



The right to decide: legal capacity and pathways to reform

Panel 1: Legal reform

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Conference on legal capacity: Legal reform



Keynote:

Markus Schefer

Committee on the Rights of
persons with Disabilities



ZRMB
SCHWEIZ

Zentrum für die Rechte
von Menschen
mit Behinderungen

The Right to Decide: Legal Capacity and Pathways to Reform

Markus Schefer, CRPD Member
Panel Legal Reform, 21 June 2025

Equal recognition before the law

Art. 12 (1) and (2) CRPD

- (1) States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.
 - (2) States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
-

Equal recognition before the law

Art. 12 (3) CRPD

- (3) States Parties shall **take appropriate measures** to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.
-

Equal recognition before the law

Art. 12 (4) CRPD

- (4) States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for **appropriate and effective safeguards** to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity **respect the rights, will and preferences of the person**, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. **The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.**
-

Legal Capacity

- Capacity to have rights
- **Capacity to exercise rights**

Legal Reform

- Law on capacity to act
 - Law on adult protection
-

Adult Protection Laws

- substitute decision-making regimes



- supported decision-making regimes

→ support measures

Capacity to Act

- remove all restrictions on capacity to act
 - reduced power of judgement
must not lead to limitations on capacity to act
-

CRPD: Concluding Observations EU (2025)

33.(a) Call on Member States to replace substitute decision-making regimes with supported decision-making systems that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities, and to provide training on supported decision-making to public officials, families, and service providers;

CRPD: Concluding Observations EU (2025)

33.(b) Halt efforts to authorize EU Member States to join or remain parties to the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the International Protection of Adults; do not proceed with the proposed Regulation COM/2023/280 final, and do not proceed with the proposed Council Decision COM(2023) 281 final/2;

Case Law CRPD Committee

- **assisted suicide**
 - P. L. [v.](#) France (2023)
 - **criminal procedure**
 - Medina Vela [v.](#) Mexico (2019)
 - Leo [v.](#) Australia (2019)
 - Doolan [v.](#) Australia (2019)
 - **financial decisions**
 - Rékasi [v.](#) Hungary (2023)
-



Thank you !

markus.schefer@unibas.ch

Conference on legal capacity: Legal reform



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Executive
Director



**Marine
Uldry**

EDF
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**Indrė
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**Daniel Anibal
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Executive
Committee



**Emer
Begley**

DFI Director of
Advocacy



Role of EU and EU countries

EU and EU countries must protect the right to choose of people with disabilities:

- **Change their laws:** abolish old laws, adopt new law, change systems.
- **Provide adapted forms of support** so that anyone can exercise their right to choose / their legal capacity.
- **Raise awareness** and **provide trainings** about what the right to choose and legal capacity is.

What EU and EU countries can do depends on their **competences**.



Legal capacity regimes in the EU

Full guardianship authorised:

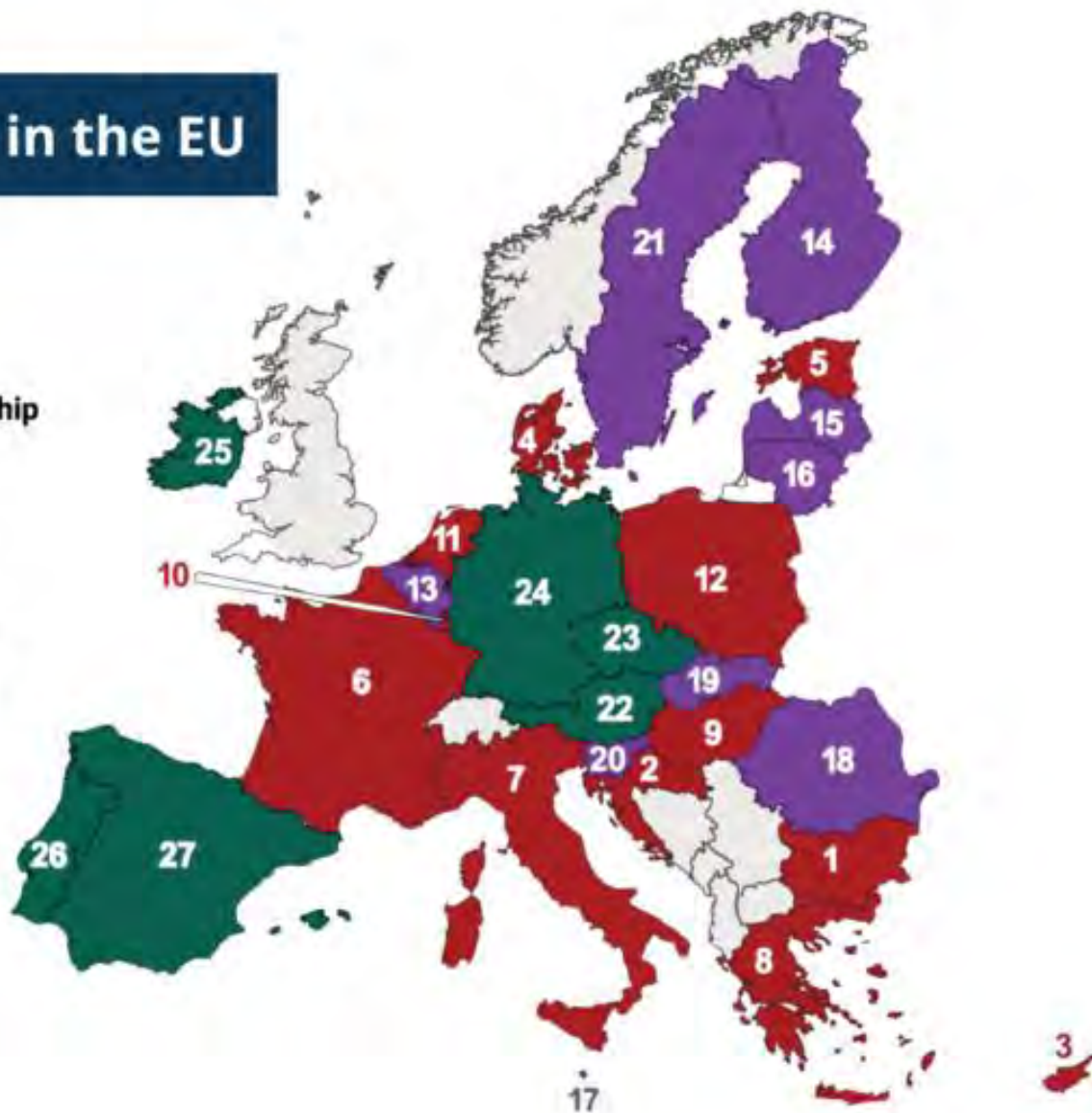
1. Bulgaria
2. Croatia
3. Cyprus
4. Denmark
5. Estonia
6. France
7. Italy
8. Greece
9. Hungary
10. Luxembourg
11. Netherlands
12. Poland

Only partial guardianship and similar systems:

13. Belgium
14. Finland
15. Latvia
16. Lithuania
17. Malta
18. Romania
19. Slovakia
20. Slovenia
21. Sweden

Guardianship almost fully abolished:

22. Austria
23. Czechia
24. Germany
25. Ireland
26. Portugal
27. Spain



Please do not share this picture/story on news or social media



Credit: Eglė Cimalanskaitė

How many
people have
their legal
capacity
limited or
removed?

~ 12 100

34 supported decision-making contracts

81 advance directives

Source: Lithuanian Ministry of Justice analysis, 2024

Who applies
to court in
legal
capacity
cases?

