Raúl Aguayo-Krauthausen, Co-Founder of Sozialhelden, Germany

Raúl Aguayo-Krauthausen early on dedicated his life to creating change. He enrolled at the Berlin University of Arts, studied Design Thinking, created a campaign for the Right Livelihood Award, trained as a radio host with a call-in show for people in emotional distress. Raul co-founded the SOZIALHELDEN platform, a multi-award-winning group of extraordinary change makers. While continuing to contribute to the SOZIALHELDEN, Raul now fully concentrates on growing the wheelmap.org community.

Daniela Alburquerque, Director, CETRAM, Chile

Daniela Alburquerque is Director of CETRAM, an organization accompanying individuals and families who have a neurodegenerative disease. She has a master’s degree in occupational therapy, working for 16 years in the development of alternatives that allow people the right to be “equally different”. CETRAM’s team, professionals and users have developed a community and public health model involving issues such as: quality of life, autonomy, disability, low cost design technology and public policy.

Mukhtar AlShibani, President, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies & Environments (GAATES), Saudi Arabia

Mukhtar AlShibani has been providing access services in Saudi Arabia & the Arab Region for more than 20 years. Currently a Board Member of Saudi Council of Engineers, member of: the International Union of Architects, Consulting Committee of Prince Salman Research Center for the Disabled, and represents the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the ISO TC59/SC16 Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment Standard Committee.

Michael Altrichter, Business Angel and Social Investor, Austria

After founding paysafecard and payolution and selling them to Skrill, Michael is one of Austria’s most active Business Angels and a Social Investor. His portfolio includes shareholdings in 15+ Internet Start-ups. He is involved in Discovering Hands, a company training and deploying visually impaired women with their highly developed sensory skills to detect the early signs of breast cancer, and Sutter GmbH, a company marketing a patented hand rim which prohibits aquaplaning between hand and hand rim.

Ivor Ambrose, Director, European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT), Greece

Ivor Ambrose has worked for thirty years as researcher, project manager, lecturer and policy advisor on disability and inclusion issues. With a background in Environmental Psychology he has specialised in design-for-all, accessibility, housing and new technologies for disabled and elderly people. His main concern is now to help develop and promote good practices in Accessible Tourism for All both in Europe and around the world.

Francesc Aragall, Founder and President, Design for All Foundation, Spain

Francesc has developed his professional activity in the fields of ergonomics, biomechanics, accessibility and Design for All concept, which he is disseminating through the Design for All Foundation, of which he is founder and president. He is also general manager of ProAsolutions, SL, Consultancy Company and patron of the Barcelona Centre de Disseny (BCD). He is a lecturer as well as a frequent speaker, and authored several publications in the field of Design for All.
Virginia Atkinson, Access and Inclusion Specialist, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, USA

Virginia Atkinson is the Access and Inclusion Specialist at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. She is actively involved in numerous advocacy groups including as an advisor to the General Election Network for Disability Access in ASEAN, the InterAction Disability Working Group and the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts. She is the lead author of Equal Access: How to Include Persons with Disabilities in Elections and Political Processes.

David Banes, CEO, Mada - Qatar Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center, Qatar

David Banes is CEO of the Mada Center based in Doha in the state of Qatar. He has worked in Doha for the past two years, firstly as Deputy CEO and more recently as CEO and has been charged with developing services to ensure that people with a disability in Qatar are digitally included. Before he worked as a teacher of people with special needs and principal of a school before working in the realm of digital Inclusion in the UK and Europe as Director of Operations and Development for a UK NGO.

Magnus Berglund, Accessibility Director for Scandic Hotels, Norway

Everything started nine years ago. Magnus Berglund was a cook at the Scandic hotel chain, but due to a muscle disease, was on sick leave for five years. When he was able to start work again, he contacted his former employer, with his ideas on how the hotel chain could increase accessibility. In 2003, he was appointed Disability Ambassador for Scandic, reporting directly to the Group Executive Committee. A lot of the things Magnus has done have been recognised in international media and have received a number of awards.

Barbara Berninger, Head of Division for EU and International Affairs, Berlin’s Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment, Germany

Barbara Berninger has diplomas in classical ballet, theology and public administration. She has a wide experience in managing European and international projects of which several were awarded. Before working as Head of Division for EU and International Affairs in Berlin she had gained working experience in Tanzania, Paris, and Brussels. She is coordinator of the METROPOLIS initiative on “Integrated Urban Governance” and chair of the European Working Group “Barrier-free City for All” of EUROCITIES.

Werner Bischof, DI (FH), Fachhochschule Joanneum, Austria

Werner Bischof is since 2006 lecturer at the FH Joanneum Kapfenberg for instrumentation and computer science. He is Senior scientific researcher in the areas of public transport, navigation and real time communication. As leader of projects within national programs he gained experience in the field of barrier free mobility, communication with different transport modes and RFID-sensors. Quality Manager, Project Management Exam Level C, Certified LabVIEW Developer, IPhone Developer.
Tamara Blagojević, Programme Coordinator, Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO), Serbia

Tamara Blagojević works at Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization as programme coordinator of Resource Centre for People with Disabilities. She has twelve year experience managing projects in the areas of disability, gender equality, human rights and HIV/AIDS. She is specialized in supporting people with disabilities to become more competitive with regard to the labour market. She is also psychologist providing counselling services regarding assistive technology devices.

Javier Blázquez, International Projects Coordinator, Universal Accessibility Directorate, Fundación ONCE, Spain

Javier Blázquez, International Projects Coordinator at Fundación ONCE, holds a master degree in digital marketing and e-business and a master degree in marketing and sales management. He worked for almost 5 years as account manager in Technosite, the company of the Fundosa Group specialized in accessibility to ICT. He has participated in several projects within the 7th FP of the EC (Cloud4all, APSIS4All...) and currently he is the Technical Coordinator of the FP7’s Project ICARUS.

Albert Brandstätter, Secretary General, Lebenshilfe Österreich, Austria

Albert Brandstätter 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 organizations, Lebenshilfe works for the implementation of CRPD in Austria and the realization of an inclusive society. Main issues are self-determination, political participation and self-advocacy in the areas of education, employment, community based living, ageing and supported decision-making.

Barry Buckley Human Resources & Development Manager Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI), Ireland

Barry has spent 16 years working with various disadvantaged groups in Ireland and Northern Ireland. During this time, Barry has been closely involved with projects whose objectives have been to enable marginalised people via practical empowerment and self-advocacy live as independently as possible. Barry’s role with MDI encompasses Organisational Change & Development. Barry has a passion for equality and the delivery of services within a framework of independence & human rights for all.

Joyce Burns, PAMIS/Changing Places Consortium, United Kingdom

Joyce, a Scottish born Occupational Therapist, has spent a career pursuing improved community access for people with Profound and Multiple Intellectual Disability & their families. A longstanding member of PAMIS/Changing Places Consortium, Joyce is famous for her fervent belief in toilet equality away from home, having actively influenced British Standards design & provision of Changing Places fully accessible toilets across the UK.
Miguel Angel Cabra de Luna, Director for Social Relations, International Affairs and Strategic Planning of Foundation ONCE, Spain

Dr. Cabra de Luna holds a Ph.D. in Law (1997). Positions: 1998- Member, European Economic and Social Committee; 2001- Member, European Platform Social Economy Europe; 1995- Member, Governing Body of the Spanish Business Confederation of the Social Economy; 2003- Deputy Member, Council for Promotion of Social Economy, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs. He has co-authored 34 books on Social Economy and Non-Profit Organizations. Since 1994, he authored an annual book about disability law in Spain/EU.

