

**Empowering persons with disabilities to fully
participate in society by increasing their mobility
and accessibility**

**Conference during the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the
EU 2021**

Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

Organizer

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia

**National Council of Disabled people's organisations of Slovenia together with the European
Disability Forum will participate at the conference**

Scope and Objectives

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The red thread of this conference is mobility and accessibility for people with disabilities, which in the first panel is reflected in the contributions leading to awareness of the rights of people with disabilities, especially on the field of accessibility and mobility, which the European Commission has highlighted in the recent years with the adoption of the Directive (EU) 2019/882 on accessibility requirements for products and services, which needs to be transposed into national law by 28th June 2022. Therefore, the introductory part of the conference is intended to present Slovenian projects that have been successfully implemented so far, which can be permanently developed and will be essential to the people with disabilities in their lives.

The second panel will present a project of the European Commission, which together with the Member States has successfully implemented the EU Disability Card project, which addresses the issue of more available accessibility for the people with disabilities when traveling in the countries of the European Union. The card offers more favourable products and services for people with disabilities within the individual country that participated in the project. There have been 8 of these countries so far, and one of them was Slovenia, which was the first to complete the project. In the second part, we want to present the importance of this project, good practices, and the importance of expanding the card to the entire EU.

In the final part of the conference, the third panel will present the most current topic, the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2021 - 2030, which is based on the previous strategy and intervene in all areas of the life of people with disabilities, even in the time of crisis, and take care for their integration into society in all areas of their lives. The main focus will be on the red thread of the conference, accessibility, which is a broad concept and includes access to goods, digitalization, information and communication technologies, education, employment, health, full participation in society, and last but not least, the implementation of the EU Disability Card in even greater scale, as was originally intended goal. All of this is indirectly linked to the implementation and realisation of the commitment made at the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

General objectives:

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1. The Conference will contribute to raising awareness of the rights of people with disabilities, in particular from the field of accessibility and mobility.
2. The exchange of good practices / successful projects in the European Union is an important aspect for the active development of EU society as a whole.
3. It will pursue the path set in recent years by the European Commission, highlighting in particular the importance of Directive (EU) 2019/882 on accessibility requirements for products and services.
4. Promoting recommendation of the new European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 about the EU Disability Card benefits and recognizing the importance of extending the card to all EU Member States.
5. Recognizing the importance of the implementation of new European legislation, the European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, which results from the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Participants:

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Governmental and non-governmental experts, representatives of persons with disabilities and disability

organizations, high representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Disability Forum, the European Association of Service Providers, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and academia.

Draft program

MAIN MODERATORS:

Mateja Toman, President of Muscular Dystrophy Association of Slovenia

Štefan Kušar, Secretary of the Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Slovenia

PLACE OF EVENT:

Brdo pri Kranju

LANGUAGE:

Slovenian, English, Slovenian sign language, International sign language, Subtitles

REGISTRATION FEE:

No registration fee

CONTACT POINT:

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Štukljeva 44, 1000 Ljubljana ; SVN

E-mail: gp.mddsz@gov.si ; sasa.mlakar@gov.si ;
mojca.faganel@gov.si

PLENARY SESSION I

10.30-10.45 Moderator: Ms Suzana Tajnik, Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Place: Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, Hall Grandis

Theme: Multimodal mobility

10.45–11.00	Multimodal mobility –?	Mr mag. Roman Rener Adviser of Director at Geodetic Institute of Slovenia
11.00–11.15	Access and Mobility for persons with disabilities inside the buildings	Mr Dr. Igor Bizjak Director at Urban planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
11.15–11.30	Name of topic?	Ms Elisabeth Kotthaus Deputy Director-General - Coordination of Directorate B, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
11.30–11.45	Name of topic?	Ms Gunta Anca General Secretary at the European Disability Forum (EDF)
11.45–12.00	Personal experiences – practical aspects from the user, who participated in the project Multimodal mobility	Mr Aljoša Škaper Founder of the pridem.si organisation
12.00 – 12.15	Questions and answers	
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch	

PLENARY SESSION II

13.15-13.30 Moderator: Ms Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert from the Disability and Inclusion unit, DG EMPL, European Commission

Place: Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, Hall Grandis

Theme: EU Disability Card

13.30–13.45	Presentation of the Slovenian project on the EU Disability Card benefits - experiences	Ms Saša Mlakar Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
13.45–14.00	Presentation of the Belgian project on the EU Disability Card benefits - experiences	Mr Joachim Lommelen , Policy Adviser at the Federal Public Service for Social Security, Belgium
14.00–14.15	Presentation of the Maltesian project on the EU Disability Card benefits - experiences	Ms Rhoda Garland , Executive Director, Malta
14.15–14.30	Name of topic?	Mr Pierre Gyselinck Board member at the European Disability Forum (EDF)
14.30–14.45	User experiences of the EU Disability Card benefits.	Mr Ivo Jakovljević – user Muscular Dystrophy Association of Slovenia
14.45–15.00	Questions and answers	
15.00-15.15	Coffee Break	

PLENARY SESSION III

15.15-15.30 Moderator: Ms Catherine Naughton, Director of European Disability Forum (EDF)

Place: Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, Hall Grandis

Theme: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE		
15.45–16.00	Ime teme - Name of topic?	Mr Luk Zeldeloo Secretary General of the European Association of Service Providers For Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
16.00–16.15	Ime teme - Name of topic?	Mr Michael O’Flaherty Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
16.15–16.30	Ime teme - Name of topic?	Mr Yannis Vardakastanis President of the European Disability Forum (EDF)
16.30–16.45	Ime teme - Name of topic?	Mr Dane Kastelic State Councilor of the Republic of Slovenia and President of the Association of Paraplegics of Slovenia
16.45–17.15	Sklepne ugotovitve / Conclusions	Mr mag. Cveto Uršič Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Ms Saša Mlakar Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
17.15	End of the Conference	
18.00	Dinner – Brdo pri Kranju	