



ACCESSIBLE EMPLOYMENT

IDEA-VET INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

SOCIETAL BRIDGES TOWARD INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Symposium Chairs

Satı Doğan, Assoc. Prof, Türkiye
Gizem Beycan Ekitli, Dr, Türkiye

Organizing Committee

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Giuseppe Scarabello, Italy
Övünç Demir, Türkiye
Matteo Muro, Italy
Murat Gilgil, Türkiye
Rosita Paro, Italy

We are pleased to invite you to the International Accessible Employment Symposium – “Societal Bridges Toward Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities”, organized within the framework of the Erasmus+ KA220 IDEA-VET project.

While the symposium places particular emphasis on individuals with intellectual disabilities, it adopts a comprehensive inclusion-centered perspective that promotes accessibility, equal opportunity, and meaningful participation across all sectors. The program brings together academics, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and civil society representatives to advance evidence-based inclusive employment practices and strengthen equitable workforce participation at both national and international levels.

We would be honored by your participation in this distinguished scientific gathering dedicated to promoting inclusive employment and advancing societal transformation.

Symposium Chairs

Dr. Gizem Beycan Ekitli

Faculty of Nursing
Ege University

Symposium Chairs

Assoc. Prof. Satı Doğan

Faculty of Nursing
Ege University



Date: 20th February, 2026



Location: Torbalı Belediyesi Kültür Merkezi, Izmir, Türkiye

In-Person and Virtual Sessions
<https://idea-vet.com>



ACCESSIBLE EMPLOYMENT IDEA-VET CLOSING CONFERENCE

- 10.00 - 10.30 **Opening Remarks**

Doç. Dr. Sıtkı Doğan **Handan Akarsu Scarabello** **Övünç Demir**
Symposium Chair IDEA-VET Project Coordinator Mayor of Torbali
Project Presentation

- 10.30 - 11.30 **Session 1** Participation of Individuals in Employment: Where Do We Stand?

Moderator: Prof. Dr. S. Sunay Yıldırım Doğru
Head of the Department of Special Education, Dokuz Eylül University,

Speakers

Tülin Topuzoğlu
Chair of the Board, Kazed
(Family Member)

Enes Helvacı
Owner, Bofigo Inc.

Ayça Karagöz
Founding Member, İzmir Down Syndrome Association (Individual)

Gülnaz Rodoplu
President, İzmir Down Syndrome Association (Family Member)

- 11.30 - 12.00 **Dance Performance - Down Syndrome Association / Coffe Break (Social Break & Performance)**

- 12.00 - 13.00 **Session 2** Accessible Workplaces: Simple Solutions, Real Impact

Moderator: Büşra Alpayım
Job Coach & Special Education Specialist İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

Speakers

Prof. Dr. Meral Özçınar
Manisa Celal Bayar University
Dean of the Faculty of Communication

Dr. Gülser Vardarcı Kacar
Industrialist, Businesswoman

Süleyman Gök
Project Coordinator of the UNICEF ACAR Project on Monitoring Health Right and Access to Healthcare for Children With Disabilities

Harun Kara
Torbali Municipality, Torbali Association for Disability Rights

- 13.00 - 14.00 **Lunch Break**

- 14.00 - 15.00 **Session 3** Building Bridges:
Good Practices and Lessons From the Past

Moderator: Giuseppe Scarabello - SIDES APS

Speakers

M. Rıza Mutkilioğlu **Sosyal Etkinlik**
Activist & Stand-Up Performer

Christina Eirini Karvouna
Founder, WINgate; CEO, Infinityc Group (Netherlands)

Cristiana Paro
Casa Vittoria Staff Member (Italy)

Alessandro Paro
Founder, Cooperativa Sociale Vito Down; President, Casa Vittoria (Italy)

Rosita Paro
University of Padua (Italy)

- 15.00 - 15.15 **Coffe Break**

- 15.15 - 16.30 **Session 4** Forum How Do We Move Forward Together?

A Roadmap for safe, Sustainable, and Dignified Employment

Moderator: Doç. Dr. Sıtkı Doğan - Ege University, Faculty of Nursing

Panel Participants

Şirince Süzek
Chair, Disability Council, İzmir City Council

Uzm. Dr. Hakan Toksöz
Head of the Occupational Health and Workplace Medicine Commission, Medical Chamber

Nehir Merinoslu Özdemir
Psychologist, Project Coordinator for Supported Employment for persons with Disabilities, Nilüfer Municipality, Bursa

Gülesin Atalay
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mutlu Metal Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.

Sıla Boyacı
MOSB Z.E.K. Life Center Manager, Manisa

Harun Kara
Torbali Municipality, Torbali Association for Disability Rights

ÖVÜNC DEMİR
TORBALI BELEDİYE BAŞKANI


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