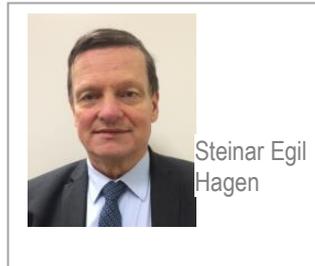


Latvian Presidency
Conference on Deinstitutionalisation Practises and Further Development of Social Care Policy in Europe,
15 Jun 2015, Riga

Speakers and Contributors



Uldis Augulis is Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia (Centre Party „Latvian Farmers Union” / Union of Greens and Farmers), and his responsibilities include policies on social protection, employment, labour law, family and children's rights, equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and gender equality. Mr Augulis started his political career as Chairman of Bērze Rural District Council (2000 – 2006), when he was also Member of the EU Committee of the Regions (2003 – 2006). After parliamentary elections of 2006, Mr Augulis became Member of the Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia and served as Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture (2006 – 2007) and Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare (2008 – 2009). In 2009, Mr Augulis was appointed Minister of Welfare, later – Minister of Transport (2010 – 2011). After parliamentary elections of 2014, he was re-appointed Minister of Welfare.



Steinar Egil Hagen has been the Norwegian Ambassador to Latvia since September 2014. Before arriving in Riga Ambassador Hagen was Head of the Section for Central Europe and the EEA Financial mechanisms in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo.



Jiří Švarc is responsible for the implementation of the European Social Fund and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived in Hungary, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia. His unit also analyses the employment and social inclusion policies in the countries mentioned, particularly within the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy. Before joining the Commission he worked for the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Finance on European affairs.



Jan Jařab has been the Regional Representative for Europe of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights since January 2010. The Regional Office for Europe deals with the human rights dimension of internal and external EU policies as well as with human rights challenges in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. Previously, Jan Jařab served as Member of Cabinet of Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (2004-2010). For almost four years (2001-2004) he served the Government of the Czech Republic as its Commissioner for Human Rights and Director of the Human Rights Division of the Office of Government. Before that, he worked for the Human Rights Division for two years (1991-2001) as Secretary of Section on Civil and Political Rights and Section on Racial Discrimination. Jan Jařab holds a doctorate in medicine from Prague's Charles University and a MSc in anthropology from University College London.



Donata
Pagetti
Vivanti

Donata Pagetti Vivanti was born in Milano (Italy) on 08/11/1948, graduate in medicine in 1973, since 20 years she works full time on a voluntary basis within advocacy organisations of persons with disabilities ant regional, national and European level as mother and representative of twin sons with autism and intense support needs.

She has been president of Autism-Europe since 2000 to 2007 and she is vice-president of the European Disability Forum (EDF) since 2005. In Italy , she is vice-president of the FID (Italian Forum on Disability) and of the FISH (Italian Federation for Overcoming Disability), as well as president of the Regional Federation for overcoming disability of Tuscany . She is Member of the National Focal Point of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs.



Gunta
Anča

Gunta Anca has been a proactive disability rights activist throughout her career. Since 2002, she is the Chair of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations (Sustento).

Since 2005, she is a Board member within the European Disability Forum. She is also very active in promoting gender equality not only in her capacity of member of the EDF Women's Committee, but also since 2006 she is Board member of the European Women's Lobby (the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU)).

Since 2006, she is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), an EU consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups, and others, a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. It has a key role to play in the Union's decision-making process. Since 2008, she is Advisor in the Disability Rights Fund - collaboration between donors and the disability community to advance the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The members of the Panel come from five continents and reflect a broad cross-section of the disability community.



Danute
Jasjko

Danute Jasjko is the Director of the Department of Social Services in the Ministry of Welfare of Republic of Latvia, Doctor of Economics. She has almost 20 years' experience in the fields of policy making, assessment of policy impacts as well as carrying out the analytical studies and research for agricultural, transport and social sectors of national economies. She has been working as a leader and policy expert in numerous international and national projects requested by European, national and international organizations. She also had opportunity to be engaged in preparing of economical argumentation for the Latvian Position on Chapter 7 in the process of accession negotiations between Republic of Latvia and the EU. She also has more than 10 years pedagogical experience, teaching such courses as Economics, Managerial economics, Quantitative methods for business and delivering the business simulations for students (in the form of business game). In the position of Director of Department of Social Services she is responsible for designing of Latvian social policy in the field of social service provision.



Kirsten
Sandberg

Kirsten Sandberg is member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the child 2011-2019, Chairperson May 2013-May 2015. She is a Professor of Law at the Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo. Ms Sandberg is co-editor of a book on the CRC and its implementation in Norway and has published a number of articles and books within child law and children's rights, especially on child protection law, children's right to be heard, discrimination of children and the rights of asylum-seeking children. She has served as acting Justice in the Supreme Court of Norway.



