

# Presentation on Inclusion Europe and the European Union and the European Commission

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# Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is the European association of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



Inclusion Europe has members in each European country.

# Inclusion Europe

There are 2 types of associations who are members of Inclusion Europe.

- Parents association like EVPIT in Estonia.
- Self-advocates' association like EVPIT self-advocacy group for example.



# **Inclusion Europe**

Inclusion Europe defends the rights and interest of people with intellectual disabilities and there families in Europe.



# Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is fighting for

- The respect of Human Rights of people with intellectual disabilities.
- The inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.
- The non-discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.



# Inclusion Europe

People with intellectual disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.

There are like normal people who live in Europe.

They have the right to be included in society whatever the nature of the disability they have.



# Inclusion Europe

People with intellectual disabilities want rights; not favours.

They want to earn their living by working.

But they need help in some areas of their life.



# Inclusion Europe

People with intellectual disabilities have a lot of talents and abilities.

Inclusion Europe represents the interests of 13 million people in Europe.



# Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe gives information about people with intellectual disabilities.

Information is something very important for Inclusion Europe.

Inclusion Europe does brochures in easy to read for people with intellectual disabilities.



# Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe organises conferences, meetings and exchange visits.



Inclusion Europe talks with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

# Self-advocacy

- Self-advocacy is very important for Inclusion Europe.



# What is self-advocacy?

- ◆ Self-advocacy is about being a person first!
- ◆ Self-advocacy is about YOU learning to say “I”.
- ◆ Self-advocacy is speaking up for yourself and for others.
- ◆ It is about having your own identity.

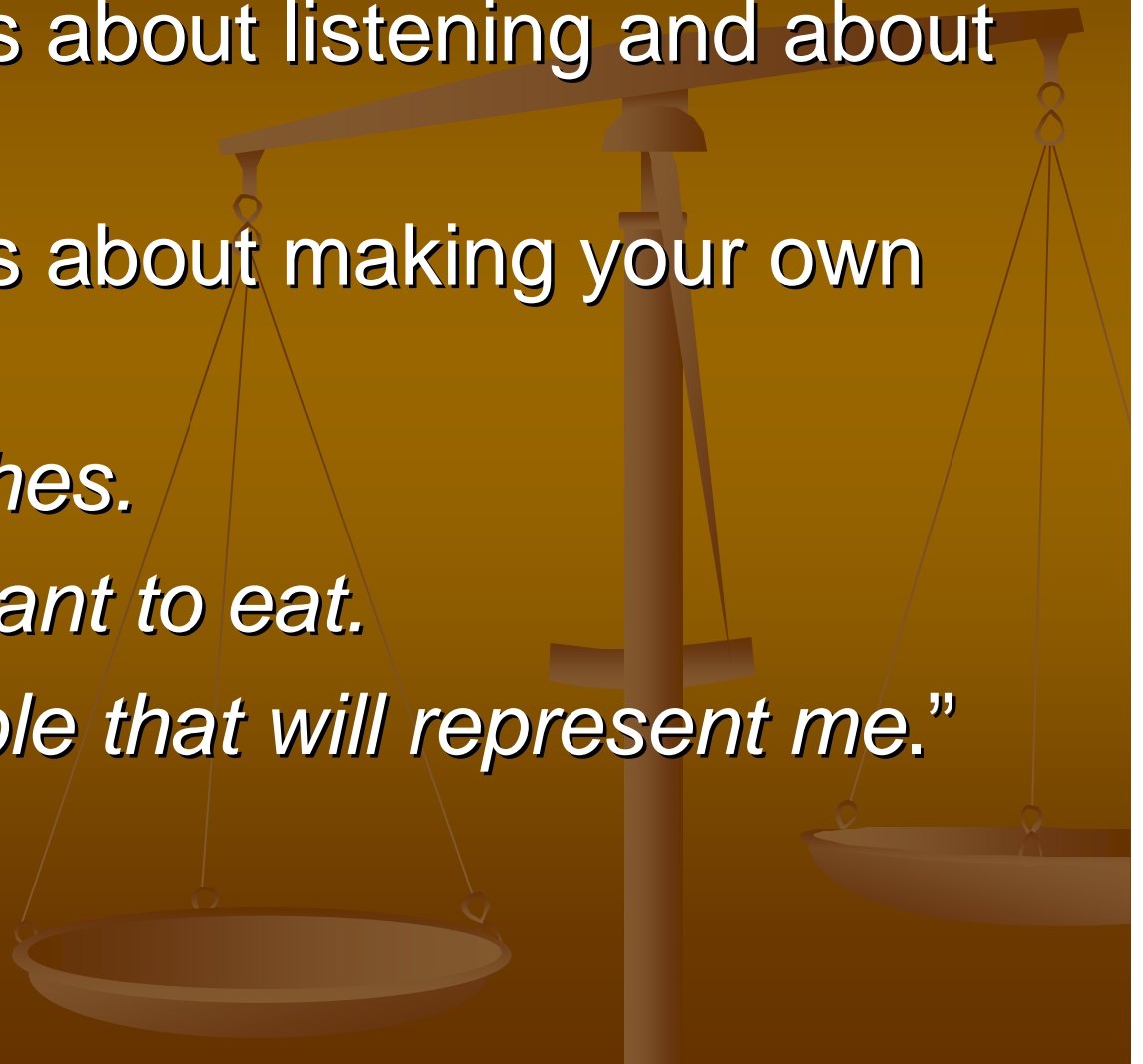
# What is self-advocacy?