Alex Camacho Vásconez, Technical Secretary of Disabilities, Technical Secretariat of Disabilities (SETEDIS), Ecuador

Dr. Camacho, is the Technical Secretary of Disabilities of SETEDIS, the guiding institution for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of public policy for the rights of persons with disabilities, and a regional benchmark. As former project manager and Secretary of the Vice Presidency of Ecuador, he worked on programmes in the field of disabilities, and in the area of Risk and Disaster Management (e.g. as Chief of the National Medic Mission after the earthquakes of Haiti and Chile in 2010).

Kevin Carey, Chair of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and CEO of humanITy, United Kingdom

Kevin Carey is Chair of the RNIB Group and CEO of humanITy, the UK's most prestigious e-Inclusion campaigner. He is a member of the Board of G3ict and an advisor to the ITU, CTO the EU and the UK Government, Chair of the WBU Technology Committee and advisor to the European Blind Union Technology Committee. He is the President of the Transforming Braille Group LLC which is revolutionising refreshable Braille technology. He is a regular contributor to Managing Information and Ability magazines.

Caroline Casey, Founder, Kanchi, Ireland

Caroline Casey is driving societal change aimed at nothing less than a complete reframing of disability. Caroline, a Young Global Leader, Ashoka Fellow, Eisenhower Fellow, and recipient of an honorary doctorate from National University Ireland travels the globe to speak on her leadership work at prestigious events and forums including the Global Competitiveness Forum, the Clinton Global Initiative, Davos and the TED Talks.

Allen Chan, Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth, Hong Kong SAR, China

As a physical disabled person, Allen fully understands the needs of persons with disabilities. Allen actively advocates an inclusive society for persons with disabilities. He works for both self help groups and government consultative committees, in order to strive for equal rights for people with disabilities. Allen was awarded the Medal of Honour in 2013 by the Hong Kong SAR, which reflected his contributions in rehabilitation area for a long period of time.

Wai Chan, Project Development Manager, Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE) and City Bridge Trust, United Kingdom

Wai is project manager at CAE, an information provider and access consultancy. Her projects include the Access and Sustainability Advisory Service, helping community...
organizations improve access to their buildings through the City Bridge Trusts’ Accessible London grants, and European exchange projects Training Tools for Accessible Towns and Universal Design: Barrier-free Environments. Wai believes in the positive impacts of consultation with user groups and professional access consultants.

**Madeleine Clarke, Founding Director, Genio, Ireland**

Madeleine is Founding Director of Genio, an organisation established to harness public, private and non-profit interests to scale personalised, cost-effective solutions to social problems. While working closely with Government and philanthropy, she believes that the needs of citizens should be the primary guide of the design of social services. Currently working in disability, mental health and dementia she believes the Genio model can be applied to other disadvantaged groups and to other countries.

**Stefania Coni, International Project Coordinator, Fondazione CRT, Italy**

Stefania Coni, with a masters’ degree in public policy analysis, has been the international projects coordinator at the Fondazione CRT since 2010. Before her appointment to this role, she also worked at the Fondazione CRT, organizing the volunteers for the Winter Paralympics in Turin and the communications strategies for the related events. Prior to this she was the Coordinator of Osservatorio Culturale del Piemonte where she carried out research and was a consultant in the sphere of cultural policy.

**Gerald Craddock, Chief Officer, Centre for Excellence in Universal Design / National Disability Authority, Ireland**

Dr Gerald Craddock career started in providing services to people with disabilities as part of the first national Assistive Technology centre in Ireland. His vision has progressed to a systems change approach that is required at national and international level to create a more inclusive world through the lens of Universal Design as defined by UN CRPD as well as European and national policies.

**Guy Davies, Managing Director of Disability Solutions (Pty) Ltd, South Africa**

After becoming a paraplegic in 1999, Guy completed courses at the Centre for Accessible Environments before setting up as an access consultant. He recently gained an MSc in Accessibility & Inclusive Design. In 2003 he formed Disability Solutions, a not-for-profit company, which focuses on Bus Rapid Transport systems in South African cities. He serves as a director of the Business Disability Forum and started a Ph.D. looking at the effects of providing accessible public transport systems in developing countries.

**Christopher Dean, Manchester Museum, United Kingdom**

Christopher Dean M.A. studied sculpture at the Royal Academy of Arts. In 2004 he became Product Development Consultant at National Museums Liverpool researching 3D digital technologies. In 2009 he started Freeform Studios an independent product development service. In 2010 he formed Touch & Discover Systems with Virtalis Ltd. His unique experience and vision has informed the development of the Probos interactive towards a sustainable and inclusive digital 3d platform which can benefit any user.
Gregor Demblin, Co-Founder, Career Moves, Austria

Gregor Demblin is Co-Founder of Career Moves, Europe’s first inclusive Online Job Platform for persons with disabilities. Gregor strongly believes in the ability of disabled employees and sees the labour market as a key factor for change in society. Gregor became Ashoka Fellow in 2013 and won many national and international awards for Social Entrepreneurship. Developing a Social Franchise System, Career Moves is now on the way to go international.

Marie Denninghaus, Policy Officer, European Disability Forum (EDF), Belgium

Marie Denninghaus is a policy officer at the secretariat of the European Disability Forum (EDF) in Brussels, mainly responsible for the areas of transport, accessibility, tourism and consumer issues. Previous work experience includes the EU institutions and the communications sector. She graduated with a BA in European Studies from the University of Essex, UK and a Master’s degree from University College London, UK.

Betty Dion, Founder & Past President, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies & Environments (GAATES), Canada

Betty Dion, Founder & Past President, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies & Environments, is a recognized international leader in accessibility of the built environment, with over 35 yrs of experience and expertise in Universal Design. Betty is a member of the ISO TC59/SC16 Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment Committee, is on the Canadian National Building Code Executive Committee & is Past Chair of the Canadian Standards Accessibility of the Built Environment Standard.

Knut M Ellingsen, Vice-President, European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH)

Knut has been working as Secretary General in the Norwegian Association of Hard of Hearing, as administrative leader in the Norwegian organization for people with heart and lung diseases, and as President in the organization of hard of hearing. He is now President of Norway’s umbrella organization for the organizations of disabled with 75 member organizations with 350.000 members, as well as Vice-President of EFHOH, board member of EDF and President in Rehabilitation International Norway.

Martin Essl, Co-owner and board member, bauMax Group, Austria

Martin Essl is co-owner and member of the board of bauMax Group, one of Austria’s leading retail companies, that also has a long history of employing persons with disabilities. In 2007 Martin and Gerda Essl and their children launched the Essl Foundation, which focuses on social innovation, social entrepreneurship and persons with disabilities. Its outstanding projects are the Essl Social Prize and the Zero Project. Martin Essl is also engaged in other projects supporting social innovation, like Ashoka and Specialisterne.

