

Informational Bulletin

Weekly update for CIL network

CIL News

Dear all members of Independent Living Network,

Another busy week is gone and we are here to inform you on all the news in the world of Independent Living.

Strasbourg Freedom Drive preparations commenced this week, myself and my colleague Naoise Cunningham will be your contact for this year's rally. The Strasbourg Freedom Drive 2009 will be coordinated by Ireland supported from Germany and we hope to get more international partners involved in this year's campaign. The dates were set – we will be in Strasbourg in the week of 9th September 2009. All information will get to you in time and locally – so do not panic, myself and Naoise will be in touch by the end of February to arrange informational days for people interested in going this year around Ireland.

The Network Council Officers met on Wednesday 11th February in Dublin to discuss a plan for 2009. It was agreed that the survey on FAS Schemes in CILs would be finalized and amended with information on transport services provided by CILs in Ireland. Once this is finalized, a launch will take place at the beginning of April 2009 to reveal the results of this piece of research.

There will be only two Council meetings held this year – May 2009 and October 2009 (the one in October will include a social event as did the last meeting in Tullamore). Date and venue of the May meeting will be discussed at the next Council Officers' meeting, which is going to take place in Clare in April 2009. Apart the survey the Officers will be working very closely with our Development Officer Naoise Cunningham in the next couple of months on development of new Terms of Reference for the group.

We informed you about the commitment Minister John Molloney TD made to all CILs at the launch of our Strategic Plan (31st January 2009) – meetings with CIL on a quarterly basis to discuss issues arising in CILs nationwide. Our chairperson Michael McCabe commenced preparation of the agenda for the first meeting and would like to hear your suggestions – so please email us at info@dublincil.org any ideas you have or any issues you would like to highlight. Of course there will

not be space for discussing all issues you might suggest, but it is important that the national voice is heard and that is possible only once you participate!

Our Education and Training Committee is due to meet in March 2009 for the first meeting since September 2008. Naoise, who will be supporting this committee this year, will be in touch with you carrying out very small but extremely important survey to follow up on the Training Needs Analysis (you might remember this study from 2007 exploring possibility of National Accredited Training for both Leaders and PAs). The questions are regarding your own training programme for Leaders and PAs (current and in the past) and it is a promise that she will not keep you longer than 5 minutes. Please take part in this survey as it will help the Education & Training Committee to set their objectives and aims for the future.

As you can see - a lot of things happening at the moment. Keep the hard work and stay with us!

And of course - Special Valentine's Day greetings to you all!!!!!!

Best Regards,

Barbora Korandova
Finance & Communications Officer
CIL Carmichael House

National Affairs

Charities Bill

The Charities Bill completed the final stage on Wednesday 11th February in the Dail. There was one new technical amendment introduced in relation to the requirements for collections that will now have to be approved by the Senead before the Bill can be signed into law by the President. The Government indicated that full implementation could take up to two years.

The Wheel will hold another briefing session on the Bill on Friday 20th February 2009 in Dublin (10.00am – 1.00pm). You can also watch a four minutes long video online in relation to the Bill:

<http://blip.tv/file/1769955>

For more information please contact Ivan Cooper at 01-4548727 / ivan@wheel.ie

European Affairs

Transport for London – Travel Tools

Transport for London has recently added new range of services to their website – Travel Tools. This will enable you to plan your journey through the jungle of London Transport more carefully as the journey planner includes options such as “I cannot use stairs” or “I cannot use escalators”.

Have a look for yourselves at the website below:

http://journeyplanner.tfl.gov.uk/user/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2?language=en

Denmark – Personal Assistance

From 1st January 2009 new rules are effective in relation to Personal Assistance in Denmark (based on Direct Payments). Around 2200 Danish people with disabilities are expected to fulfil the conditions of the new legislation. This encouraged Danish Leaders to set up their own organization (LOBPA) – The National Organization of People with Personal Assistance Ruled by themselves. For more information on this organization please contact Janne Sander Knudsen at jane@post5tele.dk or LOBPA secretariat at info@lobpa.dk

Council of Europe

On 26th January 2009 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution and recommendation called “Access to rights for people with disabilities and their full and active participation in society”. The Council recommends to all member states to include disability-related issues in every area of policy-making and to revise policies that may discriminate people with disabilities. The Disability Action Plan published by the Council of Europe should serve as the reference for any new disability-related policies and activities. It should also serve as a practical policy tool for EU in promotion of the UN Convention.