- Self-advocacy is about listening and about being heard.
- Self-advocacy is about making your own decisions.

*“I choose my clothes.*

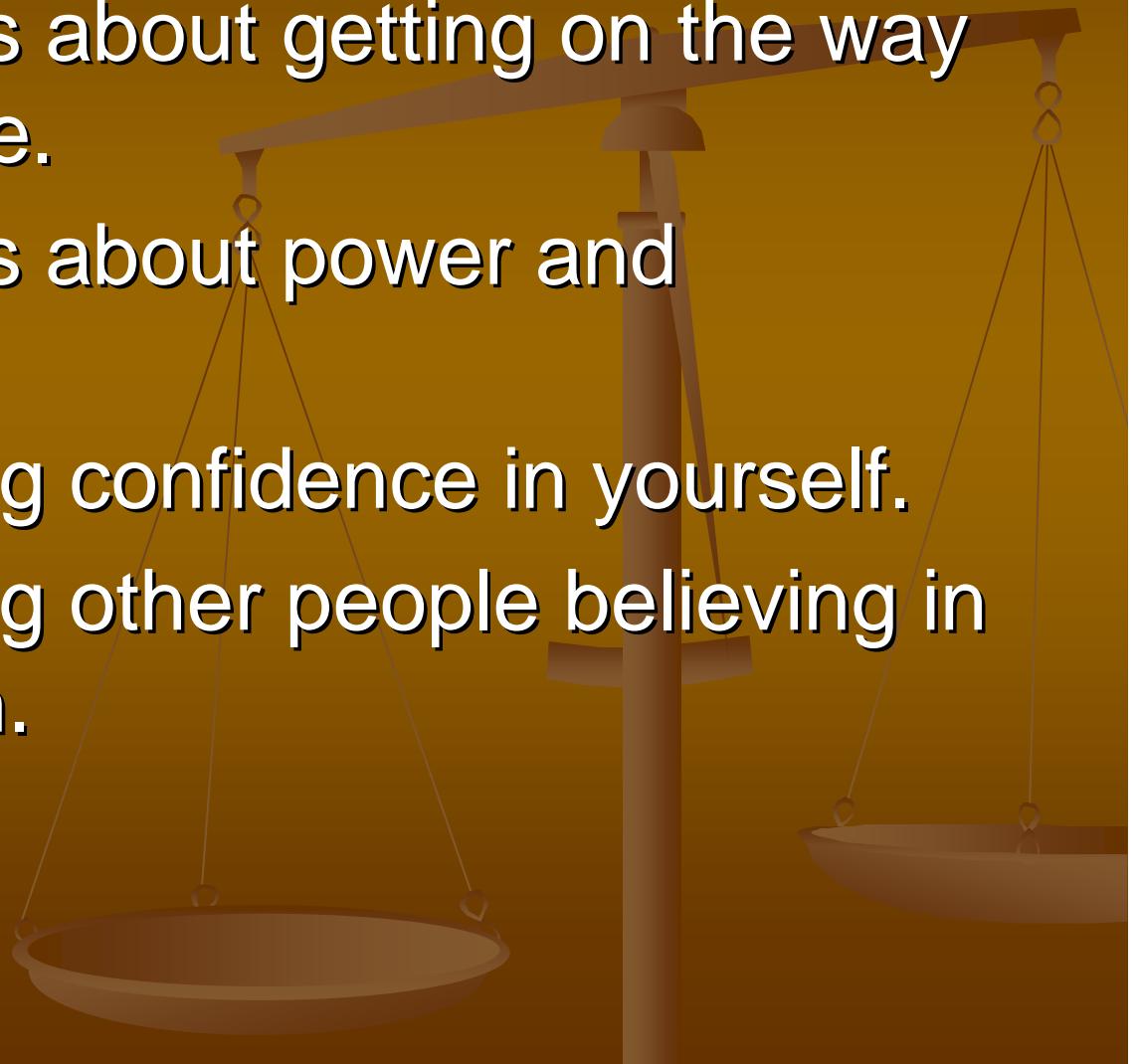
*I choose what I want to eat.*

*I choose the people that will represent me.”*



# What is self-advocacy?

- Self-advocacy is about getting on the way to independence.
- Self-advocacy is about power and empowerment.
- It is about having confidence in yourself.
- It is about having other people believing in you as a person.



# What is self-advocacy?

- Self-advocacy is about participation. In family, in society, in policy.
- It is about getting involved.
- Self-advocacy is about taking risks and giving chances.

# The European Platform of Self-Advocates



- Inclusion Europe finds self-advocacy important.  
So we created the European Platform of Self-Advocates.  
To make it short, we call it EPSA.

## What is EPSA?

- **The European Platform of Self-Advocates**
- The European Platform of Self-Advocates consists of organisations of self-advocates.
- Today, there are 16 self-advocacy associations members of EPSA.

# What is EPSA?

- The European Platform of Self-Advocates is run by a Steering Group of 5 self-advocates.
- The European Platform of Self-Advocates is part of Inclusion Europe



## What is EPSA?

- Self-advocacy organisations can become members of Inclusion Europe to join the European Platform of Self-Advocates.
- These groups can work in a city, region or a country.
