## Minutes of the EDF Annual General Assembly held in Vilnius on 26-27 May 2018

## Official Opening chaired by the Lithuanian Disability Forum

The President gave the floor to the Director who explained some practical details related interpretation, captioning, technical equipment, etc.

She gave the floor to Dovile Juodkaite, President of the Lithuanian Forum who presented a video celebrating 100 years of State. She welcomed all the participants. She reminded the values under which the nation was created. She explained the main steps leading to a new democracy and the efforts made to reduce discrimination. She gave the floor to Gunta Anca who explained the celebration of first century of independence of the three Baltic sea countries. She introduced a video about how society improved in Latvia. The Estonian representative explained some actions related to the celebration of the century in Estonia as well.

She gave the floor to the Lithuanian representative of the Ministry, Justas Dziugelis who explained how new technologies and artificial intelligence were changing our lives.

She gave the floor to Juozas Bernatavicius who read a communication from the office of the Prime Minister. He thanked the organisers of the AGA to have the opportunity to discuss about the Web Directive. He reminded the Lithuanian constitutional principal of equality of rights for all. He explained how Lithuania ratified the UNCRPD and acknowledged how the implementation of rights of persons with disabilities was important.

She gave the floor to EDF President who thanked the Lithuanian Disability Forum for the excellent cooperation in organising the EDF general assembly. He congratulated the Lithuanians for the celebration of their century of independence. He explained that this AGA was the first one with all EU Member States having ratified the UNCRPD. He reminded that the difficult part would be the implementation. He reminded the need to continue the campaign on the Equal Treatment Directive. He also highlighted some great achievements with the adoption of many laws and policies protecting and promoting the right of persons with disabilities such as the Passengers’ rights legislation, the regulations of the European Structural Funds and the directive ensuring accessibility of public bodies’ websites and mobile applications. He also highlighted the need to campaign for next European Elections. He concluded by reminding the moto “Nothing about us without us”.

## Conference on the Web Accessibility Directive

Humberto Insolera from the EDF Executive Committee chaired the event. He explained how important the Internet had become in everybody’s life and he reminded the importance of the Web Accessibility Act and its implementation. He introduced Marco Marsella, European Commission Head of Unit G3 – Learning, Multilingualism and Accessibility, DG CNECT representing MariyaGABRIEL, European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. She reminded the need to ensure a better accessibility of the web for people with disabilities in order to enable more people to participate in society. She explained the step further : the transposition and the implementation of the Directive. She explained the action plan and timetable that should lead to web accessibility by September 2019. She talked about a forthcoming public consultation about the level of web accessibility. She confirmed that the EC services were working hard to get a concrete achievement on this.

Umberto Insolera gave the floor to Shadi ABOU-ZAHRA, Strategy and Technology Specialist Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and member of the Web Accessibility Directive Expert Group. He explained the way forward and the achievement of the Web Accessibility Directive since he begun to talk about it. He explained what it meant exactly to make a web accessible and how technologies were converging to each other’s. He gave some technical details about how websites were created and how, on that basis, guidelines were given to web developers in order to make them more accessible. He explained that the process Web Standards Recommendations were almost ready and he listed the technical principles guiding these standards.

He gave the floor to Alejandro Moledo from the EDF Secretariat who introduced the EDF toolkit on the Web Accessibility Directive. He also explained the scope of the Directive and how it could affect people’s every day life. He highlighted the need to clarify about the content of some exceptions contained in the Directive and to deal with this matter with governments. He reminded the need to act for the transposition and discuss with governments on how to proceed and be involved as well as the need to inform persons with disabilities about the Directive and its possibilities and raise awareness of the general public.

Humberto Insolera thanked and congratulated the speakers. .

## Case presentations on the transposition of the Directive

The introduction was followed by case presentations on the transposition of the Directive in Denmark, Spain, Slovenia, Lithuania.

The Danish Representative, Thorkild Olesen, highlighted the step undertaken to implement the Directive as well as the plans to extend the scope of the Directive.

The Spanish Representative, Pilar Vilarino explained the dialogue that took place with the government with regards to the transposition of the Directive.

