

ERC Project
“Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with **Disabilities** and **Enhancing**
Cultural Diversity Through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths -
DANCING”



DANCING

FINAL CONFERENCE 19|20 JUNE 2025
MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



The Project



The project “*Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with **Disabilities** and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths - DANCING*”, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and led by Professor Delia Ferri, investigates the extent to which the protection

of the right to participate in culture of people with disabilities and the promotion of cultural diversity intersect and complement each other in the European Union (EU) legal order. It aims to disrupt the conventional approach adopted by EU law scholarship by using a combination of legal, empirical and arts-based research to pursue three complementary objectives. Firstly, it identifies and categorises barriers and facilitators to cultural participation experienced by people with disabilities and how they affect the wider cultural domain. Empirical research, in form of semi-structured interviews and focus groups with several stakeholders across the 27 Member States of the EU and the United Kingdom (UK) as well as arts-based research underpin the achievement of this objective within Work Package (WP) 1. Secondly, it provides a normative exploration of how the EU has used and can use its competence to combat discrimination and its supporting competence on cultural matters, in synergy with its wide internal market powers, to ensure the accessibility of cultural life and activities, to promote disability identities, while achieving cultural diversity. Through an in-depth legal analysis, it aims to bridge the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Thirdly, it aims to advance the understanding of the legal concept of cultural diversity, which stems from the intersection of different sources of law and will propose a new theorization of the promotion of cultural diversity within the EU legal order. Fourthly, the project produces outputs for the general public to foster civic participation, legal change and effective policy responses at the EU level, collaborating with different professionals. In this way, the project fosters the dialogue with both the academic community and organisations of persons with disabilities, creating platforms to discuss the latest findings.

To know more about the project visit: <https://ercdancing.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

The Principal Investigator – Professor Delia Ferri



Delia Ferri is Professor of Law at Maynooth University (MU) School of Law and Criminology, where she lectures primarily in the fields of EU Law and International and European Disability Law. Since March 2020, she is co-Director of the MU Assisting Living & Learning (ALL) Institute, an interdisciplinary research institute that promotes person-centred systems and evidence-based policies that empower people across their life course. Professor Delia Ferri is also affiliated researcher at the DIRPOLIS Institute (Institute of Law, Politics and Development)

of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies (Italy) within the research cluster on social rights, social inclusion and disability, and a fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University (USA). She is a senior member of the European Disability Expertise network funded by the European Commission, and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU.

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The ERC DANCING Final Conference



The ERC DANCING Final Conference presents the main findings of the “*Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths –*

DANCING” project (DANCING). Marking the end of the project, the Final Conference aims to discuss the achievements and results of DANCING with the academic community, policy-makers, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders. It also includes forward-looking roundtables and discussions exploring new directions and future research opportunities. The Final Conference is articulated in two days: the first day focuses on the academic findings of DANCING, while the second day zooms in on the policy-oriented aspects of the project.

The first day, after salutations from Professor Rachel Msetfi, Vice President for Research and Innovation and Professor Fergus Ryan, Head of School of Law and Criminology, comprises three main panels respectively discussing the findings of the interdisciplinary research on barriers and facilitators to cultural participation of persons with disabilities and the role of EU law in advancing the right to participate in cultural life of persons with disabilities and how this intersects with the protection of cultural diversity. The first day also encompasses roundtables to discuss DANCING’s contribution to advancing the human rights model of disability as well as scholarly approaches to EU disability law and EU scholarship more broadly. These roundtables will offer a unique platform to connect, reflect and highlight future avenues for research on disability. The first day will be closed with a keynote by Emeritus Professor Bruno De Witte, member of the DANCING Advisory Board. At the end of the conference the artwork “Odisseo-Ulysses”, created by artist

Tiziano Pantano and commissioned by DANCING will be unveiled by the President of Maynooth University Professor Eeva Leinonen.

The second day opens with introductory remarks by Dr. Gemma Irvine, Vice President for Equality and Diversity and Professor Fergus Ryan, Head of School of Law and Criminology, and discusses the role of DANCING in supporting transformative disability policymaking and a more inclusive cultural sector. It includes a keynote by EU Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms Inmaculada Placencia Porrero. This is followed by two roundtable discussions on how to advance cultural participation of persons with disabilities through EU policymaking and on inclusion and accessibility of cultural organisations. A closing keynote dialogue with Emeritus Professor Mark Priestley, member of the DANCING Advisory Board, concludes the DANCING Final Conference.

