EASPD Innovation Awards 2025

A Culture of Inclusion
Enriching lives through Arts, Sports and Leisure

A Culture of Inclusion

EASPD
European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities

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The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities ('EASPD'), a non-profit NGO in the disability sector, promotes the views of over 20,000 social services and their umbrella associations. We promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high-quality service systems.

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1 Foreword: EASPD Innovation Awards 2025

Beyond the essential rights to education, employment, care and support, there is something equally vital: the right to thrive. This is at the heart of Article 30 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which most clearly frames the right to participate in cultural life, recreation, sport and leisure.

These are not mere luxuries or pastimes. They are the sparks that ignite our joy, the building blocks of our confidence, and the bridges that connect us to build communities. They shape our identities and fill our lives with meaning.

To truly champion this right, we must embrace a culture of inclusion, combat stereotypes and break down the barriers that keep persons with disabilities on the margins of cultural and social life. It takes vision, collaboration and above all, a change of mindset. Support services, cultural centres, sports clubs and communities at large have a role to play in ensuring that persons with disabilities are supported and empowered to express, to experience, to dream, to connect and to find joy in cultural and leisure activities. But it all begins with listening to the voices of persons with disabilities, understanding their needs and wishes, and co-creating opportunities and spaces that are truly accessible and welcoming.

> **We must embrace a culture of inclusion, combat stereotypes and break down the barriers.**

The recognition of this right has been the motivation for EASPD to make it one of its eight main areas of work, to form the Member Fora on Arts and Culture, to host our Gandía Conference and to identify and raise awareness of promising practices in the context of the EASPD Innovation Awards 2025.

This year, we received an incredible number of submissions, each one a testament to the dedication and creativity to drive inclusion forward. From this collection, we are proud to recognise six innovative practices from organisations that use arts, culture, music, sports and volunteering to create meaningful opportunities for persons with disabilities to express themselves creatively and participate in their community on an equal basis with others.

In this regard, these outstanding initiatives across Europe demonstrate what is required to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy arts, sports and leisure. It predominantly means to create a culture of inclusion, throughout society, and being pro-active in making this happen. Let these practices inspire us all to do more, to reach further and to build a world where every person can truly enjoy their lives.

I wish to thank all those who applied for this call to submit innovative practices. Your efforts are invaluable contributions to a more inclusive society. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the jury who dedicated their time and effort to carefully evaluate the practices submitted.

Kirsi Konola
EASPD President

2 A Culture of Inclusion: Enriching lives through Arts, Sports and Leisure

Hosted within the framework of the **EASPD and Espurna Foundation's International Conference "A Culture of Inclusion Enriching lives through Arts, Sports and Leisure"** in Gandía, Spain, (May 2025), the fifth edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards focuses on supporting and empowering persons with disabilities to enjoy a fulfilling social life and connect with their community, in line with Article 30 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The EASPD Innovation Awards are an opportunity to discover innovative practices that enable the inclusion and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities. In this sense, the aim is to learn from support service providers and organisations that have developed new and innovative approaches. These awards also aim to understand the challenges and opportunities these innovative practices have encountered; their impact on persons with disabilities, as well as how these practices can be transferred to other contexts and be sustainable, available and accessible.

In line with these objectives, the practices selected by the jury as winners of the EASPD Innovation Awards 2025 showcase several examples of how organisations have developed practices that empower people with disabilities to participate in cultural, recreational, leisure and sports activities in the community.

3 Selection process

Overview of the process

The annual EASPD Innovation Awards are based on a multi-stage process:

1. Submission of applications from organisations
2. Internal review by EASPD Secretariat against eligibility criteria
3. Assessment by a panel of experts and independent judges against the eligibility criteria, including reviewing and scoring the practices.

For both the internal pre-assessment and the assessment carried out by the jury, EASPD has developed guidelines that provide evaluators with a clear definition of each eligibility criterion, as well as an evaluation grid that enables them to score each practice alongside each criterion on a scale of 1 to 5.

