

## EASY READ: ABOUT ELLA

The name ELLA stands for **E**uropean **L**ifelong **L**earning **A**cademy. ELLA is a project that offers many new and different ways for all kinds of people to learn. Under this name, ELLA, local learning projects will be created in different countries for people with disabilities and for people without disabilities.

There are 20 organisations working within the ELLA project. There are organisations from 12 European countries and one from Israel working together and exchanging their work results in order to find the best ways for people with and without disabilities to learn new things together.

Some of the organisations, like Caravan2000 will make a number of international workshops and exchanges for (people with and without disabilities) their clients. These workshops and exchanges are inspired by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this is an internationally accepted guideline for working with people with disabilities. The ELLA project wants to find more and better ways for people with and without disabilities to learn now and in the future.

The implementation stage is one part of the project. In this part of the project people with disabilities who work with the organisations are the most important part because they know best. In this part they will act as teachers, write reports on their experiences and make decisions about their own personal and work life. This way of learning is the opposite to the usual way in which people with disabilities receive teaching. In addition, the basic needs of every human being will be discussed. Subjects like self determination in private life, work, housing, sexuality and having children

will be discussed. These are subjects that are usually not discussed because some people are afraid to do so.

Because there are so many organisations from different countries in the ELLA project, they can find good ways to manage the feedback and results from both old and new members of the European Union. It is also good for managing information between the European Union and countries that want to join the European Union. Because there are Muslim, Jewish and Christian countries working in this project, ELLA is very considerate of cultural differences and wants to create more understanding between different countries, religions and cultures.

The ELLA project is mainly managed by the Caravan2000 Federation. This federation has made very many different international projects with other organisations over the last years, so it is a reliable partner for this kind of work. Because the Caravan2000 Federation has so much experience and has had so much success, it also assures that the project will keep going when it is not funded by the European Union anymore.