Michael Fembek, Head of Social Affairs of the bauMax group and Programme Manager of the Essl Foundation, Austria

After graduating from the Vienna University of Economics, Michael Fembek (born 1961) joined GEWINN, an Austrian business magazine, serving between 2000 and 2007 as editor-in-chief. In 2009 he initiated “Sinnstifter”, a project by Austrian philanthropists, and started the Austrian CSR-Yearbook. In 2010 he joined the Essl Foundation as programme manager - with the Zero Project and the Essl Social Prize as its outstanding projects - and the bauMax group as its head of social affairs.
Sergio Fernández-Balaguer, Consultancy and European Projects, EMT MADRID, Spain

Sergio joined Madrid City Council in 2008, after 7 years as an environmental consultant at the private sector, specializing himself in sustainable urban mobility issues. He currently works for Madrid Public Transportation Company (EMT Madrid) at the Consultancy and European Projects department. EMT Madrid is the biggest bus operator in Spain and in Europe. It is considered at the forefront of ITS and ICT topics, having accessibility and disabled people attention as one of its priorities.

Walburga Fröhlich, Co-founder and CEO, social enterprise „atempo“, Austria

Walburga Fröhlich is co-founder and CEO of the social enterprise „atempo“. atempo supports disabled people to live as self-determined members of society with all rights of citizens. The offers of atempo are disseminated throughout a social franchise network in Germany and Austria. Walburga Fröhlich has a Masters degree in social work and social management and works with people with learning difficulties and disabilities for more than 25 years.

Elmar Wilhelm M. Fürst, Assistant Professor, WU Vienna’s Institute for Transport and Logistics Management, Austria

Dr. Elmar Wilhelm M. Fürst is an Assistant Professor at WU Vienna’s Institute for Transport and Logistics Management. His research interest focuses on sustainability – mostly associated with transport and mobility, barrier-free solutions and accessibility. Fürst is head of several research projects in this respect and author of numerous publications. He is also Vice-Chairman of the board of the “Hilfsgemeinschaft” (Austrian Association in Support of the Blind and Visually Impaired).

Ch’ng Gaik Bee (Dalilah Bee Abdullah), Deputy Director of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (KLCH), Malaysia

Dalilah Bee Abdullah is architect and deputy director of Kuala Lumpur City Hall, as well as GAATES Country Representative. She is involved in DET workshops, as trainer for auditors, promoting inclusive built-environment for people with disabilities since 1998, member of the Technical Committee panel for Code Of Practices On Accessibility Design and Building For Disabled Persons & for the National Advisory and Consultative Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN Office, Ecuador

Luis Gallegos is Lawyer and Juris Doctor (Ecuador). MA D (Fletcher School Harvard , USA). He is Ecuadorian diplomat since 1966. In the framework of the UNO, he has been Chairman, Vice-president and Coordinator in many topics related to human rights, mainly on disabilities and torture. He holds and adjunct professorship at the Institute for Disability and Public Policy of American University (Washington, D.C.).

Alexandra Gaspari, Programme Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Switzerland

Alexandra Gaspari is currently working as Programme Coordinator at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency for Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology. She is focal point for accessibility issues in the Standardization Bureau of ITU.
Isabel Gimenes, Superintendent, RIOinclui, Brazil

Isabel Gimenes is the Superintendent of RIOinclui, a NGO that works hard to provide accessible housing combined with social work for children and youth with disabilities living in poor conditions, in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Advocating for over 20 years for the rights of people with disabilities, she became Municipal Secretary at Municipal Secretariat of People with Disabilities of the City of Rio de Janeiro for 3 years and President at Municipal Council of the Rights of Children and Youth.

Jeannette Giorsetti, Program Officer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), Monaco

Jeannette Giorsetti, born in Switzerland, is a Program Officer at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). Based in the Monaco office, Mrs Giorsetti has been working at the SNF since it commenced its grantmaking activities in 1996. She is currently involved in programs related to Arts & Culture and Education. Mrs Giorsetti is particularly interested in programs, which help typically underserved groups of people (i.e. persons with disabilities) gain access to the arts.

Siam Imm Goh, Director, Universal Design Department (UD Department) of the Building and Construction Authority, Singapore

Ms Goh, a Registered Architect and Fire Safety Engineer, is the Director of Universal Design Department (UD Department) of the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore. The UD Department developed and implemented the Accessibility Master plan (2006) which drives the improvement of accessibility in the built environment with the whole of government and multi-agencies effort through multi-levers - promotion, incentives and legislation.

Martin Gould, Chairperson of the G3ict Research Committee, USA

Martin Gould, Ed.D., joined the work of G3ict in December 2006, and has collaborated on a number of projects related to the CRPD. His professional work over the past 29 years includes: analyzing and implementing affordable healthcare at the U.S. Treasury, directing federal policy research at the National Council on Disability in the U.S., directing non-profit outcomes research, administering family and student support programs in school systems, and serving as a university lecturer and researcher.

Gerd Grenner, Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment of Berlin, Germany

Coordinator of the Round Table Barrier-free City Berlin: The aim is to agree on priorities and initiatives which will improve the accessibility of Berlin. Coordinator of the EUROCITIES Working Group Barrier-free City for All: On the initiative of Berlin, this working group was formed within the context of the network EUROCITIES in order to bring together a network of stakeholders to promote developments in the field of design for all in cities.

Emrah Gürer, Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Chief, TAV Istanbul Terminal Operations Company, Turkey

Emrah Gürer got a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering. Since May 2008, he has been working as Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Chief in TAV Istanbul Terminal Operations Company which is one of the subsidiaries of TAV Airports Holding. Since 2009, he especially worked on implementation of obstacle-Free Airport Project in Istanbul Ataturk Airport, Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport and Ankara Esenboga Airport in Turkey.
Martin Habacher, CEO, mabacher.com, Austria

Martin considers himself as „The World smallest Social Media Consultant“. “Blind, deaf or in a wheelchair, the web doesn’t care. As long as you know your way around, everyone can share their message”, says Martin about his job as a social media consultant. Within the Zero Project Martin is responsible for all kind of social media activities, including Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

Ingrid Heindorf, Human Rights Officer and Coordinator of Geneva Liaison Office, World Future Council (WFC), Switzerland

Ingrid is Human Rights Officer of the World Future Council and the Coordinator of the WFC’s Geneva Liaison Office, from where she coordinates the Zero Project’s policy research and conference organisation. Previously, she worked at the UNESCO Chair for Religious Pluralism and Peace, and collaborated with † Professor Pier Cesare Bori, Chair of Human Rights and Moral Philosophy, both at the University of Bologna. She holds a Master’s Degree (with honours) in International Relations.

Jesús Hernández Galán, Director of Universal Accessibility, Foundation ONCE, Spain

Since 2003, he entered his current role of Director of Universal Accessibility for Foundation ONCE. He is President of the Technological Platform eVIA, Vice-President of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT), Chairman of the AENOR Universal Accessibility and design for all Standardisation Technical Committee (AEN/CTN 170), of M/420 Standardisation mandate to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI in support of European accessibility requirements for public procurement in the built environment.

