

DATE:

June 13th, 2023, 11.30 – 12.45

PLACE:

Bahàì International Community
United Nations Office
866 United Nations Plaza

Foto: Željko Santrač

SIDE EVENT DURING COSP – 2023

Universal Design in Kindergarten and School

This event is organized by Rehabilitation International (RI) – Education Commission
– in cooperation with RI Norway and The RI Secretariat in New York



Rehabilitation
International

Background for the Side Event

Rehabilitation International (RI) has thru the project “Universal design in Kindergarten and School” published guidelines and practical tools for use making the kindergarten and schools more accessible and inclusive for all.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Inclusive education involves the understanding that all children have the equal right to quality education regardless of gender, disability, learning difficulties, ethnic or linguistic background, or any other personal feature.

Universally designed education challenges pedagogy and didactics in such a way that communication and preparations are made to make as many as possible of the pupils understand the message.

Universal design manifests differently in different countries. Regardless of how it is done, the guiding principle is that universal design is an essential tool for achieving equality in society.

What does universal design mean in a kindergarten and school perspective?

In this Side event we will present the guidelines and the universal tools. In the guidelines we will present practical tools for use by:

- 1) Children with **hearing impairment**,
- 2) children with **visual impairment**,
- 3) children and youth with a **physical disability** and
- 4) children and youth with **hidden, invisible, and cognitive disabilities**.

In this side event, we will bring panellists and speakers addressing the needs of children and youth with disabilities. As well as examples and advice for the kindergarten and schools and other institutions working with Inclusive Education, who needs these guidelines and tools for making their institutions accessible for all children, including children with disabilities.





Foto: Ivan Jekic



Foto: FatCamera

Program for the Side Event

Welcome speech – Opening and remarks

Ms Gry Haugsbakken, State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture Norway

Conventions and international regulation as a fundament for making kindergarten and school accessible for all

Mr Arne Lein, RI Norway

Different disabilities need different tools – guidelines and universal tools can help us making the kindergarten and school accessible

Mr Jürgen Dusel, Disability Ombud in Germany

Guidelines for parents – how to help parents in the communication with kindergarten and school?

Ms Eva Buchman, Chair of The Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability

How to implement the Universal Design in Kindergarten and School?

Leadership in the implementation process

Ms Tone Mørk, Chair of Education Commission
RI Global

Health equity to advance inclusion for persons with disabilities'

Mr Darryl Barrett, Technical Lead (Disability),
WHO Headquarters

Following up the Project “Universal design in Kindergarten and School – guidelines and tools”. Will it be possible making a symbol for accessible kindergarten and schools?

Ms Teuta Rexhepi, Secretary General RI Global

Moderator: Mr Jan A. Monsbakken, Immediate Past President, Rehabilitation International

RI is a global organization focused on advancing the rights and the inclusion of person with disabilities. RI is a non-governmental organization with ECOSOC status, with UN since 1978. The head-quarter of RI is in New York.

Rehabilitation International is a global network that empowers persons with disabilities and provides sustainable solutions toward achieving a more inclusive society for them.

From the beginning of our history, we have been driven by a strong belief in human potential and equality. It is for this reason that, education and advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities across the world, especially children's and youth, have always been a strong focus for RI. The organisation will continue to have a strong focus on this in the future. RI will take a strong leadership role in these areas as we implement the UN CRPD.

To ensure successful implementing of the goal – “Education for all”, it's important to make the kindergarten and school accessible. In order to achieve this, kindergarten and schools and other institutions working with inclusive education, need guidelines and tools for making their institutions accessible. For that reason, we have designed the Rehabilitation International project “Universal Design in Kindergarten and School, - guidelines and universal tools” to produce guidelines and universal tools that can be used in all countries. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) is a central framework in producing the guidelines and the practical tools.



Foto: SolStock

OUR MISSION

To advance **the rights and inclusion** of persons with disabilities across the world