

Seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living 2007

**Seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living
20 - 21 April 2007, Zagreb, Croatia**

User Involvement

Involving people with disabilities in the development, provision and evaluation of quality community-based services

Draft Statement of the User Involvement Seminar

Following the one and a half days of the User Involvement Seminar, focused on involving people with disabilities in the development, provision and evaluation of quality community-based services, organised by the European Coalition for Community Living and the Association for Promoting Inclusion in Zagreb, Croatia participants of the seminar declare as follows:

- Involvement of people with disabilities as users of services in the development, provision and evaluation of services for people with disabilities is crucial in order to ensure that services are controlled by those who use them;
- In this respect, it is necessary that service providers, decision and policy makers, and disability organisations recognise the key role of users of services in the development, provision and evaluation of services and ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the process;
- To ensure that the views and interests of all people with disabilities are represented, it is necessary to recognise and support the work of user and self-advocacy organisations;
- It is important that good practices in user involvement are shared among all the stakeholders, using initiatives such as ECCL to disseminate and promote them.

Participants also affirm their commitment to:

- Promoting and developing quality community-based services for people with disabilities;
- Ensuring that all available funding is used for the development of quality community-based services, rather than the opening of new or improvement of old institutions for people with disabilities;
- Exchanging examples of best practice in de-institutionalisation and the development, provision and evaluation of quality community-based services through initiatives such as ECCL.

On its part, the European Coalition for Community Living commits to continuing to work in this direction and will, as the first step, adopt a Position on User Involvement which will be promoted among all the stakeholders.