



3 - 4 December 2018

European Day of Persons with Disabilities

□ ○ ○ ACCESS CITY
AWARD 2019



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#EDPD2018

#EUDisability

#EUAccessCity

#WeAreEUCitizens

Social Europe



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European Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 - 4 December 2018

Audio description will be available at the conference.
Induction loops will be available in the lobby room, before entering the conference hall.



The annual conference on the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities** will take place on 3-4 December 2018. Hosted by the **European Commission** in partnership with the **European Disability Forum**, this event is part of the EU's wider efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability issues and to raise awareness of the everyday challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Politicians, high-level experts and self-advocates will discuss the challenges, the solutions and the projects that are being prepared for improving policies for persons with disabilities.

The 2018 conference will give participants the opportunity to discuss the potential shape of the next **European Disability Strategy**, and the ways in which it could be implemented, notably in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. In 2018 we also celebrate the **European Year of Cultural Heritage** and this event will be an opportunity to ask ourselves about the accessibility of cultural heritage. What has been done so far and how does the EU plan to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy its cultural wealth on an equal basis with other citizens? How can we make sure that cultural heritage will be taken into account in the next strategy?

Cultural heritage will also be an important element of this year's **Access City Award**. Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility will present the three traditional awards to the most accessible European cities. This year, to mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage, a special prize will also be awarded to two cities that have made an effort to improve access to cultural heritage. Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport will therefore present the two awards along with Commissioner Thyssen to the cities of Viborg (Denmark) and Monteverde (Italy).



Conference Programme

Day 1: 3 December 2018

08.30 – 09.30 Registration and welcome coffee

09.30 – 10.00 Opening

- **Joost Korte,**
Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, DG EMPL
- **Rodolfo Cattani,**
European Disability Forum Executive Committee
- **Max Rubisch,**
Head of the Disability Law and Disability Policy Division, Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

10.00 – 12.30 Panel 1 – The path towards the new European Disability Strategy

Moderator:
Catherine Naughton,
Director of the European Disability Forum

- **Helga Stevens,**
Member of the European Parliament – *Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy and concluding observations*
- **Emmanuelle Grange,**
Head of the Disability and Inclusion Unit, European Commission, DG EMPL – *The European Disability Strategy and the process to come*

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

The views of persons with disabilities:
expectations regarding the European Disability Strategy

- **Francesca Sbianchi,**
EDF Youth Committee
- **Humberto Insolera,**
EDF Executive Committee
- **Dominique de Marné,**
EDF Youth Committee
- **Francisco J. Trigueros Molina,**
European Deafblind Union
- **Mihaela Ivanova,**
Lumos self-advocate

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 17.00 Panel 2 – How will the next Multiannual Financial Framework contribute to the implementation of the new strategy?

Moderator:
Emmanuelle Grange,
Head of the Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG EMPL

- **Andriana Sukova,**
Deputy Director-General, European Commission, DG EMPL – *The European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund*
- **Ann Branch,**
Head of the job creation unit, European Commission, DG EMPL – *Invest EU programme*
- **Daniela Bankier,**
Head of the programme management unit, European Commission, DG JUST – *Rights and Values programme*

15.15 – 15.45 Coffee break

- **Tuija Oivo,**
Director at the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
- **Nadia Hadad,**
European Disability Forum Executive Committee
- **Luk Zelderloo,**
Secretary General of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

17.00 End of Day 1

19.30 Dinner

Conference Programme

Day 2: 4 December 2018

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

09.00 – 10.30 **Panel 3 – Making cultural heritage accessible to all**

Moderator:

Catherine Magnant,

Adviser Head of the task force for the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, European Commission, DG EAC

- **Cathy Losson,**
Head of the cultural democratisation and local action service, Musée du Louvre
- **Inmaculada Placencia Porrero,**
Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion unit, DG EMPL – *EU Disability Card*
- **Gauthier Cocle,**
Policy Officer, Belgian Ministry of Social Affairs – *EU Disability Card project in Belgium*
- **Nieves Peinado Margalef,**
Architect, CEAPAT – *Immovable Cultural Heritage: General criteria and methodology*
- **Anja Hagenauer,**
Deputy Mayor, City of Salzburg

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 11.30 **Conclusions for the 2018 European Day of People with Disabilities**

- **Katarina Ivanković Knežević,**
Director of the Social Affairs Directorate, European Commission, DG EMPL
- **Mihai Tomescu,**
Expert on rights of people with disabilities and advisor to the Romanian Minister for labour and social justice
- **Ioannis Vadarkastanis,**
President of the European Disability Forum

11.30 – 12.30 **Access City Award 2018 ceremony**

- **Marianne Thyssen,**
European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour
Mobility will chair the ceremony and present the awards to the winning cities.
- **Tibor Navracsics,** European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport will present two awards for excellence in providing access to cultural heritage.
- **Ioannis Vadarkastanis,**
President of the European Disability Forum
- **Thérèse Rabatel,**
Deputy Mayor in charge of gender equality and persons with disabilities, City of Lyon, ACA 2018 winner
- **Jesús Hernández Galán,**
Chair of the EU jury for the Access City Award

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00 – 17.00
FRA EVENT



On 4 December, immediately after the European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will launch the findings of its fieldwork research on the drivers and barriers of deinstitutionalisation.