After the Conference

On 20 June, following the Final Conference, all participants and attendees are warmly welcome to attend the screening of the ERC DANCING documentary “Steps to Change” which closely followed the five years of work in DANCING.

The screening begins at 2.30 p.m. in the Drama Room of the School of Education (SEO 133). A post-documentary dialogue is moderated by Dr. Denis Condon and features director James Kelly of Feenish Productions Ltd., Stopgap Dance Company collaborators Lucy Shibata and Monique Dior Jarrett as well as DANCING project manager Hilary Hooks.



When?

Thursday, 19 and Friday, 20 June 2025

Where?

Maynooth University, North Campus

Technology, Society and Innovation Building (TSI), Ground Floor Room 028

Enter through sliding doors, turn left and past the café. The conference venue is located behind the café on the left-hand side.

Conference Rapporteurs:

Dr. Paola Pannia – University of Milan

Roberta Esposito – Phd Candidate, University of Pavia

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Final Conference

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Day 1
19 June 2025

Coffee and Registration from 8.45 am

9.15 – 9.30 am	Welcome Prof. Rachel Msetfi (Vice President Research and Innovation, Maynooth University) Prof. Fergus Ryan (Head of School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University)
9.30 – 9.45 am	The ERC Project DANCING Prof. Delia Ferri (DANCING - Maynooth University)
9.45 – 11.00 am	Panel I – The Experiential Objective and Arts-based Research Chair: Dr. Charles O'Mahony (University of Galway) <i>Barriers and Facilitators to Cultural Participation: An Appraisal –</i> Dr. Ann Leahy (Family Carers Ireland – formerly DANCING - Maynooth University) <i>The Role of Arts-based Research in Understanding Accessibility and Diversity in Culture –</i> Prof. Delia Ferri (DANCING - Maynooth University) Discussants: Prof. Laverne Jacobs (University of Windsor - Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) Prof. Sarah Whatley (University of Coventry) Q&A
11.00 – 11.15 am	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.00 pm	Roundtable I – DANCING Contribution to Advance the Human Rights Model of Disability Chair: Dr. Paolo Vargiu (University of Leicester) Prof. Cora True-Frost (Syracuse University) Prof. Anna Hickey-Moody (Maynooth University) Dr. Shivaun Quinlivan (University of Galway) Dr. Edurne Garcia Iriarte (Trinity College Dublin)

12.00 – 1.15 pm	<p>Panel II – The Role of EU Law in Advancing the Right of People with Disabilities to Participate in Cultural Life</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Imelda Maher (University College Dublin)</p> <p><i>The Role of EU Non-discrimination Law in Protecting Cultural and Creative Professionals with Disabilities –</i></p> <p>Léa Urzel Francil (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p><i>The External Dimension of EU Disability Law Through an Eastern Partnership Lens –</i> Iryna Tekuchova (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Prof. Bernardo Cortese (University of Padua)</p> <p>Dr. Charles O’Sullivan (Maynooth University)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
1.15 – 2.15 pm	Lunch
2.15 – 3.45 pm	<p>Panel III – Disability and Cultural Diversity</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Juan Jorge Piernas López (University of Murcia)</p> <p><i>Braille and Cultural Diversity in the EU –</i></p> <p>Eva Sophie Krolla (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p><i>The Marrakesh Directive and Cultural Diversity in the EU –</i></p> <p>Prof. Delia Ferri (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p><i>Sustainability, Disability and Cultural Diversity –</i></p> <p>Alessia Palladino (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Prof. Caterina Sganga (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies)</p> <p>Dr. Evangelia Psychogiopoulou (University of the Peloponnese)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
3.45 – 4.00 pm	Coffee Break
4.00 – 4.45 pm	<p>Roundtable II – EU Disability Law and the Process of EU Integration</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Elaine Fahey (City Law School, University of London)</p> <p>Prof. Michael Doherty (Maynooth University)</p> <p>Dr. Annalisa Volpato (University of Padua)</p> <p>Prof. Giuseppe Martinico (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies)</p> <p>Prof. Francesco Palermo (University of Verona - EURAC Bolzano/Bozen)</p>
4.45 – 5.30 pm	<p>Closing Keynote</p> <p>Prof. Bruno De Witte (Maastricht University) introduced by</p> <p>Prof. Delia Ferri (DANCING - Maynooth University)</p> <p>Q&A</p>

Unveiling of Artwork and Reception

with Maynooth University President Professor Eeva Leinonen on the mezzanine floor of the TSI building.

