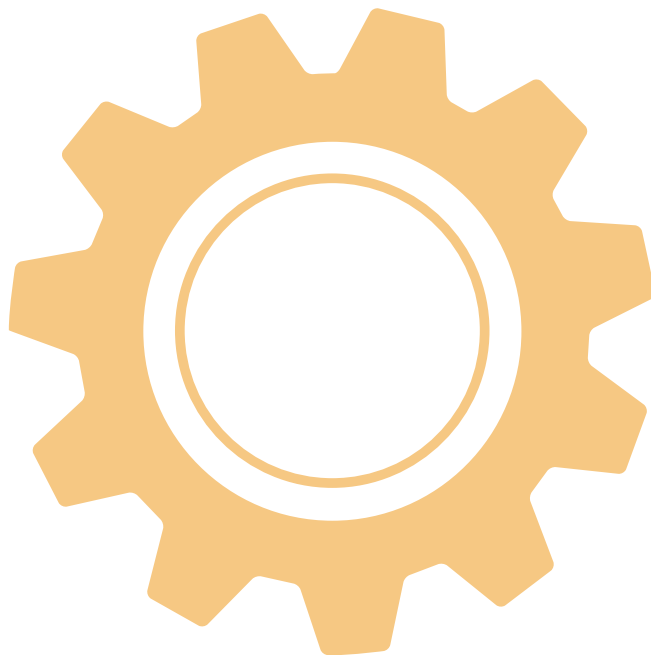
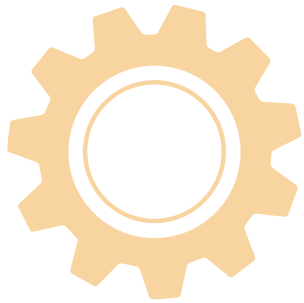




2022

EASPD Annual Report



Date of publication: May 2023

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Persons with Disabilities



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



Message from our President



2022 was a calamitous year for us all. Whilst the world was trying to adapt to, and recover from, the most challenging periods of the pandemic, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. As a result, millions of people were forcibly displaced from their homes, with many fleeing the country.

I'm proud of our association's swift response to this situation, especially when it came to giving practical assistance to children and adults with disabilities, and their families, in Ukraine and to those who fled. The Secretariat acted quickly to connect with Ukrainian organisations, organisations supporting refugees, national governments bordering Ukraine, and the European Commission. This resulted in a major joint project with UNICEF, focusing on supporting Ukrainian children with disabilities. Here, I sincerely thank UNICEF for their commitment, partnership, and recognition of our capabilities as an international association.

On top of this partnership, we participated in 36 impactful projects this year, and particular mention should go to the Helpdesk project. Our members often flag the difficulties with finding funding possibilities from their national or regional governments. Now, they and our partners can access tailored advice and support from our dedicated staff on how to access EU funding.

Our policy activity has always been a core element of our activities. The European Commission launched two important policy initiatives during 2022. Thankfully both the European Care Strategy and the Disability Employment Package reflected a lot of our thinking and our priorities.

We also continued our research with our partners in EURECO and our usual two annual conferences. Zagreb focused on the role of the social economy and the job market. In Malta, we looked at the critical need for quality of disability support services. We thank our many delegates who made these conferences so successful and our two conference partners, OSVIT and Agenzija Sapport.

We thank the European Commission as the main funder of our activities, and all our other funders for their invaluable contributions. Our work and success would be impossible without the many partnerships we enjoy with other organisations and networks.

Finally, I thank our former Secretary General, Ms. Maya Doneva, for her contribution, particularly with Ukraine. To our staff, you are a uniquely talented and committed team – without you we could not have achieved so much!

James Crowe



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Who we are

Located in Brussels, the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) represents over 20,000 support service providers for persons with disabilities. Driven by our members and supported by a team of professional staff, EASPD strives to deliver high-quality services that promote the full participation and inclusion in society of all persons with disabilities. Alongside our 188 members, we strongly believe that support services for people with disabilities play a major role in enabling people to enjoy their human rights on an equal basis with others.

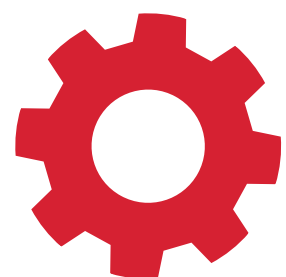
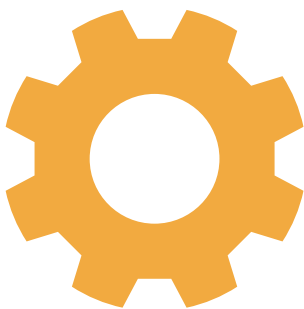
Mission

Our mission is to deliver the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by supporting our members in the design, development and set up of individualised models of support, responsive to specific needs and wishes.



Vision

EASPD's vision is for any type of support to be individualised and available, accessible and responsive to the needs and wishes of persons with disabilities. Human rights-based support services play an important role in granting access, participation and inclusion in society. We want society to fully understand that these support services are human rights enablers.



Our Strategy

2022 marked the first year of EASPD's 2022-2025 multiannual strategy 'Moving Forward: Smart Transformation and Building Resilience'. Moving Forward means taking action, doing more and doing it better, and is the mantra of this new Strategy for the coming years. Smart transformation and building resilience are the two guiding forces to ensure this mantra leads to positive outcomes.

Our Moving Forward strategy will be implemented via 3 main pillars:



Effective partnership

We aim to be an effective partner in policy development.



Innovation, sustainability & community

We strive to lead innovation, sustainable service provision, and community building.



Reference point for learning & knowledge

We aspire to be the point of reference for learning and knowledge exchange.

These are 3 pillars EASPD will implement to increase the resilience of support services, to ensure the sector recovers from the pandemic, as well as to accelerate its smart transformation, to meet the realities of today's world and expectations from those who draw on these services.

