



## European Inclusion Summit and High-Level Meeting of Disability Commissioners and Ombudspersons

### European Inclusion Summit – LIVESTREAM

17 November 2020, 9.00 to 16.45

What is the state of inclusion in Europe? What are the experiences in the member states?

What are best-practice examples of greater participation?

On 17 November 2020, Jürgen Dusel, the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities, will host a virtual event to discuss these questions with policymakers and practitioners from the member states. The event will consist of keynote speeches, panel discussions and interactive video conferences. The event will be held as a digital conference only ([programme](#)). It will focus on four topics:

#### **Panel 1: European Accessibility Act**

EU member states have to transpose the European Accessibility Act (EAA) into national law by 2022. The EEA introduces significantly stricter requirements regarding accessibility and duties, including for the private sector. Germany has started with initial work on the necessary national law. Pursuant to the EEA, newly-launched products as well as services must be accessible no later than 28 June 2025.

Jürgen Dusel has long been calling for a requirement for private suppliers to make their products and services accessible: *“The European Accessibility Act must be clearly implemented in the interest of persons with disabilities. This means that video-on-demand services and streaming platforms must be as accessible as cash and ticket machines or e-books – to name just a few examples,”* says the Commissioner.

The panel on the European Accessibility Act will feature two projects from Sweden and Austria which will show how they are already realising accessibility in the private sector today. The panellists will be:

- **Jürgen Dusel**, Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities, Germany
- **Christian Kneil**, Newsmanager and Head of MultiMedia, APA – Austria Press Agency, Austria
- **Susanna Laurin**, Chief Research and Innovation Officer, Funka, Sweden

- **Mag.<sup>a</sup> Elke Niederl**, Deputy Disability Ombudswoman, Austria
- **Inmaculada Placencia Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

### **Panel 2: Protection of women and children with disabilities against violence**

Women, girls and children with disabilities are affected disproportionately by violence. This is why the protection of this vulnerable group against violence is part of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and why the Convention also comprises prevention and intervention strategies. These include concepts for the protection against violence in institutions, access to individual assistance as well as monitoring. Here, there is urgent need for action: *“Counselling structures and sheltered accommodation for women and children with disabilities need to be significantly improved and expanded,”* says Jürgen Dusel. *“Gaps in the support system need to be filled quickly and in line with needs. Accessibility and local availability must become the norm for both advisory services and sheltered accommodation.”*

During the panel “Protection of women and children with disabilities against violence”, a project fighting gender-specific violence and its practical work will be presented. Johannes-Wilhelm Rörig, the German Government’s Independent Commissioner for Child Sex Abuse Issues, will inform panel participants about current needs for action. The panellists will be:

- **Ana Sofia Antunes**, Secretary of State for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Portugal
- **Johannes-Wilhelm Rörig**, Independent Commissioner for Child Sex Abuse Issues, Germany
- **Rosalba Taddeini**, Gender-Based Violence and Multiple Discrimination Expert, Differenza Donna, Italy
- **Maria Mădălina Turza**, Secretary of State and President of the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, Romania

### **Panel 3: Digitalisation**

The digital transformation offers new opportunities and simplifies many processes. It also provides persons with disabilities with new participation opportunities. However, these opportunities will only materialise if digital processes and applications are designed in an accessible manner from the outset. Otherwise there is a major risk that persons with disabilities will experience even more exclusion. *“The coronavirus pandemic in particular has shown how important digital accessibility is, for example when we think of video conferencing software or citizen-friendly services, which in future can increasingly be used digitally. We must not repeat old mistakes here,”* says Jürgen Dusel.

During the panel on digitalisation, projects from Germany and Italy will report on their work and show how they are implementing digitalisation in an accessible manner. In addition, there will be a debate about the societal and political dimension of an accessible digital transformation. The panellists will be:

- **Dorothee Bär**, Minister of State and Federal Government Commissioner for Digital Affairs, Germany
- **Antonio Caponetto**, Head of Office for Policy and People with Disabilities, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy
- **Rait Kuuse**, Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia
- **Cristina Mussinelli**, Secretary General, Fondazione LIA, Italy
- **Nicole Windmann**, Head of the SAP Accessibility Competence Center, SPA SE and **Peter Lorenz**, Head of Portfolio Unit Digital Solutions, T-Systems, Development “Corona-Warn-App”, Germany

#### **Panel 4: Inclusive Development Cooperation**

Worldwide more than a billion people live with a disability – roughly 80 percent of them in developing and emerging countries. Persons with disabilities are affected disproportionately by poverty and are less likely to have access to education, labour markets as well as health and social benefits. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires its contracting states to make their international aid inclusive. Therefore Jürgen Dusel considers the consistent involvement of persons with disabilities to be essential when it comes to developing and implementing strategies and programmes in the donor, but in particular also in the partner countries of German development cooperation.

The panel “Inclusive Development Cooperation” will showcase projects from Finland and Germany that illustrate how inclusion can systematically become part of international aid efforts thanks to innovative approaches and strategies. In addition to the best-practice projects, Dr Bärbel Kofler, the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance, as well as disability representatives and ombudspersons from European countries, will be involved in the debates in order to discuss expectations and experiences in this area.

The panellists will be:

- **Dr. Bärbel Kofler**, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance, Germany
- **Katariina Sario**, Senior Adviser - Non-Discrimination & Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- **Dr. Bernd Schramm**, Project Manager for the Global Project on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, German Agency for International Cooperation, Germany
- **Kristina Stenman**, Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland
- **Marjolein Swaanenburg-van Roosmalen**, Commissioner, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Netherlands

**High-level meeting of disability commissioners and ombudspersons**

**from EU member states (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

**18 November 2020, 9.15 to 13.15**

### **Input for the European Disability Strategy 2020-2030**

The European Union is home to roughly 100 million persons with a disability. The EU as a whole ratified the UNCRPD in 2009. The “European Disability Strategy” is thus the most important instrument of the EU for the implementation of the requirements laid down in the UNCRPD. However, feedback from the member states is also of central importance. The purpose of the high-level meeting is as follows: European disability commissioners and ombudspersons will be meeting for the first time to exchange ideas on the state of the art in inclusion in the member states and to discuss the continuation of the “European Disability Strategy 2020-2030”.

The outcome of the meeting will be reflected in a joint declaration addressed among others to the European Commission.

**This declaration will be published in the afternoon of 18 November (<http://www.european-inclusion-summit.eu/press>).**

Press material and documents for download can be found [here](#).

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