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Day 2
20 June 2025

Coffee and Registration from 8.45 am

9.15 – 9.30 am	Welcome Dr. Gemma Irvine (Vice President for Equality and Diversity, Maynooth University) Prof. Fergus Ryan (Head of School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University)
9.30 – 9.40 am	The ERC Project DANCING: Tools for Change Prof. Delia Ferri (DANCING - Maynooth University)
9.40 – 10.15 am	Keynote Address Inmaculada Placencia Porrero (European Commission - Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) introduced by Prof. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (University of Murcia)
Q&A	
10.15 – 11.30 am	Roundtable III – Advancing Cultural Participation of Persons with Disabilities Through EU Policymaking Chair: Dr. Barry Colfer (Institute of International and European Affairs) Susan Kennefick (Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union) Ciarán Finlay (National Disability Authority Ireland) Elizabeth Gosme (COFACE Families Europe) Frankie Picron (European Union of the Deaf) Lina Kouzi (Vision Ireland) Dr. Claudia Coveney (University of Leeds)
11.30 – 11.45 am	Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.45 pm	Roundtable IV – Making Cultural Organisations More Inclusive and Accessible Chair: Dr. Patricia McCarthy (Trinity College Dublin) Élodie Makhoul (DANCING - Maynooth University) Pádraig Naughton (Arts & Disability Ireland) Dr. Victoria Durrer (University College Dublin) Lucy Shibata (Stopgap Dance Company) Monique Dior Jarrett (Stopgap Dance Company)
12.45 – 1.15 pm	Closing Keynote Dialogue with Prof. Mark Priestley (Leeds University) introduced and moderated by Prof. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (University of Murcia)
1.15 – 2.30 pm	Lunch
2.30 – 3.30 pm	“Steps to Change” Documentary Screening – Drama Room Introduced and moderated by Dr. Denis Condon (Maynooth University) Post-Documentary Dialogue with: James Kelly (Feenish Productions Ltd.) Monique Dior Jarrett (Stopgap Dance Company) Lucy Shibata (Stopgap Dance Company) Hilary Hooks (DANCING - Maynooth University)

Keynote Speakers

Bruno De Witte



Bruno De Witte is Emeritus Professor of European Union Law at Maastricht University, the Netherlands and former Professor at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy. Previously, he was Co-Director of the Maastricht Centre for European Law and of the Academy of European Law at EUI. He studied law at the University of Leuven and the College of Europe and obtained a doctorate at the European University Institute in 1985, on 'The Protection of Linguistic Diversity through Fundamental Rights'. His principal interests lie in the constitutional law of the European Union, with a particular focus on the relation between international, European and national law, the protection of fundamental rights, law-making and treaty revision procedures, internal market law and non-market values. Moreover, his research interests include the law of cultural diversity, with a particular focus on language law, the protection of minorities and the relation between market integration and cultural diversity in European Union law.

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Inmaculada Placencia Porrero



Inmaculada Placencia Porrero is a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2024 – 2028) and a Senior Expert on Disability at the European Commission, leading work on the rights of persons with disabilities with a focus on accessibility and assistive technologies. She has led the development of several policies and legislation, such as the landmark European Accessibility Act. She has over 30 years of expertise in the area of disability. Throughout those years, she has worked passionately and constructively with organisations representing persons with disabilities, public administrations, experts, human rights defenders, and industry to advance the development of disability policy, legislation, action plans and strategies across the areas covered by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union and internationally.

Mark Priestley



Mark Priestley is Emeritus Professor of Disability Policy at Leeds University, UK, where he worked since 1997. Previously, he was Head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy (2011-2014), and Pro-dean for Research in the Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law (2004-2007), and became a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2016. From 2008-2019 Professor Priestley was Scientific Director of the European Commission's Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) and has a continuing role in providing expertise in this area. His research has focused on disability policy and politics, mostly in European and international comparative contexts, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, which translate into policy relevant analysis. He has often been engaged in policy advice to government departments in the UK and internationally.

Chairs, Speakers, and Discussants

Barry Colfer is Director of Research at the Institute for International and European Affairs, Dublin, Ireland. He holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil from the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge, UK. He is a fellow of the UK Royal Society of the Arts (RSA) and has worked at both the Irish and European Parliaments as well as with a number of leading European think tanks.

