
The art of belonging

A congress that makes you feel welcome

DSiN organizes education, sharing knowledge, and research. Organizing inclusive congresses is an important mission for DSiN because this crosses and unites the three listed before. In response to the third international congress 'The Art of Belonging' in 2017 DSiN is publishing tips and ideas based upon own experiences and received evaluations to make a congress as inclusive as possible. This is a summary. The complete overview can be found at <https://disabilitystudies.nl/en/accessible-congress>.

A congress where everyone can feel welcome starts with...

A welcoming location: Organize an event where everyone their individuality/talent can be seen and appreciated. Focus on accessibility in every area, also financially. Give people a chance to participate and focus on hospitality so that people are able to truly feel welcome.

Room for experiential expertise: Make room for experience focused stories. Give people a chance to express their experience through word, image, film, theater, music, ... This way light can be shed on stories that otherwise, through means of more traditional presenting, would not be told at conferences.

Support for everyone: With a support bar you can organize noiseless (!) support for everyone who wishes or needs it. Provide for people who are very un-forcibly/naturally welcome. Think of whispering interpreters, sign language interpreters, writing interpreters, people who can give directions, provide for areas to calm down. Think about water and walking services for guide dogs.

Accessible congress book: Make a clear congress book. On paper as well as digitally. Through word as well as image. Translate where possible. Indicate which workshops are more academic and which are more practical and accessible. We all communicate and learn in different ways. Offer a colorful palette: readings, poster presentations, theater, music, dance, active workshops, academic explanations.

Organize together: A congress that makes everyone feel welcome is organized in collaboration with experiential experts! Invite guests to support each other so that everyone gets optimal chances to learn.

