


PERSONAL INFORMATION



Dr. Magdolna Julianna BIRTHA

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WORK EXPERIENCE

08/2018 -

Researcher

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna, Austria)

- Carrying out comparative research in the fields of human rights, persons with disabilities, deinstitutionalisation, long-term care, social policies, quality in social services;
- Providing policy expertise to national governments, EU institutions and international organisations on the implementation of the UN CRPD, transition from institutional to community-based social care.

Business or sector Intergovernmental organisation (UN Affiliated)

05/2017 -

Affiliated Research Fellow

Centre for Disability Law and Policy, School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway

Business or sector University/Research

05/2016 – 07/2018

Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer

COFACE – Families Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

- Responsible for policy and advocacy on disability, deinstitutionalisation, social policies;
- Liaise with European Institutions (EC, EP, Council) and work closely with UN Agencies;
- Monitor and analyse national and European level policy development.

Business or sector European non-governmental

02/2015 - 04/2016

Policy Officer

Inclusion Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

- Responsible for policy and advocacy work on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities, social inclusion, independent living;
- Liaise with European Institutions (EC, EP, Council) and work closely with the UN CRPD Committee;
- Develop and manage transnational projects in the area of fundamental rights, social policies.

Business or sector European non-governmental

09/2011 - 08/2014

Marie Curie Research Fellow

Centre for Disability Law and Policy, School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway

- Researcher in FP7 DREAM (Disability Rights Expanding Accessible Markets) Network;
- Develop socio-legal research methodology, design and carry out data collection, qualitative interviews, data analysis;
- Write peer-reviewed publications for international journals on research results;
- Lecture and present at international conferences on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Business or sector University/Research

- 11/2012 - 03/2013 Study visitor**
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna, Austria)
- Support the Equality and Citizen's Rights Department on disability rights and non-discrimination;
 - Draft a position paper on the EU monitoring framework for the implementation of the UN CRPD;
 - Contribution to identify and develop indicators in relation to EU level human rights monitoring.
- Business or sector** European Union Agency
- 02/2012 - 07/2012 Secondment**
European Disability Forum (Brussels, Belgium)
- Draft key policy documents to the Board, membership and the public, collect and analyse data;
 - Coordinate EDF's work on forming a position on all forms of bias violence;
 - Acting Human Rights Officer (May-July 2012).
- Business or sector** European non-governmental
- 03/2011 - 07/2011 Blue book trainee**
Unit of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, DG Justice, European Commission (Brussels, Belgium)
- Policy development and briefing papers on Member States' contributions;
 - Involvement in negotiations on the European monitoring framework of the UN CRPD;
 - Desk research, data collection, drafting reports.
- Business or sector** European Public Administration
- 11/2010 - 02/2011 Intern**
Demnet - Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights (Budapest, Hungary)
- Evaluate projects on international development, implementation of Millennium Development Goals;
 - Contribute to third sector development, capacity building seminars for NGOs;
 - Assist transnational projects on fundraising.
- Business or sector** Non-governmental
- 10/2008 - 01/2010 Project coordinator, MOTE ("My opinion my vote") Grundtvig Multilateral Project**
Hungarian Down Syndrome Foundation (Down Alapítvány) (Budapest, Hungary)
- Overall management of the project focusing on political participation of persons with intellectual disabilities (organise project meetings, liaising with project partners, administration);
 - Desktop research, data collection, writing project reports;
 - Develop educational training programme, carry out national, European awareness raising campaign.
- Business or sector** Non-governmental

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 09/2011 - 06/2015 PhD in Law**
National University of Ireland, Galway, School of Law (Galway, Ireland)
Centre for Disability Law and Policy
- International Human Rights Law, Non-discrimination Law, UN Treaty bodies.
- 09/2005 - 07/2010 Master's Degree in Sociology**
Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Social Sciences (Budapest, Hungary)
- Ethnic and Minority Studies, Social Psychology, Demography, Gender Studies, Social Theory;
 - Social Sciences Methodology (Quantitative, Qualitative); Statistics (knowledge of SPSS).

02/2010 - 06/2010

Erasmus Scholarship

University of Antwerp, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences (Antwerp, Belgium)

- Issues in Comparative Politics, Social Policies, Intercultural Communication.

