



European Union of
Supported Employment

European Union of Supported Employment

Newsletter

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Dear Members

Welcome to the latest edition of the EUSE Newsletter and I hope you have had a very sunny and relaxing summer.

The EUSE Council has had an extremely busy 2009 so far with meetings in Palma, Spain, Prague, Czech Republic and Stockholm, Sweden. We have completed the EUSE Scholarship Programme and have begun our work into producing the European Supported Employment Toolkit as part of our Leonardo Partnership.

The 9th EUSE Conference held in Prague (27-29 May 2009) was a huge success and received positive feedback from delegates, speakers and presenters. During the 9th EUSE Conference, elections were held to nominate a new EUSE Council and elect office bearers.

I am delighted to report that I was re-elected as the President, along with Bengt Eklund as Vice President and Margaret Haddock as Secretary. Robert Elston was elected as our new Treasurer. The 10th EUSE Conference will be hosted by Denmark.

The European Commission has requested tenders to deliver a study of Supported Employment in Europe and it is hoped that a partnership bid by COWI (Denmark), WRI (Norway) and EUSE will successfully bid to deliver this highly important study.

The acceptance of a further two national associations to become members of EUSE was ratified at the EUSE Council meeting in Palma, Spain in April 2009. I have great pleasure in welcoming Switzerland and Wales as full EUSE members, increasing our membership to 19 national associations.

I hope you find the contents of this Newsletter interesting and informative and I look forward to serving two more years as EUSE President.

Mike Evans
President
European Union of Supported Employment

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EUSE Scholarship Programme 2008-2009

Early in 2008, EUSE announced the launch of the EUSE Scholarship Programme. The Scholarship provided an opportunity for four Supported Employment Practitioners (ie Job Coaches, Employment Officers etc) to participate in a study visit to another European State of their choice.

The aim of the scholarship was to provide an opportunity for professional development and learning for Supported Employment Practitioners through a study visit.

There were four scholarship places funded up to a maximum of €1000 per scholarship. Scholarships were awarded to Angie Cogbill (England), Barbora Jancova (Czech Republic) Ann-Marie Sundqvist (Finland) and Shauna Smyth (Northern Ireland), who have now completed their study visits.

It was a proviso of the funding award that each of the people participating in the Scholarship Programme would produce a final report on their study visit. Angie, Barbora, Ann-Marie and Shauna have now written their reports and I would take this opportunity to congratulate them on producing such high quality, in-depth reports.

This has been an excellent initiative by EUSE and the aims and objectives of the Scholarship Programme have been met. It is likely that there will be a Scholarship Programme for 2010-2011 and details will be available before the end of the year.

The reports can be downloaded from:

www.euse.org/activities/euse-scholarship-2008-2009

European Supported Employment Toolkit - Leonardo Partnership

During the course of 2008, the EUSE Council developed an idea to produce materials that would be aimed mainly at providers of Supported Employment services. The plan was to develop a European Supported Employment Toolkit that would consist of Position Papers, How To Guides and Training Materials. The action plan was agreed by the EUSE Council and funding was secured from the Leonardo da Vinci Partnership programme.

Work is now well underway and ten Position Papers have been written and are due for ratification by the EUSE Council during autumn 2009. It is the intention to produce the Position Papers in pdf format and topics of the Position Papers include:

- Client Engagement
- Vocational Profile
- Job Finding
- Working with Employers
- Values, Standards and Process of Supported Employment
- Paid and Unpaid Employment
- Work Experience/Placements
- Supported Employment for Policy Makers/Funders
- On and Off the Job Support
- Supported Employment for Employers

The next phase of the European Supported Employment Toolkit is to produce How To Guides to highlight best practice in the field of Supported Employment. The How To Guides are expected to be completed in pdf format by spring 2010 and will cover the following topics:

- Client Engagement
- Vocational Profiling
- Job Finding
- On and Off the Job Support
- What makes a good Employment Support Worker

The final phase of the Toolkit is to develop Training Materials in five or six Supported Employment topics and it is likely to include most of the topics covered in the How To Guides. It is intended to have the Training Materials completed by July 2010.

In addition to producing the contents of the European Supported Employment Toolkit, the Partnership has delivered presentations on the contents and proposed contents of the Toolkit to service providers. This dissemination process has enabled the Partnership to monitor feedback and include any relevant aspects into the Position Papers/How To Guides. Presentations have been delivered at national Supported Employment conferences in Austria (November 08), Scotland (November 08), Spain (February 09) and Germany (May 09). There was also a keynote address and workshop on the activities of the Partnership and contents of the Toolkit at the 9th EUSE Conference in Prague (May 09).

For further information on the Leonardo Partnership/European Supported Employment Toolkit please contact Mike Evans.

European Commission Call for Tender - Supported Employment Study in Europe

The European Commission has issued a Call for Tender (VT/2009/028) entitled Supported Employment schemes for people with disabilities in the EU and the EFTA-EEA - Good practices and recommendations in support of a flexicurity approach. This is, of course, of huge interest to EUSE and we agreed to participate in a partnership bid which was submitted to the European Commission on 19 June 2009.

The partnership consists of COWI, WRI and EUSE.

COWI - is a Denmark based leading northern Europe consulting group within the fields of engineering, environmental science and economics. They have 6000 employees and contacts in 35 countries. COWI has wide experience in undertaking studies and projects.