The seminar, hosted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care, provides an opportunity to discuss how policymakers and practitioners can implement successful deinstitutionalisation processes.

All EDPD participants are warmly invited to attend.

Speaker Biographies: 3 December 2018

OPENING



Joost Korte

Joost Korte was appointed Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in March 2018. He was previously Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Trade Department and Deputy Director-General of the Agriculture and Rural Development Department as well as the Enlargement Department.

He also spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director for the relations with the Council of Ministers, and gained extensive experience working in the offices of Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. These professional experiences within the European institutions allowed him to develop a profound understanding of EU decision-making. A lawyer by training, Joost Korte joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.



Rodolfo Cattani

Rodolfo Cattani studied Philosophy of Science at the University of Bologna. He worked as a school teacher for 13 years and for almost 20 years he was Managing Director of the Italian National Library for the Blind. He is the Chairman of the Commission for Liaising with the EU of the European Blind Union, an organisation that he has been part of since its establishment in 1984. From 1984 to 1996, Mr. Cattani occupied various positions within the World Blind Union.

He has been a member of the Board of the European Disability Forum (EDF) since 1997, a member of the EDF Executive Committee since 2005, and served as the EDF Secretary General from 2009 to 2017. He has represented the EDF on many EU consultative bodies, and is currently on the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation.



Max Rubisch

Max Rubisch is Austrian and qualified as a Doctor of Law in 1979.

Today, he is Head of Department for Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour. He is responsible for Austrian disability law and disability policy, as well as European and international issues in the field. Since 1997, he has been a member of the European Commission's High-Level Group on Disability, and since 2003 a lecturer on Disability Law and Disability Policy at Vienna University.

PANEL 1

The path towards the new European Disability Strategy



Catherine Naughton

Moderator

Catherine Naughton is the Director of the European Disability Forum (EDF), a unique platform which brings together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe. She is also the Vice President of the Social Platform. Social Platform is the largest network of European rights- and value-based civil society organisations working in the social sector.

Catherine has an academic background in public health, and 20 years of experience in the field of disability- with a particular focus on inclusive development: the rights of persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries.

She has worked in many countries, and at the EU and International level in promoting the inclusion of person with disabilities in mainstream development and humanitarian programmes.



Helga Stevens

Helga Stevens is the first deaf female Member of the European Parliament. Together with three colleagues she represents the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), which is the leading Flemish political party in Belgium. She is Vice-President of the ECR group and Co-Chair of the European Parliament's Disability Intergroup.

She is a Member of the Civil Liberties, Home Affairs and Justice Committee (LIBE) and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL). In LIBE she strongly focuses on migration issues and on making Europa safer for its citizens. She is also a co-rapporteur for the Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR). In EMPL and beyond she works on disability, accessibility and equality issues.



Emmanuelle Grange

Emmanuelle Grange is Head of the Disability and Inclusion Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

She joined the European Commission in 1995. From 2005 to 2009, she was in charge of the unit responsible for internal policy for equal opportunities and non-discrimination within the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security. She was later appointed manager for the strategy and management of human resources at the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She became the Head of Disability and Inclusion Unit in November 2015.

Emmanuelle studied Political Science in Strasbourg and holds an MA in European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe.

The views of persons with disabilities: expectations regarding the European Disability Strategy



Francesca Sbianchi

Francesca Sbianchi was born in 1987 in Assisi, Italy, and is partially sighted. She has a degree in International Relations and works at the office of the Umbria Regional Government.

Since 2010 she has been actively involved in volunteering activities for low vision and blindness. She is currently the Chair of the Council of the Italian Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted (UICI) in the Umbria region, and she is the contact person between the UICI Board and the UICI Youth Committee as well as the Coordinator of the UICI International Relations Office.

At an international level, she represents the European Blind Union (EBU) on the Youth Committee of the World Blind Union (WBU) and the Italian Disability Forum (FID) on the European Disability Forum Youth Committee.



Humberto Insolera

Dr Humberto Insolera studied at the universities of Padova, Bristol, Geneva and Washington D.C. He became Board Member of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) in 2009, and was the EUD Vice-President from 2013 until 2017.

He was a Member of the Expert Group on Human Rights for the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). He also participated in the UN CRPD Ad Hoc Committee meetings in New York and was involved in the implementation and monitoring processes of the UN CRPD both in Italy and at a European level via the EUD.

In May 2017 he was elected to the EDF Board of Directors and the EDF Executive Committee. He is Chairman of the EDF's ICT email expert group, member of the EDF Human Rights and Non-Discrimination Committee, and substitute for the EDF Youth Committee.



