



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

Two representatives of the LivingAll consortium (Polibienestar and CNR ITC) were invited to the European Commission Conference “People with Disabilities: Active Players in the Internal Market”: Every year, the European Commission organises a policy conference around this date, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF), which represents people with disabilities at EU level. The conference forms part of the EU’s broader efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability issues. This year, the policy conference was celebrated on the 5th – 6th December 2007.. The thematic this year was on one hand, how people with disabilities can contribute to the EU Internal Market while enjoying freedom as active citizens and on the other hand how people with disabilities can interact with other stakeholders to strengthen the Internal Market.

The LivingAll project representatives contributed to the Conference with their knowledge about the first conclusions of the research of the first six months of the LivingAll project and the phases completed. Their contribution focused in the necessity to complete the implementation of the existing measures in all the Member States, to cover the lack of common legal European framework referred to health and social issues, to highlight the challenge of unifying the efforts of private enterprises and the public entities to follow the European standards developed in areas such as urban planning, construction rehabilitation and life time standards, and to provide disabled people with easier and cheaper access to technical aids and independent living technologies.

In addition to this, some main recommendations were made by the Commission in reference to free movement of people with disabilities and of their families were:

- Continue to improve coordination of social security schemes for all people who move between Member States.
- Ensure whenever possible exportability of all disability related benefits and ensure better coordination between Member States.
- Support from business for more transparency and better coordination and exportability of social security measures, as this can facilitate worker's mobility.
- Ensure that the existing EC Directives on non-discrimination in the field of employment is fully implemented in all the Member States.
- Extend EC legislation on non-discrimination to areas such as education and social security, to avoid restrictions to mobility of persons.

For further information see

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/events/event_en.cfm?id=1005