



EDF Resolution on the European Disability Strategy 2020-2030

adopted by the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

Brussels, 6 December 2017

This year, the European Disability Forum (EDF) celebrates its 20th anniversary. The delegates to the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, representing the European disability movement meeting in Brussels on 6 December 2017, adopted this Resolution to follow up on the current European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

The European Union (EU) is a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as 27 of its 28 Member States. Article 4 of the CRPD requires State Parties 'to adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the CRPD'.

In 2015, the EU received from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) its Concluding Observations. The CRPD Committee recommended the EU 'to adopt a strategy on the implementation of the CRPD, with the allocation of a budget, a time frame for implementation and a monitoring mechanism.'

Persons with disabilities amount to 80 million people in Europe (16% of the European population). According to current demographic trends, the number of persons with disabilities will increase from 80 million to 120 million by 2020. Persons with disabilities at risk of social exclusion include women, children and youth, mothers of children with disabilities, older people, people in need of more intensive support deafblind people, persons with psychosocial, intellectual, cognitive and multiple disabilities, homeless people, ethnic minorities and refugees, LGBTI people, people of different religion and belief, who do not participate on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.

Building on the achievements of the current European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, a follow up Strategy is required so as to ensure the continued and harmonised implementation of the CRPD both by the EU and by the Member States.

We call on the European leaders to adopt a European Disability Strategy 2020-2030 that:

- covers all the provisions of the CRPD, with a budget allocated for its implementation and a well-resourced monitoring mechanism;
- is integrated into the follow up to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the European Pillar of Social Rights;

- is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- is based on the Concluding Observations of the CRPD Committee;
- involves all EU institutions, bodies and agencies in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy;

The Strategy should become the driving force of a new Disability Rights Agenda 2020-2030, and include 2021 as the next European Year of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the conclusion of the CRPD by the EU.

We call on European leaders to include the following actions in the European Disability Strategy 2020-2030:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD which contains procedures to strengthen the protection of the rights of Europeans with disabilities.
2. Establish a structured dialogue with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities and their families with an independent budget line, for a meaningful consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, as enshrined in articles 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD.
3. Establish an inter-institutional coordination mechanism and designate focal points in each EU institution, agency and body, as required by article 33.1 of the CRPD.
4. Monitor the application of the impact assessment guidelines to review existing and new EU legislation, policies and funding programmes to ensure compliance with the CRPD.
5. Review the declaration of competences to include all policy areas in which the EU has legislated or adopted soft law measures, and update the list of instruments to include all those relevant for persons with disabilities.
6. Address intersectional discrimination of persons with disabilities belonging to the following groups: women, children and youth, mothers of children with disabilities, older people, people in need of more intensive support deafblind people, persons with psychosocial, intellectual, cognitive and multiple disabilities, homeless people, ethnic minorities and refugees, LGBTI people, people of different religion and belief, and mainstream their rights throughout all actions in the Strategy.



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7. Adopt legislation on the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, supported by adequate enforcement mechanisms.
8. Develop a comprehensive and accessible campaign to raise awareness about the CRPD and to combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, older people and especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities.
9. Provide training for all EU staff and professionals working in the EU on the CRPD and the human rights based approach, as well as on the accessibility of facilities, products and services for persons with disabilities.
10. Play an active role for the implementation and the monitoring of disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Carry-out actions regarding emerging policy areas, such as refugees and migrants with disabilities, legal capacity & supported decision-making, and liberty and safety of the person.
12. Promote independent living and inclusion in the community, including through the use of EU funds to fund the development of community based services.
13. Adopt EU legislation to make Europe more accessible, including the European Accessibility Act and incorporating accessibility as a prerequisite in all new legislation and EU funded programs. Ensure correct implementation and enforcement of relevant accessibility legislation, such as the Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.
14. Strengthen initiatives which promote freedom of movement for persons with disabilities, including passengers' rights, portability of services, and establishing a robust European Disability Card.
15. Deliver on the obligations of the EU as public administration in relation to the CRPD.
16. Adopt the necessary mechanisms to guarantee that the EU institutions, services and initiatives are accessible to persons with disabilities and that accessibility is systematically ensured following a Universal Design approach.