

INTENTION TO COOPERATE

in the preparation and dissemination of the Bench book on ensuring accessibility and equal opportunities for all persons in judicial and other proceedings

In the framework of the *ENABLE* project - *Inclusion and Access to Justice for Defendants with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities* (101056701 - *ENABLE* - JUST-2021- JACC)¹ has

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment

in cooperation with project partners:

Validity Foundation² (HU)
Centrul de Resurse Juridice³ (RO)
Fenacerci - Federação Nacional de Cooperativas de Solidariedade Social⁴ (PT)
Human Rights Forum⁵ (EN)
The International Commission of Jurists - European Institutions⁶ (BE)
KERA Foundation⁷ (BG)
Confederación Plena Inclusión España⁸ (ES)
Mental Health Perspectives⁹ (LT)

and the members of the working group for the preparation of the bench book, prepared

A BENCH BOOK on ensuring accessibility and equal opportunities for all persons in judicial and other proceedings.

¹ <https://pic.si/enable/>

² <http://validity.ngo/>

³ <https://www.crj.ro/>

⁴ <https://www.fenacerci.pt/>

⁵ <https://forumhr.eu/cs/uvod/>

⁶ <https://www.icj.org/country/icj-european-institutions/>

⁷ <https://www.kerafoundation.com/>

⁸ <https://www.plenainclusion.org/>

⁹ <https://perspektivos.org/>

The bench book¹⁰ is intended to provide information to all those who come into contact with people with disabilities in court and other proceedings. It aims to ensure that procedures are accessible to people with disabilities and that they are treated fairly and equally by official bodies. In general, it aims to ensure access to justice for people with disabilities and contains practical information and guidelines for working and communicating.

As part of the final activities of the preparation of the bench book, the PIC prepared a document for expressing intention to further cooperate in the preparation and dissemination of the bench book, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the ENABLE project and its results.

Various stakeholders from different areas of work were invited to express their support. Participants in the meetings of the working group for the preparation of the bench book and participants in the training where the handbook was piloted were invited to sign the letter of intent to further cooperate.

Signatories to the document expressing intention to cooperate can participate in the preparation and dissemination of the bench book in the following ways (but not necessarily):

- internal dissemination of information about the bench book,
- disseminating information about the bench book via the websites of those involved, as well as via social media accounts,
- preparing the presentation of the bench book in peer-reviewed journals,
- organising events to promote the bench book and its use,
- disseminating the bench book by making it available in printed versions, etc.

The signatories to the document shall implement the above within their respective capabilities and capacities.

At the same time, the initiator of the intention to cooperate (PIC) will invite as many representatives as possible from relevant stakeholders working in the field of justice, police, social work, NGOs and others who come into contact with persons with disabilities in judicial and extrajudicial proceedings to participate in the activities of preparing and disseminating the bench book.

¹⁰ In many Anglo-Saxon law countries, including the UK, the USA and Australia, bench books play an important role in court and other proceedings, as they are a practical tool for access to information for people who come into contact with people with disabilities and for people with disabilities themselves.

Representatives of the following institutions will be invited to contribute to the preparation and dissemination of the bench book:

General Police Directorate
Association of centres for social work (SCSD)
Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia
District State Prosecutor's Offices
Supreme State Prosecutor's Offices
Specialised State Prosecutor's Office
Slovenian Bar Association
Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office
Advocate of the Principle of Equality
National Council of Disability Organisations of Slovenia

By signing and implementing the intention to cooperate in the preparation and dissemination of the "BENCH BOOK to ensuring accessibility and equal opportunities for all persons in judicial and other proceedings", the signatories will work together to ensure and promote better access to justice for persons with disabilities.

The bench book will serve as a tool to guide different professionals in communicating and working with people with disabilities in the processes they are involved in.

The following have expressed electronically their intention to cooperate:

Ana Bajc, *CIRIUS Vipava*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sara Doljak Ahlin, *lawyer and mediator*

Dr. Nataša Dernovšek Hafner, *Research Associate, Sociomedical Institute, ZRC SAZU*

Dr. Simona Gerenčer, *Deafblind Association of Slovenia DLAN*

Mirjam Kline, *Deputy Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia, VDT*

Tatjana Knapp, *Zavod RISA*

Ana Lavrenčič, *CIRIUS Vipava*

Neža Miklič, *Senior Police Inspector, General Police Directorate*



Co-funded by
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Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Marjana Milek Ogrinc, *Intervention Service, Social Work Centre Zasavje*

Bojan Mord, *Slovenian Sign Language House*

Simona Ratajc, *Slovenian Association of Social Workers*

Zoran Stankič Rupnik, *lawyer*

Barbara Šegula Škoberne, *PhD, Specialist in Psychiatry, Specialist in Secondary and Young Psychiatry*

Katarina Tinauer, *Violence Prevention Coordinator, Social Work Centre Osrednja Slovenija Zahod*

Anja Verovšek, *Senior Judicial Adviser (PDI), ODT Ljubljana*

Sonja Žugič, *Disability Protection Coordinator, Social Work Centre Posavje*