**Minutes of the Youth Committee**

1. **June 2021 Online**

**Present** Kamil GOUNGOR- ENIL/NCDP , (KG)chair

Victor REHN- EFHOH- European Federation of Hard of Hearing, (VR) member

Francesca SBIANCHI- Italian Disability Forum, member

Sigridur FOSSBERG THORLACIUS- OBI Icelandic National Council ( OBI), (ST) member

Mathieu CHATELIN- Cerebral Palsy European Community Association (CP-ECA), (MC) member

Liisa Halonen (LH) - EUD- European Union of the Deaf member

Apologies: Erika BECERRA- Autism-Europe, (EB) member

Dominique DE MARNE- Mental Health Europe, (DD) member

EDF Staff Loredana DICSI- (LD) EDF secretariat

Catherine Naughton (CN) EDF Director representing the EDF Executive Committee

Andre Felix Communication Coordinator

Marie Denninghaus (MD) Policy Coordinator

Raquel Riaza (RR) Events Coordinator

**Moderator- Loredana** Dicsi

**Captioner** Marina

Sign language interpreters- Lissa and Gerdinand

**Opening and introductions**

Kamil, the youth committee chair opened the meeting- and mentioned the news that one member became a mother- Dominique Demarné. The reason why she is not participating in the meeting.

Everyone introduced themselves and told what they had for breakfast.

**Conference on the Future of Europe**

Presented by Andre- Powerpoint here

COFOE- citizens ideas to shape the future of Europe: <https://www.edf-feph.org/conference-on-the-future-of-europe/>

* Youth focused- all panels should be 1/3 youth.
* 9 topics, but only things which are part of EU competence will be taken forward

Climate change and the environment.

Health

Stronger economy, social justice and jobs

EU in the world

Values and rights, rule of law and security

Digital transformation

European democracy

Migration

Education, culture, youth and sport

* Joint presidency of the conference  + executive board
* Common secretariat (commission, parliament and council)
* Conference
* [Multilingual platform:](https://futureu.europa.eu/)  (Andre demonstrated this platform and explained how to sign up, give input etc).
* Citizen panels- national and EU level – 200, equal male/female, should be diverse- have not mentioned need to include people with disabilities – national ones will be decided nationally
* Conference plenary will convene and eventually propose to the EU- kick-off June 19th. This is 433 people, MEPs, national Parliaments and citizens- should be 1/3 youth- less than 25 years old, national government and range of different EU agencies, CSOs, social partners

What is EDF doing:

* We are hosting a photo competition on the [Future of Europe for persons with disabilities](https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/OtherIdeas/f/8/proposals/17462).
* We wrote an open letter to the co-chairs of the Conference demanding that [persons with disabilities are represented proportionately](https://www.edf-feph.org/conference-on-the-future-of-europe-must-include-persons-with-disabilities/).
* [We demanded that the Citizen’s panels are more inclusive.](https://citizenstakeover.eu/blog/ctoe-sounds-the-alarm-the-conference-risks-excluding-already-marginalised-communities/)
* We are partners in the [25% project](https://www.facebook.com/the25percent).  This project is led by the [European Youth Forum](https://www.youthforum.org/), and focus on youth participation in the conference. The project will gather a lot of ideas from Europe’s young people, who make up 25% of the population, on how to improve Europe. Ideas will be presented to policy-makers, feeding into the process of the Conference on the Future of Europe.
* We organised an event on the [future of rail travel](https://futureu.europa.eu/processes/GreenDeal/f/2/meetings/3433).
* We are part of the [Civil Society Convention on the Future of Europe](https://civilsocietyeurope.eu/the-civil-society-convention-on-the-future-of-europe-has-been-launched/)

Andres suggestions for youth committee:

* Contribute to the online platform
* Take part in the Youth Forum project
* Do events and include them in the COFOE

Questions:

* How to get into the citizens panels? We are not sure of the process yet.
* The age range is quite low- below 25- we do not know how and by whom this was decided.
* March 2022 should be the closing- s all contributions before then

Loredana introduced the 25% project by the youth forum (<https://www.facebook.com/the25percent>, the25percent.eu)

Kamil and Loredana have already had training  through the project, and all committee members can have this training.

Resources will be available through the project to build capacity and mobilise youth.

Youth committee members can give their inputs to the platform, individually and sharing and supporting other ideas within the platform.

EDF can prepare a letter that each of the Youth Committee member can send to request to have the Citizen panels inclusive.

