

Labour market integration of people with disabilities and chronic diseases: a multi-level governance perspective

Zoom webinar, 20 November 2020, 10.00 - 12.30 CET

Social integration of people with disabilities has long been on the agenda of the EU. Much of the existing research has focused on the rights of people with disabilities, theoretical foundations of these rights, their embodiment in national legislations, experiences of disabled people themselves or the assessment of existing policies against some normative ideal. Nevertheless, there is a lack of studies addressing labour market integration of people with disabilities, including their job quality, matching of jobs and skills in sheltered jobs and in the open labour market, causes and remedies of their discrimination in the labour market, and support to persons with disabilities returning to work after facing chronic diseases. Work-related interest representation of persons with disabilities via trade unions, NGOs, patient organizations also remains understudied. As numbers of people with disabilities continue to grow due to spreading effects of chronic diseases in the working population, it becomes increasingly important to enlarge the apparatus of tools that can harness social and economic integration of this varied group of citizens.

To address the above gaps, CELSI, SGI and USN organize a webinar to present and discuss most recent evidence on labour market integration and interest representation of persons with disabilities in Europe. The webinar offers several perspectives: research, policy implementation, and examples of best practices, including their potential transferability to other political and institutional contexts. These perspectives will be addressed in a multi-level governance perspective, covering experiences of practitioners and research at the EU-level, national level and sharing good practices from the establishments employing people with disabilities (e.g. sheltered workplaces) from different EU countries.

The target group of the webinar includes a wide audience ranging from practitioners of labour market integration of people with disabilities as well as researchers and civic servants at different levels of governance.

Key questions that the webinar aims to discuss include:

- What partnerships can be harnessed to facilitate labour market integration of people with disabilities?
- How could the role of social partners be enhanced in labour market integration of people with disabilities and people returning to work after or with chronic diseases?
- What examples of cooperation between different levels of implementation and practice, knowledge sharing and policy making, ranging from local, enterprise, sectoral, national, or EU levels can serve as inspiration across different EU contexts?

Preliminary agenda:

- 10.00 **Social partners and labour market integration of persons with disabilities and chronic diseases: Introduction and recent evidence from the EU**
Marta Kahancova, CELSI
- 10.15 **I want to work, who can help me? Case study of Norway**
Steffen Torp, University of South-Eastern Norway
- 10.25 **I want to work, who can help me? Case study of Slovakia**
Lucia Kováčová, Slovak Governance Institute
- 10.35 **Practitioners' session – experiences from the field**
Slovakia – Social enterprising (Milena Maková, enterprise 'Chance for everyone', director)
Norway – Ripples in Water (Paal Haavorsen, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises, NHO)
Netherlands – Collective agreement of the University Medical Centres
- 10.55 **Local and regional partnerships in labour market policies related to persons with disabilities**
Anette Scoppetta, European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research
- 11.10 **EU-level stakeholder views on labour market integration of persons with disabilities and chronic diseases**
Asel Kadyrbaeva, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
Mehtap Akguc, European Trade Union Institute
- 11.30 **Panel discussion** – stakeholder cooperation across various levels to improve labour market integration of persons with disabilities
Panelists:
Anette Scoppetta, European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research
Asel Kadyrbaeva, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities
Paal Haavorsen, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises, NHO
Chair: Barbora Holubová, CELSI
- 12.10 **Questions and answers**
- 12.30 **End**

The webinar will take place in English, with simultaneous interpretation to Slovak and Norwegian.

Registration is required. Please register at <https://forms.gle/CF9RYNRJbMNZAeHk8>

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