

Informational Bulletin

Weekly update for CIL network

CIL News

Dear all members of the CIL Network,

Another week is gone and it was a very interesting week indeed in terms of national affairs.

Thank you all very much for spreading the word about the course in Disability Studies, which is going to start this September. Please continue in encouraging your local Leaders, PAs, colleagues and partnering organisation in enrolling themselves for the course. Based on the response the locations will be set to suit all participants. The cost of the course is €1,200 per participant and bursaries might be available. For more information visit our website at http://www.dublincil.org/disability_studies_training.html or contact Naoise Cunningham at 01-8730455 / naoiscunningham@dublincil.org

The Council Officers Dermot Hayes and Maura O'Keeffe met in Ennis on Friday 24th April and couple of decisions were made. First of all the date of the next Council meeting was set for Saturday 27th June 2009. The location of this meeting will be Waterford and I will be in touch with you all to confirm the venue and circulate the agenda next week. For the time being mark this date in your diaries to ensure you won't miss this event.

The Report of the CIL Internal Survey results is finished and will be launched in Dublin on Thursday 28th May 2009. The venue will be confirmed by the end of next week. As you all took part in this, it would be great to see as many faces as possible, so please mark this date in your diaries as well.

We are still waiting for the European Network on Independent Living to confirm the final draft of agenda of this year's Strasbourg Freedom Drive. Once this is done, we will be onto you with all information available, contacting MEPs, making arrangements and so on. If you should have any questions prior to this, please contact myself or Naoise at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org / naoiscunningham@dublincil.org

I hope to see you all very soon!

Best Regards,

Barbora Korandova
Finance & Communications Officer
Center for Independent Living

National Affairs

John Moloney remains in his office

On Wednesday 22nd April 2009 the list of new Ministers of State has been presented to the Dáil. Thirteen out of the twenty outgoing Ministers of State were reappointed as well as two new appointments. John Moloney retains his office gaining some more responsibilities. His full title is: Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, Education and Science, Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Justice, Equality and Law Reform, with special responsibility for Equality, Disability Issues and Mental Health.

Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA)

On Thursday 23rd April 2009 the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Dermot Ahern, was questioned about the Equality Authority again. The Minister agreed on reviewing the budget of the organisation. This was welcomed very cautiously by the Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA). Chairperson Joanna McMinn also stressed that the proposed analysis of the agency's budget, efficiencies and capacity must take into account the value for money review of the Equality Authority already carried out by Deloitte Touche at a reported cost of €100,000.

ERA was established in August 2008 following reports of a merger of five State bodies, including equality and human rights bodies. The merger did not go ahead but was instead replaced, in Budget 2009, with savage budget cuts of 43% to The Equality Authority and 24% to the Irish Human Rights Commission meant that they cannot function as they need to. The Equality Authority was further hit with the announcement that the decentralisation of Authority staff to Roscrea would continue. ERA continues in its campaign defending and strengthening equality and human rights in Ireland by building a strong alliance of civil society groups that will hold the Government and State bodies accountable for the Irish equality and human rights infrastructure.

European Affairs

European Disability Forum (EDF) Campaign

European Disability Forum (EDF) launched a new website "Disability Votes Count". The website is highlighting the importance of votes of disabled European citizens during the elections to the EU Parliament in June 2009. The manifesto "Nothing about disabled persons without disabled persons" details top ten demands regarding participation of disabled EU Citizens in the elections such as the right to equal access for voting and participation in electoral campaigns, but also the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the right to live independently in the community and make choices in life.

The website offers a map linking you to the parties participating of he elections in all 27 member states, a section dedicated to disabled EU Citizens, candidate MEPs and electoral authorities.

Visit the website at <http://www.disabilityvotescount.eu/en/index.php>

Funding Available

BT Community Connections

BT Community Connections us an award scheme which enables community and charitable organisations in UK and Republic of Ireland to get online and make use of informational and communications technology.

Now you can apply for a laptop and 1 year's free broadband connection once you demonstrate how this scheme will benefit your work and local community. The programme was only launched in Ireland at the end of March 2009. The application is available online after registration. The registration is very simple and requires only your contact details:

<http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/register.php>

The deadline for the first round of applications is 9th June 2009 (postal) or 11th June 2009 (online).

For further information or assistance please contact BT Community Connections at +44-845-2576792 / info@btcommunityconnections.com

Upcoming Events

National

The Wheel – National Conference (Dublin)

On Tuesday 19th May 2009 the Wheel will host a National Conference for the Community and Voluntary sector in Ireland in Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin. The conference will also mark 10th Anniversary of the organisation and will be followed by the AGM. The conference itself will focus on the Charities Act, the relationship between the sector and the state and the economic crisis.