- The European Platform of Self-Advocates meets at least once a year.

# What is EPSA doing?

- EPSA organises conferences to exchange experiences.
- EPSA publishes a newsletter called “Europe for us!”
- EPSA publishes information to increase people awareness of self-advocacy.

# What is EPSA doing?

- EPSA publishes information about important issues at European level.
- EPSA maintains a list of self-advocacy organisations.
- EPSA publishes guidelines on topics that concern self-advocacy (rules for meetings, rules for good support, ...)

Thanks for the attention

If there are any question feel free to ask me

[www.inclusion-europe.org](http://www.inclusion-europe.org)

[project@inclusion-europe.org](mailto:project@inclusion-europe.org)



# European Union

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- It is a group of different countries that have decide to work together for peace.



# European Union

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- It was created in 1957.
- It was created for all people who are living in Europe to have a good life.

# The European Union

European countries are different from each other

They have for example different languages.

But they have the same values.

They all want to work together for peace.

It is the reason that we created the European Union.



# The European Union

There are 2 very important groups in the European Union.



- The European Commission

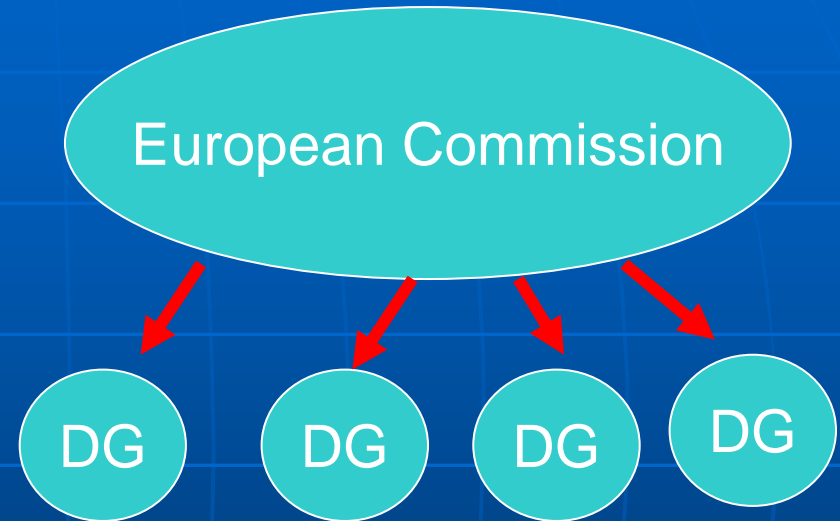
- The European Parliament.

