Maarit AALTO

Maarit Aalto expertise is based on various positions held and responsibilities covered for National, Nordic and European projects in the field of disability. Within her work in FDUV (NGO for persons with intellectual disabilities), Nordic Welfare Center (NVC, under the Nordic Council of Ministers) and Aspa Foundation, Aalto educates professionals in the field and is in charge of projects. Through the project “Person Centered daily Life”, Aalto educated staff members to follow the principles of CRPD. Aalto created the “TopHouse Individual Needs and Rights Assessment (THINA)” tool to provide practical tools in the development of integrated housing environments. Within her own firm, M.A.Education&Survey, Aalto educates students and professionals in Germany and Italy of Disability Policy in the Nordic Countries.

Aspa Foundation, Finland

Devidettra ACHARYA

Mr. Devidatta Acharya was born in the remote village of Jumla District of Nepal who acquired disability by polio. He is very much keen in democracy and human rights and formed a self-help group of persons with disability in local community of Banke and formerly established DECN, advocating for political participation and independent living. He has been engaged in several Training as key facilitator and promoted justice, equality and dignity of Persons with disabilities in line with CRPD across the country. He has launched campaign for political representation of persons with disabilities under the inclusive electoral system.

Disable Empowerment and Communication Center-Nepal (DEC-N), Nepal

Toyin Janet ADEREM

Toyin Aderemi is a disability inclusion consultant, based in Nigeria. She has held advisory and leadership roles in international NGOs. She has work experiences in inclusive sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and has developed/contributed to various resources in inclusive SRH and humanitarian action. She has a PhD in Behavioural Medicine, MPH and a Bachelor of Pharmacy degrees. Toyin is an awardee of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program, and a Her Abilities Award Winner.

Her Abilities / Light for the World, Nigeria

Gaby ADMON-RICK

Gaby Admon-Rick, PhD is a senior official at the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in the Israeli Ministry of Justice. She is responsible for international affairs, is involved in the monitoring and reporting on the CRPD, and leads the issues of planning, research, public campaigns and new media. She has also conducted research through disability studies and science studies perspectives on the historical constructions of disability in Israeli society.

Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Justice, Israel

Daphne AHRENDT

Daphne Ahrendt joined Eurofound's Social Policies Unit as a research manager in January 2013. After overviewing the social and employment of people with disabilities based on the fourth European Quality of Life Survey in 2018, Daphne will continue this research by examining the impact of services designed and provided for people with disabilities across Member States. Daphne is from the Netherlands but studied at San Francisco State University (Political Science) and LSE in London. After working on the British Social Attitudes Survey and the International Social Survey at the National Centre for Social Research in London, Daphne went to the European Commission to work on the Eurobarometer Survey. She has worked on the European Quality of Life Survey since its inception in 2003.

EuroFound, Ireland
HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid AL-HUSSEIN

His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein currently serves as the Chairman of the National Committee for Demining & Rehabilitation and the President of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers. He also serves as the ‘Special Envoy’ of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). His Royal Highness is also the President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), a position he has held since 2014.

Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordan

Arman ALI

Arman Ali is a disability rights activist presently heading National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People as its Executive Director since 1st October, 2018. Prior to NCPEDP Arman has worked with Shishu Sarothi, Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability since 2003, where he was instrumental in setting up the Disability Law Unit – North East for protecting rights of persons with disability through legal literacy and litigation. Arman received several awards, such as the Infosys Excellence Award for Inclusivity and Diversity in the year 2007, the Literacy Hero Award 2016, the IBN7 Super Idol Award, and the National Award in Public Recognition for Outstanding Performance as the Most Efficient Disabled Employee for the Year 1998 awarded by the Government of India.

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, India

Natalia AMELINA

Professional activity of Mrs. Natalia Amelina, Ph.D., is connected with studying, analyses and development of training materials and recommendations on various trends of ICT use in educational process, including ICT for people with disabilities, ICT for skills development and TVET, ICT in preschool and primary school education, etc. She has experience of more than 20 years in pedagogics. Mrs. Amelina is an author of more than 30 publications in the field of education. Working in the UNESCO Institute for information technologies in education for more than 15 years Mrs. Amelina participated in the international projects and being the expert and the coauthor of training materials; she took part and organized many international and national conferences, carried out a large number of meetings and the training seminars on promoting ICT in education.

UNESCO - IITE Institute for Information Technologies in Education, Russia

Timothy AMES

As Executive Director Tim is responsible for the implementation of the collaborative strategic direction of both Plan Institute & PLAN, a role that he has held for five years. Tim has also served as a community connector for PLAN, sat on the board of Plan Institute and worked for three years as General Manager for Tyze – an online personal networking service and a certified B-Corp Social Enterprise developed by PLAN. Tim also teaches Sustainable Innovation and is a Mentor in Residence at Simon Fraser University and the Venture Connection. Before working In the Not for Profit sector Tim was the Managing Director and Vice President of an International technology company and worked in Canada, the USA and Europe.

Plan Institute, Canada

Action AMOS

Action Amos is the Executive Director for Federation of Disability Organisations in Malawi (FEDOMA) which is the Umbrella Organisations of 12 Disabled Persons Organisations in Malawi. He does posses an MBA in Leadership and Sustainability from UK, a BA in Development Studies from Ireland and a Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Management. Action is also a member of the National Mainstreaming Strategy Taskforce in Malawi. Currently Action is a Board Director for African Disability Alliance (ADA), Director for African Deaf Blind and Secretary for Pan African Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (PANUSP). He has contributed globally on issues of Mainstreaming and Inclusion of persons with disabilities. Also he has a privilege to be the Board Chairperson of Malawi Bureau of Standards.

FEDOMA, Malawi
Carmen ARROYO DE SANDE

Carmen Arroyo de Sande joined the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) in 2014 where she leads the Development, Research & Innovation team. Prior to this, she worked for the European Foundation Centre (EFC), the European Network of Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the EU Office of the Regional Government of Extremadura. Her fields of expertise are EU Funding, EU Policies and Law, Regional and Local Affairs, 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.

Karin ASTEGGER

Karin Astegger is responsible for quality, research & development at Lebenshilfe Salzburg, an Austrian service provider for persons with learning disabilities. Astegger is the chair of the Independent Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the UN-CRPD in Salzburg, and Board member of EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for persons with Disability). She is a psychologist and psychotherapist, and held a research and teaching position at the University of Salzburg. Since 1997 she has worked in social services.

Virginia ATKINSON

Virginia Atkinson is the Inclusion Advisor at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), where she is responsible for providing strategic leadership to IFES’ disability rights portfolio and technical assistance and training to CSOs and government stakeholders on inclusive democracy and governance. She spearheads IFES’ intersectional approach to program design, including initiatives to advance the human rights of women and youth who identify with multiple social identities.

Mohamed BA

Mr. Ba is Head of the Innovation Division for the Development Sector at the International Telecommunication Union, the UN specialized agency for ICT/Telecommunication. His role is to help strengthen ITU Members states capacity to integrate ICT innovation in national development. His passion is to help communities unlock their potentials through stakeholder empowerment and connecting opportunities to resources. The aim is to accelerate digital development at the national level through ICT led innovation and growth, through startup ecosystems, SMES, and key stakeholders of an ICT centric innovation ecosystem such as policy makers, academia, private sector, entrepreneurial support organizations, etc.

Judith BAART

Judith Baart works as Research and Documentation Specialist for Light for the World. She has been working in the disability rights sector for over five years. Her key focus is analysing success factors and best entry points for disability inclusion in development programmes and organisations, as well as writing and editing resources on disability inclusion such as guidelines, journal articles, toolboxes and resource books.
David BANES

David Banes is Director of his company David Banes Access and Inclusion Services having previously led assistive technology services in Europe and the Middle East. Recent projects include the development of a response to disruptive innovation in the access industry, identifying solutions to meeting the needs of refugees with a disability, and building a business case for public investment in assistive technology, whilst supporting entrepreneurs to bring products and services to market. He has a special interest in emerging technologies and the impact upon the daily lives of people with a disability. He is currently exploring issues around literacy and disability for students in low and medium income countries. David supports those working in assistive technology through a series of publications and resources, all under open licence and free.

AIS Access and Inclusion Services, United Kingdom

Daniela BAS

Ms. Daniela Bas is Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011. In addition to her work at the UN from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles from 1996 until 2011 in the private sector in Italy and was adviser for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on human rights and social affairs. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the EU Agency of Fundamental Rights; Special Adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission; at the EU, she was representative on the topic “Tourism for All” on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of her country.

United Nations DISD/DESA, United States

Neil BELANGER

Neil Belanger is a member of the Lax Se el Clan of the Gitxsan First Nation. Neil is the Executive Director of the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society and has worked for the 30 years within the disability and health sectors. Neil also works with provincial and federal governments in Canada, through advisory committees relating to disability, accessibility, inclusion, poverty, etc. to ensure the needs of Indigenous peoples living with disabilities are known and acted on.

British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, Canada

Hervé BERNARD

Herve Bernard is a rural engineer specialized in socio economic inclusion. He holds a Master's degree in vocational inclusion of persons with disability from Paris University. For the past 15 years, he has been working for Handicap International, renamed Humanity and inclusion where he is currently the director of the Social Inclusion technical division. Herve manages a team of 20 specialists across the fields of inclusive education, social protection, governance, employment and livelihoods. Herve supervised one of the first studies of micro finance for persons with disability in 2006; a guide on personalized social support for persons with disabilities and develop in 2016 with the Senator Harkin the first employment international conference for persons with disabilities.

Humanity & Inclusion, France

Nevgül BILSEL SAFKAN

Ms. Nevgüll Bilisel Safkan is the General Manager of the Sabancı Foundation of Sabancı Group, one of the largest conglomerates in Turkey. At the Foundation, which has been guided by love for humanity for the past 45 years, she manages various programs for a society where everybody enjoys their rights equally. She has also been a member of the board of trustees of the Community Volunteers Foundation, one of the biggest youth organizations in Turkey, since 2006. Starting her career as an auditor at Arthur Andersen, she previously worked as CFO for leading Companies in Turkey, as well as General Manager of KlikSA, HotelsPro and Dyson. Ms. Bilisel Safkan received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Istanbul University and her Executive MBA degree from Bosphorus University. She is married and has 13 years old son.

Sabanci Foundation, Turkey
Nitin BINDLISH
CEO & Founder Nitin Bindlish worked for corporates such as KPMG, AMEX & Aon. A qualified chartered accountant, he was CEO of Corona Dental Labs (Delhi) before launching Mom's Belief. Prior to Corona, he was V.P., Business Expansion and Sales & Marketing for Clove Dental, India's largest dental chain. A qualified Charted Accountant and Business Graduate, Mr. Bindlish is TEACCH Autism-certified & certified by the Thompson Centre for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Univ. of Missouri, USA.

Mom's Belief, India

Ylva BJELLE
Ylva Bjelle has worked at several national news channels in Sweden: television, radio and daily newspapers. She also has experience from the authorities who administrate accessibility in Sweden. Since 2008 she runs her company Bjelle Media. Ylva is the chairman of the Swedish branch organization Swedish accessibility. Mrs Bjelle also works as editor for the Sweden dyslexia association. Ylva Bjelle is the author of Become an easy to read politician.

