

EUROPEAN DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

28 - 29 NOVEMBER 2019

ACCESS CITY AWARD 2020 **10** YEARS



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#EDPD2019
#EUAccessCity

#EUDisability
#WeAreEUCitizens

Social Europe

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EUROPEAN DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

28 - 29 NOVEMBER 2019





INTRODUCTION

The annual **European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference**, hosted by the European Commission in partnership with the European Disability Forum, takes place this year on 28-29 November. 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, solutions and projects that are being prepared and should be encouraged to improve policies for persons with disabilities.

The 2019 conference will give participants the opportunity to discuss the **preliminary findings** of the **public consultation** on the European disability strategy 2010-2020, as well as

the delegates' **expectations for the next decade.** A debate on the topic will encourage interaction between the speakers as well as with the audience. Inspiration from outside the European Union will be brought in and participants will also hear about inclusion in sport and discuss how it can be improved.

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities will be closed this year with the 10th edition of the Access City Award. **Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility will be present and hand out the trophies to the most accessible European cities.** This year's shortlisted cities are, in alphabetical order: Castelló de la Plana (Spain), Chania (Greece), Évreux (France), Skellefteå (Sweden), Tartu (Estonia) and Warsaw (Poland). **Join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Access City Award!**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

28 November 2019

Moderation,
Sean Klein

08.30 – 09.30 Registration and welcome coffee

09.30 – 10.00 Opening

- **Joost Korte**, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Ioannis Vardakastanis**, President of the European Disability Forum
- **Yrsa Nyman**, Ministerial Adviser, Finnish Ministry of Justice

10.00 – 10.45 Panel 1 – What does the ongoing evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 tell us? Have we done well enough?

- **Marco Migliosi**, Policy Officer, Disability and Inclusion unit, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Katerina Mantouvalou**, Director, ICF, Consultancy in charge of the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- Questions and answers

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.30 Panel 2 – Could we get some useful inspiration from what is happening outside the EU in the disability area?

- **Chair: Emmanuelle Grange**, Head of the Disability and Inclusion unit, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Catalina Devandas-Aguilar**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- **Ben Gauntlett**, Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner
- **Yazmine Laroche**, Canadian Deputy Minister for Public Service Accessibility (video message)
- Questions and answers

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.15 Panel 3 – What do you expect from the EU for the next decade in the disability area?

- **Chair: Inmaculada Placencia Porrero**, Senior expert, Disability and Inclusion unit, DG EMPL, European Commission

Part I – Debate with institutions and independent mechanism

- **Video messages** : MEP Marianne Vind, MEP Katrin Langensiepen, MEP Rosa Estaràs Ferragut
- **Ioannis Vardakastanis**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Rapporteur of the SOC/616 Opinion
- **Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska**, Head of Complaints and Inquiries Unit and Principal Legal Adviser, European Ombudsman
- **Robert-Jan Uhl**, Policy analyst, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- **Maureen Piggot**, Treasurer of the European Disability Forum

15.15 – 15.45 Coffee break

15.45 – 17.00 Part II – Debate with NGOs

- [Claudia Marinetti](#), Director of Mental Health Europe
- [Mark Wheatley](#), Executive Director of the European Union of the Deaf
- [Rodolfo Cattani](#), President of the European Blind Union
- [Milan Šveřepa](#), Director of Inclusion Europe
- [Jim Crowe](#), President of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
- [Rasmus Isaksson](#), Board member of the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

17.00 End of Day 1

19.30 Dinner

29 November 2019

Moderation,
[Sean Klein](#)

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08.30 – 09.00 Registration and welcome coffee

09.00 – 10.30 Panel 4 - How to achieve Sports for All

- [David Lega](#), MEP and Paralympic Champion
- [Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva](#), Director for Innovation, International Cooperation and Sport, DG EAC, European Commission
- [Anne d'Ieteren](#), President of the Belgian Paralympic Committee
- [Pietro Cirrincione](#), Autism Europe Vice-President and President of the Inclusive Neurodiverse Football Club Rome
- Questions and answers

10.30 – 11.00 Conclusions of EDPD

- [Marija Pletikosa](#), State Secretary, Croatian Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy
- [Katarina Ivanković-Knežević](#), Director of the Social Affairs Directorate, DG EMPL, European Commission
- [Ana Pelaez](#), Vice-President of the European Disability Forum

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

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Moderation,
[Lucille Werner](#)

11.30 – 12.30 Access City Award 2020 Ceremony

- [Marianne Thyssen](#), Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, European Commission
- [Katarina Ivanković-Knežević](#), Director of the Social Affairs Directorate, DG EMPL, European Commission
- [Miriam Haagh](#), Deputy Mayor, City of Breda
- [Ioannis Vardakastanis](#), President of the European Disability Forum
- [Shadi Abou Zahra](#), Chair of the Access City Award EU jury

Interaction badges

Some participants/delegates may wear interaction badges with different colours. Below is a guide to what the colours mean. Ensure the badges are respected and interaction is only done in the way delegates have indicated is suitable for them.