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Denis Condon lectures on cinema at the Departments of English and Media Studies at Maynooth University, Ireland. His publications include 'Early Irish Cinema, 1895-1921' (2008) and as co-editor 'Music and Visual Cultures: Threshold, Intermediality, Synchresis' (2021). He is currently working on the book 'The Explosion of Images: Ireland's First Cinemas' and the collaborative website Ireland's First Cinemas.

Bernardo Cortese is Professor of EU Law at the University of Padua, Italy. His research interests include Competition and State Aid Law, International Law, Private International Law, and on the interaction between International Law, European Law and the National Laws of the Member States. Previously, he has been Legal Secretary (Référéndaire) at the Court of Justice of the European Union (2001-2004).

Claudia Coveney is a lecturer in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, UK. Her research examines opportunities for social movement organisations, such as organisations of people with disabilities and their allies, as institutions of governance develop new decision-making formats.

Michael Doherty is Professor of Law at the School of Law and Criminology at Maynooth University, Ireland. His expertise lies in the areas of Irish and EU Employment and Labour Law, industrial relations, and social dialogue. He has published widely on these topics in international books and journals, has worked on a number of EU-wide projects on cross-border working terms and conditions, and is a member of several European research networks looking at Employment and Labour Law and Policy in the EU.

Victoria Durrer is Assistant Professor and former Ad Astra Fellow in Cultural Policy at University College Dublin and co-founder and director of the interdisciplinary, industry and policy-engaged network Cultural Policy Observatory Ireland. Her research considers the conditions and value of artistic and creative practice as social, cultural, and professional endeavours, with focus on their spatial, temporal, and relational dynamics. She holds expertise in engaged and policy-informing research, with projects often involving collaborative research designs, data collection and analysis with research participants and policymakers.

Elaine Fahey is Professor of EU Law at City Law School, University of London, UK and Deputy Head of Department for academic programmes. She is co-convenor of the Institute for the Study of European Law (ISEL) at City Law School. Her research interests span the relationship between EU Law and global governance, trade, transatlantic relations, the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the study of law beyond the State.

Ciarán Finlay is a Senior Policy & Public Affairs Advisor at the National Disability Authority (NDA), Ireland, focusing on justice and equality matters and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A qualified barrister, he has served as Senior Policy Advisor with the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Malta to the United Nations in New York during their recent terms of membership of the UN Security Council.

Cora True-Frost is Bond, Schoeneck & King Distinguished Professor of Law at the College of Law at Syracuse University, USA. She received the L. Douglas Meredith Teaching Recognition Award from Syracuse University in 2017 and in 2024 was named a Professor of Teaching Excellence for her work on universal design for learning. Her most recent research focuses on travel equality, including accessibility and reasonable accommodation law before the European Court of Human Rights and conflicts between interpretations of international human rights and regional human rights law.

Elizabeth Gosme is Director of the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) since 2016. She is an EU social policy analyst with extensive experience in EU affairs representing the interests of civil society organisations. She has worked extensively with various EU institutions contributing to building a social policy architecture for Europe.

Edurne Garcia Iriarte is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and is Academic Director of the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Project. Her research focuses on social inclusion and disability, inclusive research, participatory research and teaching approaches, the intersection of disability, migration, and ethnicity, and inclusive education.

Laverne Jacobs is Professor of Law at the University of Windsor, Canada, where she is also Founding Director of the Law, Disability & Social Change Project, a research and public advocacy centre in Canada. She is also Co-Director of the Disability Rights Working Group of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law at the University of California, Berkeley, USA. She is an expert member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2022 – 2026).

Monique Dior Jarrett is a Model, Influencer, Advocate, Ambassador and Dancer. She is one of the Directors of the arts-based BAFTA award-winning company TripleC and a professional contemporary dancer for the inclusive dance company Stopgap Dance Company. Monique is an advocate for disabled body positivity and true representation of disabled artists and models within the media all while being an ambassador for several organisations and companies.

James Kelly is the film director of the ERC DANCING documentary “Steps to Change” by Feenish Poductions Ltd.. He directs most of Feenish’s work which is greatly influenced by his work in the arts, with which he maintains a professional engagement. James has worked in management & leadership roles in Project Arts Centre, the Irish Film Institute, St. Patrick’s Festival, the Ireland Canada University Foundation and as an Advisor to the Arts Council. He has also taught at University College Dublin (Arts Management), the National Film School (IADT) and Griffith College Dublin.

