

INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD

Inclusion International (II) is a global federation of family-based organizations advocating for the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities worldwide. II represents over 200 member federations in 115 countries throughout five regions Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.

CONTENT

- II Global Report on Art.19: *Living independently and being included in the community.*
- Inclusion International third Regional Forum (Europe) on the CRPD . Portugal, October 2011
- Self-advocate David Corner, Council member of II, is elected for the Disability Rights Fund advisory panel
- Fourth Regional Forum of Inclusion International (Asia Pacific) to take place Nepal, November 2011
- Europe in Action, Larnaca, Cyprus May 2011
- EDF General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary
- Inclusion International contributes to WHO World Report on Disability
- II submission on Article 12 to UN CRPD Committee of Experts
- Inclusion International contributes to the Partners' Meeting Right to Education of Persons with Disabilities Flagship UNESCO, May 20, 2011
- Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties



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Welcome to the September issue of Inclusion International's newsletter.

Inclusion International's work continues to focus on the priorities laid out in the strategic plan for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the areas of Inclusive Education, Legal Capacity, Living in the Community and the role of Families. In this issue we bring you information on the work Inclusion International has been involved with.

In this issue you will find out about our Global Campaign to promote Article 19 *the Right to live in the Community*. Inclusion International has developed tools to help with the collection of information and would like to invite self-advocates, families and organisations to contribute to the report with their stories and experiences.

Inclusion International will be holding two more regional forums in the coming months. The European regional forum will take place in Portugal together with Inclusion Europe's Self-advocacy Conference. The regional forum for Asia Pacific co-organised with our Norwegian members NFU, will be held in Nepal (the Council of Inclusion International will also hold its annual meeting in Nepal). The objective of these events is to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and support the work of our member organizations and other organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families in implementing the changes required.

We also bring you information on the development of the Convention Action Teams (CATs). In this issue you can find out how II is supporting countries like Colombia, Israel, India and Mexico with their initiatives on implementing the CRPD through the CATs.

We hope you will find the information about these and other activities of interest. We invite you to distribute this newsletter widely within your network.

The newsletter is one of the ways that we communicate with our member organizations and other partners. If you have questions about any of these initiatives or if you would like to become involved in any of these activities of II listed please contact us at: info@inclusion-international.org

Inclusion International invites its members to contribute to the Global Report on Art.19: *Living independently and being included in the community.*

Inclusion International is calling self-advocates, families and organizations to participate in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities by contributing to its Global Report on Article 19 of the CRPD: Living independently and being included in the community.

We have developed tools in order to collect information about your experiences living and being included in the community. We want to learn about whether people are able to choose where they live, what supports and services they have access to, and if community services are available on an equal basis to everyone. We want to hear from you, and the story you choose to share is up to you! You can tell us about where you live now, or about where you used to live. You might also choose to share how you participate in your community.

In addition to personal stories, we are supporting local groups to conduct focus group discussions with self-advocates and families and we are asking national organizations to complete a short survey of what is going on in their countries related to Article 19.

To find out how to participate visit our website www.ii-livinginthecommunity.org or email us at info@inclusion-international.org

The report will be launched at the Inclusion International General Assembly and International Conference in Washington DC in October, 2012.

Inclusion International in partnership with Inclusion Europe will host a European Regional Conference for Self-advocates in Peniche, Portugal, 30 Sep-3 October 2011

REGISTER NOW at www.self-advocacy.eu

Inclusion International will be holding its third of five regional Forums together with Inclusion Europe's Conference for Self-Advocates: **Hear our voices!** The event will take place in Peniche, Portugal from 30 September to 3 October, 2011.

During the conference self-advocates from all over Europe will come together to talk about their lives, their rights and the Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities, including Inclusion International's 4 key priority areas:

- Preamble on the Role of Families (family support)
- Article 12: Equal Recognition Before the Law – People with intellectual disabilities have legal capacity and have the right to support in order to exercise their capacity
- Article 19: Living Independently and Being Included in the Community – People with intellectual disabilities have the right to choose to live in the community with the supports required
- Article 24: Education – Students with intellectual disabilities have the right to be included in the regular school with the supports they require.

Participants will also discuss:

- access to health care
- how to campaign for our rights, talk to politicians and how to work with media such as television, radio, newspaper or internet
- how to share our life story with others
- how to encourage other self-advocates to claim their rights (peer-advocacy)
- how to start a self-advocacy group
- how to manage your money and select support services (personal budgeting)
- legal capacity and the right to make important decision about our lives
- access to work
- living independently

For more information go to: www.self-advocacy.eu

Self-advocate David Corner, Council member of II, is elected for the Disability Rights Fund advisory panel.



The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is a collaboration between donors and the disability community to advance the new [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#). Inclusion International has been working with the DRF and other founders to encourage them to include and invest through their projects in the strengthening of the voices of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. For this purpose Inclusion International council member, David Corner was nominated to the DRF's Global Advisory Panel and he has been selected to serve a three year term. David is the first person with an intellectual disability to sit on the panel. Congratulations in this great achievement David!

