



POD MAATSCHAPPELIJKE INTEGRATIE
BETER SAMEN LEVEN
SPP INTÉGRATION SOCIALE
MIEUX VIVRE ENSEMBLE



Topic: European conference on building inclusive solutions for better digital services and empowering vulnerable groups, 13-14 March 2024

Dear Minister Riisalo,

I am pleased to invite you, in your capacity as Minister of Economic Affairs and Information Technology, to a European conference devoted to building inclusive pathways for better digital services within public and private organisations, and strengthening the (basic) skills of our European citizens.

The objective of this conference is to underline the need to achieve digital inclusion for all citizens in order to reduce social and economic inequalities in our society and to ensure that no-one is excluded from the benefits of a digital society. The event will link several European objectives together.

First of all, the event focusses on priorities to reduce the number of people living in poverty in the European Union by 2030 as is intended by the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights.. It links these priorities to the European Digital Decade, which aims to ensure that at least 80% of adults have basic digital skills and that all key public services are available online by 2030.

These two objectives complement each other.

Lastly, the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles is a common thread running through this conference, as everyone should have access to technology, which needs to be inclusive in order to promote the rights of all citizens.

This conference will be an opportunity to share your views on policy priorities for the next European Commission (2024-2029) and the actions to be taken at European level to support Member States in their efforts to achieve digital inclusion and strengthen digital skills.

I would therefore like to invite you to take part in this event and in particular in the opening debate of the conference. Following the introductory presentation on the challenges of digital inclusion for vulnerable groups in a digital society 2030-2040, there will be a debate between Belgian regional and national ministers and a number of European ministers, all responsible (in part) for policies relating to digital inclusion and skills.

In this debate, it would be interesting if you could share your views on the topics that are highlighted during the opening key note.

The debate will be moderated by an expert, who will refer to the key issues presented in the previous key note presentation and take questions from the floor. At the end of the debate, everyone will be invited to make a recommendation for the next European agenda.

Given your ministerial expertise, I have no doubt that you will be able to contribute important elements to the discussion. It is therefore with great pleasure that I invite you to participate.

The conference will take place on Wednesday 13 March and Thursday 14 March 2024 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm at The Egg, 175 Rue Bara, 1070 Brussels (Anderlecht). Further information will be sent at a later date.

The conference will be followed by a cocktail reception, to be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 6.30pm at Brussels City Hall.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at the conference, the debate and the cocktail reception. To this end, I would ask you to appoint an accreditation officer who will be responsible for accrediting each person attending the conference on behalf of your Member State. Please send the name, mobile phone number and e-mail address of the person responsible for accreditation to presidencyEU2024@mi-is.be before 23:59 on Thursday 9 February 2024. The accreditation officer will receive a link and access code to the online accreditation platform. Please register as soon as possible via the accreditation platform, which will be open until Sunday 3 March 2024 at 23:59.

Please find attached the draft programme. Further information will be provided at a later date via the Presidency's portal for informal events (PPI).

I look forward to welcoming you to Brussels.

Yours sincerely

The Minister for Pensions and Social Integration, in charge of Persons
with Disabilities, Combating Poverty and Beliris

KARINE LALIEUX