Pilot Project a Huge Success for IASE

On Wednesday 23rd April 2008 over 200 individuals with disabilities throughout Ireland were afforded the unique opportunity to shadow a workplace mentor as he or she goes through a normal working day within hundreds of Employment sites/Companies across the Country.

This innovative Project entitled “Job Shadow Initiative” was organised by the Irish Association of Supported Employment (IASE), who continue to promote the employment rights and access for all individuals with a disability in Ireland to employment.

This National Initiative was launched in Government buildings in 2007 by the Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. and to-date hundreds of Employers and high profile individuals signed up to sponsor an individual with a disability to work with them or in their Company throughout the day on the 23rd April 2008.

Examples of Companies or Individuals include: An Taoiseach Brian Cowen, Comedian John Kenny, Senator Feargal Quinn, John Giles, RTE Sports Commentator, and County Councils across the regions, Boots Stores Nationwide, Snap Printing, Teagasc and FAS Etc.

Job Shadow has many benefits both from the Employers perspective and for the Individual with a Disability.

Job Shadow will assist in breaking down barriers and fears that may presently exist for Employers and it promotes the principals of equality and inclusion in recruitment policy and practices.

The benefits to the job seekers will include exposure to a work settings which will afford them the opportunity to learn more about the job requirements and employers expectations, thereby gaining an awareness of the skills and education required to compete, develop and succeed in the workplace.

IASE National Executive Committee and the Job Shadow Working Group would like to thank all members, people with disabilities, employers and organisations that participated and helped make the day the success it was. A full report on the initiative will be available in the coming months.

Funding for Job Shadow was provided by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, FAS and the Local Corrib Fund.
Chairman’s Address

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the IASE news. It has been a very busy few months in the world of Supported Employment since the last issue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave so much of their time to IASE over the past number of months to make events the success they were and for getting the message of IASE into the public domain.

Funding

The first drawdown of funding from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs was received and we are in the process of drawing the second payment for 2008. We secured funding from FÁS for promotion of the Job Shadow Initiative which enabled us to carry out an extensive national and regional radio advertising campaign and to carry advertisements’ in National Newspapers. I would like to thank FÁS for their continued support of the work of the IASE. FÁS also contributed much need funding towards the upgrade of the IASE website.

We received funding from Shell ENP Ireland towards the print materials for the Job Shadow Initiative.

The Belmullet Rose Festival Committee gave generous funding towards the cost of the Malin to Mizen Challenge.

Malin to Mizen Challenge

David Ryan, Eamon Padden and Rose Kennedy……..CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Many people came out along the route to cheer on, support and even cycle a few miles with our three main cyclists. Among the supporters were An Tainiste Mary Coughlan, Pat the Cope Gallagher, John O’Mahoney, Jimmy Devins and Leader of the Fine Gale party, Enda Kenny Cycled the 20 miles from Charlestown to Claremorris with the group.

Job Shadow Initiative

The Job Shadow Initiative kicked off on the 23rd of April and proved to be a major success around the country. JSI saw many new Employers engaging with supported employment for the first time. I would like to thank all of you who got involved to make it the success it has been. I would also like to give a special mention of thanks to Tony Reilly and Brenda Tallon who brought the idea to the IASE and who put in a lot of time and effort into the project.

Conference 2008

This year’s conference is fast approaching and it is the turn of Dublin to play host. October 2nd and 3rd are the chosen dates and the conference will take place in the Crown Plaza in Santry. The conference committee are working hard to finalise the conference programme. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

I would encourage all members to engage with their local branch and be forth coming with suggestions for training, events and promotional opportunities for the IASE locally and nationally.

Greg Barry
Chairman
IASE

IASE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2008

Promoting Partnership in Supported Employment
Crown Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin - October 2nd & 3rd 2008
Registration Fees: €220 non members  €200 IASE members
€110 individuals in receipt of benefits
**Early Booking Reduction Available before September 10th**
Welcome Message

This summers issue is a special edition to celebrate the wonderful work undertaken nationally by IASE members to ensure the Job Shadow Initiative was of benefit to people with disabilities who wished to avail of supported employment.