# The European Commission

The European Commission is divided into different parts.

We call these parts “Directorate General” or DG for short.

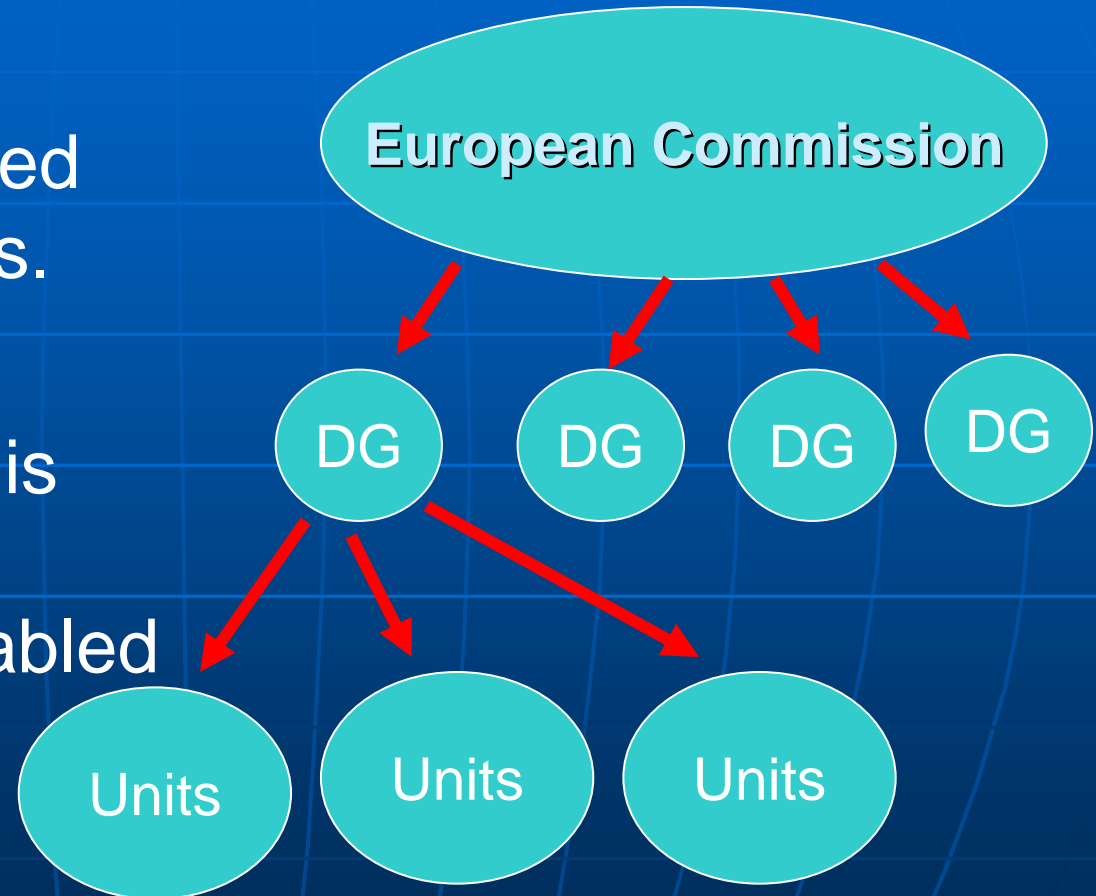
For example, there is one DG for work and social affairs.



# European Commission

These Directorate  
General are divided  
into different Units.

For example, there is  
one unit for the  
integration of disabled  
people



# European Commission

The European Commission works with the European Parliament.

The European Commission is the government of the European Union.



# European Commission

This Government makes decisions for all the members States.

There is a president and ministers who are called Commissioners.

Each Commissioner is responsible for a part or DG.



# European Parliament

The European Parliament controls the European Commission.