Gustavo Alberto Hincapié Corrales, Founder and Director, Alianza por la Inclusión and the company Tecnoayudas, Colombia

Computer Engineer and Master in Accessible Technologies at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya in Spain. Resident of Colombia, founder and director of the Disabled Colombia ONG and the company Tecnoayudas. Researcher and consultant with 15 years experience in the areas of full inclusion. Lead designer of various technological and innovation strategies for social inclusion, educational inclusion and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Klaus Höckner, CEO, Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen, Austria

Klaus studied business and administration as well as Political Sciences in Vienna, graduated at the University of Linz in Accessible Web design and followed the Fundraising College in Vienna. He works in Vienna for the Austrian Association supporting the Blind and Visually Impaired as CEO and Accessibility Expert. He is member in diverse working groups in Austria and in the European Disability Forum, and his participation in various projects concerning ICT and disabled persons.

Frank Hoffmann, CEO and Founder of discovering hands®, Germany

Dr. med. Frank Hoffmann, CEO and Founder of discovering hands®, is gynecologist in Duisburg. In 2005, Frank developed the idea for discovering hands®. Looking for the right form of assistance to improve breast examinations, he had the simple idea to involve the extraordinarily trained tactile sense of blind and visually impaired women. In 2010, Frank was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship. In 2012 he became part of the Ashoka Globalizer program and Innovative Practice of the Zero Project. In 2013 discovering hands® has expanded to Austria.
Arni Hole, Director General, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, Norway

Arni Hole is currently a visiting fellow at the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), on 1 year leave from her position as a Director General in the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion. She holds degrees in philosophy and history of economy; has been working in 5 different ministries in Norway, as a DG with responsibilities within family policy, family economy, equality and anti-discrimination. She has worked intensively with international bodies and bilaterally.

Andrew Holman, Managing Director, Inspired Services Publishing, United Kingdom

Andrew Holman is the managing director of Inspired Services Publishing, the leading producer of EasyRead information in the UK. He has spent over 30 years leading by example in the provision of cutting edge services for people with intellectual impairments. He is a writer and campaigner for better services. In 2000, Andrew led the involvement of service users in the making of a new government policy Valuing People, including the support systems to enable people to comment on its implementation.

Maria Carolina Hoyos Turbay, General Vice Minister, ICT Ministry, Colombia

The General Vice-Minister of ICT is Social Communicator and Journalist and holds Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in strategic marketing. Maria Carolina has been working on making Colombia a better country through the inclusion of ICTs for the development of knowledge all around the country.

She has driven the most important achievements on digital inclusion for people with disabilities in Colombia, like ConVerTIC, a free downloadable screen reader for blind people.

Franz-Joseph Huainigg, Member of Austrian Parliament, Austria

Dr. Huainigg is a Member of Parliament and Spokesperson for People with Disabilities as well as Spokesperson for Development Cooperation within Austria’s People’s Party. Paralyzed, using a wheelchair and a respirator, he experiences quite a few obstacles himself which he strives for omission or at least improvement, i.e. he is a first-hand expert. His primary aim is the involvement and participation of people with disabilities in all areas of life.

James Hubbard, Senior Design Advisor, Products and Services, Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) / National Disability Authority (NDA), Ireland

As the Co-Chair of the world’s first standards on Universal Design for Energy and Tourism suppliers, James promotes accessibility through embedding a design approach. He works on ISO, CEN and National projects to apply UN policy, WHO classifications and Irish research to achieve more Universal Designs for age, size, ability and disability. At the CEUD he works on national standards, policy and education.

Helene Jarmer, Member of Austrian Parliament, Austria

Hiroshi Kawamura, Vice President of Assistive Technology Development Organization (ATDO), Japan

Kawamura is a Founder and a Past President (2008-2011) of DAISY Consortium (www.daisy.org). He is passionate to save lives of people at disasters particularly including persons with disabilities through accessible and easy to understand knowledge sharing for preparedness development. Most currently he is coordinating Asia Pacific Meeting on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-23 April 2014, Sendai, Japan co-organized by UN ESCAP, Nippon Foundation and the Rehabilitation International.

Amal Kharbichi, ICT Accessibility Programme Officer, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Switzerland

Amal Kharbichi is ICT Accessibility Programme Officer at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency for Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology. She supports the inter-sectoral coordination of ICT accessibility-related activities within the Corporate Strategy Division of the General Secretariat.

Monika A. Klenovec, Access Consultant and Lecturer at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria

Monika A. Klenovec is freelance architect, access consultant, standardisation expert and lecturer at the Vienna University of Technology in design for all and accessible buildings. 2006 she started the association ”design for all” in Vienna. In 2010 she developed a course for "Certified experts for barrier free planning and construction works" at Austria Standards. She was project leader of EU-Mandate M/420 ”Accessibility to public procurement in the built environment” (Phase I).

Kristina Körnung, Political Advisor for the Green Party, City of Gothenburg, Sweden

Kristina is working closely with the Deputy Mayor in charge of the portfolio of accessibility, culture and human rights in Gothenburg, since 2011. She holds a Masters degree in political science and public administration, and has previously worked with international and social affairs at the municipal, regional and Nordic level. She is a current member of the Committee on Human Rights in the Region of Västra Götaland – the country’s first committee in this field on a regional level.

Ádám Kósa MEP, President of Disability Intergroup in the European Parliament, Hungary

Ádám Kósa, Hungarian sign language user, studied law. He is President of the Hungarian Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) and became a Member of the European Parliament in 2009, where he presides the Disability Intergroup. He has contributed to important reports on people with disabilities, such as European Disability Strategy (2011), the implementation of the anti-discrimination directive (2013). Kósa has been elected as a MEP of Year 2013 by European Parliament Magazine.

Satoshi Kose, Professor, Graduate School of Design, Shizuoka University of Art and Culture, Japan

Dr. Kose is specialized in the field of building use/safety & universal design. He has been with the Building Research Institute before joining the university. He served as resource person for JICA/APCD Project on Building Non-Handicapping Environments between 2000 and 2004, and
published many papers on designing for the ageing society and universal design, including the Universal Design Handbook from McGraw Hill.

Rana Kotan, Director of Programs and International Relations, Sabanci Foundation, Turkey

Ms Kotan is the Director of Programs and International Relations at Sabanci Foundation. She oversees the Foundation’s programs promoting social inclusion and equal participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. She is a Governing Council member of the European Financial Center, National Advisory Group member of the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations (TACSO) and a contributor to Alliance Magazine.

Rotraut Krall, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Austria

Dr. Krall holds a Ph. D. in History of Art and History at the University of Vienna (1984). Since then she worked in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien in the department for education giving lectures for adults and art seminars for adults and children, editing study materials, curator of exhibitions, in charge of study tours for the Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Since 2010 she is responsible for museum programs for people with disabilities focusing on tours for visually impaired people.

Anna Lawson, Professor of Law at the School of Law and Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom


Vladimir Lazovski, Executive Director, Open the Windows, Macedonia

Vladimir is the Executive Director of Open the Windows, Macedonia’s sole organisation promoting assistive technology. He managed the successful introduction of assistive technology in mainstream education, an initiative that won the ERSTE Foundation Social Integration Award in 2013. His 15-years professional experience includes involvement in the creation of the country’s first community-based housing services for persons with disabilities, and humanitarian work in Kosovo and Sudan.

Jean Luc Le Goaller, Technical Director and Co-Manager, SCOP (Cooperative Society The pager), France

Jean Luc is co-manager of Le Messageur, this company develops technical solutions to support people who are deaf or hard of hearing, in the individual or collective support systems. We act in the field of social and solidarity economy. Our goal is to implement technical solutions, but also knowledge and life skills, aiming inexpensive systems that can significantly improve the lives of people with this type of disability. We try to be every day “accessibility creators.” It is our motto.

