

Informational Bulletin

Weekly update for CIL network

CIL News

Dear all members of Independent Living Network,

First of all it is my pleasure to invite you to have a look at our updated website. You can find more information on our Strategic Plan, Strasbourg Freedom Drive, PA Campaign of the European Network on Independent Living and the Certificate in Disability Studies. Please send us your comments on what you would like to see included on the website and feel free to promote activities of your local Leader Forum and CIL in there.

Strasbourg Freedom Drive and all information in relation to accommodation, travel costs and fundraising will be available very shortly. Myself and Naoise might need to talk to some of you who were in Strasbourg previously to give us tips on the best travel arrangements etc. You can also watch the DVDs from the previous years online as it has been uploaded on Youtube. (www.youtube.com)

So many of you got back to us in relation to the Certificate in Disability Studies 2009 / 2010. It is great to see that so many people are interested in the course and Naoise will be contacting you next week to talk to you more about the content and locations of the course.

The National Advisory Group met on Wednesday 8th April. The meeting was to be focusing on the future strategy of the group, however the session had to be rescheduled due to very little attendance of the meeting.

The CIL Network Council Officers will be meeting at the end of April to approve the report from the Survey on FAS CE Schemes. Shortly after Easter break I might give you a call to see what services your CILs provide to ensure that we will highlight our independence on each other as well as cohesiveness in the philosophy and approach. The date and the venue of the next Council meeting will be set in there and it is hoped to be in May 2009.

I hope you will all enjoy the Easter Break. Feel free to comment on any of the articles as well as sending us information you would like to share with the network. And of course, I am always here if you should have any questions – barborakorandova@dublincil.org / 01-8730455.

Best Regards,

Barbora Korandova
Finance & Communications Officer
CIL Carmichael House

National Affairs

Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA)

The Equality & Rights Alliance continues in its campaign on stopping the budget cuts and decentralization of Equality Authority. The Equality Authority submitted a pre-budget letter to the Taoiseach in support of the community and voluntary sector which it sees as a vital part of the national equality infrastructure. It urges the Government to avoid funding cuts which would reduce the capacity of voluntary organizations to continue to work closely with the Authority in responding to inequality and discrimination.

Both the Alliance and Labour MEP Proinsias De Rossa highlighted that the EU Commission issued the Irish Government with a formal warning concerning its failure to live up to its commitments under EU Equality legislation even before the cuts in the budget for the Equality Authority were made and before the EU Parliament approved the EU Directive on Anti-Discrimination.

The Alliance is currently planning a Roundtable event in early May to look specifically at the independence and effectiveness of equality and rights bodies and Ireland's compliance with the latest EU Standards. The last meeting of ERA took place on Wednesday 8th April 2009.

European Affairs

Streets Ahead Campaign (Wales)

Disability Wales is Welsh national association of disabled people's organisations. The association carried out a survey amongst its members in November 2008 to find out what issues are there to be addressed in the area of accessibility. Barriers to access to the high street emerged as the number one priority issue.

Streets Ahead Campaign is collecting information and evidence of disabled people experiencing difficulties with accessing the shops etc. This is done mainly by using an online forum at the following website:

<http://www.disabilitywales.org/1086?tab=one>

Anti-Discrimination Directive

The Directive was put forward by the EU Commission and intends to ban discrimination on grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation, belief or religion in the areas of education, social security, health care and goods and services. On Thursday 2nd April 2009 the EU Parliament passed the directive by 363 votes in favour and 226 against. The bill should close a gap in EU legislation in the second half of 2009 and is a subject to approval of all 27 governments of EU Members. Full text of the directive can be accessed here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0211+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

International Affairs

2000 Disabled People and their families protesting in Minnesota (USA)

On Saturday 8th March 2009 about 200 people turned up in St. Paul, Minnesota (USA) to show their disapproval at the Governor's budget plans for May 2009. The budget cuts proposed by the Governor's would endanger many programmes offering support and Independent Living Services to disabled people. Governor Pawlenty has proposed \$73 million in cuts to the human service budget.

Human Rights Abuse in Australian Institution

A photo was published on 16th March 2009 showing an Australian residential care worker found asleep in a resident's bed. A carer kicked a severely disabled woman out of her bed, changed into her own pyjamas, climbed into the woman's bed and went to sleep.

The carer was discovered on the morning by another support worker who was to replace her on the morning shift. The disabled woman was sitting in the kitchen all night. The residential care centre conducted an external investigation of the incident. The carer was cautioned and returned to overnight shifts.