09/2008 - 12/2009

Visiting student

Central European University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Gender Department (Budapest, Hungary)

- Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, LGBTQI rights, Queer theory, Hate speech.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue Hungarian

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	B2	B2	B1	B1	B1
German	B1	B1	B1	A2	A2

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Communication skills

- Good interpersonal skills gained through providing trainings, working in multicultural environment;
- Confidence in public speaking due to numerous interventions at high-level conferences (e.g. in UN).

Organisational / managerial skills

- Diplomacy skills through engagement with high-level stakeholders (e.g. European Commission High-Level Group on Disability);
- Acquisition and management of transnational projects;
- Organisation of conferences, high-level events (e.g. Policy seminars in the European Parliament).

Job-related skills

- Involvement in several European expert groups (e.g. European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, European Alliance for Investing in Children, Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights).

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user

Levels: Basic user - Independent user - Proficient user
[Digital competences - Self-assessment grid](#)

- Good command of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook);
- Good command of content management systems (WordPress);
- Knowledge of digital accessibility requirements.

Other skills

- Volunteering (between 2006-2008 in a group home for persons with multiple disabilities in Budapest)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

(Full list of publications is available at <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6537-4463>)

Selected peer-reviewed publications:

- The implementation of Article 19 CRPD in Hungary, In: Recognising Rights in Different Cultural Contexts: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Johnson, K. & Kakoullis, E. (eds.), Palgrave Macmillan (2020) (forthcoming);
- 'A chance to pioneer or a lost opportunity? Monitoring disability rights effectively and independently in the EU in line with Article 33 of the UN CRPD', In: European Yearbook of Disability Law, Volume 5, Intersentia (2014);
- 'Nothing about CRPD monitoring without us – case study on the disability movement's involvement in policy-making in Zambia', In: African Disability Rights Yearbook, University of Pretoria (2013).

Selected policy papers and reports:

- BIRTHA, M., RODRIGUES, R., ZÓLYOMI, E., SANDU, V. & SCHULMANN, K. (2019). From disability rights towards a rights-based approach to long-term care in Europe: Building an index of rights-based policies for older people. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.
- Rapporteur of the Work Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU and the Member States organised by the European Commission (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019);
- KOZMA, Á., PETRI, G., BALOGH, A. & BIRTHA, M., 'The role of EU funding in deinstitutionalisation (DI) in Hungary and the experiences of the DI programme so far (2016).

Presentations

Selected list of conference/seminar presentations:

- Presentation at the Estonian EU Presidency conference on deinstitutionalization, Tallinn, title: 'The role of families in preventing institutionalization' (10/2017);
- Guest lecture at Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool Antwerpen, title: 'The European Pillar of Social Rights: challenges, questions and a potential to create a European social policy framework' (2016, 2017);
- Keynote speech at LVR 'Peer Counselling in Rheinland' conference, Cologne, Germany, title: 'Towards empowering persons with intellectual disabilities: International perspectives on peer support' (11/2015);
- Presentation at Nordic Network on Disability Research conference, Turku, Finland, title: 'Nothing about CRPD monitoring without us! – Case study on the involvement of the disability movement in policy-making in Zambia' (05/2013).

Projects

Selected research projects and transnational projects:

- Combatting discrimination at work: "EUvsDiscrimination" campaign, Rapporteur (European Commission) (2019-2020);
- Peer reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion (European Commission) (2016-)
- Towards a rights-based approach in long-term care: Building an index of rights-based policies for older people in Europe (Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs), researcher (2017 – 2019);
- Deinstitutionalisation in Hungary: Support for the assessment of the calls for proposals and selected projects (European Commission) (2019).

Honours and awards

Carla Vlaskamp early career award (2014)

Courses

Selected lectures and trainings given:

- Guest lecture at Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway 'Challenges and innovations to support Article 19 UNCRPD: Activism towards creating inclusive communities' (Galway, Ireland 2018);
- Lecturer at seminar of European Law Academy 'EU Disability Law and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' (Trier, Germany 2017);
- Training policy makers on the use of EU funding to transform institutional care to community-based social and health services (Poland 2016, Belgium 2017, Cyprus 2017, Slovenia 2017);
- Faculty member at the CDLP NUI Galway International Disability Summer School (Galway, Ireland, 2013, 2014, 2016);
- Training government officials on the rights of persons with disabilities at Council of Europe confidence-building project (Vadul-Lui-Voda, Moldova, 2013).