

## 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:

- European Commission, written by Birtha, M. & Groß-Wohlgenuth F. (2025) European Semester 2024 mainstreaming disability equality – Synthesis report with input from the country experts of the European Disability Expertise (EDE). Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union doi: 10.2767/7579028.
- Birtha, M., Wladasch, K., Bliminger, J. & Gjylsheni, S. (2025). Enhancing Charter Compliance of EU Funds. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

- 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 Vlskamp 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).