Our Team

As a member-led organisation, EASPD's General Assembly holds the highest competence within the organisation, it is with their authority that EASPD's Executive Committee, Board and Secretariat support the implementation of the organisation's activities.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD



James Crowe
President
Crowe Consultancy
Ltd, UK



Javier Güemes
Vice-President
Fundación ONCE
Spain



Valerija Bužan
Vice-President
Center Val
Slovenia



Karin Astegger
Vice-President
Lebenshilfe Salzburg
Austria



Peter Saxenhofer
Treasurer
INSOS
Switzerland



Maya Doneva
EASPD Secretary
General (Ex officio
of Board)

BOARD MEMBERS



James Churchill
Social Care
Training, UK



Mirela Juka
Down Syndrome
Albania, Albania



Miguel Valles
CECD Mira Sintra,
Portugal



Agapi Papadaki
The NET,
Greece



Kathrin Völker
BAG WfbM,
Germany



**Lieve
Dekempeneer**
Hubbie, Belgium



Vasilka Dimoska
PORAKA,
North Macedonia



**Elisabeth
Lammers**
Unapei, France



Eoin Nash
COPE Foundation
Ireland



Petra Rantamäki
KVPS
Finland



Ákos Pordán
Hand in Hand
Foundation, Hungary



Stef de Cock
Equal Employment
Europe, Belgium



Fabrizio Fea
Associazione Scuola
Viva onlus, Italy



**Jose Maria Solé I
Chavero**
SUPPORT Girona, Spain



**Evert-Jan
Hoogerwerf**
AIAS Bologna onlus, Italy

SECRETARIAT

Based in Brussels and led by EASPD Secretary General, **Maya Doneva**, EASPD's Secretariat supports the implementation of EASPD's key activities. 2022 marked a year of growth: it was Maya Doneva's first year as Secretary General, and we grew into a bigger, stronger team of 36.



Maya Doneva
EASPD Secretary
General

Project Team



Ivana Davidovska
Head of Projects



Tiziana Fantucchio
Senior Project Officer



Orazio Fiorini
Senior Project Officer



Giulia Bergamasco
Project Officer



Lyzaveta Drannikova
Project Officer



Nóra Györke
Project Officer



Ana Hannotte
Project Officer



Omor Ahmed
Project Officer



Anna Migliarese
Project Assistant

Policy Team



**Thomas
Bignal**
Head of Policy



**Konstantina
Leventi**
Senior Policy Officer



**Irene
Bertana**
Senior Policy Officer



**Fabrizio De
Angelis**
Policy Officer



Lilith Alink
Policy and Project
Officer



**Fabiana
Scarano**
Junior Policy Officer



**Laura Rosillo
Beneyto**
Policy Assistant



**Helene
Jansky**
Policy Assistant

Knowledge and Innovation Team



**Renaud
Scheuer**
Head of Knowledge
and Innovation



**Zoé
Lardou**
Learning and
Development Officer



**Sasha
Leone**
Knowledge and
E-Learning Officer



**Nina
Kozlowitz**
Knowledge and
Innovation Assistant



Miguel Buitrago
Research and
Development Officer

**Operations
Team**



**Rachel
Vaughan**
Head of Operations



Sydney Von Ihering
Communications and
Project Officer



Tavishi Rekhi
Communications
Officer



Marina Antanasiotis
Communications
Officer



Catherine Lau
Communications
Officer



Paola Del Grosso
Communications and
Operations Assistant



Ángela Corbi
Membership Officer



Dimitri Papakoch
Events and Operations
Officer



**Dionyssi
Antanasiotis**
Office Assistant



Adriana Elena Popa
Membership Officer (On
maternity leave)

Finance and HR



**Timothy
Ghilain**
Chief of Staff



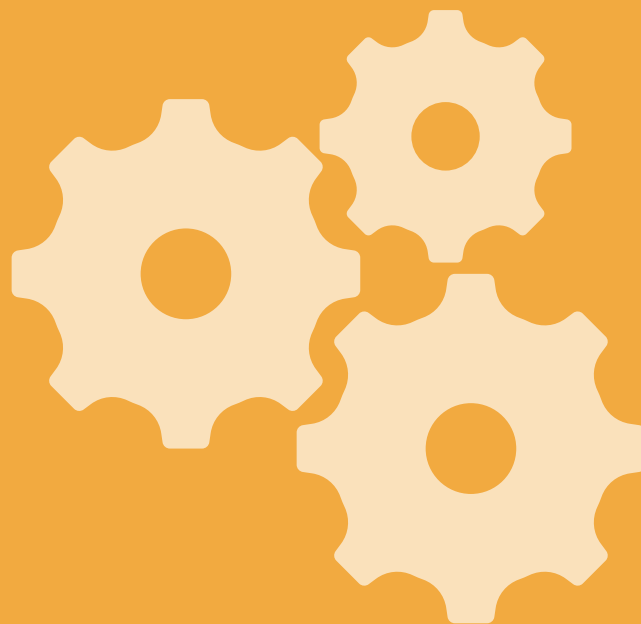
Sonia Staskowiak
Senior
Finance Officer



**Najia El
Jaouhari**
Finance Officer



**Hana
Jemli**
Finance Assistant



Effective partnership

In 2022, EASPD continued to build on its work from 2021, placing emphasis on being an effective partner in policy development, especially with the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and recovery from the pandemic. Our work this year has included building impactful partnerships with international institutions, promoting promising legal frameworks in Europe, and supporting the development of EU social policies.

Partnerships

Social Services Europe

Social Services Europe was very active on 2 main issues in 2023 - the Social Economy Action Plan and the EU Care Strategy - where they were successful in bringing together the social services sector's views and expectations in both areas. Social Services Europe was also active in EU State Aid policy, Public Procurement, EU Funds and a European statute for Associations.

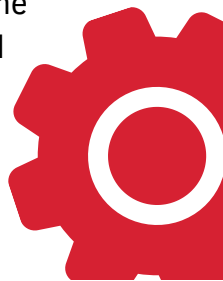


Social Platform

The Social Platform was, as usual, busy covering common issues of interest amongst all social NGOs in Brussels, such as the EU fiscal policy, the Social Climate Fund, and the EU Minimum Income initiatives. The Social Platform also enabled EASPD to have a voice in meetings with several Commissioners.

European Expert Group on transition from Institutional to Community-based services

EASPD is a member of the EEG which advocates to replace institutionalisation with family- and community-based support. The EEG produced a position paper to present to the European Commission in its preparation of Guidance on Independent Living and Inclusion in the Community. The EEG also provided reviews and feedback on the Recovery Plans and recommendations for 2022 European Semester and the EU Care Strategy.



