ceramics. Work has been exhibited on several occasions.

#### LUXEMBOURG - Christina Depian

Animateur (video, graphics, ...) and educator of mentally disabled people currently working in collaboration with the Centre of Integrated Creativity in Wiltz to set up an integrated art centre.



## **NEDERLAND - Martine Laansma**

Music therapist and freelance pianist who has worked at various children's day centres and schools, giving courses and workshops in music and therapy.

## **UNITED KINGDOM - Jo Spence**

Photographer who focuses on invisible handicaps as a way to teach people who have been disfigured (for example, by cancer or by chronic illness) to love themselves and their bodies. Work has been exhibited all over the world.

## **PORTUGAL - Fernando Dias**

Works mainly in pottery; participated in the European arts exhibition for people with disabilities in Lisbon 1990 where he was awarded first prize.

## **MIGRANTS - Elene Boulogouris**

Social worker, animateur (workshops, theatre) and educator of disabled people, currently researching activities to prevent the maltreatment and neglect of children. ■

### 1990-91 INFORMATION BROCHURE CREATIVITY

EUCREA, formed in 1987 by forty international organisations dealing with art and disabled people, continues to foster creative activities and to raise public awareness of what's happening in this area. An illustrated brochure featuring all the European projects financed by the Commission in 1990-91 has just been published in the 9 languages of the Community.

*The brochure is available  
free of charge from :*

**EUCREA**  
32 Square Ambiorix — Bte 47  
B — 1040 Brussels

## **Housing: the European know-how**

The Commission of the European Communities, the French State Secretariat for disabled people, and the municipality of Chambéry (F) organise the first European exhibition of "Home systems for disabled people". It will mark the start of a wide range of public awareness activities taking place in the region, including the 1992 Winter Paralympics.

The exhibition — to open on 10 January, 1992 — will demonstrate Europe's know-how in information and communications technologies applied in the home environment for physically disabled people.

Visitors to five adapted buildings will discover systems and equipment from all over Europe aimed at improving the daily lives of disabled people (visits from 11 February 1992 to 16 February 1992/ 25 March 1992 to 2 April 1992).

Other events include a major one-day conference — to be held on 23 March 1992 — which will bring together European experts for discussions and debate on recent studies, industrial research and the best achievements in the member states.

*Further details :*

• **Jean-Pierre Gauthier**  
**Vitrine Technologique**  
**Européenne 92**  
**Mairie de Chambéry**  
**F — 7300 Chambéry**

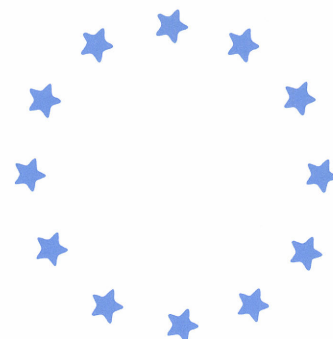
• **Yves Domzalski**  
**C.E.C. : DG XIII, E5**  
**200 rue de la Loi**  
**B — 1040 Brussels**

## **BERLIN: a symbolic marathon**

The Brandenburg gate provided an historic setting for the 18th Berlin Marathon, held on 29 September 1991. Some 17,000 athletes lined up at the start: amongst them, one hundred people with motor disabilities, including Hans Frei who beat the world record by almost two minutes to take first place: 1h 27 m. 53 s.

Markus Pilz from Germany, who finished the race only one second behind the leader, was awarded the prize for best EC European. Another German, Barbara Meier, won the women's event with a time of 1h 51 m. 50 s.

The Berlin marathon was doubly symbolic: in this newly unified city, it brought together disabled and able-bodied athletes from all over the world for a common event. To quote one participant: "here I feel accepted — both as a fellow competitor and as part of a group where disability is not an issue".



## Disabled peoples' international



Concluding our series on the six non-governmental organisations which were permanent members of the Liaison group during the first HELIOS programme, we hear from the European Region of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI).

### Background

1981, the International Year of the Disabled, reflected the great movement of solidarity with the cause of disabled people which had been developing throughout the world. The year was also the catalyst for a wide range of activities ...

It was at the end of 1981 that the 1st DPI Congress was held in Singapore (Malaysia). The outcome : a Manifesto which considers education, rehabilitation, employment, social security, independence and participation in cultural and social activities, with a view to increasing society's awareness of the basic rights which are necessary to achieve full participation and equality for disabled people.

The DPI has gradually become established throughout the world and is currently organised in five large geographical regions : Asia Pacific / Africa / North America / South America and the Caribbean / Europe.