Susan Kennefick is a Seconded National Expert in the Director’s Office at the Agency for Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Previously, she was a Senior Policy and Public Affairs Advisor at the National Disability Authority (NDA), Ireland, where her portfolio included the introduction and implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, and Ireland’s obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Lina Kouzi is the Head of Library Access Services at Vision Ireland. She leads the Bookshare Ireland accessible digital library service and has a keen focus in developing accessible digital materials. She also oversees the Media Conversion Centre at Vision Ireland which produces Braille and audio documents and books.

Ann Leahy is Research Manager at Family Carers Ireland. Previously, she was post-doctoral researcher in Sociology within the ERC DANCING Project where her main focus was qualitative research on cultural participation by people with disabilities across Europe under Work Package 1. She received her PhD in Sociology from Maynooth University for her interdisciplinary qualitative study examining intersections between disability and ageing.

Juan Jorge Piernas López is Professor of EU Law at the University of Murcia, Spain. He holds positions as international consultant for the World Bank, for several governments and for the ENI CBC MedProgramme. He has participated in several European and national competitive research projects and is currently the holder of the Jean Monnet Chair “The Transformative Power of European Union Law II” (TEULP II).

Imelda Maher is Sutherland Full Professor of European Law at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland and is Director of the UCD Dublin European Institute. She is interested in the relationship between law and governance and has published extensively on competition law and EU governance. She is currently Senior Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy and serves on the Advisory Board of the Cambridge Centre for European Legal Studies, the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich and The Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, Loyola University, Chicago.

Giuseppe Martinico is Professor of Comparative Public Law at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies Pisa, Italy, where he also serves as an Editor for STALS (Sant'Anna Legal Studies). Previously, he was García Pelayo Fellow at the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies (CEPC) in Madrid, Spain and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. His research interests cover Comparative and European Constitutional Law, in which he publishes extensively in international peer-reviewed journals in three languages (English, Italian and Spanish).

Patricia McCarthy graduated with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland in 2014. Her thesis focused on the educational experiences and transition opportunities of vision impaired people. She coordinates the PME Sociology of Education module in TCD. Her research focuses on UD(L), inclusion and participation. Patricia's ontological position as a disabled researcher has been instrumental in the development of her research and recent publications. She is the current Co-Chair of the Equality Committee - Staff Disability Working Group, TCD and member of Electoral Commission Research Advisory Group.

Anna Hickey-Moody is the inaugural Professor of Intersectional Humanities in the Arts and Humanities Research Institute at Maynooth University, Ireland. Her work explores intersecting angles of disadvantage through philosophical and creative approaches. Previously, she was Professor of Media and Communication at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, where she held an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship called Interfaith Childhoods.

Pádraig Naughton became Executive Director of Arts & Disability Ireland (ADI) in 2005. Working strategically in partnership with the arts sector ADI champions the creativity of artists and promotes inclusive experiences for audiences. In 2022 Pádraig graduated with an LLM in International & Comparative Disability Law & Policy from the University of Galway, Ireland. That same year The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C., USA, recognised his lifetime achievement with an Excellence in Accessibility Leadership Award. Pádraig will represent Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland, as an Expert Collaborator on the Europe Beyond Access consortium (2024-2027).

Charles O'Mahony is Lecturer in Law at the University of Galway, Ireland. He was Head of the School of Law between 2017-2021. His research and teaching include Disability Law, Mental Health Law and Policy, and allied areas. He previously worked as Amnesty International Ireland's Legal Officer on its mental health campaign and as a legal researcher for the Law Reform Commission of Ireland.

Charles O'Sullivan is Assistant Professor at the School of Law and Criminology at Maynooth University, Ireland. His research interests centre on law and the modern welfare state, and he has lectured primarily in areas including European Union, Common and Constitutional Law. In 2018, he received a PG Teaching Award for the 2017/2018 academic year, and was a finalist for Educator of the Year within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in 2022.

Francesco Palermo is Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Verona, Italy and is Director of the Institute for Comparative Federalism at Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy. He worked for the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and was member and president of the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Francesco is also a former member of the Scientific Committee of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU (2018-2023).

Frankie Picron is Executive Director of European Union of the Deaf (EUD) since January 2024. Prior to this appointment, he served as EUD Project Officer and Project Manager since 2016. He is currently in charge of promoting the rights of deaf persons in EU countries and attending all European-level meetings related to deaf/disability issues. Besides building and strengthening the EUD's networking with EU institutions, he is also responsible for EUD's general management and communication with EUD member organisations.

