

EDF SNAPSHOT SERIES

GLOBAL GATEWAY

Global Gateway is the European Commission's (EC) strategy for large scale investment in infrastructure in the Global South, launched in 2021. It focuses on investments in five sectors: digital; climate and energy; transport; health; and education and research.¹

Global Gateway aims to 'mobilise' up to EUR 300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027. The finance is expected to come from existing European Union (EU) budget resources (including the [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument](#)), as well as from EU Member States and from private sector investors.²

Use of the disability policy marker for reporting on Global Gateway

In 2023, both Commissioner Urpilainen and the Foreign Affairs Council have said they hope the [Inequality marker \(I-marker\)](#) will be widely used to report on Global Gateway projects. EDF looked to see if we could find any similar statements on the disability policy marker, but we could not.

The EC uses the disability policy marker to report on all its ODA spending,³ including spending as part of Global Gateway. But the EC is just one of many partners involved in Global Gateway. Many others have a much less consistent track record of using the disability policy marker. For example:

- The European Investment Bank is a major partner in financing Global Gateway.⁴ But the European Investment Bank has not yet started using the disability policy marker (Figure 3).⁵

¹ European Commission High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, JOIN(2021) 30 final, [Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: The Global Gateway](#), pp.1,2,4,5,6,7,8

² European Commission High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, JOIN(2021) 30 final, [Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: The Global Gateway](#), pp.2,8,9. See also Sial and Sol / Eurodad and Counter Balance, 2022, [The emperor's new clothes: what's new about the EU's Global Gateway?](#), p.10. (Note: the European Fund for Sustainable Development-Plus, mentioned in these documents, is part of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument).

³ Source: author's analysis of Creditor Reporting System database.

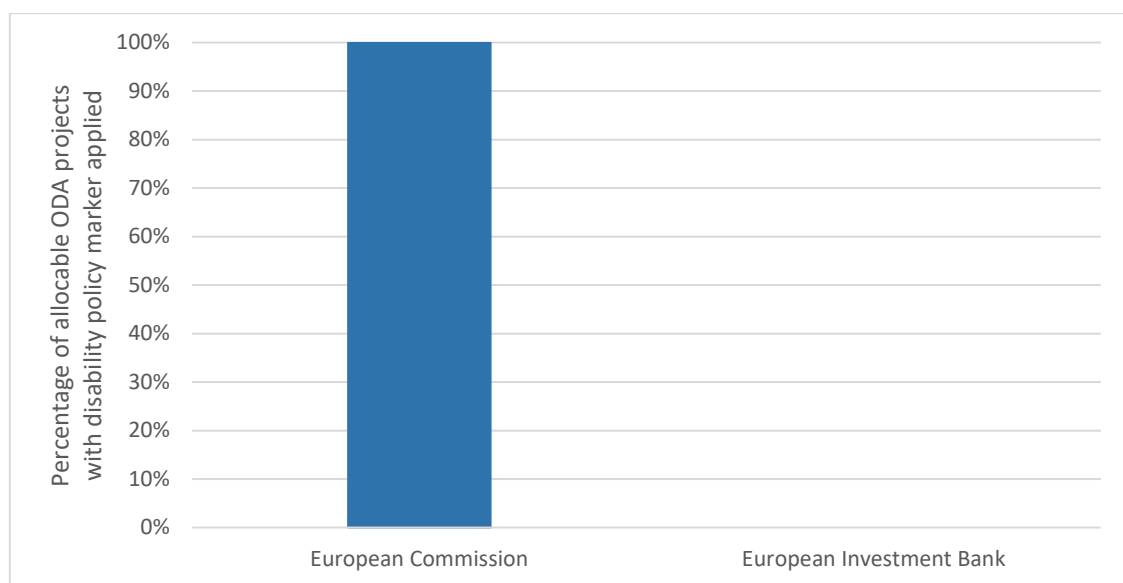
⁴ European Commission, 2021, [Questions and answers on Global Gateway](#), p.4

⁵ Strictly speaking, it is possible that some of the financial contribution from the European Investment Bank would not count as ODA but as Other Official Flows (OOF).

- Global Gateway is being implemented under a ‘Team Europe’ approach with inputs from different Member States.⁶ But EU Member States are inconsistent in their use of the disability policy marker (see Annex 2 for more details).

Given the gaps in some implementing partners’ disability policy marker reporting, it will be very hard to get a complete picture of how far Global Gateway programmes aim to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Figure I: use of the disability policy marker in 2021, by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank



Note: the analysis is based on data from the Creditor Reporting System database, downloaded in December 2023. The analysis uses data on allocable ODA commitments.

To learn more about the I-marker, check out EDF’s [Annual report – Towards equality: assessing EC funding for disability inclusion worldwide: Ddata from the OECD-DAC disability policy marker](#) (December 2023).

For more information, contact Erika Hudson, EDF International Cooperation Policy Officer at Erika.hudson@edf-feeph.org.

Published: **February 2024**

But even if this is the case, it would still be important to pay attention to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the European Investment Bank could still use the disability policy marker when reporting its OOF data to the OECD-DAC.

⁶ European Commission High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, JOIN(2021) 30 final, [Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: The Global Gateway](#), pp.2,12,13