



European
Commission

EUROPEAN DAY OF **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

ACCESS CITY AWARD 2022

2 - 3 DECEMBER 2021



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#EDPD2021
#EUDisabilityRights
#UnionOfEquality
#EUAccessCity

Social Europe



EASY-TO-READ DESCRIPTION

European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021 and Access City Award 2022



This is the program of the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities** 2021 conference.

This program includes the **Access City Award** 2022.

The days of the conference are Thursday 2 December and Friday 3 December 2021.

The conference takes place online.

The words marked in **bold** are explained at the end of this program.

About the conference

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities is a conference organised by the **European Commission** and the **European Disability Forum**.

The conference is sometimes called EDPD for short.

The EDPD takes place every year at the beginning of December to mark the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Persons with disabilities in Europe have to deal with a lot of problems.

The EDPD conference looks at some of the problems this year:

- A lot of people with disabilities don't get good health care.
- A lot of people with disabilities don't have access to the internet at home.
- A lot of young people with disabilities do not get good education.



The European Commission wrote a document to help improve the lives of people with disabilities.

This document is called 'Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities'.

Access City Award is given by the European Commission to cities that make good efforts to be more accessible for people with disabilities, and for older people.

The cities that can win the award this year are:

- Barcelona (Spain)
- Helsinki (Finland)
- Leuven (Belgium)
- Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)
- Palma (Spain)
- Porto (Portugal)

Program of the conference



Day 1: 2 December 2021

All times are Brussels time.

Opening session is from 10:00 to 10:30.

The speakers are:

- Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission
- Yannis Vardakastanis, President, European Disability Forum
- Cveto Uršič, Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Session 1 is from 10:30 to 12:00.

This session is about health and access to health care for persons with disabilities.

There are speakers from:

- European Disability Forum,
- European Commission,
- World Health Organisation,
- Mental Health Europe.

Session 2 is from 14:00 to 15:30.

This session is about digital transition and people with disabilities.

Digital transition means many things in our lives are done on the internet.

For example, when meetings or school classes are held online;

or when jobs are done on the internet;

or when things you need from the city council are done online.



There are speakers from:

- Maastricht University in the Netherlands;
- European Disability Forum;
- Business Disability International, organisation promoting accessibility for people with disabilities in business;
- Estonian Blind Union.

Day 2: 3 December 2021

Session 3 is from 10:30 to 12:00.

This session is about children with disabilities.

There are speakers from:

- United Nations;
- European Commission;
- Coface Families Europe, association of family organisations;
- Eurochild, association of child-rights organisations;
- UNICEF, United Nations' organisation for education;
- Ecole Singelijn, a school in Belgium.

Closing session is from 12:00 to 12:30.

There are speakers from:

- European Commission;
- French presidency of EU Council;
- European Disability Forum;
- European Economic and Social Committee.



Access City Award 2022 session is from 14:00 to 15:15.

The cities which win the award this year will be announced on this session.

The speakers are:

- Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission
- Adina Vălean, Commissioner for Transport, European Commission
- Joost Korte, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, European Commission
- Yannis Vardakastanis, President, European Disability Forum
- Jesús Hernández Galán, chair of the group that decides who receives the Access City Award 2022
- Ann-Marie Nilsson, Mayor of Jönköping, a city in Sweden

Explanations of some words:

Access City Award:

Access City Award is given by the European Commission to cities that make good efforts to be more accessible for people with disabilities, and for older people.

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.



Directorate-General on Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

This is a department inside the European Commission that works on improving employment in the European Union.

They also work to improve the rights of people with disabilities in the European Union.

European Commission

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 Disability Forum:

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe.

In short it is called the EDF.

EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

European Economic and Social Committee

The European Economic and Social Committee is an organisation in the European Union.

The European Economic and Social Committee is called the 'EESC' for short.

The EESC brings together the employers, employees, and civil society organisations in the EU.



European Parliament

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

For example, the European Parliament decides on laws, or on how EU money will be spent.

Members of the European Parliament are elected by EU citizens.

European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries.

The European Union is often called the EU for short.

These countries have joined together to be stronger, and to improve the quality of life of EU citizens.

The EU makes laws on many important things.

Some examples are:

- Laws to protect the environment.
- Laws to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

European Union Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The strategy describes what problem people with disabilities face in the European Union.

The strategy says what the European Union will do to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The strategy is done by the European Commission.

The strategy is done from 2021 to 2030.

United Nations

The United Nations is an international organisation.

The United Nations is called the UN for short.

It works for peace and security everywhere in the world.

There are more difficult word explanations [available online](#) in German, English, French, Spanish.

The easy-to-read version of the program was created by Inclusion Europe. Inclusion Europe represents 20 million people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Europe.

The European Easy-to-Read Logo belongs to Inclusion Europe.

More information at www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read