Dominique de Marné

Dominique de Marné was born in 1986 in Munich, Germany. She is a freelance writer and mental health advocate. Dominique was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder, depression and addiction in 2013 after living with these conditions for almost half her life. Since then she has worked hard – alone and with help – and is on a mission to change how we as societies talk about mental health. She speaks, writes, informs and helps to improve the situation for everyone involved. Not all disabilities, specialties and impairments are visible, nor are people's wishes and needs, even if they share a diagnosis. She believes that only if we start and learn to talk (AND listen) more openly to one another do we have a chance to initiate change.



Francisco J. Trigueros Molina

Francisco was born in Alicante in 1974. He was born deaf, and suffers from Retinitis Pigmentosa and Usher Syndrome Type 1.

He started his career selling lottery tickets for ONCE (Spanish National Organization for the Blind). He later became member and President of the Executive Committee of the Deaf Association of Alicante. He was Vice-President of the Deafblind Association of Spain (ASOCIDE) between 2009 and 2013 before becoming President of this association in the Region of Valencia.

In 2014 he became President of the Federation of Associations of Deafblind People in Spain (FASOCIDE). In June 2017, he became Vice-President of the European Deafblind Union board (EDbU). He is also member of the Executive Committee of the International Sports Federation of the Deafblind (ISFDb).



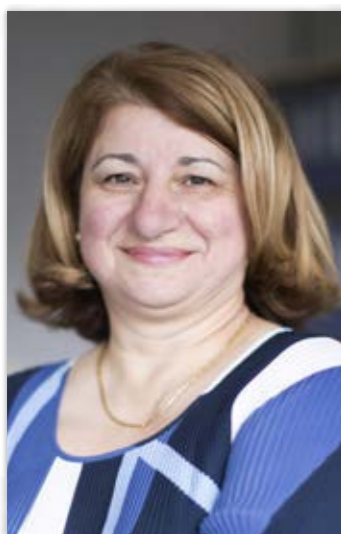
Mihaela Ivanova

Mihaela is a passionate self-advocate and emerging leader in the deinstitutionalisation movement. She was a founding member of Lumos' self-advocacy groups, taking a lead role in the EU funded project Turning Word into Action: Enabling the Rights and Inclusion of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Europe (2012).

In 2015 Mihaela became Lumos' first professional young self-advocate, joining the Bulgaria team as a member of staff. She assists child participation activities, national and international advocacy campaigns and events, and has spoken at numerous international arenas including the United Nations, UNESCO Global Youth Forum, EU Self Advocacy Assembly and the European Parliament.

How will the next Multiannual Financial Framework contribute to the implementation of the new strategy?

Moderated by Emmanuelle Grange, Head of the Disability and Inclusion Unit, European Commission, DG EMPL.
See biography on page 11.



Andriana Sukova

Andriana Sukova is an economist by education. Over the past 20 years she has worked for governmental institutions and NGOs at national and international level. She started as an economist for an agricultural cooperative farm before joining the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. She later became Director of the Phare Programme Management Unit. She then moved to the World Bank office in Sofia to work as an operations officer. In 2000 she was appointed Deputy Minister for agriculture in charge of European integration and rural development.

After Bulgaria's accession to the EU, she joined the Cabinet of Commissioner for Consumer Protection Meglena Kuneva. In August 2010 she was appointed Director in DG EMPL. Over the last two years she headed the Investment Directorate, responsible for the European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and Financial Management under shared and direct management. In March 2018 she was appointed Deputy Director-General of DG EMPL.



Ann Branch

Ann Päivi Branch works for the European Commission department for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She heads the team responsible for implementing EU policies and financial support for social enterprises, social finance and inclusive entrepreneurship, including micro-finance. She joined the EU institutions in 1999 and has previously worked on a range of EU policies and funding programmes relating to employment, social dialogue, industrial relations, education & training, the cultural and creative sectors, including the European Capitals of Culture, the Creative Europe and Erasmus+ Programmes. She grew up in London, in an Anglo-Finnish household.



Daniela Bankier

Dr. Daniela Bankier has worked for the European Commission since 1999. After heading the legal unit for equal treatment and non-discrimination and then the unit for equality between women and men, she is now Head of the Programme and Financial Management Unit at the Directorate-General for Justice.

From 1999-2004, she was a member of the Cabinet of the German budget Commissioner Michaela Schreyer and in 2005 became deputy head of the Cabinet of Vladimir Spidla, the Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Dr. Daniela Bankier studied law in Vienna, Paris and at the University of Michigan Law School (LL. M. 91) and obtained a PhD on the legal questions of the European Economic and Monetary Union in 2003.



Tuija Oivo

Tuija Oivo holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Helsinki. Since 2008, she is Director-General at the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (MEAE). She is also Head of the Ministry's Employment and Entrepreneurship Department. The Department's key tasks include the management and steering of entrepreneurship, employment and labour market policy and immigration policy. It is also responsible for matching the supply of and demand for workforce as the working age population decreases, and for ensuring the availability of skilled workforce.