It may seem we are in a lull at IASE after the Malin to Mizen Cycle and the National Job Shadow Initiative, but as usual we have moved on to our next projects.

We are currently finalising the new look updated website and we are preparing for the IASE National Conference entitled “Promoting Partnership in Supported Employment” that takes place in Dublin on October 2nd and 3rd.

This year IASE aim to provide delegates with a range of topics and speakers to interest them at a time when it appears to be nothing but doom and gloom! The conference will offer delegates the motivation and solutions they need to meet the many challenges facing supported employment in difficult times.

As Development Officer I would like to thank all who assisted with the Job Shadow Initiative and the Malin to Mizen Cycle. However, as there were so many involved it is impossible to thank everyone individually. I think no matter how big or small your contribution was you should give your self a clap on the back!

Well done to you all and hopefully we will be repeating the event next year to raise the profile of IASE and employment for people with disabilities.

Sarah Togher
Development Officer

Taoiseach’s Reshuffle

The latest reshuffle of the government cabinet and the re-assigning of responsibilities to junior ministers has been a strategic move by the recently appointed Taoiseach Mr Brian Cowen according to IASE (Irish Association of Supported Employment) who have lobbied for cross departmental co-operation concerning disability issues following the introduction of the Disability Act 2005.

The IASE Chairperson Greg Barry said the appointment of John Moloney as Minister of State in the Department of Health and Children, with a role across other Departments, namely the Department of Education and Science; the Department of Enterprise, Trade Employment and the Department of Justice, Equality Law Reform will assist with across cutting issues that affect the lives and employment prospects of people with disability through out Ireland. Mr Barry went on to say that he would like to see the Department of Social and Family Affairs included in this remit as the “benefits trap” is a significant barrier for people with disabilities accessing mainstream employment.

Sarah Togher (Development Officer), Michéal Martin T.D. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eithne Jarrett (IASE PRO), Greg Barry (Chairperson)
Leonie Hudson (IASE National Executive members)

Back: Sarah Togher (Development Officer), Michéal Martin T.D. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eithne Jarrett (IASE PRO), Greg Barry (Chairperson)
Front: Leonie Hudson (IASE National Executive members)
Job Shadow Initiative

The Source Theatre, Thurles was the venue for Patrick Hannan’s Job Shadow Day placement with comedian Jon Kenny

Placement was facilitated by David Ryan (Work Access, Limerick)

Harry Bugler, Work Access with Kevin Wade, Centra and Hugh Casserly, Manager, Superquinn, Limerick

John Holen (HR Manager); Maureen Meehan (RSA); Geraldine Brown (RSA), Michelle Loftas (Job Seekers); Dolores O’Boyle (Work Web West); Vincent Lowrey (RSA)

The County Arms, Birr, Co Offaly

Claire Hogan (Job Coach), Theo Sheehan (Assistant Manager, Superquinn) Phil Murphy (Job Seeker) and Geraldine (Supervalu)
Mayo County Councillor Tim Quinn models for the Job Shadow Day placement at Brona’s Hair Salon (Belmullet) while Lilly Connell shadow’s Brona Tallott.

Jennifer Ryan, HR Clarion Hotel, Limerick with Laurence Meehan, Limerick.

Left-Michael Duma, Right-Declan Byrne manager of Funtasia Drogheda.

Picture from the Job Shadow of Mike Neville helping at a Munster Rugby training session before the Quarter final game against Gloucester

Mayo County Councillor Tim Quinn models for the Job Shadow Day placement at Brona’s Hair Salon (Belmullet) while Lilly Connell shadow’s Brona Tallott.

Ed Myres (Limerick 95fm) with Job Seeker J.J. O’Shaughnessy

Michelle Loftas with Road Safety Authority mentor Geraldine Brown on Job Shadow Placement.
Job Shadow Initiative

Job Shadow at IASE National Office (based in Belmullet) Noreen McHale and Sarah Togher (IASE), Pat O’Toole (Western Care) and Anne McKenzie (Job Coach, Western Care)

Michael DeLoughrea (Western Care) participating in Job Shadow at Broad Haven Bay Hotel, Belmullet with Job Coach Sheila Wilson, Company Mentor Eileen Dempsey and Mary Deane.

