

Informational Bulletin

Weekly update for CIL network

CIL News

Dear all members of the Independent Living Network,

Another bank holiday weekend ahead of us and the local and European elections are closer and closer. Did you check how the candidates in your area promote social inclusion, what are their opinions on the ratification of the UN Convention do they know what it is independent living? Find your candidates into the EU Parliament here: <http://www.europeanelections.ie/candidates.html>.

We had quite busy days here in CIL Carmichael House. First of all, we successfully launched the report of our internal survey. Eamonn Carey from FAS, who cooperated with CIL previously on PATI training project, launched the report and promised to assist the council with implementation of the recommendations – mainly to discuss issues around PAs on CE Schemes further. It was great to see so many people travelling from Sligo, Clare, Waterford, Longford and Donegal. I will be forwarding you a copy of this report very shortly. It will also be available on our website together with some notes of the launch. And of course we will keep you posted on any news.

The CIL Network Council Officers met to finalize the date & location of our next Council meeting. We will be all going to Galway (venue to be specified next week) on Saturday 4th July. Make sure you don't miss this event as the agenda will focus on Direct Payments, FAS and HSE and the current economic climate, NAG election and Strasbourg Freedom Drive Information.

Speaking of Strasbourg Freedom Drive – the agenda has been finally approved by ENIL and will be available on our website very shortly. The list of accommodation together with some information on travel arrangements and fundraising options will accompany this. Call us if you would like to talk about this year's Strasbourg Freedom Drive – 01-8730455 and ask for Naoise or Barbora.

I hope you will all be enjoying the sunshine over the weekend!

Best Regards,

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European Affairs

AEGIS Project

Open Accessibility Everywhere: Groundwork, Infrastructure, Standards (AEGIS) is a full name of the project co-funded by the EU Commission and 7th Framework Programme. The aim of the project is to develop an Open Accessibility Framework consisting of open source accessible interfaces and accessibility toolkits for developers, alongside accessible applications and open source assistive technologies for users. The team of twenty-one partners (such as University of Cambridge, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (Greece), Czech Technical University and many more) will try to bring 3rd generation access to desktop computers, rich internet applications and mobile accessibility. Four pilots are being planned for Belgium, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The first user forum will take place in London on 4th June 2009 and will aim for a discussion between the application developers and end-users to ensure that the future technologies and services meet the needs of the end-users. For more information on the project please visit the following website: <http://www.aegis-project.eu/>.

Romania & Disability Issues

Romania was for a very long time under Communist rule. When it came to resources and opportunities, disabled people did not figure very much. Nowadays Romania as a member of EU signed up to all requirements on anti-discrimination and equality. The challenge is that Romania is one of the poorest EU countries and therefore has not been able to implement all those requirements yet. In addition to that there are still issues of attitude to be tackled. Not many of the newly built five-star hotels in Bucharest would have disabled access.

Public transport in Romania varies greatly. There is a big difference between urban and rural areas. In the best places – accessible buses are available, in some areas there are not even roads built yet. In one rural community a group of people got together to build new wheelchairs from those that are not used any longer – all done at the back of a shed.

Local disabled activists are trying to get disability on the agendas of politicians. They are not asking for immediate change, but they want to see action plans being in place.

ONPHR is a Romanian national umbrella organisation representing 125 organisations working with people with disabilities. If you would like to link up with a Romanian organisation ran by disabled people (similar to CIL philosophy and principles), please email Nicoleta Musat at nico_galati@yahoo.com and she should be able to provide you with contact details of the relevant organisation.

Funding Available

Ray Murphy Fund

The Ray Murphy Fund is managed by the Community Foundation for Ireland. The fund will make grants to build leadership within the community sector. From 2008 until 2017 five grants per year are awarded to CEOs or similar of the community and voluntary sector to access education or training in order to develop or improve their leadership skills. The maximum amount per organisation is €4,000 and it does not cover regular degrees or post-graduate courses. Please visit the following website for more details and to access the criteria of funding application.

Funding applications are not freely available. Potential applicants should email to the Grants Officer at hbeatty@foundation.ie with the description of their role in the organisation and the details of the leadership-related training or education they would like to undertake. The deadlines for applications in 2009 are 31st July and 30th October.

Upcoming Events

National

Disability and International Development Week (9th June – 13th June 2009)

The overall aim of the week is to raise awareness of the fact that disability-related issues must become a part of the agenda of international development efforts. Also it is to highlight that access to education and learning is a luxury rather than a given right for many people with disabilities in developing countries. The theme of the Disability and International Development Week of 2009 is Disability & Learning.