**European Disability Rights Strategy (EDRS)**

* Marie Denninghaus presented the EDRS with a powerpoint (available) she underlined some of the actions that are relevant for young people were: the EU Disability Card review of traineeship and employment and digital education.
* Questions were raised on the language in the strategy (use of the term vulnerability) by KG and MC

**European Green Deal**

* Marie gave an overview of EU initiatives under the European Green Deal
* She mentioned the alliances and processes EDF are part of (just transition alliance, Bauhaus)

**Survey on independent living**

Marie asked if youth committee members would like to share/discuss or contribute to the survey Haydn is working on, on independent living <https://www.edf-feph.org/disability-assessment-and-independent-living-we-want-to-know-your-story/>

Break:

**Youth committee activity update**

Report back by Kamil with powerpoint presentation

* EDPD December 2020
* Statutory Meetings Board on 8 March AGA on 23 April
* Workshop on Inclusive Leadership, on 8 February
* We provided a workshop for Eurodesk on making accessible and inclusive events for young people
* EESC Youth Forum meeting in April 2021
* Meetings of the Erasmus+ Coalition, on 19 January, Marchand 28 May
* Meeting of the SIEM advisory board, on 22 January
* Workshop on Inclusive Leadership, on 8 February
* We provided a workshop for Eurodesk on making accessible and inclusive events for young people

We gave feedback on:

* Recommendation on Art 27 of the CRPD on employment
* To Herr & Speer for their position paper on DiscoverEU
* Provisions on what to finance within Erasmus+ and ESC given the pandemic - document sent by the Erasmus+ Coalition

We published :

* Messages on the EDPD

Update from Loredana on specific policy issues

**Erasmus + & European Solidarity Corps**

* Both Erasmus+ And European Solidarity Corps programmes have been adopted programmes on May 18th
* The Users Guides for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes were  published end of March
* The Humanitarian strand of the European Solidarity Corps programme was not yet launched. It will be done  nex year and then users Guide will be published
* Many provisions for Persons with Disabilities, prefinancing also
* No Accessibility requirements for websites- big gap

**Inclusion and diversity strategy-**

Supposed to help project managers and agencies to establish their strategies

* Published on 29 April
* It is for both Erasmus+ And ESC
* Disability is not defined as in the CRPD though references are there-
* A chapter describing all measures for persons with fewer opportunities
* National Agencies are encouraged to take measure to make their activities accessible
* No mention of accessibility of platforms and websites only user friendliness

**EDF 25TH Anniversary**

* Cake is very important (we confirmed there is cake)
* We could make a baby- let it age over the 25years and see what has been relevant. For example, if you were born at the day EDF was formed, what has happened since then to impact you. EG – when you are age 10, you have been protected against discrimination in the field of work, in when you are age 13, you have the right to assistance at the airport
* Bring in former members of the youth committee- and have a conversation about the past and the future
* Ensure youth participation across the year including in the European Parliament of Persons with disabilities
* History of the youth committee- why is was established, interviewing past members

**European Youth event: (Loredana  presented)**

Online Event 1 hour

Title: Independent Living: so basic and yet so Impossible

* 1 moderator, the chair of the EDF Youth Committee or another member of the committee TBC
* An MEP with a disability (to be selected by the EDF Youth Committee)
* A young person living independently who could share their story and explain the challenges they overcame.
* A person living in residential setting or a person living with their parents, not by choice, but due to the barriers to becoming independent.
* Will be part of the conference on the future of Europe – there needs to be an outcome towards the future of Europe process

Points for follow-up

* Check with Inclusion Europe for people with intellectual disability and people who may have lived in an institution.
* Check with Alejandro to see who would be dynamic and supportive intergroup members (youth committee had preference for MEP with lived experience of disabilities)
* Kamil is open to moderating- it was agreed youth committee member should moderate

For the European Youth event- how can we ensure it is accessible?

Action- continue to advocate, and wrote officially to the partners to ensure it is accessible.

LD ensured the members of the Committee that EDF will remind the Youth Outreach Unit of the European Parliament and she  proposed even to send a leeter in this view to the above mentioned department of the European Parliament.

A fundamental rights agency event:

* Online event in October 75 Minutes
* Topic::Youth and Independent Living in times of COVID-19
* The Right of Young People with Disabilities to Live Independently: What the Pandemic taught us
* Interactive pannel debate with 1 facilitator and up to 5 speakers
* Questions and panelists answer

Follow-up

Liisa proposal- she knows many deafblind people who could be speakers as this community were very hard hit by COVID 19.

Moderator – possible Kamil

It was difficult to have volunteers are the event is in October, a busy period and people were not sure to be able to participate

**Workplan and Topic 2022**

Ideas for the theme for next year:

* Sustainability – youth involvement

Other options:

* Digital world
* Transition from education/training to the world of work
* Intersectionality- how being a member of  a minority within a minority ( like being a young LGBTI person with disability )
* Mental health

Topic chosen for 2022 theme- Mental health

September 2022 will be the next ENIL freedom drive- maybe the new youth committee  could meet at that time?

The Committee members agreed with the proposed plan.

**Next Meeting and Closing**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place online or if the situation allows face to face on 1 December before the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

CN Suggested for the take over of the new youth committee both Committee could join the European Day of pPersons with Disabilities. Then the two groups could meet.

LD thanked all youth committee members, all supporting colleagues and the Service Providers.

KG thanked also all the members and the service providers and EDF staff and wished all a nice week-end.