Europe in Action conference

Everyone can live by the river:
Everyone has the right to be independent and included

5-7 June 2019 | Vilnius, Lithuania
Europe in Action conferences are great for getting new ideas, sharing good practices and connecting with people in the inclusion movement.

Jyrki Pinomaa, President of Inclusion Europe
It is my great pleasure to welcome you today at the Inclusion Europe conference on independent living in the community held in Vilnius. It is very important for us to listen to each other, share good practices and seek effective problem solutions. It is even more important to listen to the expectations of the community members with disability, hear what they are saying and include them into decision-making.

In order to create conditions for every individual to live independently in the community, with dignity and taking full responsibility, we are continuing the deinstitutionalisation process, closing down large residential care institutions in Lithuania. At the same time, we aim to create a broader and more diverse network of community-based social services. The process of deinstitutionalisation that impacts many people, especially the most vulnerable parts of society, should not be rushed. To that end, proper preparation and the creation of a new system is needed. Finally, it is impossible to change public awareness and attitudes overnight. Therefore, I am delighted to state that we are moving confidently and deliberately along the path of deinstitutionalisation, taking one step at a time towards the implementation of the goal.

The voice and experience of organisations representing people with disabilities is extremely important to us. We are pleased to state that these organisations are not left behind. They actively join in discussions, supervise the process, make proposals and voice their opinions.

I wish the event a great success, and all guests and participants a most rewarding and enjoyable time, with unforgettable impressions and lasting friendships. Let this conference be a step further in ensuring equal rights and inclusion, as it is an essential contribution to a democratic society, the society that is a better place to live in for everyone.
Dear friends and colleagues!

I am more than happy to host the Europe in Action conference in Vilnius. It seems right that the beginning of summer in Lithuania is marked by this event of great importance for people with intellectual disabilities, their families and professionals from all over the world.

The Lithuanian welfare society of persons with mental disability Viltis, founded back in 1989, is extremely proud of its membership in Inclusion Europe. Thanks to this network of European organisations we have learned invaluable lessons. We have received multifaceted support and consulted with organisations in Europe, Australia, Canada and America. The first teachers of Viltis were the members of Lebenshilfe.

We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Viltis. That is an occasion to be proud. Today we feel an even greater than joy to host the international conference Europe in Action held in Lithuania from Inclusion Europe. We are grateful to our colleagues from Inclusion Europe for placing their trust and confidence in us to organise the conference in Vilnius. Of course, it is both a great honour and an immense responsibility.

Together with the board of members of Inclusion Europe and with Director Milan Šveřepa we have been debating for a long time about the main idea of the Europe in Action conference 2019 and what topics would be relevant to all 75 member organisations from 39 countries in Europe. We agreed that it is important to talk about independent living in the community which is a right set out in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The process of deinstitutionalisation and transition to community services is being discussed everywhere in Europe. Lithuania has also started the process of reorganising residential institutions. Thus, after consulting with the Minister of Social Security and Labour Linas Kukuraitis and the ministry team it was decided that this topic is most relevant as well in our country. It will be of utmost
significance for Lithuania to draw on the experience gained in other countries and to share our insights to verify how we are doing in pursuit of our goals.

The voice of self-advocates and their organisations is very important. Their experiences and dreams have to be taken into account. Therefore, this conference will serve as a unique opportunity for self-advocacy groups, councils or individuals supported by personal assistants to share experiences, best practices and discuss the challenges they face.

On numerous occasions I have seen a situation when artificial obstacles were created only to eliminate them later. Perhaps such an approach makes somebody feel his or her importance.

The underlying principle in our daily activities (sometimes I would even dare to say in our daily battles) is to identify something that unites all of us rather than put labels on other people. The same holds true for this event. We are attending the conference today to create a common future.

We admire the beauty of woods and meadows, but do we ever take a moment’s thought to realize that true beauty lies is diversity? No two flowers are the same and no two trees are the same. Similarly, no two individuals are the same.

Let us learn to be and live together. So different and so united.
Dear colleague in the inclusion movement, welcome to Europe in Action 2019!

“Everyone has the right to live by the River Vilnele, and the River Vilnele has the right to flow by everyone”. This is the first article of the constitution of a small neighbourhood of Užupis, in the old town of Vilnius. It started as an April Fool’s Day joke and is now one of the smallest “republics” in the world, covering less than one square kilometre boasting its own president, government, constitution and currency, and of course its independence day on April 1st.

Some might see Article 1 of Užupis’ constitution as an example of the humour of its people. But if you look further, you will see that the following 40 articles include important statements on universal rights, such as:

- Everyone has the right to love.
- Everyone has the right to be happy.
- Everyone may be independent.

Yes, indeed, everyone does have the right to be independent – and to be included in the community. The story of Užupis and its constitution inspired us, in this year’s conference here in Vilnius, to explore the ambitions and struggles for an independent life, and people’s experiences with independent living.

During the coming days we will talk about this right. We will also look at the right to decide about your own life, supported decision-making and recent reforms of legal capacity and electoral laws.

Our speakers from all over Europe (and from outside of Europe) are self-advocates, family members and professionals. They will be happy to share their knowledge and personal experiences with you.

We worked to create a conference that is positive, hopeful and inclusive. I hope you will enjoy it as such.
We also want the people of Vilnius to know that we are here – we want to encourage them to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities. This is why we have organised sessions that will take place outside the conference venue: One of them will be in Užupis and one on Lukiškių square.