The Slovenian Representative, Goran Kustura, explained that the government involved the Slovenian National Council at a late stage. They had the opportunity to communicate about their concerns and disagreements.

The Lithuanian Representative, Lina Garvencuta, expressed her lack of experience in this subject. She explained that the Lithuanian National Council has been able to meet with the ombudsman and that they had several meetings with Ministry of Transport and Communication about the transposition of the Directive.

Alejandro Moledo noted that different level of dialogues and involvements with governments took place in the transposition of this Directive. He highlighted that accessibility inclusion was not a cost but an investment. He requested members to check in their respective countries which ministries were involved in the process and to keep active contacts with these.

He opened the floor to comments and questions.

Pietro Cirrincione stressed the importance to enlarge the scope of the Directive and have the web accessible beyond the minimum requirements. Marica Miric underlined the necessity to dialogue and negotiate with governments. Bart Simons wondered what would happen if a ministry would not transpose the Directive entirely. Nadia Hadad wondered about what indicators would be used. Ivanka Jovanovic explained that Serbia included some accessibility aspects in its law but not on a systematic and compulsory basis. Branislav Mamojka explained that Slovakia’s government prime ministry had negotiations with the Slovak National Council and he expressed his concerns that many universities were not public but private. Training and awareness raising needs were also highlighted as well as the need to involve organisations of people with disabilities in the transposition process.

Alejandro thanked the floor for their comments. He highlighted that semi-public companies were encouraged by ministries to align with public sectors. Marco Marsella explained that Governments should informed the European Commission about the transposition of the Directive by September 23 and that the reporting to the European Commission on how the implementation was achieved was also important. He reminded that they were 3 levels of accessibility that would help the transposition at different stages. He mentioned that electricity and transports were part of the European Commission’s ambitions but that this was to be debated with Members States.

Alejandro concluded the conference reminding the huge achievements that was the Directive and the need ensure its implementation.

**AGA Business Session**

1. Roll call and Adoption of the Agenda

The President gave the floor to the EDF Director who went through the list of attendees to insure the quorum of voters.

The agenda of the meeting was approved with no changes.

1. Election of a new National Council board member

The President gave the floor to Gunta Anca who explained the election procedure that would take place for the election of an EDF Board member from national councils. She mentioned that 2 applications had been received : Toomas Mihkelson, from Estonian Disability Forum and Thuridur Harpa Sigurdardottir from Icelandic National Council. Both applicants introduced themselves.

For the Scrutiny Committee, Gunta Anca suggested to appoint Martin Boerjan, Jasmine as official delegates and Loredana Dicsi and Marion Steff as EDF Staff.

She informed the AGA delegates representing national councils that they should hand over their voting ballot to the Secretariat staff at the registration desk.

After the time it took to count the votes, Gunta Anca informed the AGA that the new elected Board member was Thuridur Harpa Sigurdardottir.

1. New frontiers for the CRPD and EDF position on article 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD **(DOC-AGA-18-01)**

The President explained that the purpose of this AGA item was to discuss a global strategy for EDF on the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD, and the mainstreaming of disability rights at EU and international level.

He mentioned that the members had received DOC AGA 18-01 with explanation on this item, and also as an annex, the EDF draft input on the draft general comment on articles 4.3 and 33.3 CRPD. Stig Langvad joined via skype to present the draft, and to receive input from the members (input will also be included in the final draft of EDF to the CRPD committee). He gave his own opinion about the work of the Committee composed of political groups from different orientations. He highlighted that the whole group was working for pushing a good understanding of the CRPD and that the relationships between State parties and Organisation of people with disabilities were essential. He said that the final draft will be reflecting many of the incoming inputs of the European Disability Forum as well as from many other organisations. He specified that it will be focusing on the independence of ODP. He underlined the need for a concrete distinction between Article 4.3 and Article 33.3. He expected that EDF would be allowed to claim for free funding regardless of the financial development within the region. He highlighted the need to clarify the difficulty of legal capacity and the way some people were facing difficulties to express themselves and the way families could play a role in this respect.