Family members or relatives – 65%



2016 legal capacity reform

- Allowed **legal capacity to be restricted only in specific areas** (e.g., financial matters), rather than fully revoked
 - **Regular review process established**
-



2024 draft legal capacity reform

1. Abolition of Incapacity and Limited Capacity:

Previous categories of "incapable" or "with limited capacity" are removed.

“Guardianship” as a last resort (Ultima Ratio)

2. No restriction of personal rights: rights to marry, vote, work.

3. Administrative review commissions abolished.



Dead end to 2024 reform?

Collision with the Constitution



Legal Reform (Law 8/2021)

- In force since September 2021.
- Replaces substituted decision-making with a model based on will and preferences.
- Promotes equality in exercising legal capacity



Impact on Persons with Disabilities

- Right to choose, make mistakes, and grow freely.
- Recognition of dignity and autonomy without exceptions.



Necessary Legal and Social Change

- Requires cultural transformation and judicial coordination.
- Promotes real equality in rights and responsibilities.



Compliance with Article 12 (CRPD)

- Spain as an international reference.
- Challenges: court resources, social resistance, side effects.



Next Steps

Moving forward, it is essential to:

- **Raise awareness** among families, professionals, and institutions about the legal framework and its implications.
- **Provide training** to all stakeholders—both legal and non-legal—on how to implement the reform in practice.
- **Ensure coordination** among judicial bodies and promote consistency in the application of the law.
- **Monitor and evaluate** the implementation of the reform to ensure that it fulfills its purpose and adapts to future needs.

Conference on legal capacity: Legal reform



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DFI Director of
Advocacy

Supported decision-making systems in the EU

Countries with supported decisions-making systems established by law:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Austria | 6. Hungary | 11. Portugal |
| 2. Belgium | 7. Ireland | 12. Spain |
| 3. Czechia | 8. Italy | 13. Sweden |
| 4. France | 9. Latvia | |
| 5. Germany | 10. Lithuania | |



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Question and Answer





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Go Vilnius

Coffee break

11:00 – 11.30





The right to decide: legal capacity and pathways to reform

Panel 2: Supported decision-making

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Conference on legal capacity: Supported decision-making



Keynote:

Tamara Byrne

**Committee on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities**



Supported Decision-Making in Everyday Life

Tamara Byrne – EDF Youth Committee and Inclusion Ireland

20th June 2025



About Me



- My name is Tamara Byrne.
- I am a self-advocate from Kildare, Ireland with lived experience of an intellectual disability.
- I am also a member of EDF Youth Committee and I represent Inclusion Ireland and Inclusion Europe in my advocacy.



Inclusion Ireland
The National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability.

The Right to Decide



- Today, I want to tell you about the importance of supported decision-making for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Article 12 of UNCRPD says that disabled people have legal capacity and the right to make our own decisions and choices about our lives
- But for a lot of people with intellectual disabilities this right is not protected or supported and they don't have control over their own lives



- Inclusion Ireland has been supporting the Decision Support Service to consult with self-advocates who regularly give them feedback on how to do their work.
- I know that in a lot of European countries people with intellectual disabilities still do not have legal capacity and can't make decisions.
- More governments need to follow Ireland's lead so we can all have independence and control of our lives no matter what country we live in!



- Inclusion Ireland has been supporting people with intellectual disabilities to make their own decisions in other ways too.
- Last year, they made the ‘Speak up, Speak Out!’ training programme. This is a guide for people with intellectual disabilities to build skills for self-advocacy.
- They are also working on the ‘Consultation to Co-Creation’ project. This is supporting the health and social care service to make sure disabled people have power and control about what supports they get.

My Experience of Supported Decision-Making



- It's normal for everyone to ask for advice or help making choices.
- I am independent and make my own choices and decisions about my life.
- But I get support from different people like my family, friends, and people I work with.

An example of how I am supported



- Sometimes I might be asked to speak at an event in Dublin, which is about one hour away from where I live.
- Inclusion Ireland staff will explain to me what the event is about and ask if I want to do it.
- If I decide I want to do it, they can meet with me and help to put my words together into an Easy-to-Read presentation like this.
- Then my mom will help me find information about the train times and how to get to the venue.

Another example



- When I left secondary school, the decision to go into a day service was made for me. I did not have a say.
- I went to the day service but I didn't like it and it didn't suit me.
- I wanted to go to college, but I never got any information or support from the state or the education system to make that choice.
- My mom supported me through the decision. She helped me to find information about different colleges and courses and explained it to me.



- She asked me what subjects I was interested in to see if there was any courses that were suitable.
- We found a course that sounded perfect, I could study Medieval Irish History and Media Studies in Maynooth University.
- My mom supported me to do the application and to link with the college to figure out what supports I could get to study there.
- I was accepted and graduated! I loved the course and got great supports in the college so I could have the same chances as every other student.

My recommendations



BIG
words 



- To people who want to support us to make decisions, my advice is:
- Check with people if they understand certain words or concepts and if they need you to explain it in easier language.
- Don't use complicated words. If you have to use them in text, explain what they mean after introducing them.
- Get to know the person you are supporting, what they like and dislike, their past, what their goals for the future are, and how they prefer to communicate.
- Respect their decisions even if you disagree with it.

My recommendations



- To governments of countries who are not supporting people with intellectual disabilities to make their own decisions:
- You are discriminating against people and taking away their human rights.
- You need to give people legal capacity to make their own choices with support.
- Change the laws and set up services like the Decision Support Service so people can get the right support and have their voices heard.
- Always consult with self-advocates on everything you're doing. Nothing without us!

My recommendations



- To people with intellectual disabilities, my advice on decision-making is:
- Don't be afraid to speak up when someone is making a decision for you. It's your human right to have control over your own life and everyone has to respect that.
- Ask for supports to help you to make decisions. Some supports you can ask for are Easy-to-Read information, information in a video or audio format.
- Another support is to have someone talk through the different options with you. You can ask for help to understand what might happen if you choose one option over another.

My recommendations



- Don't give up. Some people will try to say you're wrong and control your life but that is not right.
- If you see another person with an intellectual disability whose rights are being taken away, call it out and report it to disability organisations.
- Meet with other self-advocates and join advocacy groups and organisations. We are stronger together!

Thank you



- If you have any questions you can email info@inclusionireland.ie
- Thank you for listening and thank you to EDF for asking me to speak today. I hope you got something out of my speech and enjoy the rest of the conference.



- A lot of people with intellectual disabilities are treated like children even when they are over 18.
- These attitudes in society are a big barrier for people with intellectual disabilities and stop us from getting independence.
- If you disagree with my choices that doesn't mean you can take my choice away from me, in the same way that I cannot tell you what to do with your life.
- Our voices, our choices!

Legal Capacity – the Irish Context



Assisted Decision-Making
(Capacity) Act 2015



- My country of Ireland has recently passed the Assisted Decision Making and Capacity act, so that people can be supported to make their own decisions and choices.
- Now the law in Ireland says that people with intellectual disabilities know what they want and can choose what is right for themselves.



- Another big barrier to people being supported to make their own choices and decisions is information.
- People with intellectual disability are able to think for themselves. They just might need information to be easier to understand or explained to them more.
- If I need information explained in a different way it doesn't mean I should not get to make choices about my own life, it just means the information needs to be available in accessible ways.
- This is a reasonable accommodation that everyone has the right to ask for.



seirbhís tacaíochta
cinnteoireachta

decision support service™



- To go along with this law, the Decision Support Service was set up by the government.
- This is a government body that supports people to have supporters assist them in making their own decisions
- There are different levels of support that people can ask for depending on their needs.
- People have the choice to have their family or friend as a support person or the DSS can find someone for them.