Each year a jury is formed comprising of a mix of experts, including public authorities, service providers, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO) representatives and researchers specialised in the topic. The Jury plays a crucial role in the evaluation process by ensuring that the winning practices are selected by independent experts and stakeholders based on transparent criteria.

The 6 applications that received the combined highest percentage of votes from the independent jury have been selected as winners and are presented in this brochure.

Eligibility criteria

These criteria reflect the focus on practices that are innovative, user-centred, sustainable, and adaptable, with the view of both rewarding such efforts, and encouraging other organisations to develop similar approaches.

The eligibility criteria can be divided into two sub-groups: recurring criteria, which are assessed every year, and specific criteria, which are linked to the theme of the conference.

The recurring criteria are as follows:

1. The practice needs to be an 'innovative practice', in the sense that the practice is:
   - **Innovative:** it encompasses a new (or optimised), more effective and efficient solution to respond to the needs and wishes of persons with disabilities.
   - **Human rights-based**: it is aligned with the UNCRPD, is person-centred and human rights-based. It is co-produced with persons with disabilities, their families and representatives. The practice fosters the community and social engagement of persons with disabilities.
   - **Effective**: it is demonstrably impactful.

The specific criteria are those that are related to the theme of the conference. For the fifth edition, this means criteria linked to the topic of supporting and empowering people with disabilities to participate in cultural, recreational, leisure and sports activities in the community.

a) The practice provides opportunity to persons with disabilities to choose what to do in their free time, including participation in arts, culture, recreation, sports, social life and other leisure activities such as volunteering, on an equal basis with others.

b) The practice promotes and fosters inclusion of persons with disabilities and their social engagement in the community on an equal basis with others and by no means represents a form of segregation.

c) The practice is sustainable and transferable, in the sense of its long-term viability and the potential for a practice to be adapted or replicated in different contexts or locations.

4.1 European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (FEG) & European Network for Accessible Tourism asbl. (ENAT),
'T-GUIDE – Guiding People with Learning Difficulties'

Short description of the organisations:
The European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (FEG) is a non-profit pan-European organisation based in France, that serves as the voice of professional tourist guides across Europe. FEG brings together national tourist guide associations to promote and improve the quality of guiding services offered to visitors throughout Europe.

The European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) is a non-profit association based in Belgium, dedicated to promoting accessible tourism. ENAT aims to make European tourism destinations, products and services accessible to all visitors, regardless of age or ability. It brings together organisations and individuals from the private, public and NGO sectors to evaluate good practices and endorse services and products for accessible tourism.

Country: France and Belgium

Website: www.feg-touristguides.com, www.accessibletourism.org

Contact details (name and email):
Efi Kalampoukidou, FEG ExCo president: president@feg-touristguides.org
Ivor Ambrose, ENAT Managing Director: enat@accessibletourism.org

Quote from organisation: *"T-Guide empowers tourist guides to open doors to culture, history and experiences for everyone, ensuring that no story is left untold".*

Description of practice: The T-GUIDE - Guiding People with Learning Difficulties- training is a life-long learning course co-developed by FEG & ENAT that is offered to qualified tourist guides operating in Europe. The training consists of a comprehensive 4-stage training that includes theory, practice, and assessment. Candidates are accredited by a joint committee of experts appointed by FEG and ENAT after having passed all 4 stages of training, giving trainees a T-GUIDE Certificate of Competence, which is recognised by Tourist Guide Associations across Europe. The process encompasses a continuing professional development (CPD) in theory and practice, assessment and a certificate of competence. Overall evaluations, training material updates and impact assessments of the T-GUIDE course are undertaken annually.

The qualification has been active from 2016 to 2024 and is now ongoing as an FEG & ENAT "T-GUIDE" life-long learning course. 150 cultural heritage sites and museums in Europe have benefited, resulting in accessible visits & plans for the local communities with learning difficulties.

Funding:
The project was initially funded between 2013-2016 by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme "Leonardo Da Vinci" with 9 different partners. Since 2015 – when the learning programme was created as an accredited course jointly by FEG & ENAT, it has been offered with a training fee. This fee is either paid by the candidate tourist guides themselves or sponsored by the national tourist guide associations as CDP to their members, by public authorities, or by private companies and organisations sponsorship.