Frank McAuliffe (McAuliffe Print Finishing, Dublin), Senator Feargal Quinn (IASE Patron) and Breda Cahill (Cahill Centra, Dublin)

Una Doogue (Employment Support Specialist), Norma Dowler (Job Seeker) and HR Officer Hewlett Packard

Sean Mc Carthy with Mary Masterson, FAS (Longford)

Derek Watson (Job Seeker) and Sue Nunn (Presenter of “On the record” KCLR)
Job Seekers who took part in Louth Job Shadow event. Back from left: Alius Sailunas, Grainne Begley, John McCooey, Katie Mc Kenny, Margaret Finegan and Denis Kennedy. Front from left: Wayne Mooney, Mairead Matthews, Roisin Mc Laughlin and Desmond Mc Mahon.

Job Shadow Employees. Front: Margaret Cranney of Fas, Harry Traynor of Marches Shopping centre, Emma Meehan Dundalk Greyhound Stadium, Ian Chong of Boots retail. Back: Helen Grant Co-Ordinator Co Louth S.E Partnership, Niamh Murphy Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mary Ritchardson and Orla Fitzsimons Coaching officers, Alan Byrne Dundalk FM Radio, Deanna Maguinness Avenur Road Vetinary clinic, Maura Morgan of Fas.

Jim Dempsey (HR supervisor) UPS, Finglas; Joseph Donnan, Ballyfermot and Clare Corcoran (HR Administrator) UPS.

Margaret Condon (FAS) receiving the plaque on behalf of Community Services, FAS, Baggot Street who hosted a job seeker on JS Day.

Kevin Murphy receiving his scroll from Senator Feargal Quinn in recognition of his participation on JS Day.

Kemi Tunmbi (Job Coach) Lyndsey Mallon (Job Seeker), and Senator Feargal Quinn at Government Building, JS Day.

Edward Dunne (Menni Services) and Cliff on Job Shadow Day in Behaviour & Attitudes (B&A) Milltown, Dublin.
Lord Mayor of Cork Councillor Donal Counihan in his chambers at City hall with DORAS Training Centre trainees and staff (COPE FOUNDATION) participating in the National Job Shadow Initiative. Cork City Council facilitated 6 trainees in various departments.
Billy Kelleher T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, with Marian Hennessy Job Coach, and Trainees (DORAS Training Centre, Cork) and the Cork Guide Dogs Association facilitating JSI trainees at their headquarters in Cork.

Kay McNally (Work Web West), Lilly Connell (Belmullet Fresh Start) shadowing Brona Tallot (Proprietor Brona’s Hair Salon) Agnes and Mary Walsh (Hairdressers) and sitting at front Cllr. Tim Quinn

Fiona McInerney shadows FÁS staff members Geraldine Heneghan and Geraldine O’Grady as part of IASE’s National Job Shadow Initiative in Castlebar.
The IASE (Irish Association of Supported Employment) Trail Blazers embarked on a great Mailin to Mizen Cycle Challenge last week. This 5 day challenge to cycle 444 miles from Malin Head, Co Donegal - the most northerly point of Ireland - to Mizen Head, Co Cork - the most southerly point of Ireland – commenced on Sunday March 30th. Three cyclists managed to complete the challenge from start to finish with many cyclists joining them for sections of the journey. Belmullet based businessman Eamon Padden, Rose Kennedy (Belmullet) and David Ryan, Secretary IASE (Limerick) spent up to 8 hours every day, in the saddle, travelling across difficult terrain and busy towns on this taxing route. After leaving Donegal Town on Monday morning it was full speed ahead to reach the Capital of the North West, Sligo. On arrival, the cyclists were met by the Mayor of Sligo Councilor Jonathan McGoldrick, the Chairman of Sligo County Council Councilor Seamus Kilgallon, and the local TD and Junior Minister Jimmy Devins. This was the Cyclists first break since leaving Donegal town, and they were delighted with the refreshments that were kindly sponsored by Mullen’s Service Station and Supermarket on the Bundoran Road. The welcome was organised by local IASE Members from Employment Response North West – Cath Conz, Monica McCarrick and Dermot Cunningham. Apart from meeting all the Politicians, the Cyclists were delighted to meet one of Sligo’s most famous musical sons Tabby from The X Factor. After posing for photographs and autographs, the Cyclists were off in the direction of Charlestown. Monica from ERNW and Brendan Mullen from Mullen’s ESSO Station joined the Cyclists and continued with them until they reached the Sligo Mayo Boarder. One of the most notable cyclists to join the challenge was Enda Kenny, TD, who cycled the 20 miles from Charlestown to Claremorris. Day two of the cycle finished in Mayo with a welcome reception being hosted by Mary Mulryan and Edel Cadden of the Mayo branch of PWDL. Seamus Weir, Cathaoirleach Mayo County, John O’Mahony TD and President of Claremorris Chamber of Commerce, James Keane and Cllr Tim Quinn (Belmullet) were on hand to welcome the arrival of the cyclists.