### Current moves

At the meeting of the DPI World Council in Harare, Zimbabwe in August 1991, an important declaration — "Legislation for Equalisation of Opportunities for Disabled People" — was ratified.

This declaration, which recognises a worldwide need for legislation on which to build the emancipation of all disabled people, echoes the goals and commitment of the HELIOS programme. DPI-Europe — through its links both with the European Commission and DPI — underlines the mutual benefits of dialogue between European and international organisations, so that common aims can be tackled from a collective point of view.

### Equal opportunities

The declaration sets out principles for basic human rights, in particular :

- the right to employment in the open labour market through quota systems and incentives to employers;

- the right to mainstream education;
- the right to affordable and accessible housing;
- the right to the provision of technical aids and personal support services ;
- the right to income security (including disability pensions).

Legislation must be enacted to ensure that disabled people enjoy the same rights of access, choice, information and redress as able-bodied people, including effective appeal mechanisms.

### Representation and consultation

The declaration gives a high profile to representative organisations of disabled people within each country : they should be consulted at all levels of planning, implementation and monitoring of legislative initiatives.

Furthermore, advisory bodies concerned with disability issues should have majority representation by organisations of disabled people.

*Copies of the full text can be obtained from :*

**Disabled Peoples' International**  
**APD**  
**Largo do Rato**  
**P — 1200 LISBOA**

## Results of the HELIOS II logo and Christmas card competition



### HELIOS II logo

*Retirement doesn't necessarily have to be passive : a point illustrated by Fernando Trebitsch whose logo design has been selected for HELIOS II.*

*After a career as a scientist specialising in plastic, he now spends part of his free time on different hobbies, including "plastic" art (definitely a vocation!) : design, sculpture in plexiglass ...*

*Fernando Trebitsch has always been interested in electric vehicles and disability issues. He is currently working on an electric wheelchair which will have an accessible price tag. He deplores the fact that "at the end of the twentieth century, disabled people are still obliged to operate their means of locomotion manually while able-bodied people enjoy all the benefits of technological advances."*

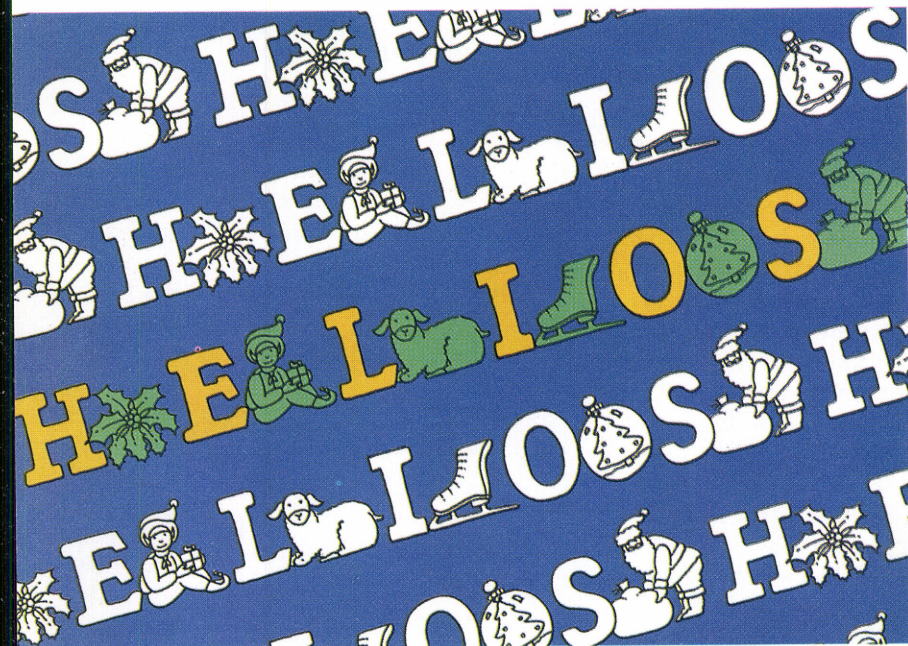
Christmas arrived early in the HELIOS information service. In October to be exact, when we were literally snowed under with entries for our Christmas card and logo competition. A total of 374 designs — 104 Christmas cards and 270 logos — reached us from every member state (plus many others as well !) with styles as varied as their origins : collages, lithographs, paintings, drawings ...

As promised, we reproduce below the two winning entries alongside the portrait (or at least the profile) of their respective artists. We regret that space does not allow us to show you more, but many thanks to all those who responded to our appeal in such a lively and creative way.