Petra Letavayová, Communications Officer, Inclusion Europe

Petra Letavayová works at Inclusion Europe, the European voice and representation of over 60 organisations of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. In this capacity, she coordinated a European project ‘Creating Pathways to Lifelong Learning for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities’ which disseminated the European standards for making information easy-to-read and understand into nine EU member states. She has also cooperated with several European and international organisations.
Katerina Papamichail, Founding Member of ENAT, Greece

Katerina Papamichail is a Greek architect, founding member of ENAT, specialising in Universal Design and accessibility of the built environment and accessible tourism. Ex-Head of Architectural Studies, Greek Social Housing Organisation and Section Manager for Olympic/Paralympic Village, Athens Olympic Games 2004. Expert for the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) on ‘Accessibility Requirements for Public Procurement in the Built Environment’. Co-author of the Greek Accessibility Guidelines.

Sulaiman Madada Kyebakoze, Minister for Disability and Elderly, Uganda

Honourable Madada Kyebakoze Sulaiman is the Minister of state, (MGLSD) in charge of Disability and Elderly in Uganda. He posses a B.A. Mass Communication and a MA Development Administration and Management. He has held this position for the last seven years. As a Government Minister he has the mandate to advocate for the social economic well being of persons with Disabilities and the Elderly. He has participated in the formation of various Acts, policies and guidelines concerning persons with Disabilities and the Elderly.

Johanna Mang, Director Programmes, Light for the World, Austria

Johanna Mang is the Director Programmes of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Austria, an international NGO, presently working in 16 partner countries and on international level on health, education and livelihood. Johanna’s work is geared towards development programs which contribute to a world in which persons with disabilities in developing countries have a decent life, equally participate in society and have access to their rights.

Thomas Marka, atempo, Austria

My name is Thomas Marka and I’m 19 years old. I’m at atempo since October 2009. At atempo I also learn how to check buildings about their accessibility. My first experience I could collect in April 2013. I was in London to check the accessibility of the city for people with disability.

César Mauri Loba, #aspacenet project coordinator, Confederación ASPACE, Spain

César is an entrepreneur, software developer and computer science teacher at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV). Most of his work is centred around devising, creating and deploying solutions for people with disabilities. He is also the author of several free software based assistive technology solutions. He is currently the chairman of the Assistive Technology Committee of Confederación ASPACE and leads the ICT group in the Cerebral Palsy Association of Tarragona (Spain).

Ron McCallum, Prof Emeritus, University of Sydney, Australia

Prof Emeritus Ron McCallum of the University of Sydney, Australia, has been blind since his birth. He is a labour law academic and practitioner. Ron is a Vice-Chair and the immediate past Chair of the CRPD Committee.

Carrie McGee, Associate Educator, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), USA

Carrie is responsible for developing MoMA’s renowned programming for visitors with disabilities, as well as the recruitment and training of museum educators. She also teaches gallery and studio-based programs, including a seminar at the Museum for medical students.
In 2009, Carrie coauthored Meet Me: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Alliance for Arts & Health.

**Rosemary Mckay, Director, Disability Section of the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia**

Rosemary Mckay has been the Director of the Disability Section of the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 2011. Prior to that Rosemary worked on Australian Government aid programs in the Pacific, Southern Africa and Asia regions, as well as for the Office of Disability within Australia’s then Department of Health and Human Services. Rosemary has two children, one eleven year old boy with autism and an eight year old girl.

**Peter Milbradt, Managing Director, easy entrance ltd, Austria**

In his work Peter Milbradt (Mag.) fosters an interdisciplinary approach. He is management-consultant, certified safety expert, completed an education as quality manager and is managing director of easy entrance ltd. With his team he provides professional services around accessibility for companies. As assigned partner of the Austrian Office of Social Affairs he offers a standardised "accessibility counselling package". The over all target is, to sustainably implement accessibility into management processes.

**Apollo Mukasa, Project Coordinator, Uganda National Action on Physical Disability (UNAPD), Uganda**

Apollo is a physically disabled person and holds a Master’s Degree in International Development and Social Change from Clark University (USA). He works with UNAPD, which advocates for the rights of persons with physical disability in the Global South. He committed much of his efforts towards the accessibility rights and directly participated in the development of Uganda’s National Accessibility Standards. He is currently the chairperson of the National Accessibility Audit Committee.

**Miguel Neiva, Creator, ColorADD, Portugal**

Ashoka Fellow, Graphic Designer and Social Entrepreneur - Creator of ColorADD, Color identification system for colorblind people, an universal and inclusive code, which allows inclusion of about 350 million people around the world. This code is already being implemented by several entities from different economic sectors of society. Through NGO ColorADD.Social, he wants to provide ColorADD in education, allowing the inclusion of colorblind children without discrimination.

**Julia Neuschmid, Researcher, Ceit Alanova, Austria**

Julia Neuschmid (Mag) has a background in geography focusing on spatial research and planning. She is researcher at CEIT ALANOVA - Department for Urbanism, Transport, Environment and Information Society. Her specialisation is on spatial data infrastructures, territorial monitoring systems, and inclusive map design for blind and visually impaired. She studied at the University of Innsbruck (AT), Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca (RO) and University of Vienna.

**Josélia Neves, Coordinator, Inclusion and Accessibility in Action Research Centre IPLEiria, Portugal**

Josélia Neves is a teacher and researcher in multimodal and multisensory communication with international experience in access to culture and the media. Her work has had a
strong impact on Portuguese policies and on national and international norm making in captioning and audio description. She involved television broadcasters and film makers; she has developed accessibility strategies for theatre and dance performances and introduced creative experience design for all in cultural venues.

**Yetnebersh Nigussie, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD), Ethiopia**

Yetnebersh, who lost her eyesight at the age of 5 due to meningitis, is the Executive Director of Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD), which she co-founded with other colleagues. In addition, to a number of consultancy assignments she has both at the national and international level, Yetnebersh is also a prominent entrepreneur running a private kindergarten and primary school in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

**Maria Orejas-Chantelot, Director of the Thematic Networks, European Foundation Centre, Belgium**

Maria is the Director of the Thematic Networks, European Foundation Centre, the Brussels-based international association of over 300 foundations operating in Europe. Maria is a lawyer, member of the Madrid’s Bar specialized in international business law. Maria has held various positions related to European matters. Following years active as a lawyer in Spain, she worked in Paris on project management assignments in international organisations from both the public and private sectors.

**Stephanie Oueda, Manager in the International Diversities Team, L’Oréal, France**

Stephanie works as Manager in the International Diversities Team in Paris. She is responsible for the adaptation and deployment of the diversities policy amongst the subsidiaries of the Group in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Before becoming part of the international team, Stephanie worked in L’Oréal México launching the first diversity policy of the Group in the Latin American zone. Fluently in 5 languages, she holds a MA in Economics and in Political Science.

**Dan Pescod, Campaigns Manager, Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), United Kingdom**

Dan is the Vice Chair of the World Blind Union’s Right to Read Campaign. As such he coordinated the WBU’s work to obtain the Marrakech Treaty in order to help end the "book famine" faced by blind and partially sighted people, and is now working on the campaign for the ratification of that treaty. Dan campaigns in the UK and internationally to gain greater access to information, rights and services for blind and partially sighted people. He participated in the negotiations on the UN CRPD.