The President thanked Stig Langvad for his presentation but also for his work as rapporteur in the Committee. He thanked Teresa Degener who accepted his suggestion about the composition of the CRPD Committee. He thanked the EDF staff for their work in relation with the submission of the report. He reminded the importance of being involved in the decision making process. He clarified that Article 33.3 was set up for monitoring but also for implementing and that it had to do with real involvement. He gave the floor to An-Sofie who presented the draft document and opened the floor to comments and suggestions.

Jolijn Santesgoed expressed her full support to the role of families for persons who cannot represent themselves and suggested the document to be amended with this item. Pietro Cirrincione also expressed his support in this matter. Giampierro Griffo highlighted the difference between consultation and involvement, the latter leading to innovation. Maureen Piggot requested the document to recognize the validity of organisations of self-advocate and the recognition the difficulty of people with intellectual disability to express themselves and the right of families to be involved in the decision making process. Pilar Vilarino requested the support of the EDF members for the upcoming CEDAW election to the Committee to which Ana Pelaez applied. Thorkild Oelesen highlighted the need for funding mentioned by Stig. Vera Bonvalot underlined the need to hear the voice of parents of disabled people. Gabor Petri wondered if the general comments would put some pressure on OPD to comply with CRPD rules as well. Stig Langvad made a distinction between the need of some disabled persons to be represented and the need for legal capacity and he highlighted the need for OPD to comply with CRPD and to organise for a meaningful involvement of OPDs.

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1. Workshop on the structural funds:

The EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis gave the floor to Simona Giarratano who highlighted the following :

* On the 2 may the European Commission published its proposal for the future EU long term budget for the period 2021-2027.
* With no surprise the Commission decided to invest its resources on defence, security, border control and to reduce its spending on Cohesion, values and people.
* Nevertheless, in the budget proposal, as it appears there will be room for making sure that investments for persons with disabilities to go to school, to work, to live independently, to participate will be possible.
* We will have to make sure that funding for accessibility for persons with disabilities will be allocated by the European Union and by all our countries at the very least at the same level as today, ideally to increase that amount.
* The proposal presents different new instruments for funding cohesion and values, for investing in people, including the new European social fund plus, and also the new instruments for Asylum and migration, neighbourhood and the world, research. Additional funding will be put on Ersasmus + and this has to be spent for inclusion of young persons with disabilities to participate in the programme and to raise awareness of the CRPD and the needs of pupils with disabilities among school and university staff.
* References to the European Pillar of social rights are included in the Commission proposal for the budget. Principle 17 of the pillar is about persons with disabilities therefore investment under the chapeau of the Pillar should finance actions for inclusion of persons with disabilities to access quality jobs and adequate social protection.
* On the 29 May, the European Commission will publish the Common provisions regulations and the EU funds regulations. We regret to hear that the horizontal principle on equality between women and men, accessibility for persons with disabilities and non discrimination might not be included in the Commission proposal. We already reacted on that jointly with other concerned partners and we will continue fighting for it. This is an unfortunate step back from the Commission side. They stepped back from the EU commitments under the CRPD, under the Agenda 2030. It is proved that inequalities are morally and economically counterproductive.
* If the Commission is serious about safeguarding the security and safety of its citizens, it should be coherent and it should do so on all level by eradicating inequalities and social tensions.
* Today the disability movement will adopt a resolution and will send its messages to every person concerned who will have a say in the negotiation of the EU budget and EU funds.

He then gave the floor to Mr. Marius Vaščega, responsible for economic management from the European Commission office in Lithuania and welcomed his participation as in this context it is important to build bridges between the national and the European level of processes such as the negotiation of the EU budget and the economic governance of the EU, the so-called European Semester.

Mr Marius Vaščega presented the linkages between EU Funds and economic governance in Lithuania. He explained that Lithuania was led with huge public investments and that European economic governance was requesting reprogramming. He introduced the various items of thematic objectives and partnership principles. He said that the Social Scoreboard was created in Lithuania to reinforce social protection and inclusion as a result of the implementation process of the European Pillar of Social Rights. He explained that links could create barriers but can also be used for the better.

