**Andrea Saks**

***Remote participation? Not as easy as it sounds or seen by Persons with Disabilities***

**Abstract**

We all thought remote participation would allow persons with disabilities to attend meetings, contribute and be heard at a distance. Nothing could be further than the truth and be more difficult to manage than we ever imagined once we began to try to do just that.  Not only do the tools have differences, many are not accessible for many different reasons.  How do you train or teach people who need to use them these tools if you can’t transparently access them.  If you cannot participate seamlessly without resorting to more than one browser page or device then you are one of the ones who understand the problem.

There will never be a perfect conferencing tool so we must train people who run meetings and the people who train people how to use these tools and run the audio visual departments in disability needs and awareness.  Raising awareness in those persons to the needs of persons with disabilities is not a straight forward enterprise as there is the technical aspect also.  What can we do to adapt to what we have and enable Persons with Disabilities to participate remotely?