This conference is a joint effort of our Lithuanian member Viltis and our secretariat. I wish to express my gratitude to everybody whose input has made Europe in Action 2019 possible. Thank you to all at Viltis for putting in all the work to make the conference happen, with special thanks to Viltis’ president Dana Migaliova. Thank you to the Lithuanian Ministry of Security and Labour which has supported the conference financially. A big thank you to minister Linas Kukuraitis. Thank you to the European Union for their financial support too.

Our conferences are always great for getting new ideas, learning, sharing good practices and connecting with people in the inclusion movement. You have a part to play in that, too – by talking about your ideas and experiences, approaching new people and asking the speakers all the questions you can think of.

All of us at Inclusion Europe will be listening closely to these discussions. We will use everything we will learn to shape our movement and to advance the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in Europe.

Make the most of it, enjoy!
Europe in Action conferences bring together more than 200 people with intellectual disabilities, their families, activists and professionals. They discuss issues important to them and share experiences and ideas to promote inclusion.

The Europe in Action conferences are organised every year by Inclusion Europe and a national partner organisation (Inclusion Europe member). The first Europe in Action conference was organised in 2003. You can revisit all the previous conferences at the conference website www.europeinaction.org

In 2019, Europe in Action is organised by Inclusion Europe, Viltis and the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour. It takes place in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of Europe. The population of Lithuania is 2.8 million. Last year, Lithuania celebrated its 100th anniversary since the restoration of the State of Lithuania.

This year, Viltis celebrates 30 years of advocating for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.
At the conference in Vilnius we will talk and learn about the ambitions and efforts for an independent life. We invite you to come and learn and contribute to discussion about:

**The right to live independently and to be included in the community**

- Lithuania’s and other countries work to ensure the right to live independently
- Supporting people with complex support needs in being included
- The role of families when people with intellectual disabilities prepare themselves for living independently, and the support families need

**The right to make decisions**

- The practice of supported decision-making
- Reforms of legal capacity and of electoral laws

“We are attending the conference today to create a common future.”

*Dana Migaliova*, President of Viltis

We want the conference to be relaxed and inclusive. We want to give people the opportunity to talk about the topics discussed at the conference, and to engage with one another.
Location
Hotel Panorama, Sodų str. 14, LT-01313, Vilnius, Lithuania

Transportation
The conference takes place in a convenient strategic location near Vilnius Railway Station and Vilnius Bus Station. It is accessible by public transport from any part of the city.

Conference participants will be transported by pre-booked transport to the open space sessions in Užupis and Lukiškių square (6 June). The bus will wait by the Hotel PANORAMA at 13:30.

Guests will be taken to the Gala Dinner from Hotel PANORAMA at 18:30 (6 June).

Conference volunteers will assist you anytime.

For more information please ask at the conference reception desk.

Languages
Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, Lithuanian and Russian. Some sessions will be held only in English.

Plenary sessions
Humanitas room - simultaneous interpretation English-Lithuanian-Russian.

Workshops
Humanitas room - simultaneous interpretation English-Lithuanian (June 6th - Russian as well).
Animalis / Plantaria room - simultaneous interpretation English-Lithuanian.
Terra / Aquarius room - simultaneous interpretation English-Lithuanian.
Aeris room - English only.

Open Space Sessions / 6 June
Užupis - consecutive interpretation English-Lithuanian.
Lukiškių square - consecutive interpretation English-Lithuanian.
Accessibility cards

Accessibility of conference sessions
You can use the accessibility cards to tell speakers if they speak too fast or their talk is hard to follow.

Our team of plenary session and workshop moderators will monitor that the accessibility rules are followed.
Photography and filming during the event

The conference will be photographed and filmed.

If you do not want to be photographed by the conference photographers, ask for a special sticker at the conference reception desk.

Take photo. Share with friends

1 Take a picture

2 Post on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Linkedin

3 Link with #EiA19
## Timetable

### Wednesday 5 June
10:00 - 17:00

- **9:00 - 10:00**
  Registration
- **10:00 - 12:00**
  Plenary session 1
- **12:00 - 12:30**
  Lunch
- **13:30 - 15:00**
  Workshops 1
- **15:00 - 15:30**
  Break
- **15:30 - 17:00**
  Workshops 2
- **17:00**
  End of day

### Thursday 6 June
9:30 - 17:00

- **9:30 - 10:30**
  Plenary session 2
- **10:30 - 11:00**
  Break
- **11:00 - 12:00**
  Workshops 3
  EPSA General Meeting
- **12:00 - 12:30**
  Lunch
- **14:00 - 15:30**
  Workshops 4
  Open space sessions
- **15:30 - 16:00**
  Break
- **16:00 - 17:30**
  Workshops 5
  Inclusion Europe General Assembly
- **17:30**
  End of day
- **19:00 - 21:30**
  Gala dinner

### Friday 7 June
9:00 - 13:30

- **9:00 - 10:30**
  Plenary session 3
- **10:30 - 11:00**
  Break
- **11:00 - 12:00**
  Workshops 6
- **12:00 - 12:30**
  Break
- **12:30 - 13:30**
  Plenary session 4
- **13:30**
  End of conference

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**For Inclusion Europe members**

General Meeting of the European Platform of Self-Advocates to be held on Thursday, 6 June, in the morning, 11:00 Aeris room.