Conference on legal capacity: Supported decision-making



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International
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Officer



**Freddy
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Inclusion
Europe
Advocacy
Lead



**Soufian El
Amrani**

Inclusion
Europe Self-
Advocate



**Rosie
Harding**

Professor of
Law and
Society,
Birmingham
Law School



**Jonas
Ruškus**

Professor,
Vytautas
Magnus
University

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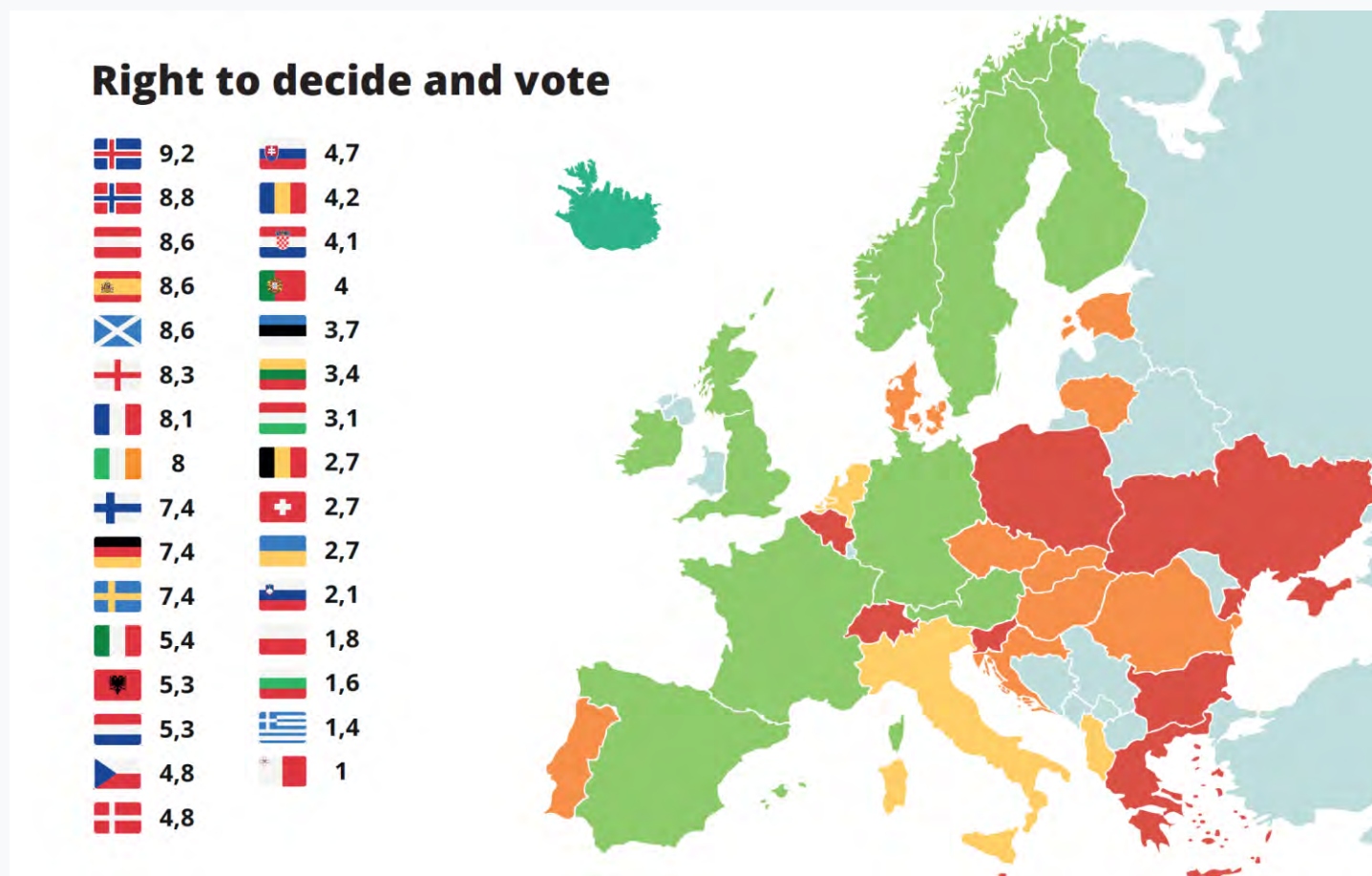
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Inclusion Indicators 2024.





What are the barriers to supported decision-making?



4.6.2025

LEGAL CAPACITY

BARRIERS

1. LEGAL ISSUES
2. POLICY IMPLEMENTAT.
3. INFRASTRUCTURE.
4. PRACTICE GUIDANCE
5. TRAINING
6. NETWORKING
7. SPECIFIC GROUPS
or QUESTIONS

INCLUSION EUROPE

LANDRE FFP-COAT-PAPEL - ART. 100050592

Plena Inclusion – Spain

Guide to help professionals in decision-making



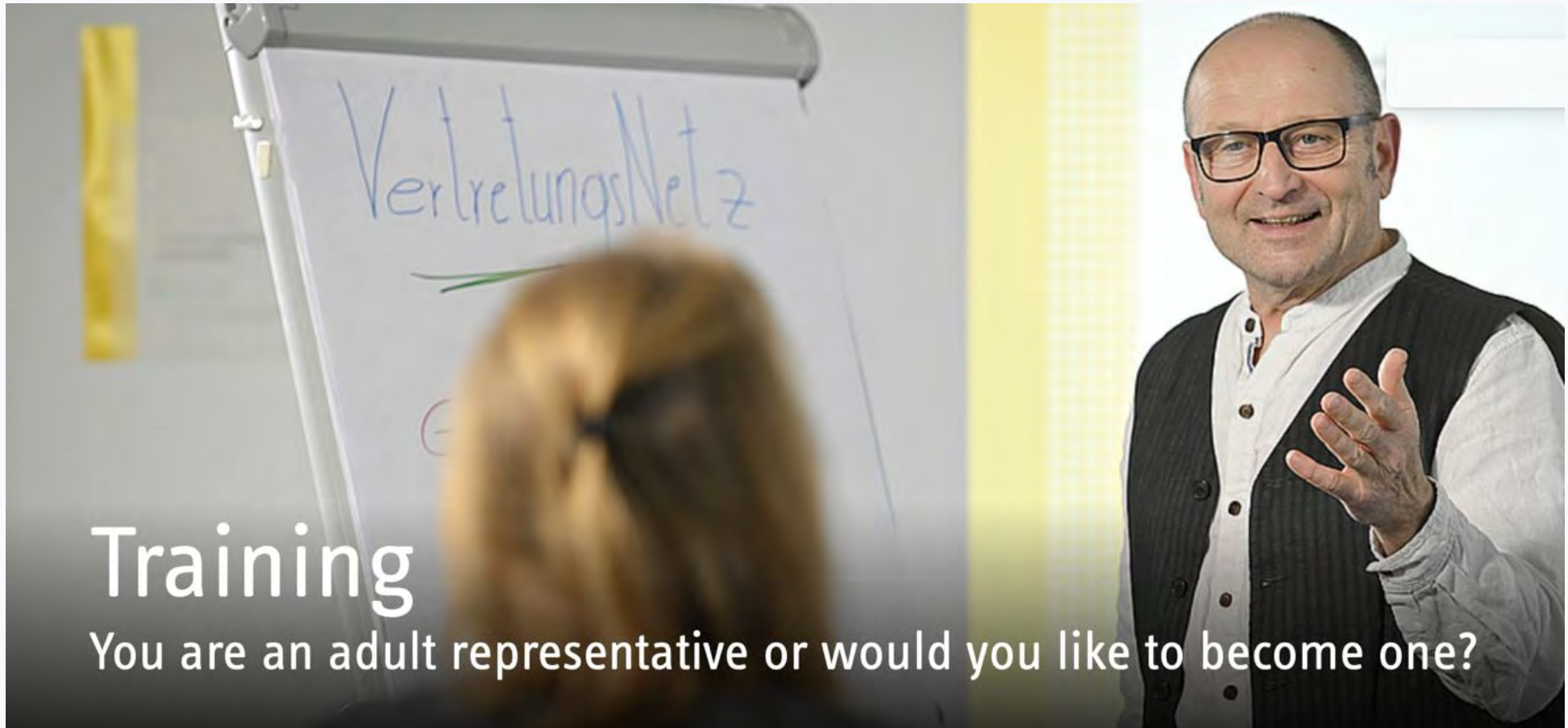
Austria – Participation of self-advocates in the reform