Impact:
The beneficiaries are thousands of groups of visitors who have been guided by all certified T-GUIDEs. Also, the sites, museum staff and directors benefit from the tour preparations and the actual guided tours, since they can also learn about these groups of visitors and how to support them to access the cultural space.

The most important barrier that has been removed by the course is the lack of awareness among tourist guides, cultural sites, cultural and touristic destination workers about visitors with learning difficulties. These visitors can have enjoyable experiences with appropriately trained guides and the suitable preparations for the staff of the sites, monuments and museums they visit.

Between 2016-2024, 120 tourist guides from 14 different European countries have been trained in small groups, with 105 of them being certified as T-GUIDEs.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability:
The training course modules are readily transferable to all countries' qualified tourist guides, as a common European CPD training. The certification is continuously evaluated, revised and updated, using digital technology and innovative training methodology, including theory and practice.

4.2 Goethe-Institut Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of the EUNIC Cluster Bosnia and Herzegovina,

'ALL INCLUSIVE - Performing Arts for Diversity and Social Inclusion'

Short description of the organisation:
The EUNIC Cluster Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) network, comprising cultural institutions from EU member states and associated countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the cluster includes the Goethe-Institut, Institut Français, Austrian Cultural Forum, Romanian Cultural Institute, and the EU Delegation, among others. Their collaborative efforts focus on fostering intercultural dialogue, promoting inclusive citizenship and strengthening cultural heritage through various initiatives and partnerships.

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Website: www.goethe.de/ins/ba/de/kul/sup/allinclusive.html, europeanspacesofculture.eu

Contact details (name and email):
Simone Voigt
simone.voigt@goethe.de

> **Quote from organisation:** *"With this project, we succeeded in giving voice to Roma communities, persons with disabilities and people on the move through collective creativity and raising awareness of the issue of marginalisation in Bosnian society".*

Description of practice: ALL INCLUSIVE is a socio-cultural project that addresses a significant gap in the cultural landscape of Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) by introducing innovative models of social integration. Centred on the performing arts, the project promotes the social inclusion of people with disabilities and other marginalised groups, such as Roma communities and individuals on the move along the Balkan Route, empowering them to actively shape and participate

in cultural activities. ALL INCLUSIVE seeks to connect communities, break down social barriers, and foster a solidarity-based society rooted in empathy and mutual understanding by harnessing the transformative power of dance, theatre, music and storytelling. It challenges conventional narratives and integration approaches, promoting instead inclusive co-creation and shared artistic agency.

Through collaborative workshops co-produced with and for disadvantaged communities, participants uncover hidden talents and develop creative and professional skills. These workshops are facilitated by established artists, including professionals with disabilities, who serve as mentors and role models. This inclusive process culminates in a multidisciplinary theatre production that amplifies underrepresented voices and offers a meaningful space for cultural expression. The production becomes a platform for cross-community cooperation and advocacy, encouraging participants to become active multipliers of their own stories and agents of change in the broader fight against discrimination and dehumanisation.

Funding:

The ALL INCLUSIVE project is funded by the EUNIC programme European Spaces of Culture 2024/2025, with support from the Goethe-Institut, Institut Français, Austrian Cultural Forum, Romanian Cultural Institute, and the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The local partners (SARTR, MESS-Festival, IOM, VII Academy) provided additional contributions and resources, ensuring inclusive access and long-term sustainability. In-kind support includes venues, media partnerships, and expert facilitation.

Impact:

ALL INCLUSIVE redefines the concept of inclusion by positioning persons with disabilities and others from marginalised backgrounds as creative leaders. The project cultivates artistic collaboration beyond social labels, uniting diverse communities on stage and in spirit. In this context, it aims for a long-lasting impact on both participants and audiences by cultivating awareness, unity and appreciation for diversity, creating a cultural shift towards a more inclusive and just society.

