



The opening speakers:

INGUS ALLIKS **State Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare**

Mr Ingus Alliks was appointed State Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare and took office in September 2016. In 2003 - 2016, he served as Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare with responsibility for labour relations and occupational safety and health, social insurance, children and family policy, social inclusion and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Previously, in 1999-2003, he was Director of the Social Insurance Department of the Ministry of Welfare. Since 2007, Mr Alliks has been a member of the European Committee for Social Cohesion / European Social Cohesion Platform. In 2000 - 2006, he also was a member of the Governmental Committee of European Social Charter.

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STEFAN ERIKSSON **Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia**

As of 1 August, the new Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia is Stefan Eriksson. Prior to taking up his new post, the Swedish diplomat has been working in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1992. His latest assignment abroad was as Ambassador of Sweden to Belarus, and he has also been posted at Sweden's diplomatic missions in Moscow, Brussels and Saint Petersburg. Before starting his diplomatic career, Mr Eriksson worked for the Swedish Trade Council as a market advisor, which included responsibility for opening the Trade Council's first office in Riga in 1992. Mr Eriksson has a Degree in Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics and Business Administration and has an excellent knowledge of English, Russian and Belarusian.

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JURIS JANSONS **Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia**

Juris Jansons holds the Ombudsman post since 17 March 2011. According to the Ombudsman's Office Regulations Jansons is also the Head of the Ombudsman's Office. Studied at Riga Stradiņš University doctoral programme (Sociology) and obtained master's degree of Social Sciences in economics (Mg. oec.) and qualification of the lawyer (Mg. jur.) at University of Latvia. The Ombudsman aims to ensure that society becomes more well-informed about human rights and their protection mechanisms. To reduce the reason for citizens to complain about the officials and employees of our state and local authorities who have not respected the principles of good governance in their work. Not less important it is to ensure that the Ombudsman's institution is fully using its resources and its work has achieved recognition from public, national and local authorities, non-governmental sectors and international level.

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Our speakers:

ANETE ILVES

Legal Counsellor at Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Division, Ombudsman Office of Latvia

Mg.iur, M.A.soc.sc. Anete Ilves works as a legal adviser at the Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia. She mainly works with issues affecting possible violations of legal equality and discrimination. The Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia is the responsible authority for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Section 33, Paragraph two of the Convention), thereby representing the rights of persons with disabilities at national, regional and international level. In cooperation with non-governmental organizations of persons with disabilities Anete Ilves has carried out a study on the accessibility of higher education for persons with disabilities (2016), prepared an information material for employers "Adapted working environment for employees with disability" (2017), organized annual conference for persons with disabilities (2015-2017), giving presentations as well as moderating panel discussions.

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SIGRID SKAVLID

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Senior Adviser

Sigrud Skavlid has many years of experience with digital solutions, accessibility and usability. She is currently employed in The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in the department for Inclusion and universal design. She holds a master degree in management and has studied digital workplace humor.

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ELĪNA CELMIŅA

Director of Department of Social Inclusion Policy

Director of Department of Social Inclusion Policy, she is doing supervision and drafting of legal acts, policy planning papers and reports in the field of disability and social inclusion; assessment of situation and elaboration of proposals for development of disability and social inclusion policy in Latvia; responsibility for development of national positions/ instructions /informative reports on EU legislative proposals and initiatives and for informal meetings of the EU Council of Ministers; coordination of development of equal opportunities of horizontal priorities of EU Structural Fund's planning period for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020; assessment of line ministries' legislative proposals potential impact from disability and social inclusion aspect; reporting to International bodies on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, cooperation with disability NGO's, etc.

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CHRISTIAN HELLEVANG

Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) Advisor

Christian Hellevang has a bachelor in public administration from Oslo Metropolitan University and a master in public administration from Copenhagen business school (CBS). He has been working in KS since 1.May 2006.

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ANN KJERSTI HAGA

Sandnes municipality, Norway Landscape Engineer

Graduated landscape engineer from Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). Has been working in Sandnes municipality since 2014.

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BARBARA ĀBELE

Latvian Academy of Art

Professional activity is linked to the Design Faculty of the Latvian Academy of Arts, a professor at the Department of Functional Design. Deals with design thinking, multiplication, interpretation and teaching for different audiences, a member of Consultative Council of the Ministry of Culture and one of the authors of the Design Action Policy for Design LV2020, as well as a member of several professional organizations, participating, as far as possible, in design-related studies, local and international projects, promoting the visibility of Latvian design education locally and internationally, and together with design students responding to the changing nature of the design. The word design and the verb to design would be attributable not only to traditional and creative industries, but also to social, ecological and other life quality or wellness forming processes. The understanding and application of modern design in Latvia, as elsewhere in the world, is a relatively new direction, and the competence of the design is little used in different sectors therefore professor is now linked directly to these new unused features.

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GEORGE ANTHONY GIANNOUMIS Assistant professor of universal design at the Department of Computer Science at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet)

Anthony's research focuses on technology law, policy and practice. He is currently researching the implementation of laws and policies aimed at ensuring equal access to technology for everyone including persons with disabilities. His research interests include universal design, political participation, social innovation, participatory design, international governance, sustainable development, social regulation, standardization, assistive technology, and intellectual property. He is currently an assistant professor of universal design at the Department of Computer Science at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) and an international research fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University and the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique.