**Inmaculada Placencia, Deputy Head of Unit, for Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Directorate General for Justice, European Commission**

Inmaculada Placencia is Deputy Head of Unit, for Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the Directorate General for Justice. The unit is in charge of the coordination of the European policies for persons with disabilities and responsible for the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the implementation of the UN CRPD at EU level. She graduated in Physics and Computer Science and worked in RTD activities in industry.

**Pranesh Prakash, Policy Director, Centre for Internet and Society, India**

Pranesh Prakash is a Policy Director at the Centre for Internet and Society, a Bangalore-based non-profit that engages in research and policy advocacy. He is also currently an Access to Knowledge Fellow at the Yale Law School’s Information
Society Project. His research interests converge at the intersections of technology, culture, economics and law. His current work focuses the areas of access to knowledge, 'openness', freedom of expression, privacy and Internet governance.

**Alessandro Redavide, Coordinator, Turismabile, Italy**

Graduated with a specialization on Science of Tourism. After several work experiences in the field of tourism, in 2011, he joined the team of CPD Consulta per le Persone in Difficoltà, an Italian NGO that works in the field of disability. In particular, Alessandro coordinates the activities of the project Turismabile. The project aims to create an integrated system of support services, in Piedmont, for tourists with special needs, promoting the implementation of the principles of Tourism for All.

**Tanja Reichl, Leader of Division barrier free hearing, hörwelt GmbH, Austria**

Tanja Reichl is leading the division barrier free hearing within the company hörwelt GmbH, an company for acoustics, since the beginning of 2012. This division implements barrier free sound reproduction systems who facilitate persons with hearing aids the accessibility to everyday things like a bank visit, public authorities, doctor’s visit, etc. She studied the law in Linz and worked as a lawyer in an IT company for clinical information systems in Munich.

**Andreas Reinalter, Deputy Head, Department for Disability Rights and Fundamental Issues, EU and International Disability Affairs, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria**

Andreas Reinalter is the Deputy Head of the Department for Disability Rights and Fundamental Issues, EU and International Disability Affairs. He is Vice Chairman of the Supervisory Group for the National Action Plan on Disability 2012-2020 and a deputy member of the national Advisory Council for Building Culture at the Federal Chancellery. In addition, he represents Austria in the EU Disability High Level Group. Andreas Reinalter holds a master in law.

**Françoise Reynette, Artistic Director, Artesens, France**

Françoise created Artesens in Paris twenty years ago, with the main inspiration to grant access to art for everyone. Artesens is awakening to art through all senses in order to widen the scope of art lovers, children, adults, visually impaired. Artist, cultural mediator, exhibition designer for different museums in Paris, Françoise took a deep interest in interactive museography tools. Artesens are shown in France and around the world in Japan, Belgium and Lithuania.

**Marie Ringler, Founder Ashoka Austria and Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Austria**

Marie Ringler founded Ashoka’s country office in Austria in 2011 and is also Ashoka’s Director for Central and Eastern Europe. Ashoka is the world’s largest network of nearly 3000 Social Entrepreneurs, spanning across 70 countries, solving some of the world’s toughest social problems. Marie studied Sociology, Political Science and Women’s Studies at the University of Vienna, and holds a degree from ESADE Business School, Spain and an MBA from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

**Denise Roza, Founder and Executive Founder, Perspektiva, Russia**

Denise Roza served as the director of the Russian office of the World Institute on Disability (USA) from 1994-97. In 1997, together with Russian colleagues from the disability rights movement, she set up Perspektiva, a Russian disability NGO, to support people with disabilities to lead full, active, independent lives. As Executive Director of Perspektiva, she
oversees the development and implementation of programs which promote youth empowerment, equal access to education, employment and sports.

Ramon Sanmartin, Policy & Project Officer, European Commission, Spain

Ramon Sanmartin is a Policy and Project Officer at the European Commission and is responsible for the follow-up for the proposal for a Directive on the accessibility of public sector bodies websites. He is currently involved in the on-going discussions of the draft Directive at the European Parliament and the Council. He is also involved in the work on the draft European Standard 301549 on accessibility requirements for ICT products and services. Ramon has been working in EU affairs for six years.

Mari Satur Torre, Innovation Manager, Vodafone Spain Foundation, Spain

Satur Torre is Telecommunication Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, MSc. in Mobile Communications by the Polytechnic University of Barcelona and Executive MBA by EOI (Industrial Organization School). She is the Innovation Manager in the Vodafone Spain Foundation. The Vodafone Spain Foundation aims at promoting the development of different programmes that contribute to the independent living and personal autonomy of people with disabilities and seniors.

Erwin Schauer, Head of Disability Management, Bank Austrian Group, Austria

Erwin Schauer has been working for UniCredit Leasing as a real estate developer. In 1998 he became a disabled person himself. In 2007 he organized the first election of Persons of Trust for disabled employees at UniCredit Leasing. Being elected by colleagues he is taking a stand for the rights of disabled employees since then. In 2010 he was appointed Head of Disability Management being responsible for all matters referring to disabled employees as well as disabled customers of the bank.

Susan Scott-Parker, Founder and Chief Executive, Business Disability Forum, United Kingdom

Susan Scott-Parker, OBE, is the Founder and Chief Executive of Business Disability Forum. Business Disability Forum (BDF) is the world’s leading employers’ organisation working to the mutual benefit of business and people with disabilities. Susan has an international reputation as an authoritative advocate for the business advantages of disability confidence and leads BDF’s global Technology Taskforce. She is now establishing the first global business consortium: Business Disability International.

Shuaib Chalklen, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD), South Africa

Shuaib Chalklen, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development. Shuaib has worked in the fields of disability, governance & administration nationally & globally, including: Senior Policy Analyst - Presidency of South Africa, CEO - Secretariat for the African Decade of Disabled Persons and Director of the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons in the Presidency of South Africa. He has worked closely with the United Nations, World Bank and bi-lateral donor countries.

David Sindall, Head of Disability & Inclusion, ATOC Ltd, United Kingdom

David Sindall is Head of Disability & Inclusion for ATOC Ltd. Prior to his appointment in August 2006 he worked in a range of roles and specialises in developing inclusive business approaches to the needs of disabled people. He chairs the UIC PASSAGE project and is a member of the European Rail Agency working group that has just
reviewed the technical rules around accessibility. Hearing impaired since birth, David published his first novel, 'After Alyson', in March 2013.

**Martina Sindelar, Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, European Commission**

Dr. Martina Sindelar holds a Ph.D. in international economics from the University of Bayreuth, Germany. She joined the European Commission in 1992 and held different posts since. She took over her current job in Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry in 2003. Mrs Sindelar is specialized in ICT standardisation and in particular in e-accessibility and e-Inclusion.

**Sam Sportun, Head of Conservation, Manchester Museum, UK**

Sam has MAs in Conservation and Creative technologies and has worked in museums for 18 years. She has a passion for making museum collections accessible through the application of emerging 3D technology. She worked with Christopher Dean and Henshaws Society for the Blind to develop a touch interactive with museum objects. She is a PhD student researching digital touch in Museum, exploring ways of using technology to share objects stories.