Alliance for Investing in Children

In 2022, EASPD worked closely with the Alliance for Investing around the European Care Strategy and European Child Guarantee. Through the Alliance, EASPD attended the Interministerial Conference on the implementation of the Child Guarantee, which took place on 4 March in Paris. The Alliance also published joint statements calling for Member States to publish their Child Guarantee national action plans and to react to the Care Strategy, focusing on the need for more ambitious Barcelona Targets for the access of children in Early Childhood Education and Care.



Inclusive Labour Market Alliance

EASPD is a member of the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance, which is a network of 6 associations striving for the right of any citizen to decent work in an open and inclusive labour market. In 2022, ILMA representatives met several times and carried out discussions on the different points of the EU Disability Employment Package. Mainly, in relation to the Commission study on alternative models of employment and on strengthening capacities of employment and integration services.

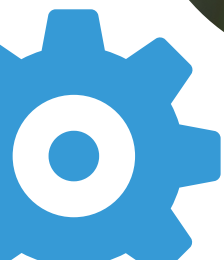
Taskforce working on EU Framework on Social Services of Excellence

In March 2021, the European Commission launched the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, outlining initiatives that they will undertake in the years to come. This includes the development of an EU Framework on Social Services of Excellence for Persons with Disabilities. The framework will look to improve service delivery for persons with disabilities and enhance the attractiveness of jobs in this area. EASPD has set up a task force to support in developing input for the European Commission on the development of the framework. In 2022, the Taskforce developed a draft paper which provides a first reflection of the key elements that an EU Framework on Social Services of Excellence needs to include.

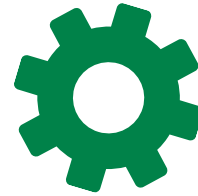


Membership of the Disability Platform

EASPD was very active in the first year of the Disability Platform, raising issues of concern for service provider, as well as potential solutions, in the key expert group of the Commission on Disability Rights. This included participating in the sub-committee on Disability Employment Package and other areas such as the war in Ukraine.



Policy Milestones



EU Care Strategy

On 7th September, the European Commission published its new EU Care Strategy, alongside 2 proposals for Council Recommendations on Long Term Care and Early Childhood Education and Care. The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) welcomes these initiatives and calls on Member States to take up the key messages and act to end the care crisis around Europe. EASPD also offers its expertise to help support the implementation of the Strategy.

On Friday, 9th September, EASPD alongside 7 other European networks organised a webinar in order for the EU Commission to present the initiative and for MEPs and the EU networks to share their initial reactions.



EU Disability Employment Package

The Disability Employment Package was introduced in 2022 to support Member States in ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy social inclusion and economic autonomy through employment. In response, EASPD developed a policy paper, listing recommendations that can help support the implementation of the initiatives, such as promising practices and the offering of expertise in the package's delivery.

This is particularly the case for building up the capacity of Public Employment Services, through the expertise of our membership involved in disability-specific employment services. The paper also focuses on quality jobs in sheltered workshops and pathways to the open labour market - a matter that is very much at the heart of our mission.

UN General Comment on Article. 27

The Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities is developing a draft General Comment on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment (Article 27). EASPD welcomed the draft General Comment on Article 27, as it provides considerable insight and clear recommendations towards the implementation of the right to work and employment for persons with disabilities.






The HELPDESK Project

The Helpdesk is a 2-year project (2022-2024) funded by the European Commission, which aims to finance the building blocks for a Social Services Helpdesk. The project aims to facilitate social services in accessing and using EU funds, especially the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Moreover, it strives to help managing authorities use these funds to finance quality interventions and innovative service designs in the field of social services. In October 2022, together with 15 partners, the Helpdesk project was officially launched with an in-person event in Brussels.

Launch of position paper on family-centred ECI



Family-centred Early Childhood intervention (ECI) is a field of services for young children and their families, which helps to identify, prevent, overcome, or minimise at-risk situations. The aim of this paper is to raise awareness on what family-centred ECI is and why it is needed. The paper further highlights key challenges in the creation of ECI systems and formulates

recommendations for the European Union and its Member States (and also other national governments) to establish quality ECI systems. This position paper was drafted by the EASPD Member Forum on Early childhood Intervention (MF ECI), and finalised in consultation with several networks and organisations active in the fields of child and family rights, and disabilities.

UN Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation

The United Nations Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities drafted Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation including in emergencies. These guidelines are intended to guide and support state parties in their efforts to realise the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. The United Nations invited relevant stakeholders including EASPD to provide written submissions on the draft and support the call.

Initial Snapshot Report: The impact of the rising cost of living on service providers in the disability sector

This snapshot report offers insight into the impact of the rising cost of living on social services in the disability sector in 2022. It provides initial information on the extent to which service providers are affected, the practices they are putting in place to mitigate these impacts, as well as recommendations for public authorities to provide better support.

Work on Ukraine

Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2022, it is estimated that over 2.2 million children have fled the country; one-third are young children under the age of 6. Among the refugee children, there are children with developmental risks, delays, or difficulties. Many families of children with, or at risk of developmental difficulties are reporting challenges in accessing support services in all parts of Europe. In many cases, being unable to access support, therapy, or early intervention, as well as experiencing trauma related to displacement, can negatively impact the development and well-being of these children. EASPD has introduced several initiatives in response to the invasion.

Introduction of Temporary Regional Offices

EASPD opened 6 Temporary Regional Offices (TROs) in Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria to better coordinate the relocation process for persons with disabilities from Ukraine, particularly those in institutions, to other countries. This is in response to a request by the Ukrainian Government. The TROs supported the huge numbers of refugees with disabilities arriving in the border countries, and the need to find suitable accommodation and support services across Europe for refugees with disabilities, their families and carers. EASPD also launched a fundraising initiative to finance this process and help refugees with disabilities to relocate across Europe.



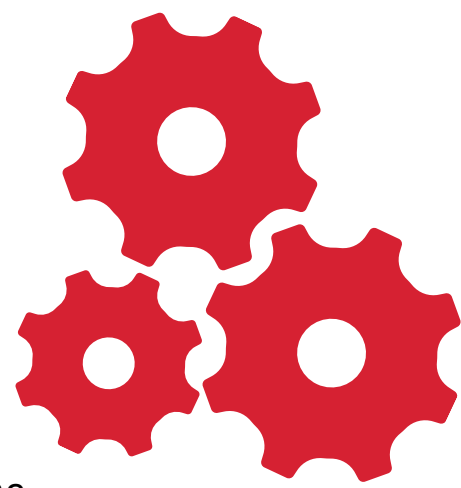
Emergency Early Childhood Development Support for Ukrainian Refugees

In response to the growing number of refugee families fleeing war in Ukraine, UNICEF and EASPD have launched a partnership project, which will create new services for displaced Ukrainian families with young children hosted in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The partnership will focus on support for young children with developmental risks, delays and difficulties.

