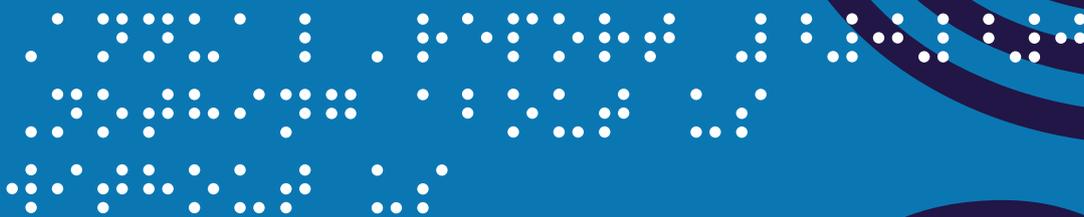




Annual Report 2020

# Nothing about us without us



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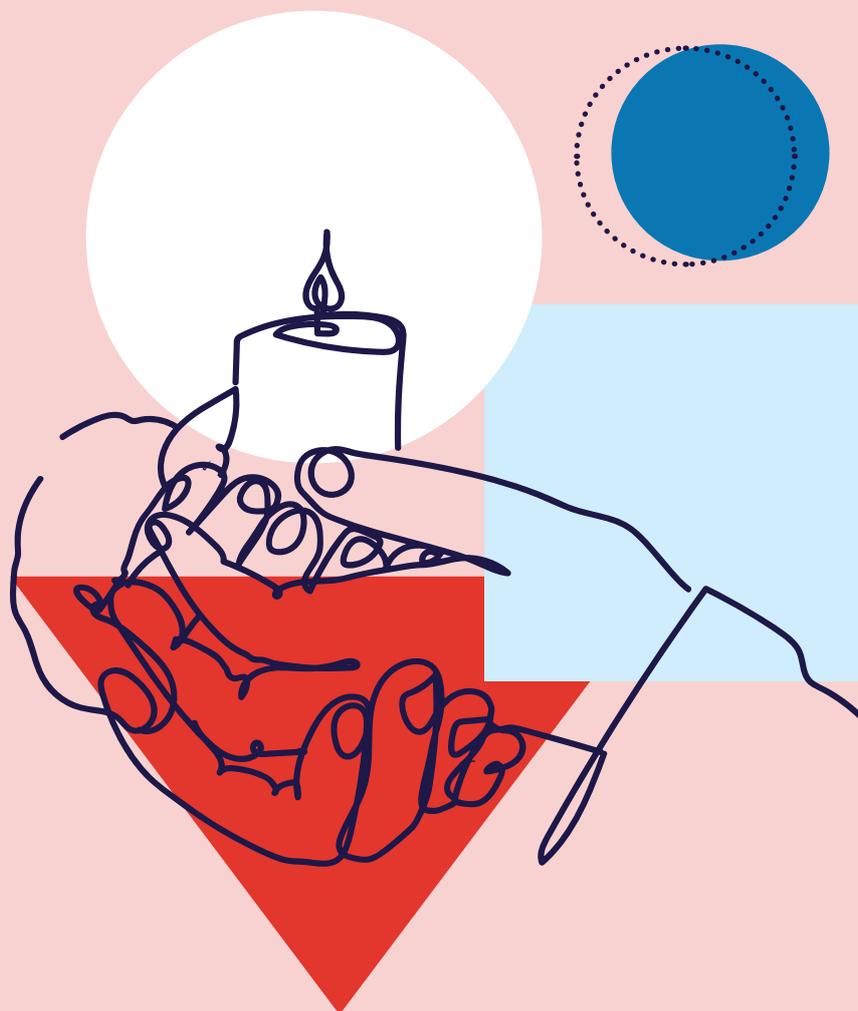


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**NOTHING  
ABOUT US  
WITHOUT US**

**CHAPTER 1**

# Highlights of our year

I am proud to present EDF's 2020 Annual Report.

I would like to dedicate it to all the persons with disabilities who lost their lives, who became ill, or who spent long weeks and months isolated due to COVID-19. You will not be forgotten.

We will also never forget 2020. Even as we publish our 2020 Annual Report, halfway through 2021, persons with disabilities in Europe and around the world are fighting for their lives, their safety and their livelihoods as COVID-19 still ravages our communities, our cities and towns, our health services and our economies.

Our Annual Report tells you who we are and what we achieved in 2020. I encourage you to also consult our website, where all of our work is reported in more detail. You can also download our new Human Rights Report on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities.

I would like to thank all our members for working tirelessly in 2020. I would also like to thank our partners and supporters for their collaboration during this period. No one was prepared for a pandemic. However, the disability movement reacted bravely and strongly.

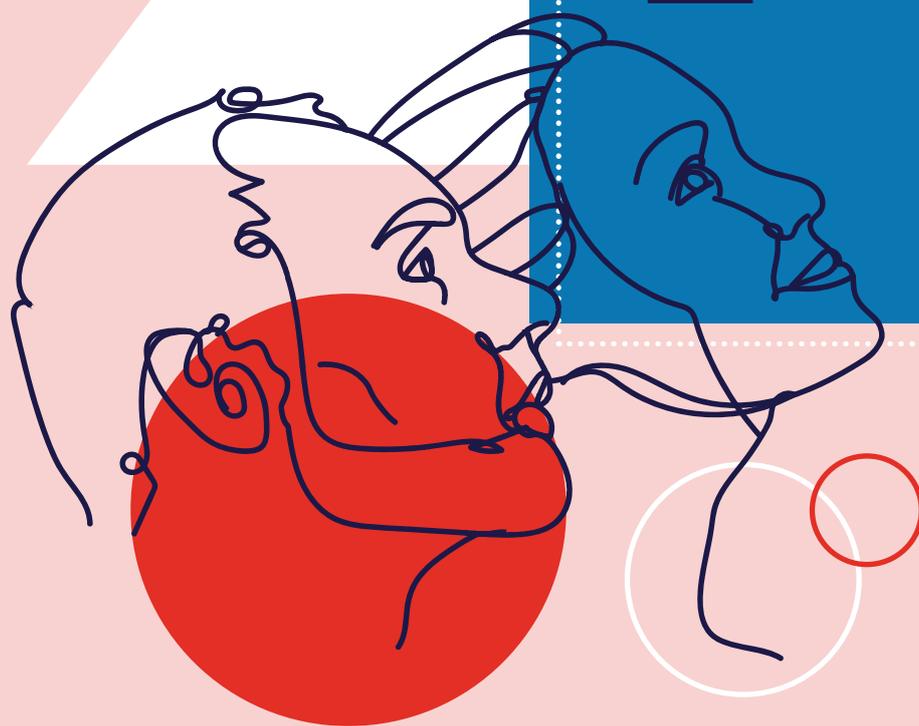
In spite of the challenges 2020 threw at us, in 2020 we at EDF continued our work, our collaboration and our advocacy. As we look to the future, the disability movement needs to be strong, diverse and united to ensure that recovery from COVID-19 is inclusive.

