

# **What is EDF?**

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| EDF logo | The European Disability Forum (EDF): the voice of disabled people in Europe. |
| A group of 5 disabled people and a guide dog | There are a lot of people with disabilities in Europe. Over 100 million. |
| Man in a wheelchair unable to climb a staircase which has a big minus sign behind it | Many of them still face discrimination Many of them are still excluded from society. |
| Hands holding a wallet open with a copper coin and cobwebs | Many of them often live alone and do not have a lot of money.  This is not right.  It must be changed. |
| EDF logo | In 1996, some people created an association to change this.  It is called the European Disability Forum.  In short, they call it “EDF”.  EDF was created to bring better life for people with disabilities.  EDF was created to protect the rights of people with disabilities. |
| A group of 5 disabled people and a guide dog | EDF is an association of disabled people.  This means that it is run by disabled people themselves.  EDF is run by people with all kinds of disabilities. |
| People with disabilities being assisted by people next to them | But people who have severe disabilities are not able to help other disabled people run EDF.  In this case, family members get involved in EDF to represent them. |
| EU Flag | EDF speaks and works for all disabled people in Europe.  EDF is the link between people with disabilities and the European Parliament or the European Commission.  EDF makes sure that disabled people are not forgotten, when new laws are written for all European countries. |
| Person choosing from 3 options | EDF is independent.  Being independent means you take your decisions by yourself.  Decisions about EDF’s work are taken only by EDF members, not by anybody else. |
| Character illustration of people holding member icons. | EDF does not work for the European Union.  EDF works for its members. |
| 5 people holding up speech bubbles | EDF is also democratic.  This means that all members can have a say.  Decisions are not taken by one person alone.  EDF is working for disabled people. |
| Two humans on either end of a scale | This means that EDF fights   * For equal opportunities * To protect the human rights of disabled people |
| A person in a wheelchair with two people behind them. | * To make sure that no decisions about disabled people are taken without them. |
| Person pointing at a network of people | EDF has 100 members.  EDF members come from all over Europe.  They work with many kinds of disabilities.  Some are big organisations, others are rather small.  Some members are European associations.  Others are national or local associations. |
| Group of people with two people in a wheelchair and two smaller people. | EDF thinks that disabled people must be included in the society.  Our society would be better in this case. |

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