

PortAventura Business & Events hosts 15th European Congress on Supported Employment 2024 to boost and promote the talent of people with disabilities

More than 600 professionals met at the fifteenth edition of the meeting, a benchmark in the exploration of innovative strategies and good practices for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market



08 July 2024 - PortAventura Convention Centre hosted the **15th European Congress on Supported Employment 2024 "We Have the Talent"**, by **Aura Fundación**, a benchmark event to explore innovative strategies and best practices in the promotion of supported employment for people with disabilities. The conference brought together **more than 600 attendees**, bringing together international companies and organisations, professionals, experts, researchers, people with disabilities and social agents. The event also represented the **14th State Congress on Supported Employment**, bringing together speakers and lecturers from all over the world.

Malin Nilsson, Director of PortAventura Business & Events, highlighted that "*these types of meetings are extraordinarily necessary, and we are proud to be able to give them impetus and visibility from PortAventura Convention Centre. Social responsibility is a fundamental part of the management of PortAventura Business & Events, which is why we support actions like this one, that highlight the importance of equal opportunities. In addition, promoting talent is another of our core values as a company, and we are delighted to be able to give a voice to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace*".





Through the development of various conferences and workshops, the forum **sought to highlight best practices and advances in 'supported employment' throughout the European Union**, offering a space for inclusive companies and people with disabilities to share their experiences and opinions, generating a collaborative and dynamic environment. All in all, the aim was to guarantee access to the labour market for these people, so they may be able to exercise their right to work under equal conditions and with the necessary support, and to change the past vision of labour inclusion, encouraging companies to commit to equal opportunities and to recognise the talent of each individual, regardless of their situation or disability.

Among other topics, issues such as **digital accessibility, the inclusion of groups** such as people with autism, the role of public administrations and youth employment were discussed. In addition, stories and current projects were shared, including collaborative initiatives between the world of business and foundations, which are gradually changing the paradigm of inclusive employment.

The congress was attended by prominent personalities such as María Cabré and Glòria Canals, from Aura Fundación; Luis Cayo, president of CERMI; Alfonso Gutiérrez, president of AESE; Luc Henau, president of EUSE; Enric Botí, president of the Territorial Council of ONCE in Catalonia; Montserrat Buisan, corporate director of Social Programmes of the "la Caixa" Foundation, and Roger Torrent, Minister of Enterprise and Employment of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

María Cabré, director of Aura Fundación, wanted to thank all the congress participants for their contribution: *"we want to continue learning, sharing and listening in order to create an inclusive world where all people have the same rights and opportunities. This congress has been a wonderful opportunity to exchange knowledge and meet people from other countries. We are a big family committed to inclusion and mutual learning."*

Aura Fundación entrusted PortAventura Business & Events given the company's experience in this type of meetings, and facilities that were perfectly suited to their needs. The **"We Have the Talent"** congress participants were able to enjoy the different areas of PortAventura Convention Centre, staying at the Hotel PortAventura and attending an exclusive opening of the Mediterránea area of PortAventura Park. The latter is one of the differential services offered by PortAventura Business & Events: private openings of the themed areas of PortAventura Park or Ferrari Land for attendees to enjoy a unique experience.

About Aura Foundation

Aura Fundación was created in October 1989. It is a non-profit organisation that has promoted the first 'supported work' programme in Spain, a pioneering methodology. Its mission is to help improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities through social and labour inclusion.

About PortAventura Business & Events

PortAventura Business & Events is the events division of PortAventura World. Its convention centre (PortAventura Convention Centre), with a capacity to host more than 6,000 people at a time, has 24 multifunctional rooms throughout its more than 20,000 m² layout, its own audiovisual solutions thanks to a joint venture with Bmotion Audiovisual, natural light and privileged views of the Mediterranean coast. In





addition, it houses five 4-star hotels and one 5-star hotel within the resort, as well as two offsite hotels under management, totalling more than 3,000 rooms. PortAventura Park, Ferrari Land and PortAventura Caribe Aquatic Park are three leisure parks that can be enjoyed on their own and offer large spaces for special events. All of this, combined with a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach that aligns with the company's global SDG strategy, sees PortAventura Business & Events hosting more than 280 events a year. Since the inauguration of its convention centre in 2009, PortAventura has hosted close to 2,700 events. In April 2023 it received B Corp certification, which recognises the work of the convention centre in terms of sustainability, social responsibility and good governance.

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