John
Halloran

John Halloran is the Chief Executive of the European Social Network (ESN), a learning organisation which brings together directors of social care and health services in national, regional and local government responsible for the design and delivery of local public services in 34 countries. Supported by the European Commission, ESN promotes social justice and inclusion and better life chances through the delivery of quality social services.

John was previously a senior manager of public welfare services in the UK where he was responsible for community services for the elderly, people with physical and intellectual disabilities and family and child protection services. He worked as a manager of youth services in France, as a volunteer teacher in West Africa and as a change management consultant for public authorities and third sector organisations in a number of countries.

He studied philosophy at the Université des Sciences Humaines in Strasbourg, social work at Manchester and Lancaster Universities and has an *international Masters in Business Administration from Brunel University, London.*"



Iris
Arends

Iris Arends has a background in Work and Organisation Psychology. She completed her PhD in the field of Work and Mental Health in 2013, and since then she has been working for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. She works within the review team on Mental Health and Work and is one of the authors of several country review reports and the recently released synthesis report "Fit Mind, Fit Job".



Michelle
Livesley

Michelle lives in the North West of England and is a consultant and trainer as well as operational manager for Helen Sanderson Associates. Michelle has been involved in the development of person-centred practices across a wide range of service areas including health, social care and education and has contributed to several publications on the subject. Michelle is passionate about cultural change, community building and being a member of a local darts and dominoes team.



Georgette
Mulheir

For more than two decades, Georgette has worked in 23 countries around the world, leading large-scale programmes to transform the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children. She pioneered a model of 'deinstitutionalisation' (DI) now followed by many governments, preventing the separation of children from families, returning children from so-called 'orphanages' to families, and shifting finances from harmful institutions to community services that support children in families. She advises officials at the European Commission on using EU funds for reforming children's services, and has published four books on children's rights. Georgette is a Commissioner for the UK-based Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement. In 2014, she was named as 'one of the world's 30 most influential social workers' by socialworkdegreeguide.com. She is Chief Executive of Lumos, an international children's organisation, founded by J.K. Rowling to end the institutionalisation of children globally by 2050.



Anniki
Lai

Anniki Lai, MA (1974) is a policy maker in the area of child welfare who integrates evidence-base tools and services, comprehensive policy and organisation development as well as system design approaches into creating innovative child welfare systems. During her long career in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia, she initiated creation of a dedicated department oriented for children and family policy, led development of the first integrated national strategy on children and families that provides intersectoral vision for the field and spearheaded modernisation of national legislation for ensuring children well-being. Currently she is leading organisational restructuring and development of child protection system to implement the vision of the national strategy and the modernised legislation. In her ministerial work she has been able to use her extensive experiences from her previous work in NGO level in promoting children rights. She has also been actively engaged in various international working groups and organisations in the field of child rights. Examples include being current chair of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk in the Baltic Sea Region, active participant in the EU and COE child rights network as well as activities in her capacity as an international expert on integrated child protection systems.



Jan
Pfeiffer

Born in Prague on 22 of Jun 1957 Jan Pfeiffer finished his medical study on Charles University Prague in 1982. He has more then 30 years of clinical experience in mental health care. He is in his clinical practice oriented mainly on people with serious psychosocial issues and their recovery. He was practicing in Czech Republic as well in United Kingdom. During his entire professional carrier he is very much involved in transformation of institutional services to community based services (deinstitutionalization) in his country as well other countries (Albania, Serbia, Slovakia, Hungary...).

Working as long term consultant, advisor or expert for many international bodies as (WHO, European Commission, CPT Committee Council of Europe, Global Initiative on Psychiatry, Higher Commissioner of Human Rights of United Nations, Lumos foundation of J.K.Rowling). He was first Chair of European Expert Group on "DI" (EEG), is also Senior Consultant of Mental Health Europe with a focus on DI in mental health.

For his involvement in reforming institutional services and protection of the rights of people with disability Magazine Time awarded him as European Hero in 2004.



Peter
Lambreghts

Peter Lambreghts was born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1971. He is happily married and father of two daughters.

Currently Peter combines two jobs. He is Policy Officer and Spokesman for Onafhankelijk Leven, the Flemish movement for Independent Living and works as Senior Officer for ENIL, the European Network on Independent Living. He also is a Board Member for ENIL and for EDF, the European Disability Forum. Furthermore he is member of the European Expert Group on Deinstitutionalization.