Let's make "Nothing about us without us" a reality for all of us. We will work together to rebuild a more diverse, thriving and inclusive Europe.

**Yannis Vardakastanis**

EDF President

**WHO**  
**WE**  
**ARE** ?

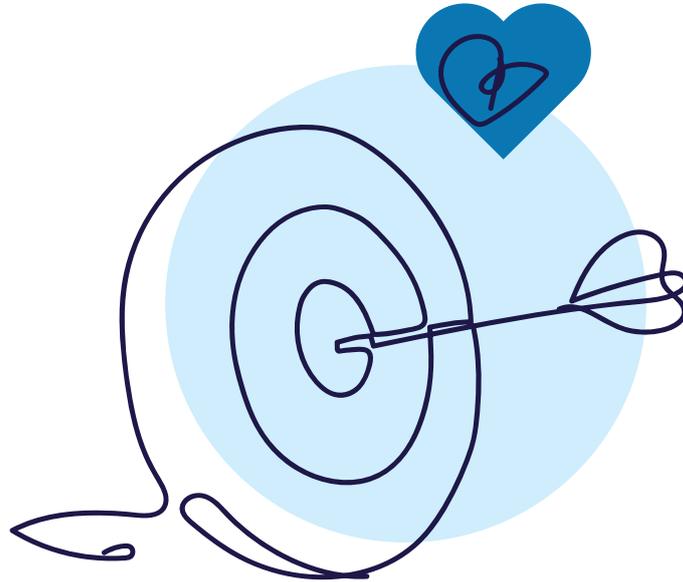


**CHAPTER 2**

# Who we are

**The European Disability Forum defends the interests of over 100 million persons with disabilities living in Europe. We are an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities, created in 1996 to ensure that decisions at European level concerning persons with disabilities are taken with and by persons with disabilities.**

**We are run by persons with disabilities and their families and we serve as a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.**



## Mission and Values

EDF's values are built on the principles of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), notably:

- Individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices
- Non-discrimination
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

## Executive Committee Members



**Yannis Vardakastanis**

EDF President  
National  
Confederation of  
Disabled People  
(NCDP)



**Ana Peláez**

EDF Vice-President  
Comité Español  
de Representantes  
de Personas con  
Discapacidad  
(CERMI)



**John Patrick Clarke**

EDF Vice-President



**Maureen Piggot**

EDF Treasurer  
Inclusion Europe



**Gunta Anca**

EDF General  
Secretary  
The Latvian  
Umbrella Body  
for Disability  
Organisations  
(SUSTENTO)



**Albert Prevos**

French Council of  
Disabled People  
for European  
Affairs (CFHE)



**Humberto  
Insolera**

European Union  
of the Deaf (EUD)



**Klaus Lachwitz**

Deutscher  
Behindertenrat  
(DBR)



**Nadia Hadad**

European Network  
on Independent  
Living (ENIL)



**Pirkko  
Mahlamäki**

Finnish Disability  
Forum (FDF)



**Rodolfo  
Cattani**

European Blind  
Union (EBU)

## Board Members



**Athena  
Frangouli**

Social Firms  
Europe (SFE)  
CEFEC



**Branislav  
Mamojka**

Slovak Disability  
Council (NROZP)



**Cato Lie**

International  
Federation of  
Spina Bifida and  
Hydrocephalus (IF)



**Christina  
Wurzinger**

Austrian Disability  
Council (Der  
Österreichische  
Behindertenrat)



**Dovilė  
Juodkaitė**

Lithuanian  
Disability Forum  
(LDF)



**Francisco Vano**

International  
Federation of  
Persons with  
Physical Disability  
(FIMITIC)



**Gabor Petri**

Mental Health  
Europe (MHE)



**Giampiero  
Griffo**

Disability  
International  
People Europe  
(DPI-Europe)



**Gisèle Marlière**

Belgian Disability  
Forum (BDF)



**Goran Kustura**

Slovenian  
National Council  
of Persons  
with Disabilities  
(NSIOS)



**John Dolan**

Disability  
Federation  
Ireland (DFI)



**Jolijn  
Santegoeds**

European Network  
of (Ex-) Users  
and Survivors of  
Psychiatry (ENUSP)



**Luisa Bosisio  
Fazzi**

Italian Disability  
Forum (FID)



**Marcel  
Bobeldijk**

European  
Federation of  
Hard of Hearing  
(EFHOH)



**Marica Miric**

Croatian Union  
of Associations  
of Persons with  
Disabilities (SOIH)



**Pierre  
Gyselincx**

Action Européen  
des Handicapées  
(EAH)



**Thorkild  
Olesen**

Disabled Peoples'  
Organisations  
Denmark (DPOD)



**Thurídur  
Sigurdardóttir**

Organisation  
of Disabled in  
Iceland (OBI)



**Vera Bonvalot**

Brain Injured and  
Families – European  
Confederation (BIF EC)

## **Committees and Expert Groups**

**In order to have the full involvement of members and a balanced representation of all categories of disabilities, EDF set up different structures to support its work. We have 4 committees that are established for 4 years and include a mid-term review.**

### **Human Rights and Non-Discrimination Committee**

It ensures that national and European leaders are closely involved in and fully informed about our work on human rights, equality, non-discrimination and particularly on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

### **Social Policy and Inclusion Committee**

It contributes to EDF's work on social and employment policy and supports its members by providing expertise on social rights, including the right to work and employment, social protection and full inclusion in society.

### **Women's Committee**

It mainstreams gender in all EDF policies and documents, in order to raise awareness on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and to work towards the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in society.

### **Youth Committee**

Its role is to ensure that EDF's work takes into account the perspective of young people with disabilities, but also represents young people with disabilities in both EDF and external events.