By January 2024, the project will increase the availability of trained Family Consultants who will provide Early Childhood Development (ECD) parental counselling and support to children with developmental difficulties, including delays and disabilities. Alongside securing the delivery of support services to families and children, the project will also support strengthening of the system for the provision of early childhood intervention (ECI) services in host countries and raise awareness of the importance of early support for developing the potential for every child.



Innovation, Sustainability & Community



In 2022, EASPD continued to play a leading role in the development of innovative support models for persons with disabilities, gathering all the most promising projects. This included identifying and contributing to the design, development and sharing of innovative support models.

Projects

Workforce Development



Perhouse

Given the increasing demand for personal and household services (PHS) due to the de-institutionalisation trend, the project aims to gather data about the working conditions of PHS' workers in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The project results focus on mapping the PHS sector in CEE countries via a literature review and interviews with stakeholders and users. In October 2022, project partners met in Bratislava for the kick-off meeting to settle objectives and timelines for the deliverables.

August 2022 - July 2024
SOCPL-PJG
Coordinator: CENTRAL EUROPEAN
LABOR STUDIES INSTITUTE CELSI
Contact: Ángela Corbi

IN TOUR (Accessible Tourism Manager and Operator)



January 2020 - September 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Associazione Italiana
Sclerosi Multipla Onlus Italy
Contact: Giulia Bergamasco

The In-Tour project aims to fill the gap in the training system in Europe on Accessible Tourism. In 2022, the 3 universities involved - University of Applied Sciences of Dresden, Hellenic Open University and University of Genoa Economics and Business department - implemented 5 pilot courses to validate the effectiveness of the EU Curricula, the guidelines and the tools created during the project.

B-WISE - Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in Work Integration Social Enterprises



January 2021 - December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Konstantina Leventi

B-WISE targets the skill needs of disadvantaged workers who do not have equal access to the labour market, their support workers such as job coaches, and their managers. In 2022, the B-WISE consortium mapped the current situation of the skills gap, in order to determine the potential future needs in the WISE sector in Europe. They also identified “scenarios” (a type of WISEs) and “persona” profiles (workers in WISEs), which is the foundation of the strategy document for developing training curricula for the WISE sector that the consortium will work on in 2023.

Education

Inclusive University Digital Education (InClUDE)

In its final year, the InClUDE project published its Technical Guidelines for lecturers to support the delivery of Accessible Digital Higher Education, as well as its Inclusive Consideration Guidelines to promote the inclusivity of online teaching. The InClUDE online platform of accessible and inclusive digital tools for inclusive education was also launched, providing a repository of existing and freely available digital tools for educators and students.



June 2021 - September 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Rachel Vaughan

ACT Inclusive - Actors of Change Towards Inclusive Education



December 2022 - November 2025
Erasmus + Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Ana Hannotte

Starting in December 2022, ACT Inclusive has defined its main action points for the upcoming year: the collection of good practices on non-formal education activities promoting inclusiveness. This will form the basis for developing training manuals and contributing to more inclusive practices in mainstream schools.

EMBRACE

The EMBRACE project seeks to provide tools to foster the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities and, in turn, the quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC). In 2022, project partners drafted a transnational report on the state of play regarding opportunities for the initial and continued education of ECEC staff on topics concerning inclusive ECEC of children with intellectual disabilities in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, North Macedonia, and Poland. Partners also started to develop e-Learning for ECEC staff, and looked for good practices for the handbook on "Fostering a Culture of Inclusion".



January 2022 - December 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: TEATR GRODZKI
Contact: Irene Bertana

BUSTA - Building skills through Training Therapy Animals



April 2022 - March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Lietuvos juru muziejus
Contact: Dimitri Papakoch

Since the project began, schools and animal therapy organisations have been working together to introduce pupils from the partner schools in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Belgium to the project. In December 2022, Dolphin Assisted Therapy of the Lithuanian Sea Museum (together with 18 project partners) organised a multiplier event. They attended a festival in Lithuania with the goal of making children with and without disabilities socialise without stigma. The festival had 250 participants in contact and 2000 remote participants from all over the country.

EHECADI - European Health Care Final Dissertation

In 2022, the European Health Care Final Dissertation (EHECADI) was launched. The project brings together 8 partners to support healthcare students from different disciplines to address broad societal health issues via their studies. This year, the project began to develop its co-designed digital open course for healthcare students, as well as its online knowledge hub, which will host all of the final materials of the EHECADI project.



January 2022 - January 2025
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Fundacio Universitaria Balmes
Contact: Rachel Vaughan

DIG-i-READY

Making digital Vocational Education and Training (VET) inclusive, Dig-i-READY, in 2022, published a Good practices catalogue. This catalogue consists of a summary of the scientific analysis and mapping of existing good practices for moving online during COVID-19 in the field of education in Europe.



January 2022 - January 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Internationaler Bund
Mitte gGmbH
Contact: Tavishi Rekhi

Hi-Ability



December 2020 - November 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Cooperativa Sociale
Controvento ONLUS
Contact: Dimitri Papakoch

Hi-Ability's objective is to promote the empowerment and social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities by enhancing their abilities in the field of outdoor touring and hiking. In 2022, the consortium brought its policy recommendations and transferability guidelines to the forefront. The Hi-Ability App was also launched this year and is there to provide information about the accessible environmental paths in the 3 partner countries.

Person Centred Technology

RightToConnect

RightToConnect aims to develop an e-learning platform co-designed in collaboration with people with intellectual disabilities to improve their social inclusion. Having kicked off in April 2022, the project completed a state-of-the-art research to identify the needs and challenges of people with intellectual disabilities to access e-Learning and social media platforms. In the coming months, the pilot partners will organise a series of design-thinking workshops involving the end users in the platform development process.



