SESSION 1: 10:00 – 11:55
Volunteers & Training in support of Tourism for all
Travel Butlers Around the World
Japie Swings, JPS Tours, Belgium

The importance of a good travel butler
It is not important what you do, but how you do it.

Travel insecurities

- Insecurities
  - Finance
  - Transportation
  - Medication
  - Personal hygiene
- A good travelbutler is of great importance
The travelbutler

- Adventurous mind
- Interest to travel the world together with disabled person
- Great flexibility
- Empathy
- Enthusiastic

Who are our guests?

- People
  - with mental disability
  - with restricted mobility
  - With visual disability
  - Brain-damaged patients

- Travel in small heterogeneous groups (maximum 7 people/group)
Inclusive travel

- Disabled people do not have to adapt to society

- **SOCIETY NEEDS TO ADAPT TO DISABLED PERSONS**

- Access to and contribution to
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Profession
  - Travelling

Tailor-made holidays

- 1. Activities in interaction with guests

- 2. Fixed day-program, no suggestion needed from guests

- **AUTHENTICITY IS ALWAYS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE**
Where do we look for volunteers?

- High school or university
- Active 50+
- Social sector

Compensation

1. no compensation

2. compensation
   - Flat-rate reimbursement
   - Real expense allowance
2 trainings/year

- **1st training**
  - Information on
  - Syndromes
  - Medication
  - Budget
  - Discussion with experienced travelbutler

2 trainings/year

- **2nd training**
  - Debriefing weekend: evaluation of previous trips + plan future holidays
  - Learn from experienced travelbutlers during weekend trips
Conclusion

- Finding good travelbutlers → more and more difficult
- Compensation: Yes or No?

Key factor: money or conviction?