“It was often difficult to work in the working group, because there were many difficult words. After we told them, they used more texts in easy-to-read.”

Oswal Föllerer a self-advocate from Austria.

Austria – Clearing office and training



Training

You are an adult representative or would you like to become one?

Plena Inclusion – Spain

Guide to help professionals in decision-making



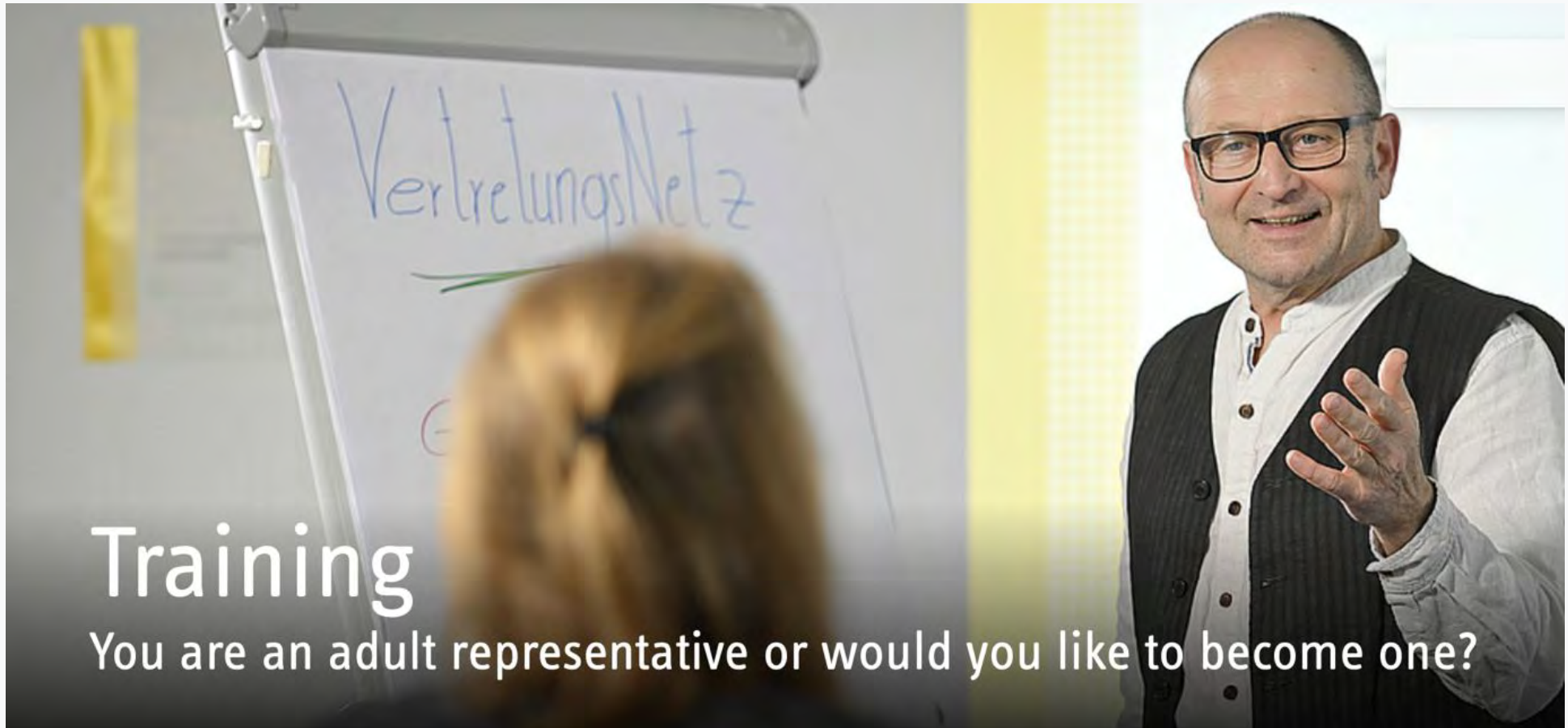
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Conference on legal capacity: Supported decision-making



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Question and Answer



Video Panel 2



Question and Answer





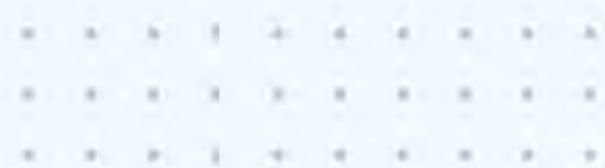
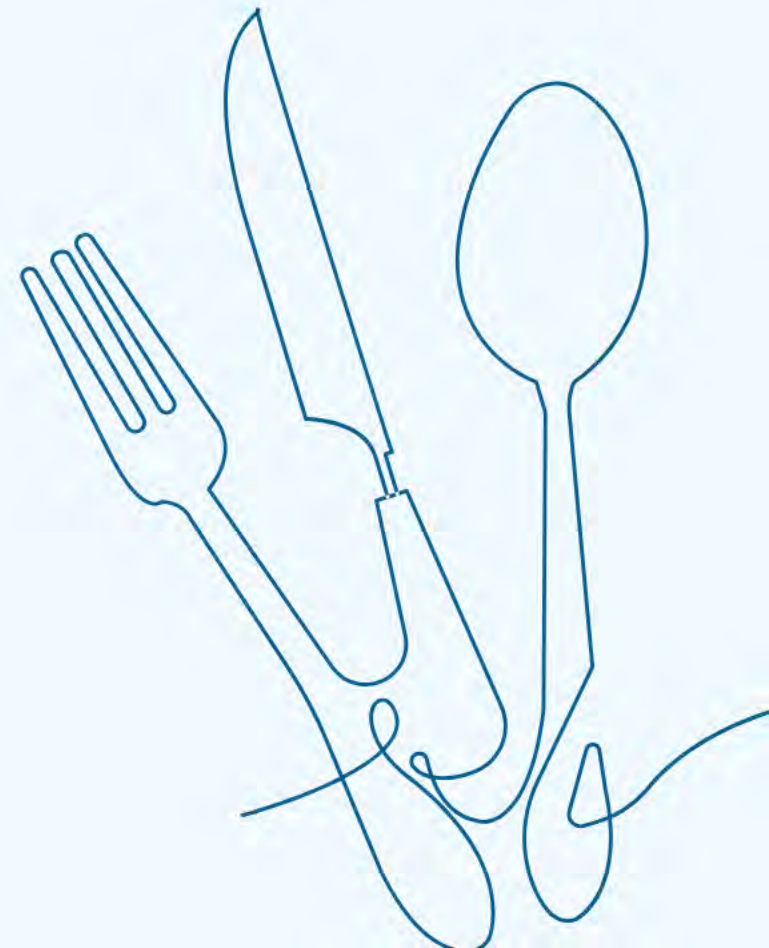
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Go Vilnius

Lunch break

13:00 – 14:30





EDF Annual General Assembly Business Session 1



House-keeping rules and general information



- Please use your sticker badge to identify yourself. You will keep it during the whole event.
- EDF staff are here to help - you will see them in the room now: **Blue badge**
- Visit from the European Youth Forum, Liv Arleth: **Orange badge**
- Evaluators: **Green badge**
- Questions on reimbursement: **Kateryna Ostashkova** (stand in Lobby)

Accessibility:

- International sign interpretation.
- Real-time captioning in English. Limited tablets for automatic translation available.
- Language interpretation into French and English. Please, remember to take a headset - and to return the headsets.





