

“Sustainability & Disability”

Launching event of *Disability Hub Europe for Sustainable Growth and Social Innovation - DHUB*

Sustainability & Disability

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals recognize people with disabilities as part of the existing vulnerable groups and different Goals expressly refer to them, building on the principle “leaving no one behind”. Examples are Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, Goal 10 on reduced inequalities, or Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by 177 countries and the EU itself, set essential principles that have nourished the SDGs.

In the business context, more and more companies and organizations understand that people with disabilities are a source of diversity, talent, innovation and business opportunities and integrate a disability approach in their strategies. The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 underlines that the need to build a more inclusive society must include the estimated 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. In the EU, people with disabilities represent 16% of the population.

What is Disability Hub Europe?

“Disability Hub Europe for Sustainable Growth and Social Innovation” (Disability Hub Europe), is a European initiative led by Fundación ONCE co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). DHUB is aimed at building a reference space (“hub”) for best practice exchange, dissemination, mutual learning and raising awareness on the binomial Disability and Sustainability.

DHub is a multi-stakeholder engagement initiative, a singular collaborative European thematic platform, providing involved organizations an innovative, valuable and differentiating opportunity to stand out and reinforce their sustainability leadership and action linked to people with disabilities. The final aim of DHUB, aligned with the SDG 17 “Partnerships for the goals”, is to foster social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities in Europe while promoting inclusive and sustainable businesses.

Disability in Sustainability Reporting

In the framework of Disability Hub Europe, the Guide “Disability in Sustainability Reporting”, developed by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Fundación ONCE in 2015 has been updated to respond to the current GRI Standards. This updated guide - the only one of its kind, applicable at international level and co-funded by the ESF- will be presented.

Event information

- **21 of March 2019** from 14:00 to 18:00 at the European Parliament (room ASP 07 C 050)
- Audience: Representatives from companies, public administrations, civil society entities, platforms and others organizations committed in one way or another to sustainability and disability.
- The languages of the event will be English and Spanish; with simultaneous translation English-Spanish. Interpretation in sign language and captioning will be provided.

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Agenda: 21 March 2019 – European Parliament (room ASP 07 C 050)

14:00 – 14:30: Registration – Welcome coffee

14:30 – 15:00: Welcome address

- Helga Stevens – MEP, Co-president of the Disability Intergroup and host of the event.
- Ádám Kósa – MEP, Co-president of the Disability Intergroup (video)
- José Luis Martínez Donoso – General Director, Fundación ONCE
- Andriana Sukova – Deputy Director-General, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

15:00 – 15:20: Disability Hub Europe, ESF Transnational Cooperation and Disability Strategy in the EU

- José Luis Martínez Donoso – General Director, Fundación ONCE
- Emmanuelle Grange – Head of Unit, Disability and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission
- Lázaro Tuñón Sastre – Head of Area, ESF Managing Authority, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Affairs, Spain

15:20 – 16:30: Multistakeholder approach towards disability and sustainability

Session moderated by Maria Tussy – Director, European Programmes Unit, Fundación ONCE

- Stefan Crets – Executive Director, CSR Europe
- Haydn Hammersley – Social Policy Officer, European Disability Forum
- Margaret Johnston-Clarke – Diversity, Inclusion and Corporate Communications Vice-president, L'Oréal
- Maria Trigo – Implementation Leader for DEN (Disability Employee Network), The Dow Chemical Company
- Yves Veulliet – Chair of ILO Global Business and Disability Network; Global Disability & Inclusion Leader, Human Resources, IBM
- Friedrich Mehrhoff – Director, German Social Accident Insurance

Q&A

16:30 – 16:45: Break

16:45 – 17:30: Non-financial reporting: Disability in Sustainability Reporting: Presentation of the updated Guide¹ “Disability in Sustainability Reporting”

- Carla Bonino – Head of Unit, CSR and Sustainability and DHUB Coordinator, Fundación ONCE
- Christine Koblun, Senior Sustainability Manager and Camila Corradi, Capacity Development Coordinator – Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- Hilde Blomme – Deputy CEO Accountancy Europe, Member of the European Reporting Lab@EFRAG

Q&A

17:30: Closing

- Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero – MEP
- Verónica Lope – MEP, Disability Intergroup
- Ramón Jáuregui – MEP
- Olga Sehnalová – MEP, Co-president of the Disability Intergroup (video)

Event conducted by Pedro Ortún – Active Senior DG GROW, European Commission

¹ This Guide has been developed by GRI and Fundación ONCE, with the co-funding of the European Social Fund.