You can book online at

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

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

We will be updating you on the outcomes of the conference in the Informational Bulletin as well.

International

National Day of People with Cerebral Palsy

Croatian Cerebral Palsy Association is planning lot of activities around the National Day of People with Cerebral Palsy (5th May). Meetings of the members with the government officials will take place around this date. Every year the organisation chooses some specific theme for the National Day. This year it will be: Children with physical disabilities and their abilities in the educational system – PERSONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE CLASSROOM. For further information please contact the organisation directly at | +385 1 4667 880 / hsucdp@hsucdp.hr

Publications

Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) – Rights News

In the spring 2009 issue of the newsletter “Rights News” published by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties you can read for example about the Equality Rights Alliance and it’s activities, Human Rights Film School and more. The newsletter is available online at the following website:

<http://www.iccl.ie/publications/Newsletters/Rights-News-9.pdf>

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties also recently published an informational leaflet summarizing what the organisation does, the biggest achievements and of course how can you support the organisation going forward. The ICCL is Ireland’s leading independent human rights watchdog. The organisation has a rich history of 30 years, in which the work included preventing governments and companies snooping into our private lives, ensuring tough scrutiny of Ireland’s adherence to international human rights standards, securing transparency and accountability in policing and securing equality to all families. For more information about the organisation please look at the following website:

<http://www.iccl.ie/>

Education & Training

Effective Board Meetings

The Carmichael Centre in Dublin will hold another training session dedicated to Board and Committee members on 18th May 2009. The trainer Sheila Cahill will go through the techniques of running effective Board meetings. She will also include a section on how to deal with unhelpful meeting behaviour. The cost of the course is €100 per participant for members and non-staffed groups, €120 per participant for Voluntary and Community Groups and €140 per participant for FAS project participants and statutory sector staff members.

For more information please contact Derek O’Reilly (Training & Support Service Manager in Carmichael Centre) at 01-8735282 / derekoreilly@carmichaelcentre.ie

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Programme

The Crisis Prevention Institute will hold its next training session in Limerick on 22nd – 25th June. The training programme aims to show how to recognize verbal and non-verbal signs, which may precede an aggressive episode. There are three different options participants can choose from:

- one-day introductory seminar (€349 + VAT)
- two-day comprehensive workshop (including a practical part where the participants can practice different techniques and methods they've learnt (€599 + VAT)
- four-day instructor certification programme (€939 + VAT)

The registration form is available online at

<http://www.crisisprevention.co.uk/pdf/08-WWD-FOR-022.pdf>

You can also contact the Crisis Prevention Centre directly at +44-161-9299777 / enquiries@crisisprevention.com

Culture

International Disability Film Festival – Brazil

The fourth International Disability Film Festival will take place in three cities this year: Rio de Janeiro (August 2009), Brasilia (September 2009) and Sao Paulo (October 2009). This event sponsored and hosted by Bank of Brazil's Cultural Centre aims to change the view of disability by raising disability awareness through the movie industry. It takes place every second year since 2003. In 2007 there were 243 entries from 45 countries. The audience award was given to Argentinean directors Mario Piazza and Monica Chirife for a documentary movie "Mothers in Wheelchairs". The jury awarded Polish documentary "Masters", Dutch documentary "I Never Want to Be Famous", Hungarian documentary "The Light of Our Eyes", German documentary "Invitation to the Dance" and American documentary "Portraits of Emotion".

Submissions for this year's competition are open till 11th May 2009. You can fill in an online application and read more details at the following website:

http://www.assimvivemos.com.br/www/submission_en.asp

<http://www.assimvivemos.com.br/www/regulation.htm>

For further information please email festival2009@assimvivemos.com.br

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:

Very funny article about Charlie who learnt to speak despite his hearing impairment: http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/opinion/talking_the_talk.shtml

Disability Bitch vs. TV Talent Shows:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/opinion/b1tch/db_vs_tv_talent_shows.shtml

Satellite Navigation Technology for guide dogs:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/04/guide_dogs_get_sat_nav.html

Blogging Against Disabilism Day:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/04/blogging_against_disablism_200_3.html

Physical Disability Wish Lists:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbouch/F2322273?thread=6499846>

Employment Worries:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbouch/F2322273?thread=6496346>

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