GREEN



**HAPPY TO
SOCIALISE**

**PLEASE
INITIATE
DISCUSSION
WITH ME**

NEUTRAL OR NO BADGE



**I AM ABLE
TO REGULATE
MY OWN
INTERACTION**

YELLOW



**PLEASE ONLY
INTERACT
IF I HAVE
GIVEN YOU
PERMISSION**

RED



**PLEASE
DO NOT
INITIATE ANY
INTERACTION
WITH ME**

OK - STOP - SLOW signs

You can also use the cards to tell the speaker what you want.



Use the **green card** to show the speaker that you **agree**



Use the **yellow card** to tell the speaker to **speak slower**



Use the **red card** to tell the speaker to **stop for a short time**



Speakers' Biographies: 28 November 2019



Moderator

Sean Klein

Sean Klein is the founder of SeanKlein Media Ltd, a company specialising in broadcast media communications; on-air performance coaching; media strategy; media crisis management; and event moderation. He founded SeanKlein Media Ltd six years ago after more than 20 years as a senior journalist with the BBC focusing on European and EU issues. He has worked all over Europe on projects for various EU DGs, international thinktanks, not-for-profit foundations and in the commercial sector.

He has a keen interest in European migration issues: in his spare time, he is researching a book on the flight of the Danube-Swabians from Yugoslavia at the end of the Second World War.

OPENING



Joost Korte

Joost Korte is the European Commission's Director-General of Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

He was previously Deputy Director-General in the Commission's Trade DG, and before that served as Deputy Director-General in the Agriculture and Rural Development DG, and in the Enlargement DG. Joost Korte spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director responsible for the relations with the Council of Ministers. He also served in the cabinet offices of Commissioners Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. A lawyer by training, he joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the Universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.



Ioannis Vardakastanis

Ioannis Vardakastanis has been President of the European Disability Forum (EDF), the umbrella organisation of the European disability movement, since 1999. He has been President of the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) since 1993, and represents them at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). He is also a member of Greece's Economic and Social Council (OKE), as well as Greece's National Commission for Human Rights (EEDA). He has been the EDF's representative at the International Disability Alliance (IDA) since 2007, where he was Vice-Chair from 2010 to 2012 and Chair from 2012 to 2014. He has been IDA Treasurer since 2014. He was also a member of the Board of the European Blind Union (EBU) from 1996 to 2011.



Yrsa Nyman

Yrsa Nyman is currently Ministerial Advisor at the Finnish Ministry of Justice, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Autonomy and Equality Unit. Her tasks relate to equality and anti-discrimination as well as the rights of the Sámi, the indigenous people. This autumn she was involved in preparing the policy debate on anti-discrimination at the EPSCO Council. Yrsa Nyman has worked on various fundamental and human rights issues; she coordinated the preparations of the government's second National Action Plan on Human Rights. Yrsa Nyman worked for many years as an anti-discrimination lawyer at the former Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities, where she dealt with fundamental and human rights issues of ethnic minorities, including indigenous people and foreigners. She holds a Master of Law degree as well as a degree in Social Sciences.



PANEL 1

What does the ongoing evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 tell us? Have we done well enough?



Marco Migliosi

Marco Migliosi joined the European Commission in 2013 where he first worked as auditor on the European Social Fund and then joined the Disability and Inclusion Unit in 2017. He took part in the negotiation of the European Accessibility Act and is currently responsible for the file on the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

Before joining the European Commission Marco worked in the private sector as business consultant and project manager. He graduated in humanities in Rome and holds a master degree in Economics from the University of Perugia (Italy).



Katerina Mantouvalou

Katerina Mantouvalou is a Director leading ICF's research, evaluation and analytical services in the areas of equality and non-discrimination for the European Commission (EC) and its agencies, the World Bank (WB), and the United Nations (UN).

She has used qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methods to identify cases of discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, religion or belief, age, sexual orientation, and disability. She has also evaluated the effectiveness of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate discrimination and developed recommendations for the fair treatment of vulnerable groups in the European Union (EU). She has published academic articles and policy reports on gender equality, immigration, and minority rights and has given numerous conference presentations in the United Kingdom, United States, and continental Europe.

