



# EUROPEAN UNION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER

*August 2004*

## CONTENTS

### Welcome New EU Member States

As President of EUSE, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 I would like to officially welcome our colleagues from Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

This is a great opportunity for both new and existing member countries to work and learn together in the promotion of employment for people with disabilities and other marginalised groups through the model of Supported Employment.

Through EUSE and working together in partnership we will achieve significant impact on the EU principles of Equal Opportunities, Mainstreaming, Training, Empowerment and Anti-discrimination and through the inclusion of the targeted groups in the open labour market.

EUSE would like to offer our support, skills and knowledge in assisting any accession country in developing Supported Employment.

EUSE looks forward to meeting and engaging with the new members states over the coming years.

Welcome

**Monica Wilson**  
**President**  
**European Union of Supported Employment**

1. Welcome from  
EUSE President

2. EUSE  
Development &  
Update

7<sup>th</sup> EUSE  
Conference

3. Irish Association  
of Supported  
Employment

4. Forthcoming  
Events

News from  
National  
Associations



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## **EUSE Development & Update**

Since the last EUSE Newsletter the EUSE Executive Board has met on two occasions – Dublin (25 & 26 March) and Lisbon (27 & 28 May). During these two days members have broken up in to sub-groups and worked on the following key areas:-

**EUSE Website** – A small sub-group of the committee members have been very busy working on our new website which we hope will go live around September 2004. The website will contain information, background information on EUSE, National Associations, good practice, forthcoming events and conference and publications. The website will be of interest to everyone working in the area of vocational training and employment for people with disabilities.

**Quality Standards**– Another sub-group has been working on establishing European Wide Quality Standards. This will be the result of an in-depth look at processes and procedures in operational terms of delivering Supported Employment and will provide organisations with an opportunity to bench mark their services against agreed standards of practice.

**Newsletter** – A further sub-group has been working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the EUSE Newsletter, which you are reading. The third newsletter we hope will be accessible via the website.

The EUSE Executive Board will meet again in Barcelona on 23-25 September 2004 where we intend to finalise details on the above areas.



*EUSE Members who attended EUSE Executive Board Meeting in Lisbon (27-28 May 2004)*

## **7<sup>th</sup> EUSE Conference**

**15-17 June 2005 - Barcelona**

EUSE is delighted that the Spanish Association of Supported Employment is organising the next bi-annual conference in Barcelona from the 15-17 June 2005.

The theme of the conference is **“Supported Employment: Naturally the Right Choice!”**.

This conference is one of the most important activities on a European level to address Supported Employment issues and exchange information. It aims to give a voice to service users, professional workers, employers, trade unions, policy makers. Other interested parties who have an interest in promoting the concept of social inclusion throughout Europe and beyond, will be invited to attend and participate.

Input from all of the above mentioned is vital to the success of the conference. Delegates can expect many opportunities to network, to share, to learn, to develop and to establish contacts. The first Announcement including a call for papers to present at the conference has been circulated. The closing date for Call for Papers is 15 November 2004.

For further information contact:  
Conference Secretariat – Maria Cabre  
Tel: +34 934 177667  
Fax: +34 934 184317  
Email: [aese@infonegocio.com](mailto:aese@infonegocio.com)  
Website: [www.euseconference.org/](http://www.euseconference.org/)



## IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Irish Association of Supported Employment (IASE) is a voluntary organisation, which was formed in February 1994 with the aim of promoting the development of Supported Employment in Ireland.

The IASE was established to:

- Promote the concept of Supported Employment.
- Facilitate the exchange of information between interested parties in relation to Supported Employment.
- Respond to the training needs of affiliated members.
- Actively participate in the European Union of Supported Employment.
- Assist members to network and promote the model of Supported Employment.

There are currently over 300 members involved with the IASE who are committed to the aims and objectives of the Association. The members of the IASE represent various supported employment, training and voluntary organisations working with people with disabilities and people with mental ill health. Furthermore, a percentage of members are people with disabilities.