This is a perfect example of human rights abuse, as the fact that the carer kicked out a resident out of her own bed didn't matter – all that was investigated was the fact that the carer slept during her shift, which potentially endangered the residents.

Dignity House – Ethiopia

Recently started project aims to build a centre for charities in Addis Ababa – Dignity House. This would provide a base to many different organisations working not only in disability sector but also women's groups, feeding / nourishing programs, ethnic groups, health promotion organisations, HIV / AIDS programs, educational organisations, support groups, food stamp programs, minority enterprise groups, homeless organisations, children agencies, orphan groups, youth programs, senior groups and community / voluntary groups. Reminds you of something? In Ireland we have a similar institution called Carmichael Centre in Dublin 7. Would you be interested in supporting this programme? You can send a donation to the group at the following link:

<http://www.mycharity.ie/event/builddignityhouseforethiopia/>

If you should require more information in relation to this project please contact Michael Ryan at 01-82706096 / michaelryan@dublincil.org

Funding Available

ENCLUDE – Computer Programmes to Charities

A donation programme launched by Enclude and supported by Microsoft & SISCO offers computer operational programmes for free to Irish charities. Application form is available after registration at the following website:

http://www.encludeit.org/getting_started/registering

Eligibility criteria are available at the above as well. Each charity can apply once a year for licence for Microsoft Office Programmes or SISCO. A service charge is 4% of the product, which goes towards the administration and website maintenance costs. Enclude supports non-for-profit organisations by facilitation and configuration of financial and client relationship management systems.

For more information please contact Eamon at 01-6535099.

Upcoming Events

National

Disability Peer Network Dublin 15

Anyone in Dublin 15 with a disability is welcome to join this Peer Network Group. The meeting will take place in the Blanchardstown Library on Thursday 23rd April 2009 (2pm – 4pm). The group will focus on a discussion on common issues, will decide what local issues are to be tackled and will facilitate local peers to meet and provide support to each other on their journey to independence.

If you need some more information on this even or would like some assistance with the organisation of your transport, please contact Michelline at 01-8270609 / bcil@dublincil.org

Dublin City Council Social Inclusion Awareness Week

The 3rd annual Social Inclusion Awareness week will take place in Dublin between 20th – 24th April 2009. Events you might be interested in are listed below:

Accommodation Options and Support Services for People with Disabilities – launch of an informational leaflet published by the HSE, Monday 20th April, for details contact Patricia Cussen at 01-2226174.

Walk and Talk – The Five Lamps Art Festival, Dublin City Council in the partnership with the National Council for the Blind and the National League of the Blind will walk in Dublin on Tuesday 21st April – starts at 7pm. For more information please contact Ronan O'Donnell at 01-2223726.

FLAC information stand – Central Library in ILAC Shopping Centre on Thursday 23rd April.

Access & Mobility Exhibition 2009

This years Access & Mobility Exhibition will take place in RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 on Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th June from 10am till 5pm both days. This event brings together suppliers of products and services for people with limited mobility. Admission is free and the products displayed will include daily living aids, ramps, stair lifts, hoists, converted vehicles, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, bathroom aids, walkers, room sets and lots more. Put this date into your diaries. For more information please contact Richard Ryder at 01-2063387 / accessandmobility@gmail.com

International

e-access Technology for all

The fifth annual conference and exhibition on access to all technologies by people with disabilities will take place in London on Thursday 23rd April 2009. Excellent opportunity for web-designers and IT professionals to learn how to make your media accessible for everyone. A special part of the day will be focused on access to the internet and other technologies by people with disabilities.

Full programme of the event is available here: <http://www.headstar-events.com/eaccess09/programme.php>

You can register online at the link below:

<http://195.40.181.94/eaccess09/registration.asp>

Or contact Elodie Robertson if you should have any more questions at 0044-1883-344799 / elodie@headstar-events.com

Publications

Combat Poverty

The Combat Poverty Agency just published its Submission to the Supplementary Budget for 2009 on their website. For more information please follow the link below:

http://www.combatpoverty.ie/publications/submissions/2009_Sub_SupplementaryBudget2009.pdf

Stop Discrimination Campaign Newsletter

The campaign ran by the EU Commission is works with 27 member states to raise awareness of discriminations and the legislation in place to combat it. In the April issue of their newsletter you can read more about Journalist Awards for 2008, discrimination on the grounds of age, European Day of Solidarity and Cooperation between Generations (29th April) and more:

http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/Newsletter_1/Newsletter-01-090401-EN_01.pdf

Standards in Advocacy

You can access guidelines on advocacy published by the Citizens Information Board in 2007 online at the following website:

http://www.ciboard.ie/publications/advocacy/social_speaking_up_for_advocacy.htm

Another interesting code of good practice published by Action for Advocacy (UK) in 2006 is available here:

<http://www.aqv59.dsl.pipex.com/Code%20of%20Practice%20booklet.pdf>

Are you seeking for more information on advocacy projects ran by the Citizens Information Board? Please contact Barbora at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org

Education & Training

Independent Living Programme (Cork)

Door to Life, Abode is an organization based in Cork assisting people with physical and sensory disabilities to live more independently by provision of theoretical and practical training.