The European Parliament has about 600 members.

We call them members of European Parliament or MEP.

The big countries have more MEP than the small countries.



# European Parliament

The MEP most of the time work in Belgium, Bruxelles.

Once a month they go to France (Strasbourg) to work.

Every 5 years, the people who live in Europe vote to elect the members of the European Parliament.



# European Parliament

In Europe, there are associations for disabled people who inform the members of the European Parliament of the needs and wishes of disabled people.



For example Inclusion Europe.

# European Parliament

In the parliament, there is a group who calls itself the Disability Intergroup and who meets every month to talk about subjects very important for disabled people.



# Why is the European Union Important?

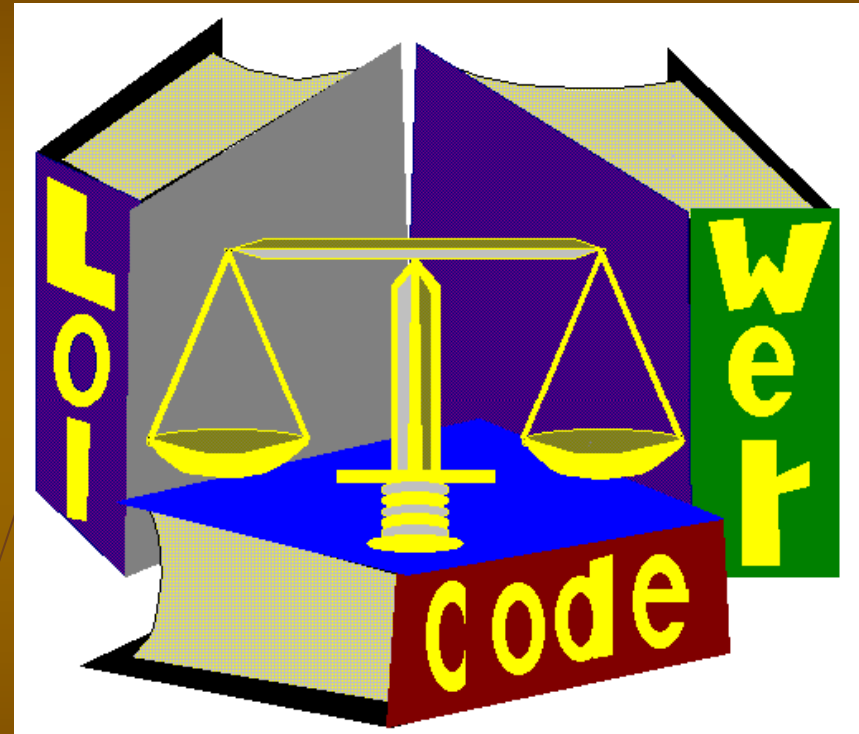
It is important for 2 reasons:

- Because it writes new laws.
- Because it gives money for projects.



# Laws

- An important work of the European Union is that it writes new laws.
- We call these laws “European Directives”.
- The laws written by the European Union have to be respected by all Member States.



# Laws

- The European Union is very important for all people who live in Estonia.
- Estonia is a member of the European Union.
- It has to respect the European Directives as everyone else.
- The European Union talks about subjects which are important for people who live in Estonia.
- The European directives can change the lives of people who live in Estonia.



# Laws

The European Union is also very important for disabled people.

Some of the laws written by the European Union are for disabled people.

I will give you 2 examples

- A law on discrimination
- The fight against exclusion



# A law on discrimination

- There is European Directive which fight against discrimination at work.
- In the directive, there are a lot of things which are important for a disabled person.
- Protection against discrimination at work.
- Protection against harassment



## The Fight against Exclusion

- The European Union is fighting against poverty and exclusion.
- They work with the governments to see what can be done to fight against exclusion.



# La lutte contre l'exclusion

- There is not a law written yet against exclusion in Europe.
- But the European Union asks each country and government to write national plans



# Projects

**The European Commission gives money for different projects in Europe.**



# The Projects

On the site of Inclusion Europe, there is a section which talks about the different projects which Inclusion Europe and the European Commission are working on together.

- Here are 3 examples



## Pathways Projects

The project is developing European standards to make information easy to read and understand.

The goal of this project is to make lifelong learning programs more accessible for people with intellectual disability.