RightToConnect

April 2022 – March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Omor Ahmed



VIRTUS

VIRTUS aims to create an educational programme that entails vocational training adjusted to the needs of autistic individuals by integrating in vivo training seminars and virtual reality technology. In 2022, project partners conducted a Needs Analysis and published a report. On top of this, research was conducted to develop the VIRTUS Vocational Education and Training Curriculum. The second Transnational Project Meeting took place in Athens in November.



VIRTUS

March 2022 - April 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: GEWERKSTATT
Contact: Fabiana Scarano

DDSkills: Cutting-edge Digital Skills for professional care givers of Persons with Disabilities and Mental Health Problems



January 2020 - December 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: TO ERGASTIRI
Contact: Ana Hannotte

DDSkills developed 3 toolkits with a set of gadgets, which will be used in training sessions to teach caregivers on how sensors, virtual reality and augmented reality can be used to increase the autonomy of persons with disabilities. These were shown in 2 conferences, one held online and one held in Italy. The consortium also provided trainings to trainers and started the courses for caregivers in 5 countries – Ireland, Italy, Greece, Germany and Lithuania.

Smart4Health

Smart4Health is about enabling citizens to manage their own health data, via an online platform. In 2022 the project made significant progress with the release of MOOCs about digital health for beginners, the organisation of case studies for the prevention of lower back pain, and several interactive sessions to test the online platform. The project was also shared in various events, including several workshops and the pre-conference event on digital accessibility at the EASPD Conference in October 2022.



Smart4Health

November 2019 - February 2023
Horizon 2020
Coordinator: UNINOVA
Contact: Renaud Scheuer

ENTELIS+ (Accessibility skills for a technology enhanced learning in an inclusive society)

Finishing in early 2022, the ENTELIS+ project aimed to develop and implement innovative methods and practices to foster inclusive education and promote common values. It also sought to enhance the digital skills and competencies of digitally excluded groups, especially persons with disabilities of all ages, via strategic public and private partnerships. The consortium published the final training materials on 'Digital Accessibility' after months of testing and updating in 4 local partner countries: Austria, Greece, Italy, and Ireland.



January 2020 - January 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Omor Ahmed

Accessibilitech



September 2018 - August 2021
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Miguel Buitrago

The project aims to define, validate and implement an advanced methodology to identify, analyse, and share experiences and innovative solutions that use technology to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities in teleworking, e-Learning, and online care services. Project partners carried out technical work to ensure the functioning of the mapping tool and called for submissions of good practices, disseminating in different digital platforms and events, such as the EASPD Conference in Malta and 3 online workshops. The partners also evaluated the practices collected and produced a policy recommendations document.

SEURO (Scaling EUROpean citizen driven transferable and transformative digital health)

In 2022, SEURO has developed prototypes of its outputs – an application for self-monitoring of health in persons with multimorbidities, and 3 tools to ensure that health services can implement the use of such a tool. It also started recruitment for trials in 4 countries (Ireland, Italy, Sweden and Belgium) to receive feedback from users with multimorbidities and ensure effective implementation of the self-management application on a large scale and beyond a controlled environment.



SEURO

May 2021 - May 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Ana Hannotte

Co-Care: Co-created ICT solutions for Alzheimer's Informal Caregiving

The Co-Care project brings together universities, ICT professionals, the health and social care sector, and informal carers for people with Alzheimer's to improve teaching and learning approaches and foster entrepreneurship. In 2022, Co-Care finalised a training course for universities in Portugal, Spain, and the UK, as well as a toolkit to support informal carers in accessing digital solutions, and an online community of practice to connect stakeholders. The closing conference took place in Brussels in December 2022.



Co-Care

January 2020 - December 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Universitat de Vic -
Universitat de Catalunya
Contact: Sydney Von Ihering

ADILE - Accessible Distance Learning

adile

February 2022 - February 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: CONTROVENTO
Contact: Catherine Lau, Rachel
Vaughan

ADILE project conducted focus groups with persons with Intellectual Disabilities to understand their demands in terms of digital learning. After that, partners have dedicated the year to developing online easy-to-read materials and an accessible online platform. Those materials will be made available in the ADILE platform to enable distance learning by persons with intellectual disabilities and will help them improve their competencies in the use of digital tools, cultural awareness, text interpretation and memory techniques.

Employment

Equal Vocational Education Training (EQUALVet)

EQUALvet aims to develop a vocational training programme for people with intellectual disabilities in 3 professions: assistant cook, assistant gardener, and cleaner. The EQUALVET project finalised the 3 training manuals (for cleaning and gardening), as well as a trainer's manual. In June 2022, the learners with intellectual disabilities from MARGARITA (Greece), ARCIL (Portugal) and Fundació Mas Xirgu (Spain) took part in exams based on the trainings they had received. Finally, EQUALvet ended 2022 by hosting its final conference.



EQUALvet

January 2019 - September 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Margarita VTC
Contact: Zoé Lardou

Safe4All - Safety 4 Disability: Inclusive Training on Safety & Health at Work for Workers with disabilities



February 2022 - February 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: PREDIF
Contact: Fabrizio De Angelis

Safe4All aims to contribute to the creation of suitable and safe working environments that will in turn facilitate the labour inclusion of people with disabilities. The kick-off meeting took place in Valencia (Spain) and a training was hosted in Kortick (Belgium) in September 2022. In the next transnational project meeting, Irecoop, one of the partners, will present a booklet of practices collected from across the EU and beyond on safety at work for persons with disabilities.

Supported Employment E-Portfolio

The main objective of the E-portfolio project is to improve services for vulnerable job seekers, employees, and their employers by creating a quality dynamic interactive E-portfolio framework. The project has been granted an extension of 6 months. 2 transnational project meetings took place in 2022 in Rome, Italy and Graz, Austria. The toolkit that will match persons with disabilities to employers in several languages is being translated.



September 2020 - August 2022
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: PHH Academie
Contact: Fabrizio De Angelis

CO-RESP – Community Resilience Through Social Procurement



May 2022 – May 2024
SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Miguel Buitrago

CO-RESP aims to provide support to the local economy to create new jobs for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through public procurement. Project partners have begun working on their state of play report on public procurement for employment of persons with disabilities, launching a survey to collect best practices. CO-RESP will aim to spread knowledge on public procurement by organising a Social Economy Mission, further favouring the exchange of practices and enhancing interregional collaboration between social economy actors, and regional and local authorities.