Katerina has a Ph.D. in Political Science from University College London.

Could we get some useful inspiration from what is happening outside the EU in the disability area?



Catalina Devandas-Aguilar

Catalina Devandas, from Costa Rica, is the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Born with spina bifida, she is a qualified lawyer and a dedicated human rights advocate.

She has worked for the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), the United Nations, and the World Bank, and, in 2006, she took part in the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In her work as Special Rapporteur, Catalina collects testimonies and evidence of human rights violations from persons with disabilities around the world and makes recommendations to governments on how to promote and protect their rights through laws and institutional practices.



Ben Gauntlett

Ben Gauntlett is the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. He previously worked as a barrister with a broad ranging practice, and also worked as an associate at the High Court of Australia, as Counsel Assisting the Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth, and taught law in Australia and the United Kingdom.

He holds undergraduate degrees in Law (Hons) and Commerce from the University of Western Australia. He also holds a Master of Laws from New York University and a D.Phil. in Law from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

In September 2019, Ben Gauntlett presented Australia's combined second and third periodic reviews under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva.



Yazmine Laroche

Yazmine Laroche is Canada's Deputy Minister, Public Service Accessibility. She was previously the Associate Deputy Minister, Infrastructure and Communities.

She began her public service career at Transport Canada and has held progressive leadership responsibilities in areas such as public policy, programme design and delivery, communications, strategic planning and corporate management. She has served in several federal departments, including Communications, Canadian Heritage, the Canada Information Office, Privy Council Office and the Treasury Board Secretariat.

Yazmine Laroche is the Deputy Minister Champion for Federal Employees with Disabilities. She is also the Deputy Minister Champion for her alma mater, Carleton University, and is the past Chair of the Board of Muscular Dystrophy Canada.



Chair

Emmanuelle Grange

Emmanuelle Grange is Head of Unit for Disability and Inclusion in the European Commission's Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion. She joined the Commission in 1995, and 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 Grange studied Political Science in Strasbourg and holds an MA in European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe.

Part I

Debate with institution and independent mechanism

PANEL 3

What do you expect from the EU for the next decade in the disability area?

VIDEO MESSAGES



Marianne Vind

Marianne Vind is a Danish Social Democrat and a newly elected Member of the European Parliament. With a background in the trade unions tracing back several decades, she now sits on the Employment and Transportation committee working for equal access and improved workers' rights.

In addition, she sits as Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Disability Intergroup working for a job market accessible to all. Marianne Vind is trained as a Laboratory Technician and has served as a union steward for hundreds of employees. For the past eight years, she has served as vice president of HK/Privat, representing more than 100.000 private employees.



Katrin Langensiepen

Katrin Langensiepen is an MEP and member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance. She was elected from the Bündnis 90/Die Grünen party in Germany. She is also vice-chair of the EMPL Committee and a substitute member of the AFET Committee. Born in 1979 in the region of Hannover, Germany, she studied in the Netherlands, worked in Marseille and received training as foreign language assistant in Israel. She was elected to the parliament of Hannover in 2011, where she became active as spokesperson for social rights for her group. As well as that, she became the spokesperson for disability policy of her party, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, at the federal level.



Rosa Estaràs Ferragut

Rosa Estaràs Ferragut has been a Member of the European Parliament for the European People's Party (EPP) since 2009. She has exercised her functions in parliamentary committees such as JURI and PETI. She is currently a member of the EMPL, FEMM and DEVE Committees. She is also vice-president of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament, and she is responsible for all matters on disability policy within the EPP's Spanish delegation.

Rosa Estaràs Ferragut has a degree in Law. She has been Regional President of the PP party in the Balearic Islands since 2007, she has also been a member of the National Executive Committee of the PP party since 1999. She has been an MP in the Balearic Regional Parliament (2000-2003), municipal counsellor in Valldemosa (since 1991), member of the Balearic Regional Government in 1993 and from 1996 to 1999.



Ioannis Vadarkastanis

See page 10.



Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska

Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska is Head of Complaints and Inquiries Unit, Head of ICT, and the Principal Legal Adviser at the European Ombudsman.

Prior to joining the European Ombudsman in 2003, she worked for ten years in the Polish diplomatic service, holding various positions in Latin America and Europe.