The IASE Trail Blazers - David Ryan, Rose Kennedy and Eamon Padden

Trail Blazers as they arrive at Mizen Paddy Fahey, Rose Kennedy, David Ryan, AP Connell, Dean Carey, Kevin, Keith, Eamonn, Dermot and Edward Padden and Seamus Murphy McKenzie (Job Coach, Western Care) Front Row: Pat Gallagher, Fiona McAndrew, Angela Cawley, Lynn McGoldrick and Smantha Padden

Tomas De Buitlier (CSES), David Ryan (Work Access) and Alice O’Carroll (Clare Supported Employment Service) on the arrival of the Trail Blazers to Brothers of Charity Services, Ennis.
The Head to Head Challenge is the brainchild of IASE in an effort to raise the awareness of supported employment for people with disabilities throughout Ireland.

Greg wishes to sincerely thank the main sponsor of the Cycle, Belmullet Rose 2008 organiser, Linda Padden.

He also thanked local businesses who helped to cover the costs associated with the cycle which included SNAP Printing Mayo, Padraig Conroy (Belmullet), D&G Plumbing (Belmullet), Keranans Newtown Cunnigham, Donegal, Brothers of Charity (Ennis), Eamonn Padden Broadhaven Bay Hotel.

He also expressed his thanks to the members of the National Executive of the IASE and staff members in the Belmullet office, Sarah Togher and Noreen McHale, for their support and commitment to the success of the cycle.
Group set off from Malin Head

Enda Kenny T.D. joins Eamon Padden, Rose Kennedy, David Ryan and the IASE Trail Blazers on a 20 mile section of the Malin to Mizen Challenge. Also included in the picture are Greg Barry, Chairman, IASE and Sarah Togher, Development Officer IASE and Erris Homes Group.

IASE, No. 3 Broadhaven House, Lower Barrack St., Belmullet, Co. Mayo  t 097 82894  f 097 82895  e iase@iol.ie  w www.iase.ie
West Region

On Friday, May 16th, the IASE West Region held a training day in the Woodlands Centre, Brothers of Charity Services in Galway. Clare O Neill, Advocacy Officer with the Mayo Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities gave a presentation on the Citizens Information Board Advocacy Service for people with Disabilities that aims to help with issues regarding living in the community, accessing social services relevant to their needs, such as health, housing, social welfare, education etc.

The west region committee met and decided to review activities in advance of this years AGM. They decided to circulate a questionnaire to members to assist with active participation in the west branch as there has been a decline in members attending regional meetings and training events. Please return completed questionnaire by email or post to: Bernadette McCormack - bmccormack@westerncare.com or by post Crann Mor Employment Service, Neale Road, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. If you have suggestions you would like to discuss contact Bernadette on 087-9178744 or Deirdre Ball 087-1206401.

The West Region AGM is scheduled to take place on September 3rd in Brothers of Charity, Woodlands Conference Centre, Galway.

