



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA



## Conference

# The Opportunities and Challenges of Rehabilitation and Employability of People with Disabilities in Latvia and Europe

17 June 2016

The Main Building of the Saeima, Red Room,  
Jēkaba iela 11, Riga

### Background

The aim of national awareness-raising event organised by SIVA in collaboration with the European Platform for Rehabilitation and the Social and Employment Matters Committee of the Saeima of Latvia is to inform society and stakeholders regarding current opportunities and challenges of rehabilitation and employability of people with disabilities in Latvia and Europe.

According to the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, to achieve the EU's growth targets, more people with disabilities need to be in paid employment on the open labour market. According the results of a survey carried out within the framework of *Leonardo da Vinci* project "Ability not Disability in Workplace" Latvian companies generally play a passive role in recruiting people with special needs, especially those that have never considered hiring a disabled person. They believe that Latvian public associations and foundations should be the first to offer disabled people a job option.



This event has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

## Programme

- 8.30 – 9.00**      **Registration (Red Room)**
- 9.00 – 9.30**      **Opening speeches (Red Room)**  
*Aija Barča, Chairperson, Social and Employment Matters Committee of the Saeima*  
*Karina Korna, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare*  
*Iлона Jurševska, Director, Social Integration State Agency*
- 9.30 – 9.50**      **The role of the European Union in promoting the employability of people with disabilities**  
*Gunta Anča, Chairperson, Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations*  
*SUSTENTO, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee and Vice-president of the European Disability Forum*
- 9.50 – 10.10**    **Building capacity for excellence in service provision**  
*Laura Jones, Secretary General of the European Platform for Rehabilitation*
- 10.10 – 10.30**    *Pēteris Leiškalns, representative of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia, expert on social matters and social security (TBC)*
- 10.30 – 11.00**    **Coffee Break (Voting Room)**
- 11.00 – 11.20**    **Current activities for promotion of employment of people with disabilities in Latvia**  
*Imants Lipskis, Head of the Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare*
- 11.20 – 11.40**    **Support services for people with disabilities provided by the State Employment Agency**  
*Inese Kalvāne, Director of the State Employment Agency*
- 11.40 – 12.00**    **Employment of people with disabilities – for the benefit of Europe**  
*Laura Jones, Secretary General of European Platform for Rehabilitation*
- 12.00 – 12.20**    **Challenges of Employability for people with mental disabilities**  
*Irina Rulle, representative of NGO Saule*
- 12.20 – 12.40**    *Edgars Vorslovs, President of Latvian Association of the Deaf (TBC)*
- 12.40 – 13.00**    **Vocational rehabilitation in Lithuania: ensuring system operation and quality**  
*Natalja Markovskaja, Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre*
- 13.00 – 13.30**    **Discussion and conclusions**
- 13.30 – 14.30**    **Lunch (the Saeima Canteen)**
- 14.30**            **Departure for the Social Integration State Agency in Jūrmala**

Channels: 0 – floor; 1 – Latvian; 2 – English

Discussion live-streamed on the Saeima webpage [www.saeima.lv](http://www.saeima.lv)



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