The week will be officially launched by Minister for State for Overseas Development, Peter Power, TD in Irish Aid Information & Volunteer Centre in Dublin 1 on Tuesday 9th June 2009. A seminar on disability and learning in international development will take place following that. There will be other events held in Belfast and Enniskillen during this week as well.

A photographic exhibition showing the experience of people with disabilities in developing countries with accessing educational and learning opportunities in Irish Aid Information & Volunteer Centre will accompany the seminar for the whole week.

For more information or to book a place at the seminar please contact Ruth Coleman at 087-6803428 / rcoleman@sightsavers.ie

Shaping Our Future – Developing a Vision for an Inclusive, Equal and Sustainable Ireland

A national conference organised by Community Platform and Is Feidir Linn “Shaping Our Future – Developing a Vision for an Inclusive, Equal and Sustainable Ireland” will take place in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin on Friday 19th June 2009. The event aims to create an opportunity for people to participate in setting a vision for a new sustainable Irish society one that values and aspires equality, inclusion and the building of social solidarity.

The conference will start at 10am and conclude at 2pm. The key speaker Professor Richard Wilkinson will present his new book *The Spirit Level*, which is based on thirty years research into unequal societies and the advantages equality and inclusion brings to everyone. Niall Crowley, former CEO of the Equality Authority, will close the conference.

Community Platform is a network of 28 national organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Is Feidir Linn is an ad hoc grouping of individuals with a commitment or involvement in community development, social inclusion, anti-poverty and equality issues.

To secure a place at this event, please contact Anne Costello at 091-779030 / annecostello@cwc.ie. The conference fee is €25 per participant (funded organisations), €15 (non-funded organisations) or free (unwaged).

NDA Annual Conference – Call for papers

The National Disability Authority (NDA) will host an annual conference “Promoting Independent and Community Living for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin on Tuesday 3rd October 2009. NDA is currently looking for papers on this theme in following areas:

- Using technology to promote independent and community living
- Sexuality, intimate relationships and parenting
- Innovation in systems and practices to promote independent and community living

Successful applicants will be asked to prepare a presentation for the conference. Abstracts and CVs should be submitted by email to Emma Doyle at emdoyle@nda.ie no later than 5pm on Friday 19th June 2009.

For more information please follow the link below:

<http://www.nda.ie/CntMgmtNew.nsf/DCC524B4546ADB3080256C700071B049/F4AB9744210C911A802575B500359D18?OpenDocument>

Or contact Emma at 01-6080476.

Dublin 15 Disability Support Group

Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living held a meeting of Dublin 15 Disability Support Group in the Blanchardstown Library on Thursday 28th May. Anybody living in Dublin 15 area can attend this meeting and share experiences with issues around living with a disability. For more details on this group please contact Michael Ryan at 087-2371295.

Publications

The Council of Canadians with Disabilities – Newsletter

“A Voice of Our Own” is a name of the newsletter published by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities on quarterly basis. In the latest issue (April 2009) you can read about women with disabilities and employment insurance, poverty and disability, UN Convention and its monitoring, registered disability savings plan, highlights of the 2009 Federal Budget, accessible camping, hotel accessibility initiative in Alberta, celebrations of Luis Braille’s birth, an expedition of the first wheelchair user on the North Pole and more updates from the members of the Council. The April 2009 issue is available online at: <http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/publications/voice/2009/04>

Equality and Diversity Forum Online Newsletter

Equality and Diversity Forum provides regular updates in their online newsletter every two or three weeks. The latest issue informs on the progress with the ratification of the UN Convention in the UK, Speakers’ Conference Online Forum on the representation of women, ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons (UK), appointment of the new general director of the European Human Rights Commissioner, a report by Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on Disabled Students and Higher Education and many more.

The latest issue is available at: <http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/?cat=3>

Equality and Diversity Forum is a network of UK based national organisations committed to equal opportunities, social justice, good community relations, respect for human rights and an end to discrimination based on age, disability, gender and gender identity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Inclusion RX

This monthly newsletter is published by Diversity World, a Californian organisation aiming to remove barriers from the lives of people with disabilities. The newsletter is focusing on employment and in the last issue you can access not only interesting articles, but also access some publication, video online resources and many more – all related to the employment of people with disabilities. The April / May 2009 issue is available at:

<http://www.mailermailer.com/x?function=view&c=16380733y-9500ae7c%2a620266o-71ad0339>