**Martha Stickings, Researcher, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Austria**

Martha Stickings works as a researcher managing projects in the Equality Sector of the Agency’s Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department. Her areas of expertise with respect to the FRA’s work include: the rights of persons with disabilities, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, non-discrimination, fundamental rights indicators and social research and analysis. Prior to joining the FRA, she held a number of research-related roles in international organisations and NGOs.

**Ambassador Christine Stix-Hackl, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN Vienna, Austria**

Ambassador to Luxembourg (2007-11); Member of the Court of Justice of the European Union (2000-06); Consul-General in Switzerland; Permanent Agent of Austria before the Court of Justice of the EU, Head of European Union Legal Service in the Foreign Ministry (1992-2000). PhD in Law, Diploma in European Law (College of Europe) Teaching e.g. at Vienna University of Economics and Business Adm., Universities of St. Gall/Switzerland) and Saarbrücken/Germany; many publications on EU topics.

**Sunarman Sukamto, Chairperson of CBR DTC, Solo, Indonesia**

Sunarman Sukamto is the Chairperson of CBR DTC, Solo, Indonesia (established since 1978). CBR DTC Solo focuses for empowerment and advocacy of the rights of persons with disabilities in Indonesia. He has experiences in creating cross-disability movements and advocating pro-disability system/policies in all aspect of life and all sectors of development. He strongly believes that disability issues is human rights issues in development that accommodative to local values, wisdoms, and resources.

**Jwu Yih Tan, Senior Architect, Building and Construction Authority (BCA), Singapore**

Mr Tan is Senior Architect in the Universal Design Department, Building and Construction Authority of Singapore. His work focuses on developing and implementing policies that improve accessibility in the built environment and promote greater adoption of Universal Design.
Michèle Taylor, Trainer and Consultant, United Kingdom

Michèle has been working with individuals and organisations for nearly 30 years. She has worked with heritage organisations including the British Museum. Michèle explores inclusion as a strategy for organisational resilience: diversity can support peace and reconciliation at many levels including having real, practical, impact at a local level. Michèle is an accredited member of the Institute of Equality and Diversity Practitioners, and a licensed MBTI practitioner.

Barış Temur, Terminal Operations Chief, TAV Company, Turkey

Barış Temur studied Business Administration and Management. After working 7 years as Duty Terminal Operations Officer in TAV Company he was appointed as Terminal Operations Chief in 2013. In 2008 he joined Management Training Program of TAV, which took 6 months relating with aviation courses. In 2011 and 2012 he joined Airport Strategic Management Program of IATA and Airport Executive Leadership Program of ACI.

Steen Thygesen, CEO of Specialist People Foundation

Steen Thygesen is CEO of Specialist People Foundation, which owns the Specialisterne brand and concept. He also sits on the board of many of the Specialisterne operations around the world, and takes an active role in helping to develop these into sustainable businesses. Prior to entering the world of Specialisterne, Steen has been working globally within mobile software, services, devices and telecommunications for over two decades. He has a degree in Electronics Engineering and an MBA.

Mark Todd, Access Consultant, United Kingdom

Mark Todd is a disabled person with 25 years experience in the access field, specializing in World class sports events. He was accessibility advisor to the London 2012 Games regarding transport, venues, ticketing and volunteering. Mark is co-author of the IPC Technical Manual on Accessibility and is on the Accessibility Expert Panel. His work now includes Sochi 2014 Games, Glasgow 2014 Games and Rio 2016 Games. Mark was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2013 Queen’s New Year’s Honours List.

Mirko Tomassoni, Founder and President, NGO Attiva-Mente and former parliamentarian, Republic of San Marino

Mr. Tomassoni is 45 years old wheelchair user from the Republic of San Marino. He is the Founder and President of the NGO called Attiva-Mente. He was Parliamentarian from 2006 till early 2014, and in 2007 he served the role of Captain Regent (Head of State). He was member of various Commissions, among which the CRPD Commission of San Marino which it has been established after that his country ratified the UN Convention, as well as of the San Marino Delegation into the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Roberto Torena, Manager of the Accessible Technologies and Innovation BU, Technosite, Spain

Roberto Torena is the Manager of the Accessible Technologies and Innovation BU of Technosite. It is a technology and consultancy company belonging to Foundation ONCE, which in turn belongs to ONCE, the National Organisation of the Spanish Blind. Over 50% of our staff are people with disabilities and all our activities are carried out with design for all criteria. Since 2001, Technosite has provided consultancy, training, assessment and certification and R&D in accessibility.
Kathryn Townsend, Vice President in the Strategic Transformation team, Barclays Bank, United Kingdom

Kathryn Townsend is Vice President in the Strategic Transformation team at Barclays Bank in the UK, where she currently leads the Accessibility Programme. Kathryn has a BA (Hons) degree in Communication Studies from Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. She lives in London.

Maria Tussy, Head of European Programmes Unit, Fundacion ONCE, Spain

Maria Tussy is the Head of European Programmes Unit at Once Foundation, the first Spanish Organization for Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities. Since 2000, she is the coordinator of the ESF Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, promoted by Fundación ONCE, managing almost 25 million € per year. The aim is the social inclusion of people with disabilities through training and employment. She has also taken active part on the future of disability within the EU Cohesion Policy.

Bettina Urbanek, VCÖ – Mobilität mit Zukunft (NGO in the field of sustainable transport policy), Austria

Bettina Urbanek, Dipl.Ing. MA, is professionally advocating accessibility to mobility and transport for all people, including advocating design for all as an important benchmark for all transport systems. VCÖ as an NGO is advocating this objective in Austria by the means of media work, organising events and feeding new ideas to stakeholders in politics, public administration, science and the private sector.

Ioannis Vardakastanis, Chair, International Disability Alliance (IDA), Greece

Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis is the President of the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (NCDP), the President of the European Disability Forum (EDF) and also the Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). He is also a member of the European Economic and Social Committee representing the N.C.D.P. of Greece in Group III. Throughout his life, he has been an active disability rights campaigner and has held a number of key positions.

Berit Vegheim, Civil Rights Foundation Stop Discrimination, Norway

Berit Vegheim graduated as a criminologist from the University in Oslo in 1991. She has done research on women offenders and the criminal justice system. She has been a disability and women activist for more than thirty years. Since 2002, she has worked for the Norwegian Civil Rights foundation Stop Discrimination (Norwegian: Borgerrettsstiftelsen Stopp Diskrimineringen), which was set up by the Norwegian Independent Living movement to campaign for a robust and strong anti-discrimination legislation, including legal protection against hate crime.

Christian Vogelauer, WU Vienna, Austria

Mag. Vogelauer is a research associate of the Institute for Transport and Logistics Management of the Vienna University of Economics and Business. His primary research focus lies in the field of personal mobility. Here he is investigating the establishing of accessibility in urban transport systems and creating barrier-free buildings. Further research includes best and bad practices for accessibility in public transport and their economic appraisal as well as assessment of benefits.
Jakob von Uexkull, Founder of the World Future Council and Right Livelihood Award, Sweden/Germany

Jakob von Uexkull is the founder of the World Future Council (2007) and the Right Livelihood Award (1980), often referred to as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’, as well as co-founder (1984) of The Other Economic Summit. As a past Member of the European Parliament (1987-89) he served on the Political Affairs Committee and later on the UNESCO Commission on Human Duties and Responsibilities (1998-2000). Jakob von Uexkull has received numerous awards and recognition for his work.