Bjelle Media AB/Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan, Sweden

Ferran BLANCO
Social Worker. Mr. Ferran Blanco has been working since 2014 in SUPPORT, an independent NGO whose main objective is to defend, promote and develop Human Rights of PWD. His role encompasses elaborating an individualised support plan coordinating with the financial and legal area and managing the necessary resources to provide global support whilst enabling individuals to pursue their well-being, ensure their dignity and preserve their autonomy through legal and social support. Ferran also enables the participation of SUPPORT in international projects and events related to Human Rights.

Fundacio Tutelar de les Comarques Gironines, Spain

Claudia BLASCIK-BERCHTOLD
Claudia Blascik-Berchtold was born in Innsbruck, Austria. Prior to completing her studies in education in 2011, Blascik-Berchtold had her own business for over 10 years. Alongside studying, Blascik-Bertold started as an assistant at Impulse, a day care facility for people with cognitive impairments, in 2009. She was mainly responsible for the programs dance and aerobics, as well as creative work and theater education. Since 2017 she has been the managing director of Impulse.

Verein Impuls Völs, Austria

Michael BODA
Dr. Michael Boda serves as Chief Electoral Officer of Saskatchewan (Canada). Since 1995, he has provided advice to national and international institutions on issues relating to election administration, law, and assessment. Dr. Boda also served on the senior staff of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and has provided advice on electoral matters to institutions including the UNDP, OSCE, and the Carter Center. Dr. Boda has been a visiting research fellow at the Brookings Institution, the National Endowment for Democracy and has been an adjunct professor at John Hopkins University. He holds doctorates from Oxford and John Hopkins universities.

Elections Saskatchewan, Canada

Ulla BOHMAN
Ulla Bohman has more than 30 years of experience with information and communication, including training and lecturing. Mrs Bohman has a BA in Educational Psychology and Drama. She has produced a number of learning materials on human rights and democracy. With expertise in easy-to-read language, intercultural and accessible communication and in human rights, she has been invited to present keynote addresses and workshops on easy-to-read and comprehension at several international conferences.

Boarve konsult, Sweden
Marija BOROVEC

Marija Borovec, born in Zagreb, Croatia, attained her masters degree in educational rehabilitation at the University of Zagreb. Borovec joined the Center for Rehabilitation Zagreb in 2000, where she worked on providing non-institutional social services for people with ID and their families. Moreover, Borovec worked on finding and connecting resources in the local community for all inhabitants, especially for minorities at risk, and availability of programs and inclusion in the place of living, not only in big cities like Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia. Since 2013, Borovec has been working as a service manager for the Community based Supported Housing in the Center for Rehabilitation Zagreb continuing her work in the community.

Center for Rehabilitation Zagreb, Croatia

Albert BRANDSTÄTTER

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.

Lebenshilfe Österreich, Austria

Erwin BUCHBERGER

Erwin Buchberger, former volunteer and employee of Jugend Eine Welt, is using a wheelchair since he was born. Inclusion and social commitment have been always very important to him. When he was young he joined the Boy Scouts, where he was an active member in an inclusive group. In 2005, he graduated at the secondary commercial school in Vienna. In 2012, he completed a voluntary service at an inclusive school in Latvia. In 2017, he started volunteering at WeltWegWeiser. Since September 2018, he is employed by JugendEineWelt and supports the pilot project for inclusion of WeltWegWeiser.

WeltWegWeiser, Austria

Tom BUTCHER

Tom Butcher has worked with the Zero Project since its very early days. Based in New York, as US Representative of the Zero Project, Tom helps extend its reach internationally. Originally from England, Tom has spent much of his career working in the world of banking, investment, and finance, the last 26 of them in New York City.

Essl Foundation, United States

Sam CAMPBELL

Sam Campbell joined Scytl in March 2013 and is currently the General Manager for AsiaPac. With over 20 years of experience in various positions in the IT industry, Sam has performed in many roles from both sales and delivery perspectives. Since first being involved with Scytl in 2005 when working with the Victorian Electoral Commission, Sam has continued to maintain interest in electronic voting and election modernisation techniques, working in depth with Scytl customers to integrate Scytl technology into their business and electoral processes.

Scytl, Australia

Mayté CARDENAS ORTÍZ

Mayte majored in marketing, with at UDEM and postgraduated In High Management of Companies by IPADE, in addition to other courses at national and international level. She has 17 years of experience in the social sector and has been for 6 years the National Head of Unidos Somos Iguales; association focused on generating empathy through the interaction of people with and without disabilities. Her expertise is focused on talent development, creation of social business models looking for partnerships to be sustainable, formation and operation of corporate governance and replication of the Unidos model in other cities in Mexico and other countries. She currently holds the head chair of the Andamos Mexico Council. Mayte enjoys reading and dancing as well as doing meditation in her spare time.

Unidos Somos Iguales, Mexico
Adriana CASATI
Adriana Casati leads USAID/Paraguay's Program Office, managing the Mission's development strategy. She joined USAID twelve years ago, and previously worked as the Civil Society Specialist managing the disabilities project. Mrs. Casati is an Attorney and holds a BA in Business Administration and a Masters in International Law. Growing up in the development world, as a “Third Culture Kid”, she values diversity. Mrs. Casati is married and is the proud mother of three children.

USAID, United States

Caroline CASEY
Caroline Casey is an award-winning social entrepreneur, and both an adventurer and a business woman. Committed to building a global movement on inclusive business to build an equal society for the one billion people in the world with a disability, she set up several organisations and initiatives centred on disability business inclusion. Her latest initiative, #valuable, reached 810 million people, which resulted in working with the world's most influential CEOs, brands and platforms to put disability on the global business leadership agenda. Casey is also TED speaker and a past advisor for the Clinton Global Initiative and is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Binc, Ireland

Francesca CESA BIANCHI
Francesca Cesa Bianchi is a member of the G3ict's founding team, she served as G3ict's Incorporator and since its inception as Secretary of its Board. In her capacity as VP of Institutional Relations, she oversees G3ict's relations with international organizations, advocacy organizations, governments and academia and is responsible for G3ict's advocacy and capacity development programs in support of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She serves as key contact point with the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Global Compact, the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and represents G3ict at the Civil Society Steering Committee for the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

G3ict, United States

Nermin COCALIC
Nermin Cocalić is Union SUMERO's Coordinator of Community Based Support Services for persons with intellectual disabilities who has directed his professional career to the process of deinstitutionalization and advocating for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before joining SUMERO team in 2013, he had been engaged on a number of projects of international organizations such as OSCE, USAID and EU Mission in B&H, treating the topics of human rights, EU integration, media monitoring and public relations. Most of his professional experience, Nermin gained through field work. Today, he is capacitated to run and lead establishment and development of community-based services, advocacy and fund-raising campaigns, fund-raising and whole spectrum of other activities within the process of deinstitutionalization.

Union SUMERO, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Errol COCKS
Errol was Director of government disability services in Western Australia & Victoria, Prof/Director of 2 disability research centres, Consultant Clinical Psychologist with the UK NHS, & Prof at Zayed University, Dubai. Disability research includes individual supported living, employment, & health. He has worked in institutional reform, community services development, inclusion, advocacy, & consultancy/training for government & NGOs in Australia & internationally.

Curtin University, Australia
Arik COHEN
Arik Cohen, Director of supportive housing programs, Enosh – The Israeli Mental Health Association. Arik, (MSW) leads Enosh's nationwide mental health housing services. Arik is a mental health recovery specialist and holds expertise in rehabilitation processes, sexual trauma therapy, and he is currently studying couples and families’ therapy program. Previously Arik served as a mental health officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and had experience with different populations such as at-risk youth, homelessness, dual diagnosis, and sexual trauma.
Enosh - The Israeli Mental Health Association, Israel

Lorenzo CORDOVA
Lorenzo Córdova is the President Councillor of the National Electoral Institute. He is a Mexican jurist and scholar, has been professor of the Faculty of Law and researcher of the Institute of Juridical Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. From 2010 to 2011 he was Technical Secretary of the work group that processed the Political Reform in the Senate. He was also a member of the Board of the Institute for Studies for a Democratic Transition. He has written several articles and essays on political theory, electoral law and political science, as well as in national newspapers regularly and has collaborated with specialized magazines. He is co-author of books on electoral issues and democracy. He also has conducted several TV programmes that addressed electoral topics and received two National Journalism Awards.
INE - The National Electoral Institute, Mexico

Monica CORTES
Monica Alexandra Cortes, Executive Director Asdown Colombia, focuses on promoting the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and the inclusion in the society of them. In order to achieve this Asdown Colombia works with families and promotes alliances in different projects with other strategic partners within the country. Cortes has been part of the National Disability Council since 2011, where she makes advocacies for the implementation of the CRPD in Colombia. The organization has been working with Profamilia, PAIS and LICA since 2012, where they developed the project called “Sexual and reproductive rights for persons with disabilities in Colombia”. This was recognized by the Zero Project as a good practice for the impact achieved and also for Humanity and Inclusion.
ASDOWN Colombia, Colombia

Lucia CSABAII
Lucia Csabai works with community organizations to develop projects that promote social inclusion of people with disabilities. Areas of particular interests are e-democracy, volunteering, neighborhood-based local movement, community-based support in the field of social inclusion. She studied at ELTE University at the faculty of Community and Civil Development Studies in parallel with the faculty of Special Needs Educational Therapy. Currently, she is a Phd Fellow (in Social Policy doctoral programme) at the same University.
Helpific, Hungary

David CURTIS
Based in South East Asia, David has been Disability Inclusion advisor at Light For the World since 2016. David has lived and worked in Africa, Middle East, Europe and Asia in a variety of development and disability roles for the last 35 years. In 2013, he was decorated for services to people with disabilities in Cambodia. Today, he works in inclusion, especially with mainstream organisations, building leadership skills for women with disability, inclusive agriculture and inclusive employment practices.
Light for the World, Cambodia
Liron DAVID

Liron is an Israeli lawyer and social worker (LL.M, BSW), serves as the director of international relations in Enosh – The Israeli Mental Health Association. Previously to her work in Enosh Liron served as legal advisor in Israeli Ministry of Justice and her shift to Enosh enabled her to establish the policy and legislation department in the organization and later on international level of advocacy for mental health. Her socio-legal perspective enables her to provide tools from both fields to better understand the needs of people with disabilities and ways to promote social change.

Enosh - The Israeli Mental Health Association, Israel

Leigh Ann DAVIS

Leigh Ann Davis is Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives at The Arc of the United States and directs the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability® (NCCJD®). With over 22 years experience working at the intersection of developmental disability and criminal justice, she envisioned and secured funding to create The Arc’s NCCJD. She also oversaw the development of NCCJD’s signature training tool, Pathways to Justice®, and works nationally and internationally to create inclusive justice for all.

National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, The Arc, United States

Nick DE LA HUNT

Nick de la Hunt, the owner and founder of Wigital, a South African-based social innovation organisation, has a passion for communication and helping others communicate effectively. He is driven by creating content and technology which closes the communication gap left by various situations, albeit disabilities, political or economic. He has his honours in Bcom Communications and is a self-taught application developer. He saw a need and believed that he could bridge the gap that so widely separates people of the country.

Wigital, South Africa

Seneit DEBESE

Seneit Debese is the founder and CEO of Greta & Starks Apps. After studying business administration and working over 15 years in the cinema industry, she decided to engage her skills and know-how into cinema accessibility for people with hearing and sight loss. She launched the Greta App in 2013 and achieved outstanding impact with more than 400,000 cinema visits recorded in German speaking countries. She was awarded several prices, she took part to a residency program to introduce Greta in the USA, and was invited to explain how much she loves being a social entrepreneur at the the last TEDxTU in Vienna. She stands for employment and inclusion for all, setting these goals at the core of her impact strategy with the new social franchise network.