2008 Western Region Committee

Deirdre Ball- (Chairperson) Clare Supported Employment Co. Clare: 087-1206401
Bernadette McCormack- (Secretary) Western Care Co. Mayo: 087-9178744
Greg Barry, Work Web West, Co.Mayo 087-7988045
Eithne Jarrett- CRSES Co. Roscommon 087-6538176
Mary Finn, Galway Supported Employment 091-755235

East Region

On May 23rd the East Branch held a presentation day at Stewarts Hospital, Clondalkin, Dublin to acknowledge more than 100 employers that took part in the Job Shadow day on April 23rd. Job Shadow involved accompanying a worker for a day as they went about their tasks. One intellectually disabled woman, Lindsay Mallon, shadowed Senator Fergal Quinn during a day in the Oireachtas.

Senator Quinn patron of IASE said “The day was set up, not only to highlight what disabled people can give to the workforce, but also to encourage employers to expand their horizons to recruit employers.”

Among the companies that participated in the first Job Shadow Day were Hewlett Packard, Dublin City Council, UPS, Wyeth, Starbucks and the Dublin Dental Hospital. The East Branch Dublin Co-ordinator Miriam Tighe said at the event “the Job Shadow Initiative had been a major success and would be repeated. There was a lot of buzz about the whole initiative and a number of people who participated in the day have been offered employment as a result of the initiative which was a great result.”
Midlands Region

The Midlands Region hosted an outstanding Job Shadow Day on 23rd April with widespread participation across Longford, Kildare, Offaly and West Meath. A wide range of jobs were incorporated ranging from admin roles, hardware, clerical, horticulture, catering in bakeries and hotels, newspaper, manufacturing and radio broadcasting.

The Midlands Branch worked hard in the months leading up to Job Shadow, organizing a number of meetings in an effort to plan a strategy to encourage employers and people with disabilities to participate in Ireland’s first Job Shadow Day. Tony Reilly, the Midlands Chairperson also lead the Job Shadow Working group since early 2007 to get the initiative launched and up and running. Tony was delighted to welcome An Taoiseach Brian Cowen to the MESA Head Office to introduce him to the project and the work being undertaken by the Midlands branch and IASE Nationally. Tony would like to sincerely thank all of the Midlands Branch members who worked so hard to ensure Job Shadow was such a successful event.

If you are in the Midlands counties and would like to get involved in IASE or future IASE projects contact Tony Reilly on 086 8335271

North West Region

A big thank you to Kernan’s Centra and Filling Station (02 Ability Award winners) at Newtown Cunningham for providing refreshments to cyclists on route from Malin to Mizen. The branch also wish to thank staff at Work Link and ERNW for their assistance and participation in the cycle!

There will be a brain storming meeting for IASE members in the North West (Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo), the meeting will be held on Tuesday September 16th at the Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town at 2pm for the purpose of reviewing the structure of the branch, identifying training needs in the area and prioritising work for 2008/2009, For further information contact Sarah at 097 82894.

North East Region

JOB SHADOW DAY – NORTH EAST

National Job Shadow Day was embraced by employers in Co Louth on April 23rd when over 20 Companies participated in the one day event. When planning the job shadow day the partnership decided to approach 20 companies that weren’t previously involved in supported employment, all the companies approached were very supportive of the idea. The Partnership would like to thank the following employers who participated in this truly unique event….. Dundalk Stadium, Marshes Shopping Centre, Dundalk FM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Avenue Road Veterinary Clinic Dundalk, CTI Dundalk, Boots Chemist Dundalk, Boyd’s Stores Dundalk, National Pen Dundalk, Vodafone Dundalk, Aura Leisure Dundalk, Drogheda Leisure, Compressed Air Drogheda, Tesco Drogheda, FBD Insurance Drogheda, Dunnes Stores Drogheda, Ace Plant Hire Drogheda, Funtasia Drogheda, Boots Chemist Drogheda, FÁS Dundalk

As a result of Job Shadow Day six candidates that participated in the initiative have now been offered employment with the companies they were partnered with on April 23rd.