General Assembly to be held on Thursday, 6 June, in the afternoon, 16:00 Aeris room.
# Programme

**Day 1, Wednesday 5 June**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 10:00  | Welcome                                                              | **Linas Kukuraitis,**  
Minister of Social Security and  
Labour, Lithuania  
**Jyrki Pinomaa,**  
President of Inclusion Europe  
**Dana Migaliova,**  
President of Viltis, Lithuania | Humanitas |
| 10:30  | Independent living                                                  | **Elisabeta Moldovan,**  
Ceva de spus; Steering Group member,  
European Platform of Self-Advocates,  
Romania  
**Jonas Ruškus,**  
Member of the UN CRPD Committee,  
Lithuania | Humanitas |
|        | Discussion                                                           | **Linas Kukuraitis**  
Elisabeta Moldovan  
Jonas Ruškus |          |
|        | Video message                                                       | **Robert Martin,**  
Member of the UN CRPD Committee,  
New Zealand |          |
| 12:00  | Lunch                                                                |                                                                                                                                         |          |

**Workshops 1**  /  Languages: English and Lithuanian. Aeris room - English only

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Room</th>
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| 13:30  | Inclusion in the community of people with complex support needs     | **Manuel Lankmair,**  
Austria  
**Bernhard Schmid,**  
Lebenshilfe Vienna, Austria | Humanitas |
|        | Supporting independent living                                       | **Pavla Baxová,**  
Rytmus, Czechia | Animalis / Plantaria |
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Moving from an institution into the community; monitoring deinstitutionalisation in Ireland</td>
<td>Annemarie Duffy, Kathleen McTeigue, Inclusion Ireland</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td>Supported decision-making</td>
<td>Philipa Bragman, Catherine Carter, Change, United Kingdom</td>
<td>Animalis / Plantaria</td>
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<td>Opportunities and prospects for employment for people with disabilities</td>
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<td>Role of the family on the way to an independent life</td>
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<td>Terra / Acquarius</td>
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<td>Experiences of living independently</td>
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<td>Building relationships, supporting inclusion in society</td>
<td>Jennifer Allen, Best Buddies International, Spain</td>
<td>Aeris</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>End of day 1</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td><strong>Day 2, Thursday 6 June</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plenary session 2 / Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Right to decide and to live independently in Lithuania</td>
<td>Agneta Skardžiuvienė, Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reforms to the Lithuanian law to stop denying people their right to vote</td>
<td>Justas Džiugelis, Member of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Social Assistance for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>Dovilė Juodkaitė, President of the Lithuanian Disability Forum; Member of the Council of the European Disability Forum, Lithuania</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Comments and recommendations</td>
<td>Harry Roche, Board member of Inclusion Europe; Mencap, United Kingdom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What was achieved in Lithuania for the inclusion of people with disabilities</td>
<td>Dainius Pūras, Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute; UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health; Founder of Viltis, Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshops 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td><strong>Belarus: How the CRPD is used to improve the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families</strong></td>
<td>Jelena Titova, BelAPDiIMI, Belarus</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td><strong>Ukraine: How the CRPD improves legal capacity, employment and education</strong></td>
<td>Raisa Kravchenko, Dzerela, Ukraine</td>
<td>Animalis / Plantaria</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Languages: English and Lithuanian</strong></td>
<td>Wilma Karikko, Sirpa Makinen, Jonna Suhonen, Riikka Manninen, Inclusion Finland KVTL</td>
<td>Terra / Aquarius</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>How the German Constitutional Court decided people under guardianship cannot be denied the right to vote</strong></td>
<td>Jeanne Nicklas-Faust, Lebenshilfe, Germany</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Language: English</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>General Meeting of the European Platform of Self-Advocates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open space sessions / Languages: English and Lithuanian</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Everyone has the right to live by the river: about the right to be included in the community</td>
<td>Jūratė Tamašauskienė, Day center Šviesa, Lithuania</td>
<td>Užupis</td>
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<td>Aundrea Farley, Vilnius Internation School, Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Ending segregation - building inclusion</td>
<td>Lukiškių square</td>
<td>Rasa Genienė, Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
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<td>Senada Halilčević, Inclusion Europe; Association of Self-Advocates, Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td><strong>Workshops 4</strong></td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
<td>Maia Shishniashvili, Hand in Hand, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian Achievements and challenges for the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in Georgia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lilit Baghdasaryan, AMBRA Mental Well-Being Center NGO, Armenia</td>
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<td>Modern models of psychosocial rehabilitation in Armenia</td>
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<td>Liliia Panteleeva, NGO Family and Society, Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Introducing the model of multidisciplinary teams at the community level in Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Nurgul Sultanova, Nur Bulak, Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Supporting children with disabilities and their parents in Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Languages: English and Lithuanian Reform of the legal capacity law in Austria</td>
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<td>Albert Brandstätter, Lebenshilfe Austria</td>
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<td>Andreas Zehetner, Lebenshilfe Austria</td>
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<td>Bernhard Schmid, Lebenshilfe Vienna</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td><strong>Workshops 5</strong></td>
<td>Animalis / Plantaria</td>
<td>Almagul Seisenova, Azamat eleyeti, Kazakhstan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian Situation of people with intellectual disabilities in Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Bolatbek Turgunbayev, Zholtas, Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Services and projects for people with intellectual disabilities in Kazakhstan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Languages: English and Lithuanian Self-advocacy and implementation of the CRPD in Japan</td>
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<td>Osamu Nagasé, Ritsumeikan University, Japan</td>
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<td>Inclusion of persons with disabilities: from traditional approaches to innovative solutions</td>
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<td>Poverty and social exclusion in Lithuania</td>
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<td>Aidas Gudavičius, Vilnis University, Lithuania</td>
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<td>Language: English</td>
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<td>General Assembly of Inclusion Europe</td>
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<td>17:30</td>
<td>End of day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Gala dinner</td>
<td>Aeris</td>
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<td>ARKANGELO conference and art centre</td>
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### Day 3, Friday 7 June

