



International Conference: Independent Living through Direct Payments

Expertise Centre Independent Living

European Network on Independent Living

3 June 2010, De Zwarte Doos-Gentbrugge

Introduction by Viviane Sorée

Dear participants,

On behalf of the Expertise Centre Independent Living I welcome you to our international conference 'Independent Living through Direct Payments'.

Just over 70 people have enrolled for this conference of which 35 are foreign participants. The countries that participate are: Norway, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Ireland, United Kingdom, Latvia, France, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

During the 2-day conference we will extensively debate about:

- legal basis and enforceability of support,
- development of the Independent Living movement in the different countries,
- support in working with direct payments,
- the co-existence of Direct Payments and care in kind
- personal assistants,
- how do we deal with commercialization?

Before I leave the floor for the speakers, I want to draw your attention to the fact that during the 3rd and 4th of June GRIP (equal rights movement) will be manning a stand where all participants are asked what the future principal goals are for the Independent Living Movement and the Expertise Centre Independent Living. It is very important that you all give your opinion.

I wish everyone a pleasant and fruitful stay. Thank you for your cooperation!!!

