Main challenges of return-to-work programmes and trends in services for employers & Thematic focus: Reasonable accommodation

Return to Work/Partnership with Employers Working Group

18 April 2023

15:00 – 17:00 CEST

Online (Zoom)

Background

EPR in 2023 starts the Working Group Return to Work/Partnership with Employers. The WG has been set up to refocus EPR's work on services and tools/instruments by our members targeted to support employers, to continue earlier work on return-to-work programmes and to take up, where relevant, activities done in the last years in the framework of the dedicated Disability Management Working Group[1].

In view of the third item on the agenda, all the participants are asked to come prepared with the inventory of return-to-work programmes and services offered by EPR members to reply to employers' needs to support staff facing the impact of accidents or chronic disease or willing to prevent long-term sickness absence, to start of the exchanges and mutual learning activities.

Agenda

15:00 – 15:10   **Welcome and round of introduction of participants** (Laura Jones, EPR)

15:10 – 15:20   **Setting out key EU-level policy frameworks:** *Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 &* **Disability Employment Package** *– What is particularly relevant for our work in 2023? (Mathias Maucher, EPR)*

15:20 – 16:00   **Partnerships with employers and on return-to-work programmes – What are the main services you provide and what are the main challenges?** (all participants; moderation: Laura Jones, EPR)

16:00 – 16:15   **Illustration for partnerships with employers**: *Using the tools and insights from the* [Change4Inclusion Project](#) *(Patrick Ruppol, GTB), followed by Q&A*

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[1] In 2022 one thematic focus was on working with employers who aim to support their staff facing the impacts of an accident or chronic disease and their return to work. The second aspect planned was exchanging on tools to support employers with effectively rolling out and implementing disability management in their companies. The Working Group Disability Management, however, had to be discontinued due to an insufficient number of EPR members participating on average in the last 2 years.

16:15 – 16:30 **Discussion of the conceptual framework for the practice-oriented toolkit for partnerships with employers,** *building on the [EPR Toolkit Partnership with Employers](#) (2018)* (moderation: Mathias Maucher, EPR)

16:30 – 16:50 **Focus "Reasonable accommodation"**: *What are the main challenges of employers in ensuring reasonable accommodations in your experience?* (moderation: Laura Jones, EPR)

16:55 – 17:00 **Wrapping up the meeting and next steps**, *including date of second and third meeting in 2023* (Laura Jones, EPR)

Registration

To attend this meeting, please register [here](#) at the latest on the 14th April, 12:00 CEST.

The link to join the WG will be sent to all registered participants a few days prior to the event.

If you become unable to attend, please let EPR know in advance.

Contact

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