#### Plenary session 3 / Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>What the EU is doing for people with intellectual disabilities and their families</td>
<td>Marco Migliosi, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit Disability &amp; Inclusion</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td>We are all: making the organisation and its activities more inclusive</td>
<td>Berta Gonzalez Antón, Plena inclusión, Spain</td>
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<td>I SAID: research on self-determination conducted in France and Belgium</td>
<td>Valentine Malou, University of Mons, Belgium</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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#### Workshops 6 / Languages: English and Lithuanian. Aeris room - English only

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Universal basic income</td>
<td>Simon Duffy, Center for welfare reform, United Kingdom</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td>Accessible banking</td>
<td>Camille Latimier, Inclusion Czech Republic</td>
<td>Animalis / Plantaria</td>
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<td>Right to decide</td>
<td>Jūratė Matulaitienė, Andrius Šleivys, Vyda Dauskurdytė, Indrė Rapkevičiūtė Vilties Akimirka, Lithuania</td>
<td>Terra / Aquarius</td>
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<td>Paulius Maskaliovas, Ruslanas Čigirov, Dima Burlak, Jaunuolių dienos centras (JDC), Lithuania</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Independent living for people with complex support needs in Italy</td>
<td>Maria Cristina Schiratti, Anffas onlus Udine, Italy</td>
<td>Aeris</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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#### Plenary session 4 / Languages: English, Lithuanian and Russian

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Self-advocates in Hungary and how they contributed to the country’s review by the CRPD Committee (CRPD round table part 1)</td>
<td>László Bercse, ÉFOÉSZ, Hungary</td>
<td>Humanitas</td>
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<td>Learnings from the conference and how we will take them into our future work</td>
<td>José Smits, Inclusion Europe; Founder of Inclusion Netherlands</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thanks and goodbye</td>
<td>Jyrki Pinomaa, Dana Migaliova</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>End of conference</td>
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Moderators

Alvyda Bajarūnaitė
Lithuanian National Radio journalist, Viltis volunteer

Simona Aginskaitė
Lithuanian Radio Television Journalist, Communication Project Manager at the Lithuanian Disability Organisations Forum

Marius Drukteinis
Public Relations Specialist, Event Manager, Viltis volunteer

Edita Mildažytė
Lithuanian journalist, publicist, TV show producer, public figure
Speakers and topics

*In order of appearance*

**Elisabeta Moldovan, Romania**
*Ceva de spus; European Platform of Self-Advocates*

Elisabeta is a Steering Group member of the European Platform of Self-advocates. She works with the Romanian self-advocacy organisation Ceva de spus.

She has been advocating for the right to live independently for many years. Recently, a book was published based on her life.

*Elisabeta will talk about the fight for an independent life.*

**Jonas Ruškus, Lithuania**
*CRPD Committee*

Jonas is the Vice-chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations. He is also Professor at the Department of Social Work, Vytautas Magnus University, Chairperson of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and a member of Kaunas L’Arche Community and Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights.

*Jonas will cover the topic of the right to independent living as UN CRPD’s response in tackling discrimination of persons with intellectual disabilities.*

**Robert Martin, New Zealand**
*UN CRPD Committee*

Robert is a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations. He is a self-advocate.

*Robert will deliver a video message about the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.*

**Pavla Baxová, Czechia**
*Rytmus*

Pavla has been working in social services since 1994, since 2000 as director of Rytmus. Rytmus defends the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and creates opportunities for them to integrate into society. Rytmus provides supported employment and support for independent living and facilitates the transition from school to work. Pavla came to social services like many other mother-founders, after the birth of Tomas, her second son. As she says, he has given his family and especially his mum to work in this field.

*Pavla will focus on the services provided to support independent living.*
Raquel Manzano Torres and Raul Olivera, Spain
Som-Fundació
Raquel and Raul are from Som – Fundació in Spain, which provides support on decision-making to people with intellectual disabilities and modified legal capacity.

Raquel and Raul will talk about support during someone’s transition from an institution into the community. This includes reviewing legal capacity limitations under guardianship.

Adam Zawisny, Poland
PSONI
Adam lead for many years independent living camps for persons with intellectual disabilities and high support needs. He advocates for independent living on regional and national level. In PSONI he now works on introducing the Circles of support.

Adam will talk about Circles of support and how PSONI uses this technique to support people with intellectual disabilities in making decisions and living independently in their community.

Manuel Lankmair, Austria
Lebenshilfe Vienna
Manuel is a young self-advocate who lives in the province of Styria in Austria. As daily work, he represents his colleagues in his sheltered workshop in the town Hartberg. He acts politically as self-advocate on the Styrian and on the Austrian level.

Manuel will introduce to us the situation of people with complex support needs and their life in inclusive community.

Bernhard Schmid, Austria
Lebenshilfe Vienna
Bernhard is Secretary General of Lebenshilfe Vienna, Austria, and Vice President of Lebenshilfe Austria. Both functions are mainly driven by his role as father of a 27-years-old man with Down-Syndrome.

He represents the interests of families and of people with complex support needs in a variety of bodies at Viennese, Austrian and European level.

Bernhard will moderate a workshop on how people with complex support needs can advocate for their interests and take part in the community. In the workshop on legal capacity law in Austria, he will talk about the practical effects for families.
Philipa Bragman and Catherine Carter, United Kingdom
CHANGE
Philipa set up CHANGE, a national and international organisation led by Disabled People. Philipa is the Director of CHANGE and oversees all the work that they do. CHANGE has developed a unique model of employing a person with a learning disability, alongside a person who does not have a learning disability to co-lead on all of our work.

Catherine is the Project Worker and Lead Trainer of CHANGE. She brings a wealth of lived experience and expert knowledge, as a parent with learning disabilities and Aspergers.