1. Roll Call

Roll-Call EDF Annual General
Assembly 21st and 22nd June
2025 Vilnius Lithuania



Housekeeping



1. Roll Call

2. Adoption of the agenda

Remembering Anna Drabarz



Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Nomination of the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee supervises the elections.

It is composed of:

- 2 staff members of EDF secretariat (Roberta Lulli, Marine Uldry)
- 2 members not participating in the elections:
 - 1 representative from National Councils
 - 1 representative from European NGOs

Their mandate terminates after the results are be announced.

Do you agree with the appointment of the scrutiny committee

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Who do we elect?

3 new Board members, who will serve until the General Assembly of 2026.

- **Two seats** in the EDF Board: for members coming from National Councils.
- **One seat** in the EDF Board: for members coming from European NGO full members.

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 1: Two seats in EDF Board for members coming from National Councils

We elect 2 Board member among the National Councils

Who will vote?

- All official delegates representing National Councils.
- All elected EDF Board members coming from National Councils.

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Candidates

- 3 candidates for 2 positions

How do we vote?

Via choice voting online platform. Check your e-mail to find your voting ballot.

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 1: Two Board members from National Council

List of Candidates : 3 Candidates



Thomas Dabeaux

Belgian Disability
Forum



Meelis Joost

The Estonian Chamber
of Disabled People



Branislav Mamojka

Slovak Disability
Forum

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 1: Two seats in EDF Board for members coming from National Councils full members

- We elect 2 board member among the European NGO full members
- You elect 2 candidates among the 3 presented.

**choice
vot!ng**



Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 2: One seat in EDF Board for members coming from European NGOs full members

We elect 1 Board member among the European NGO full members.

Who will vote?

- All official delegates representing European NGOs full members
- All elected EDF Board members coming from European NGOs full members

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Candidates

- 6 candidates for one position

How do we vote?

- Via choice voting online platform. Check your e-mail to find your voting ballot

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 2: Candidates for EDF Board member from European NGO



Rui Coimbra

Cerebral Palsy European
Community Associations



André Cuenca

European Federation of Parents
of Hard of Hearing Children



Bengt-Erik Johansson

European Dyslexia Association



Francesca Sbianchi

European Blind Union



Heta Pukki

European Council of Autistic People



Francisco Vaño

International Federation of Persons
with Physical Disabilities

Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



Election 2: One seat in EDF Board for members coming from European NGOs full members

- We elect 1 board member among the European NGO full members
- You elect 1 candidate among the 6 presented.

**choice
vot!ng**



Nomination of the scrutiny committee and election of Board members (DOC-AGA-25-06-01)



:Questions for the Delegates

- Is the election process clear to you?
- Do you have any questions for the candidates?

2026 Work Plan (DOC-AGA-25-06-02)



- Draft 4-year Work Plan (2026 – 2029) and draft 2026 Annual Work Plan.
- Focus on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ESRPD), capacity building and training, management of the organisation and network, and communication and dissemination.
- Basis for our application to the European Commission's Operating Grant under the **Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values Programme** (deadline: 26 August)

2026 Work Plan (DOC-AGA-25-06-02)



2026 Annual Work Plan: 7 Work Packages in total

1. WP 1 – Management of the Network
2. WP 2 – Capacity Building and training
3. WP 3 – UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
4. WP 4 – European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
5. WP 5 – Communication and Dissemination
6. WP 6 – International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action
7. WP 7 – Projects

Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



- **Second review** of the EU by the CRPD Committee (started in 2022)
- **Collective efforts** by the disability movement to input the Concluding Observations: written input, online and in person meetings
- Concluding observations adopted end of **March 2025**
- To the **European Commission** (but applies to all EU institutions and bodies!)



Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



12 memorable moments of the UN review of the EU

26.03.2025 | Andre Felix | UN CRPD



10 key recommendations to the European Union by United Nations disability experts.



Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



- 1. Disability Strategy:** Adoption of new specific actions, measures and time frames for the implementation of the Disability Rights Strategy for the period 2025-2030 (paragraph 13)
- 2. EU Funding:** Shape the Multiannual Financial Framework to ensure that no EU funding is used for the construction or maintenance of institutional facilities (paragraph 49(b)) and prioritise funding for accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities (paragraph 66(c))
- 3. Accessibility:** Adoption of legislation to guarantee accessibility of the built environment, urban transport, as well as all products and information (paragraphs 27(a) and 51(d)) and include comprehensive accessibility requirements for train stations and rolling stock in the upcoming TSI PRM revision (paragraphs 51(b))

Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



4. Passengers' rights: Revision of the passenger rights regulations for all transport modes (paragraphs 51(a) and (c))

5. Disability Card: extension of the scope of the European Disability Card to long-term relocation and render social security or social protection benefits portable (paragraph 47(a))

6. Women with disabilities: Mainstreaming of disability and gender across all legislation and policy frameworks and programmes, and expand the scope of the Gender Equality Strategy (paragraph 21(a))

Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



7. **Legal capacity:** Calling on Member States to replace substitute decision-making regimes with supported decision-making systems (paragraph 33(a)) and urge them to withdraw from the Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention (paragraph 39(a))
8. **External actions:** Development and implementation a comprehensive Disability Action Plan for EU external action (paragraph 75(a))
9. **EU as public administration:** Adoption of a comprehensive, cross-institutional strategy for disability inclusion (paragraph 83(a))
10. **Full review:** Comprehensive review of EU legislation, policies and practices (paragraph 9(a))

Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



- **Debriefing with members** who took part in the review
- **Online workshop** on how to use the recommendations for advocacy, with a link with the Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Discussion at the **EDF General Assembly** – 21st of June (today)
- Discussion at the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities**

Review of the EU by the CRPD committee (DOC-AGA-25-06-03)



- Discussion with the **Commission** (and Commissioners!) and advocacy towards the next steps of the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Discussion and potential actions by the **Parliament Disability Intergroup**
- **European Parliament self-initiative report** on the next phase of the EU Disability Rights Strategy
- Discussion with the **EU monitoring framework**





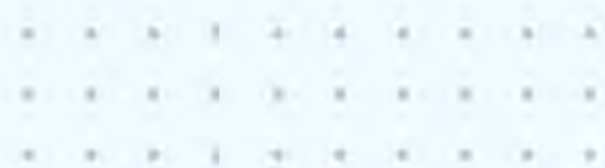
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Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:30





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EDF Annual General Assembly Business Session 2



Board election results



Policy Updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-04)



Ongoing campaigns:

- European Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030
- EU budget 2027-2034
- Equal Treatment Directive
- Regulation on Protection of Adults
- Passengers Rights
- Traineeship Directive
- European Accessibility Act

Policy Updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-04)



Completed:

- Guidance on Independent Living
- Study on alternative employment models
- EU commitments Global Disability Summit

Upcoming:

- Action Plan EU Pillar of Social Rights
- Equality Strategies (gender, LGTBIQ+, anti-racism)
- Public Procurement Directive
- Guidelines on disability inclusive emergency response
- Affordable Housing Action Plan

Policy Updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-04)



Useful documents:

- Guide on transposition of Directives on European Disability Card and European Parking Card
- Guide for transposition of Directive on combating violence against women
- Guide on the Artificial Intelligence Act
- Guide (and project) on Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
- Understanding Equality Bodies Directives (by Equinet)

Policy Updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-04)



Questions for EDF members:

- Do you agree with the below list of campaigns as well as EDF's approach to them?
- Is there any other important policy development EDF should be following?
- How can EDF support you in getting involved in the below list of policy activities?