Greta & Starks, Germany

Brittany DÉJEAN

Brittany Déjean is founder and CEO of AbleThrive, an online platform for families facing paralysis. She also consults for Airbnb on their In-Home Accessibility Team. Brittany's father is a quadriplegic and she has dedicated her life to supporting families in similar situations. A 2008 Harvard graduate, Brittany has worked with disability communities globally. She is a fellow of Echoing Green and the Global Good Fund and was named one of SE Enabler’s Top 100 Social Entrepreneurs in 2017.

AbleThrive, United States

Stephan DERTNIG

Stephan Dertnig was born in Austria, studied mechanical engineering at TU Vienna and got an MBA from INSEAD. After working for the Boston Consulting Group for almost 25 years, building up offices in Vienna, Moscow, Kiev and Kazakhstan, he returned to Austria, engaging as business angel and investor in social enterprises. He supports companies in developing new business models and successfully scaling up their ideas around the world and runs his own start-ups promoting digital inclusion.

FUTURESPACE GmbH, Austria
Nathan DESPOTT
Nathan Despott is the manager of Inclusion Designlab (www.inclusiondesignlab.org.au), the research and development arm of Inclusion Melbourne. Nathan's work has focused on improving the experiences of people with intellectual disability in dental care, the justice system, the LGBTIQ community, elections, and through innovative practices such as Circles of Support. Nathan has qualifications in policy, communications, and theology. He is a leader in the campaign to curtail the ex-gay/conversion therapy movement and has been involved in significant LGBTIQ rights advocacy in Australia.

Inclusion Melbourne, Australia

Lorenzo DI CIACCIO
After 4 years working as IT consultant for IT and pharmaceutical Industry, he quit his job to found Pedius a phone service for deaf and hard of hearing people. In 2013 Pedius won the GSVC Italy, and became a Social enterprise. Since the public release in November 2013, Pedius helped more than 23,000 users to make their first phone call. Beside Pedius Lorenzo is also active as speaker for social entrepreneurship at TEDx and lecturer in business ethics.

Pedius, Italy

Holger DIETERICH
Holger is the co-founder of Wheelmap.org, a global map to find and mark wheelchair accessible places. He also leads Accessibility.Cloud, a global collaboration movement around accessibility information for physical places (like restaurants, hotels, etc). 90 partners are already part of it. With 2 million places it is the largest public dataset worldwide and growing.

Sozialhelden, Germany

Tara DOHENY
Tara Doheny, Programme Manager - Disability, has been with Genio since 2010, and has been instrumental in developing the disability and mental health programmes; as well as the development and delivery of Genio's capacity building programme. Through her work she provides direct support to organisations, which have been awarded funding through the Genio Trust, in their change management process. Having worked with over 140 projects across Ireland, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her role.

Genio, Ireland

Anna DOPPELHOFER
Anna Doppelhofer completed her studies in education and sports science to be a sports therapist. In her profession, Doppelhofer supports people with disabilities and aims to give them an opportunity to engage in physical activities as well as be part of our society. Doppelhofer has been working in an institution, which promotes inclusion, since 2012. Aside from her job, Doppelhofer offers courses in different sports, is a coach for Special Olympics, and worked at the world games for the Healthy Athletes Health Program.

Special Olympics, Austria

Chencho DORJI
Dr. Chencho Dorji is Bhutan's first trained psychiatrist and a pioneer in mental health services development in his country. He has MD in Psychiatry qualification from Sri Lanka and further training in several countries including India, Australia and the US. He was drawn to this profession from his personal exposure to a spate of mental disorders in his own family at an early age. During his illustrious career spanning more than 30 years and against enormous challenges, not only was he able to address his own family problems, he was able to treat thousands of Bhutanese individuals with mental health problems and lay the foundation for modern mental health care services in his country.

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Bhutan
Yossef ELIMELECH

Yossi Elimelech attained his BA in Economics and his MA in Law, and is a graduate of the “Digital Leaders” program. Elimelech has been serving as the CEO of Hevel Modiin Regional Council in Israel for 11 years. In recent years, the Council has been leading the field of innovation and accessibility. In this framework they initiated an organizational competition for thinking outside the box. This project won a digital accessibility project.

Hevel Modiin Region Council, Israel

Alaa ELNADY

Alaa Elnady, Automation Engineer and serves as a Projects Manager for the Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion. Alongside being familiar with independent living as a wheelchair user, Elnady has been a leader within the disability field for 15 years. So far, Elnady has given motivational speeches for several entities like TEDx, universities and participated in several TV programs advocating for PWDs rights and raising Social Awareness.

Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion, Egypt

Martin ESSL

Martin Essl is an entrepreneur, coming from an entrepreneurial family in Austria that is also well-known for its dedication to social responsibility and modern arts. Martin and Gerda Essl, together with their children, established the Essl Foundation in 2007. The Essl Foundation supports social innovation and social entrepreneurs, with a focus on education, employment and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The main project of the foundation is the Zero Project. The Essl Foundation co-initiated the Sinnstifter, a joint initiative that co-finance social innovations and is a member of the Disability Thematic Network Group within the European Foundation Centre (EFC). Furthermore, Martin Essl supports Ashoka and has co-initiated the “House of Philanthropy”, a co-working space for charitable foundations in Vienna.

Essl Foundation, Austria

Francesca FEDELI

Together with Roberto D'Angelo, Francesca founded FightTheStroke in 2014, a social enterprise advocating for the rights of children with Cerebral Palsy. Utilizing technologies and translational science to support brain injuries victims in making steps towards recovery, they developed the ecosystem www.mirrorable.org, coupling the latest finding of Neuroscience with Artificial Intelligence. Being a Brain Enthusiast, Francesca is also the book author of ‘Lotta e sorridi’, Ashoka, Eisenhower and Global Good Fund Fellow, TED speaker https://t.co/CQAICRKk1h and TEDMED ambassador in Italy since 2014.

Fightthestroke, Italy

Michael FEMBEK

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. In 2014, he initiated the Verband für Gemeinnütziges Stiften, the Austrian philanthropic association, where he serves as Vice President. In 2015, he became the Chair of the Thematic Group on Disabilities within the European Foundation Centre. In 2016, he co-initiated the Haus der Philanthropie in Vienna.

Essl Foundation, Austria
Walburga FRÖHLICH  
Walburga Fröhlich is CEO of the social enterprise „atempo“. atempo supports disabled people to live self-determined in society. One service of atempo is the brand “capito” within they translate complicated information in easy to read style and provide trainings for easy comprehensible information. They do this together with social franchise partners all over Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Walburga initiated the project TopEasy in cooperation with the Austrian Press Agency APA.

Atempo, Austria

Heather FUENTES  
Heather Fuentes is an attorney, advocate and nonprofit professional currently serving as the Director of Development at Empowerment Through Integration. As a parent dedicated to a child living with disability, she is personally and professionally committed to the values of inclusion and empowerment. Heather has spent several years working for nonprofits focused on mental health, education and disability, and nearly a decade in private law practice. She attended New York University School of Law.

Empowerment Through Integration, Lebanon

Enrique GALVÁN  
Enrique Galván has been the Director of Plena inclusión Spain since 2010, and is also the president of the Social Responsibility Committee of CERMI (the disability platform in Spain) and of the ICONG (Quality Institute for the NGOs). He’s also member of the Board of Directors of the Spanish Social Action NGO Platform; member of the National Disability Council of Spain; and member of the State Council of Social Action NGOs.

Plena inclusión España, Spain

Ricardo GARCIA BAHAMONDE  
Ricardo has worked in disability, accessibility, inclusion and business development projects since 2004 across project management, strategic consulting and training roles in Latin America, the Middle East, Europe and the USA. Since 2018 Ricardo works as Account Manager at AccessibilityOz, an Australia and US-based digital accessibility services company. Ricardo holds a MA Economics from Madrid Universidad Complutense and is a Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC) by the IAAP (International Association of Accessibility Professionals).

AccessibilityOz, Australia

Sonia GARCIA-FRAILE CAMARA  
Sonia works at the Department of Culture and Leisure within the Universal Accessibility and Innovation Directorate of Fundación ONCE. She has a degree in Economics from Carlos III University and completed a postgraduate course in Universal Accessibility at La Salle University. Her current responsibilities include development and execution of projects in areas related to accessible leisure and culture. She has made presentations on tourism and culture for all at the International University of Andalusia, the University of Huelva and at the Zero Project Conference of 2018.

Fundación ONCE, Spain

Anastasiya GERETS  
Anastasiya Gerets is an inclusive Pilates instructor. She promotes accessible physical exercise systems for people with all types of disabilities in order to prevent the development of secondary diseases. She has a 6-years-experience of teaching Pilates in various studios in the U.S. and Ukraine, successfully implemented 3 international projects. In 2017 she received a City Mayor award for her Professionalism. Her career long passion is to create a chain of accessible Pilates studios.

Pilates Cafe, Germany
Joshua GOLDSTEIN

Mr. Goldstein was part of the team that founded the Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion in 2009. He was Vice President for the Center’s “Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities” Program till 2016. He served as the Center’s global advocate for disability inclusion around the world. Since 2015, he has focused on providing access to services for persons with psycho-social disabilities. Meeting their needs has been neglected under the CRPD. It is imperative that this changes!

Global Development Consultant, United States

Galia GRANOT

Galia Granot, Deputy Director of the Ruderman Family Foundation in Israel, has over 15 years of experience in establishing, managing and accompanying social intervention programs for nonprofit and philanthropy organizations. She manages the Foundation's activity in Israel including developing the Foundation's strategic philanthropy practices and promoting policy with government and public sector. Galia holds a Master’s degree in Labor studies from Tel Aviv University.

Ruderman Family Foundation, United States

Thomas GRUBER

Thomas Gruber has been active in the field of sports for people with disabilities for over 12 years. Gruber is a qualified carer for people with disabilities and sports scientist. Within his work as a Special Olympics training, Gruber has done over 1000 training sessions in various sports and participated in several competitions as a coach. Gruber aims work towards being part of an inclusive society.

Special Olympics, Austria

Monika HAIDER

Monika Haider is an expert in the fields of disability, gender and inclusion - in 2000, she organised the National Workshop on „Disability – Employment – Discrimination” in cooperation with the Europe Disability Forum and the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (funded by the European Commission) for example. From 2003 to 2004, she managed the research and networking project “Being woman – barrier-free – About living and working conditions of women with special needs”. In 2001, Monika Haider ran the project “Bilder einer Einstellung” (“Pictures of an attitude”) to create awareness among entrepreneurs for people with special needs, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs. Monika Haider also was a lecturer at the University of Innsbruck (Tyrol) and at the National Institute for Social Education in Baden (Lower Austria).

equalizent Schulungs- und Beratungs GmbH, Austria

Lior HAVIV

Lior Haviv Ph.D. - Graduated in biophysics, a chemical engineer specialized in nanotechnology. He was a researcher at the Weizmann Institute. He was part of the Sniff controller assistive technology project and developed a medical device for people with high-level spinal cord injuries. Currently, a consultant, business development and entrepreneur. He is intimately familiar with the challenges that people with disabilities encounter, and believes in innovation, technology and inclusion.