Inclusive Living

UNIC (Towards User-centred funding models for long-term care)

UNIC aims to support the transition to user-centred funding models in long-term care. In 2022, project partners trained 20 professionals in Belgium on the UNIC tools, who later organised more than 20 workshops with persons with disabilities, service providers and public authorities representatives to present and gather feedback on these tools. The partners also organised 15 workshops in 5 different countries to raise awareness on personal budgets and further disseminate the project's outputs.



October 2020 - September 2023
European Union Programme for
Employment and Social Innovation
“EaSI (2014-2020)”

Coordinator: EASPD

Contact: Konstantina Leventi

COM-IN (Promoting communicative development in young adults with intellectual developmental disabilities to support their inclusion)



November 2021 - October 2024

Erasmus+ Programme

Coordinator: Universite De Reims

Champagne-Ardenne

Contact: Sasha Leone

The COM-IN project aims to promote communicative skills in youth with intellectual developmental disabilities, and to guide and train professionals to better support persons with intellectual developmental disabilities' in these skills. In 2022, the COM-IN consortium created and disseminated a survey to find out the needs of the target audience, in order to start creating and preparing the training.

Skills II: Improving the Skills and Competencies in Self-Directed Support

Skills II seeks to improve skills and change lives through self-directed support, moving away from an institutional approach towards a human rights-based one. The project produced and tested resources with the aim of helping social services professionals and public authorities to develop systems of self-directed support to ensure social inclusion and equal citizenship for persons with disabilities. The material was integrated into EASPD's Knowledge Hub as a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course).



September 2019 - August 2022

Erasmus+ Programme

Coordinator: Service

Foundation for People with an
Intellectual Disability (KVPS)

Contact: Miguel Buitrago

AtOrI

The new AtOrI project is based on a conception of autonomy that advocates it as an ontological constituent of each individual. Partners believe that all support for disadvantaged people (including persons with disabilities or older persons) must include an autonomy-oriented dimension that allows this ontological constituent to live and develop. Professional practices in the medico-social context must thereby be questioned from this angle. The first part of AtOrI examines the scientific literature on this issue. The second part examines practices. The third and final part develops recommendations.

November 2021 - November 2026
Agence Nationale de la
Recherche, France
Coordinator: Université Sorbonne
Paris Nord
Contact: Renaud Scheuer

SWEETHOME: HOME, MY OWN SWEET (SMART) HOME



February 2022 - July 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: Institut für
Lern-Innovation
Contact: Lilith Alink

Sweet Home aims to support persons with disabilities, their family members, and professional specialists to better understand what smart home technology is and how it can support a more autonomous and stimulating life in one's home. In 2022, project partners focused on conducting interviews, home observations, and expert roundtables to identify the needs, barriers, and potential technological solutions for persons with visual or hearing impairments, Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, renal disease, and cystic fibrosis. This research will result in the creation of seven guides for each disability in 2023.

Capacity Building

Helpdesk

Helpdesk aims to support social services in accessing EU funds more easily and to help managing authorities in their use of EU funds to finance quality interventions in the field of social services. In 2022, 2 surveys were conducted to get better insight into the barriers that prevent EU funds from being accessed. 10 national events were held in different EU Member States to bring together social services, managing authorities, and EU representatives. A launch event was organised in Brussels on 20 October. Project partners also started working on the Helpdesk website, which will be the main platform containing all the projects outputs.



May 2022 - April 2024
ESF+
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Lilith Alink

Rights

SMARTS (Supporting Me About Rights to Sexuality)



SMARTS

September 2020 - August 2023
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Zoé Lardou

SMARTS seeks to identify the support needs of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with mental health conditions in the field of sexuality, as well as to develop their skills and those of care providers. In 2022, partners held an online learning, teaching, and training activity to train professionals on the topic of supported decision-making in sexuality, as well as 1 in-person training activity. These activities helped the partnership finalise the training course for professionals and caregivers, and the guidelines on supported decision-making and practices in the field of sexuality for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with mental health conditions.

RESPONSE

RESPONSE aims to bring together different relevant actors to increase stakeholders' knowledge and capacity around rights-based and gender-responsive services in addressing gender-based violence against women with disabilities. In 2022, the consortium conducted a survey targeting 270 women with disabilities, disability-specific service providers, and mainstream service providers in France, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. The analysis of the survey results led to the publication of a State of the Art report, which provides an overview of the support needs of women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence in the target countries.



April 2022 - March 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Giulia Bergamasco

GIAff4ID (Games for Improving Affectivity in Youngsters with Intellectual Disabilities)

October 2022 - December 2024
Erasmus+ Programme
Coordinator: NATSIONALNA
ASOTSIATSIA NA RESURSNITE
UCHITELI
Contact: Zoé Lardou

GIAff4ID wants to break stereotypes around sexual education and affectivity of young people with intellectual disabilities, demonstrating that disability is a combination of a physical or mental impairment and a barrier. In 2022, the consortium met in Brussels to kickstart the project and plan a roadmap for partners to develop and deliver a toolkit for youth workers and caregivers on teaching sex education to young persons with intellectual disabilities, and a Games' Compendium on sex education for young persons with disabilities and instructional materials for youth workers and caregivers.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

ECI Greece

ECI Greece aims to support the Greek government in developing a modern, evidence based legislative and financial framework for Early Childhood Intervention services as a vital step towards deinstitutionalisation, and the inclusion of children with disabilities and their families in society via quality and adapted care and support. In 2022, 7 service providers received training on family-centred methodologies and started a 1-year pilot programme. In parallel, a report analysed the state of play for ECI in Greece, and the communications materials were elaborated and shared with the ECI Agora, which also attended the first awareness-raising workshop.



September 2021- September 2023
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Irene Bertana

Burnout Free ECI



November 2021- December 2024
Erasmus + Programme
Coordinator: AMIMONI
Contact: Sasha Leone

This project aims to create a roadmap to better outcomes and lead to innovative, mutually empowering techniques and solutions to some of the most complex challenges parents with children with disabilities, and professionals and organisations in the disability field face, hindering the prospects of early childhood. In 2022, the Burnout Free ECI consortium shared a survey to find out the needs of parents and professionals, created a detailed literature review on what materials are currently available on the subject in Europe, and started to develop training material.