Members' Exchange on the Disability Card (DOC-AGA-25-06-05)



- Directive on the Disability Card and the Parking Card entered into force in November 2024
- By 5 June 2027 Member States shall publish their national legislation.
- By June 2028, the Cards should be ready to be distributed (max. 42 months from publication).
 - We are now in the middle of the period where Member States have to adapt the existing national laws or adopt new national laws to transpose the Directive.
 - Member States are obliged to also consult Disabled Persons' Organisations.
 - It is important to develop your positions and address them to the national governments.

Today's discussion may help you with defining your position and getting the most out of the Directive.

Members' Exchange on the Disability Card (DOC-AGA-25-06-05)



Members from the Pilot Project countries will share their experience with the implementation of the Cards.

Speakers:

- **Pierre Gyselinck**, Belgian Disability Forum
- **Themida Anthopoulou**, Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of the Disabled
- **Meelis Joost**, Estonian Chamber of Disabled People
- **Pirkko Mahlamäki**, Finnish Disability Forum
- **Luisa Bosisio Fazzi**, Italian Disability Forum
- **Primož Jeralič**, Slovenian National Disability Council

Moderated by: Marie Denninghaus, EDF Secretariat



Presentation Slovenian National Disability Council



VSI ZA VSE

ci in emi vključan





How can the card and its campaign be an instrument for wider social inclusion?

- Maintenance and development of the EU card (website, mobile application with information about the card and providers),
- assessment of provider accessibility,
- media campaign,
- activities for young people,
- informing and raising awareness among employees at administrative units.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS



OUTDOOR ADVERTISING



WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Šport?

- Kolonarne svetlobe,
- Atletika,
- Anabazil,
- Kolonarne male drugice.



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Potujoča fotografska razstava

Nič drugačno življenje

Avtor fotografij: Primož Lavre



PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS





REKONSTRUKCIJSKA AGENCIJA
POSREDOVANJE PRI PROMETU
POSREDOVANJE PRI PROMETU
POSREDOVANJE PRI PROMETU

Zaradi
izredno

Tehnični
njim pri

Od tem so
gluhne starše
v njihovem
induktivna z

NSIOS

EU kartica upoštevna za invalidne

2. Invalidna kartica upoštevna za invalide, ki imajo 1. ali 2. stopnjo invalidnosti, lahko uporabijo kartico za prevoz na 1. ali 2. stopnjo invalidnosti.

3. Invalidna kartica upoštevna za invalide, ki imajo 3. stopnjo invalidnosti, lahko uporabijo kartico za prevoz na 1. ali 2. stopnjo invalidnosti.

4. Invalidna kartica upoštevna za invalide, ki imajo 4. stopnjo invalidnosti, lahko uporabijo kartico za prevoz na 1. ali 2. stopnjo invalidnosti.

NSIOS

SO POTNIK
Prilagoditve, ki omogočajo dostop do
prevoza, ne glede na funkcionalne omejitve.

SAMOSTOJNI VOZNIK
Prilagoditve in pripomočki, ki omogočajo
voznikom z gibalno omejitvijo
samostojno vožnjo in neposredno
mobilnost.

NSIOS

TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES ON ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS



FINAL/CLOSING EVENT

- Project results presentation
 - Music and dance performances
 - Theatrical performance
- Performing Arts workshops

Members' Exchange on the Disability Card (DOC-AGA-25-06-05)



Questions for discussion:

- Who is eligible to receive a Disability Card or Parking Card in your country?
- Did you manage to campaign for a wider range of advantages?
- Does the Disability Card include some kind of distinction of different "levels" of disability, like the proposed letter "A" for assistance?
- Do you have a national website to promote the Disability Card and how is it used?
- How can the Card and its campaign be an instrument for wider social inclusion?

The future EU budget (DOC-AGA-25-06-06)



- EU budget for 2028-2034
- The outline of MFF released 16 and 23 July
- Regulations for each funding strand could be released September

The future EU budget (DOC-AGA-25-06-06)



Likely changes in the new budget:

- National plans to allocate most funds
- Potential loss of enabling conditions
- Proposal for new "competitiveness fund" including defence
- Push for simplification

The future EU budget (DOC-AGA-25-06-06)



- Possible change to CERV grants (EDF core funding)
- Might be put under a different funding heading, perhaps Creative Europe
- Unclear if the amount of funding available or number of recipients will remain the same
- Unclear if the scope of activities funded will change
- EDF seeking clarity on this



Go Vilnius

Official Dinner

- Stand-up comedy show: arrive by **19:20** (some food and drinks provided)
- Dinner: starts at **20h**



Thank you!



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EDF Annual General Assembly Business Session 3



EDF Membership updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-07)



- Housing Option Scotland resigned last year.
- Beginning of this year they wanted to join EDF they have now finance for membership fee
- The Executive Committee proposed to vote a motion to revoke their resignation. The membership Committee and Board agreed.
- Only organisation working around housing and Disability, topic high on all EU Agendas.



Question for the Delegates to vote

Do you agree to revoke the resignation of Housing Option Scotland upon their request?

EDF Membership updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-07)



Questions for EDF members:

- Do you agree to revoke the resignation of Housing Option Scotland upon their request?

Finance Agenda



Finance updates DOC-AGA-25-06-08

- Approval of 2024 accounts (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-A**)
- External audit report 2024 (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-B**)
- Internal audit report (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-C**)
- Discharge of the Board (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-D**)
- Appointment of internal auditors (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-E**)
- Appointment of external auditors (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-F**)
- Approval of budget 2026 (**DOC-AGA-25-06-08-G**)

Approval of 2024 accounts (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-A)



Profit and loss (P&L) statement

- This is the “result” for the year. It declares the difference between the revenue/income and costs/expenditure. It always shows the total income on the top of the statement followed by the total costs deducted.

