



Next meeting in Helsinki

1-5 September 2008: About integrated services

Visits of employment or social services of the Cities of Helsinki, Espoo and Tampere, of the Provincial State Office of Southern Finland, of NGOs dealing with people with mental health problems, etc...

Conference on the theme « From theory to practise: users' needs in the focus of integrated services »

The SYNTHESIS meeting in Helsinki is organised by **STAKES**, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health.

More about SYNTHESIS project

Find more information about the content of the conferences and the visits:

www.eu

European Agenda



Regions and cities in a challenging world. European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels - 6-9/10/08

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2008/programme.cfm?sub=1&menu=2

Employment in Europe 2008 Conference Brussels - 01 & 02/12/08

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?caId=88&langId=en&eventsId=100&furtherEvents=yes>

European Day of People with Disabilities Conference Brussels - 01 & 02/12/08

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?caId=88&langId=en&eventsId=104&furtherEvents=yes>



Progress
The EU programme for employment and social solidarity 2007-2013

SYNTHESIS in Seville

The European partners of the project met in Seville in May 2008 and exchanged on best practices in the fields of disabilities, health and immigration.



The programme had little in common with conventional tourist itineraries as the main issue of the meeting was to illustrate the on-going implementation of the Act concerning Care for Dependent Persons. This issue was enlightened during the intense two-days visit to various social programmes developed by Andalusian non-profit organisations and the international conference with the topic « Innovation and Quality of Social Services ».

A SYSTEM FOR AUTONOMY AND DEPENDENCE CARE

The Act concerning Care for Dependent Persons involves the coordination between National Government of Spain, Andalusian Regional Government, local organisations, social agents, unions, NGOs in order to guarantee equal application of the express rights of citizens on promoting autonomy and care for persons who are dependant.

During the conference, the Deputy Minister for Equality and Social Welfare outlined the principal challenges and the action plans for social policy that the Andalusian Regional Government will implement during the new legislative session. The presentation of the Andalusian model for attention to dependent residents, given by the Director of Social Services and Inclusion for the Regional Government of Andalusia, was linked with the study on « innovation and quality factors in social services » led with the Andalusian School of Public Health.



During the round table, participants showed some relevant innovating experiments in the management and quality of European social services such as the Andalusian publicity campaigns for the general public; the Andalusian education organisation for the inclusion of pupils with special needs; the evolution of regional and local Social Health Quality Systems in Padua (Italy) from a « sector-based » to a « network » logic; how Irecoop Veneto coordinates training for cooperatives enterprises etc. More than 120 people attended the conference, most of whom belonged to organisations in the social care sector.

Seville City Council key figures

- About 700 000 hab.
- 420 employers in City Council's social services (project officers, social workers, educators, psychologists, sociologists, administration...)
- 11 territorial centres
- 3 specialized social services (minorities, emergency, exclusion)

To illustrate the organisation of public services in concordance with Act's goals, the visit in Seville City Council's Central Services allowed the partners to better apprehend the organisation and the services it provides (see key figures). Citizens, local organisations and professionals participate in defining social programmes thanks to the Municipality's thematic Participation Councils.

WHAT HAPPENS UNDER THE BRIDGE?

Innovating experiences on the protection and integration of disadvantaged and disabled people was the fieldwork during the two-days visit. We went on to visit the area under Cristo de la Expiración Bridge. It may seem incongruous that the space under the bridge with the greatest traffic density in the city plays host to a « hotel of NGOs ». This spot, unknown to the tourists who visit the city, is granted free of charge by the Seville City Council to various NGOs. This decision not only covers one of the principal necessities of the NGOs as they carry out their valuable work, but also promotes synergy, networking, and the sharing of resources that may be scarce.

The visit introduced us to the work of Doctors of the World, Sevilla Acoge and Danza Mobile. In this way, we were able to see how immigration, health and disability issues all draw on the same language of solidarity.

DEALING WITH DISSABILITIES

We have also visited Seville's AUXILIA Foundation, an educational and specialised service centre which offers accommodation to those with physical or motor disabilities while promoting their independent lifestyle. While touring its facilities, we could view the daily activities of the centre's specialised personnel as well as those of the disabled, most of whom are schoolchildren. The tour was extremely interesting because it showed what alternative education is available to people with severe disabilities, through occupational workshops, classrooms for the transition to work life, and boarding.

The second day of the visit was dedicated to a tour of the Association PAZ y BIEN facilities in Alcalá de Guadaíra, one of Seville's neighbouring municipalities. Through this visit, we got to know an NGO that is groundbreaking in its support for Andalusia's intellectually challenged population and for its integrationist labour policies. We had a first-hand

view of how social projects promoting employment can contribute to better results in integrating populations that are normally dealt with by social services as a block. La Casa de Paz y Bien has different modules (residential centre, workshops learning farm, etc.) that make disabled people able to meet with other social groups in a shared space. We witnessed how, on the Learning Farm, intellectually challenged counsellors become teachers for the children who visit to learn about and be closer to nature.

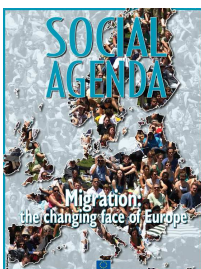
Danza Mobile dance company

This company of dance was born with the intention to be a showcase where anybody has a right to rise a scene if indeed he wills to say something and has the necessary preparation to do it.

The company is also based with an eye to a professional exit of the pupils of the Centre of Scenic Arts. But beyond this, the main target of its creation was to introduce the company that works with people with intellectual incapacity, in the standardized circuits of dance. This way, public, critic and market may value their artistic quality besides their incapacity.



EU Publications

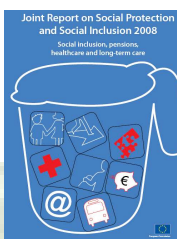


Migration, the changing face of Europe

Social Agenda no.17-June 2008

Challenges and opportunities of migration, including the role of the European Employment Strategy and the issue of social inclusion.

ISSN: 1682-7783



Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008

Social inclusion, pensions, healthcare and long-term care.

ISSN 1830-6969

Calls for proposals

Learning for change - Setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013

Deadline: 15/09/08 & 28/11/08
VP/2008/018 (restricted Call for Proposals)

Long-term perspectives for better social conditions in the European Union

Deadline: 13/10/08
VP/2008/016

More about calls and grants:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_calls_en.cfm

Handinnov Europe 2008

Inclusion of young disabled persons in the area of education.

Deadline: 25/09/08
<http://www.onisep.fr/handinov/>

Calendar of the project

28 - 29 February 2008
[Bucharest / Romania]

12 - 16 May 2008
[Seville / Spain]

11 - 13 June 2008
[Athens / Greece]

1 - 5 September 2008
[Helsinki / Finland]

24 - 28 November 2008
[Metz / France]

February 2009
[Padua / Italy]

March 2009
[Warsaw / Poland]

May 2009
[Vilnius / Lithuania]

September 2009
[Ljubljana / Slovenia]

November 2009
[Brussels / Belgium]



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