

Information about the speakers

Julie Beadle-Brown

Julie Beadle-Brown is a senior lecturer at the Tizard Centre (University of Kent, UK) and is currently project manager on the EU-funded project "Comparative Cost Analysis: Community based alternatives to institutional care". She has worked on several comparative studies focusing on deinstitutionalisation and community care over the past 6 years, working closely with Prof Jim Mansell and other colleagues across Europe. Within the UK, her research, teaching and work in services focuses on the quality of services and on person-centred approaches. She also works on autism and in particular on early intervention.

Klaus Candussi

Klaus Candussi has an MA in Musicology from the Graz University and an MA in Social Management from the Vienna University of Economics. He has held managing positions in various non governmental and non profit organisations. He is currently the Managing Director of atempo ltd in Graz, Austria.

Michael S. Chapman

Michael S. Chapman is an internationally recognised senior executive with over 30 years experience in the field of human services and expertise in creating, implementing and improving services and supports for people with disabilities. He is currently the President of Chesapeake Management Consulting. Prior to that, he was Vice President of the Council on Quality and Leadership in Baltimore, Maryland. He has published extensively on staff development, organisational change and development, and data management systems. His publications include *Quality performance and personal outcomes: Data as a leadership tool* (in J. F. Gardner & S. Nudler (Eds.), *Quality performance in human services: Leadership, values, and vision*, 1999).

Tina Coldham

Tina Coldham was a user of mental health services for over 16 years. She became a user activist through setting up self-help groups, and also being part of a local successful campaigning user group. She also believes in forging alliances with the wider disability movement and sharing good practice. This belief led Tina to work as a Research Associate for Kings College London, on a successful three-year National Pilot to implement Direct Payments in Mental Health, exceeding the pilots' aims.

She delivers training on various subjects always from a user perspective, is a visiting lecturer at three universities and has carried out or been involved in several research projects at local or national level. She carries out consultancy and also works for national regulatory bodies.

Tina was recently elected Co-Chair to the National Advisory Panel for MindLink - the user/survivor arm of national Mind. Importantly, Tina dedicates time to actively campaign for better mental health services in all that she does.

Neil Coyle

Neil Coyle is a Policy manager for Health and Independent Living at the Disability Rights Commission. He is a co-opted Board member of the National Centre for Independent Living and the Disabled Persons (Independent Living) Bill Team Member.

Martine Dutoit

Martine Dutoit is a daughter of a person with mental health problems. She has been a social worker in psychiatry for 15 years at St. Anne's hospital in Paris and is an expert and founding member of social work - self-advocacy groups and groups for social workers and users. Martine is a member and founder of Advocacy France, an association of users of mental health services in France, where she was the President between 1996 and 2005. Since June 2005, she has been the Director of Advocacy France.

John Evans OBE

John Evans is a Disability Rights and Equalities Consultant, Trainer and Researcher in the UK. He specialises in Independent Living, Direct Payments, User Empowerment, Disability Equality, Disability Rights and Human Rights. He was the first person to set up an Independent Living scheme in the UK with funding to organise his own Personal Assistance after moving out of an Institution in 1983. He has now been running his own scheme for 22 years.

He commissioned the first piece of research on Direct Payments in the UK, when he was with the BCODP (British Council of Disabled People), called "Cashing in on Independence" (carried out by the Policy Studies Institute). He has also done other research looking into different issues on Independent Living and Direct Payments.

He is currently the President of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), and has been a Board Member of the European Disability Forum (EDF) since 1998. He was a policy advisory member of the recent EU 'Included in Society Project' and one of the founding members of ECCL; he is also a member of the EDF taskforce on Community Living. He has lectured, led workshops and organised seminars in many different countries and writes on disability rights and Independent Living issues.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Centre for Citizens Participation at Brunel University. At the UK Queen's Birthday Honours List 2001 he was awarded the OBE (Officer of the British Empire) for his services and work in Disability Rights and Independent Living. He was awarded the Silver Banner Award by the Tuscany Regional Government in Italy in 2003, the European Year of Disabled People, for his distinguished international work in Independent Living and Human Rights for Disabled People.

Ingemar Färm

Ingemar Färm is a member of the EDF Executive Committee and an expert in the Cards project. He is the President of Swedish Disability Federation, a member of the EDF Social and Employment Policy Committee and a Board member of Nordic disability organisations. He has held numerous positions in Sweden and was, among others, the General Secretary of the Swedish Disability Federation between 1990 and 2003.

Angela Garabagiu

Angela Garabagiu joined the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, in 1999 as an Administrator, working in the Division for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. She was responsible for the organisation of conferences, seminars, and multilateral policy development meetings, monitoring the production of research documents, and the administration of several bilateral cooperation programmes. Since September 2005 she works in the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field of the Council of Europe, responsible for disability-related issues, as a Secretary to the Committee of Experts on Universal Design, to the Committee of Experts on Community Living (de-institutionalisation) of Children with Disabilities, and to the Committee of Experts on Ageing of People with Disabilities and Older People with Disabilities, and as a co-Secretary to the Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities and the newly created European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015.