Evangelia Psychogiopoulou is Assistant Professor in EU Policies and Institutions at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese, Greece. She is also a senior research fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and a lawyer. Her main areas of research are EU law and governance, fundamental rights and the EU's values, EU law-making, EU law and policies for the digital transformation, cultural diversity and the media, EU horizontal policy priorities and judicial dialogue in Europe.

Shivaun Quinlivan is Associate Professor in Law at the University of Galway, Ireland. She researches on the right to equality with a particular focus on the right to education for people with disabilities. She is a member of the Berkeley Centre on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law and the Irish Women's Lawyers Association. In 2024 she was awarded the SATLE Impact Award for her work on Inclusive Learning at the University of Galway.

Caterina Sganga is Professor of Comparative Private Law at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies Pisa, Italy. Her key research area is International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law, with a focus on European Copyright Law, Intellectual Property (IP) and new technologies (especially artificial intelligence and data science), the balance between IP and fundamental/human rights, and the law and economics of cultural and creative industries.

Lucy Shibata is the Co-Artistic Director of Stopgap Dance Company (Stopgap) and has been creating acclaimed dance works for the company since 2003. She has shaped Stopgap to become world-renowned for their inclusive choreographic and teaching practice, leading residencies throughout Europe and Asia. Together with Stopgap's Deaf, Disabled, non-disabled and neurodivergent creatives, Lucy conceived, choreographed, devised and wrote 'Lived Fiction', which premiered at Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland. The production received two 4-star reviews from The Guardian and was nominated in 'The Best of Dance 2024' by the same paper.

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck is Professor of Public International Law at the University of Murcia, Spain and is Co-director of its Legal Clinic. She is Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls. She enjoys broad academic and professional experience in the UN, State bodies, non-governmental organisations and universities in Mexico, Italy, Spain, USA and Canada.

Paolo Vargiu is Associate Professor at the Leicester Law School, University of Leicester, UK. His research interests lie primarily in the fields of law and religion, legal theory, and international law. He is a qualified practitioner and acts as an independent arbitrator, and he is an active member of associations of persons with spinal cord injuries and organisation for the rights of persons with disabilities in the UK and in Italy.

Annalisa Volpato is Associate Professor of EU Law at the University of Padua, Italy. Previously, she worked as Assistant Professor at Maastricht University, the Netherlands, and as managing editor for the Review of European Administrative Law. Her research interests concern the institutional and administrative aspects of EU Law, the internal market as well as EU food law.

Sarah Whatley is Professor of Dance and Director of the Centre for Dance Research at Coventry University, UK. Her research focuses on dance in the context of cultural heritage, digital technologies, somatic practices, and inclusion in dance. Her current funded projects and publications are concerned with the intersection between dance, disability, prosthetics, and robotics. She chairs the Arts and Humanities Research Council sponsored 'Dance Research Matters' campaign to raise the profile of dance research in the UK.

ERC DANCING Team



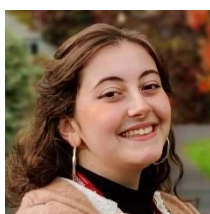
Léa Urzel Francil is a PhD candidate within the ERC DANCING Project. Her PhD research investigates the challenges faced by persons with disabilities as cultural and creative professionals, and the extent to which the EU legal framework can enable their active participation in the cultural and creative sectors.



Hilary Hooks is the project manager of the ERC DANCING Project. She is also responsible for ensuring the accessibility of the project. Previously she was administrator at the Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute.



Eva Sophie Krolla is a Research Assistant within the ERC DANCING Project. She holds a joint Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts in Euroculture from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands and University of Udine, Italy.



Élodie Makhoul is a Research Assistant within the ERC DANCING Project. She holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Maynooth University, Ireland, a French Bachelor of Laws (Licence de droit) from the Catholic University of Lyon, France as well as a Master of European and International Business Law (LLM) from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.



Alessia Palladino is a Research Assistant within the ERC DANCING Project. She holds an LLM from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy and her thesis focused on European Environmental Law. Prior to joining DANCING, she worked as a trainee at Maynooth University, Ireland.



Lazar Stefanović is a Research Assistant within the ERC DANCING Project. He holds a PhD from the University of Vienna, Austria and his dissertation examined the right to family life for children with disabilities in Austria, Serbia, and South Africa.



Iryna Tekuchova is a PhD candidate within the ERC DANCING Project. Her research seeks to investigate to which extent the rights of persons with disabilities are integral to the EU External Action and how the 'global reach' of EU Law impacts on the rights of people with disabilities outside the EU.

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