

EASPD Webinar: Emergency Session: Impact of 2nd COVID-19 wave on Disability Services

Thursday 12th November 10h00 CET, via Zoom

Context

Europe is experiencing the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first wave -and the resulting lockdown- significantly hindered the provision of support, employment and education services to millions of persons with disabilities. This impacted the lives of millions of persons with disabilities and the jobs of millions of workers involved in our sector. Since then, most of the services have re-opened; yet the 2nd wave is bringing new problems and re-enforcing older ones. Put simply, service provision to persons with disabilities is again in crisis and needs urgent support from policy-makers at all levels.

For this reason, the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities is organising an Emergency Webinar on the 12th November to highlight at European level the impact of the 2nd wave on disability services and to engage in dialogue with key stakeholders from the EU institutions.

This webinar will be the opportunity to

- learn more about how the 2nd wave of COVID-19 is affecting the employment, education, community living and access to culture for persons with disabilities through the provision of services;
- hear the impact on the workers who provide such support;
- discuss promising practices arising from this crisis;
- Engage with high level representatives from the EU institutions on their work to support disability services in times of crisis.

Programme

10h00	Welcoming Remarks by Jim Crowe, President of EASPD
10h10	Keynote Interventions by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Lucia Duris Nicholsonova, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament - Ms Dubravka Suica, Vice President of the European Commission (tbc)

10h30	Presentation of EASPD's 2 nd Snapshot Report on Impact of COVID-19 on Disability Services (October 2020) by Thomas Signal, Policy Manager, EASPD
10h40	<p>Panel Discussion on impact at local level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on Community Living, with Pep Solé, Managing Director of Support, Catalonia, Spain (tbc) - Impact on Employment, with Katrin Volker, Managing Director, Federal Association of Sheltered Workshops, Germany (tbc) - Impact on Education, with Annemie Jennes, Catholic Schools, Flanders, Belgium - Impact on Early Childhood Intervention, with Dr Vasilka Dimoska, Poraka, North Macedonia - Impact on Arts and Cultural Participation, with Eoin Nash, Cope Foundation, Ireland (tbc)
11h05	Questions and Answers with Participants
11h25	Concluding Remarks by Karin Astegger , Vice-President, EASPD

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