The Disability Action Plan can be accessed online at the following website:

http://www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/soc-sp/Rec_2006_5%20Disability%20Action%20Plan.pdf

Finland – Personal Assistance Bill

A Bill entitling people to Personal Assistance services has been drafted by the Finnish Minister of Health and Social Services Paula Risikko in cooperation with the Finnish Disability Forum. This will enter into force on 1st September 2009. The bill gives people with disabilities more options in relation to what type of service suits them better – whether it is a Direct Payment, service voucher or direct appointment of the service provider.

International Affairs

Canada – Accessibility Training Module for Taxi Industry

Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA) announced at the end of January 2009 that it would develop training for taxi drivers to fulfil the requirements of the new Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (Disabilities Act 2005).

OPTA is a Canadian organization working on strengthening and improving of public transit through advocacy and information sharing. The module for Taxi Industry is a part of SKILLFORM train-the-trainer course on customer service provision to people with disabilities, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The course will be developed in partnership with OTEC – Training and HR Solutions, and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO). OPTA is also going to set up an advisory group to oversee development of this module. The advisory group should include variety of disability activists from Ontario.

Bangladesh – EU Support Food for People with Disabilities

Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD) together with seven local and various international partners will cooperate to improve food security in Bangladesh (mainstreaming food security for people with disabilities). European Commission approved the amount of €11,471,212 (80% provided by the EU, 20% provided by the Dutch Government).

The project aims to increase income of 40,000 households in Gaibandha region giving special attention to people with disabilities through treatment, rehabilitation services and inclusion of disabled people in income generating activities.

20th February – World Day of Social Justice

United Nations (UN) General Assembly recognized the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment and therefore decided to observe 20th February annually (starting in 2009) as the World Day of Social Justice. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

China – Investment into Information Accessibility for People with Disabilities

A three-year programme to improve information accessibility for China's disabled population was launched in January 2009. The project is ran by China Disabled Persons' Federation and the Ministry of Science and Technology in partnership with more than thirty institutes and colleges. The project is aiming to set up a website providing training courses, distance education and entertainment. Also a database of more than 83 million people with disabilities should be available to the Government to enable the officers to process applications for social and medical allowances faster.

Resources:

Hotels' Accessibility will show on Websites

Two of the US largest internet-based travel agencies agreed on adding a new function into their search engines to enable people with disabilities to search and book wheelchair accessible rooms. Expedia.com and Hotels.com also agreed to survey all their hotel partners to build a database of accessibility features for each of the hotels. They will also provide a customer service representative to each disabled customer to ensure that their booking has been processed and guaranteed.

“We Can Do”

“We Can Do” is a blog for people interested in disability related issues around the world. You can access international laws and conventions

<http://www.dredf.org/international/resources.shtml>

Disability Laws around the world

<http://www.dredf.org/international/lawindex.shtml>

And many more at <http://wecando.wordpress.com/2008/01/15/resource-finding-disability-related-laws-and-policies/>

Upcoming Events

National

President's Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility

Chambers Ireland is the largest Irish business network gathering 13,000 members and promoting competitiveness of business in Ireland. 2009 is the sixth year of President's Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility – a unique competition recognizing the work of Irish companies, which are not only improving the lives of their employees but also enhancing the civic environment in which they operate. The event is run in partnership with Business in the Community Ireland and The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs.

Corporate Social Responsibility is a concept whereby organizations consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, suppliers, employees, shareholders, communities and other stakeholders, as well as the environment.

The launch of this year's President's Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility will take place in Hibernian AVIVA Health (Dublin 2) on Monday 23rd February 2009 at 2pm.

Count Me In! – Disability Federation of Ireland

The Disability Federation of Ireland is holding a conference with a title "Count Me In! – Including People with a Disability in Local Government Structures and Services" in Hilton Hotel Kilmainham (Dublin) on Tuesday 3rd March 2009.