Catherine is PEN National Award Winner Outstanding Contribution 2017. She is Dimensions Winner Learning Disability and Autism Leaders 2018 Work and Education and Mencap Health Activist 2018.

Philipa and Catherine will explore the topic of supported decision-making.

Birutė Viskontienė, Lithuania
Kretinga Employment Center
Birutė is a head of the Kretinga Employment Center.

Birutė will talk about employment opportunities and prospects for people with disabilities.

Aundrea Farley, Lithuania
International Vilnius School
Aundrea is an Inclusion Coordinator at Vilnius International School.

Aundrea will focus on the role families have in helping their loved ones prepare for an independent life; everyone should have access to the appropriate tools and resources needed for support.

Jūratė Kareivaitė, Lithuania
Jūratė Kareivaitė is a visitor of the Day center Šviesa in Vilnius.

She will talk about her own and her friends’ desires, which, with the help of caring and committed people, bring joy and meaning to their life.

Annemarie Duffy and Kathleen McTeigue, Ireland
Inclusion Ireland
Annemarie and Kathleen both used to live in an institution. Now they live independently and have their own business.

They are also part of a committee which monitors how deinstitutionalisation is implemented in Ireland.

Annemarie and Kathleen will share insights on moving from an institution into the community, and on their work in the monitoring committee.
Jennifer Allen, Spain
International Programmes, Best Buddies International

Jennifer is the director of International Programmes, Best Buddies International.

Jennifer has been with Best Buddies International for the past 7 years. She first became involved with Best Buddies twelve years ago as a volunteer college student. Since then, promoting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities has become one of her lifelong passions and goals. After working at the Best Buddies International Headquarters office in Miami, USA for 3 years, she was transferred to the Best Buddies Europe office in Madrid, Spain. A Chicago native, Jennifer has two B.A.’s from Miami University in International Relations and Latin American Studies and an Executive MBA from IE Business school in Madrid. Her interests outside of work include cooking, reading and yoga.

Jennifer will talk about how Best Buddies supports the social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

Agneta Skardžiuvienė, Lithuania
Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson

Agneta is the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania.

Agneta will cover the actual implementation of the right to decide and the right to live independently in Lithuania.

Justas Džiugelis, Lithuania
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Justas is a member of the Lithuanian Parliament and a member of its Human Rights Committee.

Justas will shed light on the reforms to the Lithuanian law aimed to stop denying people their right to vote.

Dovilė Juodkaitė, Lithuania
Lithuanian Disability Organisations Forum; European Disability Forum

Dovilė is the president of the Lithuanian Disability Organisations Forum and the Member of the Council of the European Disability Forum.

Dovilė will cover the topic of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Social Assistance for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Harry Roche, United Kingdom
Inclusion Europe; Mencap

Harry works at Mencap, United Kingdom. He is also at the board of Inclusion Europe.

Harry will talk about what he thinks of the situation of people with intellectual disabilities in Lithuania.
Dainius Pūras, Lithuania
Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute; UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health; Founder of Viltis

Dainius will focus on the global situation of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. The main questions: What are the achievements and good practices? What are the remaining challenges? And how about Lithuania in the global context?

Jonna Suhonen, Riikka Manninen, Sirpa Mäkinen, Wilma Karikko, Finland
Inclusion Finland KVTL

Jonna is the Project Manager at Inclusion KVTL of the Aarne and Aune project about inclusion and skill-building for people with intellectual disabilities.

Riikka is the Project Manager at Inclusion Finland KVTL of the Tuleva project. She provides online support for parents of young people with intellectual disabilities and advices them on independent living.

Sirpa is the Manager of project team at Inclusion Finland KVTL.

Wilma is the Project Planner of all projects at Inclusion Finland KVTL. She is responsible for web platforms and communication in all projects.

Vahvistuvanhempana project - strength and support for parents with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Tuleva project – online support for parents of young people with intellectual disabilities.

Aarne and Aune project – about inclusion and skill-building for people with intellectual disabilities.

Jonna, Riikka, Sirpa and Wilma will talk about projects supporting parents of children with intellectual disabilities and parents with intellectual disabilities.

Jeanne Nicklas-Faust, Germany
Lebenshilfe

Jeanne is the director of the German organisation Lebenshilfe.

Jeanne will talk about the decision taken by the German Constitutional Court stating that people under guardianship cannot be denied the right to vote.
Jelena Titova, Belarus
BelAPDiIMI

Jelena is Chairperson of the BelAPDiIMI association of assistance to children and young people with disabilities, which unites about 3,000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

Jelena will talk about how the CRPD is used in Belarus to improve the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Raisa Kravchenko, Ukraine
Dzherela, the Ukrainian Foundation assisting people with disabilities

Raisa is Chairperson of Dzherela, the Ukrainian Foundation assisting people with disabilities. She also works with the Coalition for the Protection of People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Raisa will share experience on how the CRPD is used in Ukraine to improve the situation of people with intellectual disabilities. More specifically, she will focus on legal capacity, employment and education.

Jūratė Tamašauskienė, Lithuania
Head of Day center Šviesa, Lithuania

Jūratė is Head of the Day Centre Šviesa in Užupis. Užupis is the district by the river Vilnelė in Vilnius. Užupis and its constitution gave a lot of inspiration for this conference.

Jūratė together with the visitors of Šviesa will talk about the idea of Užupis.

Aundrea Farley, Lithuania
More about Aundrea, see page 22.