She has a Master of Laws and Administration, and a master's degree in Iberian languages from the University of Warsaw as well as a PhD in Private International Law from the University of Silesia. She also completed executive leadership education programs at the Harvard University, John F Kennedy School of Government. She was a lecturer of international law at the University of Mannheim and University of Warsaw.

She is a member of the Inter-American Bar Association, the Polish Association of European Law and the Research Network on EU Administrative Law.



Robert-Jan Uhl

Robert-Jan Uhl is a policy analyst in the Institutional Cooperation & Networks Unit at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

He works on FRA relations with the EU Council presidencies and manages the FRA project on the EU Framework for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Before joining FRA in 2016, he held various positions at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), including legislative support officer, human rights officer and adviser on freedom of religion or belief. He also worked for the Netherlands section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). He holds master's degrees in civil law and European & international law from Leiden University and a master's degree in human rights and democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre, Venice.



Maureen Piggot

Maureen Piggot was elected as EDF Treasurer in 2017, having previously been President of Inclusion Europe. During the periodic review of the EU she was part of the delegation that presented the alternative report and engaged in dialogue with the CRPD Committee.

Maureen Piggot has been involved with organisations of and for people with intellectual disability at national and international level since the early 1970's.

It was a first-hand experience that led her choose this path, having been part of a family that included a child with intellectual and other impairments during an international exchange programme. From 1990 to 2014, as Director of Mencap, she led advocacy campaigns on deinstitutionalisation, the right to vote, equality of health care, the recognition of Hate Crime amongst others. In 2008 Maureen was awarded an Order of the British Empire for her advocacy work.

Part II

Debate with NGOS



Claudia Marinetti

Claudia Marinetti is the Director of Mental Health Europe (MHE). She has 15 years of experience in management, policy, advocacy and research, and has worked on approaches based on human rights, access to quality services, Health in All Policies (HiAP), and social inclusion.

Before joining MHE, she worked for EuroHealthNet, a not-for-profit partnership working on public health, disease prevention, health promotion, and inequality reduction.

Claudia Marinetti researched for K.U. Leuven and has worked for the University of Oxford's Centre for Criminology. She is a graduate of the University of Padua in Italy and holds a PhD in Social and Applied Psychology from the University of Oxford.



Mark Wheatley

Mark Wheatley has been the Executive Director of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) since 2007.

Under his leadership, EUD has grown both in terms of its external media coverage and its internal member communication. He is the co-author of the EUD book "Sign Language Legislation in the European Union" (2012).

Mark Wheatley is the former Managing Director of Red Lizard Ltd, a deaf-led media design company. He has been a member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Expert Group on Human Rights. He was an expert contributor to the World Health Organisation and World Bank 2012 World Report on Disability, ensuring that sign language users were adequately included both in terms of terminology and accuracy of information.

He has also contributed to various academic publications on the topic of sign language and technological development as an enabler of deaf rights.



Rodolfo Cattani

Rodolfo Cattani studied Philosophy of Science at the University of Bologna (Italy).

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.

On 29 October 2019 he was elected as President of the European Blind Union (EBU), an organisation he has been a member of since its establishment in 1984 and whose Commission for Liaising with the EU he has chaired since 1990.

Mr. Cattani occupied various positions within the World Blind Union from 1984 to 1996, as well as within the European Disability Forum (EDF) since 1997.

He is still a member of the EDF Executive Committee.



Milan Šveřepa

Milan Šveřepa is director of Inclusion Europe. Inclusion Europe is an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Milan is also a co-chair of the EEG, European expert group on transition from institutional to community-based care.

Before he came to Inclusion Europe, Milan worked on replacing segregated “care” institutions for people with disabilities with community-based support. This work took place in Czechia and in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. His work on deinstitutionalisation was recognised as Project of the year and Project manager of the year 2013 in Czechia.

Milan has also experience teaching and writing publications about how social services and social care system should be organised, as well as about media and public relations. He is co-author of publications on how to manage the transition from “care” institutions to community-based support.



Jim Crowe

Jim Crowe has been President of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) since October 2016. One of his tasks is to represent EASPD at the European Commission’s High Level Group on Disability.

Jim Crowe was previously EASPD Vice President from 2014 to 2016, and a Board member for 12 years. He was also Director of Learning Disability Wales for 30 years. He served on several advisory committees and Welsh Government groups including the Learning Disability Advisory Group, the ASD Stakeholder Advisory Group and Social Care Wales Qualifications Committee. He was also Chair of UK Nursing Council Conduct and Competence disciplinary panels for eight years and now fulfils that role for Social Care Wales, the regulator for social workers.



