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## Newsletter No. 9

Hamburg, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003

Dear Partners and Friends,

It is a pleasure to come up to you with some very good news!

The **Conference in Lidingö** in May approaches quickly. The Swedish Colleagues will welcome us in a very warm and inspiring atmosphere in Lidingö in the Villa Söderas. Meanwhile most of our partners have promised their participation. For further information please see the website ([www.eu-project-steps.de](http://www.eu-project-steps.de), Conference Lidingö).

Two further projects have just started about which we like to inform you with this newsletter:

As part of STEPS a '**Comparative framework**' will be developed.

Due to the participation in STEPS the T-Group for people with learning disabilities in Hamburg has started to arrange an **International User-Conference**.

We look forward to meeting all STEPS-partners in Lidingö!

Best wishes

Dorothee Bittscheidt

Michael Langkanky

Anne Ernst

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## A '**Comparative framework**' for STEPS

A special piece of focused work has begun between Anne Ernst (Hamburg) and Paul Cambridge (Canterbury) with the aim of developing a 'comparative framework' for the STEPS partners. It is anticipated that this will help us all address some of the difficulties and confusion we have experienced to date in comparing our different terms, systems and arrangements across our five national contexts and local partnerships. It will also help us develop formal written comparisons of use for the report and any other written products from the work.

The comparative framework will comprise:

- a glossary of key terms organised into useful themes
- a set of comparative questions and descriptive answers, organised into similar themes
- standard local project/partnership profiles, including summary descriptions and basic data

Some guiding principles have been developed to help steer this work:

- the primary products will be in English
- English - Spanish - English translation will be necessary to help our Spanish colleagues
- there will need to be some translation from German into English and vice versa
- English and German examples will be provided as a template
- other partners will then develop and add their descriptions and data
- the process should be simple and relatively un-demanding on each partner
- the initiative will draw on examples already developed by the ID-RESNET project based at the University of Kent led by professor Jim Mansell
- information will also be fed back to the ID-RESNET project where it is relevant or useful

The intention is that Anne and Paul will work on this until we have an interim framework which we can present to the partners in at the Lidingo conference in Sweden in May. Here we will have an opportunity to discuss and consult on the work so far and plan how best to take it forward.

Paul Cambridge  
Canterbury

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## **International User-Conference in Hamburg**

The T-group of people with learning disabilities in Hamburg which evaluate currently the STEPS-process wants to participate in the international discussion. The group has asked the project management to look for possible funding to finance an International User-Conference. We have pleasure in informing you that the planning now is taking shape.

The Conference is planned for two days (Friday/Saturday) in spring 2004 in Hamburg.

The participants of the user group in Hamburg want to learn about everyday life and the services for people with learning disabilities in the involved STEPS-countries. They want to share experiences and knowledge and to receive ideas and impulses for their own work. Further they are interested to establish long-term contacts.

The Conference will be addressed primarily to people with learning disabilities in the five STEPS-partnerships. It is planned to invite each four persons with learning disabilities. From the beginning each group should be supported on site by a facilitator or assistant and a member from the local STEPS-network who should take part at the Conference as well.

The **Programme** could include among others:

- Working groups/discussion forums  
Possible topics: exchange of information and experiences; questions and demands addressed to professionals and politics in the field of learning disabilities
- Exhibition "Not above us without us" (Motto for the European Year of Disabled People in Germany) with information from the involved countries and groups, short statements/presentations, culture, snack – open to the public (people with learning disabilities, their friends and families and professionals)
- Joint meals to get in contact with each other
- Visits to work places, accommodations of people with learning disabilities
- Cultural events (concert, disco, theatre) – open to the public
- Sightseeing in Hamburg
- ...

The Conference should be organised by members of the T-group of people with learning disabilities in Hamburg in contact with participants in the other cities. As well the project management as the facilitators and members of the local networks are asked to support the participant groups and preparation in their country.

To facilitate the **communication** it might be helpful

- to get in contact in time before the Conference - with support of the facilitator or the Steps-member.
- to prepare for example videos, pictures and photographs about the every day live in the different cities
- to ask the facilitator and the STEPS-members to support in translation

- to work in small groups and to organise face-to-face-translation and communication
- ...

The financial budget comprises at least 50.000 Euro. The Foundations Alsterdorf and Das Rauhe Haus and the Co-ordinator for Equalisation of disabled people in Hamburg have promised to contribute to the funding. We will submit an application to the Ministry of Welfare and Family in Hamburg and another to the organisation "Aktion Mensch" to finance the travel costs of the participants.

The local Partnerships will kindly be asked to contribute with the travel costs for the Project member and if possible the facilitator.

We look forward to discuss further details and ideas and questions in Lidingö. Most of all your comments and hints are appreciated.

Anne Ernst  
Hamburg

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### **Steps – Structures towards emancipation, participation and solidarity**

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