***VISAL, a key to civic engagement for the visually impaired in older age***

**Mercure Bratislava Centrum Hotel**

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**Tel: +421 257277000**

**2nd-3rd October 2014**

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**PROGRAMME**

# Thursday 2nd October

**08.45 Arrival and registration**

**09.15 Welcome and opening remarks**

* Branislav Mamojka, President of the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union
* Miroslav Mikolasik, Slovak Member of the European Parliament
* Ján Gabura, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
* Renata Mezeiova, Erasmus + agency in Slovakia
* Mokrane Boussaïd, Executive Director of the European Blind Union (EBU)

**09.45 Round table - ‘VI persons in older age: lifelong learning towards increased civic engagement’**

Moderator: Peter Verstraten, Royal Dutch Visio, member of the EBU Network of Elderly Blind and Partially Sighted People

* Marjan Sedmak, Age Platform Europe, President
* Janka Sňahničanová, Association of Universities of the Third Age (ASUTV) of Slovakia
* David Giles, VISAL participant in the UK

**11.00 Break**

**11.30 Overview of VISAL Project**

Romain Ferretti, European Blind Union, VISAL coordinator

**11.45 VISAL toolkit and Q&A**

Simone Balkenende, Royal Dutch Visio, VISAL expert

**12.15 Lunch at *Signatures Restaurant***

**14.00 Workshops (3 x 50 minutes).**

3 groups of delegates rotate to attend the 3 following workshops.

* **WS1 - VISAL session 5**

Leaders: Claudia Unger, Austrian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted, and Ana Vrbanić, Croatian Association of the Blind, VISAL facilitators

WS1 will partly reproduce VISAL session 5 “*Influencing professionals and service providers*”, thus enabling to get a concrete idea on how it is lead, how it progresses, what are the interactions between participants, etc.

* **WS2 - VISAL session 2**

Leaders: Lovorka Horvačić, Croatian Association of the Blind, and Tímea Hóková, Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union, VISAL facilitators

WS2 will partly reproduce VISAL session 2 “*My circles of influence*”.

* **WS3 - Adapting the toolkit to different organisations and different countries**

Leader: Simone Balkenende, Royal Dutch Visio, and Kate Adams, ex-Age UK, VISAL experts

WS3 will focus on adapting the toolkit to participants’ national context. Following questions will be replied to: what steps to take? What is important? What helps? What makes the process more difficult?

**14.50 Workshop – Session 2**

**15.40 Break**

**16.10 Workshop – Session 3**

**17.00 Close of day 1**

**19.00 Show by the Závodzan folk group, followed by dinner at *Signatures Restaurant***

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# Friday 3rd October

**09.45 Arrivals**

**10.00 UNSS Welcome**

**10.05 VISAL stories**

The stories of VISAL participants and facilitators

Leader: Rebecca Sheehy, Royal National Institute of Blind People, VISAL facilitator

**11.10 Final Project Evaluation ‘VISAL, the way forward’ and Q&A**

Dominique Danau, SAGO Research,VISAL evaluator

**11.45 Close**

**12.15 Lunch at *Signatures Restaurant***

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union