- Example: Use words that are easy to understand and use pictures.
- Examples: France wants to write a document in easy-to-read, so France looks at the European standards to find out how to do it.



# Le Projet formation (Pathways)

- There are 3 other tools which will be developed by this project.
- A check-list to check how easy-to-read the texts are.
- A programme to teach staff how to prepare easy-to-read texts.
- A plan to involve people with intellectual disabilities in the writing of easy-to-read texts



# Pathways Partners

There are 9 European partners who are part of this project



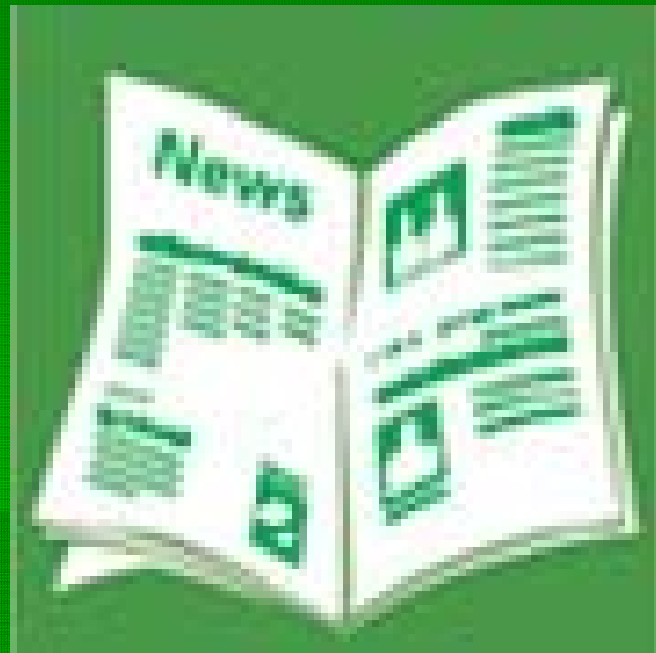
# Pathways partners

- Enable Ace in Scotland
- Me itse ry in Finland
- Unapei in France
- Noussi Aussi in France
- Inclusion Europe in Ireland
- Das Büro in Germany
- Fenaceri in Portugal
- Atempo in Autriche
- Viltis in Lithuania



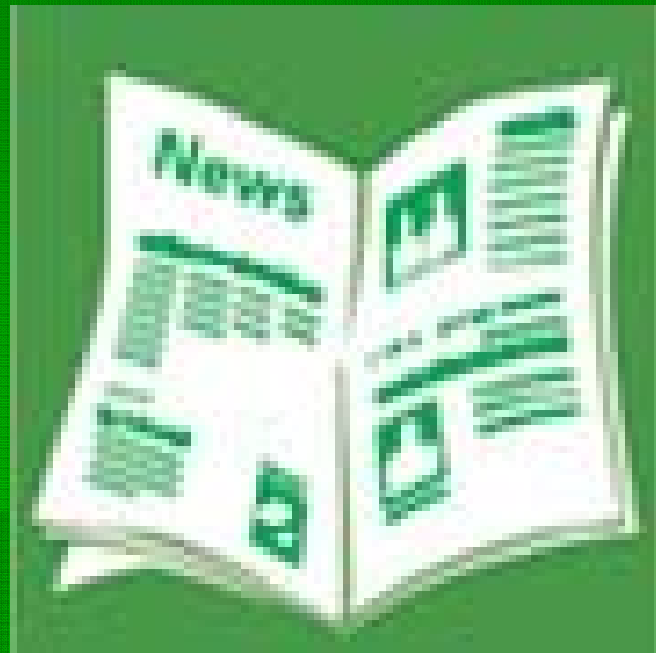
# Real live media

- The goal of Project Real live media is to help people with intellectual disabilities and journalists to work together.



