

Accessibility = Possibility. Universal design as a mean to reach the goal: participation for all

Lessons learned and next steps for Baltic-Nordic NordPlus cooperation

Workshop in Vilnius

12. September 2024

Vilnius City Municipality, 20th floor's Hall ([Konstitucijos pr. 3, Vilnius, 09601 Vilniaus m. sav.](#))

And Online by Teams

Short introduction to the workshop and the NordPlus Project:

The workshop wrap-up the experiences, reflections and findings from the NordPlus Project and explore the relevance and possibilities to continue the cooperation between the initial actors in the project, the actors which have participated in the project and other relevant actors.

Participants in the workshop are invited and consist of the initial actors and the actors which have participated during the project e.g. presented their work with UD.

Partners:

- Agency of the Rights of Person with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania – ANTA;
- Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia
- The Danish Center for Social Science Research – VIVE
- Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities – EPIK

Registration form:

Registration is open until 2024, September 8.

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/W04FZ6jw9Y>

Program

10.00 Arrival of participants

10.30 Welcoming speeches:

Eglė Čaplikienė, ANTA, Director

Brigita Urmanaitė, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, Adviser for Culture and Education

Morning session (11:15 - 12:00): The visions.

Moderator: [Meelis Joost](#), Chairman at EPIK, Estonia

1. Universal Design – what is it and why is it important and useful?
 - The vision and values in Universal Design
 - Cooperation across nations and disciplines is essential.

Speaker: [Ana Staševičienė](#), Adviser of Accessibility Assurance and Consulting Department in ANTA, Lithuania

- The idea and vision in the NordPlusProject: How to make our societies user friendly for all people. Lessons learned from the Accessibility=Possibility NordPlus Adult education project along with examples on practical work with Universal design. Building a model to qualify adult learning about universal design.
- Troubles and troubleshooting: UD has been tried before without success. UD is difficult to distinguish from accessibility;

Speaker: [Lina Gulbinė](#), Head of Accessibility Assurance and Consulting Department in ANTA, Lithuania;

2. Inspiration from the UniversalDesignHub in Denmark where UD is promoted by the Bevica Foundation (<https://universaldesignhub.dk/om-universal-design-hub/>) and gets accepted and transposed into praxis in universities and schools and companies.

Guest speaker: [Camilla Ryhl](#), Research director of Bevica Foundation

Dialogue about the visions, troubles and troubleshooting.

Coffee Break (12:00 - 12:20)

Afternoon session (12:20 - 14:00): Lessons learned and inspiration to move forward

1. Experiences and lessons learned in a Baltic-Nordic NordPlus cooperation project. Moderator [Mari Puuram](#), EPIK, Estonia
 - Sharing the visions and struggles to understand and use the concept universal design
 - Sharing examples cross country and cross professions

Speaker: [Dace Kampenusa](#), Senior expert, Social Services and Policy of Persons with Disabilities department of the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia

- First step and experiences with a model to support future work with universal design in practice
 - o Finding experts
 - o Finding literature
 - o Finding good examples
 - o Bringing it all together in practice

Speaker: [Leif Olsen](#), Senior researcher, cand.scient.soc., ph.d. at VIVE, Denmark

2. Examples

- UD in a Knowledge Center - [Sandra Buklienė](#),
coordinator of Accessibility Consulting Center, ANTA, Lithuania
 - UD in special solutions and innovations – [Elza Eke](#), **Curator of Education, Latvian National Museum of Art, Latvia.**
 - UD in museums – [Mihkel Karu](#), **curator of permanent exhibitions at the Estonian Maritime Museum, Estonia**
 - UD in learning - [Janina Gaarde Rasmussen](#), **analysis and knowledge consultant at the Videnscenter om Handicap (Knowledge Center on Disability), Denmark**
3. Moving forward from accessibility to universal design in theory and practice
- Reflections and dialogue to motivate our future work with Universal Design

Rapporteurs

Ana Staševičienė, Adviser of Accessibility Assurance and Consulting Department in ANTA, Lithuania

She has been involved in various roles related to social welfare and accessibility. For instance, she has contributed to the development of universal design strategies in Vilnius, aiming to make the city more accessible for everyone.

Her work often focuses on ensuring that built environments are suitable for all individuals, including those with disabilities, by adhering to universal design principles. This involves analyzing and improving the legal frameworks that govern accessibility in Lithuania and the European Union.

Lina Gulbinė. Head of Accessibility Assurance and Consulting Department in ANTA, Lithuania

She plays a crucial role in overseeing programs and initiatives aimed at improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Her responsibilities include monitoring and ensuring compliance with accessibility regulations, as well as consulting on best practices for creating inclusive environments. Lina's work is vital in promoting equal opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities in Lithuania.

Meelis Joost, Chairman at EPIK, Estonia

He has been a prominent advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in Estonia. Under his leadership, EPIK has made significant strides in promoting inclusivity and accessibility.

Meelis has been involved in various initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, including advocating for better accessibility solutions and raising awareness about disability rights. His work has been instrumental in shaping policies and practices that support the independence and dignity of people with disabilities in Estonia.

Camilla Ryhl, Research director of Bevica Foundation

Camilla Ryhl is the Research Director at the Bevica Foundation. She is also the Head of the Universal Design Hub at the foundation¹². Her work focuses on promoting universal design, which aims to create products and environments usable by all people without the need for adaptation or specialized design¹. This approach aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the principle of "leave no one behind".

Dace Kampenusa, Senior expert, Social Services and Policy of Persons with Disabilities department of the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia

She is a senior expert at the Ministry of Welfare in Latvia, specifically within the Social Services and Disability Policy Department. She is involved in various initiatives aimed at supporting individuals with disabilities,

including financial aid and services to help mitigate the effects of disabilities.

Leif Olsen, Senior researcher, cand.scient.soc., ph.d. at VIVE, Denmark

He holds a Cand.scient.soc. (Master of Social Science) and a Ph.D. His expertise spans several areas, including housing and physical planning, civic and user involvement, civil society, digitalization and welfare technology, professionals, disability, inclusion, municipalities and regions, crime, care, organization, mental health, and rehabilitation.

Sandra Buklienė, coordinator of Accessibility Consulting Center, ANTA, Lithuania

She plays a crucial role in advocating for and improving accessibility for people with disabilities in various aspects of life, including public spaces, transportation, and services.

Elza Eke, Curator of Education, Latvian National Museum of Art, Latvia

She is involved in developing and coordinating educational programs and activities that aim to engage visitors of all ages with the museum's collections and exhibitions.

Mihkel Karu, curator of permanent exhibitions at the Estonian Maritime Museum, Estonia

With over 15 years of experience in the museum sector, he has worked on various projects, including the permanent exhibitions at the Seaplane Harbour and the icebreaker Suur Tõll. His work focuses on making historical maritime data engaging and accessible through innovative digital solutions.

Janina Gaarde Rasmussen, analysis and knowledge consultant at the Videnscenter om Handicap (Knowledge Center on Disability), Denmark

She works on collecting, processing, and disseminating knowledge about disabilities and participation, with a particular focus on the education sector¹². Janina holds a Cand.pæd. in Pedagogical Anthropology from the Danish School of Education and has extensive experience in knowledge development and dissemination in the field of disabilities.

Mari Puuram, Chief Specialist at EPIK, Estonia

Mari Puuram is a Chief Specialist at the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People (EPIK). She has a background in modern European languages and cultures, specializing in Italian, and is currently studying public administration at Tallinn University. Mari's work at EPIK focuses on accessibility and advocating for a more inclusive society where all members feel valued and have equal opportunities.