WRI - the Work Research Institute is a social science initiative performing multi-disciplinary research based in Oslo, Norway. The WRI has extensive experience of research in the demands of working life and studies and development of organisational working as well as studies and development of measures for integration of vulnerable groups in working life, including Supported Employment.

It is expected that the European Commission will announce the results of this call for tender towards autumn 2009.

9th EUSE Conference Report



Alexandra Zajíčková, Chairperson of Czech Union of Supported Employment

The 9th European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) Conference was held on the 27-29 May 2009 in the Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czech Republic Building on the experiences and success of previous conferences, the team of four from the Czech Union of Supported Employment had endeavoured to provide an interesting event for all stakeholders in Supported Employment from Europe and beyond. A total of 464 participants from 31 countries attended the conference. The conference consisted of 4 training sessions, 4 keynote speeches and 43 presentations.

The main conference themes had been selected to emphasise the best practices and innovations in Supported Employment methodology, quality standards and also issues related to engagement of stakeholders and future activities of Supported Employment.

Each of these themes was addressed through Keynote Presentations and delegates were able to explore issues in more detail at the Parallel Sessions through a variety of formats - Presentations, Workshops and Panel Discussions.

The keynote speaker Mike Evans (Scotland), EUSE President, aimed his speech at the achievements that were reached between the 8th and the 9th EUSE Conferences and discussed the common work on developing new Supported Employment methodology. Most of the EUSE member states are involved in this work of which the main goal is to develop a European Supported Employment Toolkit.

Johan ten Geuzendam (Brussels), the Head of Unit for the EU Integration of People with Disabilities looked back at the Disability Action plan and stressed that the area of employment will be addressed in the new EU strategy.

The performance of motivational speaker Pelle Sandstrak (Norway) based on his speech "Mr. Tourette and I" was very inspiring. A story from his own life contributed to the stimulating spirit of the conference and lot of participants left the main hall after his speech saying, "I learned something new."

William Kiernan's (USA) speech "Are we there yet?" was aimed at confronting the desired outcomes with the real practice. "Not just any job but a job that is valued by the individual, the employer and the community is the major outcome"

Milena Johnova's (Czech Republic) keynote speech was focused on those quality aspects which are important for the development of Supported Employment systems and for meeting the objectives of employment policy.

The keynote presentations and other presentations from the 9th EUSE Conference are available at www.euseconference2009.org (see Presentations).

There was a social programme following the conference sessions. A Civic Reception was hosted by the Mayor of the City of Prague and was held in his Residence in the centre of historic Prague. The programme was accompanied by a mixed chorus of Prague Singers singing Antonin Dvorak's songs and by Ukraine-Czech singer Kataryna Kolcova Tlusta and her little daughter Debora playing the piano and singing some Jewish songs.

A Conference Dinner was held in an Art Nouveau building, the Municipal House in Prague and accompanied with traditionally loud Moravian folklore music band Borsicane and in another part of the restaurant with live jazz Jan Korinek & Groove.

Both the evening social events provided a great opportunity for key members of staff from the Supported Employment service to come together to discuss how to improve practice in this important area. Many useful contacts were established.

In summary, the delegates expressed satisfaction with the conference. According to the feedback from the participants, 88% stated that the overall view of the 9th EUSE Conference participants was very good.

(Thanks to Alena Schlegelová for this report.)



Registration



View from the Prague Congress Centre

10th EUSE Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

The EUSE Council has voted to hold the 10th EUSE Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference will take place in June 2011 and more details will be provided in the coming months.

We wish the organisers, EUSE Denmark, the best of good fortune with the event and I am sure they can rely on the support of EUSE members and colleagues to assist them organise another exciting event.



The little Mermaid Statue, Copenhagen.

Forthcoming EUSE Council Meeting

The next EUSE Council meetings will take place in Athens, Greece on 6 November 2009 and will be preceded by a Leonardo Partnership meeting on 5 and 6 November 2009.

EUSE Council Members

The current National Association of the representatives Council of the European Union of Supported Employment are:

Council Representatives

- Austria** - Sabine Veitlmeier - Marlene Mayrhofer
Czech Republic - Zuzana Bajerová - Alena Schlegelová
Denmark - Henning Jahn - Johanne-Louise Bengtsson
England - Robert Elston - Huw Davies
Finland - Pauliina Lampinen - Gunnel Grönroos
Germany - Stefan Doose - Kirsten Hohn
Greece - Kaiti Katsouda - Io Zaphiropoulou
Iceland - Arni Mar Bjornsson - Ingibjorg Margret Isaksdottir
Ireland - Dermot Cunningham - David Ryan
Italy - Fabrizio Fea
Netherlands - Michael Kamp - Ad Weise
Northern Ireland - Margaret Haddock - Edyth Dunlop
Norway - Oyvind Haara
Portugal - Augusto Sousa - Teresa Duarte
Scotland - Mike Evans - Neil Boyd
Spain - Ferran Bellver - Louisa Arenas
Sweden - Bengt Eklund - Bertil Johansson
Switzerland - Heikki Sirén - Martina Schubert
Wales - Lesley Mayes - Kate Goodenough

Office Bearers 2009-2011

- President** - Mike Evans (Scotland)
Vice President - Bengt Eklund (Sweden)
Treasurer - Robert Elston (England)
Secretary - Margaret Haddock (Northern Ireland)

Contact details can be found on the EUSE website.