The showcase of the theatre play “Up and Down” including 7 young people with Down syndrome in a Special Program at MESS-Festival as well as the photo exhibition “Stories That Matter” had a great impact on the public and raised the visibility of people with disabilities, their lives and talents in B&H, reaching over 400 spectators. 5 capacity building workshops in storytelling, music and dance provided 13 participants with different disabilities with creative skills, boosting independence, confidence and self-expression. This laid the foundations for their further engagement in an inclusive theatre production.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability:

ALL INCLUSIVE ensures long-term impact by equipping participants with lasting artistic and professional skills. Its co-creative, accessible model is scalable and adaptable to cultural and geographical contexts. Workshops and best practices are documented for civil society organisations and cultural institutions, while networks among artists, NGOs and theatres foster continuity. The final performance and the exhibition can be adapted and toured, broadening its reach, while the methodology remains transferable across art forms, reinforcing cultural participation beyond this project cycle.

4.3 International Coaching Course (ITK), *'Including Inclusion'*

Short description of the organisation:
The International Coaching Course (ITK) is a postgraduate education programme for sports professionals from developing and emerging countries. Established in 1964, it is conducted by the Faculty of Sport Science at Leipzig University and integrated into Germany's Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy, with funding by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State of Saxony.

The course combines theoretical and practical learning in disciplines such as football, athletics, swimming and inclusive sports, with a focus on youth sports. ITK is open to professionals from countries listed in the OECD DAC list and offers multilingual translation in English, French and Spanish to promote accessibility. ITK promotes life-long learning, inclusion, diversity and international exchange. Graduates return to their countries with skills to advance national and local sports systems and become part of a global network spanning over 140 countries. Since its founding, ITK alumni form a global ITK network committed to using sports as a tool for positive change in the promotion of sports worldwide. By enabling alumni to become change agents in their communities, the ITK model ensures long-lasting impact. This focus lies on long-term empowerment through skill-building, stakeholder engagement and alumni leadership.

Country: Germany

Region/city: Leipzig

Website: www.spowi.uni-leipzig.de/studium/vor-dem-studium/internationaler-trainerkurs/ueber-uns

Contact details (name and email):
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Petra Riedinger-Andrä, ITK Coordinator (Leipzig University)
petra.riedinger@uni-leipzig.de

> **Quote from organisation:** *"We train coaches to shape futures and build champions through sports and inclusion".*

Description of practice:
AITK launched the Alumni Working Group "Including Inclusion", assembling five ITK alumni from five global regions. These representatives receive two years of expert training in curriculum development, presentation and leadership skills, project management and fundraising. The programme includes online workshops, in-person training and field visits to the German Paralympic Sports Association. The programme will culminate in a workshop series during the 2025 Inclusion Symposium in North Macedonia.

Each participant will mentor fellow alumni and establish regional inclusion networks to multiply the project's reach. This initiative exemplifies the ITK's commitment to fostering lifelong learning and international collaboration among its alumni by ensuring that its graduates continue to contribute positively to sports and societal structures in their respective countries. Through these efforts, the ITK strengthens its global network and promotes the development of inclusive sports practices worldwide. Integration into the national sports system in the form of curriculum development is also of crucial importance for sustainable and inclusive development that leaves no one behind.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability: The ITK Alumni Working Group on Inclusion fosters a sustainable impact by training participants as multipliers and mentors. These alumni, trained in curriculum development, project management and fundraising, are empowered to create their own local networks and initiatives, thus ensuring the longevity of the project's impact. The focus on fundraising and engagement with stakeholders also provides the necessary resources for the continuation and expansion of the initiative.

Funding: Since 1991, the ITK has been funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and since 2021, it has also received additional support from the State of Saxony through the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture, and Tourism. The 'Including Inclusion' project in particular is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Impact: ITK has trained over 5,800 sports professionals, indirectly reaching tens of thousands of athletes and communities. Additionally, its commitment to inclusion and the development of sport for people with disabilities has had a significant impact on enabling individuals with disabilities to participate in sports and live more actively, thereby fostering community and social engagement. The key has been empowering local coaches with the necessary skills and knowledge through structured curricula development. ITK facilitates the creation of inclusive sports programmes that allow people with disabilities to participate in mainstream sports.

