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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



Agenda

Empowered Study visit, 24–27 March 2026.

<p>Day 1 – Travel to Croatia 24/03/2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure of the WB6 group, arrival in Zagreb (Hotel Antunović check-in) • Introductory briefing and orientation session, dinner
<p>Day 2 – Croatia (Sveti Ivan Zelina) – Community services & deinstitutionalization 25/03/2026</p>	<p>08:00 – 08:45 Departure from Zagreb (Hotel Antunović) to Sv. Ivan Zelina</p> <p>09:00 – 09:30 Sv. Ivan Zelina City Hall – Welcome session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Đurđa Penava – Head of Organisational Unit, Association “Srce” • Elmir Bojadžić - Regional Director for South East Europe Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland • Sava Pantelić - Desk Officer for Southeast Europe and International Samaritan Cooperation, Foreign Aid Department • Biljana Zgonjanin – President of the Management Board, LIR Civil Society <p>09:30 – 11:00 Marija Dugac – Head of Organized Housing Support, Association “Srce”</p> <p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based daily services for persons with disabilities (PwDs) • Occupational and socio-educational activities • Supported living models (levels of support, staffing, service delivery) • Cooperation with the local community and institutions - local employer representative • Role of social investment funds (funding models, sustainability, challenges) <p>11:00 – 13:15 Site visit: Day Centre and Supported Housing Programme</p> <p>13:30 – 14:30 Working lunch</p> <p>14:30 – 15:30 Reflection Session: Lessons for WB6 Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibilities for transferring Croatian practices to the WB6 countries • Conditions needed for the application in WB6 countries • Pilot Actions for Immediate Implementation – exploring partnership models and opportunities for cross-border cooperation <p>Return to Zagreb, Partnership meeting and dinner (19:00)</p>
<p>DAY 3 – SLOVENIA – Institutions, legislation & employment of PwDs 26/03/2026</p>	<p>07:00 – 09:00 Departure from Zagreb to Ljubljana</p> <p>09:30 – 11:00 Visit to an Inclusive Company / Protected Workshop Želva Suzana Bohorč - Head of the Employment and Vocational Rehabilitation center</p> <p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the company’s activities and practical implementation • Inclusive employment models and adapted working environments, • Vocational training, skills development, and support services for employees with disabilities, • Sustainable business models and cooperation with public institutions • Short guided tour <p>11:00 – 11:45 University Rehabilitation Institute Soča (URI): registration and welcome refreshments</p> <p>11:45 – 11:50 Elmir Bojadžić - Regional Director for South East Europe Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland</p> <p>11:50-12:00 Tanja Fajon - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p>12:00 – 12:45 Andrejka Znoj - Director of the Directorate for the Disabled - Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of disability-related legislation and employment policies • Legal framework governing labour rights, vocational rehabilitation, and workplace adaptation • National and EU-level measures supporting social and labour market inclusion • Short Q&A <p>12:45 – 13:15 Lea Kovač, Senior advisor - Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia</p>





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Empowered Study visit, 24–27 March 2026.

<p>DAY 3 – SLOVENIA – Institutions, legislation & employment of PwDs</p> <p>26/03/2026</p>	<p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of ZRSZ in the pathway from rehabilitation to employment, linking rehabilitation services with employment counselling • Competence of ZRSZ in assessing work ability and using evaluations (e.g. URI Soča) to develop individual employment plans • Responsibilities of ZRSZ in implementing inclusive employment measures, including active labour market programmes, employer cooperation, and incentives for employing persons with disabilities • Short Q&A <p>13:15 – 14:15 Working lunch</p> <p>14:15 – 15:15 Valentina Breclj, Head of the Development Center for Employment Rehabilitation - University Rehabilitation Institute of the Republic of Slovenia - Soča</p> <p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Development Centre and concessionaire for vocational rehabilitation, with direct insight into the practical work of the rehabilitation institute • Short Q&A <p>15:15 – 16:00 Aleksandra Kuhar, Regional secretary, Head of the Department for Encouraging Employment of Disabled People - Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p>Main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities • Employer incentives and financial support measures for employing persons with disabilities • Funding mechanisms for workplace adaptation and professional development • Scholarship schemes and human resource development programmes • Short Q&A <p>Return to Zagreb and follow up on the bus</p>
<p>DAY 4 – Return travel – 27/03/2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure from Croatia and Return to WB6 countries • Internal evaluation of the study visit (online evaluation form)

More information about the project:

Website: www.empowered-wb.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Empowered-WB/61566325370267/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/empowered_wb/

The "Empowered" project aims to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) in the Western Balkans. The project is led by the German organization Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V., and the project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ). The project is being implemented in the period from September 1, 2024 to April 30, 2028 (a total of 44 months).