Step-Hear, Israel

John HEALY

Dr John Healy is Deputy Executive Director of Genio, a nonprofit organisation that specialises in helping national, social services involve service users' voices in reforms. John oversees the programmes in disability, mental health, dementia, homelessness and capacity building and leads the organisation's work in the Service Reform Fund, a €45m collaboration with the Irish government and philanthropy. He is an adjunct assistant professor at the School of Business at Trinity College Dublin, where he lectures and researches in social investment and innovation in complex systems.

Genio, Ireland
Amy HEBERT KNOPF

Dr. Amy Hebert Knopf is a George H. W. Bush Fellow with the Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement where she has been conducting a cross-cultural comparison on Deaf education and employment between the U.S. and China. She is an advocate and consultant who is passionate about improving access and employment for people with disabilities. Currently, Dr. Hebert Knopf is the Chair of the Community Psychology, Counseling and Family Therapy Department at St. Cloud State University.

St. Cloud University, United States

Christine HEMPHILL

An economist by trade and inclusive insight practitioner in practice, Christine is well placed to develop practical yet robust approaches to measuring inclusive product design / service delivery. The business she leads, Open inclusion specialises in providing practical, authentic, pan-disability, multi-channel user insight and market size/value data. Her ROI in inclusion model has been used to better monitor and manage outcomes of inclusion initiatives. She is currently co-author of a paper regarding mixed-methodology assessments for benefits analysis of AT assessment and delivery programmes.

Open Inclusion, United Kingdom

Antonio HINOJOSA

Antonio Hinojosa works as an officer for the cognitive accessibility area within the Plena inclusión Spain team. He's one of the leaders with intellectual disability who claim about their rights on the Plena inclusion's project “We Build the World”. He also participates in some European projects, such as Idea12 (about legal capacity) or We Are In This Together (about leadership), and drives one technological app called MeFacilyta made in collaboration with Vodafone Foundation in Spain, to support people with intellectual disability.

Plena inclusión España, Spain

Klaus HÖCKNER

Klaus Höckner, born 1966, is member of the board of the Hilfsgemeinschaft based in Vienna. With more than 4650 members, the Hilfsgemeinschaft is the leading privately funded organisation helping visually impaired persons in Austria. He is member of the board of the Austrian Disability Forum and vice president of the Austrian Computer Society, as well as sitting in IAAFs Global Leadership Council. Klaus has an ICT background. He studied at the University of Economics in Vienna and has a degree as well as a PG in Web Accessibility and Fundraising. Klaus is working for more than 15 years in the field of Accessibility, especially regarding to ICT and standardisation in the context of an European (i.e. in the European Disability Forum EDF) and inter/national level.

Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs, Austria

Gerlinde HOFER

Gerlinde Hofer was born and raised in a little village in the Austrian countryside. After being abroad for a year she moved to Vienna to work in the finance and later the media sector. She then studied “corporate communication” with the goal of providing her knowledge to a social organization. Now she organizes the “Literaturpreis Ohrenschmaus” and is in charge of creating more inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities through the path of literature.

Literaturpreis Ohrenschmaus, Austria

Michael HOLDEN

Michael Holden lives and works in Northern Ireland, is married with two teenage children and is the Chairman of the Centre for Independent Living Northern Ireland. As a full-time wheelchair user and the father of a child with Autism, campaigning for a world with zero barriers is a real passion. This is achieved by both strategic and practical methods, by contributing to policy decisions locally and developing services such as Mobiloo which can offer an immediate impact to the zero barrier world.

Mobiloo, Ireland
Maths JESPERSON

Maths Jesperson was born in 1954. Since 1988 he works as a regional officer of RSMH (the Swedish National Organization for Social and Mental Health). He was a founding member of ENUSP (the European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) in 1991. He was the initiator, the leader and later a board member of PO-Skåne, a professional service with personal ombudsmen for people with severe psychosocial disabilities. In 2006 he presented PO-Skåne at a seminar in the UN headquarters in New York.

PO Skåne, Sweden

Kathryn JOHNSON

Dr. Kathryn Johnson is faculty within the Department of Special Education at St. Cloud State University. She currently is serving as the full-time Director of the SCSU Confucius Institute. Dr. Johnson has over 18 years of experience in building bridges between China and the U.S., developing education and exchange programs. Her area of expertise is on inclusive education, deaf education and employment, and disability advocacy.

SCSU Confucius Institute, United States

Nawaf KABBARA

Nawaf Kabbara is an expert political science and international affairs university professor. He founded in 1986 the Forum of the Handicapped Association and in 1987 the national association for the Rights of PWDs in Lebanon. In 1998, he participated in the foundation of the Arab Organization of PWDs and presided over the organization until 2008. In 1996, he was the first person with disability to run for the parliamentary elections in the country. He became the third vice chair of the International Disability Alliance from 2012 to 2014.

Forum of the Handicapped, Lebanon

Musola Cathrine KASEKETI

A Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist, Musola Cathrine Kaseketi is Zambia’s first female professional film director, with a strong focus on work which addresses social issues affecting women and girls with disabilities. A medical error paralysed her left leg giving her mobility difficulties at a tender age. Musola studied filmmaking and human rights, then disability equality training with the International Labour Organisation. Founder of Women and Girls Disability Rights of Zambia, she uses film for human rights advocacy. Her first feature, “Suw-Faith”, was screened widely in Africa as well as in several European countries and is Zambian's first international award winning film.

Her Abilities / Light for the World, Zambia

Masahito KAWAMORI

Masahito KAWAMORI is currently the Rapporteur of Question 26 “Accessibility to multimedia systems and services” in the Study Group 16, which is the lead Study Group for Multimedia of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations agency for Information and Communication Technology. He leads the standardization of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) area for accessible services for persons with disabilities. He has worked with experts from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities to standardize Telephone Relay Service (F.930). He developed standard profiles for accessible IPTV services as well as H.921 ”Audio-based network navigation system for persons with vision impairment”, which was awarded an innovative policy award by Zero Project in 2018, with Wayfindr.

ITU-T, Japan

Shigeta KAZUKI

Shigeta Kazuki is a director in “Listen With Your Eyes” for persons with hearing disabilities. Kazuki himself is deaf and has been watching “Listen With Your Eyes” since the age 7. Now, Kazuki is in charge of producing the TV program and is dedicated to making a variety of TV programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and enhance TV information accessibility.

Organization for Broadcasting and Communications for People with Disabilities, Japan
John KELLY
John Kelly is SourceAmerica's Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy. John joined SourceAmerica in 2001, and leverages his extensive background in disability policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a strong voice on Capitol Hill. John has also served as chair of his school systems Special Education Advisory Committee and chair of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (Virginia's gubernatorial appointed Developmental Disabilities Council).

SourceAmerica, United States

Shalini KHANNA
Shalini Khanna is the lead for Discovering Hands training program in India and the founding Director of the National Association for the Blind, India's Centre for Blind Women and Disability Studies in New Delhi. She has worked as a disability rehabilitation and research professional for over two decades specifically for women with visually impairment. In the last 15 years, the NAB India Centre for Women has brought international training programmes for the VI to India and directly supported more than 2000 blind women to access higher education, gain employment, become self-reliant, and rehabilitated them to find gainful careers. Shalini is a post graduate in English Literature, Industrial relations and personnel management, and Rehabilitation for visually impaired from RCI.

NAB India Centre for Blind Women, India

Željko KHERMAYER
Željko Khermayer, founder and CEO of Feelif d.o.o. Željko Khermayer is a successful entrepreneur and innovator from Slovenia. In his 20 years of experience he founded multiple well-known companies, including the digital agency 4WEB and the Feelif Company whose product won the best social innovation title in Europe in 2017 and best innovation in the World in 2018, the category Inclusion & Empowerment.

Feelif, Slovenia

Kalyani KHONA
Kalyani Khona is the CEO & Co-founder of Inclov, the world's first matchmaking platform for people with disabilities to make friends and find love. Inclov was born out of her core belief that no one deserves to be alone, what started as an idea in 2014. As of today, it is an active platform for people with disabilities finding companionship with more than 50,000 users with 15,000 unique connections across the country. The project started with a simple physical book of profiles, Khona soon met like minded people who helped develop the idea into what Inclov stands as today. Khona is dedicated to enabling independent living through technology for the 1.3 billion people living with disability across the globe.

Inclov, India

Yifat KLEIN
Yifat works for JDC-Israel as a Program Manager in the field of children and youth with disabilities for the past 9 years. She works toward the inclusion of youth with disabilities through the development of programs. Yifat is a certified Social Worker, with a BA in Community Work and a MA in Rehabilitation. Over the years, she has amassed extensive field experience in her various positions in local Welfare Department, community center, program coordinator and as freelancer.

JDC Ashalim, Israel

Kirsi KONOLA
Kirsi Konola is Director of Development Activities and Debuty CEO in Service Foundation for People with Intellectual Disability which is national NGO founded by families association. The main focus is to create person-centered, practical and high quality solutions and provide services which take into account the needs and life circumstances of people with special needs and their families. She is also a Vice-President of EASPD. She has a master degree in public management and eMBA degree in management in social sector.

KVPS, Finland
Anna KUDIYAROVA

Anna Kudiyarova was a rector of the Daryn College from 1998 – 2007. In 2010 Kudiyarova received a Fulbright Scholarship at Columbia University in New York, USA. Since 2005, Kudiyarova has been the Director of Psychoanalytic Institute for Central Asia as the structural division of the NGO Psychoanalytic Association. Kudiyarova leads the social projects including Clubhouse for Mentally Disturbed People and 2 Training cafés as work place to more than 30 employees with mental and behavioral disabilities. Personally and professionally, Kudiyarova fights the stigma in Kazakhstan. Her team started a process of returning the legal sanity to their beneficiaries.

Psychoanalytic Association Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan

Manoj KUMAR

Dr Manoj Kumar is the Clinical Director of The Mental Health Action Trust, a not-for-profit Charitable Trust based in Calicut, Kerala, India. MHAT aims to demonstrate that comprehensive psychosocial care can be provided in resource-scarce settings by linking up with local partners in training volunteers and others in mental health care. Dr Manoj Kumar gained the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1996 and completed his higher training in 1999. He joined the department of Liaison Psychiatry at the St James University Hospital, Leeds, UK as a Consultant in 1999 and worked there till returning to India in 2008. Dr Manoj Kumar was awarded the “Volunteer Psychiatrist of the Year 2014” award by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (FRCPsych) in 2015.

Mental Health Action Trust, India

Sumita KUNASHAKARAN

Sumita is the Advocacy Executive of the Disabled People's Association (DPA). She works on the consultation of disability policies in Singapore and the region. As part of her advocacy initiatives, her latest project plans emergency tips for people with disabilities during a terror-attack. This is especially close to her heart as it brings together her experience in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Disability. This year, Sumita helms DPA's first-ever CRPD Parallel Report together with the disability community to ensure Singapore is an inclusive space for everyone.

Disabled People's Association (DPA) Singapore, Singapore

Jennifer LASZLO MIZRAHI

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi is the President of RespectAbility, a nonprofit organization fighting stigmas and advancing opportunities for people with disabilities. She works with policy leaders, media, employers, philanthropists, Hollywood, celebrities and faith-based organizations in order to expand opportunities for diverse people with disabilities. Dyslexic herself, she also knows what it means to parent a child with multiple disabilities.