4.4 Nevronas, *"Nevronas FESTival: Inclusive Volunteering Programme'*

Short description of the organisation:
Nevronas is a non-profit organisation based in Greece, dedicated to raising awareness and promoting inclusion and accessibility within the community. At its core, Nevronas fosters a culture of active participation and equal opportunity, where disability is viewed not as a limitation but as a different perspective on navigating life and work. Its mission is to create inclusive bridges — connecting communities, inspiring awareness, and enabling people with disabilities to become empowered, visible, and respected contributors in society. Nevronas runs a wide range of programmes and initiatives such as (a) workshops on Neurodiversity and Inclusive Employment aimed at raising awareness and transforming workplaces in the open labour market;

(b) supporting the integration neurodivergent people through reasonable accommodation and accessibility strategies (e.g., partnerships with companies like the Four Seasons); (c) raising awareness about autism in schools to nurture empathy and understanding from young age and; (c) organising fully accessible and inclusive events, such as the Nevronas FESTival.

Country: Greece

Region/City: Athens, Attica

Website: www.nevronas.gr, www.festival.nevronas.gr

Contact details (name and email):
Nikos Pagidas, Founder and Director
team@nevronas.gr

Quote from organisation: *"Inclusion begins when we see not differences, but people; when we connect, empower and create spaces where accessibility becomes the key to unleashing everyone's potential".*

NEVRONAS

www.nevronas.gr

Description of practice: The Nevronas FESTival is a Festival of Inclusive Performing Arts and Artistic Interaction, held annually at the Technopolis of the Municipality of Athens. This event, which has successfully run for three consecutive years, aims at promoting accessibility and inclusion in arts without barriers or discrimination, to celebrate diversity while empowering professional and amateur artists with and without disabilities.

A cornerstone of the festival is its Inclusive Volunteering Programme, which brings together persons with and without disabilities to work together. Over the years, the programme has seen remarkable growth of volunteers with different types of disabilities such as physical, visual and auditory impairments, as well as those who are neurodiverse or have a psychosocial disability. The Volunteering Programme offers volunteers the opportunity to develop skills by cooperating with their peers, learning from the festival and engaging in social interactions with participants. Additionally, volunteers are encouraged to enjoy the festival by participating in events, workshops and performances so that they can also immerse themselves in the activities.

Volunteers receive specialised training on disability, neurodiversity and inclusion. This training, delivered by professionals in the field, ensures that volunteers are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to foster a truly inclusive environment. The training is provided and improved every year to upskill volunteers, taking into consideration volunteers' needs and ideas for improving the organisation of the event. Often, tailored and targeted training sessions are also organised.

Funding: Donations from private companies and individuals, support from disability organisations and ticket sales for the festival.

Impact:
The Nevronas FESTival has had a transformative impact on its participants. The festival has created opportunities for volunteers with and without disabilities to develop skills including communication, problem-solving, coordination and teamwork while engaging in an inclusive space that allows everyone to enjoy the arts.

Volunteers, especially those with disabilities, have reported enhanced self-confidence, improved skills, and the creation of lasting social connections. The programme's emphasis on inclusion has also inspired volunteers to embrace and promote diversity in their communities.

The Volunteering Programme has also become a long-term engagement for many volunteers, who return every year and even recommend the experience to other people. Many eagerly anticipate the next event and continue to engage with Nevronas' broader activities. Notably, one of the volunteers with disabilities has joined the Nevronas team as a full-time employee, further underscoring the programme's success in promoting inclusion and empowerment.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability:
The Nevronas FESTival inclusive model is adaptable and replicable across countries, municipalities and regions. Its success relies on two key pillars: expert-led training programmes that ensure the delivery of high-quality training sessions, effective knowledge transfer and adequate support, coupled with sustainable funding through a diverse mix of corporate sponsorships and community support, which secures the long-term viability and impact of the initiative.