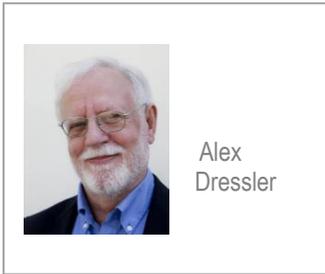
Peter Lambreghts is author of several publications on disability related topics including quality control of disability support services, cost effectiveness of Personal Assistance, the UNCRPD & article 19, Independent Living philosophy and history, disability paradigms, Quality of Life. He is regularly interviewed and writes articles for newspapers, magazines, newsletters and specialized journals. He is often asked as speaker for lectures, workshops and trainings.

In his work Peter wants to continue to promote and strengthen the grass roots and cross-disability Independent Living Movement and keep the right for Independent Living high on the agenda in Europe and the member states. He also wants to focus on implementation of the UNCRPD and countering the effect of austerities and cuts on disabled Europeans.



Luk
Zelderloo

Luk Zelderloo has been professionally active in the disability sector for more than 22 years. He holds a Master's degree in Management, Social science & philosophy. For more than 13 years he was active as manager of a social service for persons with disabilities in Flanders. For the last 15 years, he has been active at the European level. He is one of the founding fathers of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD). He is the President of Job- Link- a service providing organization & training centre in Flanders providing vocational training and job coaching for persons with disabilities, and a Board member of Social Services Europe as well as of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD). Mr Zelderloo also has extensive knowledge of managing EU funded projects. He has acted as a speaker and organiser of conferences on topics such as: education and employment of persons with disabilities, staff training, state aid, poverty reduction, combating sexual abuse, social policies, capacity-building in EEC and stakeholder cooperation

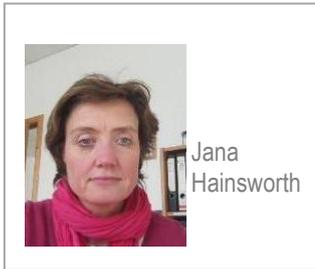


Alex Dressler is the consultancy manager of Keeping Children Safe, a UK-based coalition formed in 2001 by some of the leading international development agencies to protect children from harm. Alex has 22 years' experience in international development in more than 30 countries. He has been the CEO of the Consortium for Street Children; a regional delegate for the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where he developed a participatory community development programme in support of vulnerable Roma communities in Central and Eastern Europe; and as an organisation development consultant, he helped the Russian Association of Social Pedagogues and Social Workers to make the transition into a post-Communist era organisation. He also spent four years helping to transform a group of Romanian volunteers into the country's leading HIV/AIDS prevention network. Alex is the proud father of four children, including a little boy who was born with Down Syndrome.

Jan Storø is an Associate Professor at Oslo and Akerhus University College, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Social Work. He has more than 30 years of practical experience from child welfare work in Norway, mostly with young people in residential care. Storø's main professional interest for the last two decades has been leaving care issues. He has published three books and several articles on this topic. He has also conducted a study on care leavers in Norway, and continues to research this topic further. Other areas of work; organising and managing institutions, evidence based practice, user participation and child welfare work in modern society. He has written several articles on these topics. Two of his books are on Social pedagogy.

Galina Markova, is the manager of the Know How Centre for Alternative Care for Children at the New Bulgarian University. She gained her PhD from Smith College School for Social Work (USA) and her MASW from the New Bulgarian University. For her dissertation she studied the psychological factors contributing to child institutionalization in Bulgaria by their biological parents. She teaches theories and practice in social work, supervises and does research mostly in the field of deinstitutionalization of children's services. She has published nationally and internationally. She has been the national consultant to DI for the Childhood for all projects – DI of children with disability. Her latest work is in the field of the strength-based perspective in research and practice.

Nic Crosby has worked with many services, families, children and young people across the united Kingdom over the past 9 years to develop personal budgets. He champions inclusion and the rights of families and young people to have control over the support they need. he has worked closely with the national government to develop new policy for families and disabled young people and is involved in the ongoing implementation of personal budgets. he has written extensively about how personal budgets work, how they can make a profound difference to families' lives and the lives of their children and young people and how personal budgets offer a real opportunity for children and young people to get the support they need to have a life like many others.



Jana Hainsworth is Secretary General of Eurochild, a European network of organisations promoting the rights and well-being of children, where she has worked since 2006. Prior to joining Eurochild she worked in several positions related to managing networks, research, policy and communications. She is a passionate advocate for children's rights and civil society. In May 2015 she was elected President of Social Platform - the largest alliance of social NGO networks fighting for social justice and participatory democracy.



