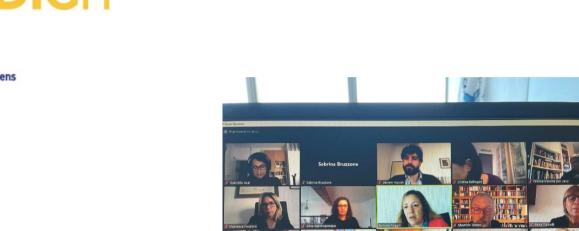# Municipality of Genoa

Local workshop: The disabled persons, the digital divide and citizenship

March 10th

Barbara Poggio, International Relationship Affairs

Municipality Of Genoa

Number of attendees (citizens): 17   % Women: 80
Number of experts (local stakeholders, cities staff): 15   % Men: 20

Expert committee stakeholders

The city of Genoa decided to focus its workshop on "The disabled persons, the digital divide and the citizenship" on the experiences grown in the city during the pandemic emergency and on general actions taken by the city to involve people with disabilities. The theme has been tackled by different perspectives such as:

- How the Municipality of Genoa works together with stakeholders and associations to help disabled people. The role of the Disability Manager in the city

- How young people and children lived during the lockdown and how digital helped them to keep contact with the external world

- How the families of people with disabilities lived during the isolation caused by the health emergency: the actions taken, the relationship with digital technology, the importance of digital also in the future

Citizens committee

Main reactions, lessons learned, expressed needs and proposals "from the field":

▶ **Action/Project n°1:**

In our Municipality has been created a round table composed of local authorities, associations and stakeholders to discuss on topics related to disability; for instance inclusive paths has been created regarding access to museums, cultural events, accessibility to the website, mobility etc The Disability manager has the role to coordinate this round table and to give input to the administration

▶ **Action/Project n°2:**

Digital brought many advantages in education, also for disabled people. But in different cases caused social exclusion. For instance people with autism, with big problem of communication finding in digital instruments an escape for real life, which brought many problems of isolations. Also the lack of access to devices in many families, was a real big issue to deal with

▶ **Action/Project n°3:**

Despite the lack of physical contacts, essential for this group of people, online meetings had a general succes as they allowed relationships during lockdown. But, in many cases, families of disabled persons faced many difficulties and felt a sense of loneliness. A great experience was one of the main social association in Genoa, named « Celivo » : before starting to work with disable people online, some educators asked them for training courses that they followed, to learn how to get truly in contact and work digitally with disabled people.

Best practices

Among all actions/projects, please identify some best practices: *(minimum 3)*

1. The role of the Disability Manager and the round table on disable people

2. The training courses followed by the operators of the associations

3. The access to the museums, and all the inclusive services implemented by the Municipality

Relevance of selected best practices
Link with EUDIGIT's objectives

EUDIGIT's objectives	n°	Action/ project
Strengthening EU citizenship and citizens awareness	2	Training courses
Contributing to reduce the digital gap in cities	3	Inclusive instruments
Co-building digital policies with citizens	1	Disability Manager

Thank you for your attention!

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COMUNE DI GENOVA