Inclusion International Fourth Regional Forum will be held in Nepal, on November 2011

The regional forum for Asia Pacific will be co-organised by Inclusion International and its national member in Norway, NFU. The event will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28-30 November. The objective of this event is to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and support the work that our member organizations and other organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families are doing in the region in implementing the changes required.

Participation will include self-advocates and families as well as experts and professionals from different parts of the region including Malaysia, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka among others.

Further information on the event will soon be available at www.inclusion-international.org



Europe in Action Conference- Larnaca, Cyprus 12-14 May, 2011

Inclusion Europe annual Conference- **Europe in Action** took place in Larnaca, Cyprus.

There were over 150 participants registered including self-advocates and families, authorities and professionals. The theme of this year was *"Family Action for the Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Society"*.

The objective of the conference, captured on the presentations and workshops, was to identify challenges and expectations of these families and examine concrete measures that can be taken by different stakeholders to support and empower them.

Klaus Lachwitz, President of Inclusion International delivered a presentation in one of the workshop on II's strategic plan for 2011-2012, including the Global Report on Article 19 of the CRPD, and invited the participants to contribute to the report to be launched at a Global Conference in Washington DC in October, 2012.

Council member Nagase Osamu, from Japan, described in detail the consequences of the earthquake in Japan for persons with intellectual disabilities and explained what Inclusion Japan is doing to help persons with intellectual disabilities in the affected areas. He highlighted why it is important to implement the CRPD "It is really important for the community to be inclusive when there is no

disaster, so that when natural disasters hit us, persons with disabilities and their family members are not marginalized or excluded”.

Self-advocates at the conference claimed their rights to live independently, have their own decisions recognised before the law and participate in political and public life of society. Ciara Evans, Self-

advocate and Council member of II led one of the parallel sessions talking about how persons with intellectual disability are stereotypically depicted in the media. She talked about the challenges they face to be portrayed in a positive way. Ciara highlighted the need for role models in the media to help change negative social attitudes.

Other Council members attending the Conference were Mia Farah and her mother Fadia and Roland Tamraz from Lebanon.

For more information about the conference visit: <http://www.rights-into-action.eu/>

EDF General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary (May 27 – 29, 2011)

By Klaus Lachwitz, President of Inclusion International

The European Disability Forum held its Annual General Assembly (GA) in Budapest between May 27 and May 29, 2011. I was invited to take part in EDF's GA and its side events in my capacity as Inclusion International's president and member of IDA's governing body. I also represented the German Disability Forum (Deutscher Behindertenrat – DBR) together with three German Colleagues from different DPOs.

Many topics which were debated and finalized by decisions and recommendations of the EDF Board were not only interesting for Europeans, but also covered problems and initiatives from an international perspective. This is true, for instance, for the “Manifesto on the rights of women and girls with disabilities” (DOC – AGA – 11 – 05 – 06), for the “Resolution on a Gender equality plan” (DOC – AGA – 11 -05 -10), for the discussion and adoption of an EDF “Resolution on the impact of the financial crisis on persons with disabilities” (DOC – AGA – 11 – 05 – 09) and “The European Disability Strategy as a tool for the implementation of the UN – CRPD (DOC – AGA – 11 – 05 – 07 –C).

From a European perspective it is worthwhile to mention that the “Freedom of Movement” was one of the most important discussion points. The European Union says it guarantees freedom of movement for all its citizens. But persons with disabilities still face major difficulties when travelling or going to study, work and live in another European country. The European disability movement, therefore, claims an European Disability Card allowing persons with disabilities in Europe to make use of all benefits which are granted by a member state of the European Union to its national citizens with disabilities. This would, for instance, ease the travelling of persons with disabilities within Member States of the EU as the holder of the card would be granted the same status and benefits anywhere in Europe.

Another topic was accessibility. EDF takes the view that total accessibility implies a binding European Accessibility Act. For this reason, a seminar on accessibility was held. On this issue, the European

Commission will present in 2012 a European Accessibility Act setting out a general framework for accessibility in relation to goods and services. EDF will claim that the only acceptable way to develop and discuss this Act is to include and listen to the disability movement when preparing this Act.

To read Klaus' full report go to: www.inclusion-international.org

Inclusion International contributes the voice of people with disabilities to the WHO World Report on Disability

Inclusion International (II) contributed to the WHO World Report on Disability to ensure that the voices and perspectives of people with intellectual disabilities were heard and included.

The report estimates the number of people with disabilities globally to be as over 1 billion people. By establishing this as the new global estimate the report will help to address the invisibility of people with disabilities and will call attention to the barriers to participation and the inequality that people with disabilities continue to experience. During the negotiations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) it was evident that one of the major obstacles facing persons who have a disability around the world is invisibility. People who have a disability are often hidden because of stigma; they may not be registered at birth nor counted in census data; or they may be ignored in other information gathering processes. The World Report will prevent governments from hiding behind grossly erroneous data and will force all stakeholders to recognize that based on numbers alone, people with disabilities make up too large a minority to be ignored.