She is also Vice-Chair of the Council for Labour, Training and Trade Affairs, and has chaired several working groups of the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. In 2018, she was the rapporteur for a government project 'Pathways to employment for people with partial ability to work – benefits, services, support measures'.



Nadia Hadad

Nadia Hadad was born in Belgium to Moroccan immigrants and studied to become a civil engineer. She has worked for several NGOs and governments in countries including India, Ecuador, Palestine, Senegal, Morocco and Cameroun.

After she became disabled, Nadia decided to combine disability and development cooperation as her future career. She has been a member of several organisations for persons with disability including the European Network of Independent Living (ENIL), GRIP (Equal Rights for Each Person with a Disability), the Flemish Federation of Disability (VFG) and TOV (accessibility platform). Nadia is a Board Member of several organisations including the European Disability Forum where she is also a member of the Executive Committee. She is Vice-President of the Consulting Council for persons with a disability in Brussels, and a member of the Belgian Supervising Commission inside the independent mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the UN CRPD for GRIP.



Luk Zelderloo

Luk has worked in the disability sector for over 35 years. He is one of the founding fathers and the Secretary General of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), representing about 15,000 service provider organisations for persons with disabilities. He is also President of Social Services Europe and the Chairman of EMINO.

Luk has extensive knowledge of public policy developments, managing EU funded projects, quality of social services, deinstitutionalisation and community-based care. He has spoken at and organised conferences on: education and employment of persons with disabilities, staff training, state aid, poverty reduction, combating sexual abuse, social policies, capacity-building and stakeholder cooperation.

Speaker Biographies: 4 December 2018

PANEL 3

Making cultural heritage accessible to all



Catherine Magnant

Moderator

Catherine is an alumna of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud and holds a degree in international relations and Russian language from the Sorbonne University. Catherine worked on the EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and later joined the EU's external relations service promoting human rights in third countries. In 2006, she changed focus to EU internal policies and became Deputy Head of Unit for cultural policy and innovation in the Directorate General for Education and Culture. Catherine is now Head of the Task Force of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.



Cathy Losson

Cathy directs the cultural democratisation and local action service of the Musée du Louvre. This service aims to make the museum accessible to all, taking the museum's work to those in difficult circumstances who don't benefit from easy access to a wide range of cultural activities. This includes work in prisons, hospitals, disadvantaged urban areas and particularly with persons with disabilities. Through the implementation framework of its accessibility programme, the Louvre has taken steps to raise awareness of persons with disabilities amongst the public and staff members, as well as implementing "cultural mediation" projects, which have benefitted both the general public and staff.



Inmaculada Placencia Porrero

Inmaculada Placencia Porrero is a Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission. Her unit is responsible for the coordination of European policies for persons with disabilities. Inmaculada holds a degree in Physics and Computer Science and worked in research and development before joining The European Commission in 1991.

She has worked on research programmes addressing accessibility and was Deputy Head of Unit for various disability-related units in the Commission. Her work in the "e-Inclusion" unit of the Directorate-General for Information Society and Media addressed accessibility policy. While at the Directorate-General for Justice she contributed to disability-related antidiscrimination legislation. She was responsible for the Task Force for the preparation of the European Accessibility Act and remains responsible since its adoption in 2015.



Gauthier Cocle

Gauthier Cocle has been policy officer in the international relations department of the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security since 2009. He works on the coordination and follow-up in Belgium of international social policies, especially in the field of disability. He is a member of the Belgian inter-federal coordination mechanism for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

This coordination mechanism monitors all actions related to the UNCRPD, including the reporting process to the United Nations Committee, the development of a permanent network of contact points to implement the Convention and the exchange information and best practices. Since 2015 he has also overseen the Belgian project for a European Disability Card, ensuring the coordination with all the stakeholders, the European Commission and the civil society.



Nieves Peinado Margalef

Nieves studied architecture at the Polytechnic University of Madrid before joining the Spanish Reference Center for Personal Autonomy and Technical Aids (Ceapat) in 1991. Ceapat's mission is to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, through accessibility, assistive products, and technologies and design for all.

Working at Ceapat has provided Nieves with expertise in Universal Design and Accessibility in the built environment. She has further expanded her skillset through participation in various training activities and in national and international working groups. Even with extensive experience, Nieves underlines the importance of direct contact with the users of her designs.



Anja Hagenauer

Anja Hagenauer is a Social Democrat and Vice Mayor of the City of Salzburg. After studying German language and literature and history, she began her professional career as a social worker for the 'Spektrum' association in Salzburg, which is well known for its high proportion of migrants. Afterwards, she worked for the Catholic Action as director of the institutions of the Catholic Youth. In addition, she was involved in various institutions and organisations including the Platform for Human Rights. She continues to work with the association 'Viele'.