Door to Life is at the moment accepting applications for this year's Independent Living Programme, which could be extremely beneficial for people with disabilities who are trying to start living independently. The course is a FETAC accredited FAS Introductory Skills Programme. The course is full-time (5 days a week) and accommodation at the centre is available for those who do not live within commuting distance.

The programme covers home management, personal development, community skills and forward planning. The aim of the course is to introduce the option of independent living, experience it and decide whether this is the way to go or not.

You can check your eligibility for this course with your local FAS office. For further information please contact Clodagh or Barbara at 021-4357606 / info@doorwaytolife.com

Training People Courses – May 2009

Training People is a training agency specializing in courses for non-for-profit sector. All of the courses listed below are 1-day workshops and take place at All Hallows College in Drumcondra, Dublin.

Researching & Securing Grant Aid – Wednesday 13th May 2009

How to be a Confident Presenter – Friday 15th May 2009

Time Management for Busy People – Thursday 21st May 2009

Organizing Successful Meetings – Friday 22nd May 2009

The cost of each course is €140.00. To book a place or to get some more information please call 048-92674737 or email trainingpeople@gillassociates.com. You can also visit the following website to read more about the content of each course:

<http://www.trainingpeopleni.com/coursepdorganisingmeeting.htm>

Enterprise Action – Accounting Training Programmes

Enterprise Action is an organization supporting individuals or groups wishing to set-up or develop small business. The following Accounting Courses are starting in April / May 2009 in Dublin:

Computerized Accounts – TAS Books (10 week course), 20th April – 29th June, fee €120.

Computerized Accounts – Red Book (5 week course), 21st April – 12th May, fee €120.

Advanced Bookkeeping (4 week course), 12th May – 2nd June, fee €50.

Advanced Payroll (4 week course), 14th May – 4th June, fee €50.

For more information on any of the courses above, application form etc, please call 01-4579662 or email info@enterpriseaction.ie. Application form is also available online at the following link:

<http://www.enterpriseaction.ie/application-form.doc>

You can also visit the following website for more information on the organization or the content of the courses:

<http://www.enterpriseaction.ie/home.asp>

Conflict Coaching – Irish Peace Institute

The Irish Peace Institute offers two-day course on conflict coaching skills. The course will take place in the University of Limerick on 16th & 17th April 2009. The content of the course focuses on conflict analysis, active listening and role clarification. There will be also a chance to put all newly developed skills into practice at the end of the course.

The cost of the two-day course (including lunch and training material) is €300. For more information please contact Matt at 061-202768 / matthew.cannon@ul.ie

Citizens Information Board – Training for Trainers

Two training sessions organized by the Citizens Information Board will take place in Cork on 28th April and 19th May. The aim of the course is to identify factors that contribute to a successful training session, assist with a design and delivery of a training programme, recognize and practice training delivery skills and deliver a training session based on the outcomes of the learning.

Application form for this course is available online at the following website:
http://www.activelink.ie/2009/training_application_form_courses_2009.doc

If you should require some more information on this training, please contact Mary Lyne at 021-4222280 / mary.lyne@ciboard.ie. For booking queries please contact Eileen Lee at 021-4222280 / eileen.lee@ciboard.ie

Culture

Funky Flamingo TV

This online television uploads videos of talented disabled artists and also brings news for around the world. Four main channels include Arts, Film, News and Youth.

To view click at the following link:

<http://www.funkyflamingo.co.uk/fftv.html>

Difference is Normal

The link below will bring you to a video created in 2006 in Lebanon, Qatar and Syria to raise disability awareness and create more positive picture of people with disabilities in the Arab world. It is a very good video and you don't even have to be a fan of Lebanese rap music. To view click at the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIFwcdNfVhE>

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:

Liz Carr's note from Melbourne:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/opinion/disability_arts_andLaughs_down_under.shtml

Wheelchair Assessment in your home

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbouch/F2322273?thread=6448569>

And many more...

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