Respecting the letter and spirit of the CRPD the coordinators of the report invited representatives of the IDA to participate in the editing of the document, to contribute to individual chapters, and to share personal histories. Inclusion International facilitated interviews and focus groups with self-advocates and several of their stories are featured in the report. As well II representatives acted as advisors on the report and its approach to inclusion. Although not every one of our recommendations was fully implemented we must acknowledge the open spirit of collaboration, the respectful way our input was considered and the significant changes made because of our input.

In implementing the World Report on Disability care must be taken to ensure that the spirit of the CRPD is respected. The CRPD recognizes the right to health of people with disabilities and the contribution of health systems to their full participation in all aspects of society must be respected. However, the model for providing supports and services must no longer be shaped by a medical model, but rather by the social model and human rights framework which permeates the report.

Klaus Lachwitz, President of Inclusion International said "We are pleased that the World Report will provide much needed attention to the issues affecting people with disabilities around the world. For II it is particularly important that the report is read and the recommendations understood in the context of the CRPD and that the contribution of the report in the areas of education, social inclusion and participation are approached as human rights and social justice issues not through a medical or health lens."

To read the report visit the WHO website:

http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html

An easy to read version of the report is also available

http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/easyread.pdf

Partners' Meeting Right to Education of Persons with Disabilities Flagship UNESCO, May 20, 2011

Inclusion International was invited to UNESCO Headquarters on the 20th of May 2011 to plan coordination of actions and to define responsibilities for realising the right to education of persons with disabilities. The EFA Flagship has been a vehicle through which UN agencies and Disabled People's Organizations have promoted inclusive education for many years. As the CRPD has come into force and funding for the flagship has ended, a number of agencies and organizations came together to discuss what kind of cooperation might replace the flagship.

While the effectiveness of the flagship was sometimes in question, it did provide a mechanism to coordinate and share information about activities in the area of inclusive education. As Article 24 has affirmed the right to inclusive education and the CRPD has increased attention and visibility of inclusive education, there is a real need to find a coordinating mechanism to replace the flagship.

Discussions regarding who should be invited into the new mechanism, its purpose and potential coordination are on-going. UNICEF has been considered as a possible secretariat for this initiative but this is as yet undecided.

At the meeting, Inclusion International was represented by its Past-President, Diane Richler who spoke about Inclusion International Global Report on Education "Better Education for All when we are included too".

For more information you can visit the UNESCO website www.inclusionflagship.net

Inclusion International submission to the CRPD Committee of Experts on the implication of implementation of Article 12

Article 12 of the CRPD is one of II's four key priority areas; equal recognition before the law. The Article states that people with intellectual disabilities have legal capacity and have the right to support in order to exercise their capacity. Inclusion International has submitted a paper to the CRPD Committee of Experts on the issues related to the implementation of this article at the country level both in terms of legislative reform and in terms of the development of supported decision-making models. The paper includes information on the work II is doing with its member organizations at the national level to develop innovative strategies to eliminate substitute decision making in law and in practice while developing and building mechanisms for supported decision making.

It also highlights the challenges and risks including families' concern about protection and planning for their family member, the lack of a strong voice from self-advocates which makes the call for change more difficult, and the process of legislative reform which can't take place without corresponding strategies to develop Supported Decision Making models.

Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties (7 to 9 September 2011, UN Headquarters New York)

Article 40 of the Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates that "The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention." Since 2008, three sessions of the Conference of States Parties have been held at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

This year the fourth session of the Conference of States Parties was held from September 7th to the 9th. The theme of the conference was "Enabling Development, Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". Panel discussions were held on the sub-themes of the Conference: "Realizing the Convention through International Cooperation", "Political and Civil Participation" and "Work and Employment".

Inclusion International was represented by Klaus Lachwitz, President, Connie Laurin-Bowie, Executive Director, and Osama Nagase, Council member from Japan. Representatives from Inclusion International's member organizations in Canada, Norway and South Africa also attended. Diane Richler, Past-President of II is the current Chair of the International Disability Alliance and she attended in her capacity as Chair.

In addition to the formal meetings of the COSP, there were over 40 side-sessions hosted by governments, International Agencies, NGOs and DPOs working on issues related to the implementation of the CRPD. Inclusion International hosted and participated as presenters in 5 of these sessions.

The International Disability Alliance co-hosted a meeting of NGOs the day before the COSP and held its regular meetings over the weekend following the COSP.

This annual meeting of State Parties and organizations actively working on the promotion of the CRPD has become an important forum for sharing information and developing partnerships. Detailed reports on the proceedings and the side events which Inclusion International participated can be obtained from info@inclusion-international.org

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**For more issues of the Inclusion International
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www.inclusion-international.org**

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