Members old and new interested in attending training or network meetings in the north east region contact Helen Grant for further information on 087 6386885.
South East Region

After re-boosting the South East regional branch of the IASE in February, we were more than pleased with the success of the job shadow day. All members in Waterford and Kilkenny worked extremely hard to make the day a triumph. A large number of participants and employers got involved on the day, resulting in paid employment for some of those clients and publicity for the services involved. After meeting to discuss the success of the day, the biggest bonus seemed to come from the new contacts made with employers that previously had not been contacted, or in the past had seemed negative to the idea of supported employment. The publicity generated has been invaluable with appearances in local papers, slots on local radio stations and launches with local politicians. As a direct result of the publicity, we have received an increase in referrals and interest in the services, alongside employers signing up for next year’s initiative.

With three facilitators from KASES working in conjunction with SOS, Access to Employment, KITE and Rehabcare, involved in County Kilkenny and nine facilitators from Brothers of Charity, WESA and Carriglea involved in County Waterford, we organised over 30 placements, managing to incorporate a wide variety of employment, in order to facilitate a wide variety of clients.

On behalf of the South East Regional Branch we would like to thank all involved in the success of the day; employers, clients and facilitators and look forward to an even more successful day next year.

A committee for the South East Region has now been formed with Israel Carroll (KASES, Kilkenny) appointed chairperson, other committee members appointed – Katie Kiely and Aileen Foley (Carriglea, Dungarven), Sarah Condren (KASES, Kilkenny). The South East Branch are still keen to increase interest and membership, interested parties should contact Israel Carroll on 056 7772549.

Further notes: could members of the South East please be thinking about any future training needs they may have and these can be discussed at the next meeting (tba).

Sarah Condren, PRO, South East Region

Southern Region

Southerns Region JSI events included participation and support by; Micheal Martin (Minister for DET&E), Billy Kelleher (Minister of state DET&E), Rachel Allen (Celebrity cook and TV personality), Councillor Donal COUNIINAN (Lord mayor of Cork), Cork City Council, Cork County Council, The Cork Guide Dogs Association, The Planet Leisure complex (Blackpool, Cork)
USEFUL INFORMATION

Third Level Education
The revised and updated Diploma in Training and Education in Supported Employment is an exciting and practically oriented open learning course validated through NUI, Galway. It provides participants from the whole of Ireland (North and South) with a broad understanding of Supported Employment as a model of service delivery in a variety of disability and health related contexts.

The course is targeted at staff and managers working in mainstream supported employment services, vocational, workshop, sheltered occupational services and at staff working with other groups seeking social inclusion through work. It is suited to aspiring job facilitators / developers, job coaches, employment officers, day centre staff, those working in the Government’s Supported Employment programme and staff of special schools and colleges, who aim to assist people to make the transition into integrated employment.

Course Overview
- Participants are awarded an NUI, Galway - Diploma in Training and Education
- Automatic access to 3rd year of a 4 year Honours BA Degree in Training and Education or Honours BA Degree in Applied Social Studies (Disability)
- 18 months duration 
  - 8 x 2 day workshops 
  - 2-day best practice placement 
- Individual telephone tutorials every 2 weeks 
- eLearning support 
- Individual tutor feedback on submitted assignments

For further information contact:
The Open Training College, Prospect Hall, Willowfield Park, Goatstown, Dublin 14, Ireland Tel: (+353-1) 2988544 Fax: (+353) 01 2987004 Email: info.otc@smh.ie

Development of the course was part financed as a project by the European Union, Peace and Reconciliation Programme and FAS under the National Development Plan. Get further information on line by visiting our website www.opentrainingcollege.com

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE….

BASE the representative association for supported employment providers in Britain, hold an annual conference on September 10th and 11th in Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
It features keynote speeches from Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms MP (Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform), Mark Harper MP (the Shadow Minister for Disabled People) and Naomi Eisenstadt (Director of the Social Exclusion Task Force).
For further information visit: www.afse.org.uk/events/2008/conference2008/index08.htm

IASE TRAIL Blazers pictured presenting An Táinste Mary Coughlan T.D. with the Job Shadow & Supported Employment Information pack.
EUROPEAN UNION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2008 – 2009

EUSE is delighted to announce the “EUSE Scholarship Programme”. The Scholarship will provide an opportunity for five Supported Employment Practitioners (ie Job Coaches, Employment Officers etc) to participate in a study visit to another European State, of their choice.