Rasmus Isaksson

Rasmus Isaksson is President of the Disability Humanity Rights (DHR), the biggest rights-based organisation in Sweden for persons with mobility impairments.

He is also a board member of the Swedish UN-association and board member of the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF). He wrote an acclaimed autobiography about growing up with spina bifida.

He is also a former ice sledge hockey player and won two bronze medals from the Paralympic Games (Nagano 98, Salt Lake City 2002) and one World Championship bronze medal.



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 the European policies for persons with disabilities. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero 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 addresses 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.

Speakers' Biographies: 29 November 2019

PANEL 4

How to achieve Sports for All



David Lega

David Lega is a Swedish Member of the European Parliament who serves the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. Disabled from birth, he began Paralympic swimming when he was 12 years old, and has since won several World Championship medals and received the 'Triumph of the Human Spirit' award.

He credits his decent life to, "having the fortune of being born at the exact right time and place," and his commitment to give back to society has been a thread in his subsequent political career. When he was elected MEP in May 2019, David Lega pledged to be the voice of the people who struggle to be heard – and to use his European Parliament platform for them.



Antoaneta Angelova - Krasteva

Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva has been Director for Innovation, International Cooperation and Sport at DG EAC since 2016. She is also in charge of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, which are part of Horizon 2020. Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva joined the European Commission in 2008, starting at DG Justice, Liberty and Security where she dealt with external relations and enlargement, and then continued at DG HOME with a focus on internal security and police cooperation. From 2011 – 2016 she worked at DG CONNECT as Head of Unit where she was responsible for cyber security, stakeholder relations and international affairs. Prior to entering the European Commission, Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva had worked on Bulgaria's accession to the EU, including as a diplomat in Brussels. She is a graduate in political science from Sofia University, with training and qualifications in European studies acquired in Germany (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung) and the UK (Sussex University).



Anne d'Ieteren

Anne d'Ieteren has been President of the Belgian Paralympic Committee (or NPC Belgium) since 2009. During that time, she has also held the title of President of the Ligue Handisport Francophone. Under her presidency, the Belgian Paralympic Movement has undergone a significant evolution towards professionalisation. She is a former top-level dressage athlete (equestrian), coach and administrator at both the national and international level. She has dedicated a large part of her time and energy to the evolution of dressage in Belgium, as well as sport for persons with disabilities.



Pietro Cirrincione

Pietro Cirrincione is Vice-President of Autism Europe (AE). He has been a volunteer in the field of autism since 2006, notably in the Italian Gruppo Asperger Onlus association as a board member at both national and regional level. He has been part of the EDF Information and Communication Technologies Expert Group since 2013 and works as an IT specialist. Pietro Cirrincione advocates for the inclusion of people on the autism spectrum in team sports, and was a founder of the Romulea Autistic Football Club, an inclusive mixed football team with autistic and non-autistic players. He is currently its captain and honorary president. He is also involved in inclusion in athletics.



Marija Pletikosa

Marija Pletikosa has been State Secretary in the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia since November 2016.

Ms Pletikosa is Chair of the Committee of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Persons with Disabilities. From 2009 she has been a Councilperson in the City Hall in the City of Zadar and a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) City Committee Presidency of the City of Zadar.

Previously, she was Director of Home for Adults in Zadar for 21 years and responsible for coordination, management, organization and introduction of new social services for users. She was also responsible for development and proposing new strategies and social policies in the social welfare system. Ms Pletikosa completed Postgraduate Specialist Study, CDC Atlanta, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb and also acquired the title of the Master of Social Work at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb.



Katarina Ivanković Knežević

Katarina Ivanković-Knežević is Director for Social Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She is responsible for 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 EU social policies.

Before joining the Commission, she was a State Secretary at Croatia's Ministry of Labour and Pension System, responsible for the management and implementation of the European Social Fund and other EU instruments aiming at human resources development. Her professional interests over the past 20 years have been human rights and gender equality, social policy and employment with a focus on labour market policies.



Ana Peláez Narváez

Ana Peláez Narváez is the Executive Councillor for International Relations and External Development at the Spanish National Organisation of the Blind (ONCE), executive Vice-President of the ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with Blind People in Latin America (FOAL), and Commissioner for Women's Affairs at the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI).

She also currently chairs the European Disability Forum (EDF) Women's Committee, is a member of the EDF Executive Committee and Board, where she has responsibility for gender issues, and is EDF Vice-President. Ana Peláez Narváez was part of the official Spanish delegation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She has served two terms on the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She was recently elected as an expert to the UN Committee of Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and was the first woman with a disability to be elected.



