



## European Platform of Self-Advocates

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In 2014 EPSA continued to implement its 2012-2014 workplan.

We have produced a leaflet about EPSA that we have now in 6 languages – Croatian, English, German, Hungarian, Romanian and Welsh.

We have now a new website, which is not fully functional, but we are working on it.

Our steering group members have been involved in several activities to promote self-advocacy, EPSA and Inclusion Europe at national and international level.

Some of the areas that they were involved were:

Empowering women and girls with intellectual disability, accessible transports, access to culture and leisure, setting up a self-advocacy group, deinstitutionalization and community living.

Our member from Croatia organised a conference for self-advocates where 120 self-advocates discussed about Living independently and being included in the community. Their message to the politicians and society was: Respect us and be our support!

One of our members from Romania represented us at the Polish Conference for Self-advocates and presented a video about the right to live included in the community.

We represent women with intellectual disabilities at the EDF (The European Disability Forum) and we took part at a meeting to discuss how to improve participation in society by women with disabilities.

We also met with the European Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, and told him that the European Commission must stop financial support to build or rebuild big institutions, and that they must support community living.

We also attended a United Nations meeting on community living and deinstitutionalisation.

In Belfast, during our General Meeting, Sara Pickard was elected to the steering group.

Unfortunately, she had to resign due to personal reasons. She is now representing Europe at the Council of Inclusion International.

By the end of the year EPSA Steering group co-opted Harry Roche and he is now a steering group member.

EPSA main concern continues to be the lack of involvement from its members. At Belfast, only two members wanted to share their work with the participants. The moment of sharing was the highlight of the General meeting, and all participants were very happy to learn about what other self-advocacy groups are doing.

EPSA is also involved in some Inclusion Europe projects, giving important feedback about accessibility and content issues. This is the case of the New Paths to Inclusion Network.

For the next 2 years we want to continue to talk about our abilities and our right to be fully included in society and to have our rights as citizens recognized by governments.

We want to make sure that this will be the last generation of people with intellectual disabilities to be discriminated and excluded.

The future is ours!