The IASE is managed by a Board of Directors, which is elected each year at its Annual General Meeting. The Board meets on a bi-monthly basis and the current Chairperson is Maire Ni Domhnaill. Michael Fleming represents IASE on the EUSE Executive Board.

At present the IASE operates a number of regional branches throughout the country and any activities or issues that arise regarding supported employment in the regions are reported to the National Executive via each branch representative. The IASE was successful in accessing funding from the Irish Government for a Development Officer post and accompanying running costs for 3 years. Sarah Toher was recruited as the IASE Development Officer.

The IASE work in collaboration with the following to ensure that best practice in Supported Employment is promoted:

- Disability Groups and Organisations
- Employer Organisations
- The Trade Union Movement
- Government Departments
- State Training Agencies (FAS)
- European Groups
- University and other Training Organisations

For further information contact:

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

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## FORCOMING EVENTS

- 30 September - 2 October 2004  
“Social Firms – the Challenge of Ethical Business”. 17<sup>th</sup> CEFEC Conference, Thun, Switzerland.  
Further information:  
Email [info@cefec-conference.ch](mailto:info@cefec-conference.ch)  
Web: [www.cefec-conference.ch/](http://www.cefec-conference.ch/)
- 7 & 8 October 2004  
European LABOR Closing Conference – Dublin, Ireland.  
Organised by (EASPD) the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Ireland) and CNEASTA.  
Further information contact:  
Email: [mwalls@fedvol.ie](mailto:mwalls@fedvol.ie)  
Web: [www.start-labor.org](http://www.start-labor.org) or [www.easpd.org/](http://www.easpd.org/)
- 17 & 18 November 2004  
IASE & NIUSE Joint Conference “Celebration, Collaboration, Consolidation” in Letterkenny, Co Donegal, Ireland.  
Further information:  
Tel: +44 (0) 28 71 377709  
Email: [info@niuse.org.uk](mailto:info@niuse.org.uk)
- 15-18 June 2005  
EUSE 7<sup>th</sup> Conference  
“Supported Employment: Naturally the Right Choice” – Barcelona, Spain  
Further information contact:  
Tel: 00 34 93 417 76 67  
Email: [AESE@infonegocio.com](mailto:AESE@infonegocio.com)  
Website:  
[www.euseconference.org/](http://www.euseconference.org/)

Newsletter Sub-Group Members:  
*Margaret Haddock*  
*Edyth Dunlop*  
*Michael Fleming*  
Designed by *Susan Harkin*

## National Association Updates

**Czech Republic:** New Employment legislation is waiting for the President's Signature and Supported Employment will be included in the legislation as a mainstream vocational rehabilitation tool. The first National Conference on Supported Employment will be held on 8-9 November 2004.

**Germany:** A revision of the Disability Act (Part of 9<sup>th</sup> Book of Social Law) is expected to be finalised soon. The revised Act will extend provision of services to people in sheltered workshops and students leaving school.

**Greece:** The Hellinic Association of Supported Employment provided training for 20 Job Coaches under the Equal Programme. New legislation has been introduced to provide employers with a wage subsidy for employing people with learning disabilities.

**Ireland:** The IASE has secured funding from the Irish Government that will enable the association to employ a Development Officer to support and develop regional branches.

**The Netherlands:** The Dutch Union of Supported Employment will be liquidated and Supported Employment will be the responsibility of two umbrella organisations (Professional Staff and Advocacy Group). Also the model of Supported Employment will be expanded to include other disadvantaged groups.

**Northern Ireland:** The Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment has recently accessed funding and has recruited a Training Officer.

**Portugal:** The Portuguese Supported Employment Association has developed a new Constitution to include other social disadvantaged groups.

**Sweden:** Mim Darbo is the new Chair of the Swedish Association of Supported Employment.

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 EUSE Newsletter Sub-Group at [info@niuse.org.uk](mailto:info@niuse.org.uk)



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