RespectAbility, United States

Mirjana LAZOR

Mirjana Lazor is a pedagogue. She is a coordinator of the project that supports deinstitutionalization and independent living of adults with intellectual disabilities. She is strongly dedicated to the improvement of inclusive education in Serbia. She creates the manuals and educates teachers who work with children with learning difficulties. Ten years ago, she launched a school portal for distance learning aiming to improve availability of education for children excluded from school for any reason.

Elementary and Secondary Boarding School “Milan Petrovic”, Serbia
Christopher LEE
Christopher M. Lee, Ph.D., is an international expert in accessibility field. He is an author and public speaker on learning disabilities and assistive technology. He has received and served as principal investigator on numerous research grants and contracts. Christopher serves Managing Director of the International Association of Accessible Professionals (IAAP) a Division of G3ict.
International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP), United States

Kristofer LENGERT
Kristofer Lengert, Dipl. Pol., is WeltWegWeisers subject specialist for inclusion and quality development in international voluntary services. Before he joint the WeltWegWeiser-Team of Jugend Eine Welt at the beginning of the year 2018, he lived in Germany and worked for NGOs and foundations in the areas of development cooperation, international solidarity and human rights.
WeltWegWeiser, Austria

Mariana LOPEZ
Passionate about social justice through empathy and connection. She has a degree in Management in Social Responsibility and Sustainability, with a Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility, both from Anahuac University. She has experience as Coordinator of Community Development, environmental projects and youth workshops. Currently works as Fundraising Coordinator in Unidos Somos Iguales, Mexican non-profit in which she started volunteering in 2008. Love reading, singing and enjoy the simple happiness of the moment.
Unidos Somos Iguales, Mexico

Edwin LUITZEN DE VOS
As director of CHAMP Research & Consult and Disability Studies in the Netherlands he is a specialist on cross national projects and Participatory Action Research on inclusion issues in the field of social security programme operation, rehabilitation, housing and employment policies. He has published on inclusion and active labour market policies on behalf of international organisations (Euro Found, TAIEX, ILO) and is an active member of expert groups on disability and work issues (a.o. EHESP, FSIO/BSV).
Thomashuizen, Netherlands

Andrew MACKENZIE
Andrew Mackenzie is Chief Executive of the Scottish Arbitration Centre. A solicitor on secondment to the Centre from the Scottish Government, he previously worked as a legal adviser and on legal services, civil courts and alternative dispute resolution policy. Andrew is Co-Chair of the IBA Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee and sits on the IBA Presidential Task Force on Climate Change Justice and Human Rights. He is a Council Member of the Alliance for Equality in Dispute Resolution.
International Bar Association, United Kingdom

Susan MADER
Susan Mader has been the executive director of Accessibility at the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction for the Government of British Columbia since 2013. A passionate champion for accessibility and inclusion, she leads the implementation of B.C.’s 10-year accessibility action plan to make BC a better place for people with disabilities. Her career has spanned 20+ years across numerous sectors. She has an MBA and is an accredited certified coach.
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Canada
**Ramez MAHER**

Ramez co-founded Helm Foundation and Consultancy, focusing on empowering persons with disabilities as well as breaking barriers and serving around 300 companies in Egypt and the region. Helm was awarded twice by the Zero Project for their employment and accessibility practices. Ramez was certified by JICA in “Improvement of Accessibility of Social Inclusion – Barrier Free Environment” in Japan, 2016. He was also selected by Rise Egypt as one of the top 5 social enterprises in Egypt in 2015.

Helm Egypt, Egypt

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**Lina MALCOCI**

Lina Malcoci has a background in Performing Arts and Communication Sciences and is working for Keystone Moldova as a Communication Manager. She is a Forum Theatre Practitioner since 2012, when established the theater troupe “Alternativ” with the goal to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities. In 7 years of activities, Lina developed 4 Forum theatre troupes, facilitated 11 trainings in Forum Theatre for volunteers and managed the delivery of more than 150 performances with more than 6000 participants.

Keystone Moldova, Moldova

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**Mandeep MALHOTRA**

Dr. Mandeep is the medical lead and mentor for Discovering Hands, India. He has an MBBS, MS in General Surgery, Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery, Senior Residency Training Program (Surgical Oncology) from All India Institute of Medical Science, Fellowship in Head & Neck Surgical Oncology & Microvascular Reconstruction (MSCC-NH), UICC Fellowship in Breast Oncoplasty and Genetic Breast Cancer from Broomfield Hospital (Essex, UK) and TransOral Robotic Surgery from University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA). Dr. Mandeep has over 15 years of experience across some of the best hospitals in north India such as AIIMS, LNJP, Fortis Hospitals (Vasant Kunj & Gurgaon), Artemis Hospital (Gurgaon), Guru Harkrishan Hospital and Rama Krishna Mission Sewa Ashram Hospital (Vrindavan). He is currently a consultant at the CK Birla Hospital for Women.

NAB India Centre for Blind Women, India

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**Katri MALTE-COLLIARD**

Katri Malte-Colliard has been working in various development projects in the field of culture and arts before starting with the EU Disability Card Project three years ago. She has a BA in Communication and a French Master’s degree in Sociology and Culture Management. Katri has been developing multiple ways to promote the EU Disability Card in Finland in cooperation with potential card users, Finnish NGO’s and leisure time service providers. Katri works as Communications Manager at the Service Foundation for People with Disabilities (KVPS).

KVPS, Finland

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**Johanna MANG**

Johanna Mang is working for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, presently working in 16 partner countries, with the focus on in eye health, education and livelihood. Johanna is responsible for advocacy and donor relations in German speaking countries. 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.

Light for the World, Austria
Antonio MARTINEZ-PUJALTE LOPEZ

Doctor in Law. Professor for Legal and Political Philosophy at the Miguel Hernández University of Elche (Spain), where he was the first Dean of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences (1997-2000), and since December 2015 he is the Director of the Research Unit on Disability and Employment and of the Program "University Expert on Shop and Administrative Assistance", addressed to persons with intellectual disabilities. His main research area is Disability Law and Policies.

Università Miguel Hernández de Elche, Spain

Kerry MAUGER

Kerry Mauger, Senior Program Manager, Special Projects at The Arc of the United States leads the Wings for Autism® program. Wings for Autism is a national initiative that partners with airports, airlines and TSA to allow families to practice all steps involved in air travel to gain the confidence and skills necessary to successfully travel by air. Kerry has led the expansion of this program to 60 airports throughout the US helping over 18,000 individuals with disabilities and their families.

The Arc, United States

Peter MCCABE

Peter has been the Chief Executive of Headway - the brain injury association since November 2001. He has 36 years experience in the non profit sector. Previously, Peter was Chief Executive of QUIT (the smoking cessation charity) for 7 years. He has worked in a variety of posts at SCOPE (which supports people with Cerebral Palsy) and worked for both Relate (the marriage guidance charity) and the YMCA. Peter has over 32 years experience as an elected local councillor and has served as a Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Mayor of Merton, Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, Chair of the Standards and General Purposes Committee and in a variety of other roles.

Headway - The Brain Injury Association, United Kingdom

Samith MEY

Samith Mey, Founder and Executive Director of Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living, has been holding managerial positions and working in the disability sector for more than 15 years. From 2006 to 2007, Mey received a training on independent living through The Duskin Leadership Training program in Japan. Furthermore, Mey has extensive experiences in the field of disability movement and advocacy. Mey works towards promoting and implementing an independent living movement of persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh Center for Independent Living, Cambodia

Klaus MIESENBERGER


Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Austria
**Sara MINKARA**

Sara Minkara is the founder and CEO of Empowerment Through Integration (ETI), a nonprofit fostering a more inclusive society through groundbreaking initiatives that empower youth with disabilities, challenge stereotypes, and promote respect for individual value. A Lebanese-American Muslim woman who lost her sight at seven, Sara transformed her unwavering passion for this work into innovative programs with a global reach. A graduate of Wellesley College and the Harvard Kennedy School, she has been recognized by Forbes’ “30 Under 30,” the Clinton Global Initiative, and more.

Empowerment Through Integration, Lebanon

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**Elisabeta MOLDOVAN**

Elisabeta Moldovan grew up in residential institutions from Romania until the age of 25. In 2003 she left the state system, with the help of a foundation, and then she worked and received social services from a nonprofit for persons with disabilities. From 2012 she lives alone, in a rented apartment, and co-founded the “Something To Say” Association. She became a self-advocate, fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities, despite her own problems, adversity and pains. She describes her life in the graphic novel Becoming Eli, which could be the becoming of all the others abandoned as babies and forgotten in the so-called protection system.

Asociatia Ceva de Spus, Romania

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**Gail MORES**

Gail has been with March of Dimes since December 2000, originally as Regional Director for South Central Ontario. In 2005 she was promoted to the role of Director of Programs for both Ontario March of Dimes and March of Dimes Canada. Gail currently serves as the National Director, Community Engagement and AccessAbility Services for March of Dimes Canada. Before joining March of Dimes, Gail worked with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Ontario Chapter and the Canadian Red Cross. Originally from Nova Scotia, Gail has degrees and diplomas in Recreation Administration, Human Resources and Adult Education from Dalhousie University, McMaster University and the University of British Columbia.

March of Dimes Canada, Canada

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**Georgette MULHEIR**

Georgette Mulheir is CEO of award-winning international children’s rights organisation Lumos. Georgette has worked in 31 countries, leading large-scale programmes to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged children. She pioneered a model of ‘deinstitutionalisation’ now followed by many governments. She has led ground breaking work to ensure full inclusion in society of children with disabilities, through the development of inclusive education and award-winning projects to support children and young people with intellectual disabilities to become powerful self-advocates, influencing policy at the highest level.

Lumos Foundation, United Kingdom

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**Seema MUNDACKAL**

Seema Mundackal is a project manager at the Essl Foundation. In this capacity, she manages the grant-funded projects Tophouse and the Inclusive IT-Academy. She is also part of the Zero Project team and therefore, is involved in conducting research, compiling the ZP annual report, as well as organizing the annual ZP conference. Before joining the Essl Foundation in 2016, Seema has worked in marketing and sales for advertising companies and Fast Moving Consumer Good companies. She graduated from the Open University in Milton Keynes, UK with an MBA in International Business Administration specializing in International Marketing.

Essl Foundation, Austria
Parascovia MUNTEANU
Parascovia Munteanu is currently working as Program Director at Keystone Moldova. For promoting rights of persons with disabilities, she is collaborating with numerous civil society organizations, the government, and international organizations. Her academic background includes PhD in sociology. She is actively participating in the development of national policies as a member of national working groups enabled to prevent institutionalization and advance social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Keystone Moldova, Moldova

Ashrafun NAHAR
Ashrafun Nahar Misti is a wheelchair user and the founder and Executive Director of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in Bangladesh. Nahar Misti started talking to different stakeholders in 1994, as well as wrote about disability issues through different national and local paper and printing magazines. As a women's rights activist and development worker for women with disabilities, Nahar Misti has extensive experience on working on a policy level and incorporating women with Disabilities issues in Domestic law and policies. As a pioneer in the work on accessibility for people with disabilities in Bangladesh, she is not only fighting for disability issues, but also the integration of women with disabilities rights in the mainstream development.