The EDF President insisted that all level of economy, European and National be at the same level. He gave the floor to Ineta Ivaskaite, EU Funds Specialist from the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Ineta Ivaskaite explained her role in the Ministry as project coordinator related to integration of socially excluded persons in the labor market.

The President gave the floor to Foteini Zafeiropoulou from the Greek National Council and part of the Observatory on Disability issues. She explained that her association had been involved in the management and control of EU Funds. She explained all the actions undertaken under this role. She concluded that this collection of data was a very good step further.

The President gave the floor to Giampiero Griffo from DPI Italia who talked about capacity building of public administration in Italy. He explained the Italian initiative of training public bodies, regional and municipality staff about the use of Structural Funds. He explained that within the 11 main goals, the dimension of disability issues was inexistent. He mentioned the issue of manual about Structural Funds to implement concretely the regulation.

The President gave the floor to Gunta Anca from the Latvian National Council Sustento who talked about deinstitutionalisation in Latvia. She explained how the identifications of groups took place, how the government decided to talk about psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, etc. She explained the lack of places for people with disabilities in institutions, how they tried to start a project to improve the situation and the difficulties they found on their way that slowed down the project. She said that, as a result of this long process, the government was about to start building houses.

The President gave the floor to Pilar Villarino from Fundación Once and CERMI Women’s Foundation who presented a guide on including gender and disability perspective in the use of the European Social Fund. She explained that this was a usual tool in order to take into account employment for women with disabilities and to ensure that they were promoted within the employment market.   
  
The President gave the floor to Simona Giarratano who presented a Resolution on the Structural Funds proposed for adoption by the AGA. She explained that this Resolution was including references to involvement and consultation of DPOs **(DOC-AGA-18-02)**.

The President reminded the work that needed to be done with the EU Institutions as well as with national ministries. He explained that this would be a strong campaign that will insure the budget for the next decade.

The Bosnian representative proposed to emphasis in the Resolution the use of EU Funds for Accession Process and Development. Luk Zelderloo from EASPD expressed his full support the Resolution and considered essential to make good use of EU funding and he reminded the importance of the European Semester. Maureen Piggot from Inclusion Europe highlighted the importance to take into account the problematic of deinstitutionalisation. The Portuguese representative requested more information about social scoreboard indicators from Eurostat. Nadia Hadad from ENIL remarked the need to improve monitoring tools and she indicated two amendments in the document. Giampiero Griffo from DPI Italia stressed the necessity to have a strong monitoring tool of the Structural Funds and stressed the need to highlight mainstream. The French Representative regretted the decrease of EU budget with regards to Cohesion Fund. Examples of good practices of the use of EU Funds was also suggested. The President specified that the campaign would ensure that all funds be inclusive.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the final text will be prepared following suggestions made during the meeting.

1. European Pillar of Social Rights **(DOC-AGA-18-03)**

The President gave the floor to Rodolfo Cattani who gave an update to the members on the European Pillar of Social Rights. He suggested members to give their ideas on next steps in advocacy.

He explained that the document recalled principle 17 which refers specifically to persons with disabilities and states: “People with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures living in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a work environment adapted to their needs.”

He summarised the main initiatives linked to the Pillar such as Directive on work-life balance, proposal for a Directive on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions, European Labour Authority, the proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed, the social scoreboard.

He reminded that EDF had been actively contributing to the discussions around the Pillar, that it was regularly discussed within the EDF Committee on Social Policy and Inclusion, within the EDF Board and towards different exchanges with the European Commission. He confirmed that amendments were sent jointly with our members to the European Parliament report on the Directive on Work life balance, mainly suggesting changing the wording used in a way of being CRPD compliant (vote on the amendments is foreseen on 11 July)

Looking at the future, he said that two main areas required immediate EDF work in the framework of the Pillar:

The first one is directly linked to the negotiations on the future EU budget and European Funds. “Social Europe, implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights” is a policy objective of the next generation of Funds. This means that EDF have to advocate for the investments to be directed at the implementation of principle 17 on persons with disabilities as well as at including persons with disabilities as a specific target group when investing on the other principles of the pillar mainly related to employment, access to services and social protection.

