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| Logo of the European Commission, 12 yellow stars on a blue background arranged in a circle and framed by two light grey graphic elements representing the Berlaymont building, which is the headquarter of the European Commission. | EUROPEAN COMMISSION  DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION  Social Rights and Inclusion  **Disability and Inclusion** |

Disability Platform work programme 2023 ([[1]](#footnote-1))

1. **Three plenary meetings per year**

**Plenary meeting 1**: 14 February (online)

**Plenary meeting 2**: 26-27 June (in-person)

**Plenary meeting 3**: 13 October (online)

1. **Input from Presidency country on disability activities and conference (if applicable)**

**February**: Sweden

**June**: Sweden + Spain

**October**: Spain + Belgium

1. **Thematic priorities proposed by Civil society organisations - interactive discussion**

**February:**

a. Cost of living crisis and persons with disabilities, EU and Member States actions to protect persons with disabilities, and their support services.

b. Disability assessment and adequate social protection connecting with the EU Disability Card initiative, and the European Social Policy Network comparative study for the Commission on disability benefits to be published shortly.

**June:**

c. Political participation and participation in public life in the perspective of the EP elections of 2024 and against the background of the Council reaction to the EP proposals for a new EU electoral law, and the Commission proposals for Council Directives on mobile EU citizens’ political rights.

d. Mental health initiative announced by President Von der Leyen, and mental health of persons with disabilities

**October:**

e. External actions including war in Ukraine, the situation of Ukrainians with disabilities in the EU, and reconstruction of Ukraine.

f. Independent living including for older people: synergies, or the lack of, between the Disability Rights Strategy and the European Care Strategy, including new community care models and the use of EU funds

1. **Exchange on flagship initiatives of the Strategy**

The Commission informs the Disability Platform on the state of implementation and progress regarding ongoing flagship initiatives.

1. Disability card (update at all 3 meetings in 2023)
2. Employment package (update at all 3 meetings in 2023)
3. Accessible EU (update at all 3 meetings in 2023)
4. Independent living (update at all 3 meetings in 2023)
5. **Exchange on other Commission activities within the Strategy**

**February**: action 20 (*Launch, in 2022, a study on social protection and services for persons with disabilities to examine good practices on disability benefits, old-age income, health insurance, cash and non-cash benefits as well as on extra-costs due to disability*) and action 21 (*Provide guidance to support Member States in further reforms of social protection focusing on persons with disabilities and disability assessment frameworks, including upon requests through the Technical Support Instrument*)

**June**: action 10 (*Work with Member States in the European Cooperation Network on Elections to support full electoral participation and accessibility of the European elections (both as voter and as candidate), addressing underrepresented citizens, including citizens with a disability in order to guarantee the exercise of political rights of persons with disabilities on equal basis with others*), action 11 (*Discuss, in 2022, in the framework of the high-level event on elections announced in the Democracy Action Plan, practices on inclusive democracy with the aim that candidate lists reflect the diversity of our societies*), action 12 (*Establish, in 2023, on this basis and in close cooperation with Member States in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections a guide of good electoral practice addressing participation of citizens with disabilities in the electoral process*), action 13 (*Seek to address the needs of citizens with a disability in the compendium on e-voting envisaged under the European Democracy Action Plan*)

Actions related to “Leading by example”: Flagship initiative (*The Commission will adopt a renewed HR strategy that will include actions to promote diversity and inclusion of persons with disabilities, and invites EPSO to complement these efforts in collaboration with other recruiting EU institutions)*, action 52 (*The Commission will ensure the continuous removal and prevention of barriers by all services for staff and public with disabilities (e.g. accessible ICT equipment and tools for online meetings*); action 53 (*It will strengthen reporting by the management of all Commission services on diversity, including reasonable accommodation for staff with disabilities*).

**October**: actions related to “Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities globally”: action 37 (*In 2021, update the Toolbox on the “Rights Based Approach, encompassing all human rights for EU development cooperation” to address all inequalities, including discrimination against persons with disabilities, in external actions*), action 38 (*Ensure that the EU delegations play a more active role in supporting the implementation of the UNCRPD and fostering global ratification*), action 39 (*Systematically use the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) disability marker to track disability inclusive investments for a targeted monitoring of EU funding*) and action 40 (*Provide technical assistance together with Member States to partner countries’ administrations through their programmes and facilities*).

Actions related to indicators: action 62 (*Develop, at the latest by 2023, new disability indicators with a clear roadmap for implementation. These should include indicators for children and the situation of persons with disabilities in employment, education, social protection, poverty and social exclusion, living conditions, health, use of new communication technologies, supporting the indicators for the EU Social Scoreboard, the European Semester Sustainable Development Goals*), action 64 (*Develop a strategy for data collection, steer Member States accordingly and provide an analysis of existing data sources and indicators including administrative data*)

**6. Addressing input by Member States on calls for action in the Strategy**

**February**: action 9 (d*efine measures to further tackle gaps in social protection for persons with disabilities to reduce inequalities, including by compensating extra costs related to disability and eligibility for disability benefit*).

**June**: action 1 (*Implement good practices of deinstitutionalisation in the area of mental health and in respect of all persons with disabilities, including children, to strengthen the transition from institutional care to services providing support in the community*), action 2 (*Promote and secure financing for accessible and disability-inclusive social housing, including for older persons with disabilities, and address challenges of homeless persons with disabilities*).

**October**: action 4 (*Adopt targeted measures and flexible training formats to ensure inclusive and accessible VET programmes including for persons with disabilities*), action 5 (*Building on the results of the Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills under the Pact for Skills, further support the cooperation between relevant stakeholders of the social economy, including identifying digital skills needs and applying assistive technology for better employability*).

1. **Input by State Parties on reporting to and dialogue with the UNCRPD Committee**

**February**: EU to present the process of the preparation of the next UNCRPD report.

**October**: Austria and Germany – UNCRPD Committee observations (29th Session (14 Aug 2023 - 08 Sep 2023)

1. **Thematic event on horizontal topics in line with the UNCRPD**

**June**: Swedish presidency seminar on national disability strategies

1. () the structure of the Disability platform work programme was agreed by consensus at the Disability platform meeting of 15/12/2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)