Her Abilities / Light for the World, Bangladesh

Gavin NEATE
After an 18-year career within the disability sector, Gavin used his knowledge to develop 'Welcome’, a smartphone platform which enhances the relationship between disabled visitors and services teams. Using the phones proximity aware functionality 'Welcome' raises awareness of needs immediately prior to a person's arrival at a venue. This in the moment training is addressing fundamental issues in communication and is gaining traction across the UK in Airports, Retail, and Government organisations.

NeateBox, United Kingdom

Tam NGUYEN
Tam Nguyen is the Country Director of BasicNeeds Vietnam. She has nearly 20 years experience working in the field of community development and disabilities to support the people with disabilities to live and to work successfully in their communities. She has been recognized for her efforts and achievements in mental health promotion, community based mental health service development, poverty alleviation, and advocacy for community based mental health services to be adopted by the formal systems.

BasicNeeds Vietnam, Vietnam

Cher NICHOLSON
Cher has an acquired disability and knows how that can change others' perception of her abilities. It fuels her determination to help people with a disability believe in the possible, through her Supported Decision-Making program. No longer are S.D.M. and Article 12 of the UNRCPD theory and academic conjecture. She has a rights-based philosophy and believes in a better future for those who need support to carry out their wishes or aid to promote their rights, responsibilities and to facilitate their dreams.

ASSET SA, Australia

Modesta NYIRENDA
Self-motivated, initiator and enthusiastic, with over 20 years experience in non-profit organisations, social enterprise and the private sector including fifteen years’ experience working with hearing impaired, served in leadership, management, supervisory, administrative and organisational support positions. Skills and expertise, notably from Godisa Technologies Trust (developers of Solar charger technology) in Botswana, 10 years in a leadership and management roles, covering areas of business start-up, development and implementing quality management systems, financial management, organisational and strategic planning, partnerships and networking, programme design and implementation, and fund raising.

Solar Ear, Botswana
**Nipun OMPEDATHIL SUGUNAN**

Nipun OS, has more than 12 years of professional experience in strategy, program management, business development and operations management in reputed firms in India. In his current role at Mphasis, he manages an innovative portfolio of programs in corporate social responsibility. Some of his key focus areas are: (a) inclusion of persons with disabilities with focus on policy advocacy for accessibility, (b) enabling sustainable improvement in livelihoods for low income communities, (c) promoting environmental sustainability in local communities, (d) improving learning outcomes in government schools, and (e) supporting social entrepreneurship through incubation, seed grants and mentorship. Nipun holds a Masters in Sustainable Development from HEC Paris and an MBA from IIM Bangalore.

Mphasis, India

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**Mimi PALATCHI**

Mimi works for Ministry of Education-Israel as supervisor of special education. In the past, she managed a special education school & for the past 10 years, in her capacity as supervisor of special education, she develops programs that deal with life skills and quality of life. Mimi has a teaching certificate with B.A in special education and M.A in study planning.

Ministry of Education, Israel

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**Linda PERRY**

Linda Perry, E.D. Vela Canada, B.Ed/Soc. focusing her career in community development with people that have disabilities, developed Vela's first Microboards in 1990. Vela is recognized for innovative supports using self-directed services and personalized budgets. Microboards are small connected groups of family and friends joining with a person to create a simple NGO customizing support for that person. All members of the Microboard are chosen by the individual and assist the person to create a self-directed life.

Vela Microboards, Canada

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**Fernando PESSOA DA SILVEIRA MELLO**

Pessoa De Silveira Mello attained his Master's degree in constitutional law in the Brazilian Institute of Public Law - EDB/IDP. Specialist in public law and tax law. Pessoa Da Silveira Mello is an auxiliary judge of the presidency of the Superior Electoral Court. Federal judge of military justice. Judge Fernando was state prosecutor (chief prosecutor attached to the Supreme Federal Court and Superior Court of Law). He served in Federal Supreme Court and in the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. University Professor.

Superior Electoral Court, Brazil

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**Samnang PHENG**

Pheng Samnang is Disability Development Services Program (DDSP)’s Executive Director since 2006. He has experience in both organizational management and project implementation. He has worked in a wide range of community development programs including Community Based Rehabilitation/Inclusive Development and Inclusive WASH. He also designed and facilitated training for CBR operators, DPOs and government officials to promote disability inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

Light for the World, Cambodia

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**Pedro PRATA**

Pedro Prata is the coordinator of Escola de Gente, a reference in inclusion and accessibility awarded internationally. Coordinated the social technology support program of Oi Futuro/Oi, was Substitute Secretary of Youth of the Presidency of Brazil, chief of staff of the Secretariat of Social Assistance and Human Rights of Rio de Janeiro and director of communication of Change.org. Member of the Presidency’s National Youth Council. Graduated in Public Relations and has a masters degree in Communication.

Escola de Gente, Comunicacao em Inclusao, Brazil
Cerasela Nicoleta PREDESCU

Cerasela Nicoleta Predescu is a PhD sociologist with extensive experience in social field, who participated in a 7 years child protection Reform Program in Romania in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Social Protection. She established Pro ACT Suport Association in 2011 with the aim of promoting the development of a society in which people with intellectual disabilities have equal opportunities, their contributions are valued, their human rights are respected and where inclusion is a reality.

Pro Act, Romania

Birendra RAJ POKHAREL

Dr. Birendra Raj Pokharel, former chairperson of National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal has been serving DECN by his expertise in promoting best module of inclusive education policy and initiatives of disability mainstreaming in development agenda. As a founder of ADRAD, his role has been recognised for pushing the ratification of CRPD and drafting the Act of rights of persons with disabilities as well as ensuring political rights of persons with disabilities in the constitution of Nepal. He is facilitating grassroots level DPOs to implement Abilis projects in Nepal.

Disable Empowerment and Communication Center-Nepal (DEC-N), Nepal

Petra RANTAMÄKI

Petra Rantamäki is committed to promoting and improving the human rights and full participation of persons with disabilities. She is a professional in developing person-centered support and services for persons with disabilities and lead the implementation of the EU Disability Card in Finland. Petra holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences and is studying an eMBA at Tampere University. She is working as a Partnership Director at the Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disabilities (KVPS) in Finland.

KVPS, Finland

Davud REHIMLI

He was born on December 15, 1958 in Shamakhi, Azerbaijan. Mr. Rahimli has graduated from: Baku Construction Vocational School in 1980; Energetics Technical College in 1987; State Oil Academy in 1994 as an engineer-programmer (magister). From 1980 to 1987 he worked at Baku General Construction Department. He was one of founders of the Society for International Cooperation of Disabled Persons in 1991 and served as its chairman during 1994-2005. In 2003 he was one of founders of the Union of Disabled People Organizations of Azerbaijan. At present, he is President of the Union. He has coordinated 41 projects in these NGOs. Mr. Rahimli participated in 48 trainings on disability issues and served as a trainer at 37 events. He has served as a member and expert in 14 national and international organizations and commissions including EU, UN, DPI and many other.

Union of Disabled People Organizations (UDPO) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan

Michal RIMON

Michal Rimon, Adv is the CEO of Access Israel, the first and only non-profit organization in Israel dedicated to promote accessibility and inclusion for people with all kinds of disabilities in Israel. In Israel, there are more than 18% of the population (1.6 million people) and another 11% of the population in Israel who are elderly. Prior to joining Access Israel Michal was the spokesperson for Ambassadors Dore Gold and Dr. Yehuda Lankri at the Israeli Mission to the UN. She later worked as a lawyer for M-Systems and SanDisk. In 2007 she started working at Access Israel as a General Counsel and later established the Education and Training Department in the organization. In 2011 she became the CEO of Access Israel leading the organization in its activities in Israel and Abroad.

Access Israel, Israel
Carlos RíOS-ESPINOSA

Carlos is a top expert on international disability rights, serving on the CRPD Committee (UN treaty body) from 2011 to 2014, including as Vice Chair for 2 years. In this role, he was very involved in the Committee's jurisprudence on legal capacity, torture, right to liberty and access to justice. Carlos is a lawyer and expert on criminal justice, and has been involved in criminal procedure reform in Mexico since 2004. He has also served as a board member of the Mexico City Human Rights Commission. Carlos has a law degree from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico, and a Masters in comparative criminal systems from University of Barcelona.

Human Rights Watch, Mexico

Robert RITTER KALISCH

Robert Ritter-Kalisch is an executive of Diakoniewerk Gallneukirchen, an Austrian non-governmental organisation. He works in providing health and social care and services to people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Robert is currently responsible for providing residential care and day care services for fifteen facilities. Robert has a Master’s degree in Human Services Management and has worked in multiple areas of social care for more than twenty years. He also works as a teacher, teaching students in his specialist field of work. In both his managerial and educational work, Robert focuses on person-centred care as well as orientating his work on using social resources and facilities in the local community.

Evangelisches Diakoniewerk Gallneukirchen, Austria

Sally ROSS-BIHARI

Sally Ross Bihari, Director, professional excellence, Enosh – The Israeli Mental Health Association. Sally (MSW) is a professional mental health specialist with twenty-five years of experience in rehabilitation and recovery processes. In the past decade, Sally leads professional developments for mental health recovery teams. Sally responsible for professional development, supervision, and professional evaluation processes. She teaches groups facilitation at Haifa University and currently studying family therapy.

Enosh - The Israeli Mental Health Association, Israel

Marta ROYO

Marta Royo graduated in Economics from Dartmouth College, and holds a post-graduate degree in Social Economy from the University of Barcelona, and a Master's in Literature from New York University (NYU). Ms. Royo became the Executive Director of Profamilia in 2012, Colombia's longest-standing non-governmental organization that protects and advocates for sexual and reproductive rights, specifically those of women and youth. In this position, she has managed to implement a successful social enterprise model, while working towards making Profamilia a sustainable organization and expanding the social impact of its programs and initiatives. Leading an organization like Profamilia has also given Ms. Royo the opportunity to help achieve significant political and social transformation aimed at improving the status of girls and women in Colombia.

Profamilia, Colombia

Teresa ROYO

Senior Manager at KPMG Spain, Governance, Risks & Compliance unit. Superior Degree in Economics Zaragoza Uni and International Economy Specialty, Maastricht Uni. With more than 13 years’ experience in the field of ESG analysis, currently coordinates the secretariat of Disability Hub Europe, led by Fundación ONCE and co-funded by the European Social Fund, a Multistakeholder project that aims at generating and sharing knowledge, analysis, and methodologies to companies and organizations at EU level.