Secondly, the recently published [proposal for a Council Recommendation](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=19158&langId=en) on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed is a very important initiative which EDF should try to influence. While we regret to see that the proposal is in the form of a recommendation therefore not a legally binding legislation, and we regret that the specific situation of persons with disabilities in access to social protection is not taken into consideration, nevertheless we could advocate in order to make the best out of this instrument. The recommendation has to be approved by the Council and it includes few provisions that could stimulate national reforms of social protection systems in a way of including all type of workers. To develop EDF position, in the document that members received, there are specific questions the Assembly should help answering during the discussion and by sending input to the EDF secretariat via email if possible.

He requested the opinion of the delegates about the type of work contracts persons with disabilities received at national level, about the level of social protection associates with these types of contracts and specific barriers related to loss of disability benefits and the consequent risk of in-work poverty and about the way the European labour authority could facilitate freedom of movement of workers with disabilities.

The Delegates explained the situation in Denmark, in Belgium, in the area of autism.

The President reminded the target of the EDF work with the implementation of the CRPD, the accessibility issues with the Web Directive and the Accessibility Act. He also mentioned that the Social Pillar advocacy work was also to be emphasized. He underlined the need to create synergies in all these tools whose themes were interconnected.

1. Trends in Disability Assessment and Determination in Europe **(DOC-AGA-18-04)-Rodolfo**

Rodolfo Cattani explained that this point aimed at continuing discussion among EDF members about trends of disability assessment systems across the EU. He said that the information shared during the discussion would be used to map the situation in the EU and to monitor how disability assessment and determination systems were being revised, to see if revision was in line with the CRPD and fully respecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and promoting their empowerment and inclusion.

He invited some delegates to share their experiences and situation in their countries.

He gave the floor to Henrika Varniene from Lithuania who explained the difficulties she faced with her disabled daughter and she explained that there were no individual assessment of disability in Lithuania to help clarify her situation.

He gave the floor to Vera Bonvalot from Portugal who reminded that Portugal ratified the Convention in 2009 and that the country went through the constructive dialogue, the recommendations and the voluntary evaluation of the SDG. She mentioned that although from the outside the situation of disabled people in Portugal seemed fine, from the inside, it was not at all the case. She noted an improvement within the organisation of the government having a secretary of State dealing with disability

He gave the floor to Sanja Tarczay, from EDbU in Croatia explained that the public consultation was very for the form and not efficient as well as other participation to dialogues with decision makers. She also highlighted the slowness of the process on disability assessment.

He opened the floor to more comments and encouraged the other members to do the same and shortly present the main issues in their countries.

The members acknowledged the importance of the subject and showed their engagement in the process. They expressed the need to find synergies at all level of national policies but also towards private companies highlighting to them the need to introduce inclusive policies in their projects. It was also requested to study further the situation of persons with intellectual disabilities. The President explained the situation in Greece and the set-up of a pilot system.

The President declared that EDF should be more involved in this process. He suggested to liaise with the Structural support programme from the European Commission. He also called for a technical meeting in partnership with the EESC in order to identify the situation at a European Level. He proposed to prepare a statement by the end of June describing the political framework needed around the discussions and the initiatives to address and to change the disability assessment process.

The members agreed on the proposal and debate about the notion of appropriate fight.

7. European Accessibility Act and complimentary accessibility legislation **(DOC-AGA-18-05)**  
  
The President gave the floor to the Director who presented the document on the Accessibility Act and complementary accessibility legislation.

She gave the floor to Alejandro who explained that the provisions for end-users with disabilities in the electronic communication code (i.e. the new telecommunications framework) had been agreed by Council and Parliament, that these provisions would incorporate the main demands from EDF and its members. He explained that once the Code is formally adopted, EDF will work with all its members to ensure a correct and ambitious transposition.  
  
