



**IMPROVING SERVICES  
IMPROVING LIVES**

**THE AWARD CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE  
CONFERENCE ON:**

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EMPLOYMENT:  
INCLUSION THROUGH JOBS - MAKING IT REAL**

**7-8 MAY 2015, ZADAR  
CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZED BY THE EASPD AND OSVIT  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**



This publication is sponsored by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). It reflects the view only of the author and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

## Introduction

---

During the May 2015 EASPD conference in Zadar, Croatia, the main topic will be employment opportunities for people with disabilities. During this conference an award for the best practice that provides better employment opportunities for persons with disabilities will be presented, along with a renewed EASPD Declaration on employment for all.

In order to prepare this declaration, EASPD is gathering the best practices to be put forward as an example and to be disseminated throughout Europe. The top practices will be presented in a both a hard copy booklet and digital booklet.

A jury will choose the 3 top nominees in two separate categories. The 3 nominees from each category will be given a ticket to the conference and the opportunity to present their practice during the Zadar conference.

The winner for the Employment for All Award will be announced at the conference on 7 May 2015.

**The applications's deadline:** 14 March 2015, 17:00 Brussels local time. All applications should be submitted via email to Harrison Crabtree at [harrison.crabtree@easpd.eu](mailto:harrison.crabtree@easpd.eu)

**Best practices in 2013:** This award continues the work done in the first edition of the awards presented at the 2013 conference in Istanbul. You can find a list of the 20 chosen best practices and the winners here:

<http://www.easpd.eu/en/content/employment-all-award-2013>

## **Do you want to cross-reference your good practice with U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities article 27?**

One of the aims of this award is to promote the implementation of Article 27 of the UN CRPD. This article recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others, which includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work-environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

## **Does the best practice you know, show...**

- positive reinforcement for the selected participants?
- **and/or**
  - improvement opportunities for organizational structures?
  - media coverage and dissemination for the best practices?
  - raised standards and level of service support?
  - back-benching opportunities for organizations and practices?
  - networking and co-operation opportunities between NGO's, services, organizations, employers, (non-)governmental bodies..?
  - a platform for actors improving employment opportunities for people with a disability?

## The proposed practice is a reality. If it...

- ✓ has a proven track record. It's activity is on-going and there are some positive prospects for future activity.
- ✓ is preferably already part of your operation or procedures or it is otherwise mainstreamed and/or it receives structural funding or benefits from authorities or employers.
- ✓ can be part of support-processes built around the person.
- ✓ its activity can lay in all forms of support leading to the improvement of employment opportunities including the promotion of an environment that is empowering, promoting autonomy and supporting and promoting work- and career- opportunities.

## The applicants

All organizations involved in the support and promotion of employment and career opportunities for people with disabilities are invited to apply.

The best practice, model, method, system or tool that you propose needs to be described in the attached application. It needs to be an active practice, geared towards improving work and career opportunities for persons with a disability.

**NEW!** You'll be able to participate in two categories:

- A. businesses/employers who promote better employment opportunities for persons with disabilities
- B. social services and support providers who exhibit exceptional qualities in their practices in the employment field for persons with disabilities.

## The Jury

An independent committee with representatives of organizing partners of the conference, Business-world, Council of Europe, and DPO's will choose which practices deserve a nomination for the award.

## What's in it for you as an applicant?

- ✓ **The opportunity to inform policy makers in Europe**, EASPD-members & conference participants of what you think are the best practices. Inform us on what you find to be the best practice enabling people with a disability to find and/or to maintain a quality job including a decent salary, decent working conditions, life-long learning opportunities and fitting career perspectives.
- ✓ **Your proposal in a document with a selection of best practices.** A jury will make a selection of the best practices. These selections will be published

through both an online and hard copy booklet.

- ✓ **Your contribution to the policy-declaration.** The best practices will inspire and enrich the Declaration on employment that EASPD will launch in Zadar.
- ✓ **Being nominated for the award** and receiving an invitation to the conference. The Jury will nominate 3 applicants in each category for the EASPD-EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL- AWARD. The 3 nominees will receive a ticket for the EASPD Zadar conference on employment. The best practices will be presented during the award ceremony and can be discussed in detail during a workshop. One of the nominees in each category will be elected as the audience's choice and one in each category will be chosen for the AWARD.

### Raising awareness on employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

Disability is still too often connected to unemployment and exclusion. Prejudice and discrimination result in low employment rates of people with disabilities. In line with EU-policies & -strategies society has the responsibility to create work and career opportunities for persons with disabilities. Employment support helps avoid segregation of persons with disabilities and promotes opportunities for inclusive workplaces. Employment should lead to increased independence and inclusion and to benefits for all. In the first place for persons with disabilities, but employers and the society will benefit as well.

### Save the date: EASPD Annual Conference in Zadar (Croatia) from 7 to 8 May 2015

The main objective of the conference "Persons with Disabilities in Employment: Inclusion through Jobs - Making it Real " is to help unlock the potential of persons with disabilities and show how both employers and employees with disabilities can benefit from a more accessible and diverse labour market through sharing expertise and good practices. By looking at alternative new employment strategies/ideas, the conference aims to find ways to remove barriers and boost the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in Europe.

[MORE INFORMATION on EASPD Website](#)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 14/3/2015, 17:00 Brussels wintertime.**

**FOR INQUIRES CONTACT: [HARRISON.CRABTREE@EASPD.EU](mailto:HARRISON.CRABTREE@EASPD.EU)**

PHONE:+32 2 282 46 19 FAX:+32 2 230 72 33 63 OUDERGEMSELAAN / AVENUE D'AUDERGHEN B-1040 BRUSSELS