

1994 – A road trip to Portugal

For EASPD, everything started with a road trip of 5 people, a 2,500 km, 30 hour, all day, all night drive from northern Europe to attend a conference on the transition from education to employment for persons with disabilities in Portugal. Having only just recovered from the 30 hour drive—the various delegations began to talk about creating a European platform, which would help to structure our sector at European level.

The 3rd December 1996, European Commissioner of Employment and Social Affairs, Pádraig Flynn, officially launches EASPD in the presence of the acting President of the European Disability Forum, Johan Weisman



THE FOUNDERS

- ROGER ACTON
- STEFAN ALLGAUER
- FRANK CUYT
- MARIE-CLAIRE RENS
- JOS STERCKX
- BRENDAN SUTTON
- JEF VAN VALCKENBORGH
- MARTIN VANDEN HENDE
- HANS VISSER
- LUK ZELDERLOO

1996

START

In 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU

1995 – First meeting with the European Commission
A small delegation meets a top representative of the EC who recommended the sector to “get organised”

1996 – 1997 Marie-Claire Rens, of F.I.S.S.A.A.J in Belgium, is the **first EASPD President**



1997 – 1999 Roger Acton, Director of Disability Federation Ireland becomes the **second EASPD President**



1997



1999 – 2005 Luk Zelderloo, of Tau—groep in Belgium becomes the **third EASPD President**

EASPD ORGANISES ITS FIRST CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN, (IRELAND) ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 1999: “PARTNERSHIP—THE KEY TO QUALITY SERVICES”. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, opens the conference: *“The real measure of the success of society is how far we go to make it truly inclusive, to provide a place for everyone to acquire confidence and to blossom, and to give people with disabilities the opportunities to make their own contribution”.*



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS (1999) - EU 15

1999

2000

EASPD CONFERENCE ON 5TH AND 6TH OCTOBER 2000 IN CYPRUS ENTITLED “PEOPLE” - YOUR BEST ASSET ! DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS IN ATTRACTING, TRAINING & RETRAINING STAFF



MOVING FROM LENNIK TO BRUSSELS

In 2001, EASPD headquarters change. The opening of the new office in 63 Avenue d'Auderghem is the 14th December.



2001

EASPD CONFERENCE IN VERONA “LOOKING TO A POSITIVE FUTURE. THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AGEING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES” ORGANISED IN OCTOBER 2001



★ In 2001, the first EASPD big EU-funded project is approved by the Commission: **LABOR** (European knowledge centre on training and employment of people with learning disabilities).

5 SERVICES

IN 2002 EASPD ORGANISES IN BRUSSELS THE CONFERENCE “HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES” AND THE CONFERENCE “DISABILITY, GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP-HOW TO ACHIEVE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSION”.

2002

In the follow up to the European Year of People with Disabilities, the European Commission starts to work on a **European Disability Strategy and sets up the Disability Advisory Committee that becomes in 2004 the Disability High Level Group**

The European Commission creates the Disability Advisory Committee in 2002 to prepare the work for the European Year of People with Disabilities



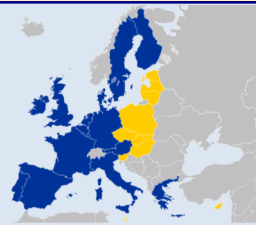
June 2002—meeting the President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox from Ireland.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS (2004) - EU 25

★ ★ In 2003, EASPD formally sets up the Standing Committees on Employment and Enlargement

In 2004, biggest enlargement of the EU
The new EU members: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.



In 2004, the European Economic and Social Committee set up the **Liaison Group to cooperate with civil society organisations**



2004

EASPD CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS “EUROPE, A PLACE TO LIVE” ORGANISED FROM 29 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER 2003

★ In 2005, EASPD has regular contact with the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament

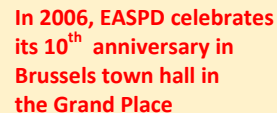


2005 – 2008—Brian O'Donnell, CEO of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies from Ireland becomes the **fourth EASPD President**

2005

★ In 2004, EASPD formally establishes the Standing Committee on Education and the Policy Impact

2006—2015, the Council of Europe launches the **Disability Action Plan** and EASPD contributes to it by creating the Plan in Easy to Read.



In 2006, EASPD celebrates its 10th anniversary in Brussels town hall in the Grand Place

2006



5,000 SERVICES



The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 13 December 2006, opens for signature on 30 March 2007 and enters into force on 3 May 2008.



2012 European Year for Active Ageing. EASPD Policy seminar in Brussels "You cared for me, I care for you: solidarity between generations and abilities".