4.5 Savas Foundation, *'SavasRock'*

Short description:
Savas Foundation (in Finnish: Savas-Säätiö sr, Savas) is a Finnish non-profit organisation operating across the Savo region, dedicated to providing housing and day activity services for persons with developmental disabilities, autism, mental health challenges, and others requiring support. Savas emphasises person-centred support, offering tailored services that promote autonomy and community inclusion.

The Foundation's mission is to enable individuals to lead fulfilling lives by recognising and nurturing their unique strengths and needs. With a workforce of approximately 330 employees, Savas continues to develop and deliver services that enhance the well-being and participation of those they support.

Country: Finland

Region: Savo region, East of Finland

Website: www.savas.fi

Contact details (name and email):
Anu Lund
anu.lund@savas.fi
Anna-Mari Kämäräinen
anna-mari.kamarainen@savas.fi

savas
Savas-Säätiö

Quote from organisation:
"Flexible individual life options".

Description of practice:
SavasRock is an inclusive rock festival aiming to raise awareness of intellectual disabilities, break barriers and remove prejudices. Moving away from events exclusively for persons with disabilities, this event gathers everyone to enjoy music in a friendly atmosphere, providing a real festival experience with top artists and restaurant services, alcohol and street food.

People's special support needs have been taken into account in every aspect, for example, the environment has been illustrated using Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) images and the event has a quiet space where participants can calm their senses if needed. Sign language interpretation of the music is also available.

Funding:
SavasRock is mainly funded by grants and money donated by local companies, as well as admission ticket income. The Savas Foundation gives working time to the employees to organise the event. Savas Foundation provides financial support.

Impact:
The event has been organised seven times, with the event's audience expanding each edition. In recent years, the number of participants has ranged between 350 and 400 people annually. SavasRock has received very positive feedback about the arrangements and facilities. Additionally, participants have emphasised social interaction as one of the most valuable experiences in the event, highlighting its capacity to promote interpersonal relations and build a sense of community.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability:
The event concept is both transferable and sustainable. The employees of the event are the foundation's workers and experts in the field of intellectual disabilities and thus know the needs of the target group and their special needs. The event also receives volunteer workers from social and health care students.

4.6 Supereroi Printre Noi,
'Art is everyone's gift'

Short description:
Supereroi Printre Noi (Superheroes Among Us, in English) is a Romanian non-profit organisation founded in 2015, dedicated to promoting the social inclusion of individuals with disabilities through accessible and inclusive cultural and social events. Beyond events, the organisation develops educational resources for children with special needs, offers support for parents and teachers and provides consultancy services to help other cultural operators make their activities more accessible. By combining culture, advocacy, and education, Supereroi Printre Noi aims to build a more inclusive and compassionate society where everyone — regardless of ability — can fully participate and thrive.

Country: Romania

Region: Bucharest and Timisoara

Website: www.supereroiprintrenoi.ro

Contact details (name and email):
Ruxandra Mateescu
contact@supereroiprintrenoi.ro

> **Quote from organisation:** *"We wanted to create a community where no one felt as lonely as we did after our diagnosis. And the cultural environment gave us the perfect pretext. Because art is everyone's gift".*

Description of practice:
Supereroi Printre Noi's goal with 'Arts is everyone gifts' focuses on raising awareness, fostering empathy and promoting equal participation for neurodiverse persons and persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities, by organising fully accessible and inclusive events. These events include adapted concerts, theatre performances, literature clubs, exhibitions and film screenings tailored to the needs of people with complex disabilities. The events also aim to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities by sharing their life stories, combating stereotypes and encouraging social understanding.

Among Supereroi Printre Noi's most successful events include an adapted cinema, "Olga's Movies" that has had over 45 editions, as well as inclusive rock and classical music concerts and Disco Night parties. These events take place in accessible venues with staff trained to interact appropriately with persons with disabilities, enabling a cultural experience in an accessible and welcoming environment. The organisation has also developed resources and guides for organising accessible events and digital content, and provides support to organisations in creating inclusive environments for cultural experiences.