DHub, Spain
Daniel SALAS
Clinical Psychologist and Master in child development disorders, has extensive experience and training for the comprehensive care of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Coordinator of educational projects and direct participation in advocacy spaces for EINA Foundation, Best Buddies International and FEAPDEMP. Adviser and international speaker.
Federación Ecuatoriana Pro Atención a la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual y su Familia, Ecuador

Samantha SANANGURAI
Samantha Sanangurai is the Southern Africa Regional Representative for Leonard Cheshire Disability. Her responsibilities have encompassed program design, management and evaluation and multi-sector stakeholder engagement. As an inclusive development practitioner she has championed disability inclusion as well as youth and gender inclusion in development processes and constantly works with government, UN agencies, NGOs, DPOs and INGOs to champion inclusive social policies. She is completing her Masters in Human Rights and Development.
Leonard Cheshire Disability, Zambia

Avital Sandler-LOEFF
Avital Sandler Loeff is the director of Israel Unlimited, a strategic partnership between JDC, the Israeli Government and the Ruderman Family Foundation. She is part of JDC-Israel senior management team. The goal of the partnership is to develop community-based support systems for adults with disabilities in the community. Avital also serves as the professional coordinator of the JDC Global Task Force on Disabilities, to promote inclusion in the 70 countries JDC works at. Avital is a leader in the development of innovative models and her work is being implemented throughout Israel. Throughout 20 years with JDC, Avital has worked to bring together government agencies, municipalities, NGOs and academia to promote independent living of people with disabilities, and has built partnerships that have transformed concepts into realities.
JDC Israel Unlimited, Israel

Christian SCHÖBER
Dr Christian Schober is head of Competence Center for Nonprofit Organizations and Social Entrepreneurship at WU Vienna (Vienna University of Economics and Business). During the last 15 years he has led numerous applied research projects in the field of impact measurement and evaluation of civil society organisations and social services. He cofounded the Austrian Social Impact User Group and was member of the Austrian NPO-Governance working group. Furthermore he is responsible for leadership trainings at a number of NPOs. His research interests lie in the areas of (Economic) Evaluation, Social Impact Measurement, Finance of NPOs and Governance of NPOs. Topics in the field of long term care and people with disabilities are in the focus of his work. He led several research projects with participation of people with disabilities.
Vienna University of Business and Economics, Austria

Georg SCHÖN
Georg is Country Director of Ashoka Austria. Before Ashoka, he created an organization for the development of socio-economic projects in Mexico, developed a program of study for social entrepreneurs in Austria and founded a consulting firm specializing in environment and development. Schön was program manager for the United Nations Development Program in Macedonia and responsible for projects relating to climate change and energy. In this role he helped build a Green Business Initiative in the Black Sea region. He has worked on environmental, socio-economic and peace-building projects for NGOs and international organizations in Mexico, Austria and Southeast Europe.
Ashoka Austria, Austria
Joachim SCHOSS

Joachim Schoss was the founder and CEO of Scout24, one of the most successful online companies in Europe, when he was almost killed in a traffic accident in which he lost his right arm and right leg. As an Internet entrepreneur and severely disabled at the same time, he decided to set up the charitable foundation MyHandicap to help people with disabilities help themselves - with a focus on information and inclusion. MyHandicap.de is the most visited source of information for people with disabilities in the German-speaking world and will now expand its international reach.

MyHandicap, Germany

Barbara SCHUSTER

Barbara Schuster is a Deaf illustrator, sign language teacher (Austrian, Italian and American sign language) and co-founder of the organization kinderhände. Born and grown up in Schlanders (Italy) she moved to Austria where she studied and graduated from the graphic design in Innsbruck and multimedia design school in Vienna. She worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for several years before she co-founded kinderhände in 2006. There she can combine her passion for sign languages, children's rights to acquire language, teaching and illustrating learning materials and signs. Currently she also works as sign language teacher at the Sprachenzentrum and department of education at the university Vienna and the university of education in Vienna and Krems.

kinderhände, Austria

Tom SHAKESPEARE

Tom Shakespeare is professor of disability research at International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is also chair of Light for the World UK. Formerly, he worked at the World Health Organisation, where he was part of the team who produced the World Report on Disability (2011).

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Light for the World, United Kingdom

Lydia SHULA

Managed the RightsNow! Strong Communities through Enforcing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities project, and led a U.S. consortium of partners and stakeholders in Armenia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam to strengthen the implementation of disability rights legislation and the CRPD. Has also managed U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs, and MIUSA's international Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD) programs.

Mobility International USA, United States

Revital SHURTZ-SWIRSKY

Revital Shurtz-Swirsky was born in Tel Aviv. Shurtz-Swirsky was infected by Poliovirus at the age of 1 and has been a wheelchair user since then. Shurtz-Swirsky attained a PhD in microbiology and worked for 36 years in medical research. Currently, Shurtz-Swirsky serves as the head of Access Israel North, vice-mayor and council member in her town Kiryat-Bialik. Shurtz-Swirsky is a mother of 2 sons, and grandmother of a boy and a girl.

Access Israel, Israel

Ariel SIMMS

Ariel Simms is the Senior Program Manager & Attorney, Criminal Justice Initiatives, at The Arc of the United States and advocates for people with disabilities who become justice-involved. She completed her Juris Doctor degree at Harvard Law School. Before that, Ariel worked as a Mental Health Counselor. Ariel became a human rights advocate and has worked on disability rights in the U.S. and abroad, including in healthcare policy, access to justice, legal capacity, and supported decision-making.

National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, The Arc, United States
Manisha SINGH
Manisha Singh, has 12 years of diverse professional experience in the Social enterprises, strategy consulting in development sector. At Mphasis, she leads the Impact Funding arm of CSR which involves funding and mentoring support to social enterprises and Not for Profits. In her past roles, she has provided strategy consulting within the Impact Investment space and has headed the India operations of an international social enterprise. She holds an MBA degree from IIM Indore & engineering from NSIT, India. She also attended an Executive Leadership program in JM Katz Business School, USA.

Mphasis, India

Frank SIOEN
The subject of disability rights and Independent Living has always interested Frank both personally and during his studies in political science. Since September 2015 Frank is working for the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) as Advocacy Officer. Working towards an accessible inclusive society to which all citizens can fully and equally participate is central to the work of ENIL. His mother tongue is Dutch.

ENIL - European Network on Independent Living, Belgium

Lucie ŠIŠKOVÁ
Lucie has been working with adults with intellectual disabilities and with mental health problems since 1994. She gained her first professional experience in a Camphill Community in UK. After her return to the Czech Republic she worked as a personal assistant in sheltered living and social rehabilitation programs. Currently she works as a head of community based residential services for Portus Praha. In her work she emphasises active support principals and empowerment of service users.

Portus Praha, Czech Republic

Josep Maria SOLE CHAVERO
Josep Maria Sole Chavero is a lawyer and the director of supportgirona.cat. In addition to that, Chavero is an active advocate for UNCRPD standards, co-founder of iSocial.cat (R+D+I in the Social Field), President of Guttmann.com Social Council, Vice-President of the fundaciordrissa.com (supported employment in mental health) and CampusArnau.org (applied ethics in the social sector). Chavero is a consultant for the Andorran Government on implementing the UNCRPD, and member of the board of EASPD.eu and the EASPD European Expert Network on Supported Decision-Making.

Fundacio Tutelar de les Comarques Gironines, Spain

Helga STEVENS
Helga Stevens (Belgium) is the first female deaf Member of the European Parliament. She is Vice-President of the ECR group and Co-Chair of the EP Disability Intergroup. Previously she was a Member of the Flemish Parliament and a Senator. She is a lawyer by training (Licentiate in Law - KU Leuven and Master of Laws - University of California at Berkeley) Before entering politics in 2004, she worked as attorney (Brussels and Ghent Bar) and as consultant for the European Union of the Deaf.

European Parliament, Belgium

Martha STICKINGS
Martha Stickings works as a researcher managing projects in the Institutional Cooperation & Networks Unit. 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.

European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, Austria
**Kjell STJERNHOLM**

Kjell Stjernholm is a coordinator at Studieforbundet Vuxenskolan, an adult popular education NGO, where he heads the development of empowerment and democracy learning for people with disability. Kjell is also internationally recognized as founder and artistic director of a professional theatre company based upon actors with intellectual disabilities, Moomsteatern.

Studieforbundet Vuxenskolan, Sweden

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**Edy SUPRIYANTO**

Edy Supriyanto, as the chairman of SEHATI Sukoharjo DPO in Indonesia since 2006, encourages the SEHATI Sukoharjo DPO as an organization with a movement to build an equitable inclusion community. For this purpose the main activities include enabling independence for people with disabilities, strengthening people with disability to participate in developments, and building disability equality. These are carried out by advocating to form regional regulations and developing the character through the formation of sanggar inklusi (inclusion clubs) and SHG (self help groups) in village.

SEHATI Sukoharjo, Indonesia

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**Karola SUYAPA LOPEZ**

Karola López is a graduate in Informatics Management, advertising designer, network programmer analyst, and system programmer analyst. Karola gained work experiences within the system management area in the Retirement and Pensions Institute for Public Employees, Web Designer for IBM Honduras, Volunteer in the Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Program. As a pioneer in the Honduran Independent Life Movement, Karola structured the Protection Program for People with disabilities and their Family (PRO-PEDIF), and has led advocacy campaigns with national authorities for the promotion and enjoyment of the rights of people with disabilities, representing the movement in forums, workshops, and national and international courses. Furthermore, among her publications we can find: Who can be and how to be an assistant for a person with disabilities, and more.

Programa de Rehabilitación de Parálisis Cerebral (PREPACE), Honduras

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**Sue SWENSON**

Sue Swenson most recently served the Obama administration as acting assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services. She currently serves as the volunteer president-elect of Inclusion International, the UN-recognized disabled people’s organization for children with disabilities, their parents, and adults with intellectual disabilities. Sue learned about disability from her son Charlie, who lived for 30 years with profound disabilities.

Inclusion International, United Kingdom

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**Alvin TAN**

Alvin is a Technology Catalyst at SG Enable, an agency dedicated to enabling persons with disabilities. He brings his strength in technology foresight to the assistive technology (AT) domain, and seeks to infuse a fresh perspective on the acceptance and use of AT in Singapore. He strongly believes in the potential of technology for social good, and through technology, he seeks to empower persons with disabilities, enhance their capabilities, and help them be more engaged with the society.

SG Enable, Singapore
Aneta TENEVA
Aneta Teneva is Lumos’ Child and Youth Participation Officer in Bulgaria. Aneta has more than 20 years’ experience of working in formal and informal education, in both the private and public sectors. A significant amount of her work has involved children with disabilities. She has managed a school and centre for Inclusive Education, been involved in advocacy and campaigning for the rights of disabled children and worked on national inclusive education policies. Aneta has delivered training sessions on a range of topics, including positive parenting, co-operation between schools and parents, and the development of NGOs. Her extensive and comprehensive background in the education sector has prepared her for her work as a CPO as she is passionate about supporting young people to access their rights.

Lumos Foundation, Bulgaria

Kayleigh THORPE
Kayleigh leads ENABLE Scotland’s Campaigns and Activism Team, winners of the prestigious Herald Society Awards ‘Campaigner of the Year’ 2015 and Scottish Charity Awards 2017 Cracking Campaign title, to campaign, alongside our 5000 members, towards an equal society for every person who has a learning disability. Prior to joining ENABLE Scotland in 2014, Kayleigh held various policy and campaigns roles in the third sector, after graduating from Strathclyde University with a Master of Laws in Human Rights Law. Kayleigh represents the interests of children and adults who have a learning disability on a number of external fora, including as vice-chair of the Scottish Government’s Advisory Group on Disabled Children and Young People.

ENABLE Scotland, United Kingdom

James THURSTON
James Thurston is an international technology policy leader. As G3ict's Vice President for Global Strategy and Development, he leads the design and implementation of new worldwide advocacy strategies and programs to scale up G3ict's global impact. He has experience applying both technology and public policy to important social and economic challenges. He has led efforts ranging from using technology to promote the inclusion and human rights of people with disabilities around the world to using technology to increase the economic competitiveness of aging industrial centers in the United States. He has broad policy and management experience in both the private and public sectors and at the federal, state, and international levels of government.