Emergency Response

ECDUR

In July 2022, the partnership project of EASPD and UNICEF was launched to increase the availability of trained Family Consultants who will provide Early Childhood Development parental counselling and support to children with, or at risk of, developmental difficulties, including delays and disabilities.

The project also aims to support the system strengthening for the provision of Early Childhood Intervention services in host countries (Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria), as well as to raise awareness around the importance of early support for developing the potential for every child.

EASPD identified national coordinators in the host countries and conducted ToTs for Family Consultants and Peer Support Group Facilitators. The latter specialists were trained and already delivered support to more than 1,000 children and caregivers on the ground.



July 2022 - December 2023
UNICEF
Coordinator: EASPD
Contact: Lyzaveta Drannikova,
Tiziana Fantucchio

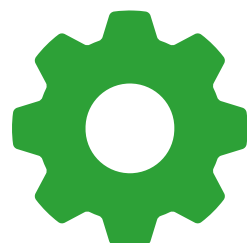
Sports

Parasport Adventurer

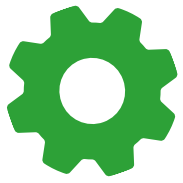


January 2021 - December 2022
Erasmus + Programme
Coordinator: Movigo Sport e.V.
Contact: Giulia Bergamasco

The Parasport Adventurer project seeks to inspire people with a disability to participate in adventure and extreme sports, pushing their own boundaries and smashing stereotypes in the process. In 2022, partners created three awareness-raising short films showcasing the activities that took place during the project. The short films were presented during the project's final event in December.



Events



2022 has been an intense year for EASPD. More than 40 events have been hosted, and 2 international conferences have gathered members from all over Europe to discuss key topics such as quality of life and social economy.

42 Total events hosted
by EASPD in 2022



This included:

- 3 Policy Cafés
- 1 Project Café
- 4 Knowledge Cafés
- 6 Webinars

EASPD May Conference **The future of the Right to Work: What role for the Social Economy?**

The 'The future of the Right to Work' conference was hosted by EASPD in Zagreb from 5th-6th May 2022. Spread across 4 panels and 8 workshops, the conference brought together a variety of stakeholders to dive into key areas of discussion about how the social economy can help in creating a more inclusive job market for persons with disabilities.

EASPD Autumn Conference **Quality of Life & Support Services: From Words to Action**

On 13th and 14th of October 2022, EASPD hosted a conference on the quality of services for people with disabilities. 3 panels and 15 workshops brought more than 300 participants in Malta, to explore quality measurement and quality of services from many points of view: funding, person-centred planning, safeguarding policies, employee wellbeing, service quality and more.



Reference point for learning & knowledge

Exchange and Collaboration

Lighthouse Network

The Lighthouse Network promotes peer-learning by bringing together EASPD members with certain expertise, and others who would like to improve their knowledge and capacity. In 2022, the Lighthouse Network give all Member Fora the opportunity to take part in the Lighthouse Network activities and cooperate

with one another in a wide range of activities, namely: mentoring and training sessions, study visits, as well as short-term projects. If you wish to know more about the Lighthouse Network activities conducted in 2022, you can find information in each Member Forum's section.



EURECO

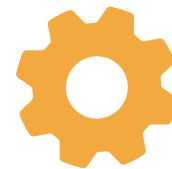
In 2022, the EURECO platform organised a research forum in Brussels on 24-25 March: "New perspectives on quality and outcome measurement of services for persons with disabilities". The forum was attended by 50 researchers from the EURECO Network, and discussed the effects of the first quality assurance debate on the practice of service delivery in disability services, alongside understanding what can be learnt to better these services.

Regarding a UN CRPD-oriented philosophy for services, the Forum identified commonalities and differences between the former quality assurance debate and the more recent discussion on effectiveness and outcome measurement.

Learn more about EURECO [here](#).

EASPD Innovation Awards (2nd Edition)

The 2022 edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards focused on the quality of services and was linked to our October 2022 conference on the same topic. The 5 chosen practices hope to inspire support services to implement modern quality measurement models focusing on improving the quality of life of the people they support. They further showcase how such models can help service providers move forward towards better quality, empowering and person-centred forms of support, aligned with the UN CRPD principles. You can check out the full booklet [here](#).



Publications

EASPD's Knowledge and Innovation Team made sure to publish studies in 2022 in key areas of impact on service providers for persons with disabilities. This year we published 4 reports.



Quality of Life Index for Inclusive Education and how to use it in the monitoring of the European Child Guarantee

This report offers a framework for understanding the use of the Quality of Life Index for Inclusive Education to monitor the educational areas of the European Child Guarantee (ECG).

Models of promising practices on independent living and inclusion in the community for people with significant support needs

This study aims to provide useful data, concepts, and analysis of models of promising practices in the context of independent living for persons with significant support needs.



The State of Play of Social Economy Development in non-EU Countries

This study aims to provide an analysis of the situation of the social economy sector in seven non-EU countries.

Fostering Employment through Sheltered Workshops: Reality, Trends and Next Steps

The study assesses the situation of sheltered workshops across the EU at present, especially regarding Article 27 of the UN CRPD, which explores the situation in: Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain.



Members

EASPD's activities have continued to be driven by its members with the aim of working together to guarantee the delivery of high quality services for persons with disabilities.

6 New Members



11 New Observers



Member Fora

The EASPD Member Fora represent the interest of EASPD in their own field through active research, policy development, and networking among members. During 2022, each member fora had some key achievements.



Person Centred Technology

- Co-hosted two webinars – ‘innovative technology to improve service delivery for persons with disabilities’ and ‘Telecare’.
- Hosted a training on Digital Accessibility and Assistive Technology in EASPD international conference in Malta with 34 participants.
- Organised a 2-day long study visit in Israel with 6 representatives of EASPD members from Albania, Austria, Georgia, and Greece, and 3 representatives from Israel.

Education

- Hosted a week-long training on inclusive education for 12 people in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Held one study visit in Greece to learn more about the education support system and inclusion for learners with disabilities in the countries education system.
- Co-hosted 1 webinar with the European Platform for Rehabilitation on the promising practices in the transition from education to employment.