## Meet the Team



**Catherine Naughton**

Director



**Alejandro Moledo**

Policy Coordinator



**André Felix**

Communications  
Coordinator



**An-Sofie Leenknecht**

Human Rights  
Coordinator



**Marie Denninghaus**

Policy Coordinator



**Marion Steff**

International  
Cooperation  
Manager



**Muriel Da Via**

Human Resources  
and Office  
Manager



**Aoife Price**

Research Fellow



**Diana Zsoldos**

Communications  
and Logistics Officer  
for International  
Cooperation



**Gordon Rattray**

International Cooperation Officer



**Haydn Hammersley**

Social Policy Officer



**Loredana Dicsi**

Membership, Internal Communication and Youth Officer



**Marine Uldry**

Human Rights Officer



**Mher Hakobyan**

Accessibility Officer



**Naomi Mabita**

Communications Assistant



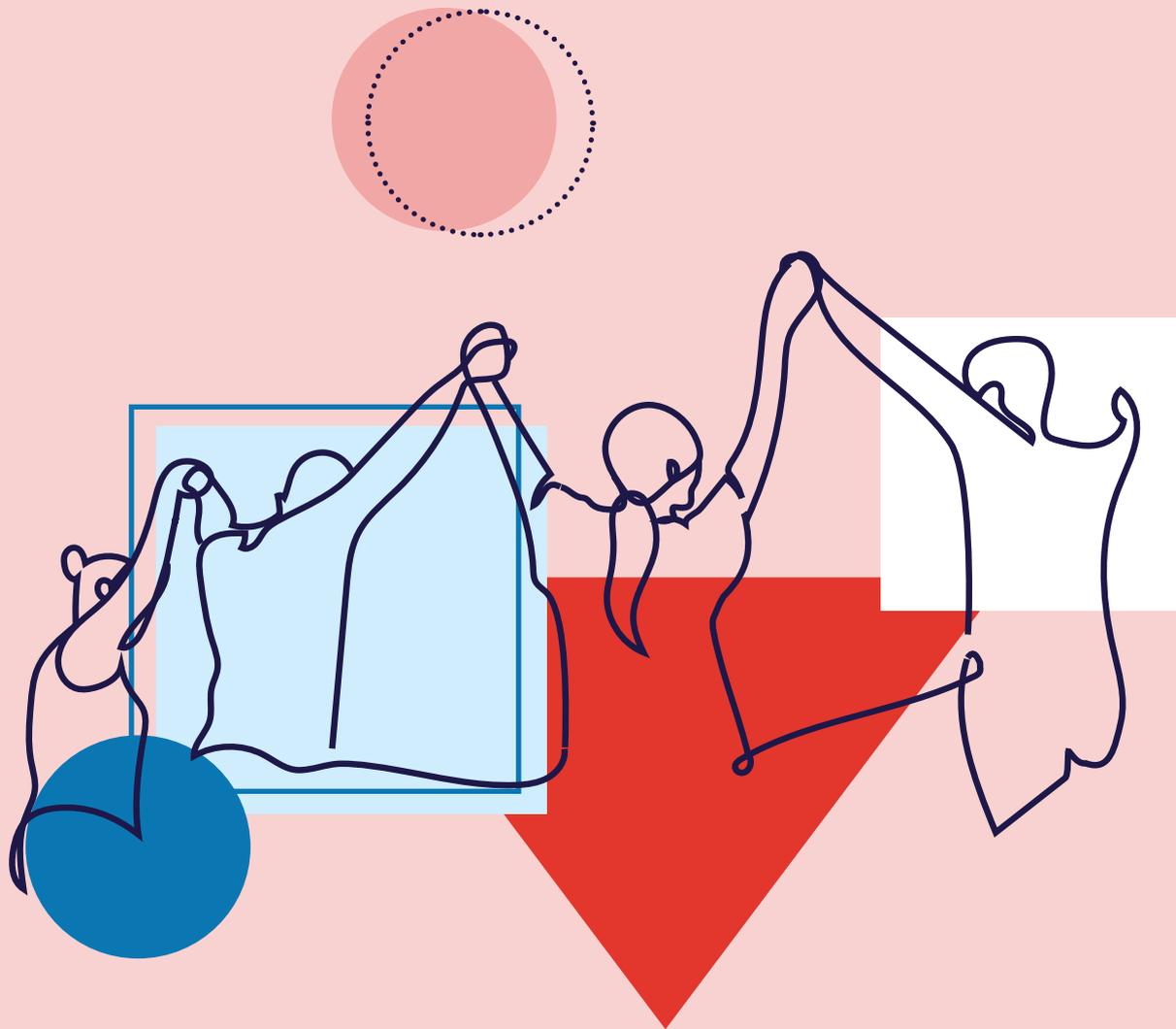
**Raquel Riaza**

Events and Administration Officer



**Natalia Suárez**

Communications Officer



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

**CHAPTER 3**

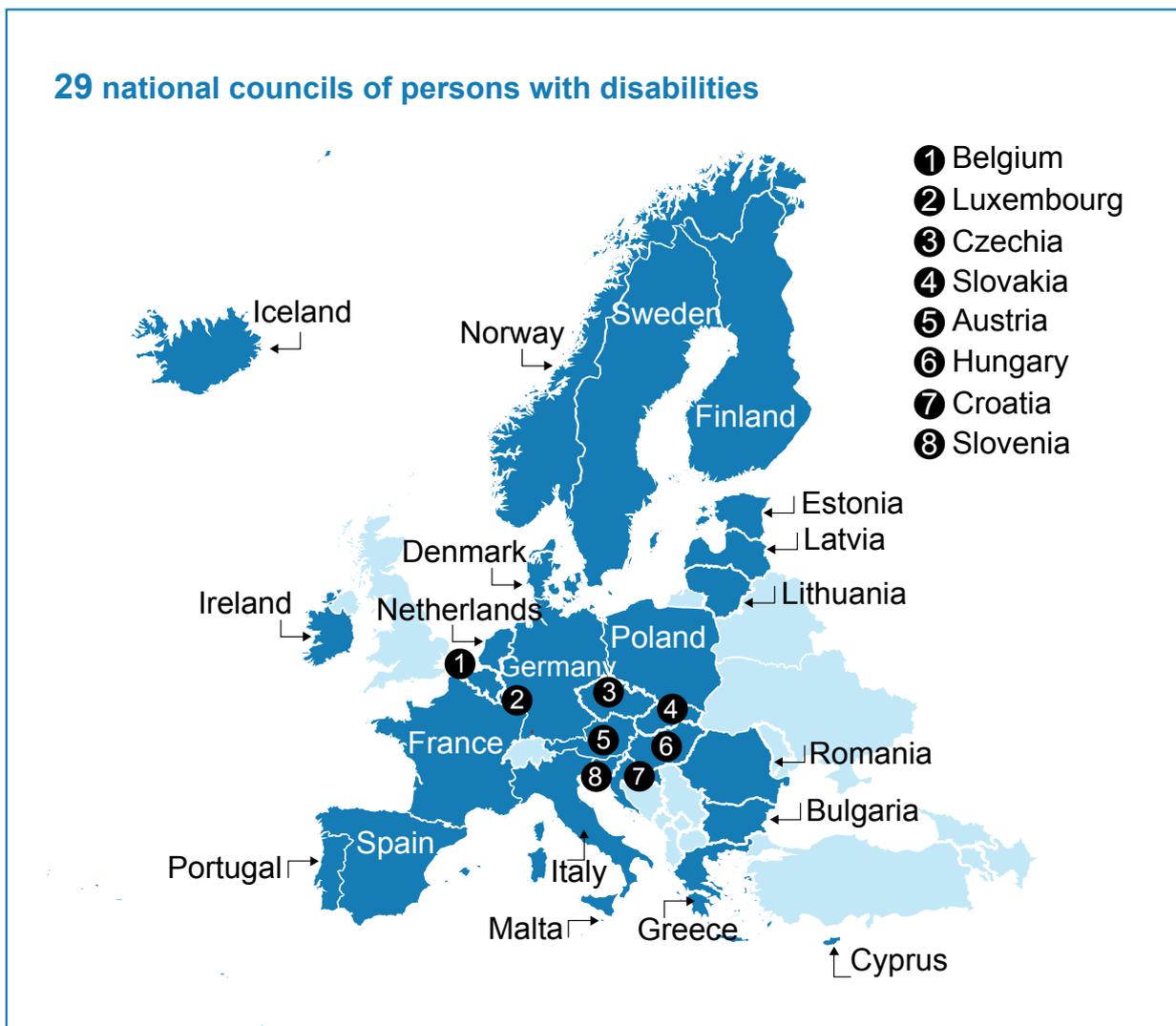
# Our members

In 2020, EDF had 101 members.

EDF has four categories of membership:

## Full Members

In 2020, we had 54 full members: 29 national councils of persons with disabilities and 25 European non-profit organisations representing persons with disabilities.



# 54 members

## 29 national councils



**Austria**  
The Austrian Disability Council (Der Österreichische Behindertenrat)



**Belgium**  
Belgian Disability Forum (BDF)



**Bulgaria**  
National Council of People with Disabilities in Bulgaria (NCDPB)



**Croatia**  
Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (SOIH)



**Cyprus**  
Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of the Disabled (KYSOA)



**Czech Republic**  
Czech National Disability Council (CNDC)



**Denmark**  
Disabled People's Organisation Denmark (DPOD)



**Estonia**  
Estonian Chamber of Disabled People (EPIK)



**Finland**  
Finnish Disability Forum (FDF)



**France**  
French Council of Disabled People for European Affairs (CFHE)



**Germany**  
German Disability Council (DBR)



**Greece**  
Greek National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP)



**Hungary**  
Hungarian Council of Federations of People with Disabilities (FESZT)



**Iceland**  
Organisation of Disabled in Iceland (ÖBI)



**Ireland**  
Disability  
Federation  
Ireland (DFI)



**Italy**  
Italian Disability  
Forum (FID)



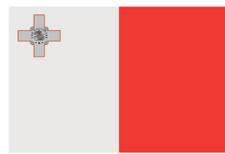
**Latvia**  
Latvian  
Umbrella Body  
for Disability  
Organisations  
(SUSTENTO)



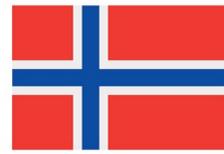
**Lithuania**  
Lithuanian  
Disability Forum  
(LNF)



**Luxembourg**  
National  
Disability Council  
of Luxembourg  
(Info Handicap)



**Malta**  
Malta Federation  
of Organisations  