The aim of the conference is to address the challenge of ensuring people with disabilities have access to services and facilities in the local areas where they live. The conference fee is €100 and you can register online at the website below:

<https://www.regonline.com/checkin.asp?eventid=682651>

For more information on this event please contact Eleanor Reece at conference@disability-federation.ie / 01-4547978

Disability, Women and Representation

UCD Women's Studies Centre will hold a seminar on Disability, Women and Representation: Dialogues with Feminism and the Academy as part of UCD Women's Studies Seminar Series on Thursday 2nd April 2009 (2pm – 3.30pm) in Dublin.

This session will raise issues about the intentions and practice of emancipatory research, asking questions about who is representing who and on what terms. Dr. Alison Wilde (University of Leeds) will be the lecturer on this session.

For more information please contact Dr. Katherine O'Donnell in UCD at Katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie / 01-7167777.

International

State of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) is an umbrella body for voluntary and community sector organizations in Northern Ireland. Since 1998 NICVA informs the government, funders, media and general public on the status of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland by provision of "State of the Sector" report.

This year's launch of this monitoring tool will take place in NICVA (Belfast) on Wednesday 25th February 2009 at 10.15am.

For more information please contact Cathy Breslin (NICVA) at cathy.breslin@nicva.org / 0044-28-90877777

Workshop for Web Developers on Web Accessibility

Solution Exchange (an initiative of the UN Agencies in India) and the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) are organizing a workshop on web accessibility for web developers working within both public and private sector. The workshop will be held in Delhi (16th – 18th February 2009).

The workshop will feature seven trainers is aiming to demonstrate the importance of creating accessible websites. The training will include both theory and practical sessions.

For more information please contact Sudakshina Mallick (Solution Exchange) at s.mallick@unesco.org

Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference

The California State University will hold 24th annual international conference in Los Angeles from 16th – 21st March 2009. Experts and the latest trends in Assistive Technology will be introduced at this event. A former congressman of California Mr. Anthony Coelho will open the conference. To register for this event, please have a look at the website below:

<https://csunconference.org/index.cfm?EID=80000144&p=88&page=aRegcheck>

3rd European e-Accessibility Forum

Under the high patronage of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy the third European e-Accessibility Forum will take place in Paris on Monday 30th March 2009. This year's forum will focus on mobile communications and how they help people with disabilities at work.

Programme of the day can be accessed here:

http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/mobtel/Programme/program_en.php

You can also register online at the website below:

http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/evenements/colloques/mobtel/Inscription/inscr_en.php

Publications

There is a Better, Fairer Way

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) has published a 10-point plan for national recovery, which outlines 10 key initiatives to address the current crisis. The Congress will try to achieve changes in Government policy by nationwide demonstrations starting on Saturday 21st February 2009.

The 10-key points are:

Protecting Jobs

The Banking System & the Public Interest

Competitiveness

The Pay Agreement

Fairness & Taxation

Restoring Consumer Confidence

The Public Service "Pension Levy"

Pensions

Employment Rights Legislation

National Recovery Bond

http://www.ictu.ie/download/doc/there_is_a_better_fairer_way.doc

Education & Training

Taking Effective Minutes

Carmichael Centre (Dublin 7) will be hosting training on Taking Effective Minutes Techniques on Monday 23rd February 2009 (10am – 4pm). This is a practical course aiming to improve note taking, reduce time spent on transcribing and producing typed minutes, improve vocabulary & jargon at both formal and informal meetings. This one-day course would cost you €100-140 per participant.

The booking form is available online at:

<http://www.carmichaelcentre.ie/trainingandsupport/2007%20MTP%20Booking%20Form.pdf>

For more information please contact Training & Support Services in Carmichael Centre at 01-8735282 / tssinfo@carmichaelcentre.ie

Introducing Risk Management

The Wheel will host a workshop on the risk management and its benefits in non-profit organizations in Waterford on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 (9.30am – 12.30pm) and in Limerick on Wednesday 4th March 2009 (9.30am – 12.30pm).

Community and voluntary sector is not immune from risk by all means. Coping with uncertain funding streams, being dependent on voluntary input and dealing with continuously changing public representatives and civil servants describes high-risk environment and therefore the importance of planning on how hazards can be reduced should be highlighted.

The workshop is aiming to introduce risk management techniques to the senior staff, management and Board of Directors in order to enable them to adapt logical step-by-step approach to risk management and identify the risks their organization is exposed to.