Aim of the scholarship is:-
- To provide an opportunity for professional development and learning for Supported Employment practitioners through a study visit.

Objectives of the scholarship are:-
- To explore best practice in Supported Employment in another European State
- To experience first hand Supported Employment practice in another European State
- To exchange information on Supported Employment practice in both states
- To compare and contrast Supported Employment practices between European States
- To benchmark Supported Employment practices with another European State
- To learn new skills and practices in Supported Employment

EUSE Scholarship Programme Details:-
- Number of Scholarships: 5
- Funding available: Up to €1,000 per person (maximum)
- Completed Application Forms returned: 25 July 2008
- Duration: Minimum 3 days and up to 10 days
- Timeframe: September 08 – March 2009
- Enquires to: info@niuse.org.uk

Pilot Supported Employment project in County Clare

Career Link 2007, a pilot project managed by Clare Supported Employment commenced in January 2007 for a nine month period and aimed to place the maximum number of clients in paid employment within the lifecycle of the project. Career Link supported fifteen clients, with a range of disabilities, through a comprehensive training process and placement in paid employment. The disabilities involved ranged across the disability spectrum, including Learning, Physical, Mental Health, Hidden and Acquired Brain Injury, (ABI).

Training was found to have many benefits for the clients involved from both a skills enhancement and a social perspective. Clients highlighted the benefits of learning within a group environment, learning from the material being delivered and learning from each other. Clients also commented on the benefits of social interaction which many of them extended beyond the training environment.

Client satisfaction is evident from feedback obtained by the project External Evaluator, Josephine Lally, who concludes that “Clearly, Career Link 2007 has brought about positive change in the lives and general state of mind of the clients who took part in the project. The clients gained confidence, energy and motivation from being involved with and supported by Career Link 2007”.

The Career Link 2007, a national pilot initiative, initiated by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and funded by FAS, under the National Development Plan has compiled a full project report and evaluation which is available from Clare Supported Employment Service, Telephone 065 6844007.

Career link trainees pictured at presentation of certificates.
“Disability – Access and Attitude”

This seminar at Aras an Uachtaráin was very well attended and many people with disabilities spoke of their experiences of living with disability in Ireland today, both the good and bad experiences. The President of Ireland Mary McAleese in her address expressed her commitment to support people with disabilities and in particular to changing some of the negative attitudes still held towards people with disabilities.

Other speakers included Angela Kerins of REHAB, Siobhan Barron, National Disability Authority and Angela Rolfe, an architect with Office of Public Works. The event moderator, Professor Michael Schwartz from Syracuse University spoke on the need for awareness raising and promotion of positive attitudes to disability, despite the raft of legislation in place nationally “The law cannot guarantee what a culture is not willing to give”

James McClean had an opportunity within the Open Forum to comment on the Social poverty that many people with disabilities still experience. Although many people with disabilities now have a few extra euro in their pocket through increased access to employment through Supported employment, they can have difficulty accessing social venues to spend that money. Through poor access to transport and particularly for people with mental health difficulties, they very often experience negative attitudes and acceptance by some social outlets and entertainment providers.

A report on the day will be compiled and made available on the Aras an Uachtarán website www.president.ie and distributed among the sector based on the presentations and ideas to emerge at the Forum.

James McClean - IASE North West
“Kanchi”

As of midnight on 26th June 2008

The Aisling Foundation has a new name…
Our story began with an elephant called Kanchi

Kanchi is a symbol of our beginning, our passion, our belief in difference, our ability to make things happen and mostly our vision for the future. Though our name has changed our purpose hasn’t, our ambitions are just bigger. Together with business and media leadership we will continue to change the social landscape for people with disabilities.

Our journey continues…

THINK DIFFERENTLY

Kanchi, Number One, 29-30 Lad Lane
Dublin 2, Ireland
+353 (0) 1 634 0018
www.kanchi.org

IASE NEW OFFICE

The securing of a further 3 year contact from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has enabled IASE to move to a new office, located in Belmullet in the heart of the Erris Gaeltacht. The office provides much needed space to facilitate the development of the association up to 2010. Funding was received from Comhar lóirs (LEADER) Teoranta under the National Rural Development Programme for office fixtures and equipment.