 **ACCESS CITY
AWARD 2020**

The Access City Award

By 2020, we expect more than 120 million Europeans with disabilities. Accessibility is essential for the wellbeing of everyone, be they persons with disabilities, elderly people, or indeed anyone facing difficulties in their everyday lives. Investing in accessibility is one of the best ways to contribute to the prosperity of cities and their inhabitants.

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

On 29th November 2019, we will celebrate the 10th edition of the Access City Award (ACA). Since its creation in 2010, 375 applicants have taken part in the competition. In 2019, 47 cities applied to ACA 2020, showing a clear interest for cities to be more inclusive and accessible for everyone. Among these 47 applications the EU jurors shortlisted the cities listed hereunder (in alphabetical order):

- Castelló de la Plana (Spain)
- Chania (Greece)
- Évreux (France)
- Skellefteå (Sweden)
- Tartu (Estonia)
- Warsaw (Poland)





ACCESS CITY AWARD 2020 · Ceremony



Moderator

LUCILLE WERNER BIOGRAPHY

Lucille Werner is a Dutch television presenter, motivational speaker and has her own foundation: the Lucille Werner Foundation. She works for the biggest public broadcast company in the Netherlands, KRO-NCRV.

Lucille established her foundation in 2006: the Lucille Werner Foundation. The foundation wants to change the images of people with disabilities in a positive way. Therefore Lucille initiates several television formats, such as the Mis(s) Ability Election in 2006 until 2019 when she introduced the first Minister of State for Disabled People in the Netherlands. All to empower people with disabilities and change the mindset of the viewer.

Lucille believes in the power of media and visibility. Her passion resulted in several awards as Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau and The Martin Luther King Award.

Speakers' Biographies: Access City Awards 2020



Marianne Thyssen

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat). She studied Law at the Catholic University of Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she was working 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 and Monetary Affairs Committee.

Marianne Thyssen was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the First Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. She was elected Vice-President of the European People's Party in October 2015.

Katarina Ivanković Knežević

See biography on page 18

Ioannis Vadarkastanis

See biography on page 10



Miriam Haagh

Miriam Haagh is Deputy Mayor of the city of Breda, in the Netherlands, responsible amongst other things for healthcare, education and neighbourhood relations.

Miriam studied public administration at the University of Leiden, and after her studies worked in various positions at VNG international, a development aid agency.

Since 2006 she has been active in local politics, first as a council member, later as group chairman, and since 2014 as Deputy Mayor.

