

The Right to Live in the Community

Seminar of the European Coalition for Community Living

Brussels, 17 May 2006
Hotel Tulip Inn Brussels Boulevard

Programme



European Coalition for Community Living

C/o Inclusion Europe
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8:00 - 9:00 **Participants' registration and focus group selection**

9:00 - 11:00 **Opening Plenary**
Room Oslo I (English/French)

Moderator: Ingrid Körner, Inclusion Europe

- Opening of the Seminar - Ingrid Körner, Inclusion Europe
 - The European Coalition for Community Living - Ines Bulić, the European Coalition for Community Living
 - The need for de-institutionalisation and community living in Europe: challenges and achievements - Ottmar Miles-Paul, the European Network of Independent Living
 - The role of different stakeholders in the de-institutionalisation process: experiences from the United States - Steven Eidelman, University of Delaware, U.S.A.
 - *Living Proof: The Right to Live in the Community* - Association for Promoting Inclusion, Croatia
 - Introduction to the Focus Groups - Ines Bulić, the European Coalition for Community Living
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11:00 - 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 - 13:00 **Focus Groups**

Focus group 1: **Quality in service delivery**
Room Oslo I (English/French)

Moderator: Paul Trehin, Autism Europe

- Involvement of people with intellectual disabilities in quality evaluation of services - Doris Winkler, Fond Soziales Wien and Sabine Schweng, Peer of Nueva
- The commitment of service providers to quality - Luk Zelderloo, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

Focus group 2: **Strategies for de-institutionalisation**
Room Bergen (English)

Moderator: Camilla Parker, the Open Society Mental Health Initiative

- Practical experiences with closing a large residential institution in Germany - Theodorus Maas, Evangelische Stiftung Alsterdorf
- De-institutionalisation in Croatia: a pioneering example - Borka Teodorović, Association for Promoting Inclusion, Croatia

Focus group 3: Disabled people as a driving force for de-institutionalisation
Room Stavanger (English)

Moderator: Josée van Remoortel, Mental Health Europe

- Disability activists create possibilities for independent living - John Evans, the European Network of Independent Living
- User involvement in services for people with mental health problems - Wilma Boevink, the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Reports and recommendations from the Focus Groups
Room Oslo I (English/French)

Moderator: Judith Klein, the Open Society Mental Health Initiative

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 17:00 Towards a European strategy on de-institutionalisation
Room Oslo I (English/French)

Moderator: John Henderson, Mental Health Europe

- The European Union policy - Wallis Goelen, Head of Unit G3: Integration of People with Disabilities, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- Key issues and obstacles for a European strategy on de-institutionalisation - Kent Ericsson, University of Uppsala, Sweden
- Podium discussion with the Management Partners of the European Coalition for Community Living: Paul Trehin - Autism Europe; Josée van Remoortel - Mental Health Europe; Judith Klein - the Open Society Mental Health Initiative; John Evans - the European Network of Independent Living; Ingrid Körner - Inclusion Europe

17:00 - 17:30 Closing remarks
Room Oslo I (English/French)

- Jan Jařab, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Vladimír řpidla, European Commission and former Human Rights Commissioner of the Czech Government
- John Evans, member of the Management Committee of the European Coalition for Community Living

The European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL) is a Europe-wide initiative working towards the social inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting the provision of comprehensive, quality community-based services as an alternative to institutionalisation.

ECCL's vision is of a society in which people with disabilities live as equal citizens, with full respect for their human rights. They must have real choices regarding where and with whom to live, choices in their daily lives and real opportunities to be independent and to actively participate in their communities.

The European Coalition for Community Living advocates for and monitors progress towards de-institutionalisation in Europe, campaigns for, and provides information on, the development of comprehensive, quality community-based services and de-institutionalisation.

ECCL uses the following definition of the term "institution":

"An institution is any place in which people who have been labelled as having a disability are isolated, segregated and/or compelled to live together. An institution is also any place in which people do not have, or are not allowed to exercise control over their lives and their day-to-day decisions. An institution is not defined merely by its size."

ECCL is a cross-disability initiative and targets all actors involved in the process of de-institutionalisation and the development and provision of community-based alternatives – local, national and regional authorities, the European Union, disability and other non governmental organisations, service provider organisations and staff of the existing institutions.

Membership of ECCL is open to all organisations and individuals concerned with community living and de-institutionalisation of persons with disabilities.

The Right to Live in the Community seminar is organised with the support of Inclusion Europe and the Open Society Mental Health Initiative