In 2002 she became political advisor for the Social Democratic Party of Austria, and in 2006 she became the Integration Commissioner for the City of Salzburg. From 2009 to 2013 she was a member of the Salzburg Landtag. Since 1 May 2014, she is a member of the Municipal Council of the City of Salzburg and Deputy Mayor.

Conclusions for the 2018 European Day of People with Disabilities



Katarina Ivanković Knežević

Since September 2018 Katarina Ivanković Knežević is a Director for Social Affairs at the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Her area of activity is the modernisation of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion, through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and other relevant social policies of the European Union.

Before the European Commission she was a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and the Pension System of the Republic of Croatia, where she was responsible for the management and implementation of the European Social Fund and other EU instruments aiming at human resources development. For the last 20 years her professional interests are human rights and gender equality, social policy and employment with particular accent to the labour market policies.



Mihai Tomescu

Mihai Tomescu holds a degree in psychology and a second degree in law. He is currently a PHD student in sociology at the University of Bucharest. He worked for more than 8 years as public manager at the Romanian Ministry for Regional Development. He is also a former President of the National Authority for Persons with Disability and the current Counselor of the Minister for Labour and Social Justice.

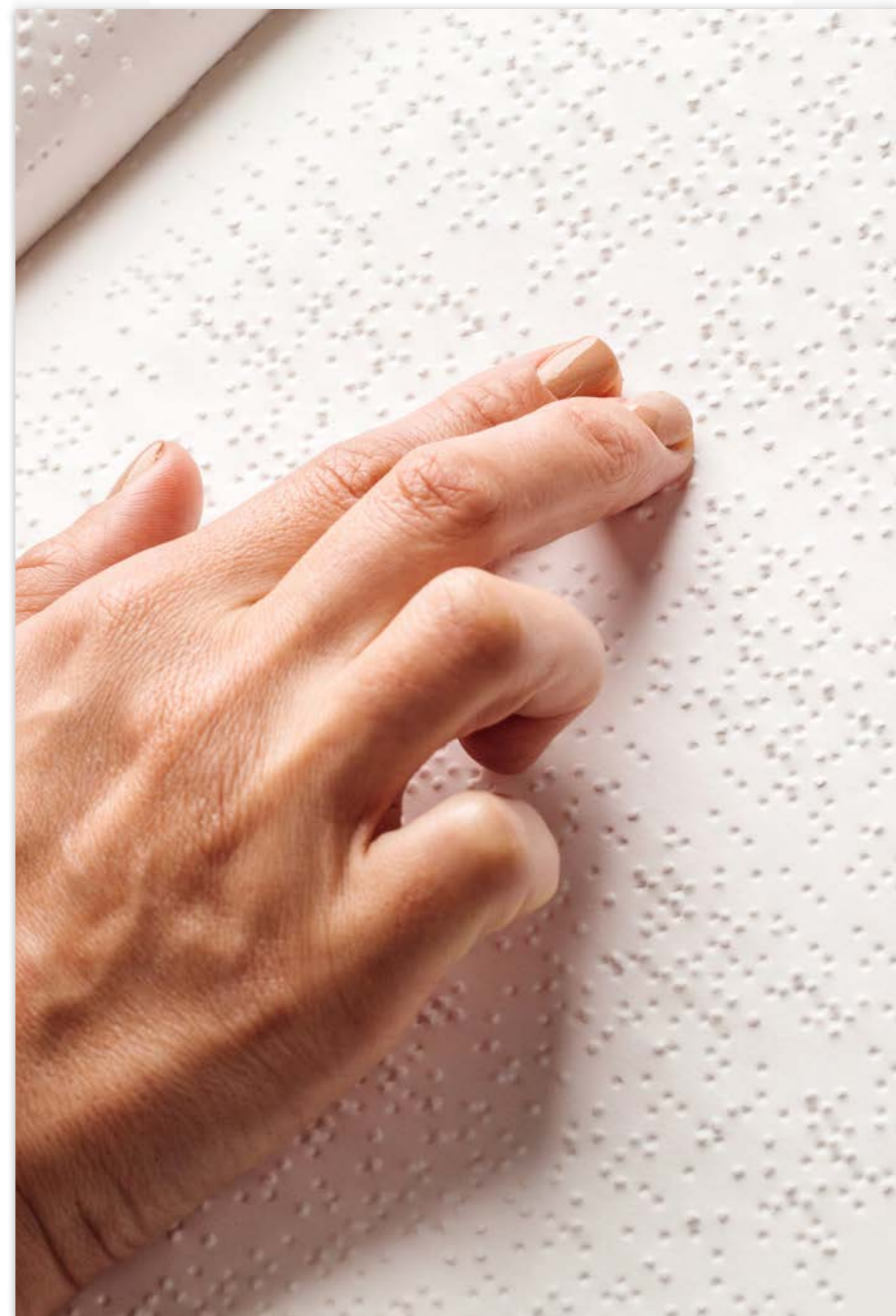
Mihai Tomescu promotes key reform measures in the area of disability and human rights activities. Despite his visual impairment, he works tirelessly to promote the rights of persons with disability in the policy arena.