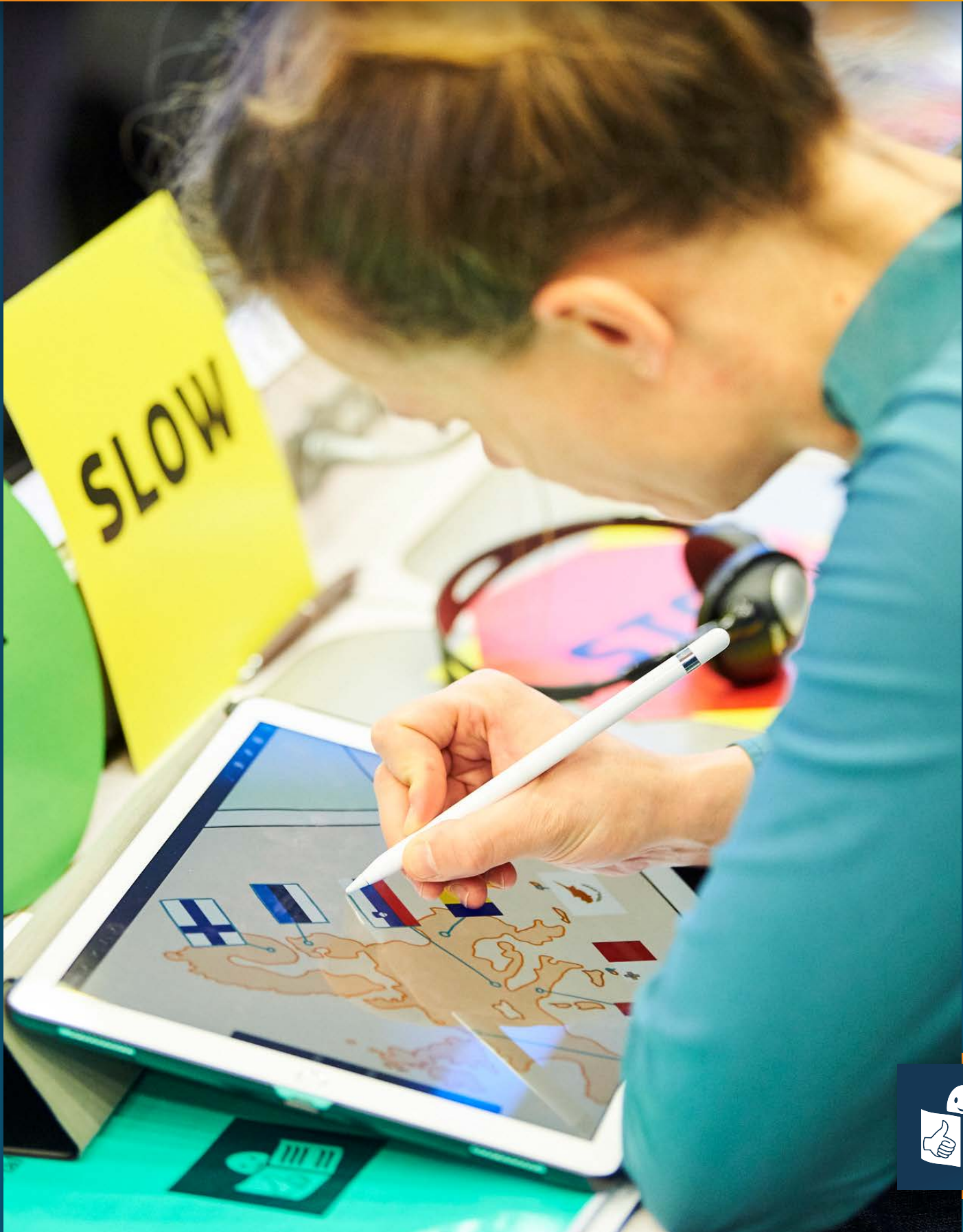


Shadi Abou-Zahra

Shadi Abou-Zahra works with the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) as the Accessibility Strategy and Technology Specialist. He coordinates accessibility priorities in the W3C Strategy team, as well as international promotion, coordination, and harmonization of web accessibility standards.

Shadi also maintains WAI liaisons with key stakeholders including disability, research, and standards organizations, as well as coordinates WAI outreach in Europe, accessibility evaluation techniques, and European-funded projects on accessibility. Prior to joining W3C in 2003, Shadi was a lead web developer and managed the design and implementation of web productions, online community platforms, and online games.

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:

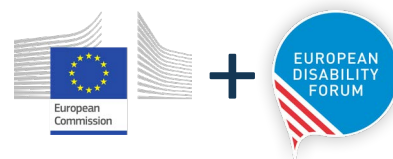
28 - 29 November 2019

The conference will take place in Brussels, Belgium.

On the 28 - 29 November 2019
the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities**
will take place in Brussels, Belgium.



The European Day of Persons with Disabilities takes place every year.



This year, it will be on 28 and 29 November 2019.

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



Many people with disabilities come to the event.

They talk with **politicians** and other important people.

They talk about different topics such as **accessibility** and the rights of people with disabilities.

This year, there will be a discussion on what people said about the **European Disability Strategy**, which is going to finish soon.



New ideas for the next ten years will also be discussed.

The speakers will include the audience in the discussions. Interesting topics to talk about will also come from outside of Europe.



The European Day of Persons with Disabilities
will be closed by another event,
the Access City Award.



