

# Lydia Vlagsma

Lydia Vlagsma is 30 years old and has been working for national disability council Ieder(in) since 2020. She is a policy advisor on inclusive higher education. Additionally, she coordinates Ieder(in)'s advocacy on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including input on the National Strategy for implementation of the CRPD and the corresponding policy agenda.

Since 2022, she has represented young persons with disabilities in the EDF Youth Committee. Partly from her personal perspective as a young woman with chronic illness, and partly from her professional experience as a disability advocate.

In her work, Lydia can be characterized as proactive, diligent, and analytical. She easily connects with others and highly values close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other human rights networks. Within her network, she deliberately seeks out underrepresented perspectives. Finally, she is a creative thinker who is excited to come up with new ways to put disability rights at the top of the political agenda and in the middle of public debate.



**As a board member of EDF, her mission is to:**

- ▶ bring in the perspectives of persons with disabilities who are often less represented in our movement, such as young people, women with disabilities, and people with invisible disabilities
- ▶ contribute to more exchange and cooperation between Ieder(in) and the other national disability councils, as well as the European advocacy networks, both with respect to lobby activities and project work

## Studies

- Psychology (BSc)
- International Relations (MSc)
- Summer School on Disability Law and Policy at University of Galway (2025)

## Ieder(in)

policy advisor higher education and UN-CRPD (2020-now)

- Coordinated the input of persons with disabilities during the review of the Netherlands by the CRPD-committee in Geneva (2024)
- Advocacy on strengthening the Dutch National Strategy for implementing the CRPD and policy agenda (2025)

## EDF Youth Committee

Member (since 2022), co-chair (since 2024)

- Participated in dialogues with several European Commissioners, such as Commissioner Micallef on youth participation (2025) and Commissioner Lahbib on disability inclusion (2026)
- Participated in the EU review by the CRPD-committee in Geneva (2025)
- Speaker at European Accessibility Summit (2025), keynote speaker at Zero Project Conference (2024) and speaker at ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York (2024)

**ieder(in)**

Network for people with disabilities or chronic diseases