Funding:
Supereroi Printre Noi relies on a diversified source of funding including crowdfunding campaigns, sponsorships from small businesses, in-kind contributions and community support, paid consultancy services on cultural accessibility for various private and public cultural operators in Bucharest and Timisoara (European Capital of Culture 2023), in addition to long-term partnership with major cultural institutions such as the British Council.

Sustainability, success factors and transferability:
Supereroi Printre Noi demonstrates strong potential for transferability, as its inclusive cultural event models — such as sensory-adapted film screenings and accessible concerts — can be replicated in various local and international contexts with appropriate customisation. In terms of sustainability, the organisation builds long-term impact by fostering partnerships with cultural venues and major cultural institutions such as the British Council, training staff for inclusivity, and cultivating a growing community of participants and allies who become multipliers for accessibility and inclusive culture.

Impact:
Supereroi Printre Noi's projects have been running for ten years. The organisation of many successful events has created a close-knit community of thousands of people with and without disabilities who participate every year. In 2019 alone, the organisation hosted 28 public events in the community, which benefited approximately 1350 persons with disabilities, their families and friends.

5 Outcomes for winners

We wish to warmly congratulate all the winners of this edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards!

These six practices have all developed innovative and forward-looking projects in line with our 2025 focus on **Arts, Sports and Leisure.**

The winners of the fifth edition of the EASPD Innovation Awards have received a prize at the EASPD International Conference '**A Culture of Inclusion Enriching lives through Arts, Sports and Leisure'**, hosted in Gandia, Spain (May 2025).

With these awards, we aim to spotlight the remarkable work of support and social care providers to ensure persons with disabilities can enjoy their human rights on an equal basis to others.

We hope that, like us, you are being inspired by the work of the EASPD Innovation Awards 2025 Winners!

6 Acknowledgements

EASPD would like to thank the following jury members for their time in reviewing the submitted practices as part of the EASPD Innovation Awards:

- **Antonio García,** Espurna Foundation
- **Hanga Hegedűs,** ÉTA National Association
- **Humberto Insolera,** European Disability Forum
- **Martin Reichstein,** Centre for Planning and Evaluation of Social Services (ZPE) - University of Siegen
- **Wilfried Kainz,** Zero Project

7 What's next for innovation at EASPD?

At EASPD, we believe that knowledge and innovation are essential pillars for driving sustainable growth and transformation in the social service sector. Our commitment is to foster inclusive, high-quality support systems that enable full participation and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Each year, we take pride in celebrating the outstanding efforts of organisations that champion innovative services and programmes promoting participation, inclusion, and enjoyment of life for all.

This year **EASPD's Innovation Awards** spotlight good practices that advance the implementation of Article 30 of the UNCRPD, ensuring access to cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport for persons with disabilities.

Our **Knowledge & Innovation Team (KIT)** is responsible for developing, coordinating, and promoting these awards and a wide range of knowledge-based initiatives designed to strengthen the capacities of service providers and inspire innovation in service development.

Our central platform, the **Knowledge Hub** serves as a dynamic space for learning, sharing, and collaboration. It offers tools, training materials, guidance, and practical insights to support the delivery of high-quality services.

Currently, the Knowledge Hub features:

E-Learning: access to over 30 training courses designed to equip service providers with essential knowledge, skills, and competencies across a wide range of relevant topics.

E-Library: A growing collection of 100+ carefully selected resources, including research papers, toolkits, good practice models, handbooks, and policy documents.

E-Catalogue: a collection of good practices will soon be launched.

The KIT also organises regular online and in-person events, including our popular **Knowledge Cafés**, which give voice to service providers and users, creating space to exchange ideas and explore emerging topics in disability services.

In addition, our **Lighthouse Network** initiative promotes peer learning by connecting EASPD members through study visits and training activities focused on themes such as change management, supported decision-making, inclusive education, and person-centred technology.

Want to get involved?
Become an EASPD member and gain access to all these opportunities and more!

Use the QR code to access our Knowledge Hub

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