

Resolution on the European Cohesion Policy post-2020 adopted by the EDF General Assembly on 26 May 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania

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The [European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/)¹ is an independent NGO that defends the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. We are a unique platform which brings together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe. We are run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

The European Disability Forum,

- a) Recalling the EU obligations as a Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which establishes that all existing and new legislation shall be compliant with the CRPD.
- b) Recalling the obligation to respect and implement article 4(3) CRPD stating that “In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations”;
- c) Recognising that the partnership principle, as defined in article 5 Common Provision regulation EC 2013/1303, has been considered a positive too for a meaningful involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities
- d) Welcoming the positive impact on access to the EU Funds for civil society organisations thanks to the possibility to finance capacity building using the European Social Fund article 6 Regulation EC2013/130;
- e) Recalling the European Ombudsman inquiry on the use of EU Structural and Investment Funds in the respect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the resulting recommendations to the European Commission;
- f) Considering the EU accountable for the commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the sustainable development goals;
- g) Recalling the UN CRPD Committee concluding observation to the EU recommending the use of EU Funds for transition from institutions to community based care;

¹ <http://www.edf-feph.org/>

Calls upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to:

1. Stop any budget cut and allocate adequate financial resources in the next Multiannual Financial Framework for Cohesion Policy and the European Social Fund + to promote social and economic cohesion across the whole EU;
2. Maintain and strengthen general the ex-ante conditionality on disability to ensure respect for fundamental rights of persons with disabilities as a prerequisite for receiving EU Funds in line with the obligation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. Maintain the general ex ante conditionalities on gender equality and non-discrimination to ensure that EU countries and regions respect equality between women and men and equal rights for all if they are to receive EU funding;
4. Ensure respect for the principle 17 on disability of the European Pillar of Social rights is fully included in the conditionalities about Social Europe;
5. Keep the partnership principle as a strong overarching obligation in the Common Provision Regulation as well as in all the Funds specific regulations;
6. Ensure the partnership principle referred to organisations of civil society and representative organisations of persons with disabilities as partners on an equal footing with others in all phases of the use of the Funds. Ensure that Organisations of persons with disabilities take part in the monitoring committees with voting right;
7. Strengthen provisions regarding technical assistance for organisations of civil society and organisations of persons with disabilities to engage in effective participation and obtain access to the funds;
8. Include in the Common Provision Regulation and in the Funds regulations the general principle on promotion of equality between women and men and non-discrimination, and ensure that accessibility for persons with disabilities is taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of all programmes;
9. Ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, as defined by article 9 CRPD including the principle of universal design of the CRPD, is a requirement in defining accessibility requirements according to the proposal of the European Accessibility Act, without limiting the scope of the Funds to the scope of the Act;

10. Ensure that in every annual report, a specific reference to the progress made in implementing accessibility and the principle of non-discrimination is included and as well as a specific reference to the accessibility of ICT;
11. Develop reliable indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, to monitor the use of the funds and their impact on the lives of persons with disabilities;
12. Keep the promotion of deinstitutionalisation and the prohibition to use the EU funds for segregating services as a priority;
13. Ensure that a reference to Community Led Local Development, territorial investments and disability is added, with specific focus on accessibility;
14. The European Commission to play an active role in monitoring the implementation of ex ante conditionalities, disability related provisions, including non-discrimination, accessibility, and involvement of organisations of civil society and organisations of persons with disabilities;
15. Use social indicators and not only the GDP to allocate EU Funds in a fairer way across the regions;
16. Align the European Social Fund and other Funds to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in principle 17 of the Pillar on persons with disabilities;
17. Use the Funds in a coherent way in relation to the commitments taken by the EU to implement the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
18. Ensure use of the Funds in compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
19. Consider that simplifying the rules to use the ESF is positive if it is aimed at improving access to the Funds by persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, while it is dangerous if it only aims at reducing the control over the way Funds are spent, as countries could move away from their obligations to uphold human rights and to foster equality.