Remote working and the new elevated importance to build flexible work environments that facilitate PwDs socio-economic inclusion

14th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD – COSP14
18 June 2021 | 10:00-11:15 EST | Virtual

Zoom meeting link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89171495343?pwd=LzJrVFNZbkRpRmxYenBIMWt5MUVJUT09

ITU Office for Europe and the Zero Project will co-organize a **Special Session** on "**Remote working and the new elevated importance to build flexible work environments that facilitate PwDs socio-economic inclusion",** which will be held virtually as a side event of the 14th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD – COSP14, on **Friday, 18 June 2021 from 10:00-11:15 EST (16:00-17:15 CEST).** This session is held within the framework of the Accessible Europe initiative, more precisely its workstream on fostering the ICT centric innovation ecosystem.

The global pandemic has elevated the importance of remote work and work from home as a normal practice that will enable everyone, including persons with disabilities, to have access to job opportunities using their home office. In effect, we must ensure that this new focus also creates a working environment that encourages people to be themselves and reach their full potential. People can perform their best if they work in an environment that is instinctively inclusive.

Our partners from Spain, Israel, the United States, and Switzerland will outline best practices when it comes to ensuring that built environments allow all people to fully participate in the digital benefits of tomorrow. Based on the COVID-19 experience, our partners' works in ICT accessibility reiterate the need of policymakers from public and private sectors to develop inclusive policies and strategies that support and facilitate remote work (working from home) opportunities, which will expand the opportunities for persons with disabilities to the job market, and thus, promote their independent lives and socio-economic development.

SESSION AGENDA (CEST/GMT+2)

16:00 – 16:05   Introduction and setting the context

- **Jaroslaw Ponder,** Head of ITU Office for Europe, International Telecommunication Union
- **Michael Fembek,** Director of the Zero Project, Essl Foundation

16:05 – 17:15   Moderator

- **Ratih Kumala Dewi,** Consultant of ITU Office for Europe, International Telecommunication Union
- **Robin Tim Weis,** Public Sector Manager of the Zero Project, Essl Foundation

Presentation and interactive discussion

- **Roxana Widmer-Iliescu,** Senior Coordinator - Digital Inclusion, International Telecommunication Union
- **David Banes,** Director, David Banes Access and Inclusion Services
- **Sabine Lobnig,** Director of Communications, Mobile and Wireless Forum
- **Sabina Lobato Lobato,** Director of Training and Employment, Operations and Transformation, Fundación ONCE
- **Alberto Prieto,** Sales Manager of Visualfy, Winner of Accessible Europe Competition 2021