	2024	2023
Income	3 876 079.59	4 431 599.87
Expenditure	4 063 761.89	4 388 931.53
Result	- 187 682.30	42 668.34

Approval of 2024 accounts (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-A)



Balance sheet for 2024 – a snapshot on 31 December 2024

The two sides of the sheet are always balanced – assets (positive) and liabilities (negative)

Balance Sheet 2024			
Assets		Liabilities	
Fixed Assets	41 937.64	Capital and Reserves	125 421.26
Current Assets	5 479 732.22	Creditors	525 289.97
Total Assets	5 521 669.86	Total Liabilities	5 521 669.86

External audit report 2024 (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-B)



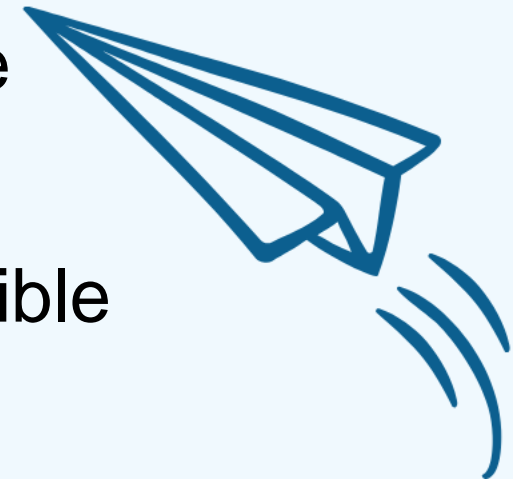
- In the 2024 report they state that the 2023 report that they produced was incomplete due to unrecorded losses.
- This has had to be rectified in 2024. The sum of EUR 292.360,41 relates to prior years mainly concerning i) losses on past grants and ii) penalties for late payment to Belgian tax and social authorities.



Management of EDF Finances



- When the loss was discovered a comprehensive assessment was made, including deeper discussion with our external auditor and accountant
- Full information was provided to the Executive Committee and a range of measures were taken to strengthen our procedures and reduce costs
- Many project monitoring measures were already in place
- Costs were reduced for 2025
- All expenses are being studied and reduced where possible



Management of EDF Finances



- Finance manual was thoroughly revised with external support to strengthen internal financial controls and monitoring
- Our payment policy and procedure has been streamlined and is functioning well
- Our cash flow in 2025 is quite strong at this point



Expense claims- changes



- Changes made to expenses reimbursement to prevent overspending and to ensure expenses are more promptly accounted for
- Delegates will need to send a fully prepared expense claim according to the guidelines given in the members area
- No expenses can be reimbursed which do not have supporting documentation, or which do not arrive before 22 July 2025
- A finance colleague, Kateryna, is available on the spot for assistance- we are happy to help!



Strengthening income



- Once the loss was noted the EDF Executive Director has worked directly with the Funding and Grants Coordinator to increase our unrestricted income – donations, co-financing, corporate cooperation
- All team members working on mobilisation of resources to continue activities in key areas



Internal audit report (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-C)



- Despite the 2024 loss, auditors acknowledged EDF Executive and management's swift response
- Key audit areas were approved
 - Travel; Venue hire for events; IT providers; Interpretation and captioning services; Publishing/printing; Security of the payroll system; Controls on the expenses of senior management and Executive Committee.
- Internal auditors express willingness to serve again in 2025, pending General Assembly confidence



Discharge of the Board (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-D)



This is the moment where the Board is discharged of its responsibilities for the 2024 financial oversight.

Do you agree to discharge the Board?



Appointment of internal auditors (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-E)



Our two internal auditors from 2024, proposed themselves to continue in 2025- Raymond Ceccotto and David Adams.

No other applications were received.

Do you agree with the nomination of the 2025 internal auditors ?



Appointment of external auditors (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-F)



- Call for tenders for the 2025 audit
- 2 full applications
- DGST gave a very complete and novel approach including checks and controls already in 2025 (you can see in the Annex)

Do you approve the new external auditor for EDF for 2025?



Approval of budget 2026 (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-G)



EDF planned budget 2026		
COSTS 2026		
Operations		536.900
Governing Body Meetings		537.500
Staff cost		1.480.600
Projects' Activities		378.360
Total costs		2.933.360
INCOME 2026		
Operating Grant		1.670.311
Other projects		822.840
Membership fees		190.000
Corporate sponsorship		70.000
Other income		180.209
Total income		2.933.360
Projected result		-

Approval of budget 2026 (DOC-AGA-25-06-08-G)



Assuming that:

- our operating grant from the European Commission will be granted in the same size as in 2025 and that the co-financing will stay 10%
- we will increase the amount of unrestricted funding received (on track)
- we will receive sufficient co-financing to organize in person Governing Body meetings (on track now)

Staff cost calculation includes indexation

We are waiting for results of several applications - not included



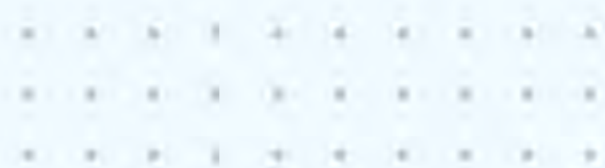
Update on Disability Law and Policy in Lithuania



Indrė Širvinskaitė
President,
Lithuanian Disability Forum

Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:00





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EDF Annual General Assembly Business Session 4



EDF Annual report (DOC-AGA-25-06-10)



Key highlights in 2024

1. A new EU law on the European Disability Card and Parking Card
2. Adoption of the Directive on Combating Violence Against Women
3. Standing with Ukraine: Inclusive support and reconstruction
4. EU elections, new institutions, and strengthening disability advocacy

EDF Annual report (DOC-AGA-25-06-10)



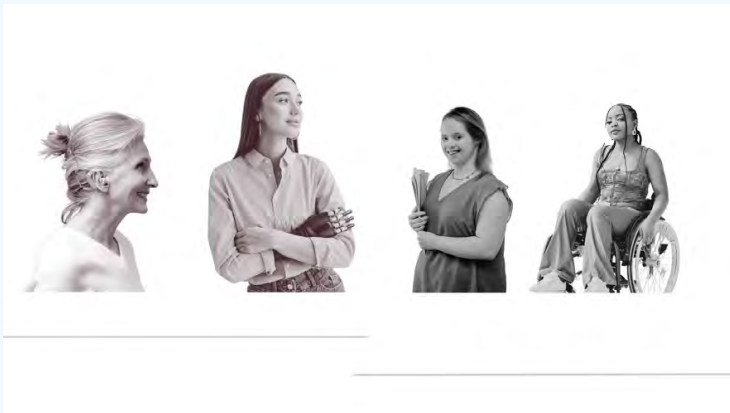
Some key figures in 2024

- **15 EU policies changed and adopted** + 85 consultations to bring disability issues into policy initiatives
- **29 high-level meetings** with decision makers + 301 advocacy and technical meetings
- **5 new members** + 72 meetings with members
- **148 times references in media** (EU and national) + around 50,000 followers in total on all of our social media accounts (X, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram) + over 100,000 visits to our website

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



Highlights:



Start **New Project** – “Nothing about us: Women with disabilities leading the change”

