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Presidency Conference on Integration of Persons with Disabilities in the Labour Market

Prague, 20th and 21st September 2022

WHO IS WHO



Daphne AHRENDT
Eurofound, Senior Research Manager

She is a Senior Research Manager at Eurofound, the EU Agency for the improvement of living and working conditions in Europe. She joined the Eurofound in 2013. Since 2017, Daphne has contributed to providing knowledge to improve the situation of people with disabilities. In 2021 she was responsible for a study that investigates policy developments in EU Member States supporting the inclusion of people with disabilities in the open labour market.



Pietro Vittorio BARBIERI
Vicechair GR3 Civil Society Organization and president of Permanent SG Disability EESC, EESC

Human rights activist. He chaired the Italian umbrella organization of DPO's, founded EDF, member of Ad Hoc Committee for UNCRPD, visiting professor at Padua University and Milan Catholic University. Also chaired the Italian Third Sector Forum, platform of non-profit CSO's which I represent in EESC. Chair of the Independent living Centre in Rome.



Virginia CARCEDO ILLERA
Foundation Once, General Secretary

Has degrees in law and management. She currently holds the post of General Secretary and General Management of FSC Inserta, the ONCE Foundation's entity for the training and employment of people with disabilities. She is an expert in diversity management, equal opportunities, Third Sector and rights of people with disabilities. She has participated as a speaker at numerous conferences, forums, seminars and working groups related to these working groups related to these issues at national and international level.



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John Patrick CLARKE
Vice-president, European Disability Forum, EDSA
European Down Syndrome Association

Advocating for persons with Down Syndrome and all people with disabilities for over 40 years. Particular involvement in promoting inclusive education, employment and access to health and independent living for all persons with disabilities.



William COCKBURN
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work,
Interim Executive Director

William Cockburn has worked at the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work since 1998 where he focused on the areas of research coordination and emerging risks. In charge since 2012 of EU-OSHA's Prevention and Research Unit, which develops the OSH content for the agency, he is currently the Agency's Interim Executive Director.



Jim CROWE
EASPD, President

Experienced Board Member with a demonstrated history of working in the civic & social organization industry. Skilled in Non-profit Organizations, Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Enterprise, Government, and Social Housing. Strong business development professional with a MA focused in History from University of Wales, Aberystwyth.



Helena DALLI
Comissioner for Equality, European Commission

A sociologist, she joined politics as a member of the Labour Party of Malta. She was repeatedly elected member of the parliament. She served as Minister in several Governments. In 2019, she was appointed EU Commissioner for Equality.



Geneviève DARRIEUSSECQ
Minister for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry for
Solidarity, Autonomy and Persons with Disabilities

She is a physician and member of the Democratic Movement (MoDem) party. She was appointed to her current position in 2022. Previously, she served as the mayor of Mont-de-Marsan and Secretary of State to the Minister of the Armed Forces.



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Ignacio DORESTE HERNÁNDEZ
European Trade Union Confederation, Senior advisor

He is the ETUC advisor working on the dossiers of labour market and employment; self-employment, atypical work, and the platform economy; occupational health and safety; and organising workers. He studied Psychology and holds Masters on Human Resources Management, International Aid and Cooperation for Development and Clinical Psychology. He has worked for the ETUC since 2013. He had been engaged in the Spanish trade union movement since 2009.



Zuzana DUDÁKOVÁ
Modrý domeček, s.r.o., Executive Director

Founder and executive director of the social enterprise Modrý domeček, s.r.o., chairwoman of the board of the association Náruč, which helps and supports people with mental illness, consultant and lecturer of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in the field of social entrepreneurship and member of the control committee of the TESSEA board of directors.



Cynthia M. HARRISON
CEDEFOP, Policy assistant

She is currently managing the Lifelong guidance project at Cedefop – the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, working closely with a team of experts in validation of informal and non-formal learning and financing adult learning, at the Department for Learning and Employability. Her role includes coordination of CareersNet, Cedefop's network of independent experts in lifelong guidance and career learning, as well as management of the associated, Inventory of lifelong guidance systems and practices.