of Persons  
with Disability  
(MFOPD)



**Norway**  
Norwegian  
Federation of  
Organisations of  
Disabled People  
(FFO)



**Poland**  
Poland Polish  
Disability Forum  
(PDF)



**Portugal**  
National  
Confederation of  
Organisations of  
Disabled People in  
Portugal (CNOD)



**Romania**  
Romanian  
National  
Disability  
Council (CNDP)



**Slovakia**  
Slovak Disability  
Council (NROZP)



**Slovenia**  
Slovenian  
National  
Disability  
Council (NSIOS)



**Spain**  
Spanish  
Committee of  
Representatives  
of Persons  
with Disabilities  
(CERMI)



**Sweden**  
The Swedish  
Disability Rights  
Federation  
(Funktionsrätt  
Sverige)



**The Netherlands**  
Dutch Network  
for People with  
Disabilities or  
Chronic Illness  
(Ieder-in)

### **25 European non-profit organisations representing persons with disabilities:**

- Action Européenne des Handicapés (AEH)
- Autism-Europe
- Brain Injured & Families - European Confederation (BIF-EC)
- Cerebral Palsy – European Communities Association (CP-ECA)
- DEBRA-International
- Disabled Peoples' International Europe (DPI-Europe)
- European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Association (EAMDA)
- European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU)
- European Blind Union (EBU/Union européenne des Aveugles (UEA)
- European Cooperation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy (ECCE)
- European Deafblind Network (EDbN)
- European Deafblind Union (EDBU)
- European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)
- European Dyslexia Association (EDA)
- European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH)
- European Federation of Parents of Hearing-Impaired Children (FEPEDA)
- European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA)
- European Network of (Ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)
- European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
- European Union of the Deaf (EUD)
- Inclusion Europe (IE+)
- International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF)

- International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability (FIMITIC)
- Rare Diseases Europe (EURORDIS)
- Retina Europe (RE).

## Ordinary Members

In 2020, we had 10 Ordinary Members, consisting of European organisations for persons with disabilities that are consistent with EDF's aims and objectives.

- Alzheimer Europe (AE)
- Association de Recherche et de Formation sur l'Insertion en Europe (ARFIE)
- Association Internationale Aphasie (AIA)
- Design for All Europe (EIDD)
- European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF).
- European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP).
- European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE)
- Mental Health Europe (MHE)
- Social Firms Europe (CEFEC).

