

ASSISTANCE DOGS

THE STATE OF THE ART OF EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION
DEDICATED TO THE QUALIFICATION
AND STRUCTURING OF THE SECTOR

Conference



31 May 2024

ore 09.00 a.m. CET – 12.30 p.m. CET

Milan, Via Sannio 2 (MI) – UNI Headquarters





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PRESENTATION

An extensive initiative is currently underway in Europe to establish common standards for Assistance Dogs serving people with disabilities. This effort, undertaken voluntarily, aims to regulate the presence, accessibility, and all related activities within this sector. The Conference on Assistance Dogs, organized by HUB Professioni Cinofile, CNR IAA, and UNI, will comprise two sessions.

The morning session (international – working language: EN) will focus on technical updates from experts of CEN/TC 452, with an international scope. This segment will delve into the latest developments pertinent to the field, offering valuable insights and updates.

In the afternoon, a Round Table (national – working language: IT) discussion will convene representatives from Italian National and Local Public Institutions, organizations advocating for People with Disabilities, the healthcare sector, veterinarians, as well as experts from the research and training domains. The objective is to foster a multidisciplinary dialogue aimed at charting a collective path towards structuring and enhancing this sector.

By embracing a multidisciplinary approach, it is hoped that these discussions will pave the way for comprehensive and inclusive standards for Assistance Dogs and their vital role in supporting individuals with disabilities.

PROGRAMME

MODERATOR: *Laura Contalbrigo*, CNR IAA

9.00 Registration of participants / Coffee Break

9.15 Opening remarks

Giacomo Riccio, Technical Project Manager UNI

Jana Sirotková, CEN/TC452 Chairperson

Franco Mutinelli, Direttore Centro di Referenza Nazionale per gli IAA

9.25 Introduction to the conference topics

Alessandra Chiarcos, HUB PC

9.30 Harnesses for guide dogs: an ergonomic study

Karl Weissenbacher, DVM – Messerli Research Institute Vienna, Austria

9.50 Moving out of the shadow – bereavement, guilt, and the impact of previous guide dogs on their successors

Tim Stafford, Guide Dogs UK

10.20 Welfare and work in assistance dogs: from resilience to retirement

Manuel Mengoli, Néthos – Mailane (Francia), Canidea – Parigi (Francia)

10.40 Diabetic Alert Dog Project

Massimo Bugianelli, Scuola Regione Toscana – Scuola Cani Guida Candicci

11.00 A pilot study into the effects of PTSD-assistance dogs' work on their salivary cortisol levels and their handlers' Quality of life

Karoline Gerwisch, MA MSc, Comparative Cognition, Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna

12.30 Light lunch

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