Rasa Genienė, Lithuania
Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania

Rasa is a PhD student exploring the deinstitutionalisation of residential care institutions and the development of community-based services for people with mental and intellectual disabilities. Rasa has worked for an NGO which initiated the dissemination of a community service model. Currently she is working at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, with a particular focus on the transition from institutional care to family and community services for people with disabilities.

She also participates in various national projects and evaluates the rights of people with disabilities, assesses their needs and develops individual plans. Rasa is also a lecturer on human rights and social services, teaching social work and social policy students.

Rasa will introduce the process of deinstitutionalisation in Lithuania.
Senada Halilčević, Croatia
Inclusion Europe; Association of Self-Advocates
RSenada is Vice-president of Inclusion Europe. Also she is a member Association of Self-Advocates member.
She will talk about ending segregation and building inclusion.

Albert Brandstätter, Andreas Zehetner, Bernhard Schmid, Austria
Albert Brandstätter, Secretary General, Lebenshilfe Austria, Andreas Zehetner, self-advocate, Lebenshilfe Austria
Albert is the Secretary General of Lebenshilfe Österreich, Austria’s largest DPO for advocacy as well as for service provision for people with intellectual disabilities. Together with its member organisations, Lebenshilfe works for the implementation of the CRPD in Austria and for making society more inclusive. He mainly works on the issues of self-determination, political participation and self-advocacy in the areas of education, employment, community based living, ageing and supported decision making. Lebenshilfe assists more than 11.000 people.
Andreas is a self-advocate at Lebenshilfe Austria. He is also member of the Steering Group of the European Platform of Self-Advocates.
Bernhard works at Lebenshilfe Vienna. More about Bernhard see page 21.
They will introduce a recent change of law related to legal capacity and guardianship in Austria. They will place particular emphasis on how the process to change the law was inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities.

Maia Shishniashvili, Georgia
Hand in Hand
Maia works for the Hand in Hand Foundation in Georgia.
Maia will discuss achievements and challenges in providing services for people with intellectual disabilities in Georgia.

Lilit Baghdasaryan, Armenia
AMBRA Mental Well-Being Center NGO
Lilit is president of the AMBRA well-being centre and professor of the Armenian State Pedagogical University Khachatur Abovyan.
Lilit will talk about modern models of psychosocial rehabilitation in Armenia.

Liliia Panteleeva, Kyrgyzstan
NGO Family and Society
Liliia is the candidate of Medical Sciences, director of the public association Family and Society.
Liliia will share the experience of Kyrgyzstan in introducing the model of multidisciplinary teams on the provision of mental health services at the community level.
Nurgul Sultanova, Kyrgyzstan
Nur Bulak

Nurgul will talk about supporting children with disabilities and about her experience as mother of a child with disability.

Osamu Nagasé, Japan
Ritsumeikan University

Osamu is a professor at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan. He is also Chair of the Membership Committee of Inclusion International.

Osamu will talk about a new self-advocacy group in Japan, which was formed in response to the killing of 19 people with intellectual disabilities in a residential service in July 2016.

Eglė Šumskienė, Lithuania
Vilnius University

Eglė is a board member of Viltis. She is also an associate professor and head of Social Work and Social Welfare Department at Vilnius University. She is also a lecturer of social work at Vilnius University.

Eglė will talk about inclusion of persons with disabilities: from traditional approaches to innovative solutions.

Aidas Gudavičius, Lithuania
Viltis, Lithuanian welfare society of persons with intellectual disabilities

Aidas is a lawyer at Viltis.

Aidas will talk about poverty, social exclusion and the key challenges in Lithuanian social policy.

Almagul Seisenova, Kazakhstan
Azamat eleyeti

Almagul is Senior Researcher of the National Scientific and Practical Centre of Correctional Pedagogy at the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakstan. Founder of the private charity fund “Azamat eleyeti”.

Almagul will present services and projects for people with intellectual disabilities in Kazakhstan.

Bolatbek Turgunbayev, Kazakhstan
Zholtas

Bolatbek is father of a son with intellectual disability and a founder of Zholtas, organisation providing services for people with disabilities.

Bolatbek will present services and projects for people with intellectual disabilities in Kazakhstan.
Marco Migliosi
European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit Disability & Inclusion

Marco is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit Disability & Inclusion.

Marco will talk about the measures undertaken in the European Union to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families by initiatives such as the Social Pillar, Accessibility Act and others.

Berta Gonzalez Antón, Spain
Plena inclusión

Berta will introduce Plena’s “Todos Somos Todos” strategy of transforming the organisation. She will also give examples of projects and activities such as Active Support, Positive Behavioral Support and Customised Employment, as well as the project “Mi Casa” which supports individuals in the processes of deinstitutionalisation.

Valentine Malou, Belgium
University of Mons

Valentine is a psychologist and researcher at the Department of Clinical Orthopedagogy at the University of Mons.

Valentine will present one of the research projects currently being conducted at the Service: the I SAID project (Interregional Platform for Innovation in Self-Determination, Autonomy and Inclusion of People with Disability). The I SAID project is part of promoting the general health of people with intellectual disabilities and aims to give people more control over their own health. The activities of the I SAID project were developed in close cooperation with people with intellectual disabilities, professionals and families.

Maria Cristina Schiratti, Italy
Anffas onlus Udine

Cristina is the president of Anffas Udine, of Anffas Friuli Venezia Giulia and she is also a member of the board of Anffas Onlus.

She is a national trainer in easy-to-read and she deals with accessibility and international relations.

Cristina will discuss the inclusion of people with complex support needs.
Simon Duffy, United Kingdom
Center for Welfare Reform

Simon Duffy is Director of the Centre for Welfare Reform, a think tank based in Sheffield, England. Simon is also secretary at the global cooperative Citizen Network. Much of Simon’s work has focused on the development of Self-Directed Support to enable people with disabilities and families to control their own support.