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



Aija Barča, Chair, Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the Saeima, Latvia
Aija Barča is Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee in the Saeima, where she represents the Liepāja party. In accordance with a bi-party agreement, she is also a member of the Greens and Farmers Union parliamentary group. In addition, she is a member of the Public Expenditure and Audit Committee, as well as the Public Health and Employment Subcommittees. Alongside her political activity, Ms Barča is also a lecturer in social policy at Liepāja University. By profession a teacher and social worker, Ms Barča received a master's degree in social work from Liepāja Academy of Pedagogy in 2005 and an honorary doctorate from Liepāja University in 2014.



Aivars Lācarus, Chairman of Talsi Region Council since 2013, has a political and legal responsibility of Council's work, coordinates work of deputies, institutions and employees of administration of Talsi Region Municipality. He has an experience of local politician work for 25 years. He takes part in the work of Association of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia, is a Chairman of Commission of Health and Social issues since 2013. Mr.Lācarus has worked in medicine field since 1974, incl. as a surgeon and as a chief doctor in Talsi District Hospital.



Ieva
Jaunzeme

Ieva Jaunzeme (Latvia) Secretary of State of the Ministry of Welfare. Ieva Jaunzeme is the chief administrative officer responsible for organization of elaboration and delivery of policy planning documents, draft laws and draft regulations as well as daily routine of the Ministry. Ministry of Welfare is the leading institution of the state administration in the areas of labour, social security, children's and family rights as well as equal rights for people with disabilities and gender equality. Ms Jaunzeme also represents the Ministry in various international organisations (EC, OECD, World Bank a.o.) on Labour Market Policy matters. Prior to joining the Ministry Ms. Jaunzeme worked for seven years as Chairperson of the Competition Council of Latvia.



Ieva
Leimane-
Veldmeijere

Ieva Leimane-Veldmeijere has been the director of the NGO Resource Centre for People with Mental Disability "ZELDA" since June 2007. Previously (1995-2007) she worked in various positions (researcher, deputy director, program director) for the NGO the Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR), where she mainly dealt with issues relating to mental disability advocacy, as well as issues relating to the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, rights of children and women's rights. Ms. Leimane-Veldmeijere holds a BA and MA in Philosophy (University of Latvia) and in 2009 she obtained with distinction an International Diploma in Mental Health Law and Human Rights in the distance learning program of the Indian Law Society's Law College (Pune, India) in cooperation with the World Health Organization. I. Leimane-Veldmeijere is also an SPC (School of Psychotherapy & Counselling at Regent's College (London, UK)) Accredited Mediator.



Elīna
Niemiro

Elina Niemiro is the HR Manager of SOS Children's Village Latvia responsible for providing services, advice, controlling and maintenance of HR management in line with SOS Children's Villages Human Resources Approach and policies. SOS Children's Villages Latvia is a social charity organization that provides a long-term family based care for children who have lost their parents. It also carries out family strengthening programs, helping high risk and financially struggling families to improve their situation, so that children at risk could stay in the caring environment of their own biological families. The organization operates in Latvia since 1997.



Pēteris
Locāns

Peteris Locans is a member of the board of Latvian Society of the Blind (LSB). LSB is the non-governmental, non-profit making organization, founded in 1926. It is the only organization to represent the interests of blind and partially sighted people in Latvia. The main objective of the LSB is to protect and promote the interests of all blind and partially-sighted people.



Māris
Grāvis

Maris Grāvis is the Association "Riga City" Rūpju bērns " Chairman of the Board, one of the largest community-based social service providers in Latvia. Maris has more than 10 years of experience in social services development and management. Started as a volunteer in day care center and come to the management of number of social services. Maris has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in business administration. Maris participated in preparation of the de-institutionalization program for Latvia. Maris is the younger brother of sister with intellectual disabilities. He is proud dad of 2 years old boy and waits for European Basketball Championship this September in Latvia!



Sandra
Braunere

Sandra Braunere is representative of SOS Children's Villages Latvia - an international NGO with strong vision that every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security. Ms Braunere is SOS Family Strengthening Programme manager, working with projects where support and assistance is provided to families with children living in local communities. Through training, education, counselling, and more, parents' capacities are built. SOS CV works to make sure that children are not abandoned or neglected, but grow with security, dignity, opportunities and love, in their own families. Prior to joining SOS CV Latvia Ms Braunere for five years worked as director of Rehabilitation Centre of Latvian Society of the Blind.



Annija
Mazapša

Annija Mazapsa has been a staff lawyer-researcher with RC ZELDA since October 2011. Previously (2004-2010) she worked for the Ombudsman of the Republic Latvia, where she was dealing with various civil and political rights issues. Ms. Mazapsa holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University in Sweden and Professional degree of Law from the University of Latvia. Since 2005 she has been representing applicants to the European Court of Human Rights.