

## Joint EPR and EASPD Webinar on Transitions from School or Training to Employment for Young People with Disabilities – Good practices and success factors

7 December 2022, 14:00-16:00 CET

Online, via Zoom

### Concept Note

Adolescents and young adults, especially those with a disadvantaged background and fewer opportunities, e.g., due to disabilities, migration, risks to fall into poverty and social exclusions, are facing **barriers in accessing the labour market and becoming economically independent**. The COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic downturn have had a negative impact on these groups, leading to new challenges and an urgent need to provide adequate individual support. The design of **pathways for young people with disabilities (YPWD) to successfully transition from school, vocational education and training (VET) or inactivity into employment** is thus highly relevant across Europe, given the persistent high unemployment and unacceptably high inactivity rates in particular for more vulnerable groups or socially or economically disadvantaged adolescents and young adults.

One key aim and focus of the [European Year 2022 of Youth](#) is to improve the opportunities to shape i.a. a more inclusive future for young people in the EU. The [Disability Employment Package](#) issued on 20 September 2022 has as one thematic focus the promotion of pathways to the mainstream labour market. For **social service providers in the field of disability and vocational rehabilitation**, their staff and users, organising the successful transition from school or vocational training to employment is a permanent challenge, influenced by labour market developments as well as policies and legislative frameworks at the various levels of government and regulation in place in order to support this transition for young people with disabilities, but also by the knowledge about successful programmes, approaches and services.

The EPR members involved in the **Working Group Youth** have been collecting in the last months **good practices on transition programmes and services for YPWD from school or vocational education and training (VET) into employment**, to be published in a report. A [report on selected transition services for youth with disabilities in member organisations of EPR](#) published by EPR in 2014 dealt with services to support the transition from school (secondary education) into vocational, employment and/or the community for young people for disabilities. It looked into programmes and approaches that EPR members were using with transition age youth (14 to 24 and beyond) to increase their independence and inclusion in the community and included recommendations. We aim to update this good practice collection.

As part of the **Lighthouse Network EASPD's Member Forum on Education** and the development of a manual on how services can support persons with disabilities at key transition phases during their lives namely: Secondary School into employment, a [collection of promising practices on the transition from education to employment](#) is also taking place in EASPD. This manual still being worked on will include a number of promising practices on how to support the transition at each phase.

EPR and EASPD thus decided to join forces for a webinar with its members and the interested public to present key finding from the **collection of good practices** and to discuss **success factors**, but also to have an exchange – towards the end of the European Year 2022 of Youth – on **supportive legislative and policy frameworks** at the different levels of government and regulation.

## Draft Programme

14:00

### Welcome and Introduction

*Mathias Maucher, Senior Project and Programme Officer, EPR*  
*Rachel Vaughan, Head of Operations, EASPD*

14:10

### Presentation of key findings of the EPR good practice collection on transition programmes and services for young people with disabilities from school or training to employment

*Benedetta Pesce, Junior Project and Events Officer, EPR – followed by Q&A session*

14:25

### Presentation of main insights from promising practices on the transition from education to employment identified by Lighthouse Network EASPD Member Forum on Education

*Rachel Vaughan, Head of Operations, EASPD – followed by Q&A session*

14:40

### Good practice examples by EPR and EASPD members: Key features, challenges, success factors

*Tara Reddin, Service Manager – Transitions, Employment and Community Inclusion Services, Derry, CEDAR Foundation, Northern Ireland*

*Dr. Fabrizio Fea, Associazione Scuola Viva onlus, Rome, Italy & Board Member, EASPD*  
Moderation: *Mathias Maucher, Senior Project and Programme Officer, EPR*

15:15

### Which experiences, proposals and requests has the European Disability Forum (EDF)

*Ben Rowsome, Member of EDF Youth Committee, Ireland (nominated by Autism Europe)*

15:25

### Exchange with EPR and EASPD members and other participants on supportive legislative and policy frameworks and on success factors for transition programmes/measures/services

*Organised in breakout groups*

Moderation of 5 minutes reporting back session: *Laura Jones, Secretary General, EPR*

15:55

### Lessons learnt & Closing remarks

*Laura Jones, Secretary General, EPR*

16:00

End

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## Practical information

This webinar is free and open to the public. To register, please fill in the online registration form [here](#). The deadline to register is 5 December 2022, 14:00 CET. The link to join the meeting (on Zoom) will be communicated to the participants on the afternoon of 5 December 2022.

*This event receives financial support from the European Union, from the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*