Education & Training

Post-budget Payroll Training

The Corporate Office Package Systems are running a payroll training reflecting the changes in the payroll system including income and health levy rates announced by the supplementary budget. The trainings are run across Ireland and provide participants with essential practical knowledge of PRSI and tax system. The dates & venues are listed below:

- 27th May 2009 - Ennis, Woodstock Hotel
- 28th May 2009 – Killarney, The Riverside Hotel
- 29th May 2009 – Limerick, The Quality (Maldron) Hotel
- 4th June 2009 – Dublin, Clarion Airport Hotel
- 5th June 2009 – Dublin, Ballsbridge, Bewleys Hotel
- 10th June 2009 – Dublin, Sandyford, Bewleys Hotel
- 11th June 2009 – Dublin, Newlands Cross, Bewleys Hotel
- 12th June 2009 – Dublin City, Gresham Hotel
- 18th June 2009 – Letterkenny, Gallaghers Hotel
- 19th June 2009 – Belfast City, Days Hotel

The price of this 1-day's course is €325 per participants. You can book online at:

<http://www.cops.ie/index.html?lang=en-us&target=d25.html>

You can also contact Gary Reid if you would like to get some more information at 01-2883846 / garyreid@cops.ie

Fundamental Group Facilitation

All Hallows College (Dublin 9) will hold an intensive one-week long workshop on fundamental facilitation skills on 22nd – 27th June 2009. The course will be delivered using the Technology of participation, which includes the focused conversation method, basic workshop method, action planning method, participatory strategy planning and each session focuses on a particular method. The workshops will run in Drumcondra from 9.30am – 5pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and 9.30am – 1pm (Wednesday and Saturday). The cost of the series is €1,200 per participant.

You can book for this course or get some more information by contacting Margarita Synnott at All Hallows College – 01-8520742 / facilitation@allhallows.ie.

Getting to Grips with Governance

The Wheel will hold one of its very popular workshops on good governance practice in the Carmelite Community Centre on 4th June 2009. If you are interested in gaining a better understanding to the roles, functions and responsibilities of a governing body within an organization, or you would like to learn about potential liabilities of the governing body, participate of this event which starts at 9.30am and will finish around 12.30pm. Each participant will receive a copy of Getting to Grips with Governance, a guide developed

specifically for organizations of Irish community and voluntary sector. The cost of this workshop is €45 for members of the Wheel / €80 for non-members.

You can book online for this event at the following website:

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

You can also contact the Wheel directly at 01-4548727 / info@wheel.ie

Introducing Risk Management

Another very interesting training event (especially in difficult times like this) organized by the Wheel is concentrated around risk management and its importance specifically once the charities regulation is in place. The participants will get a proper introduction into what does risk management entail, they will identify what kind of risks are the organizations exposed to and adopt a logical step-by-step approach to risk management. A copy of “Reducing the Risk” – publication on risk management specifically compiled for the Irish community and voluntary sector – will be received by each participant of this workshop.

This event will take place in the Carmelite Centre, Dublin 2, on 9th June (registration starts at 9.15am and the event will finish at 12.30pm) The course fee is €45 for members of the Wheel / €80 for non-members.

You can book online at:

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

Or you can contact the Wheel directly if you would like to receive some further information at: 01-4548727 / info@wheel.ie

Train the Trainer

Five days course organized by Fusion Training & Development will take place in Cork and Limerick. The course commences on 11th June 2009 and is dedicated to people currently working as trainers or who wish to be able to deliver training in the future. It is a very practical course as all participants will get a chance to practice their training skills. The course will focus on areas such as building of cohesive group, principles of adult learning, establishment of a positive learning environment, understanding to group roles and group dynamics, conflict and its resolution, leadership, training needs analysis, core training skills and evaluation. The successful completion of the course will get the participants FETAL Level 6 award.

For more details please contact Gerard at 083-3482333 / ger@fusiontraining.ie

The cost of this five-days course is €800 per participant.

NUI Galway – Masters in Public Advocacy and Activism

This Masters Degree offers an advanced programme for those working, or intending to work, in international or local advocacy; including community organization, development, labour, rights, health and environment. It is a full-time degree and the course includes overview of global context in which advocacy takes place, discussion of issues such as cross-cultural communication and

social justice. Relevant professional skills, work placement and media training will be central to the programme.

Application is available online at <http://www.pac.ie/main.php?inst=gy&ln=e>

Please note that a short essay on an aspect of advocacy or an area in which you have particular interest or experience must accompany your application (no more than 1,000 words). For more information please contact the course coordinator Andrea Breslin at 091-495918 / andrea.breslin@nuigalway.ie.

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