## Associated Members

In 2020, EDF had 34 Associate Members, consisting of non-profit organisations or companies that are committed to promoting EDF's aims:

- Association Numérydis
- Associazione Nazionale Mutilati ed Invalidi Civili (ANMIC)
- CBM Global Disability Inclusion

## 24 The European Disability Forum

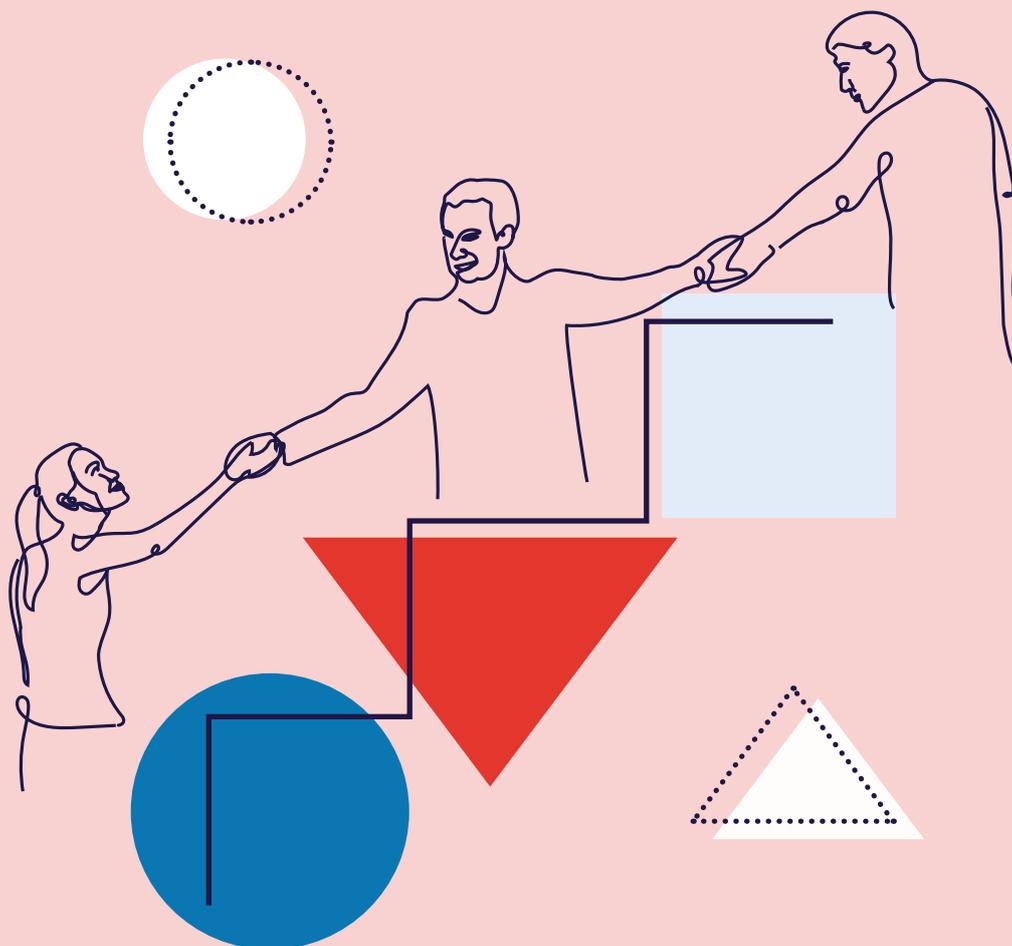
- Coalition for Independent Living (CIL)
- Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)
- Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)
- Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi (ENS)
- Euro PSY Rehabilitation (EPR)
- European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)
- European Dysmelia Reference Information Centre (EDRIC)
- European Federation of Hereditary Ataxias (EURO- ATAXIA)
- European Ostomy Association (EOA)
- European Polio Union (EPU)
- European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY)
- Fundación ONCE (FONCE)
- Gelijke Rechten voor iedere Persoon met een handicap (GRIP)
- Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs (HBSO)
- Housing Options Scotland (HOS)
- International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP)
- Kosovo Disability Forum (KDF)
- Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Light for the World
- Remploy
- San Marino Paralympic Committee (SMPC)
- Sightsavers
- SO Euroasia Europe (Special Olympics Europe)
- The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation (FAEY)

- The European Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Alliance (EMEA)
- The Norwegian Association of Youth with Disabilities
- The Saint Lazarus Foundation
- The Swiss national organisation of persons with disabilities (AGILE)
- Union of Disabled People in Bulgaria (UDPB)
- Union of Disabled People Organizations (UDPO) of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Vittime Italiane Talidomide (VITA).

## **Observer Members**

The observer members of EDF are national organisations of persons with disabilities from countries in Europe outside of the European Union, which consisted of the following in 2020:

- Confederation of the Disabled of Turkey (TDC)
- National Council of Disability Organisations of North Macedonia (NSIOM)
- National organisation of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia (NOOIS).



**WORKING  
TOGETHER TO  
OVERCOME  
ADVERSITY**

**CHAPTER 4**

# 2020 achievements by areas of work

Due to the advocacy work carried out by EDF and its members, in January 2020, the Commission confirmed the preparation of a new 2021-2030 Disability Rights Strategy. During 2020, EDF was involved in different consultation activities which led to the publication of the Strategy in 2021.



# Accessibility

## European Accessibility Act

- EDF published a toolkit on the transposition of the European Accessibility Act to help members advocate at national level and presented it in a successful webinar.
- We also highlighted the importance of effective transposition at European and national high-level discussions.

## Digital development

- EDF held webinars to support members in national advocacy efforts during transposition of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) and the European Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). During both webinars, the text of the Directives was introduced and we gave our main recommendations from toolkits published earlier. Both the EECC and the AVMSD highlight accessibility and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- EDF continued to campaign for the effective implementation of the Web Accessibility Directive. We had a successful online event to highlight the deadline for accessibility of public websites in September 2020.
- We also engaged in emerging policy topics, such as the Digital Services and Markets Act and the regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence.
- We contributed to the revision of the Harmonised European Standard (EN 301 549) on “Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services”.
- With a view to improving e-accessibility, we successfully partnered with Oracle to award yet another scholarship to a student with a disability.

## Transport and the Built environment

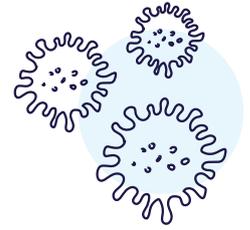
- We held a successful campaign on the Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations Regulation, including a petition in partnership with WeMove, which collected almost 60,000 signatures. As a result of our campaign, the revised Regulation shortened the pre-notification period for assistance from 48 to 24 hours.
- Together with our national members and European partners, we successfully campaigned for the adoption of the 1st European Standard on the Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment (EN17210).
- The new EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy highlighted accessibility and rights of passengers with disabilities as a result of our advocacy efforts.
- We had a meeting with the European Commissioner for Transport, Adina-loana Vălean, in which we presented the concerns of passengers with disabilities.
- We also met with the Cabinet of Commissioner Timmermans to highlight the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the EU Green Deal.
- We actively engaged in transport policy-making at European level, contributing to public consultations, studies and thematic workshops for the evaluation of passengers rights laws (air, bus and coach, waterway transport), transport infrastructure (TEN-T; TSI-PRM) and for the proposed European Year of Rail 2021 initiative.
- We supported the European Commission with the Access City Award campaign and promoted accessibility of airports through the Accessible Airport Awards in cooperation with ACI-Europe.