Ioannis Vardakastanis

Ioannis Vardakastanis was born in Zakynthos, Greece in 1957. Throughout his life he has campaigned for human rights at national, European and international level. He is President of the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (N.C.D.P.), which is the umbrella organization of the Greek disability movement.

Since 1999 he is also President of the European Disability Forum (EDF). Since 2002, he has been actively involved as an EDF representative in the negotiations on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He is the EDF representative in the International Disability Alliance (IDA) where from 2010 to 2012, he held the position of the Vice-Chair, and from 2012 to 2014, the position of the Chair. Since 2014 up to now he holds the office of IDA Treasurer.



Exhibition

The European Disability Forum (EDF)



The EDF's Picture Equality Exhibition showcases the 10 best pictures from the "Picture Equality" photo competition. The theme of the competition was Equality and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all persons with disabilities have the right to live where and with whom they want, go to a mainstream inclusive school, have a regular job, vote in the elections and go to the movies or sport club. Persons with disabilities should not be discriminated against because of their disability. They should receive the support they need to participate in all aspects of life and society.

The best pictures were chosen by a jury of human rights and photography experts. They awarded the first place Emanuele Artenio, second place to Gary May and third place to Sana Munrad.

PACA robot



Fundación Once will demonstrate their assistant robot 'PACA' (Personal and accessible cognitive assistant).

The robot has the ability to interact with people via voice, text and images. It can offer information in an accessible way for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, and also for persons with intellectual disabilities and older persons.

PACA uses artificial intelligence to assist persons with disabilities in several scenarios, including when traveling, at work and in hospitals. In future, PACA has the potential to navigate people to go from one place to another, and to assist in performing daily tasks.

Accessible games



Phoenix KM is focused on the integration of people with disabilities into every aspect of daily life, and aims to achieve its goal by aggregating knowledge, expertise and experience in the field of education, training, and employment.

Phoenix KM will demonstrate computer games that are made accessible for young people with learning disabilities, providing an exciting way for pupils to acquire life skills, be those soft skills (social and cognitive skills) or hard skills such as ICT knowledge. There are also games designed for teachers to use in inclusive education settings. They help them to better understand how to work effectively with pupils with disabilities.

Voting booths



Dominion Voting Systems, a world leader in the development of Accessible Voting Solutions, will demonstrate an accessible voting booth. They have considerable experience in assisting voters in an estimated 3,000 elections each year.

Participants will have the opportunity to use and test the ImageCast X accessible voting device. The ImageCast X belongs to a new generation of Direct Recording Electronic Voting Systems providing convenience and transparency to voters and election officials. Equipped with an audio tactile interface, the ICX brings independent voting to voters with vision or mobility impairments. The ImageCast X is certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission to meet its Voluntary Voting System Guidelines; the world's highest standards for accessibility, reliability and security.



The Access City Award

On 4 December 2018, we will celebrate the 9th edition of the Access City Award. So far, around 300 cities across the European Union have taken part in this well-established award, and this year 46 cities have put forward applications. This shows that making cities more inclusive and accessible to all is of real importance for European citizens.

By 2020 there will be more than 120 million Europeans with disabilities. City leaders have recognised that making cities more accessible is crucial for the wellbeing of everyone, be they persons with disabilities, elderly people, or indeed anyone facing difficulties in their everyday lives. This is one of the best ways to contribute to the prosperity of cities and their inhabitants.

The Award is part of the EU's wider efforts to create a barrier-free Europe. Improved accessibility helps to remove the many barriers that people with disabilities still face in their daily lives, such as using transport, accessing information or living independently.

Celebrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

In 2018 the European Union celebrates the European Year of Cultural Heritage, which provides a perfect opportunity to promote accessible heritage. This year, the Access City Award has a special category for cities that have made considerable efforts to ensure that their cultural heritage is accessible to all.

The European Union has a rich cultural heritage throughout its territory, and it is important not to forget the efforts made by smaller towns to preserve and show their vibrant past. For the first time ever, one city or town with fewer than 50 000 inhabitants will be given an award, together with a city with a larger population.

The traditional prizes will be handed out by [Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Ms. Marianne Thyssen](#). She, along with the [Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. Tibor Navracsics](#), will also present awards to the winners of the Cultural Heritage Special Prize: Viborg (Denmark) and Monteverde (Italy).





Marianne Thyssen

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Her portfolio includes overseeing European Union policy on employment, vocational training, skills, labour market reforms and social inclusion, including workplace equality legislation. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat).

She studied Law at KU Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she worked for UNIZO for more than 10 years (SME representative organisation). After that, she served as a member of the European Parliament (1991-2014) and as Vice-Chair of the Economic Committee. She was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.



Thérèse Rabatel

Since her election in 2008, Thérèse has held the position of Deputy Mayor of Lyon where she acts as delegate for gender equality and people with disabilities. This is a position she held on to after her re-election in 2014.

