



EUROPEAN UNION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER

March 2005

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the third edition of the EUSE Newsletter. EUSE has received a grant from the European Union to produce a series of booklets and other information, including this newsletter, to promote the principles and values of Supported Employment throughout Europe.

Our work through our network of sixteen National Associations is designed to encourage the employment of people with significant disabilities and to support people with disabilities to contribute to the social and economic development of their communities.

We are now on the countdown to the 7th EUSE Conference which will be held on 15 – 17 June 2005 in Barcelona, Spain. The Spanish Association of Supported Employment has been working very hard in preparation for the Conference. The title of the Conference is “Supported Employment: Naturally, the Right Choice!” Further information can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter. The Conference is a great opportunity to exchange information, promote models of good practice and network with other Supported Employment organisations. This is an event not to be missed!

Also, in this edition we turn the spotlight on the Finnish Association of Supported Employment and give you further information on the next EUSE Conference.

I look forward to meeting you at the 7th EUSE Conference.

Monica Wilson
President
European Union of Supported Employment

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



7th EUSE Conference 15-17 June 2005 - Barcelona

The Spanish Association of Supported Employment is organising the 7th EUSE Conference in Barcelona from the 15-17 June 2005 and 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 and policy makers. The Call for Papers closed on 31 December 2004 and presentations and workshops have been selected covering a wide range of topics from a number of countries providing a truly international feel for the conference. Participants will have an opportunity to select from a number of Presentations and Workshops. There will also be a Training Day on Wednesday 15 June 2005 but places are limited, so early booking is advisable. The Conference programme and information on keynote speakers are now available on the Conference Website which is updated regularly.

For further information:

Email: info@euseconference.org

Website: www.euseconference.org

Supported Employment:
Naturally, the right choice!



EUSE Development & Update

The final meeting funded through EU Commission took place in Barcelona on 23 - 25 September 2004. Further work was undertaken to enable completion of the objectives of the funding.

EUSE Website – By the end of April 2005 you will be able to access the new EUSE website at www.euse.org. This website has been quality approved for its accessibility and content. We would like to thank Borja Jordan de Urries (AESE) and Ruben Simon Conde for their hard work in developing and designing of the website. Within the website there will be a facility to contribute information via a form under forthcoming events, publications and organisations.

Quality Standards – The Quality Standards Sub-group have compiled three new publications:

- i. Quality Standards on Supported Employment
- ii. Code of Ethics
- iii. Supported Employment Booklet

These will soon be available on the EUSE website and from your National Association. Further copies will be available at the 7th EUSE Conference.

Newsletter – This third Newsletter will be the final one you receive in this format, future Newsletters can be received by registering on the website under “EUSE Newsletter”.

The next EUSE Board Meeting will be held on 1 & 2 April 2005 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

FINNISH NETWORK OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (FINSE)

Finnish Network of Supported Employment (FINSE) was founded in 1985 and is organised under VATES Foundation*. FINSE aims to promote employment for the people with disabilities to the open labour market through the Supported Employment model and other individually tailored methods.

This is achieved by:

- Influencing Legislation
- Informing Employers, Stakeholders, Authorities and Service Providers
- Training the Trainers
- Guiding and Consulting Professionals

FINSE has approximately one hundred Member Organisations representing various sectors: Work Training Centres, Vocational Special Institutions, Associations of People with Disabilities and Rehabilitation Organisations.

FINSE is managed by the Executive Board, which is elected every three years by the FINSE Council and represents their member organisations. The present Chairperson of FINSE is Ms Maria Kaisa Aula.

At present FINSE organises many activities, for example, Employers Briefing Breakfasts which are operating in eight cities. The Public Employment Service Act includes Job Coach Services which means that employment offices can buy these services from Work Training Centres. FINSE also operates specific projects promoting employment to the open labour market by means of supported employment:

- Worth the Work – EQUAL Project
- Activities in the open labour market – ESF Project

**VATES Foundation promotes employment opportunities for people with disabilities*



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FORCOMING EVENTS

- **4-8 April 2005**
Vision 2005 Conference & Exhibition. Organised under the auspices of the International Society for Low-vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR), and hosted by the RNIB- Westminster, UK. For further information, contact RNIB
Tel +44 (0)20 7391 2329
Fax +44 (0)20 7391 2079
Email : vision2005@rnib.org.uk
- **22-24 April 2005**
“Equal Chances and Social Integration and Against Discrimination of Disabled People” in Austria. For further information email: isoltwedel@aol.com
- **13-14 May 2005**
European Conference on deaf and hearing impaired children in Europe (DHICE) – London, UK
Website: www.dhice.org
- **15-18 June 2005**
EUSE 7th Conference “Supported Employment: Naturally the Right Choice” – Barcelona, Spain
Further information contact:
Tel: 00 34 93 417 76 67
Email: AESE@infonegocio.com
Website: www.euseconference.org
- **24-27 July 2005**
16th APSE Conference and Training Event, “Navigating the Way”, will be held in Mobile, Alabama, USA. For further information contact:-
Website: www.apse.org
- **19-22 October 2005**
8th European Conference for the advancement of assistive technology in Europe: Assistive technology from virtuality to reality – Lille, France
Website: www.aaate2005.com

Draft Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

Whilst a range of national and European legislation exists to encourage the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, the protection of their basic human rights remains underdeveloped. Disabled people already have access to certain legislative protection under current human rights legislation but as a group have significantly underused this legal protection. Many disabled people argue that this is due to lack of awareness, fear of the cost of such action and a number of systemic barriers. Advocates have long argued that what is needed is a specific set of protections for disabled people alone.

Such protections are currently being drafted for inclusion in a United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and disabled people and their supporters look forward to a positive outcome of this important work. Some discussions have taken place on the potential for a similar Convention for Europe’s disabled citizens but these have not yet been successful.

We will keep you updated on developments and what this means for those working in Supported Employment programmes.

IASE-NIUSE Joint Conference

On 18 & 19 November 2004, the Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment and the Irish Association held a Joint Conference on Supported Employment in Letterkenny, Ireland with over 330 delegates attending. The conference was an enormous success with excellent presentations from International renowned speakers such as David Mank and JoAnn Simons. The Conference Report is now available from website: www.iase.ie/pages/news.htm