Simon is also involved in the movement for basic income and has been working with allies in the disability movement to explore how the idea of Basic Income Plus might replace current disability benefits. Simon is also a philosopher whose work has focused on defining the true meaning of citizenship.

Simon will talk about the Universal Basic Income. Universal Basic Income is an idea that everyone should receive an amount of money from the state which would allow them to live independently and without poverty.

Jūratė Matulaitienė, Andrius Šleivys, Vyda Dauskurdytė, Indrė Rapkevičiūtė Lithuania
NGO Vilties Akimirka

Jūratė is director of the public institution Vilties Akimirka.

Andrius is programme director at the Day care center of the public institution Vilties Akimirka.

Vyda is Programme Manager of the Family Support Center.

Indrė is a visitor at the day care centre Vilties Akimirka in Vilnius.

This is the first time Indrė participates at a conference and makes a presentation, but she is not worried. In the future she hopes to attend more conferences.

Jūratė, Andrius and Vyda will focus on aspects of the EQUASS Assurance certification process; they will discuss challenges and share insights from their personal experience.
Paulius Maskaliovas, Ruslanas Čigirov, Dima Burlak, Lithuania
Jaunuolių dienos centras (JDC), Lithuania

Paulius, Ruslanas and Dima will talk about self-advocacy:
Paulius will talk about solidarity.

Ruslanas will talk about the challenges of relationship.

Dima will talk about his right to express himself.

Camille Latimier, Czechia
Inclusion Czech Republic

She advocates for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities for the past decade, especially in the field of legal capacity and supported decision-making, access to justice, voting rights and accessibility.

Camille will explain how Inclusion Czech Republic works with banks to make banking accessible for people with intellectual disabilities.

László Bercse, Hungary
ÉFOÉSZ

László is a board member of Inclusion Europe and a Steering Group member of the European Platform of Self-advocates.

He works with the Hungarian organisation ÉFOÉSZ and has been a long-standing activist for the right to vote and accessibility in all aspects of the electoral process.

László will talk about self-advocates in Hungary and how they contributed to the country's review by the CRPD Committee.

José Smits, the Netherlands
Secretary General of Inclusion Europe; Founder of Inclusion Netherlands

José is member of the board of Inclusion Europe, mother of an adult daughter with complex support needs. She is working on the topic of disability as an independent policy analyst and advocate.

José will talk about the European inclusion movement and what it should learn from the topics discussed at this conference.
Open space sessions

On June 6th, conference participants will be gathering at public spaces of Vilnius. Together we will explore the ambitions and struggles for independent living and people’s experiences with independent living.

Open Space Sessions will be held:

**In Užupis**

**During this session:** short excursion in Užupis, finding out its unique atmosphere, performance of the visitors of Day center Šviesa, discussion.

Užupis ("beyond the river") - the smallest district in Vilnius, covering an area of 0.6 km² and separated from the Old Town by the Vilnelė River. What used to be a seedy part of the city in the early 90s has grown into an affluent neighborhood of artists, intellectuals, and a few local moguls. The district declared independence on 1 April 1997, as if to underline the humorous nature of the whole affair. However, the new republic comes complete with its own currency, government, anthem, constitution and an ever-present free spirit.

41 articles of Užupis’ constitution, now translated into more than 50 languages, gave the inspiration for this conference’s metaphoric title, because “Everyone has the right to live by the River Vilnelė, and the River Vilnelė has the right to flow by everyone”.

In Lukiškių Square

During the session: discussion with participants, Vilnius citizens and guests with a cup of fresh coffee about the importance of ending segregation and building inclusion.

This is one of the main squares of Vilnius, a place popular with both locals and visitors. Its interactive musical fountain, a real point of attraction for children and adults, is a must-see.

It is symbolic that during this session we will be joined by a new social initiative of Viltis - POWER OF COFFEE, where people with intellectual disabilities will make coffee and invite passers-by to enjoy a fresh brew. A professional coffee machine will be installed in a specially branded car. This project is not just about making coffee, it is about the power of spending time together, getting to know people with intellectual disabilities and their potence. This is an opportunity to develop employability skills of people with intellectual disabilities by organising activities for them, thus raising public awareness that a disabled person is a full-fledged member of society.

Important

During the sessions, there will be a consecutive translation.

The number of participants in each session is limited. Please reserve your place in advance at the conference reception desk.

Participants to the open space session will be transported by bus.

Buses will be parked at the entrance of the Hotel PANORAMA from 13:15, departing at 13:30. Please be on time.
Conference opening ceremony, 5 June, 10:00 Humanitas room (Hotel PANORAMA)

Colour Orchestra of VSA Lithuania “Guboja”
Directors: Romualdas Brūzga and Valerija Brūzgienė, Raimonda Janutėnaitė

During the opening ceremony conference participants and guests will have a unique opportunity to enjoy the performance of the musical groups of people with intellectual disabilities – the Colour Orchestra of VSA Lithuania “Guboja”. This group is an integral part of the National Colour Music Orchestra of people with disabilities.

Today, the Colour Orchestra of VSA Lithuania “Guboja” is one of the famous musical band of people with intellectual disabilities, performing in Lithuania and abroad.

6 June, 19:00, ARKANGELO conference and art center

Gala dinner
Address: Maironio str. 11

The young piano virtuoso KRISTIJonas MEGELINSKAS
Kristijonas started playing piano from at the age of 5. He is currently studying at the National M. Čiurlionis School of Art.

He became the laureate of fourteen international competitions in Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Estonia, Belgium and national competitions.

