



The 10th ICEVI European Conference in Padova, Italy. "Supporting children and young adults with visual impairment: What can we do? What can be done?"

Registration is now open for the **tenth ICEVI European Conference**, which will be held in **Padua (Italy) from 15 to 17 May 2025!**

This international Conference is **jointly organised by ICEVI-Europe and the Robert Hollman Foundation**, thanks to the support of the Municipality of Padua and the University of Padua, and the patronage of the Veneto Region, the Padua Hospital Trust and Ulss6 Euganea.

It will bring together **more than 300 professionals** from all over the world, institutions and associations from across Europe, and will focus on how, through a multidisciplinary and a person-centred approach, holistic support can enhance the quality of life for blind or visually impaired children and young adults.

The Conference will be opened in the ancient Aula Magna of Palazzo Bo, founded in 1222 and where figures such as Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus taught and studied, and will continue at various iconic locations throughout Padua, reflecting the city's rich culture and history.

Over three intense days, plenary and parallel sessions, workshops and networking opportunities will alternate.

Two **keynote speakers** will set the stage for the Conference, offering insightful presentations on the current state and future perspectives, both nationally and internationally, on supporting children and young adults with visual impairments.

Thirteen distinguished speakers will then open parallel sessions focused on **four key areas of interest**: individual development and assessment; education and learning; habilitation and rehabilitation; access, participation, and engagement in society.

With **230 contributions received**, the presentations by Conference participants will provide valuable opportunities to share knowledge, experiences and professional practices.

Additionally, **four workshops** on Braille & Digital Literacies, Tactile Books, Cerebral Visual Impairment and Physical Activity will enrich the participants' experience with hands-on activities.

The "Key Principles", results of the Conference

During the Conference, a document on **"Key principles for supporting children and young adults with visual impairment"** will be shared. The aim of the document is to provide a common framework for European professionals and a set of fundamental principles underlying the work of all those who engage with children and young adults with visual impairments, both in educational and clinical settings.

The document was drafted by a multidisciplinary team of European experts in the field of visual impairment and, through a co-participatory process, involved hundreds of professionals in its definition.

Individualized intervention programs, a multidisciplinary approach, collaboration between professionals and caregivers, and the enhancement of the individual child's and young adult's strengths have inspired the document, as they represent essential elements for promoting a positive attitude within families and care environments, fostering development, well-being, independence, and self-confidence.

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The Conference will therefore be the occasion to launch a broad dissemination of the document at European level, to raise awareness among policymakers on the adoption of these "Key Principles" in national and European guidelines of Centres and Institutions working in the field of visual impairment, and to promote the cross-sectional application of these principles in the educational and clinical practice of professionals.

An inclusive framework: the Padova SensoriAbile Days

On the occasion of the ICEVI-European Conference, it was decided to create **an extensive inclusive environment**, to further contribute to a greater understanding of visual impairment and promoting social acceptance, especially through the positivity of relationships. Therefore, an additional event will enrich the Conference framework: the **"Padova SensoriAbile Days" which will take place from May 10 to 18**, promoted and organized by the Robert Hollman Foundation, Uici (Italian Blind Union) Padua section, Municipality of Padua, University of Padua, and Aniomap (National Association of Orientation, Mobility, and Personal Autonomy Instructors).

The inspiration for these Days comes from the experience of **the experimental project "SensoriAbile anch'io"**, which throughout 2024, provided experiential training to the operators of twelve public and private citizen services in the city of Padua.

In May 2025, a widespread calendar of activities will be proposed in various locations across Padua and shared by dozens of social organizations that will offer events, exhibitions, workshops, meetings and enriching experiences, accessible to all, with or without visual impairments.

There will be, for example, inclusive readings, guided tours of the main historical sites from a multisensory perspective, a dinner in the dark, a baseball game for everyone... and the **multisensory exhibition "Stories on the Fingers. Trees"**, designed by the National Federation of Institutions for the Blind, and displayed in collaboration with the Robert Hollman Foundation and the Department of Culture of the Municipality of Padua. The exhibition will be open from May 12 to 18 at the balconies of the San Gaetano Cultural Center, which will also host the final plenary session of the ICEVI-Europe Conference on Saturday, May 17.

The 10th ICEVI-Europe Conference combined with the Padova SensoriAbile Days represent an important example of social innovation, as the planned multisensory and inclusive experiences will show a way to make concrete the objectives and contents developed by the international professionals gathered in Padua.

In this way, we try to reach everyone: from professionals to institutions, from the world of education to families and caregivers, from children to adults, with or without visual impairments, to engage the entire civil community and demonstrate how inclusion can be achieved through relationships and encounters.

Registration:

Since places are limited, we encourage you to secure your spot and be part of this prestigious event, by registering as soon as possible.

- **Registration link :** <https://icevieurope2025-hollman.it/registration/>
- **Registration Deadline:** February 28, 2025

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Subject to availability of places after the deadline, late registration at an increased fee will remain open until April 30, 2025.

For more information, please visit the conference website: <https://icevieurope2025-hollman.it/> or contact us directly at lc@lccongressi.it.

We look forward to welcoming you to Padova!

Insights

For further information on the Conference: www.icevieurope2025-hollman.it

PadovaSensoriAble: www.padovasensoriabile.it

ICEVI-Europe: www.icevi-europe.org

Robert Hollman Foundation: www.fondazionerobertthollman.it

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