Teresa HORNING
BDA Confederation of German Employers' Associations, Senior Adviser

Teresa joined BDA's EU affairs department in 2018. Since then, she has been responsible for EU labour market, migration, and education & training policy as well as the future of work and digitalisation. BDA is the central business association organising the social and economic policy interests of the entire German economy and a member of BusinessEurope.



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Katarina IVANKOVIĆ KNEŽEVIĆ

Director for Social Rights and Inclusion in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Her area of activity is modernisation of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion through the European Pillar of Social Rights and other social policies of the EU. She was a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Pension System of Croatia responsible for the ESF and other EU instruments for human resources development. She has specialized in human rights, gender equality, social policy and employment, especially labour market policies.



Justina JAKŠTINĖ

Vice-Minister, Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania

Her portfolio as Vice-Minister consists of disability policy, integration policies for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and youth, migration and asylum policies, illegal migration crisis from Belarus, humanitarian aid, EU horizontal policies (anti-discrimination and equal opportunities for all), demography and management of population changes and management of EU funds and programmes. Previously, she worked as Head of Strategical Planning Group at the Central Project Management Agency under the Ministry of Finance and also as a social policy expert (TAIEX) at European Commission.

Marian JUREČKA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia



since 2017.

For many years, he had focused on agriculture, serving also as the Minister of Agriculture in 2014–2017. Was elected repeatedly to regional assembly of the Olomouc Region and to the Parliament. In 2020, he became the chair of KDU-ČSL party. After 2021 Parliamentary elections, he was appointed to his current post. For many years, he has been active in the charity field. He has been a member of the Charita Olomouc Council



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Anne KARJALAINEN

European Committee of the Regions' Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC), Chair

She has been member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2009 and is also member of several other EU committees. She has been repeatedly appointed a member of Kerava City Council since 1993 and became its chair in 2021. A graduated mathematician, she worked as a teacher and held several managerial posts in educational sector.



Jakub KNĚZŮ

Etincelle, o.s., founder and CEO

After studying mass communication in Prague and Paris, he worked as a journalist for Czech TV for ten years. Thanks to this work, he got into the field of helping people with disabilities. With his colleagues, 15 years ago he created an organization that has been employing people with disabilities. They currently employ over 200 people with mental and physical challenge. He won the 2018 EY Socially Beneficial Entrepreneur and other awards.



Simon MALJEVAC

State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

Simon Maljevac is a sociologist. For 10 years, he had led the communications engineering agency Directa and the Legebitra Information Centre Society which grew into the largest LGBT NGO in Slovenia. He worked with the Government on research, prevention and activism projects. He represented Slovenia in the EU Network group of the ILGA Europe international organisation, and he was President of the IGLYO international youth organisation. Since 2018, he has been Secretary-General of the political party The Left (Levica).



Caroline MANCEL

Actiris, Deputy Director-General

Caroline Mancel has an extensive professional expertise in the field of Research, Employment and Social affairs, within the Brussels-Capital Region and on a European level, having worked at the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU. She joined Actiris, the Brussels Public Employment Service in 2014, and was appointed as Deputy Director-General in March 2016.



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Laura MARCHETTI

Mental Health Europe (MHE), Policy Manager

She holds a Master of Arts double degree in European Studies. Prior to joining MHE in 2017, she worked for various Brussels-based NGOs and collaborated with different EU institutions and international agencies. In that work, she focused on the rights of persons with disabilities, de-institutionalisation, economic and social rights, including the right to work and inclusion in the labour market as well as health and safety in the workplace. At MHE, Laura leads the network's work on social policy and coordinates the work of the policy and advocacy team to ensure the achievement of strategic objectives.