The participants of this workshop will receive a copy of “Reducing the Risk” publication (specifically written for the needs of community & voluntary sector). The cost of the workshop is €45 for members of the Wheel and €80 for non-members.

You can register online at the Wheel website:

http://www.wheel.ie/user/events/training_events_calendar_spring_2009

For more information please contact The Wheel at 01-4548727 / info@wheel.ie

Writing Successful Grant Applications

Carmichael Centre (Dublin 7) will hold training on how to compile a successful grant application on Thursday 5th March 2009 (10am – 4pm). The course will provide practical guidelines on drawing up grant applications to anyone involved in this process.

At the end of the course the participants should be able to identify and assemble the information required to arrange grant applications, draw up a narrative and costing and understand funding requirements for statutory and non-statutory funding agencies.

The fee for the course is between €100 - €140 per participant and you can download your application at the link below:

<http://www.carmichaelcentre.ie/trainingandsupport/2007%20MTP%20Booking%20Form.pdf>

For further information please contact Training & Support Services in Carmichael Centre at 01-8735282 / tssinfo@carmichaelcentre.ie

North Connaught College

North Connaught College (Sligo) is offering a Certified Course in Community Development (FETAC level 6). This course lasts for one year and starts in September 2009. The structure of the course is two days of college based learning and three days of relevant placement operating in term time and from 10am to 4.15pm each day.

The course will cover community development theory and practice, policy making in community development, conflict management, social study, management and leadership in community organizations and communications.

Applications will be accepted from 1st March 2009 and can be made online at

<http://www.northconnaughtcollege.net/home.html>

For more information please contact the college at 071-9185035 / nccollege@sligovec.ie

Open IT – Discover the Power of Technology for your Organization

This workshop organized by the Wheel will take place in Dublin on Thursday 5th March 2009 (9.15am – 4.30pm) and in Cork on Wednesday 11th March 2009. It will explore areas such as information rights and responsibilities in a non-for-profit organization, client relationship management, financial softwares and systems, reporting and accountability, planning and managing major IT projects, IT strategy for non-for-profit organization, staff training system and many more.

The course fee is €70 for the members of The Wheel and €110 for non-members. You can book for this course online at the link below:

<http://events.wheel.ie/eventregister/servlet/ViewEventForm#events>

For further information please contact the Wheel at 01-4548727 / info@wheel.ie.

Culture

Mary Collins

Mary Collins is Irish artist who has recently been offered to exhibit her work in the Princess Grace Library in Monaco to mark St. Patrick's Day. Supported by Southside Partnership and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community Platform, Mary will hold a quiz night in Rochestown Lodge Hotel on Monday 23rd February 2009 at 7.30pm. This is to cover costs related to her trip to Monaco such as framing of her paintings, shipping expenses, medical equipment hire etc. More importantly, a successful fundraiser will enable Mary to bring to Monaco all her three PAs.

The exhibition will open on Tuesday 17th March and will last for a month. If you cannot participate in the quiz night, but still would like to support Mary, please contact Barбора at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org

Ouch!

Ouch! is a website from the BBC that reflects the lives and experiences of disabled people. It has articles, blogs, a very busy message board and an award-winning downloadable radio show - The Ouch Podcast). It's aimed at those with a stakehold in disability: family, friends, professionals and, rather importantly, disabled people themselves - without whom all this would be a bit meaningless.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/>

The newest columns and articles include:

Valentine's Special

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/features/the_mascara_massacre.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/features/my_accessible_place_or_yours_.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/play/top_ten/topten-valentines.shtml

Economic Situation & Disability

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/02/disabled_expat_an_economic_bur.html

What would your T-shirt say? Discussion

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbouch/F2322273?thread=6318747>

And many more...

Employers Corner

Aims Computer Services

IT services company based in Midlands (operating in Co. Offaly, Co. Tipperary and Co. Laois) offers wide range of services including software installation, virus protection, licensing advice, training and remote access. For more information call 087-7430799 or email info@aimcomputerservices.com

IF THERE IS ANYTHING RELEVANT YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE NETWORK, PLEASE EMAIL BARBORA AT barborakorandova@dublincil.org