

# Symbol for easy to read

**Easy to read**

This is a summary of the booklet in easy to read.

Easy to read is a way to make information accessible

so that people with intellectual disabilities and all people

can understand it.

**REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM IN 2019 IN EASY-TO-READ VERSION**

# The European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum is an organisation

of people with disabilities in Europe.

In short, we call it EDF.

EDF was created by people with disabilities in 1996.

EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe. EDF is the link between people with disabilities

and people who make laws and decisions in Europe.

EDF believes that a fair society includes people with disabilities and that people with disabilities should decide about their lives.

**Nothing should be decided about us without us**.

We believe that all people have the right to:

* Be treated fairly and with respect.
* Make their own choices.
* Take part in the community.
* Be equal and have the same chances in life.

We also believe that women should have the same chances in life as men and that the voices of children with disabilities should be heard too.

# The people of EDF

EDF has 101 **members** all over Europe.

These members are also organisations of people with disabilities

or organisations that want to help people with disabilities.

Some of these organisations stand up for people with a certain type of disability.

For example, intellectual disability. On page 9 of this booklet

there is a list of all the organisations that are members of EDF.

EDF members come together and discuss important things for people with disabilities. They also choose the people who can make decisions for EDF.

All together they decide how to make things better for people with disabilities in Europe.

On page 18 of this booklet you can see the names and photos

of the people who make decisions for EDF.

These people form smaller groups and work on things

that are most important to them.

We call these groups **‘Committees’**.

For example, we have a Committee that works to help women with disabilities.

We also have a Committee that works to help young people with disabilities.

On page 22 of this booklet you can see all our Committees.

Also EDF has an **office in Brussels**.

On page 24 of this booklet you can see photos of people who work at this office.

You will also find information about how to contact this office.

# The UN Convention

Our work has to do a lot with the

**‘UN Convention on the Rights**

**of Persons with Disabilities’**.

This is a law that says

what rights people with disabilities have

and how countries should work to protect these rights.

In short, we call it the **‘UN Convention’**.

The **European Union** is a group

of many countries in Europe

that came together to make things better for people.

The European Union and all its countries

have signed the UN Convention and agreed to protect

the rights of people with disabilities.

So they should work to make the UN Convention happen

and make things better for people with disabilities.

# Our work

In 2019, we worked hard to make things better

for people with disabilities.

EDF worked on many different things that are important for people with disabilities.

We are proud that our work brought good results.

For example:

* **We pushed for a strong**

**European Accessibility Act.**

Things and services in Europe should be accessible

so that people with disabilities can use them

to take part in the community as all other people.

EDF has been asking the European Union

to make a strong law

that will make things and services accessible

so that all people can use them.

As a result of this work, in 2019,

people who make decisions in the European Union

agreed to make this law happen.

We call this law the **‘European Accessibility Act’**.

Thanks to this law,

some things and services in Europe

will become accessible

so that people with disabilities can use them.

For example, cash machines, televisions

and ticket machines.

* **We pushed for accessible European elections.**

European elections happen every 5 years.

That means that people in Europe vote and choose

who will make decisions and laws in Europe.

It is very important to be able to vote.

It means that your voice counts.

It is also important to be able to stand for elections.

That means that people can vote and choose you

to make decisions and laws in Europe.

Many people with disabilities in Europe

are not allowed to vote or stand for elections

because they have a disability.

Other people with disabilities cannot vote

or stand for elections

because the process is not accessible for them.

For example,

people with intellectual disabilities

may not get information that is easy to read

so they may not understand how to vote.

The last European elections happened in May 2019.

We asked people who make decisions in Europe

to make them accessible

so more people with disabilities can vote

and stand for elections.

* **We wrote booklets about the rights**

**of people with disabilities.**

For example, we wrote booklets that talk about:

* The rights people with disabilities have

in the European Union.

* The right of all people to be treated fairly

and to have the same chances in life.

* **We fought against discrimination.**
People with disabilities are sometimes

treated badly or unfairly because of their disability.

This is called **discrimination**.

Some people with disabilities have bigger risk

of being treated badly or unfairly.

For example, women with disabilities

may be treated unfairly

both because they are women

and because they have a disability.

We continued pushing the European Union

to make a law that protects people

from all kinds of discrimination.

We also want the European Union

and all its countries

to work hard to make the UN Convention

happen in them.

* **We stood up for women with disabilities.**

Women with disabilities have a higher risk

of being treated badly or unfairly.

We worked to protect the rights

of women with disabilities

and pushed the European Union to sign a law

that protects women from violence.

* **We worked for the rights**

**of young people with disabilities.**

The European Union has some programmes

that help young people to travel and work

in different countries in Europe.

Sadly, young people with disabilities

are often left out

because things are not accessible for them.

We pushed the European Union to take into account

the needs of young people with disabilities too.

For example, young people with disabilities

may need to have a support person with them

when they travel, work or study.

The European Union should help

young people with disabilities

to take part in these nice programmes too.

* **We pushed for accessible technology.**

By technology we mean things like computers, televisions, mobile phones and internet.

We pushed the European Union

to make these things accessible

so that people with disabilities can use them too.

As a result, the European Union

made some important laws saying that

some of these things should be accessible.

For example, it made a law saying that

public websites in Europe should be accessible.

Like the website of your hospital

or the website of the community you live in.

This was a great step.

* **We pushed for accessible transport.**

Often it is hard for people with disabilities to travel

because transport like planes, boats and trains

are not accessible for them.

Also they may not get the support they need

or information may be difficult for them

to understand.

We asked people who make laws and decisions

in Europe

to make transport accessible

so people with disabilities can use it

like everyone else.

Our work helped people who make decisions

in Europe

to understand why this is important

and work to make transport more accessible

especially when it comes to trains.

* **We worked to make the Sustainable Development Goals happen in Europe.**

The Sustainable Development Goals are goals

that countries agreed to make happen by 2030

to make the world a better place.

For example,

they agreed to protect people who are poor
and make things better for them.
They also agreed to not leave anyone behind.

These goals can make things better

for people with disabilities too.

We explained this in a booklet we wrote.

We also talked to people

who make decisions in Europe.

We asked them to remember

people with disabilities when they work

to make the Sustainable Development Goals happen in Europe.

* We spread the word about the rights

of people with disabilities.

For example,

we wrote articles on magazines

to talk about important things

for people with disabilities.

Also we shared news and important information

with many people

on our pages on Facebook and Twitter.

# Our money

EDF needs money to make its work happen.

In 2019, we got most of our money

from the European Union.

We also got money from organisations and companies

that wanted to help our work.

We spent this money:

* to pay the people who work for us
* to travel for important meetings
* on other things that are important for our work.

# More information

If you want to find more information

about EDF and our work

you can visit our website at [www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org).

You can also send us an email at info@edf-feph.org