Epilepsy and Information Seeking Behaviour:

A Study of Adults with the condition in Ireland

Do you have time to participate in a study? This study will take place over the summer months of 2008, and is part of the course requirements for completion of the MLIS thesis due at the end of September 2008. Participation involves taking part in a 30 minute interview. This study explores the information seeking behaviour patterns of adults with epilepsy in Ireland.

Participation is voluntary and all information included in the final report will be anonymous.

For further information, contact:
Stephen Smyth B.A.
Telephone: 087 7532317
Email: Stephen.Smyth.1@ucdconnect.ie

French EU Presidency Launched 5th Handinnov Competition

This is the 5th edition of the Handinnov Competition. It is organized in co-operation with EDF and is one of the official events of the French Presidency of the European Union.

The prize is awarded to organisations who provide innovative and good practice, enhancing the social inclusion of young disabled people in school, university, working life and society, in its broadest sense.

Who can apply?
Associations, schools, training centres, local authorities, public bodies,
Application deadline September 25th 2008
James McClean
National Chairperson PwDi
01 872 1744
Email: jimdonegal@eircom.net or visit www.edf-eph.org
Computer Skills Training for People with Disabilities

In partnership with Dublin Institute of Technology’s Digital Community Project under the Community Links Programme, PwDI is setting up a training project in Dublin to provide courses with certification in ICT skills where participants can commence at their own level. There are three Stages to the programme:

- Basic Digital Literacy Course (8-10 weeks)
- Microsoft IC3 Course (15-20 weeks)
- Teacher Training (12 weeks)

Successful completion of Stage 3 leads to DIT Accreditation accepted by Microsoft and a qualification to become an Independent Microsoft Trainer. The training centre accommodates 10 students at one time and the first course will begin as soon as places have been filled. Students should register by contacting stephen@pwdi.ie.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

As an IASE member you will receive the following benefits:

- Receive regular information in relation to supported employment through newsletters, mail shots and the website.
- Receive notification of meetings in your region
- Receive information regarding structured workshops, seminars and conferences related to supported employment and related issues.
- You will be part of the National and European network of supported employment
- You will have the opportunity to meet with other people involved in the area of supported employment

For more information about the association visit our website www.iase.ie www.iase.ie or telephone 097 82894

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Cards

Have you renewed your membership?
Have you received your membership card?
Do want to become a member?
For membership enquiries contact:
Noreen McHale on 097 82894 or iase@iol.ie

Membership Fees

Unemployed/In receipt of benefit - FREE
Employed €20
Corporate €250

---

IASE (Irish Association of Supported Employment) is a national voluntary organisation established in 1994 to promote best practice in Supported Employment for People with Disabilities in Ireland. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information published in IASE News, IASE accepts no responsibility for error or omissions contained herein. Also note that inclusion of an article in IASE News does not necessarily imply endorsement of the article’s content, unless otherwise stated.

Events

- **The Community Foundation for Ireland’s Small Grants Scheme (2008)**
  - 25th August
  - Mental Health and Integration Community integration and supports for people who have had recent mental health difficulties - 2008 deadlines for applications: 25/8/08 & 31/10/08

- **West Region AGM**
  - 2nd September
  - Brothers of Charity Service Woodlands Conference Centre

- **Social Welfare Awareness Training**
  - 2nd September
  - Delivered by James McClean
  - 10am - 4.30pm

- **Young People with Disabilities & Special Needs Conference**
  - **IDEAS INTO ACTION**
  - Wednesday, 10th September

- **BASE Conference**
  - 10th & 11th September
  - Northumbria University Newcastle Upon Tyne
  - www.afse.org.uk

- **North West Branch**
  - 16th September
  - Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town at 2pm

- **French EU Presidency Competition**
  - The 5th Edition of the Handinnov Competition

- **IASE National Conference 2008**
  - October 2nd & 3rd
  - Crowne Plaza Hotel Santry, Dublin