Kristijonas is a participant of many festivals and musical projects in Lithuania and abroad.

We are proud to present the unique place of Gala Dinner: ARKANGELO conference and art center. This place is located in the very heart of Vilnius, next to the river Vilnelė, from here the republic of Užupis is already visible.

The building complex of the former Bernardine Monastery is situated in the Old Town of Vilnius. You will admire authentic halls decorated with the works of prominent artists from various epochs.

If you pre-paid Gala dinner, you will receive your ticket during the registration at the conference reception desk.

Transportation: buses will be parked at the entrance of the Hotel PANORAMA from 18:15, departing at 18:30.
Please be on time.
Coming back to hotel 21:30.
About Viltis

Together through life.
Lithuanian welfare society of people with intellectual disabilities

1 Who we are

Viltis was founded in November 1989. 53 Associate members gather over 11,000 of persons with intellectual disabilities, their parents and carers.

Viltis’ mission is to ensure legal and equal participation of persons with intellectual disability and their families in public life, to represent their people and their families’ interests at all levels, to protect their civil, social and human rights.

2 What we do

» Cooperate with government and governing institutions
» Participate in the implementation of reforms of the social system
» Collaborate on the international level
» Provide legal, social and other information to our members
» Expand the range and quality of social services for persons with disabilities
» Organise activities for people with intellectual disabilities
» Create conditions for living independently and social rehabilitation
What are the areas of our work?

» Bringing together Lithuanian children, young people and adults with intellectual disabilities, their families, caregivers and other persons acting in their interests

» Seeking full integration of people with intellectual disabilities into society

» Promoting early diagnosis of mental disorders

» Encouraging the development of rehabilitation methods and its practical implementation

» Protecting the social and civil rights of people with intellectual disabilities

» Protecting freedom and dignity of people with intellectual disabilities and their families

» Meeting the social, cultural and other needs of people with intellectual disabilities and their families

» Creating positive conditions for performance of obligations, choice, participation in public life

Our programmes and projects
(National social integration programme)

1. Self-advocacy programme:
   » training of persons with intellectual disabilities to speak on their own behalf
   » training of persons with intellectual disabilities to choose the way they want to live
   » training of persons with intellectual disabilities to understand their rights and obligations

2. Independent life skills training programme:
   » involving volunteers
   » providing support to parents and siblings, as well as to people with intellectual disabilities themselves

3. Participation in the process of deinstitutionalisation

4. Participation in the international projects

5. Publication of magazine “Viltis” since 1997

Follow us

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Contact Us

+370 261 5223
viltis@viltis.lt
Kareivių str. 2C,
LT-08248, Vilnius, Lithuania
About Inclusion Europe

European movement of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

1. **Who we are**

We fight for equal rights and full inclusion for all people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

We give extra attention to children with intellectual disabilities, people with complex support needs and women with intellectual disabilities. Our values are respect, solidarity and inclusion.

With 74 member organisations in 39 European countries, we represent over 7 million Europeans with intellectual disabilities and many millions of family members and friends. Altogether, we are more than 20 million people.

The European Platform of Self-Advocates is part of Inclusion Europe. EPSA has 19 members in 16 countries.

2. **What we do**

» Influence other organisations to make their policies and practices inclusive
» Provide a platform for people with intellectual disabilities and family members
» Develop easy-to-read and other accessibility tools
» Develop policies and tools to enhance inclusion
» Raise awareness and fight prejudice and discrimination
» Enlarge and develop the inclusion movement

3. **What are the areas of our work?**

1. Legal capacity, access to justice, right to vote
2. Inclusive education
3. Living in the community, deinstitutionalisation
4. Employment and escaping poverty
5. Access to health care
5 Every year is dedicated to one specific issue

2018: Empowerment
2019: Elections
2020: Education
2021: Employment
2022: Ending segregation

6 We organise regular events

- Europe in Action conferences (yearly)
- “Hear our voices!” self-advocacy conference every 5 years
- Leadership training for people with intellectual disabilities and for family members (yearly)
Save the date

18-20 September 2019, Graz, Austria
Hear our voices! Self-advocacy conference

My voice counts (selection of topics):
- Taking part in politics
- Planning your future
- Claiming your rights
- Connecting with Europe – know your MEPs
- The right to take part
- Telling your own story
- Accessible information

Register at www.inclusion-europe.eu

7-8 October 2019, Brussels, Belgium
Conference on inclusive higher education

“Inclusive Campus Life” project:
• Inclusive education and employment
• People with intellectual disabilities as trainers/teachers in higher education
• People with intellectual disabilities as students in higher education

What it is about
• Campus Accessibility
• Developing a buddy system for people with intellectual disabilities
• Involving people with intellectual disabilities in teaching activities
• Work placements for people with intellectual disabilities at university

www.iclife.eu

Funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union
SAVE THE DATE!

Europe in Action 2020:
Quality education for all
Inclusive education – a lifetime approach
27 - 29 May 2020, Vienna/Austria

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Contact Us

+322 502 28 15  secretariat@inclusion-europe.org
[www.inclusion-europe.eu](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu)
Rue d’Arlon 55, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Conference center plan

- **Humanitas room**: Main auditorium, press conference, interview zone
- **Animalis / Plantaria room**: Auditorium
- **Terra / Aquarius room**: Auditorium
- **Aeris room**: Auditorium, EPSA General Meeting, Inclusion Europe General Assembly
- **Specularis room**: Calm zone for the participants rest
- **Igninus room**: Organisers room
- **Hall**: Reception desk, coffee break zone

Additional facilities:
- WC
- Restaurant
- Hotel