She is also the delegated advisor on disability policy for Metropolitan Lyon, and is the Co-Chair of the Departmental and Metropolitan House of Disabled Persons (MDMPH) of Lyon. Before becoming an elected representative, Thérèse was a geography and civic education teacher for over 30 years. She has been an associative, feminist, union and political activist since her youth.



Tibor Navracsics

Tibor Navracsics is the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Before this mandate, he served as Head of the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary, member of the Hungarian Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Administration and Justice and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

He is responsible for improving the quality and efficiency of the EU education systems, notably through the European Semester and the Education and Training 2020 strategic framework. Tibor Navracsics is also in charge of the implementation of Erasmus+, as well as other programmes in the field of culture (Creative Europe) and youth (European Solidarity Corps).



Jesús Hernández Galán

Jesús Hernández Galán is a Doctor of Forest Engineering and holds master's degrees in business administration and environmental management from the Open University. He has completed training courses on Innovation at Stanford University and at the London School of Economics.

From 2000 to 2003, he was Director General and CEO of Fundosa Accesibilidad S.A. He then entered his current role as Director of Universal Accessibility for Foundation ONCE. He is President of the eVIA Technological Platform and Vice-President of the European network for accessible Tourism (ENAT). He also holds several academic posts at universities in Spain, including the University of Jaen and the EOI Business School. He has managed many different projects on financial investigation for Spanish public administrations and the European Commission.

Ioannis Vadarkastanis

See biography on page 18

EASY-TO-READ DESCRIPTION



European Day of Persons with Disabilities

You can find explanations of the words in **bold** at the end of the programme.

This information was written by **Inclusion Europe**.



Date:

3-4 December 2018

The conference will take place in Brussels, Belgium.

On the 3-4 December 2018
the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities**
will take place in Brussels, Belgium.

The event is called "Moving forward together".



The event is organised by the **European Commission** and the **European Disability Forum**.



This event is one of many things the **European Union** is doing to talk about the problems of people with disabilities and make things better.



There will be many people talking: **politicians, self-advocates** and people who know a lot about disability. They will talk about how we can improve things for persons with disabilities. For example, with new laws.



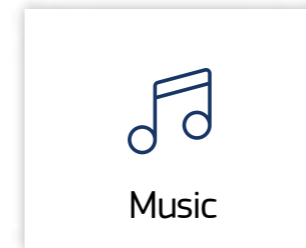
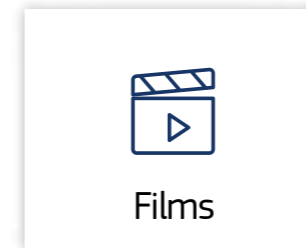
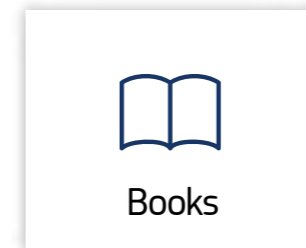
During the event people will also talk about the next European Disability Strategy.

They will talk about the things that should be written in the next **European Disability Strategy**.

They will also talk about where the money will come from to make the strategy happen.

2018 is also the European Year of Cultural Heritage: this means that we talk out about European **culture** and all the things that it has to offer.

For example,



Places where important things happened. We will talk about how to make all these things and places **accessible** all over Europe.





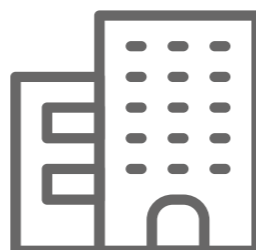
There are some questions that need to be answered:

- What has the **European Union** done so far to make European **culture** accessible to people with disabilities?
- How can the next **European Disability Strategy** make sure that culture is accessible everywhere in Europe?

During the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities** we will know who has won the Access City Award 2018.

This award is given to 3 European cities that are **accessible** for people with disabilities. Many cities in Europe are trying to win it.

This is an important award because more and more people have disabilities. So the cities that they live in need to be more accessible.



There will also be a special award for the city who made its culture accessible.

The awards will be given to the cities by two **Commissioners at the European Commission**,



Marianne Thyssen



Tibor Navracsics

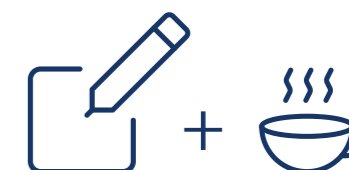


Conference Programme

Day 1: 3 December 2018

8.30 – 9.30

Signing of your registration form, coffee.



9.30 – 10.00

Opening session.

10.00 – 12.30

Talk about the next **European Disability Strategy**.

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch.



14.00 – 17.00

Talk about how to use money from the **European Union** to make the European Disability Strategy work.

17.00

The first day is over.

19.30

Dinner.





Day 2: 4 December 2018

8.30 – 9.00

Signing of your registration form, coffee.



9.00 – 10.30

Talk about how to make **culture accessible** everywhere in Europe.