G3ict, United States

Heinz TIPPL
Dr. Heinz Tippl is the founder and chairman of BISI, wherein he promotes and disseminates inclusive sport in schools. Prior to this, Tippl attained his doctorate in 1996 and gained his work experience in working as a PE and Maths teacher in secondary sports schools from 1973-2010. Since 1999, Tippl has been working as a lecturer in universities in Graz, Eisenstadt and Baden. Additionally, Tippl also led the research project: “Inclusive Sports in School”, which was published in: Tippl, H. (2014): Inclusive Sports in Styrian Schools. For the last twenty years, Tippl has been supporting as a volunteer in various working areas within Special Olympics Austria, such as being the head of delegations, evaluation team in LA 2015, OK-Team WWG of SO in Austria 2017.

Basic Initiative for Sports and Inclusion (BISI), Austria

Zara TODD
Zara is the Stakeholder and Engagement manager at ProjectScotland, a youth volunteering charity. Previously she was Director of ENIL co-founding their thriving youth network. Zara politically identities as a disabled person and an intersectional feminist. She has been active in the disability movement since the age of 10. Much of her work has focused on empowering people to engage with policy that affect them and working with governments and international bodies to facilitate this.

ProjectScotland, United Kingdom
Yotam TOLUB

Yotam Tolub is an Israeli disability rights lawyer specializing in legal capacity and the right to autonomy. He is the executive director of Bizchut – the Israel Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities.

Bizchut - The Israel Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities, Israel

Sirinart TONGSIRI

Sirinart Tongsiri is a physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) doctor. Tongsiri's main interest is in the development of function-based data to address needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Tongsiri has been using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) classification system and codes since 2010. Through research, Tongsiri realized that by using ICF codes and qualifiers to collect data of PWDs living in community, the data can raise awareness among providers both from hospitals and local governments to focus more on providing holistic care for PWD.

Mahasarakham University, Thailand

Lisa TRYGG

Lisa Trygg is Senior Program Officer for the Disabilities grant portfolio of the May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust in San Francisco. With more than 20 years of professional experience in corporate and private philanthropy in the disability field, she also has an adult son with developmental disabilities and volunteers as a professional mentor and fundraiser for several local disability nonprofits. Lisa received a Master's degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, United States

Dan UNGUREANU

Dan Ungureanu worked in different artistic fields as graphic design, concept art and storyboard for animation movies, or painting. In 2010 Dan had the chance to illustrate a poem book for children, and realized that this is the main path that he wants to follow. A couple of other book projects had reached his desk since then, and with each project he has learned something new. In 2013 decided to join the MA in Children's Book Illustration at the Cambridge School of Art, feeling the need to understand and learn more about the subject. During this course he made the first chapters of Becoming Eli, his first graphic novel.

Dan Ungureanu Illustration, Romania

Loïc VAN CUTSEM

Loïc studied International Business Management at UCL in Belgium and at the WU in Vienna. He started his career in marketing and finance in the telecom sector, before becoming Director of Sustainability/CSR for the major Belgian telecom operator. As his passion for social entrepreneurship grew stronger, he co-created an accelerator for social enterprises embedded in a larger support ecosystem, called Ok-sigen. Loïc co-founded and still is active in the Board of several social enterprises. He is also a private expert in the GECES Expert Group of the European Commission since 2015. With Ashoka Austria/CEE, Loïc focuses mainly on developing the Impact Transfer Agency, that supports the transfer of proven social innovations into new geographies.

Ashoka Austria, Austria

Annet VAN DEN HOEK

Annet van den Hoek studied at the Wageningen Agricultural University. For more than 10 years she worked abroad as a consultant for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DHV consultants (now Royal Haskonig-DHV). Annet has worked as programme manager for the Ineke Feitz Foundation since 2013. This family foundation, aiming at improving the lives of disabled children in developing countries. She is also board member of the Jazi Foundation aiming to support the Dutch community of philanthropists and increase their impact. Finally she sits on the board of the professional theatre group “de Plaats” since 2014. In 2017 she founded Be-Work with the objective to increase the impact of donation money. Starting 2019 Annet became the director of the Karuna Foundation.

Karuna Foundation, Nepal
Roos VAN KLEEF
Roos van Kleef is the Program Manager of the Kahane Foundation and responsible for the Foundation's strategy, programs and partnerships. Based in Basel, Roos is of Dutch origin and holds a Masters degree in Early Modern History from the University of Amsterdam. In her previous work with a corporate foundation in Switzerland and with a family foundation in the Netherlands, Roos has gained extensive experience with assessing, developing, monitoring and evaluating social programs in a wide variety of areas including education, integration and social mobility.
Kahane Foundation, Switzerland

Tracy VAUGHAN GOUGH
Tracy has over 20 years humanitarian and development experience working on disability, gender and protection in Africa, Asia and globally. She provides the overall strategic technical leadership for Sightsavers programmes on disability and inclusion and is responsible for a team that designs and manages programmes on inclusive eye health, political participation and economic empowerment as well as internal diversity and inclusion efforts.
Sightsavers, United Kingdom

Christian VOGELAUER
Christian Vogelauer is currently heading the project department of the Association in Support of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austria. After finishing his business degree at the WU Vienna with a focus on SMEs and Change Management he worked there as a research associate. His focus was on establishing a research stream for accessible mobility. These efforts were awarded with national and international research grants and resulted in several scientific and practical publications.
Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs, Austria

Robin WAY
Dr Way has been immersed in the reality of disability and its impact on the individual and their family for her entire life - her sister was born with cerebral palsy. She established Community Connections Australia to provide the skills and supports needed to move people living with all types of disabilities from institutions into their own homes across the Sydney area. Later CCA used modern technology to facilitate inclusion and safety of people within their communities.
Community Connections Australia, Australia

Jeremy WAY
Jeremy conceived Jeenee Mobile in 2010 as a way to enable people living with disabilities to use ubiquitous technology to live independently within their own communities. Has more than 20-years experience in business unit P&L responsibility and start-ups and has previously held management positions for organisations such as McKinsey & Co, Samsung and a variety of Australian media companies.
Jeenee Mobile, Australia

Germain WEBER
Germain Weber, Ph.D. is professor of Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna. From October 2008 to September 2016 he was dean of this Faculty, and continued as vice-dean until the end of the academic year 2018. At the Université du Luxembourg Professor Weber was “professeur associé” in clinical psychology from 2003 to 2016. Dr. Weber serves since 2004 as president to “Lebenshilfe Austria”, the major Austrian NGO organization offering support to over 10,000 persons with intellectual disability and advocating for them on a national and European level. Dr. Weber has authored over 100 publications and in 2000 was awarded the “International Award for Significant Contribution to Research, Policy and Practice in the Field of Intellectual Disability” by the “American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”.
University of Vienna / Lebenshilfe Österreich, Austria
Claudia WERNECK
Journalist and activist for inclusion, accessibility and rights of people with disability. Published 14 books in portuguese, english and spanish, becoming the only brazilian writer recommended simultaneously by Unesco and Unicef. 17 years ago, founded the NGO Escola de Gente - Comunicação em Inclusão, which works with a focus on the population with disability and that lives in poverty. Won over 60 acknowledgements, such as the Human Rights Award and the Cultural Merit Order, both from the Presidency of Brazil.
Escola de Gente, Comunicacao em Inclusao, Brazil

Peter Badimak YARO
Peter Badimak YARO is the Executive Director of BasicNeeds-Ghana. A development worker of over twenty years of experience. Peter is a leading mental health advocate in Ghana. He has been working in BasicNeeds, a leading mental health and development organisation over the last fifteen years now. Peter has dedicated his work efforts to improving the situation of women and men, girls and boys with mental disorders, the primary carers, families and communities.
BasicNeeds Ghana, Ghana

Engin YILMAZ
Engin Yılmaz took his PHD in the field of adult education in Boğaziçi University. His thesis is about disability perception of blind people. Since 2007 he is the director of Technology and Education Laboratory for Individuals with Visual Disability (GETEM). He is the president of Association of Barrier Free Access (ABFA). He is among the founders of audio description project in Turkey. He still gives lectures related to living with disabilities, accessible technologies and special education.
ABFA and GETEM, Boğaziçi University, Turkey

Isaac ZABLOCKI
Isaac Zablocki is the director and co-founder of the ReelAbilities Film Festival. He serves as Senior director of the Film Programs at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. He attended film school at Columbia University and went on to work at Miramax Films. Previously, he produced and directed feature films and developed film educational programs for the Department of Education. Since 2004, Isaac has been developing film programs at the JCC including the Israel Film Center. Beyond ReelAbilities, he programs multiple film festivals annually, including the acclaimed Other Israel Film Festival, which focuses on Arab and minority populations in Israel. Isaac lectures around the world in major institutions on a variety of topics from New Israeli Cinema, Hollywood and the Holocaust, to The Power of Film for Social Change.
Reelabilities, United States

Olmedo ZAMBRANO
Olmedo Zambrano has earned his degree in educational psychology and social communication in Ecuador. For nearly 20 years he has been working as a CBM advisor on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) for Latin America. He is also a member of the CBM Global Initiative of CBID and a representative of Latin America for the Global Network of Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR). He has experience in coordinating different CBR and CBID projects in Ecuador.
Fundación Discapacidad y Desarrollo, Ecuador

May ZEINELDEIN
May ZeinElDein Founder & CEO of Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion, she is a leader and a catalyst for change. She established Alhassan foundation in 2012 after her son’s accident, from scratch when there was no one in Egypt interested or knows about the challenges that wheelchair users in Egypt are facing. Today, she manages one of the most solid foundations that develop wheelchair user’s through tailored and unique projects in 27 governorates all over Egypt.
Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion, Egypt
Luk ZELDERLOO

Luk has been professionally active in the disability sector for over 35 years. He is one of the founding fathers and the Secretary General of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), an umbrella network representing about 17,000 service provider organisations for persons with disabilities. He is a board member of Social Services Europe, a platform of umbrellas of not for profit social services, and the Chairman of EMINO, a Flemish non-profit organisation offering supported employment and job coaching for people with disabilities and vulnerable groups on the open labour.

EASPD - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities, Belgium

Xuan ZHENG

Dr. Xuan Zheng is a professor in the Department of Special Education at Chongqing Normal University. She is the first Deaf person to receive a PhD in China. She was awarded the George H.W. Bush Fellow Award and is conducting research on a comparative analysis of deaf education between the U.S. and China. As a Deaf scholar, she plays a distinctive and important role in not only academics and research, but in forging the path for developing Deaf education and employment in China.

Chongqing Normal University, China

Tamar ZHVANIA

Tamar Zhvania is the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Georgia since 2013. She holds the Master Degree in Sociology and is pursuing her Ph.D. in Sociology. Ms. Zhvania is the fellow at Stanford University. She is fully accredited BRIDGE Workshop Facilitator. Previously, Ms. Zhvania worked as a Project Manager at UNDP and as a Senior Program Manager at NDI, Nigeria. Ms. Zhvania served as an Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy; she observed more than 30 elections worldwide. Ms. Zhvania is a winner of the annual Joe C. Baxter Award in 2017, granted by IFES for her contributions in advancing election environment as a CEC Chairperson.

Central Election Commission of Georgia, Georgia

Ambar ZOB AIRI

Ambar Zobairi serves as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems’ deputy regional director for the Middle East and North Africa where she focuses on good governance and electoral integrity. She works on projects that build civil society’s capacity to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, advocate to improve the status of women and mitigate election violence; and support election commissions to prepare for an election event or conduct operational and strategic planning.

International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Libya
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