



EUROPEAN UNION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER

February 2004

Dear Colleague,

I would like to say Hello, Happy New Year and Welcome to this our first Newsletter from the European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE). I am delighted to have this opportunity of updating you all on the recent work of EUSE and to let you know what the future holds for Supported Employment within Europe.

I would like to thank Finland for hosting the 6th European Supported Employment Conference in May 2003. For those of you who are not aware I would draw your early attention to the next conference being hosted by Spain in Barcelona, June 2005 – **“Supported Employment - Naturally the Right Choice”**. An opportunity not to be missed.

This is a very exciting and challenging time within Europe. The enlargement of the European Union challenges us in Supported Employment to take this model of working to the larger Community. So I am delighted to announce that we have received funding from the European Commission to produce key information on Supported Employment for dissemination throughout Europe.

The following pages will outline the current working arrangements of EUSE and our plans for the year ahead. I hope that this initial contact from EUSE will be the beginning of a much more interactive relationship with our members.

Monica Wilson
President
European Union of Supported Employment

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*Funded by the
European
Commission*

EUSE is a Non Government Organisation and a member of the European Disability Forum

European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE)

The European Union of Supported Employment was established in 1993 to facilitate the development of Supported Employment throughout Europe. The Union works to promote the Supported Employment model through the exchange of information and knowledge on good practice and the development of model services. EUSE also provides a platform for its members to networking with other organisations and associations at European and worldwide level.

Main Areas of Work:

1. Information exchange via regular mailshots, this Newsletter, email and website.
2. Membership Service Support
3. Developing new National Associations – assisting and supporting local organisations to establish their own National Association
4. Policy work – Influencing European social and economic policy
5. Networking with other relevant European Associations and working with worldwide organisations (i.e. EUSE is a member of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD))
6. Campaigning and lobbying of the rights of people with disabilities to access vocational training and employment
7. Hosting of International Conferences
8. Research and developing models of good practice, quality standards, staff training, self-development and legislation.

What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment assists people with significant disabilities (physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory and hidden) to access real employment opportunities, of their choice, in an integrated setting with appropriate ongoing support being provided to enable them to become economically and socially active in their community.

Supported Employment is based on the principal that everyone can and has the right to work.

At present EUSE has membership of 16 National Associations from across Europe (See Page 4). Each National Association has two representatives on the EUSE Council. Members of the EUSE Council are elected to the EUSE Executive Board consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 9 members.

EUSE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS 2004

This year will be driven by the successful application for funding from the European Union. The workplan under this initiative runs to October 2004.

The key areas for development are:

- EUSE Newsletter disseminated via email
- Launch of EUSE Website
- Production of Ethic/Quality Standards Booklet
- Production of EUSE Booklet

The Action Plan for the implementation and completion of the above key areas is:-

1. Email Newsletter

Completed – You are currently reading it!

Next edition May 2004

2. Website

Launch of website May 2004 and will include information on:-

- History and current situation
- Background on Supported Employment
- Useful resources for Supported Employment Agencies e.g. Journals, books and Supported Employment tools etc
- Ongoing activities
- Forthcoming Events

3. Quality Standard/Ethics Booklet

This booklet will be available from September 2004 and will provide a platform for consistency in a quality approach to Supported Employment throughout Europe.

4. Supported Employment Booklet

The booklet will be launched in September 2004 and will contain information on Supported Employment across Europe.

As well as the work of this project, extensive preparation and planning is underway for the 7th EUSE Conference in Spain in June 2005.

The EUSE Committee will be having regular meetings in 2004 as follows:-

25 & 26 March - Ireland
May* - Portugal
September* - Spain

These dates offer the opportunity for EUSE members to meet with the EUSE Executive Board members.

**Dates to be confirmed.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 24, 25 & 26 March 2004
ASENZ (Association of Supported Employment in New Zealand) Conference "Supported Employment - Everybody's Business" in Wellington, New Zealand.
For further information:
www.asenz.org.nz/
- 10&11 May 2004
Scandinavian Conference in Stockholm. For further information contact Swedish Association for Supported Employment (SFSE)
Tel: 00 4646 159793
Email:
bengt.Eklund@lamn.amv.se
- 15-18 June 2005
EUSE 7th Conference "Supported Employment – Naturally the Right Choice"
Tel: 00 34 93 417 76 67
Fax: 00 34 93 418 4317
Email:
AESE@infonegocio.com

EUSE welcomes your views and comments on the Newsletter and if you would like to include an article or information on forthcoming events, please contact the Newsletter Sub-Group at niuse@dnet.co.uk

Newsletter Sub-Group Members:
Margaret Haddock
Edyth Dunlop
John James McBride
Designed by *Susan Harkin*

EUSE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	-	Monica Wilson (N Ireland)
Vice President	-	Mike Evans (Scotland)
Secretary	-	Isabel Lopes (Portugal)
Treasurer	-	Fabrizio Fea (Italy)
Committee Members	-	Milena Johnova (Czech Republic) Leena Sariola (Finland) Simone Schuller (Germany) Annerieke Diepeven (Greece) Gert Rebergen (Netherlands) Borja Jordan de Urries (Spain) Bengt Eklund (Sweden)

MEMBERSHIP - EUSE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Austria	Italy
Czech Republic	Netherlands
England	Northern Ireland
Finland	Norway
Greece	Portugal
Germany	Scotland
Iceland	Spain
Ireland	Sweden

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