Radka MAXOVÁ

Member of the European Parliament

Radka Maxová has been a member of the European Parliament since July 2, 2019. She is currently an "independent" in the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. She focuses mainly on the topics of rights of persons with disability, mental health, LGBTIQ+ rights, equal opportunities and social security in the context of free movement.



Alejandro MOLEDO

European Disability Forum, Deputy Director & Head of Policy

Passionate about human rights of persons with disabilities, EU affairs, accessibility and policymaking. Coordinates EDF policy team. Nothing about us without us.



Jan MOUDRÝ

Association of Social Farming, Chairman

In addition to working at the Faculty of Agriculture and Technology of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, where he focuses on sustainable farming systems, including social farming, he is the chairman of the board of the Association of Social Farming z.s. and a member of the Working Committee for Social Farming at the Ministry of Agriculture.



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Antonín NEKVINDA
Sdružení Neratov, z.s., COO

Since 2010 he has been working as a Chief Operating Officer in the Neratov Association (est. 1992). The Association employs 250 people and 180 of them are handicapped. The Neratov Association provides social services that have been supported by its broad economic activities. After a career in insurance sector, he established his own brokerage company JNP Finance, Plc. in 2010. Since 2011 he has been the CEO in the PONS 21 Association, that built a school for 500 poor children in India. The Association keeps supporting it. In 2011 he set up a social company Anpora, Ltd. in Brno that employs 40 handicapped people, and its main working activities are assembling works.



José OLIVEIRA
European Platform for Rehabilitation, Member representative

Vocational rehabilitation and reintegration professional responsible for developing disability management support for employers. Experienced in work ability assessment of employment candidates with a disability, and in job analysis substantiating workplace accommodations and assistive products.



Ruth PASERMAN
Director for Funds, Programming and Implementation DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

An economist, she joined the Commission in 1993. She has since worked in: Eurostat, DG Employment and Social Affairs, DG Competition, DG Enterprise and Industry. She was also member of cabinet of Vice-President Tajani, Vice-President Dombrovskis and deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Thyssen. She has held her current post since November 2020. She is responsible for the legislation, policy development and coordination of implementation of the funds managed by the DG (ESF+, EGF, Invest EU social window), as well as for the social economy and better regulation.



Spiros PROTOPSALTIS
DYPA, Governor & Chairman of the Board

Previously, he was an Associate Professor at George Mason University and director of Ed Policy Forward. During the Obama Administration, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education and Student Financial Aid for the US Department of Education, Senior Higher Education Advisor to the Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labour and Pensions,



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and Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Polis of Colorado. He holds a PhD from the University of Colorado Denver, an MS from the New School University, and a BA summa cum laude from Northeastern University.



**Karel RYCHTÁŘ
TESSEA ČR, Director**

Practice in the field of social entrepreneurship with a focus on employment of the disabled since 1985. Participation and involvement in European projects since 2001. Long-term director of the department at the Union of Production Cooperatives Prague (2000 - 2020), vice-chairman of the AZPP CR and member of the Government Committee for Persons with Disabilities (until now).



**Martina ŠTĚPÁNKOVÁ
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Czechia**

As Deputy Minister since 2019, she has been in charge of European Funds and International Cooperation. After graduation (Faculty of Law), she joined the Human Rights Department of the Office of the Government. Between 2006 and 2014, she worked in the non-governmental sector. In 2014, she was appointed Director of the Human Rights Section and subsequently Deputy Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation in the Office of the Government. From June 2018 to March 2019, she was the Government Commissioner for Human Rights.



**Zdena ŠTĚPÁNKOVÁ
Nadační fond na podporu zaměstnávání OZP
(Foundation fund for PWD employment promotion),
Chairwoman of the Board of Directors**

In the foundation fund, she mainly focuses on projects that make it easier for people with disabilities to enter the open labour market. The foundation fund is a non-governmental organization that earns money through education, education in the field of employment of disabled people, sales and promotion of products from sheltered workshops. The found also has grants for the creation of projects. One of the latest is the Job Market, where persons with disabilities are connected with their future employers mainly from the commercial labour market.