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REGONT KURTISHI Graduate of universal design at the Department of Computer Science at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), independent expert

Regont Kurtishi born in Tetovo, Macedonia. In his bachelor degree he studied Business Informatics in South East European University in Tetovo. After graduation, he moved to Norway at the age of 22 to study Universal Design of ICT in master's level at OsloMet University in Oslo. At the same time, he worked as a Student Mentor where his main responsibilities were to welcome the international students and guide them.

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VISVALDIS SARMA Architect, one of the founders of the architecture company Sarma & Norde Architects

Visvaldis Sarma is an architect with several years of professional experience; he also is one of the founders of the architecture company Sarma & Norde Architects. He received his architect diploma in 1989 at the Riga Polytechnic Institute. He received his Master's degree in Architecture at Riga Technical University in 2008. Currently Visvaldis is working on his PhD thesis "Theoretically – methodological approaches of architecture in the context of the creativity process." Visvaldis is an author of 15 publications about architecture theory and history. He gives lectures at Riga Technical University. Visvaldis passion are marathons and he enjoys white wines.

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KATHRIN BÖGELSACK**Norwegian Mapping Authority, Master of Science**

Kathrin Bögelsack is since 2014 employed by the Norwegian Mapping Authority and works together with Sven Michaelis in the national project "Register and Survey the Status of Accessibility in Norway". She is originally from Berlin/Germany, educated as an Ecologist, and worked many years with environmental impact assessment.

SVEN MICHAELIS**Norwegian Mapping Authority, Senior engineer**

Sven Michaelis is currently the leader of the project "Register and Survey the Status of Accessibility in Norway". He works for the Norwegian Mapping Authority, which bears nationwide responsibility for geographical information, operates the national property registry and undertakes all property registration in Norway. Sven studied at the Technical University Dresden in Germany architecture, medicine and engineering sciences (Architect and Electronic engineer). He is living in Norway since 2000.

KASPARS KALVĪTIS**Organization for people with disabilities and their friends
"Apeirons", project manager**

Kaspars Kalvītis, 31 years old. Since childhood, his priorities were motor sports and music, but at age 14 he had severe spine trauma in motocross training, followed by surgery, but unfortunately because of spinal cord damage, followed paralysis and he had to take life in a wheelchair. After the trauma, Kaspars wanted quickly return to the society, learn, live a full life as before, but he had to face a variety of obstacles which overcoming he understood that the stereotypical thinking and behaviour prevailing in the society at all levels has to be changed. He continued training in high school, then at Riga Stradiņš University, where he got acknowledgment for his ability and the goal of being active, positive, courageous and useful. At the moment, Kaspars works in Apeirons as a project manager and an environmental accessibility specialist. Results are pleasing - more and more people with disabilities engage in different activities – sports, training, work and other forms of personality development. It is also Kaspars contribution to educating the socially integrated society and inspiring and motivating people with disabilities.

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IEVA KUSTOVA**Deputy Director of Communication and International Relations at
SJSC Latvian Railway**

In the field of communication, over the last five years, Ieva Kustova has been increasingly specialized in corporate social responsibility, sustainable development and good governance. In partnership with colleagues in other company structures in 2017 she developed the first sustainability review over the whole Baltics based of international standards in its sector, highlighting the accomplishments in the environmental accessibility as one of the sustainability aspects of the SJSC Latvian Railway in recent years.

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LENA MELLBLADH**Sweeden, Boras Stadt Availability consultant****INGEGERD ERIKSSON****Sweeden, Boras Stadt Head of quality and development at the
city council**

Accessibility consultant, Lena Mellbladh has worked within Borås City with accessibility questions for a long time. She is responsible for the whole city focus on physical accessibility.

Ingegerd Eriksson is head of quality and development at the city council.

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GUNTA ANČA

Board Chair of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability organisation SUSTENTO

Gunta Anča acts as a representative of the interests of people with disabilities. Since 2002, she is a chair of Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organizations SUSTENTO. She has been on the board of the European Disability Forum since 2005. Since 2013 she is a vice president of this organization. She is active in the field of gender equality not only by acting in the form of European Disability Forum in the Women's Committee, but she has been a member of the European Women's Lobby Board since 2006 (the largest umbrella organization of the European Union that brings together national organizations in women's rights). From 2004 she is a representative of Latvia in the European Economic and Social Committee, a European Union consultative body. It consults the EU's most important institutions. The Committee does so by providing opinions on the proposed EU legislation and drawing up own-initiative opinions on topics which are considered important.

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IEVA ANDŽĀNE

Communication specialist at the Art Museum RIGA BOURSE

Ieva Andžāne has studied cultural management at the Latvian Academy of Culture. Currently works as communication specialist at the Art Museum RIGA BOURSE, studies at the Latvian Academy of Culture and works as a lecturer.

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RŪTA MEŽAVILKA

Human rights activist from Association for the support of people with impaired hearing "Sadzirdi.lv"

Rūta Mežavilka is a writer, artist and human rights activist. In "Sadzirdi.lv" has been working since the organization was founded in 2014. Graduated the Art Academy of Latvia, works in the field of graphic design. The author of several poetry books and plays, the novel "Born for Latvia" won an award in 2012 in the novelist contest by the Latvian Writers' Union and philanthropist Raimonds Gerkena. Since the age of infant, hearing impairment grade IV.

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Labklājības ministrija

LV100 



Nordic Council
of Ministers



Kartverket

NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA
Eiropas Savienības
strukturfondu un
Kohēzijas fonds

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