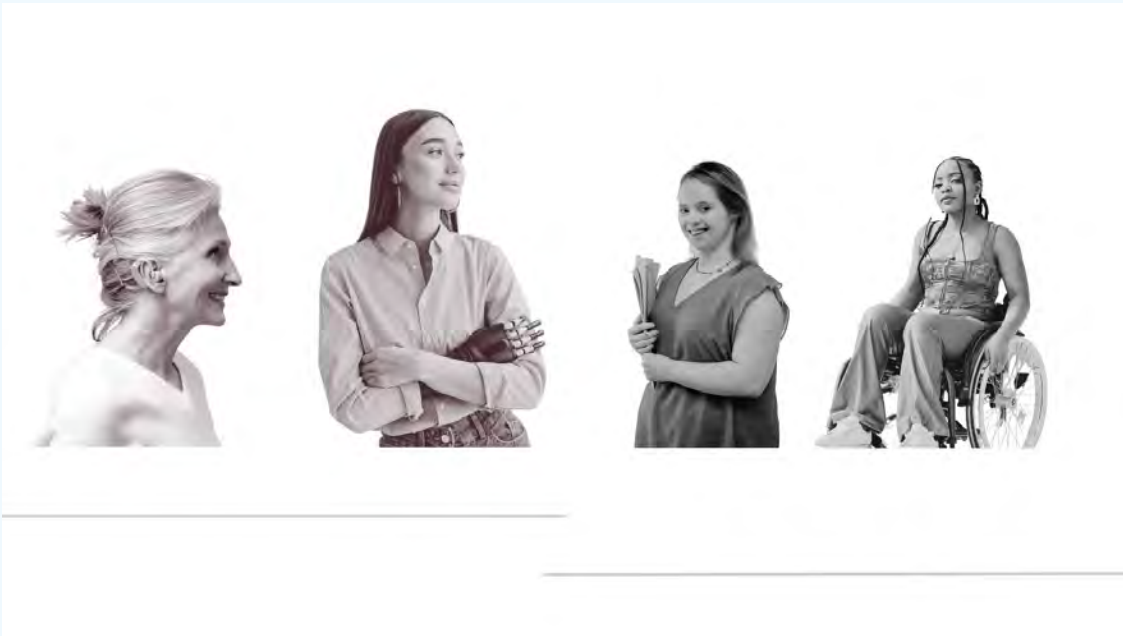


Meeting in Thessaloniki, facilitated by National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP)



Launch of the **Guidance** on the transposition of the EU Directive on combating violence against women

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



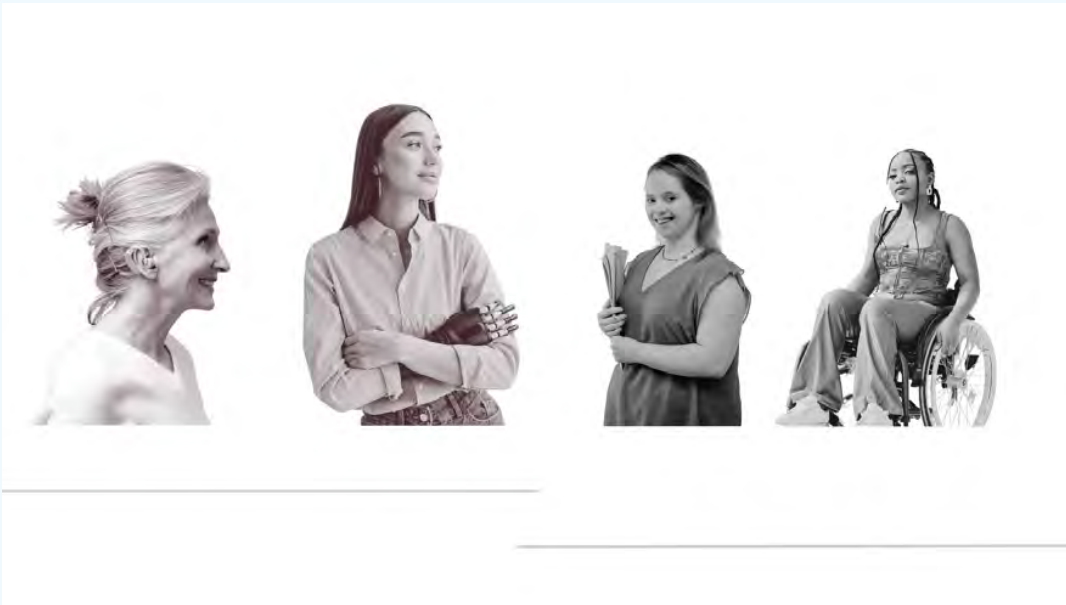
New Project!

“Nothing about us: Women with disabilities leading the change”

The **aim** of the project:

- Support EDF member organisations, at European and national level, in **strengthening their work on women's rights and gender equality.**
- Increase the **participation** of women and girls with disabilities both within the **disability movement** and the **women's rights movement.**

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



New Project!

“Nothing about us: Women with disabilities leading the change”

The project **activities** include:

- Development of the **Gender Mainstreaming Package**. The Package contains several tools, including Guidelines for the creation of Women's Committee and Gender Action Plan.
- **Subgranting programme** (October 2025)
- **Mentorship programme** (2026)

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



Online meeting
October 2024



Meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece
February 2025

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



This **Guidance** includes:

- An overview of the Directive and how the transposition process works
- Tips and strategies for national-level advocacy
- Additional annexes with tools to strengthen members and partners advocacy efforts

Launch of the **Guidance on the transposition of the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



Key activities for 2025:

- Ensure the **perspective of women and girls with disabilities** is included in the work of the EU institutions and relevant bodies (Gender Equality Strategy, European Institute for Gender Equality).
- Implement EDF's new project '[Nothing without us: Women with disabilities leading the change](#)'.
- Continue the [campaign to ban forced sterilisation](#) in Europe including by organising an online peer exchange on banning forced sterilisation.

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



Key activities for 2025:

- Contribute to the **first evaluation of the EU by the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence** against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), including by submitting an **alternative report**.
- Collect **good practices on services for women with disabilities who are victims of violence** across Europe and publish a short overview on EDF's website.

Women's Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-11)



Questions for the delegates:

- Do you have questions or comments on the work of EDF Women's Committee, including our new project?
- Are there priorities from your countries you would like to share? Do you have issues EDF Women's Committee could help you with?
- Is your organisation interested in hosting a meeting of the women's committee in the future?

Youth Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-12)



8 Workshops

Took floor in
30 events

3 Committee
meetings

7 Blog articles

4 News
items

- Messages on the European Day for Persons with Disabilities
- Disability Voice on Youth
- Run a survey on Young People with Disabilities in Europe that is still open

Youth Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-12)



The Youth Committee

At the European Day of Persons with Disabilities in Brussels



Lydia Vlagsma

Represented the movement at the ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York



LevelUp

EDF Side event in Brussels during this big event in the Parliament



Tamara Byrne

After handing the price at the Access City Award

Youth Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-12)



EDF Group

At the European Youth Event 'EYE2025'



Meeting with Commissioner

EDF Delegation meets Commissioner for Youth Micallef



Event on Housing

At the EYE 2025 EDF event



Youth Dialogue

Erika Hudson in Youth Dialogue with Commissioner for Equality Lahbib

Youth Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-12)



Some of the plans in 2025 & 2026

- Advocate for an Inclusive mobility programmes and Directive on traineeships
- Participate and organize activities in the LevelUp Democracy Festival in 2026
- 2 capacity building events for young people with Disabilities online or in person
- 2 Committee meetings
- Disability voice on Youth
- Messages for Youth Day and European Disability Day
- Set up a new Youth Committee in 2026

Youth Committee updates (DOC-AGA-25-06-12)



New Youth Committee

- In 2026 all EDF governing bodies and advisory committees are renewed
- A new Youth Committee in 2026 autumn
- Think now of potential young people to put forward



Any other business



Any Other Business



Evaluation of the AGA



Pirkko Mahlmäki
Vera Bonvalot



Evaluation of the AGA



Post-event survey:



Special Thanks



Sponsors:

- GoVilnius
- Amazon

Lithuanian Disability Forum:

- Indre
- Dalia
- Dovile

Special thanks:

Operating grant by the European Commission

Sign Interpreters:

- Gerdinand
- Lissa

Interpreters:

- Isabelle
- Joachim
- Aukse
- Jolanta

Captioners:

- Wim
- Verlee

Hotel

- Rima

Audiovisual:

- Viktoras

EDF staff:

- Una Brown
- All EDF team



Thank you all!



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