## Children and Youth with disabilities

- EDF published detailed recommendations to influence the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee. EDF members used the recommendations to participate in the online consultation.
- In December 2020, the EDF Youth Committee published a report that illustrates the results of the survey the Youth Committee ran between July and October 2020 about the situation of Young People with Disabilities in times of COVID-19.
- Three webinars were organised about EU mobility programmes, with the attendance of the European Commission. The events covered Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps Programme and the DiscoverEU initiative.
- The Youth Committee representing EDF for the first time as full partner of the European Youth Event (EYE). With the support of Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Stelios Kypouropoulos, it organised an event on the situation of Young People with Disabilities in times of COVID-19 as part of the online EYE2020.
- The Youth Committee gave workshops to our Croatian members on Personal assistance for independent living; to EURO Desk on accessibility to online or in-person events for young people with disabilities and on inclusion during a Study Visit session organised by OBESU, a youth organisation.
- The Youth Committee participated and took the floor during several events, such as the Youth Work Convention, an event attended by thousands of young people.
- The Youth Committee is part of several advisory boards of projects linked to young people and inclusion. One of them is preparing online courses for the European Solidarity Corps volunteers, in which we strongly advocate for the accessibility of the platform and material created.
- EDF chaired the Inclusive Mobility Alliance in the first half of 2020.

- Further to our efforts in advocating for more inclusiveness in the Reinforced Youth Guarantee, the European Commission took several of our recommendations into consideration and we are part of the publication of Standards for good-quality offers of employment within the Youth Guarantee, published by the European Youth Forum.
- With the Erasmus+ coalition, we published a guide for reimbursement of online activity costs and other costs resulting from the pandemic in which Captioning and Sign-Language Interpretation have been included.





# COVID-19

EDF responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by organising meetings and events with members, monitoring the impact of the response on persons with disabilities, gathering their recommendations and reaching out to policymakers at EU and national level.

From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we engaged with policymakers at EU level with a view to achieving an inclusive COVID-19 response. As a consequence:

- The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) increased the amount of information in its COVID-19 Bulletin. The EU CRPD Monitoring Framework published an overview of work of each member of the Framework in relation to COVID-19.
- Speakers from the Disability Unit of DG Employment, the European Parliament, the FRA, along with Equinet and ENNHRI, participated in a webinar on human rights violations of persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As secretariat of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup, EDF organised the first high-level discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities. Commissioner Dalli, along with several EDF members, participated in this event. The event reached an audience of more than 500 participants from all over Europe.
- We published open letters to the EC, EP and Council and sent specific letters to Commissioner and EU bodies such as the European Centre on Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Joint Research Centre. In July, the ECDC published a document providing “Guidance on the provision of support for medically and socially vulnerable populations in EU/EEA countries and the United Kingdom during the COVID-19 pandemic” which includes persons with disabilities.
- We published strong recommendations on testing and the vaccine roll-out.
- We researched and collected information for the publication of a Human Rights Report on COVID-19.

## Human Rights and non-discrimination

- The European Commission adopted several equality strategies that include references to the CRPD and persons with disabilities, such as the Gender Equality Strategy, a LGBTI Strategy, a new Roma strategic framework and the Action plan on integration and inclusion of migrants.
- We were successful in including disability in the new Victims' Rights Strategy and have become a member of the Victim Support Platform.
- We launched a Toolkit on the Inclusion of Refugees with Disabilities in DPOs work, a collection of good practices on what DPOs and EDF members have done to include the voices and perspectives of refugees and migrants with disabilities in their work, which also involved updating the "Your rights in the EU" toolkit.
- We supported our members in the review of their country by the CRPD Committee, including through the organisation of a webinar in preparation of the review of France. However, the reviews were rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We sent an information note to the CRPD Committee experts highlighting European-wide issues and encouraging them to ask questions and adopt recommendations on said issues, including on the implementation of EU legislation, such as the web accessibility directive and the European Accessibility Act.
- We continued to advocate against the draft additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention of the Council of Europe and mobilised partners to submit a joint third-party intervention on the interpretation of the Oviedo Convention by the European Court of Human Rights.
- We launched an email expert group on human rights and CRPD with an online platform where members can find information on the CRPD, reports by special rapporteurs, human rights reports and the COVID-19 response, as well as share information from their countries.
- We cooperated with the European Economic and Social Affairs committee in adopting an additional opinion supporting a reform of the EU Electoral Law to ensure the right to vote of all persons with disabilities.



## International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action

- We were invited to meet Commissioner Lenarčič, the new Commissioner for Crisis Management, in February, while we met Commissioner Urpilainen, the new Commissioner for International Partnerships, in March. We were able to provide detailed proofing of the priorities of the disability movement for the EU's role in international cooperation and humanitarian action.
- We were actively involved in the consultation relating to the new EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: we sent a joint global and regional DPOs letter focusing on international cooperation to EU leaders, encouraged our members to take part in EC consultations and we secured a panel on international cooperation at the EESC conference "[Shaping the EU agenda for disability rights 2020-2030](#)".
- We published a guidance note on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) disability inclusion marker to continue advocating for its use in EU global work.
- We were invited to provide training on inclusive international cooperation at the internal Fundamental Rights Network Seminar organised by DG NEAR, in collaboration with DG DEVCO.
- We organised a series of events on international cooperation, including a reception, a conference and different meetings between high-level EC policymakers and EDF, the International Disability Alliance and the African Disability Forum, which we welcomed in Brussels.
- We successfully advocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the next EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024.
- We successfully suggested concrete initiatives for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the new EU-African Action plan, together with the African Disability Forum.

