

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Magdolna Julianna BIRTHA

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

03/2022 - Research Team Leader Social Protection and Inclusion

08/2018 – 02/2022 Researcher

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

- Managing the Social Protection and Inclusion team, that provides research and policy advice on social services and support measures for marginalized groups, as well as poverty, income inequality and non-monetary aspects of well-being to diverse international clients;
- Carrying out comparative research in the fields of human rights of persons with disabilities, deinstitutionalisation, inclusive labour market policies, social policies, quality in social services and co-production;
- Providing policy expertise to national governments, EU institutions and international organisations on the implementation of the UN CRPD, SDGs transition from institutional to community-based 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 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;
- Data collection and analysis using socio-legal research methodology;
- Presentations at international conference, peer-reviewed publications on research results;

**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, Disability 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, Social Policy, Social Sciences Methodology (Quantitative, Qualitative); Statistics (knowledge of SPSS).

## 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](#)

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);
- Knowledge of digital accessibility requirements.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Publications

Selected peer-reviewed publications:

- BIRTHA, M. '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).
- BIRTHA, M. 'Article 33 of the CRPD as the key to make human rights of persons with disabilities a reality', In: UNCRPD Implementation in Europe – A Deaf Perspective, European Union of the Deaf (EUD), Brussels, Belgium (2015);
- BIRTHA, M. '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);

Selected policy papers and reports:

- BIRTHA, M., Groß-Wohlgemuth, F., Fuchs, M., Zólyomi, E., Gjylsheni, S. (2025). *Building resilient social protection systems for all*. Discussion Paper, Number 3. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.
- European Parliament Briefing, Requested by the PETI committee, BIRTHA, M. (2024). *The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 - Achievements and perspectives*. European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs Directorate-General for Internal Policies PE 767.095.

- European Commission (2024). European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2023: Conference report, written by M. BIRTHA. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.
- BIRTHA, M., ZÓLYOMI, E., WOHLGEMUTH, F. and GJYLSHENI, S. (2023). Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost-of-living crisis. European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs Directorate-General for Internal Policies PE 754.127.
- BIRTHA, M., on behalf of EDE (2023). Disability-relevance of quality assurance systems in social services, EDE Synthesis report. European Commission.
- Wladasch, K., Allram-Naaijer, K. & BIRTHA, M. (2023). The role of national human rights bodies in monitoring fundamental rights in EU funded programmes, Policy Brief 2023/2. Vienna: European Centre.
- Scoppetta, A., BIRTHA, M. & Gjylsheni, S. (2023). Peer Review North Macedonia Report "Deinstitutionalisation of children and persons with disabilities" (North Macedonia, 8-9 February 2023; online). Vienna: European Centre.
- How to put reasonable accommodation into practice? Guide of promising practices. Brussels: European Commission (2020);
- ZÓLYOMI, E. and BIRTHA, M. (2020). Towards inclusive employment of persons with disabilities: A comparative study of six social enterprises and organisations in Europe. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.
- Rapporteur of the European Commission Work Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU and the Member States, (2014 - 2019).

#### Presentations

Selected list of conference/seminar presentations:

- Presentation at the Annual Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, title: 'The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030: Achievements and perspectives' (12/2024);
- Presentation, on behalf of EDE at the Disability Platform meeting by the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, title: 'Disability-relevance of quality assurance systems in social services' (03/2024);
- Presentation at the Annual Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, title: 'Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost-of-living crisis' (11/2023);
- Presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> European Society for Disability Research conference (Alter 2023), Paris, France, title: 'Reflecting the needs of persons with disabilities in new types of social service provision' (06/2023);
- Presentation at the 16<sup>th</sup> Nordic Network on Disability Research (NNDR) conference, Reykjavik, Iceland, title: 'Investing in social inclusion: Challenges and opportunities that EU Structural Funds bring in the implementation of Article 19 of the UNCRPD' (05/2023);
- Presentation at the Estonian EU Presidency conference on deinstitutionalization, Tallinn, title: 'The role of families in preventing institutionalization' (10/2017);

#### Projects

Selected research projects and transnational projects:

- European Disability Expertise, Senior Expert and Rapporteur of Ad-hoc theme Disability-relevance of quality assurance systems in social services (European Commission; 06/2021 – 06/2023), task leader of the European Semester task, European Commission; 03/2024 – );
- Enhancing Charter Compliance of EU Funds (ECHO Funds), CERV project, co-founded by the EU, project coordinator at the European Centre (2024-2026);
- Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost-of-living crisis: Study for the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions (PETI) (European Parliament; 06/2023 – 09/2023);
- Providing technical assistance to national bodies with a human rights remit involved in assessing EU Charter & CRPD compliance of EU funds - EU level research (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights; 02/2022 – 09/2022);
- Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings: Mutual Learning Activities in BB countries (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria), senior researcher (2021 – 2024);
- Peer reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion (DG EMPL, European Commission), researcher/core team member (2016 – 2020);

#### Honours and awards

Carla Vlaskamp early career award (2014)

#### Courses

Selected lectures and trainings given:

- Leichsenring, K. & BIRTHA, M. (2023). Quality assurance in delivering social services – From commissioning to monitoring performance. Training for the Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the framework of the 'Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings' project (20-21 June, online).
- Leichsenring, K. & BIRTHA, M. (2022). Developing social services for children, persons with disabilities and older people, commissioned by the Asian Development Bank (November-December, online).
- Guest lecture at Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG '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 NUIG International Disability Summer School (Galway, Ireland, 2013, 2014, 2016).