10.30 – 11.00

The **European Day of Persons with Disabilities** is over.

11.30 – 12.30

Two **Commissioners at the European Commission** will give the Access City Awards 2018 to the cities who won.

These are the Commissioners who will give the Access City Awards:



Marianne Thyssen



Tibor Navracsics

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch.



14.00 – 17.00

People who work at the **European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** will talk about what needs to be done to make **deinstitutionalisation** happen.



FRA is the European Fundamental Rights Agency. They work to protect the rights of everyone who lives in Europe.



They will talk about the best ways for people with disabilities to go from living in **institutions** to living in communities.



The event is hosted by FRA and the **European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care**, a group of organisations that want care services that respect human rights of people who need support.

All the people who came to the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities** are welcome to come and listen to this talk.





Easy-to-read dictionary

Here you can find all the explanations of the words that are marked in bold in the report.

➤ Accessible

Something that is easy to use for people with disabilities. Such as:

- Ramps to get into a building.
- Information in **easy-to-read**.
- Information in sign language.

➤ Commissioner at the European Commission

A Commissioner is a person who is responsible for a field of work at the **European Commission** and manages a lot of people.

➤ Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union is where the national ministers from the countries of the European Union meet. They meet to adopt laws and talk about politics in the **European Union**. The Council of the European Union is also called Council of Ministers.



➤ Culture

Culture is the ideas and behaviour of a group of people. These ideas are shown through art, music, theatre, food and other things. All these things are part of a culture.

➤ Deinstitutionalisation

Deinstitutionalisation is helping people to move out of institutions.

It is when the people who lived in **institutions** get help so they can live independently in the community.





➤ Easy-to-read

Easy to read is information that is written in a simple way so that people with **intellectual disabilities** can understand.

It is important to use simple words and sentences.

If there are words that are difficult to understand, an explanation is provided.

The text needs to be clear to see, for example, black writing on a white background is good.

It needs to be well-spaced.

Easy-to-read often uses pictures to explain what the text talks about.

Someone with an **intellectual disability** needs to check the information is easy to understand.

Easy-to-read documents often have this logo, so it is easier to find them.

There are rules on how easy-to-read should be done.



➤ European Commission

The European Commission works with the **European Parliament**.

The European Commission suggests laws for the European Parliament and the **Council of the European Union** to discuss.

It also makes sure that the laws that have been decided upon are being followed by the member states.

➤ European Day of Persons with Disabilities

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities is a big event that takes place every year.

Many people with disabilities come to the event.

They talk with politicians and other important people.

They talk about things such as accessibility and the rights of people with disabilities.

It is a day organised by the **European Commission** and the **European Disability Forum**.





➤ European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. In short, we call it EDF.

EDF was created by people with disabilities in 1996. EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

EDF is based in Brussels in Belgium.



➤ European Disability Strategy

The European Disability Strategy is an important text.

It says what the **European Union** has to do to make sure people with disabilities in Europe get the same rights as everyone else.

➤ European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place where important decisions of the **European Union** are made. For example: laws.

The Members of the European Parliament (in short, MEPs) make these decisions and speak for all the people who live in the European Union.

Every five years, the people who live in the European Union vote for their country's MEPs.

Next time, it will happen in 2019.



➤ European Union

The European Union (in short, EU) is a group of 28 countries. We call these countries "member states".

They have joined together to be stronger politically and economically.

The EU makes laws on many important things for the people who live in those countries.

The EU makes laws in different areas. Some examples are:

- Laws to protect the environment.
- Laws for farmers.
- Laws to protect consumers.

A consumer is someone who buys things.

The EU also makes laws that are important for people with disabilities.

For example, the Accessibility Act.

It also made a law that gives people with disabilities more rights when they are travelling.

The EU also gives money to its member states.

Some of this money is used for people with disabilities. Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe started in 1988.

It has 75 members in 39 European countries.

It is based in Brussels in Belgium.





> Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Inclusion Europe fights for their equal rights and inclusion in Europe.

It also wants to make a difference to the laws in Europe.

Inclusion Europe started in 1988.

It has 75 members in 39 European countries. It is based in Brussels in Belgium.



> Institutions

Institutions are places where people with **intellectual disabilities** live with other people with intellectual disabilities.

They live apart from other people.

This is what we call “segregated”.

Sometimes this happens against their will. People who live in institutions have to follow the rules of the institution and cannot decide for themselves.

> Intellectual disability

If you have an intellectual disability, that means it is more difficult for you to understand information and learn new skills than it is for other people. This makes some parts of life harder.

People with intellectual disabilities often need support in learning or at work. Intellectual disability often starts before you are an adult. It affects you for your whole life.

There are things that can make life easier for people with intellectual disabilities.

For example, information in **easy-to-read** language.

Some people say learning disabilities instead of intellectual disabilities.

> Politician

Someone whose job is to help run the country or part of the country.

> Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy is when people with **intellectual disabilities** speak up for themselves.

These people are called self-advocates.



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