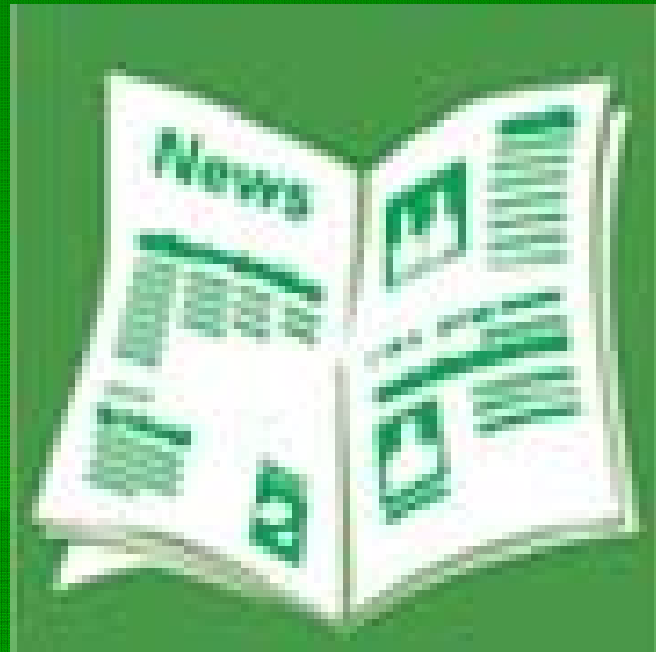
# Real live media

- People who work in the media should know better people with intellectual disabilities and their needs.
- Media should have more information about people with intellectual disabilities.



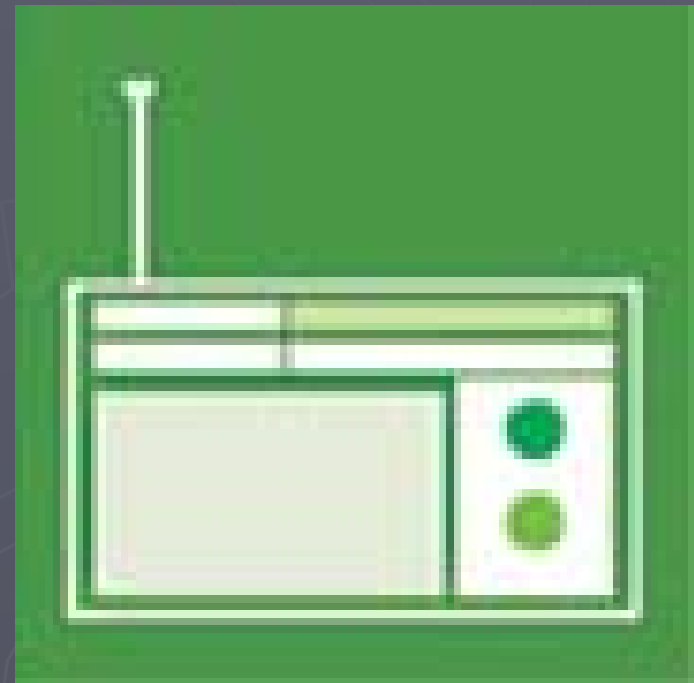
# Real live media

- For example, most shows do not want disabled people to participate.
- This project wants discrimination to stop in the media.



# The partners of the project are

- FEAPS Spain
- HFT United Kingdom
- Inclusion Europe  
Belgium
- European Media  
Germany
- RTP Portugal
- EScola Superir of  
Comunicaço Social  
Portugal



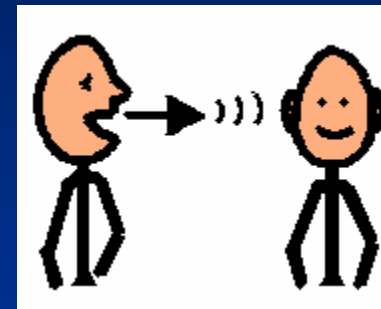
# 'Projet Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming means  
to include people  
with intellectual  
disabilities in  
politics.



# Projet Mainstreaming

The goal of this project is to help disabled people at talking to important people; the important people who work in politics when do change a lot of different things for disabled people in Europe.



# Projet Mainstreaming

- There are 2 conferences which are set up in each country for the members of Administrations.
- There is “Mainstreaming” in each country when the political projects do not forget people with intellectual disabilities.



# Projet Mainstreaming

- Disabled persons have the right to take part in a sport programme and to get professional training.
- This project works with
  - People with intellectual disabilities
  - People with mental health problems



# Projet Mainstreaming

- There are 16 partners who are working on this project.
- They come from 8 different countries



# Projet Mainstreaming

- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Lettonie
- Lituanie
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Slovenian



Thanks for the attention

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