



Hosting an accessible high-level conference

- Experience from the Danish EU Presidency

My agenda

- Key advice
- Our task
- Planning
- The conference
- What would I do today?

My advice

- Be curious and think outside the box
- Prepare alternatives
- Create a common understanding
- Streamline decision-making
- Call a friend (European Disability Forum)

Our task

- Disability policy as a priority during Danish EU Presidency
- Political decision to host a high-level conference with Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (DPOD) and European Disability Forum (EDF)
- Own goals
 - Interactive
 - Constructive
 - Accessible in every aspect

Planning (1)

- Planning (logistically): from Spring 2024
- Understanding of an ‘accessible conference’
- Map the accessibility needs
- What would a venue **have** to accommodate and what would we **wish** it to accommodate
- Financial flexibility

Planning (2)

- Visits to venue with DPOD and EDF
- Convince everyone to have accessibility-mindset
- Solution-oriented and pragmatic
- Connect decision-making, financial responsibility and the contact with stakeholders

Planning (3)

- Prepared for the worst
- Limiting complexity
- Ensure enough staff



The conference (1)

- Divided conference venue in 3 zones
 - 1 responsible person for each zone
 - 25 members of staff divided into posts
- Challenge: entrance flow and registration
 - Registered all EDF members beforehand
 - Ensure different registration desks
- Information desk

The conference (2)

- Accessibility initiatives (non-exhaustive):
 - Staff throughout venue
 - Quiet and interaction rooms
 - Enough wheelchair spaces in conference hall and lounge area
 - Level free access within venue itself (including ramp for the stage)
 - Signs to show direction at all stages

The conference (3)

- Initiatives to support free choice:
 - 50 spots for wheelchair users conference hall
 - Majority of seats at low tables in lounge area
 - Distance between rows in conference hall
 - 20 spots with tables in conference hall
 - Large hearing loop zone
 - A mix of screens in conference hall

Thank you!

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