- We were invited to participate in the targeted consultation on the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Relations.
- We were invited to provide feedback on the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) single form and the inclusion of disability. The single form is ECHO’s main instrument for the Framework Partnership Agreement. Our feedback was provided in collaboration with IDDC and concretely resulted in Washington Group questions being recommended for ECHO partners in data collection, and the promotion of meaningful engagement with DPOs. This will improve disability mainstreaming in the EU’s 11 billion humanitarian action budget.
- We readjusted our global work in projects to provide an inclusive response to COVID-19, with guidance, [resources](#) as well as ongoing advocacy with [letters to all EU leaders](#).
- We met with four Directorates working outside the EU to improve collaboration between the European Commission and the European disability movement.
- We actively contributed to our various international projects, including Bridging the Gap, Innovation 2 Inclusion (i2i), VIVID-T on volunteering, disability and humanitarian action, as well as our project in India on DPOs and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- We expanded our work on humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as climate change.
- We contributed to the consultations by the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) in its new upcoming strategy, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on disability-inclusive international cooperation.
- We contributed to the ongoing preparation of the Global Disability Summit 2022.



## Social Policy

- The negotiations around the new Structural and Investment Funds Regulations drew to an end. We advocated intensively on the negotiations between the Parliament and the Council regarding the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). We were successful in having nearly all EDF's priorities included in the final wording of the text, particularly regarding accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities, ensuring significant investment towards social inclusion and clarifying the need to invest in community-based services and independent living, as opposed to institutional care. This was a very positive outcome after years of work by the EDF secretariat.
- We published our Human Rights Report on Poverty and the Social Exclusion of Persons with Disabilities. This publication explored the situation of poverty, unemployment and homelessness faced by persons with disabilities prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We gave input to the European Semester process and managed, for another consecutive year, to increase the number of references to persons with disabilities in the Country Reports and the country-specific recommendations delivered to Member States. These references to persons with disabilities also took into account the impact of COVID-19 and the issues EDF had been raising in its advocacy work around the pandemic.
- We built the capacity of our members on the subject of Disability Assessment. We ran a webinar on how disability assessment can be aligned with the CRPD and how we can ensure the freedom of movement of persons with disabilities in the EU through mutual recognition of disability assessment.
- We stepped up our involvement in the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG). We co-organised the EEG's external meeting to promote its new checklist, a document supporting Commission desk officers in spotting and flagging possible EU investments in institutional care. We also supported the preparation of a report on the situation of institutions and deinstitutionalisation in the 27 EU Member States over the past decade. We were also voted to act as Co-Chairs of the EEG from the end of 2020.

## Women with disabilities

- For the first time, women and girls with disabilities were mainstreamed in the new Gender Equality Strategy and Gender Action Plan III.
- We sent recommendations on 4 EU consultations on gender equality and women's rights.
- We organised 4 webinars on the topic of women and girls with disabilities, topics such as COVID-19, ending violence against women and girls with disabilities, training on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Committee, as well as on the Istanbul Convention.
- We were successful in reaching mainstream women's organisations and policymakers. For example, our webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls with disabilities included speakers from the European Women's Lobby, the European Institute on Gender Equality, the Gender Equality Unit of the European Commission, and UN Women, while our webinar on ending violence against women and girls with disabilities had speakers from the European Women's Lobby and the cabinet of Commissioner Dalli.
- Members of the EDF Women's Committee participated in 9 external events, including an event on gender equality organised by the Croatian Presidency.
- We supported Autism Europe to develop an Easy-to-Read version of the Istanbul Convention, now available in English, French, German and Lithuanian.
- We published a guide on engaging with the CEDAW Committee. We supported our Greek member in the preparation of a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee.
- EDF Women's Voice newsletters reached 200 subscribers and launched thematic articles in some newsletters, including on LBT women, institutional and structural violence, coercion in psychiatric care.



**MAKING  
OUR VOICE  
HEARD**

**CHAPTER 5**

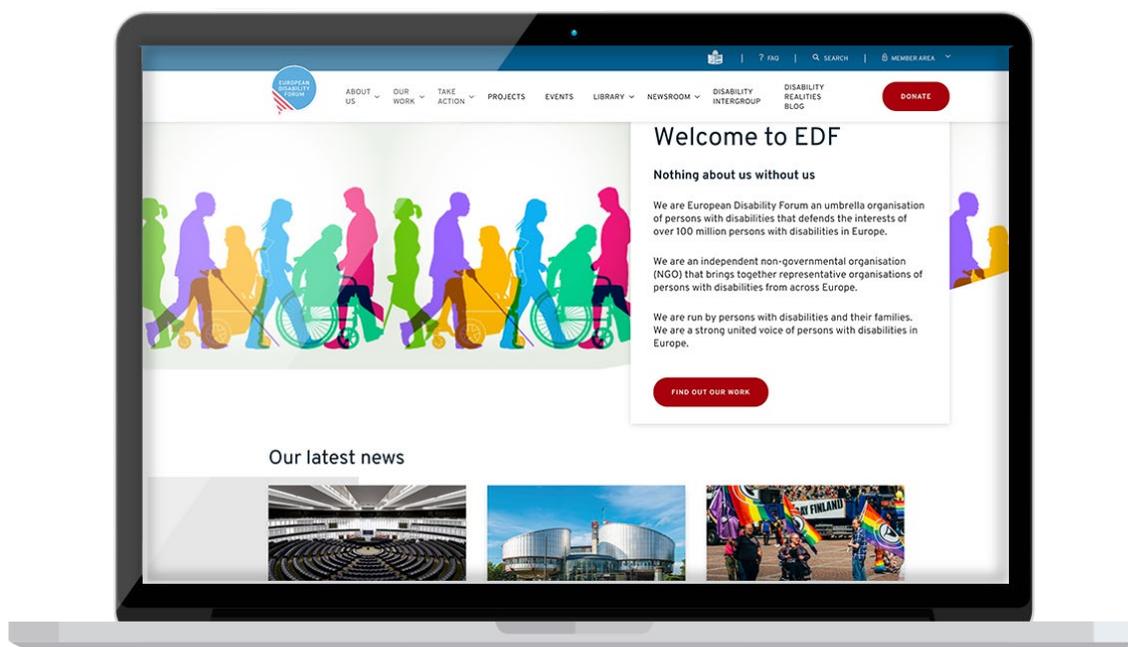
# Making our voice heard

## Impact of communication

In 2020, we reached around 80,000 people through our website, social media, newsletters and press statements.

