

The need for qualified training in the
use of ICT/AT for people with
disabilities

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Expert/Witness accounts

Brussels, 4th December 2013

Wim Moeyaert / Steve Boussemaere – end user experts

Introducing ourselves

- I am Wim Moeyaert
- Born on 22/05/77, 2 months earlier than planned
- I have:
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Physical handicap
 - Visual impairment
 - Physical capacities are less at time
- Since 2010, I use a wheelchair
- Since March 2012 I have constantly severe pain
- I try to have a normal life
- Since my birth, there have been many medical interventions



Introducing ourselves

- I am Steve Boussemaere
- Born on 06/08/1974
- Followed lessons at Scola Para Medicorum (used to be called Olva college and KMPI Spermalie)
- I have:
 - Visual impairment (legally blind)
- I live independently and have a car

Involvement in user requirements collection for various projects

- Both involved in research for various European disability oriented projects, aiming at full integration of people with disabilities into society:
 - ACCESSIBLE (FP7)
 - Accessibility assessment of websites, interfaces
 - AEGIS (FP7)
 - Open source assistive technologies
 - ViPi, ATLEC, eMentoring (LLP)
 - User requirements analysis
 - Training support for all pilots





AT is at the very core of our daily work:
FULL integration, participation and inclusion
of people with disabilities in civil society

**People
with disabilities**

Independent living
Education
Work
Training
Free time
...

Society



Our field of expertise with regards to
the use of ICT/AT for people with
disabilities

Acquiring assistive technology in Belgium

- For assistive technologie you can contact VAPH
- The VAPH has a list of tools you can try and buy
- The reference list contains a lot of tools
- For each of these tools, there is a financial contribution
- In Flanders there are organisations where you can try some tools (Modem in Antwerp and Open IT in Ypres)

1. Independent living – my case study

- Personal assistance 19h a week
- At this time, a full custom home is built for me
 - Everywhere sufficiently broad
 - Automatic doors
 - Automatic lifting system
 - Adapted kitchen
 - Adapted bathroom and toilet

1. Independent living – some examples



2. Education for all – our experiences

- We always chose regular education, supported by our parents.
 - Regular nursery and primary school
- Wim
 - 1989 – 1995: technical horticultural education
 - 1996 – 1999: higher education marketing
 - Informatics education
 - Accounting education
 - Various computer courses
 - AT / ICT expertise
- Steve
 - 1986 – 1990: Spermalie Bruges
 - 1990 – 1993: OLV College Bruges
 - 1993 – 1996: Company management and business legislation
 - AT / ICT expertise
 - JAWS tester

3. Our work in the regular labour market, using AT / ICT

- Wim
 - Worked for a social organisation (WVA) - December 1999 - June 2012. WVA is an organisation who helps people with disabilities to integrate and participate fully in society.
 - Beginning of 2012 - end of June 2012: director.
 - Daily usage ICT – based AT
- A good example of a company with focus on persons with disabilities is Page Electronics in Poperinge (Belgium)

3. Our work in the regular labour market, using AT / ICT

- Steve
 - Administration and general leading.
 - Own business (horeca “De Vage Belofte”) in Ypres centre
 - DJ as well !!!



4. Training in ICT and AT usage

- **Lifelong learning** is an **absolute must** for people with disabilities.
- We experience barriers that can be overcome
- But:
 - Barriers are created sometimes by family: fear that their child cannot cope with technologies, fear that their child can not survive in the regular labour market
 - People with disabilities lack confidence and knowledge of what exists to help them

4. Training in ICT and AT usage

- We are **expert experienced end-users** and **peer supporters**, including **mentors**.
- We support PhoenixKM in all its activities, e.g.:
 - Creation Dutch interface of JABTalk (AAC app for people with dyslexia, autism, etc.)
 - User surveys in Flanders (Belgium)
 - Customised training to end-users/beneficiaries
 - Advice and consultancy towards accessible horeca activities

5. Our free time activities embrace our passion for AT/ICT

- Wim:
 - Building websites
 - Develop ICT courses for people with disabilities
 - Maintain Dutch version www.vipi-skills.eu.
 - And ... attending rock festivals with my colleagues.
- Steve:
 - DJ-ing using various hardware.... and I am well booked 😊!!!

6. Active citizenship

- Wim is member of:
 - Matthijs vzw: a therapeutic day care centre for children and young people with severe disabilities. (www.vzwmatthijs.be)
 - Ieperse Wijngilde: in this organisation we taste wines from all over the world. (www.iepersewijngilde.be). I am also the webdesigner of this club.
 - JCI (Junior Chamber International) at the local chamber of Ieper-Poperinge-Wervik. (www.jci-ieper.be). I am past-president of this club (2009-2010).
 - Den Ommeloop: living support centre for people with disabilities. (www.denomloop.be)
 - Westkans: accessibility office of West Flanders province (www.westkans.be)
 - Founder Open IT: ICT accessibility consultancy (www.openit.nu).

Thank You

Any questions?