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## Newsletter No. 6

13<sup>th</sup> of February 2002

Dear partners,

on invitation of the European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG - the unit of the programme "To combat discrimination"- Anne and Michael have been in Brussels and visited the working group with the promoters of those projects which were selected in the phase I of the programme. We got lots of information about the second proposal which we have to submit at the End of March, and about the second phase of the programme.

We hope these newsletter gives an impression about the discussions and selection criteria.

Best wishes

Dorothee, Anne, Michael

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## Visit at the EU-Commission „Working group with the promoters of phase I”, 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002 Brussels

In the morning Barbara Nolan, Adam Theissen and Joline Wellinghoff, members of the unit and responsible for the programme, worked out the procedures for the submission of applications, questions on budgets, priorities of selection and main issues concerning phase II and the end of phase I. In the afternoon there were hundreds of questions from all partners, most of them referring the budget, the partnership-building and the selection-criterias.

In the following lines we only can give some of the main impressions concerning our application, our partnership, the budget and our chances:

### **Chances:**

In the first phase there are 69 projects, most of them concerning discrimination in and by the public administration. ("steps" is categorised under "the removal of discriminatory barriers to

access goods and services, including housing, transport, culture, leisure and sport“, but the discrimination in and by the public administration will be important as well.)

Three projects are mainly concentrated on issues of services in learning disabilities, but they have a different focus - either on self-advocacy and parents-groups or (only) on the access in welfare-organisations. We are in contact with both.

The Commission will choose 25 - 30 projects for phase II according to the four priorities in the programme outlines. They will inform us in June whether “steps” will be funded in the second phase.

We think, if this and the following criteria will be the main selection criteria we do have a very good chance to continue the project and the hard work we did will be worth.

### **Impressions:**

The Commission is very professional and seems to be very committed to the subject of non-discrimination. They will select projects which are really fruitful, policy-making and practical for victims of discrimination. Criteria we will have to work on will be:

- ?? A manageable partnership with a clearly shaped working-plan
- ?? Participation of victims - which means in our field: not pro-forma participation but real transmission and involvement in the planning and outcome-discussion
- ?? Evidence of the commitment and the planned contributions of all the partners
- ?? Clear focus on non-discrimination: inclusion will have to be profoundly argued as non-discrimination in a horizontal way.
- ?? Outcome-orientation

We think that in all aspects we have an understanding according to the Commission. We have spoken with some members about each of these points to make sure that we do not misunderstand one of the criteria as well as we will not be misunderstood by the Commission.

### **Partnership:**

Even if the Commission recommend a partnership with five or six institutions, our big and firm partnership is not an obstacle. We will have to demonstrate that it is well managed, stable and necessary in order to implement the ideas. This is no problem. We are proud of having such a professional and exclusive partnership in the dialogues and it seems, that the Commission has an eye on it. But we have to work on two things very fast:

?? Each dialogue will have to specify for the first year a working schedule and a budget-plan, what it intends to do with the amount of 10.000,- Euro. The Commission made it very clear. The most important point in the application will be a very well declared working plan, which gives not only impressions of objectives but also of clear aims, measurable results and evaluations criteria. And we need to declare the local budgets as well! (We thought, we can declare it general as local budgets – sorry for that!)  
During the next week we will send you a proposal for the working schedule and the plan with further advice to make it as easy as possible.

We seem to have a very good partnership compared with some other applicants. But we knew that before coming to Brussels.

**Budget:**

The budget is 175.000 EURO a year. In our point of view it seems not very successful to apply for more and the Commission has seen only few chances to get additional funding in the year of the disabled 2003 for reasons of double funding.

We will have to get some expertise payed from local funds or other institutions – that is the only chance for additional money.

After all we are very good instructed by the Commission to complete our application, which will take the next weeks.

And not to forget: Brussels is really an interesting town, with lots of contradictive views, ambivalence and an amazing mixture of architecture. It is worth to visit!

Michael Langhanky