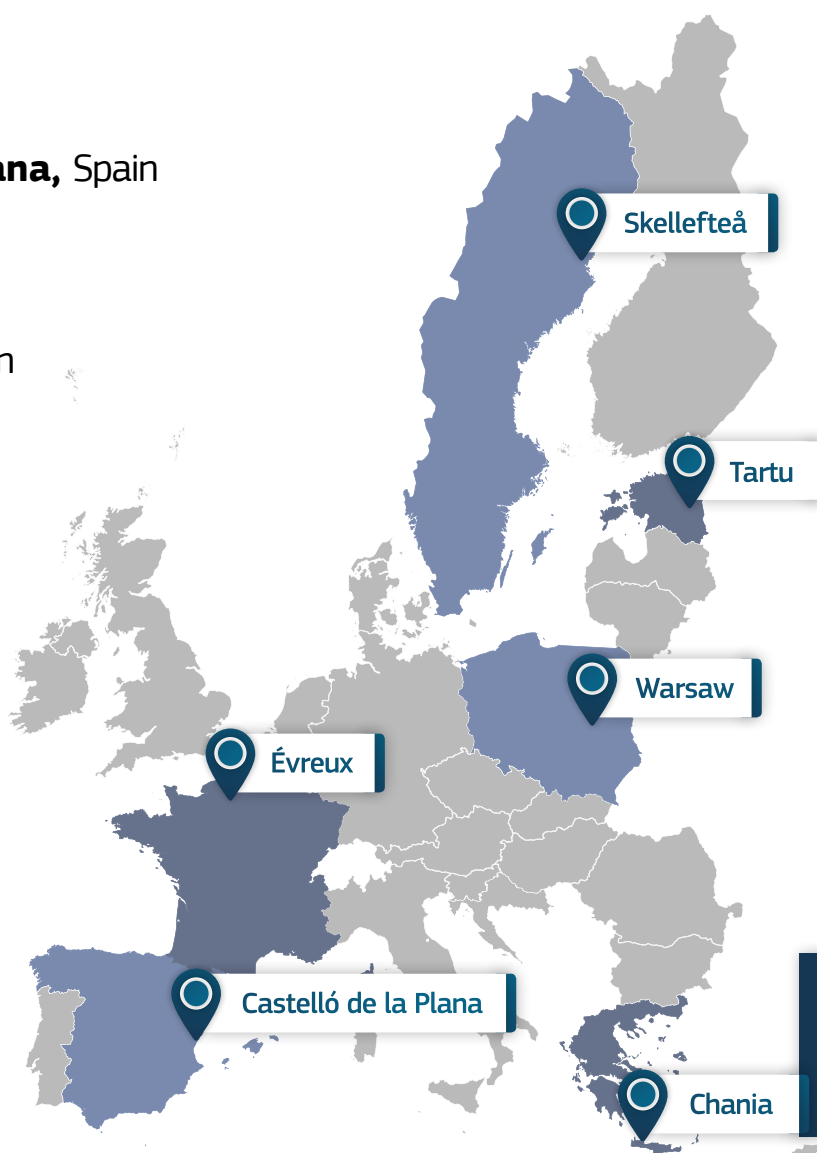
The Access City Award is a competition
between most accessible cities
in the European Union.



This year is the 10th anniversary
of the Access City Award
and the cities that can win the award are:



- **Castelló de la Plana**, Spain
- **Chania**, Greece
- **Évreux**, France
- **Skellefteå**, Sweden
- **Tartu**, Estonia
- **Warsaw**, Poland



This is the programme of the
European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2019:



28 November 2019

08.30 – 09.30

registration of participants
and welcome coffee.



09.30 – 10.00

Opening of the event.

10.00 – 10.45

Discussion about
the **European Disability Strategy**.
At the end of the discussion,
the audience can give their feedbacks.



10.45 – 11.15

Coffee break.



11.15 – 12.30

Discussion about good practices
coming from outside the European Union.
For example, the disability strategy of Australia.



This discussion will also look
at the **United Nations** strategy
and a video from Canada will be shown.



At the end of this discussion,
there will be a time for questions and answers
with the audience.



12.30 – 14.00

Lunch break.



14.00 – 15.15

Discussion about the future plans of the European Union for people with disabilities. This discussion will be in two parts. The first part of the discussion will be among people working closely with the EU.

15.15 – 15.45

Coffee break.



15.45 – 17.00

Will be the second part of the discussion. In this second part, **NGOs** will discuss about future plans of the EU for people with disabilities.



17.00

End of the first day of the event

19.30

Dinner (for those who want to join).



29 November 2019

8.30 – 9.00

Registration and welcome coffee.



9.00 – 10.30

Discussion about sports.
The topic of the discussion will be how to make sports more accessible for people with disabilities.



At the end of this discussion, there will be a time for questions and answers from the audience.



10.30 – 11.00

Conclusions
of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break.



11.30 – 12.30

Access City Award.



EASY-TO-READ DICTIONARY

Below you can find some explanations for difficult words:

➤ 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. You can read the European standards of easy-to-read information here: www.easy-to-read.eu



➤ 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 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 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.



➤ NGO

NGO is short for Non-governmental organisation.

NGOs are groups of people that work together.

These groups are not connected with the government of any country.

NGOs are often non-profit organisations.

That means, they are trying to do something other than make money for the people who run them.

➤ United Nations

The United Nations
is an international organisation.



It works for peace and security everywhere in the world.

We call it the UN for short.

The UN is based in different places.

For example, it is in New York, in the United States of America.

And in Geneva, in Switzerland.

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More information at: www.easy-to-read.eu



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