Gábor Gombos

A former theoretical physicist and survivor of psychiatry, Gábor Gombos has become a world-renowned advocate for the rights of persons with psycho-social disabilities. Over more than the past decade, he has chaired Hungary's only network of user organisations (Hungarian Mental Health Interest Forum), chaired the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, and worked with numerous disability rights organisations as a consultant. He has extensively advised intergovernmental bodies, such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations on disability rights issues and participated in the work of the UN Ad Hoc Committee which drafted the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mandy Hooper

Mandy Hooper has 30 years experience of working in both the statutory and voluntary sector with disabled children and adults. Mandy's experience includes working in traditional and innovative residential, day care and social work settings - she was involved in the development of the first independent living setting for disabled young people in the late 70's and more recently developing Local Authority user led disability services in partnership with disabled people. Mandy has extensive knowledge and experience of national and local issues relating to social inclusion, independent living, community support and disability equality. Mandy is an ardent supporter of service user involvement and the disabled people's movement, and now works for the Commission for Social Care Inspection in England as a User Involvement Manager.

Vladan Jovanović

Vladan Jovanović is a Lawyer - Family Mediation Specialist. He is currently employed at the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) - Belgrade, Serbia, as a Programme Advisor. SIF is a Programme of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financed by the European Union through the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) as a transnational mechanism designed to support efforts in the field of social protection reforms. Vladan Jovanović was involved in a number of reform activities in Serbia towards inclusion of people with disabilities.

Slavka Kukova

Slavka Kukova is a mental health advisor at the Open Society Mental Health Initiative in Budapest, Hungary. She also works for the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee.

Neda Mišćević

Neda Mišćević is a lawyer. She is the Office Manager of the Association for Promoting Inclusion. Neda has extensive experience in the field of labour and social law, and is one of the few legal experts in Croatia dealing with the status and rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Ljubomir Pejaković

Ljubomir Pejaković is the Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy in Serbia. He holds a degree in psychology and has for many years been the manager of institutions of social care in Belgrade. He has been working with many vulnerable groups and has specialised in the problems of children without parental care, juvenile delinquents and young people with other forms of problematic behaviour. Before joining the Ministry, he worked at the Children's Rights Centre, a non-governmental organisation in Belgrade.

Zdenka Petrović

Zdenka Petrović is the President of the Association for Self-Advocacy, the first and the only existing organisation of persons with intellectual disabilities in Croatia and the region. Zdenka is a Board member of Inclusion Europe and Inclusion International, and a Board member of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. She has spent a large part of her life living in residential institutions, and now lives in the community, in supported housing. Zdenka works at the Association for Self-Advocacy and is a committed advocate for human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Gordana Rajkov

Gordana Rajkov is a founding member of CIL Serbia. She lives in Belgrade, where she graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Belgrade, Department of Mathematics. She is a wheelchair and personal assistance user and a well known leader in the disability movement, both in Serbia and worldwide.

Gordana has a rich experience and history in disability and advocacy work. She was the founding member and president of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in former Yugoslavia, and for many years she also acted as a Vice President of the European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Associations (EAMDA). Much of this work was connected with practical steps in changing or bringing about new policies and legislation for equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities.

Gordana has also worked in Ireland, where she participated in disability advocacy activities and expanded theoretical knowledge and research on issues such as the Philosophy of Independent Living. While there, she gained valuable experience in organising and using Personal Assistance Service. After returning from Ireland, she initiated and together with other disabled persons established the first Centre for Independent Living of Serbia (CIL) in this part of Europe, in December 1995. At present, CIL is one of the most advanced and influential DPOs in Serbia, and is currently running a number of innovative projects, including Personal Assistance Service Program, which since 2003 provided consumer controlled service for 70 disabled people in Serbia and is about to be mainstreamed in the system of social protection.

Gordana is also a Disability Equality Trainer and in that capacity she designed, organised and facilitated a number of workshops and seminars both in Serbia and the Balkans, related to disability awareness, anti-discrimination and disability equality, independent living and advocacy issues. At the last Parliamentary elections in Serbia in January 2007, Gordana was elected to Parliament, as the first disabled MP in the Serbian Parliament.

Agyby Waltraud

Agyby Waltraud, born in 1967, started her career in 1982 with an apprenticeship for a waiter and a cook, followed by several attempts to obtain meaningful and satisfying employment. She has worked, for example, as a geriatric nurse, a charwoman and a gardener. In 2001, Agyby started vocational training for Nueva Evaluators at atempo. Since 2003, she has been working as a successful evaluator at Nueva. During all these years, she was and still is an active consumer of services for supported living.

Christian Zechert

Christian Zechert is a Board member at Dachverband Gemeindepsychiatrie in Bonn, Germany. He works at the Evangelical Hospital Bielefeld, Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Bethel, Department of Research, Quality Assurance and Documentation. His research areas include, among else, social and community-based psychiatry, and quality assurance.