About the Accessibility Act he explained a proposal to adopt an emergency resolution outlining EDF’s priorities. He proposed to turn this resolution into an Open Letter that could be co-signed by all EDF European members, the same way it was successfully done for the Web Accessibility Directive. He invited EDF national councils to translate this letter and to send it to national governments and replicate this exercise at national level. He also proposed that EDF sends the open letter to all EU policy-makers involved in the negotiations.

The members agreed on the proposal to adopt the Resolution and requested the information to be sent in a more accessible format (including pictures and pictogrammes). The need for implementation of subtitling was highlighted as well as the inclusion of micro-enterprises problematics.

1. Financial issues

The President gave the floor to the Treasurer who gave an update about the EDF Financial situation. She explained that the figures already discussed in February for the year 2017 were the same and that in the meantime, the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss account had been prepared and the accounts audited.

She reminded the importance of getting the proper co-funding for this year and that all possible sources were examined and chased. The Director specified that the co-funding needed was around 300 000 € that would be found within membership fees, ad-hoc members contributions (from Lithuania, Austrian Council, ONCE) and some additional co-financing from Siteimprove as well as from private companies. She repeated the need to get more funding to prevent the following years.

The treasurer also mentioned that the last instalment of the 2017 grant was being processed and that the EC requested additional information that would be forwarded by the Secretariat.

The President confirmed that we were on the right track for this quadrennial partnership and he wondered how the new MFF would influence the EDF Funding. He reminded that a financial meeting would take place in July and would examine the future situation.

* EDF corporate sponsorship guidelines **(DOC-AGA-18-06)**

The Treasurer explained that the text had been modified following suggestion of the Executive Committee in order to remove some repetitions and to reference to categories of companies.

She reminded the purpose of the document to meet the necessary co-funding and the need to look for new sources of funding without compromises our values.

The President reminded the importance of the independence of the organisation, that public funding received from the European Commission was going straight forward but that it would be necessary to gather money from external sources in order to have more means to do side actions and use some funds independently. He added that if no extra funding was found, it would lead to the necessity to cut the funding on some important actions. He said that additional funding would serve the EDF ambitions and that a total of 300 000 € was the minimum, 400 000 € would be better and 500 000 € would be optimal.

He congratulated the members for their participation in paying their membership fees for a total amount of around 170 000 € but repeated that more money would be welcomed. He highlighted that additional money from members related to the co-funding of conferences was decreasing and that this funding was necessary and should be found from other sources. He ensured the members that the collection and use of money would be done in a very transparent way.

The members requested to reintegrate the footnote about pharmaceutical money. The Treasurer explained that the maximum money that could be decided by the Director was maximum 10 000 € and that more important amounts would be decided by the Executive Committee and presented to the Board.

The Treasurer ensured that good investigation would take place to ensure the money “offered” to EDF would be clean and that terms of contracts would always allow us to terminate it.

Some members declared that diversity of funding was important and that Sponsorship was necessary to guarantee political independency and to enable the association to do the work needed.

The Delegates adopted the guidelines at the majority with two objections.

* Adoption of EDF final accounts 2017 **(DOC-AGA-18-07)**

She explained that the figures already discussed in February for the year 2017 were the same and that in the meantime, the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss account had been prepared and the accounts audited. She explained that the accounting year ended with a positive result of around 23 000 € and that the association was beginning to build a result. She explained that deferred income was related to project spread over various accounting period. She explained that the closure of the management of IDA lead to no loss nor cost for EDF. She highlighted the final result of the Profit and Loss account as being positive for the year despite the generation of some ineligible costs linked to the organisation of the European Parliament of Disabled people. She highlighted the financial control procedure from the EDF Secretariat, the external account, the internal and external auditors.

The President reminded the delegate on how the situation was 3 years ago, with an important loss and he underlined the work done in order to compensate this loss and reached to a positive result in the Balance Sheet. He highlighted the need to stabilize the health of the Financial situation of the association. He congratulated the Treasurers (current and former), the Secretariat and the members for their commitment in trying to optimize the financial situation.

The Treasurer pointed out the internal and external audit report.

