

ELECTIONS 2020 - COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)



Ivanka Jovanovic -
nominated candidate for the membership in the CRPD from Serbia



In reference to the decision of the Bureau of the Conference of States parties, made on 20 March 2020, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the States parties to the Convention will take place in New York in the second week of December 2020*, when nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with disabilities will be elected (dates to be confirmed taking into account the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the world and the host city New York).

At the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ms. Ivanka Jovanović is a nominated candidate for the membership in the CRPD from Serbia.

Her candidacy was also supported by the civil society in Serbia, primarily by the National Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia (NOOIS), which represents disability movement in Serbia. Also, her candidacy was formally supported by EAMDA (European Alliance of Neuromuscular Disorders Associations) and EFNA (European Federation of Neurological Association).



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, IN PARTICULAR ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Formal education: Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, 1988-1993, Degree – Journalist, BA.

Informal education: Training for trainers, Tim Tri, Belgrade, 2002 – degree for the trainer in the field of NGO management and human rights.

Other informal education and experience from the following fields: human rights, non-discrimination, advocacy, social marketing, many years of dealing with issues in the field of improving the position of PWDs and good knowledge of the concept of human rights, including domestic and international regulations, especially the UN Convention.

MAIN ACTIVITIES ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND COOPERATION WITH UN TREATY BODIES

Currently, Ivanka Jovanović is Executive Director of National Organization of Persons with disabilities of Serbia (NOOIS), representing over 800,000 PWDs and also working on inclusion of PWDs in the society.

Ivanka Jovanović has been very active in the international disability movement for three decades.

She has been a disability movement activist since the age of 18. Ms. Jovanović started her international engagement as a member of the Youth Organization within EAMDA, then as a member of the Executive Committee and for the last 8 years as the Vice-President of this organization.

Since 2005 she has cooperated very closely with the EDF (European Disability Forum) and since 2008 she has been a member of the Assembly of this largest and most important European umbrella organization of people with disabilities. She also actively participates in its work and attends the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Assembly, as the only representative from Serbia.



Since 2013 she has cooperated with the UN, especially with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In September 2013 she was the only representative from the Region at the High level meeting in New York, which was entirely dedicated to the position of PWDs in the world.

Ms. Jovanović cooperates with the CRPD through participation in the sessions (2015 and 2016) during the presentation of the alternative and initial report.

As a member in Serbian JCC (EU-Serbia Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee) for the field – social-economic development, she has close cooperation with the EU institutions, and in particular with the European Economic and Social Committee based in Brussels.

As a part of civil society organizations, Ivanka Jovanović is a member of the Government Council for Monitoring UN Recommendations which is the key national mechanism in Serbia for monitoring ratified UN conventions on human rights and fulfilling the obligations arising from them.

Also, she is a member of the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms, founded by civil society organizations, which have significant experience based on reporting to UN human rights mechanisms.



At the EDF meeting,
consultations in the working group



At Palais Wilson in Geneva (CRPD) 2015,
during presentation of alternative report



Meeting in European Economic
and Social Committee, Brussels

RELEVANT EXPERTISE UNDER THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RELEVANT TO THE CRPD MANDATE)

Ivanka Jovanović is a co-author of the first alternative report of the disability movement from Serbia, which she presented to the Committee in September 2015.

She also participated in the session during the presentation of the initial report submitted by Republic of Serbia in April 2016.

During both sessions, she had many contacts with members of the Committee, as well as with representatives of the IDA (International Disability Alliance), which brings together 1,100 organizations of persons with disabilities from eight global and six regional networks.

She was the coordinator and co-authors of several projects implemented by NOOIS since 2018, which relate to the analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the Convention on Human Rights in RS, including the translation and promotion of General Comments no. 5 (Article 19: Right to independent living), no. 6 (Article 5: Equality and non-discrimination), and no. 7 (Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation with persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention) of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Earlier this year, she translated the UN Convention into Serbian, but in an easy-to-read format, intended for people with intellectual disabilities.

All publications can be found on the NOOIS website: www.noois.rs

One of the main activities of the organization in which she has a leadership role is legislation and advocacy, including the monitoring the implementation of regulations with a focus on the harmonization of all domestic regulations in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

She especially emphasizes participation in various activities related to the harmonization of Serbian regulations in the areas: abolishing guardianship and introduction of decision-making with support; in the field of deinstitutionalization; work and employment; in the field of systematic introduction of prohibition of disability-based discrimination in new legislation; in the process of amendments to the Criminal Code criminalizing disability-based discrimination and increasing penalties for acts of sexual violence against persons with disabilities; in the process of recent ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Moreover, she has taken a very active role (within a working group) in the process of writing the new National Disability Strategy of Serbia for the period 2020/2024, particularly through systematic incorporation of recommendations from the Committee's Concluding Observations to Serbia into the new National Disability Strategy.



LIST OF MOST RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- I One of the authors in manual "**Basic Principles of Psycho-social Support for People with Disabilities**" (chapter: Language of disabilities); Belgrade 2000
- II One of the authors of research "**People with disabilities and environment**" (chapter with name: Theoretical overview, Prof. Viktorija Cucic and Ivanka Jovanovic); CIP Belgrade 2001
- III Co-author of the book "**Human Resource Management**", OSCE, January 2003
- IV One of the authors in manuals "**The Third Symposium of Neurology and Psychology for Children**", Institute for Neurology and Psychology for Children, April 2004
- V One of the authors of the ILO manual "**What is already available**" (dedicated to employers and people with disabilities)
- VI "**Guide through the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**" (NOOIS, several editions)
- VII Coordinator of the research "**Situational Analysis of the Position of Children with Disabilities in Serbia**" (NOOIS-UNICEF-EDF, 2017)
- VIII Coordinator of the research and one of the authors "**Analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the CRPD in the RS**" (two editions – 2018 and 2020)
- IX One of the authors of the manual "**Family Guide for Emergency Preparedness and Response**" (with basic information about the treatment of persons with disabilities in emergency situations, for the general public, Belgrade 2018)
- X Author of the brochure "**Etiquette in Everyday Communication with People with Disabilities**" (Belgrade, 2019)
- XI Translated and prepared a brochure "**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**" (in an easy-to-read format, intended for people with intellectual disabilities), Belgrade 2020



SHE HAS THE STRONGEST UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERTISE IN FOLLOWING AREAS OF THE CRPD:

Article 6 – Women with disabilities

Article 8 – Awareness-raising

Article 9 – Accessibility

Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Article 29 – Participation in political and public life

IVANKA JOVANOVIC ABOUT MOTIVATION FOR CANDIDACY IN CRPD:

"Human rights are universal and indivisible; they belong to all human beings, so naturally they also belong to persons with disabilities. CRPD is the first human rights treaty adopted under the auspices of the United Nations in the new Millennium. As a woman with a disability from a less developed part of Europe (Western Balkans), I am particularly motivated to work on improving the position of women with disabilities, but also on improving other areas, first of all in my country, as well as throughout the world. Taking into consideration my excellent knowledge of disability policy and human rights advocacy for PWDs, as well as my long-term international experience, I deeply believe in my capacity to be a member of the CRPD."





IVANKA.J@MTS.RS