Employment

- Hosted a webinar on the different models of employment for persons with disabilities with the participation of Stefan Trommel (ILO senior disability expert) and Steve Beyer, a professor at the University of Cardiff.
- Organised a 3-day study visit in Israel with 4 EASPD members from Austria, Greece, and Spain with the aim of exchanging good practices in the area of employment for persons with disabilities.
- During the EASPD conference in Malta, the MF organised a study visit to the local member Lino Spiteri Foundation to explore a model of inclusive employment, taking into account the ambitions and skills of persons with disabilities.



Early childhood Intervention (ECI)

- Drafted and launched the ECI position paper.
- Lighthouse Network: a series of trainings on family-mediated intervention methodology.
- Launched the report on ECI in the Balkans.



Inclusive Living



- Contributed to EASPD's submission on the Draft Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies of the Committee of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Hosted a study visit in Girona, Spain, with 10 participating organisations on architecture and autism, crisis management, supported decision making and team building activities.
- Supported EASPD's Spring Knowledge Café on the Transition to life in the community – from seeds to flowers.
- Contributed to EASPD's position paper to support the upcoming European Commission's Guidance towards Member States on Independent Living and Inclusion in the Community for persons with disabilities.

Workforce Development and Human Resources

- Participated in Member Forum meetings during conferences to discuss updates in the HR and Workforce world.
- Ongoing inputs to the EASPD Policy work related to the workforce.
- Contributing to the relaunch of the European Care Certificate (ECC) Network.
- Planning and preparing the digitisation of the ECC training into MOOC form.



Arts and Culture



- 10 organisations from this Member Forum worked together to create a video based on the Greek myth of Persephone. Each organisation presented a section of the myth in their chosen art form (drama, music, dance, art, scriptwriting) and filmed their work. All video recordings were combined and edited to present both the work in process and the complete story.
- Lighthouse Network event: the creation of a set of recommendations to develop art-based therapy services to assist refugees with disabilities fleeing Ukraine.
- 3 meetings during the year to discuss future initiatives.

Policy Impact

- Had 2 face-to-face meetings and other online meetings to discuss EU policy developments on a cross-sectoral basis.
- Presented and discussed 3 EASPD Policy Updates.
- Impacted the EU Care Strategy, which focused on investment, staffing and quality in care services.



Provider Fora

EASPD's Provider Fora are national seminars which aim to strengthen the voice of service providers at a national level. The forums offer an opportunity for service providers to network, discuss key challenges and approaches for the service provision sector in their country, to and learn more about relevant EU policies and funding opportunities. In 2022, EASPD hosted 3 provider forums.

Technical Support to implement reforms to support the development of family centred early childhood intervention services in Greece

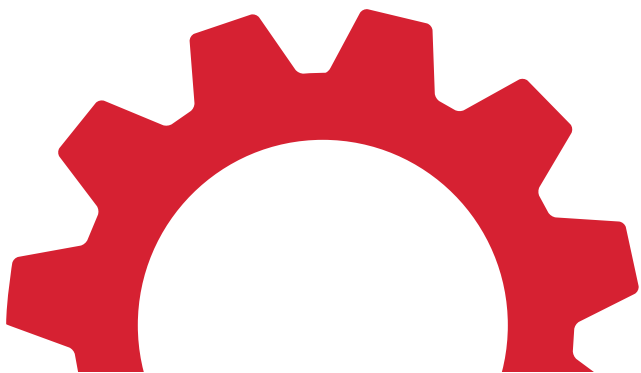
4th March | Greek Provider Forum

Co-organised by the NET of Greek Service providers for persons with disabilities and EASPD, the Greek Member Forum took place in Athens. The hybrid event included 70 in-person attendees with another 56 persons attended online. The Forum discussed the current state of play for ECI in Greece, as well as the importance family-centered ECI can have on the child's lifelong development. The forum also provided a platform to share best practices.

Addressing the situation of the war in Ukraine presenting the assistance provided by organisations - Next steps to help people with disabilities in Ukraine

28th April | Hungarian Provider Forum

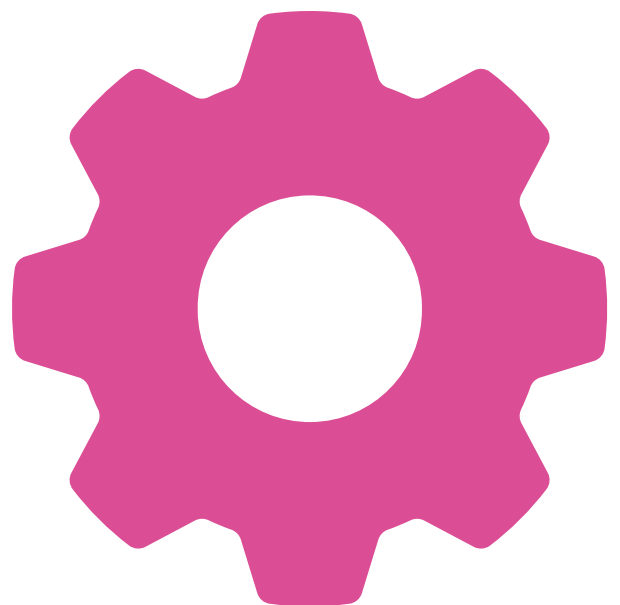
Taking place in Budapest, EASPD's Hungarian Provider Forum was co-hosted by the Civic Advocacy Network and the ÉTA National Association. Organised just 2 months after the full scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation's Military Forces, the forum addressed how support service providers in Hungary can work together, alongside the national government, to support refugees with disabilities from Ukraine. Speakers included Attila Fülöp, Minister of State for Social Affairs.



Reception of Ukrainian Refugees with a Disability in the Netherlands

1st June | Dutch Provider Forum

Taking place in Baarn, EASPD's Dutch Provider Forum aimed to share best practices and experiences of receiving refugees with disabilities and their families/carers from Ukraine. The event, which was hosted by SOFT Tulip was attended by 28 participants, representing 7 different care facilities in the Netherlands. Participants agreed to come together again later in the year with SOFT Tulip keeping care providers in the Netherlands informed about the situation in Ukraine.



Financial Report



Revenues

Membership fees	€ 246,725
Structural funding	€ 1,065,189
Projects	€ 1,374,189
Others	€ 172,280
Total revenue	€ 2,858,383

Expenditure

Staff expenses	€ 1,695,981
Running costs	€ 140,557
Others	€ 938,928
Total charges	€ 2,775,466

Net Result	€ 82,917
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