People with disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals

Easy to read
Who we are

We are the European Disability Forum. In short, we are called ‘EDF’. We are an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. We work to protect their rights. We think that people with disabilities should have the same chances in life and take part in the community as everyone else. We also think that people with disabilities should decide about their lives. Nothing should be decided about us without us.

What ‘the Sustainable Development Goals’ are

We wrote this paper to talk about ‘the Sustainable Development Goals’. Some time ago, countries came together and agreed to work to make the world better. For example, they agreed to protect people who are very poor or left out and make things better for them. They also agreed to try to make peace in the world and to protect the planet. They made a plan to make this happen by 2030.

To make this plan happen, they set some goals. We call these goals ‘the Sustainable Development Goals’.
If countries make these goals, the world will be a better place for everyone and **no one will be left behind**.

The Sustainable Development Goals talk about people with disabilities too. For example, they say it is important that:

- People with disabilities have the same chances in life like all other people.

- Children with disabilities have the chance to go to school and study.
• People with disabilities have the chance to get a good job and make their own money.

• Women with disabilities are not treated unfairly or badly.

• People with disabilities take part in the community.

At EDF, we want the Sustainable Development Goals to happen in Europe. This will make things better for people with disabilities and all people.

We try to:

• help our members with their work on the Sustainable Development Goals in their countries.

• talk with other organisations of people with disabilities and learn from each other.

• make sure that people with disabilities are not left behind.

• explain how important it is to have enough and correct information about people with disabilities.

For example, countries should know:
  – How many women with disabilities are there?
How many children with disabilities are there?
– How many people with disabilities live in care homes?

Knowing this information will help countries to better plan their work to help people with disabilities. Sadly, countries in Europe often do not have this important information about people with disabilities so they cannot plan their work in the right way.

What you can do

The Sustainable Development Goals are very important for people with disabilities and all people. To make them happen, we should work all together:

• People who make decisions in Europe,
• Organisations of people with disabilities,
• People like you.

For example, you can:

• Learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals. Click here to get a document with more information about the Sustainable Development Goals in easy to read.

• Explain to your friends and family why the Sustainable Development Goals are important.

• Help the work of organisations of people with disabilities in your country.

• Take part in meetings and talks about the Sustainable Development Goals.
So there are many things you can do to help the Sustainable Development Goals happen in your country. If you have any questions, you can send us an email at: marion.steff@edf-feph.org. We will be happy to help you.