

Accessibility Conferences: “Disability and Inclusion – The Experience of the United Kingdom”

INFONET Alliance organized a new event within the series “Accessibility Conferences.” On October 29, 2025, another online conference was held, this time on the topic “Disability and Inclusion – The Experience of the United Kingdom”.

Guest expert: **Nicolae Beșliu**, Master’s in European Social Work, independent social worker, and child protection expert in the United Kingdom. Mr. Beșliu has extensive experience within Child Services both in Moldova and the United Kingdom, having worked as a child protection officer and deputy manager with various local authorities such as Oxfordshire, Norfolk, Greenwich/London, Cambridgeshire, as well as with independent agencies and **CAFCASS** (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service).

The expert’s presentation offered an overview of how United Kingdom promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities through a robust legal and policy framework, specialized support services, and strong community engagement. He spoke about the **Equality Act 2010**, the **Care Act 2014**, and the **Children and Families Act 2014**, which ensure equal rights, accessibility, and personalized support for both children and adults with disabilities. The presentation emphasized the role of local authorities, charitable organizations, and programs such as “**Access to Work**” and the “**Motability Scheme**” in facilitating independent living and access to the labor market.

In the second part of the event, the discussion focused on support for children, including early intervention, parental support, and the transition to adulthood. The topic of both physical and digital accessibility was addressed – from ramps, tactile paving, and guide-dogs to accessible websites and communication standards such as the **NHS Accessible Information Standard**. Finally, the presenter shared personal stories illustrating the everyday impact of inclusion policies and community initiatives, showing how legal protection, social services, and technology collectively contribute to a fairer and more inclusive society for persons with disabilities in the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, **Nicolae Beșliu** stated: “*Wherever we are, regardless of the country or its economic and political situation, persons with disabilities are part of society and can have a meaningful life. I believe that authorities and organizations in the social field can make a great difference in the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The United Kingdom, through its example, shows that a high level of inclusion can be achieved thanks to national and local policies, laws, and initiatives, as well as the use of resources to build a fair and inclusive society. However, the United Kingdom also faces many other challenges that it strives to overcome, yet the inclusion of persons with disabilities remains actively promoted and supported at all levels*”.

This activity is part of the project “**Strengthening Civic Participation in Azerbaijan**”, co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project’s objective is to create a network of NGOs from the Republic of Moldova and Azerbaijan, as well as a long-term communication platform for sharing best practices and fostering cooperation in the field of integration and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to improve the quality of services provided and develop joint strategies to combat discrimination and social exclusion.

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