

September and October 2017



Europe for Us by Inclusion Europe



Leading the Way!

Available on [Inclusion Europe's Website](#) in:
English, French, German,
Hungarian, Romanian, and Spanish



Introduction

This is what happened at Inclusion Europe during the last two months:

Inclusion Europe went to a conference in Russia.

It was on Easy to Read.

You can read about it on pages 3-4.

You can also read about our leadership training.

The topic of the training was how to end violence against women with intellectual disabilities.

You can read about the training on pages 5-8.

On pages 9-11 you can read about the Hear Our Voices conference.

It will be on the 5-7 of December in Brussels in Belgium.

On page 12 you can read about the European Accessibility Act.

The European Parliament voted on the Accessibility Act in September.

On page 13 you can read about the State of the Union speech.

The speech was made by Jean-Claude Juncker.

Juncker is the President of the European Commission.

We love hearing from you! Please write to me at:

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Editor

Soufiane El-Amrani

Inclusion Europe Goes to Russia

In September Soufiane El Amrani and Guillaume Jacquinot went to Moscow.

Moscow is a city in Russia.

They went to Moscow to talk about easy-to-read.



Soufiane El Amrani is Inclusion Europe's easy-to-read editor.

Guillaume Jacquinot is Inclusion Europe's policy officer.



Soufiane and Guillaume were invited to a conference by the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art.

The conference was about **accessibility (definition page 14)**.



When they were at the conference Soufiane and Guillaume learnt about how to make a museum better for people with disabilities.

For example, a museum can show information in different ways to help people with different kinds of disabilities.



At the conference, people with intellectual disabilities and their parents spoke about their experiences when visiting museums.

Topic

Soufiane and Guillaume gave presentations about how easy-to-read could be used in museums.

Participants in the workshop tried to make some writings into easy-to-read and Soufiane helped them.

The participants found this very interesting and useful. Soufiane and Guillaume hope that their workshop helps so more people with disabilities can visit museums.

Soufiane and Guillaume also met with Inclusion Europe's member Perspektiva.

When they met with Inclusion Europe's member Perspektiva, Soufiane and Guillaume talked about easy-to-read.

They talked about how putting things in easy-to-read helps people with intellectual disabilities.

Soufiane and Guillaume enjoyed their time in Moscow and learnt a lot!

They both made new friends in Russia.

They thank the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art for the invitation.

And they hope to see everyone again soon.

Leadership Training

On the 26 and 27 and 28 of September

Inclusion Europe had its leadership training.

At this training we had self-advocates from all over Europe.

The leadership training took place in Brussels in Belgium.

We had self-advocates from Belgium, France, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

We also had self-advocates from Croatia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Romania.

We also had family members and experts from Malta and other European countries.

The topic of the training was how to stop violence against women with intellectual disabilities.

The topic of the training was also how to speak to

Members of the European Parliament (definition page 15).



On the first day of the leadership training all participants got to meet and talk about their own countries.

Topic

We also talked about what Inclusion Europe does and we started talking about violence against women with intellectual disabilities.

The next day we heard from some guest speakers.

We heard from the European Women's Lobby.

They talked about how to make women equal in Europe.

We also heard from the European Disability Forum.

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe.

Juultje Holla also talked about a project of Inclusion Europe.

The project is looking at violence against women with intellectual disabilities in the Netherlands.

Here you can read more about this project: <http://bit.ly/2rUuLNy>



Then in the afternoon everyone prepared for their meetings with the **MEPs (definition page 15)**.

Most groups had their meetings with the MEP on Thursday.

The leadership training participants met with 9 different MEPs.

Leadership training participants met with MEPs from many different countries.

Topic

These countries were Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, and Poland.

These countries were also Greece, Romania, and the United Kingdom.

Everyone met with the **MEPs (definition page 15)** in small groups in the **European Parliament (definition page 15)**.



When the participants met with the MEPs, they shared their stories and talked about how the MEPs can help stop violence against women with intellectual disabilities.

On the last day of the leadership training after the meetings with the MEPs we all met up and talked about what happened.

Participants talked about their meetings and what they learnt and what they hope to see in the future.

Participant Sara Pickard said that when she met with the MEP, she felt that her opinion mattered.

These were some other things the participants said:

“I did not know that other women also have had the same experiences as I did.”

“It was really cool to be at the **European Parliament (definition page 15)** and talk with **MEPs.**” (definition page 15)

“It was great to meet other self-advocates. We are not that different.”

“Super! I have learned so many things!”

Inclusion Europe enjoyed working with the self-advocates, family members, and experts.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the leadership training.

Hear Our Voices

On the 5-7 of December the European Platform of Self-Advocates will be holding a conference called “Hear Our Voices”.

The European Platform of Self-Advocates is made up of organisations of self-advocates from different countries in Europe.

We call it EPSA for short.

It is a part of Inclusion Europe.

The Hear Our Voices conference happens every two years.

It is a conference where lots of self-advocates come from all over Europe.

The conference will be in Brussels, Belgium.

The first day of the conference is on **December 5th**.

On this day we will do workshops led by different self-advocates.

The speakers include Senada Halilčević, László Bercse and Harry Roche.