★ In 2014, EASPD establishes the Interest Group on Early Intervention and IG on Arts & Culture. In 2015 EASPD becomes member of EDF, signs a cooperation agreement with Zero Project



2016

CONFERENCE IN SOFIA, BULGARIA, MAY 2007: "ACROSS BORDERS, CULTURES, APPROACHES"



CONFERENCE IN LISBON, PORTUGAL, ON NOVEMBER 2007: "WALKING WITH FAMILIES" ON THE NEED TO DEVELOP PERSONALISED SERVICES TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES.

In 2007 Romania and Bulgaria join the European Union




2008 – 2016 Franz Wolfmayr, President of *Steierische Behindertenhilfe Dachverband* from Austria becomes the **fifth EASPD President**


★ The General Assembly approves EASPD multiannual strategy 2009-2013: "Information, Innovation, Impact". EASPD sets up the Interest Groups on workforce Development, Mental Health (2006) and ICT.

★ In 2008, EASPD and its partners organise an international conference in Vienna to present two important projects: "Quality of Life" and "European Care Certificate"



CONFERENCE IN ROME, FEBRUARY 2008, "BRINGING THE UN CONVENTION HOME TO EUROPE" ON THE EU AND NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DISABILITY ACTION PLAN.

A Global Financial Crisis 2007-2009 hits Europe affecting the entire EU.



CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN, NOVEMBER 2009, "SALAMANCA-15 YEARS ON INCLUSION-A SCHOOL FOR ALL". EASPD launches the **Manifesto on Inclusive Education** and the project **"Pathways to Inclusion"**.



In 2009, **Vladimir Špidla** EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities officially sets up the Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community -based Care. EASPD and several European NGOs become part of this group. In September they present a report on

CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI (FINLAND), JUNE 2010, "WHAT ABOUT ME? INCLUDING THE MOST EXCLUDED" on improving the quality of life of people with profound disabilities.


CONFERENCE IN SKOPJE (FYROM), OCTOBER 2010, "TOWARDS COMMUNITY-LIVING: CURRENT REALITIES & FUTURE CHALLENGES"

★ In 2010, EASPD formally sets up the Interest Group on Independent Living

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS (2009) - EU 27



In December 2011, EASPD together with Eurodiaconia, Workability Europe, EPR, Solidar, FEANTSA, CEDAG, Caritas (joins later) and Red Cross (joins later) launch Social Services Europe.



The 22 January 2011 The UN Convention enters into force for the European Union. The European Commission launches the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.




CONFERENCE IN LINZ (AUSTRIA), 30 JUNE TO 1 JULY 2011, "OLD, SO WHAT?! INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES"



First meeting in Paris of the PUSH EUROPE NETWORK on housing.

2012—, Publication of the booklet "User's involvement in social services"
2013—, Publication of the Roadmap on Deinstitutionalisation

2012 EP ELECTIONS (2014) - EU 28



CONFERENCE IN LJUBLJANA, (SLOVENIA), MAY 2012, "ME AND ME, MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES: DUAL DIAGNOSIS"



CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST, (HUNGARY), SEPTEMBER 2012, "PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION. Launching of the Budapest Manifesto on inclusive learning.

2013 EASPD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THESSALONIKI (GREECE) ON VOLUNTEERING IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR AND A SECOND CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL ON EMPLOYMENT. The Institute for Social Services of Austria wins the Employment for All" award.

★ 2013-EASPD is accredited as NGO to the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention

★ 2013/2014—EASPD presents a new Website and creates its first Communication and social media Strategy

2014 CONFERENCE IN SIEGEN, (GERMANY), MARCH 2014, "PLANNING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES". Official launch of the multiannual strategy "REACHING OUT".




CONFERENCE IN OSLO, (NORWAY), OCTOBER 2014, "A HOUSE FOR ALL"



International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3rd December 2014 -EASPD Speed dating in the European Parliament

CONFERENCE IN CHISINAU, MOLDOVA, April 2016, on early intervention services.
In 2016 EASPD headquarters change. We move from Avenue d'auderghem to handelsstraat in Brussels.




CONFERENCE IN ZADAR, CROATIA, MAY 2015, ON EMPLOYMENT. Presentation of the Employment Declaration and ceremony of the "Employment for All" awards.

CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, (AUSTRIA), OCTOBER 2015, ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION. Drafting the EASPD education declaration.

In 2015 the United Nations assesses the compliance of EU policies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. EASPD contributes to that process.



10,000 SERVICES

OVER 12,000 SERVICES

