

Board meeting EDF June '19

Conference "Smart Travel"

- Welcome speech by Gunta, explaining the voting procedures.
- Yannis. Talks about the issues as result of EU elections, presidency of the Commission, the Intergroup and the presiding of ECB. Smart Travel concerns accessibility. Experience of PwD are of utmost importance to organize whatever kind of accessible travel. "Smart" also means the use of all technical solutions. Real time information on smartphones etc. in spite of the EU Accessibility Act a lot of transport means are inaccessible.
- Ana Arellano. Chair of IDA. Representing 108 states. Supporting organizations of PwD to hold governments to account and advocate real change for PwD. IDA estimates to represent more than 1 billion PwD all over the world.
- Jos Sales, President of IRU, world organization for goods and passenger transport. Accessible public transport is an import topic especially in local and rural areas.
- Claire Smith, Scotland's National Transport Agency. Nothing About us Without us is already since 2016 a slogan that is put in work. All kinds of transport are being worked on.
- Luisa Bosisio, training of operators. In spite of all regulations there is still a lack of training of staff. A very important topic in the training to learn the difference between Human rights and charity!
- Thelma Georgiou, Cyprus. By involving passengers with disabilities they try to make accessibility and assistance better at airports. Exercises and practice were very helpful to manage the trainings. Complaints are investigated and managed. Barriers for elderly people are being removed.
- Elisabeth Kotthaus, EU Commission. Talked about The Air Passenger Rights regulation. Guidelines about who is an PRM traveler, what is an assistance dog, what is medical equipment. Rail passenger rights, still no obligation of training of staff. What is also a big problem is that assistance is only provided within a certain timespan, what if a PwD travels early morning or late at night.... The pre-notification of 48 hours is not proposed to change, because a lot of the rolling stock is very old... Will publish an euro Barometer on passenger rights before the summer break. PwD will be seen as customers and not as a cost factor.

- Malekzadeh, Deutsche Bahn. Introduced an Accessible App. Three beneficiary's of digital accessibility, the users, the society and the railway company. Everything, web sites, apps and apps must be accessible. App "DoorFinder", helps blind people finding the door of the train by means of mobile phone. App "TravelBuddy" to connect disabled travelers with non-disabled.
- Ch. Gkokia, Amadeus. Technology as facilitator for the accessibility in the transport sector. amadeus.com. The world biggest booking system for airlines. Made an app which alerts travelers when the bus is arriving.
- Bart Simons. ICT can help independence of PwD. Accessibility is not meaning the same for everybody... "Lonely Planet" publicizes a PDF containing usable resources about accessibility. Gives a lot of possible aides with GPS, Google maps...., and other apps. But be ware, GPS is not always accurate.
- Q&A. What about people with invisible disabilities, psychosocial disabilities and Intellectual disabilities? No straight answer....

AGA.

- Roll call, agenda OK
- Elections: Luisa Bosisio (National Council), Vanu (Ingo)
- Report on 2018 Agreed
- Update on 2019 work Programme. New staff members are presented. Adoption of the AA. Report on AI. 3rd Human right report. 33000 signatures for Right to vote. Competition on good practice on youth employment. Action against the Oviedo protocol. Coming 4th human rights report.....
- Work Programme of 2020. New parliament, new commission. The new leaders will get the priorities be proposed. Trying to get the EDC expanded. SDG's will stay on the agenda. Including full accessibility in Erasmus+. 5th Human rights report. New EDF-website open line by the end of this year. Accepted unanimously.
- EDF priorities for the next Commission. Timmermans or Weber??? Set up of an EU access board. UNCRPD Focal point to Secretary General in stead of DG Employment on top of all the different focal points within the DG's. To avoid that things are implemented that go against the UNCRP. The "training and education" of the Commissioners is not only the job of EDF but also a job for the National Councils...

- EU Elections. Important to coordinate our work to reestablish the Disability Intergroup. During the election campaign we made a lot of work for getting the elections accessible, the campaign was signed by nearly 34.000 persons. EDF created a document telling that about 800.000 persons were without right to vote. Evaluation of the results. Luckily EDF has contacts with a lot of fractions in the EP. Very important that EDF members speak with their national MEPs to get them to become member of the Disability Intergroup.
- Building the disability movement and alliances to influence change. Marina Monaco, ETUC. EU Social dialogue, a very powerful instrument to get different ideas on the same line. Very useful for dialogues with governments. Brikena Xhomaqi, Lifelong learning platform.....
- Katarina Ivankovic, EU Pillar of Social Rights. How on earth is it still possible that with all the software and knowledge on ITC that still so many websites are not accessible. Very important to know who will be the next commissioner for social policy.
- EU Semester.
 - Elena Schubert EU DG Empl. The use of Social funds is determined by the EU Semester. A framework for the coordination of economic policies across the EU.
 - Katerina Nanou, Eurochild. Their important activity is now the transition from institution to community based care. A lot of talk, but difficult to follow...
 - Simona Giarratano, DG Empl. Even being an economic process, there is a very big chapter about poverty, employment, inclusion... So this way it is an prove that everybody is included in the society.
 - Q&A. Is poverty not producing institutionalization? The commission want to disable this disabling fact through the Protection Committee. Also throug the legislation for a state to have a minimum income scheme. How can ngo's use this semester topic? If there is a report on poverty or health issues, send it to the EU DG Empl.
- International Co-Operation. What about experience of DPO's with organizations in the global South. Missed large part of this topic.....
- Finances. Nearly 7000€ benefit. Accounts OK, internal auditors, Raymond Cecotto and... ? Budget OK.
- Membership review. BDF has an abstention in the vote. Majority is in favor.

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- Evaluation. Presentation of the external evaluator.
- Next AG. 08_09_10_May in Zagreb, Croatia.
- AOB. European Mobility Forum. Users and industry be involved in mobility issue.
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