Senada Halilčević is the Vice-President of Inclusion Europe.
Senada Halilčević is also the Chair of EPSA.

László Bercse is a member of Inclusion Europe’s board.



Topic

László Bercse is also a member of EPSA Steering group.

Harry Roche is also a member of Inclusion Europe's board.

Harry Roche is also a member of EPSA Steering group.

At the workshops we will talk about
how to be included in the community and nationally.

We will also talk about why the right to vote is important.

Another topic will be how to get involved as a self-advocate.
For example, when you are on the board of an organisation.
Or when you set up your own self-advocacy organisation.

On the first day we will also be preparing for the
European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities.
It will be on December 6th.

On **December 6th** we will go to the **European Parliament (definition page 15)**.
At the European Parliament there will be
the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities.

This is an event for people with different kinds of disabilities.
For example, people who use a wheelchair.
Or people who are blind.
But also people with intellectual disabilities.

This event is a chance for you to share your ideas.



Topic

The last day of our conference is **December 7th**.

On this day we will hear from Maureen Piggot.

Maureen Piggot is the President of Inclusion Europe.

Self-advocates will give a summary of the conference.

The conference will be a good way to share your experiences and learn more about how to be involved as a self-advocate.

We will make sure that our voices are heard Strong, Loud and Clear!

You can find more information about the conference when you click this link: <http://bit.ly/2y4o3pY>



European Accessibility Act

In September the **European Parliament (definition page 15)** voted on the European Accessibility Act.

The European Accessibility Act is a proposed law.

It is very important.

It is important because it will help make different things easier to use for people with disabilities.

This includes making some things like ticket machines easier for people with disabilities to use.

It also includes making some buildings easier for people with disabilities to use.



The European Parliament made the decision to vote yes on the European Accessibility Act.

The Accessibility Act must now be looked at and may be changed by the governments of the **European Union (definition page 15)** before it can become a law.

Inclusion Europe hopes that the governments will make the Accessibility Act stronger so it can help more people with disabilities.

State of the Union

On September 14th Jean Claude-Juncker gave his State of the Union speech.

Jean-Claude Juncker is the President of the **European Commission** (definition page 14).

Jean-Claude Juncker talked about how things are going in the **European Union** (definition page 15).



When Juncker spoke he talked about how everyone should be treated equally.

But in the European Union at the moment people with intellectual disabilities are not treated the same as everyone else.

They often do not have full **legal capacity** (definition page 16) which they need to do things like vote or get married.

There are 80 million people in Europe who have disabilities. Around 7 million are people with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion Europe thinks that Mr. Juncker should talk about people with disabilities in his next speech.

Definitions

Accessible

Something that is easy to use for people with disabilities.

Such as:

Ramps to get into a building.

Information in easy-to-read.

Information in sign language.

Deinstitutionalisation

Deinstitutionalisation is helping people to move out of **institutions**.

It is when the people who lived in **institutions** get help so they can **live independently** in the community.

Discrimination

Discrimination means that you are treated unfairly or that you do not get the chances you deserve.

It is discrimination when it happens because of your disability.

It can also happen to other people.

For example people who have a different skin colour. Or older people.

European Commission

The European Commission works with the **European Parliament**.

The European Commission suggests laws for the **European Parliament** and the Council of the **European Union** to discuss.

It also makes sure that the laws that have been decided upon are being followed by the member states.



Definitions

European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place where important decisions of the **European Union** are made.

For example: laws and budgets.

The **Members of the European Parliament (in short, MEPs)**

make these decisions

and represent all the people who live in the **European Union**.

Every five years, the people who live in the **European Union** vote for their country's MEPs.



European Union

The European Union (in short, EU) is a group of 28 countries.

We call these countries “member states”.

They have joined together to be stronger politically and economically.

The EU makes laws on many important things for the people who live in those countries.



Guardianship

Guardianship allows some people to make life choices for others.

The person who makes choices for you is your guardian.

Your guardian can decide things for you, like where you live.

Sometimes, people under guardianship are not allowed to vote, get married, or take care of their kids.

Definitions

Independent Living

Independent living means that people with intellectual disabilities can choose with whom and where to live.

They also can:

Live in the community.

Have the same experiences as all other people.

Institutions

Institutions are places where people with intellectual disabilities live with other people with intellectual disabilities.

They live apart from other people. This is what we call “separate”.

Sometimes this happens against their will.

The people who live in institutions have to follow the rules of the institution and cannot decide for themselves.

Legal capacity

Capacity is when you can make a decision or choice at one moment.

Legal capacity means that people with intellectual disabilities can do things on their own.

This is what they can do:

Make choices about their lives.

Get married, start a family and raise children.

Have a bank account and control their money and property.

Make decisions about their health.

Take part in politics and have the right to vote.

Test summary

You have read a lot of important things today.

Maybe you would like to let others know.

Explain to your friends what you have learned:

1) What is the name of our Russian member that Guillaume and Soufiane met in Moscow?

2) How many different **MEPs (definition page 15)** did we meet with during the Leadership Training?

3) What days is the Hear Our Voices conference on?



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Share your self-advocate stories with us!

Send us your stories at:
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With support of
the European
Union