### New website

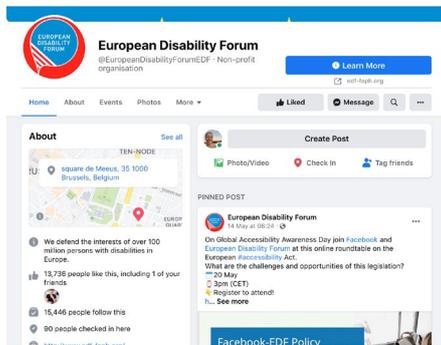
In the period between the end of 2020 and early 2021, we launched our new website. We have changed our online look, but more importantly, we have implemented a more accessible website for everyone.



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## Creating engagement on social media

Through social media, we reach...



EDF [Facebook page](#)

[@MyEDF](#) Twitter page

# 15,700 fans

# 18,000 followers

## Our top campaigns



## EDF in the news

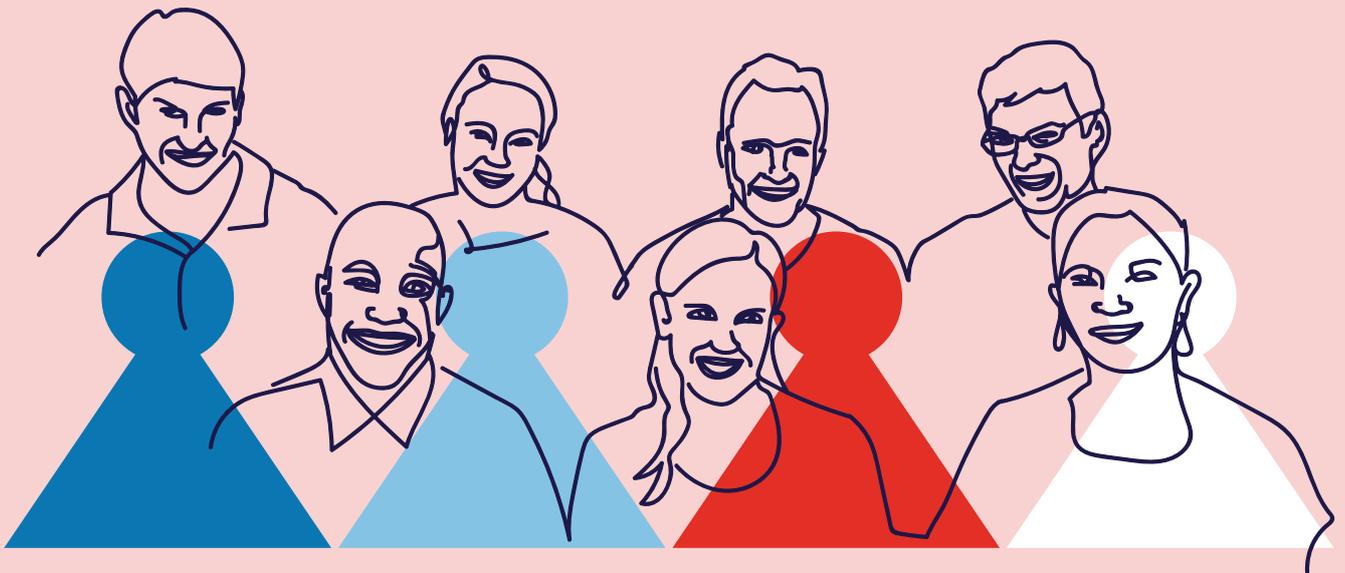
Media coverage of the following events:

- Signing of the petition for the Train travel for all campaign
- The impact of COVID-19 on residential institutions
- The 45 MEPs Coronavirus Response
- 60,000 people demanding that the EU make train travel work for persons with disabilities.

## Events

During 2020, we held 43 webinars with 5,900 registrations in total and 4,000 attendees. We also organised the following Governing Body meetings:

- **1 Annual General Assembly**
- **4 Board Meetings**
- **10 Executive Meetings**



**A STRONG  
UNITED VOICE OF  
PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES IN  
EUROPE**

**CHAPTER 6**

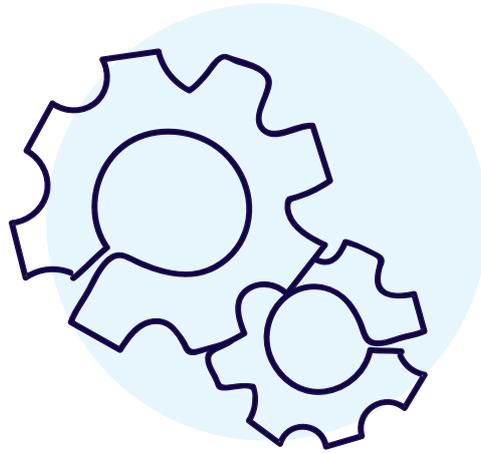
# Transparency

## Our partners & close collaborators

- Academy of European Law
- AGE Platform Europe
- Airports Council International (ACI) – Europe
- ANEC – The European consumer voice in standardisation
- Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT)
- Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)
- Digital Europe
- Equinet (The European Network of Equality Bodies)
- ERASMUS student's network
- European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
- European Digital Rights (EDRi)
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- European expert group on transition from institution to community-based services
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
- European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR-D Network)
- European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENHRI)
- European Trade Union Confederation
- European Women's Lobby (EWL)

## 44 The European Disability Forum

- European Youth Forum
- Funka
- Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative by the Mobile & Wireless Forum (GARI)
- Google
- IncluD-ed network
- International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)
- International Road Transport Union (IRU)
- Microsoft
- Oracle
- SDG Watch Europe
- Semester Alliance
- Siteimprove
- Social Platform
- Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities
- European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- European Passengers' Federation (EPF)
- United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Transmedia Catalonia Research Group.



## Financial report

In 2020, EDF's work was made possible by the generous support of the European

Union, the ONCE Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Siteimprove, Facebook, CBM and Oracle.

We also thank EU Institutions, including the Commission, the Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the EU Presidencies, National governments and EDF members for hosting, co-organising and supporting our events and governing body meetings.

## Table of Expenses 2019 – 2020

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Expenses related to projects	479,797.27	468,905.39
Staff costs	743,349.78	791,867.10
Travel costs	332,049.60	94,074.38
Administrative and office costs	253,002.83	225,725.84
Costs for services (communication, meetings, equipment, interpretation)	116,174.61	182,662.69
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,924,374.09</b>	<b>1,763,235.40</b>

## Table of Income 2019 – 2020

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Operating grant subsidies	1,440,449	1,294,330
Membership fees	50,680	87,628
Other members contributions	4128	
Project subsidies	336,302	381,277
Other income	92,815	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,924,374</b>	<b>1,763,235</b>

<b>REPORTED RESULT</b>	<b>111,808</b>	<b>49,255</b>
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