Marina Vujačić, Executive Director, Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro

Marina Vujačić graduated in Sociology and specialized in Sociology of communication. She is a person with disability, and directs the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro since September 2011. Marina co-edited a report on the “Human Rights of people with disabilities” in 2010 and she is a editor of the report: “Monitoring the human rights of persons with disabilities in Montenegro” for 2012. Both reports have been issued by AYDM. She coordinates the portal of AYDM DISABILITYinfo.me

Diana Walters, Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB), Sweden

Diana manages CHwB’s Access and Inclusion work in the Western Balkans, funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. CHwB’s work focuses on breaking down barriers to cultural heritage and in making museums more inclusive, challenging negative attitudes and strengthening human rights. Diana has worked with inclusion for 30 years and wrote her PhD on attitudes towards disability within the museum world.

Wolfgang Wasserburger, Senior Researcher, CeiT Alanova, Austria

Mr Wasserburger (DI) is spatial planner and senior researcher at CeiT ALANOVA - Department for Urbanism, Transport, Environment and Information Society. He is specialised in spatial planning, (online) GIS and maps for blind and visually impaired people, and transportation planning. He studied at the Technical University of Vienna. He has an extensive experience in software and web mapping, strategic and transport planning, urban development, environmental impact assessment and logistics consultancy.

Dolorence Naswa Were, Executive Director, Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), Uganda

Dolorence N. Were is the Executive Director of Uganda Society for Disabled Children, a leading childhood disability organisation in Uganda. Dolorence studied Sociology and ICT Policy & Regulation. She believes the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) strategy has worked in tackling childhood disability issues. With over 12 years experience in the disability movement, she now works to empower the over 80% world’s children living with a disability in the South to participate equally in education.

Claudia Werneck, Journalist, author and founder of Escola de Gente, Brazil

Claudia Werneck, an Ashoka Fellow, is a journalist, author and founder of Escola de Gente. With 14 published books on human rights, inclusion and accessibility; she is specialized in inclusive communication and travels the world as a lecturer on the subject. Her seminal work “Who Fits Into Your All?” was recommended by both UNESCO and UNICEF. In 2013, in partnership with the Brazilian government, her organization launched the national campaign...
“Accessible Theater: Art, Entertainment and Rights”.

Richard West, Director, Inspired Services Publishing, United Kingdom

Richard West M.B.E. is a director of Inspired Services, the leading producer of EasyRead information in the UK. He was recently awarded an MBE by the Queen for services to disabled people. As a self-advocate with an intellectual impairment he has spent many years influencing government policy and practice. In 2001 he co-wrote the ground breaking publication ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’, an EasyRead government policy detailing how services and supports should be provided.

Markus Wolf, President, Austrian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (BSVÖ), Austria

Dr Wolf, President of the Austrian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted, works in the Division for International Youth and Family Policy of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Family and Youth. Since 2007, he is a Cabinet Member of the Liaison Commission of the European Blind Union. In addition to that Wolf was a substitute member from 2008 to 2012 of the Monitoring Committee which monitors the implementation of the UN CRPD in Austria.

Michele Woods, Director of the Copyright Law Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Switzerland

Michele Woods is the Director of the Copyright Law Division at the World Intellectual Property Organization. Ms. Woods serves as Secretary of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, and was part of the Secretariat for the Diplomatic Conferences that adopted the texts of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances in June 2012 and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled in 2013.

Fanny Yde, Project Manager at Intro vzw, Belgium

Fanny Yde lives in Ghent, Belgium and is project manager at Intro vzw, an organisation that makes events accessible for people with a disability. She strongly believes that cultural experiences enriche one’s life and improve the quality of life of any person, with or without disability. As an event manager and orthopedagogue she tries to eliminate the (often practical) barriers at events in order to improve the accessibility of cultural life in Belgium.

Luk Zelderloo, Secretary General, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), Belgium

Mr. Luk Zelderloo has been professionally active in the disability sector for more than 30 years. Mr. Zelderloo holds Master degrees in Management and Social science and philosophy. For more than 15 years he was active as manager of a social service for persons with disabilities in Flanders. For the last 13 years, he has been active on the European level as well. He is one of the founding fathers of EASPD, an umbrella network representing over 10000 services for persons with disabilities.
Zero Project Team

Michael Fembek, Head of Zero Project – Essl Foundation, Vienna (see Speaker’s List)

Carmen Arroyo de Sande, Head of Research of Social Indicators, Zero Project - European Foundation Centre (EFC), Brussels

Carmen Arroyo de Sande joined the European Foundation Centre (EFC) in September 2012 and currently coordinates the EFC Disability Thematic Network. Prior to this work, she was Operating Manager at EUREGHA (European Regional and Local Health Authorities), Representative in Brussels for the AEBR (Association of European Border Regions) and Policy Advisor on EU Employment and Social Affairs for the EU Office of the Regional Government of Extremadura. Her fields of expertise are EU Policies and Law, EU Funding, Regional and Local issues, Employment, Social Affairs & Equality, Health, Human Rights, Disability and Philanthropy. She holds a Master’s Degree in European Law and a Postgraduate Specialisation in New Marketing Trends for Social Economy Enterprises. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy. She is a native Spanish speaker and she is fluent in English, French and she has basic working proficiency in Portuguese.

Silvia Balmas, Research of Social Indicators, Zero Project - European Foundation Centre (EFC), Brussels

Silvia Balmas joined European Foundation Centre in 2012 working in the EFC Disability Thematic Network. Prior to this she had several experiences working in the University
of Turin and especially in the International Mobility Office and in the Office offering services for people with disabilities. Before that she dis several international experiences in the social sector working in United Kingdom for the Merthyr Tydfil Council and in Brazil for Progettomondo MLAL, an Italian NGO implementing educational projects in Olinda.

Tom Butcher has worked with the Zero Project since its very early days. Based in New York, Tom helps extend the reach of the project internationally, especially into both North and South America. Originally from England, Tom has spent much of his career working in the world of banking, investment and finance, the last 22 of them in New York City.

Martin Habacher, Zero Project Social Media - mabacher.com, Vienna (see Speaker's List)

Ingrid Heindorf, Head of Policy Research and Conference Organisation of the Zero Project – World Future Council, Geneva (see Speaker's List)

Doris Neuwirth
Doris joined the Zero Project in 2013. She has been working for the bauMax group since 2004 in the bauMax press and communications department.

Maria Orejas-Chantelot, Research and Conference Organisation, Zero Project – European Foundation Centre (EFC), Brussels (see Speaker’s List)

Amelie Saupe, Head of research on Innovative Practices, Zero Project - Essl Foundation, Vienna
Amelie joined the Zero Project Team as researcher of Innovative Practices in 2013. Before returning to Austria Amelie worked for a global logistics company in Shanghai and as Project Manager for a non-profit foundation in Switzerland. Amelie has experience within international affairs in different thematic areas and approaches. She received her degree in Political Sciences and Philosophy from Vienna University in 2006 and went to school in the United Kingdom for her A-levels.

Dagmar Zechmeister, Assistant, Zero Project - Essl Foundation, Vienna
Dagmar started working for the bauMax group since 2006 as assistant to the management. She joined the Zero Project Team in 2009.