The Delegates adopted the financial report unanimously.

* Vote of discharge to the Board for 2017

Following the approval of the Board, the AGA delegates discharged the Board for 2017.

* Appointment of internal auditors for 2018 **(DOC-AGA-18-08)**

The Treasurer explained that the proposed application were from Luk Zelderloo from EASPD and Raymond Ceccoto from ARFIE. The AGA Delegates voted unanimously on this proposal.

* Adoption of EDF budget 2019 **(DOC-AGA-18-09)**

The Treasurer explained that this document had already been approved during the AGA of the year before in the context of the quadrennial framework partnership with the European Commission and that this budget was similar with the one of this year with a small indexation applied.

The Delegates unanimously approved the Budget for 2019.

1. Adoption of final activity report 2017 **(DOC-AGA-18-10)**

The President gave the floor to the Director who presented the document. The AGA Delegates adopted the activity report unanimously.

1. Membership issues

The President gave the floor to Gunta Anca who informed the delegates that two members resigned: Inclusion Scotland and CEAPIR.

She also mentioned that a review of the whole membership would take place soon and would be processed until 2021.

1. Update on EDF Youth Committee (Kamil Goungor)

The President gave the floor to the new chair of the Youth Committee who presented himself and explained the ambitions of the working group. He reported about the meeting that took place earlier in May. He explained how the group wanted to make the Committee and to participate in all areas of work of the EDF. He highlighted the need for young people to participate to EDF meetings. He highlighted the work needed in one main topic: Employment and the discrimination made because of being young that makes the difficulty twice for young people with disabilities as well as accessibility. He mentioned the participation to the European Youth Forum. He invited the delegates to inform the Committee about any subject, questions they might have and also informed them about possibilities for the Committee to deliver training. He mentioned that next meetings of the Committee could take place in a country that would be willing to host and co-finance it.

The President confirmed that the members of the Youth Committee would be invited to next AGA and that Kamil would participate to Board meetings as well as to the Social Policy and Inclusion Committee. He also suggested to dedicate a hearing at the EESC to youth issues.

1. Evaluation of the meeting

The President gave the floor to Kamil Goungor, Member of the Youth Committee to evaluate the meeting.

Kamil thanked the Lithuanian National Council for the organisation and co-hosting of the meeting. He thought the event very informative, discussing interesting topics like the web accessibility directive and the Structural Funds. He appreciated the share of examples of situations in the various countries. He appreciated the cultural event. He highlighted the active contribution of members. He congratulated the new elected Board member. He thanked the President for his support to the Youth Committee. He thanked the Secretariat for its work.

Some deaf people also thanked the work of the interpreters.

1. Date of the next AGA

The President informed the delegates that the next possible date for next Annual General Assembly would be June 1 and 2

1. Any other business

The President gave the floor to Maureen who updated the delegates about the Collective complaints against France to the Social economic rights to the Council of Europe. She explained that the complaint had been registered by the Council and that she received the offer from Gerrard Quinn to help on this process.

The Director gave an update on the Ovviedo Protocol on Bioethics and she highlighted the disagreement referred to in an open letter distributed in the Bioethics Committee. A video on the subject was shown explaining how the Ovviedo Protocol contained items that were against the UNCRPD and that the Council was continuing its work despite these objections. Pat Clarke and Luk Zelderloo reminded the need to address the Council again and to lobby towards national ministries to request the withdrawal of this Ovviedo Protocol. The Representative from ENUSP encouraged members to send letters to ministries.

David Adams requested the AGA to express its solidarity to the Polish protesters. The President informed the AGA that the Executive Committee discussed the matter and decided to send a letter to the Polish authorities and send a mission to Poland if necessary.

The President invited the Staff of the Secretariat on stage for a general presentation and he thanked Dovile for the organisation of this AGA.

Dovile expressed her happiness with the event and congratulated the delegates for their involvement in the various items and their commitment. She thanked her team for all the organisational work to achieve this event.  
The President finally thanked all the actors of the event : the EDF Staff, the Lithuanian team, the interpreters and all the delegates for their participation.