### Christmas card '91

*This Christmas card is the result of teamwork. The Training and Vocational Rehabilitation Centre of Tournai (Belgium) prepares people with physical and sensory disabilities for a wide range of trades, from shoemaking to ... graphic arts! The Centre is especially known for its innovative approach to training : its educative policy is based upon a permanent concern to research the learning conditions promoting optimal success in the active life of each trainee.*

C.F.R.P.  
Vieux Chemin d'Ath, 1  
B — 7502 Tournai



## HELIOS II programme : Integration of disabled people (\*)

On 2 October 1991, the Commission adopted the proposal for a Council decision establishing a third Community action programme for disabled people — HELIOS II (1992 - 1996).

What the Commission seeks to achieve through HELIOS II is to strengthen the economic and social cohesion of the people of Europe and to re-state its firm resolve to continue and intensify work on a global, coherent policy for the integration of disabled people.

HELIOS II continues the successful work undertaken under HELIOS I and extends its scope to new fields, with work being restructured to benefit from past experience.

HELIOS II will cover such new areas as prevention and early assistance, functional rehabilitation, integration in nursery schools and higher education, continuing training and access to creative activities, sport and tourism.

The new technologies, and especially their integrating potential, will be given a more prominent place in all fields of activity, for example workplace adaptation and mobility, independent living in the home environment (counteracting the isolation of disabled people) and as an educational and vocational training tool.

Publicawareness-raising and the provision of information on disability issues will be a priority.

The advisory role of the non-governmental organisations will be strengthened to enable more benefit to be gained from their experience and from the dynamic effect of innovative measures.

Technical cooperation, within the European networks, with existing activities in the member states will be pursued in a differently struc-

tured form according to more precisely formulated methods and measures.

Four subject fields are affected here : functional rehabilitation, educational, economic and social integration, and independent living.

The HANDYNET system, which is designed to provide information on all essential matters concerning the specific needs of disabled people, became operational in 1990. It comprises a database plus electronic mail and journal facilities.

At the end of 1991, the first HANDYNET system module relating to technical aids and known as "HANDY-AIDS" will come into effect. Using a compact disc (CD-ROM), information can be obtained on more than 10,000 technical aid products available on the European market by reference to functional, technical and price (ECU) criteria.

HELIOS II was born of very extensive consultations involving all interested parties.

It is funded to the tune of 46.3 million ECU for a period of 5 years (1992-1996).

To conclude, the new 5-year HELIOS II programme is concerned with all categories of disabled people and aims to continue, promote and intensify the kind of activities undertaken under HELIOS I by stimulating work of a model nature in the member states. It also seeks to foster co-operation and coordination of measures at local, regional, national and Community levels with a view to finding convergent solutions at European level.

(\*) COM (91) 350 final

Further details :

HELIOS Information Service ■

## CONTENTS

■ **Editorial** (p.2) ■ **HELIOS Networks** - Valladolid conference - Rotterdam seminar - Placement questionnaire results - Handynet ... Handyrom ! - Profile : Handynet France - First conclusions of HELIOS I (p.3-11) ■ **Creativity** - Eucrea and IBM Europe join together for a special evening (p. 12) ■ **News in brief** - Housing : the European Know-how - Berlin : a symbolic marathon (p. 13) ■ **Non-governmental organisations** - Disabled Peoples' International (p. 14) ■ **Lifestyles** - Results of the HELIOS II logo and Christmas card competition (p. 15) ■ **Commission news** - HELIOS II (p. 16)

## HELIOS MAGAZINE

HELIOS  
79 avenue de Cortenberg  
B-1040 Brussels  
BELGIUM  
Telephone : 02/735.41.05  
Fax : 02/735.16.71

### Editorial team:

Director :	Armand Maron
Deputy Director :	Cristina Louro
Responsible expert :	Pascal de Floris
Deputy expert :	Suzanne Wackett

Periodical magazine of the Second European Community Action Programme for disabled people, HELIOS. Published as part of its work for the Division "Measures for the disabled" of the European Commission, Directorate General "Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs", V/C4.

The HELIOS magazine is published quarterly free of charge in the nine Community languages - Danish, German, Greek, French, Italian, Dutch, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Views expressed in the HELIOS magazine are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the HELIOS expert team or the Commission of the European Communities. We cannot accept responsibility for mistakes originating from translation.

### Copyright:

Reproduction of any part of this magazine should be agreed in advance with the editor.

### Realisation:

Connexion Corporate Communications  
Tel. (32)2.425.73.05

### Cover:

Berlin Marathon '91