



**Autism-Europe improves  
the quality of life of autistic people**

E-newsletter – July 2024



This information is  
easy to read!



## Editorial



This is the newsletter of Autism-Europe in easy-to-read.  
You will find 2 articles in this newsletter.

- 1 article on page 3 is on the Accessibility for Autistic People in Urban Spaces at AccessibleEU Event.
- 1 article on page 6 is on the Autism Europe's Annual General Assembly and Council of Administration Meeting in Dublin.

## Autism-Europe Shares Recommendations on Accessibility for Autistic People in Urban Spaces at AccessibleEU Event



**On the 2nd of July** Autism-Europe took part in an event called **"Smart Cities: Enhancing Urban Design and Mobility for All."**

The event was held at the ONCE Foundation in Madrid, Spain.

The event was organized by the AccessibleEU resource centre.

AccessibleEU resource centre is part of the European Commission's

Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.



AccessibleEU aims to:

- Promote accessibility.
- Connect public, private, and civil society organisations.
- Enhance inclusivity and improve quality of life.
- Provide training and raise awareness

AccessibleEU has a lot of experts to help different organisations and ensure that resources meet new accessibility regulations.



At the Smart Cities event there was a Panel discussion.

Paloma Contreras from Autismo España spoke on behalf of Autism-Europe.

Paloma spoke about how to make cities more accessible for autistic people.



The panel also included the following people:

Agnes Kojc, who uses a wheelchair.

Agnes is a board member of the Cerebral Palsy European Communities Association.

Antonella Candiago, who also uses a wheelchair.

Antonella is a policy officer at

the European Network for Independent Living.

Mercedes Mayoral, a psychologist from Catalonia.

Mercedes has dyslexic children in her family.

Alexandre Bloxs, a deaf policy manager.

Alexandre works at the European Union of the Deaf.



Paloma talked about the unique needs of autistic people.

Paloma said that each autistic person is different.

Paloma talked about common challenges for autistic people.

Common challenges include:

- difficulties with communication
- difficulties with social interaction
- sensory sensitivities.

Sensory sensitivities means a person is affected a lot by things around them like lights and noises.





Paloma suggested ways to make cities better for autistic people:

- Use clear language and easy-to-read signs.
- Make spaces well-structured with good signs and visual aids.
- Reduce sensory stimulation and provide quiet spaces.
- Ensure information about safety is accessible.
- Involve autistic people in the design of urban spaces.



Paloma shared some good examples of accessible places:

The Greek National Museum of Contemporary Art is the first sensory-friendly museum in the EU.

A guide called "Inclusive cities: autistic-friendly environments" created by Autismo España and other groups.

The Dublin Autism Friendly Capital initiative by Autism-Europe's Irish member, Aslam.



During the event, they also talked about the Access City Awards.

The Access City Awards recognise the most accessible cities.

The award is a prize of money given to the top 3 cities in Europe.

The awards also give a special mention for great work done on one specific area of accessibility for disabled people.

This year the special mention will be for accessible sports buildings.

The city with the most accessible sports buildings will be mentioned.

Applications for the Access City Award 2025 are open now.

The applications will close on the 10th of September 2024.

The winners will be announced in November 2024.



## Autism Europe's Annual General Assembly and Council of Administration Meeting in Dublin.



On the 10th to the 12th of May Autism-Europe went to Dublin for two meetings.

Autism-Europe's Annual General Assembly was on the first two days. Autism-Europe's Council of Administration meeting was on the last day. It was a hybrid meeting.

This means some people were there in person, and some joined online. Almost 70 people from different parts of Europe came to the meeting. The meeting was for us to talk about what we did in 2023.

Autism-Europe and our members also planned our work for 2024. Members shared their experiences and learned from each other.



We arrived on the 10th of May.

We visited the place for the Autism-Europe International Congress 2025. We checked if the place is accessible for everyone.

We got a welcome and attended a study session by AslAm, our member from Ireland.



AsIAm talked about their work to make society inclusive and accessible for autistic people.

They shared their **Same Chance Report 2024**.

This report talks about the experiences of autistic people in Ireland.

We also heard from Anne Rabbit, the Minister for Disabilities in Ireland.

She talked about the Irish government's **Autism Innovation Strategy**.



On May 11th, Autism-Europe members met at the Mansion House in Dublin.

We talked about our plans and budget for 2024.

We reviewed our activities from 2023.

We discussed our EU projects.



We talked about our “Not Invisible” campaign for World Autism Awareness Day.

This year the campaign focused on the European Parliament Elections.

Members shared ideas on how to work together during the elections to support the rights of autistic people.



Autism-Europe welcomed 5 new members:

- AFG Autisme from France
- De Nederlandse Vereniging voor Autisme (NVA) from the Netherlands
- Autismo Andalucia from Spain
- ANFFASS from Italy
- Autism Unlimited from the UK

We had elections for our Council of Administration and added new members.



On May 12th, we learned about the situation of autistic people in Ukraine from our member Child with Future.

They talked about their work during the war and the challenges faced by autistic people and their families in Ukraine.

David Briggs MBE talked about his plan to make a documentary about autistic people in Ukraine during the war and asked for support.

This was a summary of our meeting in Dublin. We shared ideas, learned from each other, and planned for the future.







Send us ideas for the next e-newsletter.

If you have ideas, write us an email.

Write to [communication@autismeurope.org](mailto:communication@autismeurope.org)

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