



Our Annual Report 2025

**The work we did in 2025
for the rights of people with disabilities**

Easy-to-read version

Easy-to-read is information
that is written in a simple way
so that all people can understand it.
You can find more information at:
www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read.



WHO WE ARE

We are the **European Disability Forum**.

We are an organisation that protects the rights of all people with disabilities in Europe.
In short, we are called 'EDF'.

At EDF, we believe that all people with disabilities have the right to:

- Be treated fairly and with respect;
 - Take part in the community;
 - Be equal and have the same chances in life;
 - Make their own choices.
- Nothing should be decided about us without us!



WHAT THIS REPORT IS ABOUT

This is a simpler and shorter version of our Annual Report 2025.

In the next few pages, you will read more about the work we did in 2025.

We have split the text by area of work.

Some difficult words in the text are marked in **bold black**.

You can find their explanation at the end of this booklet.



OUR WORK IN 2025

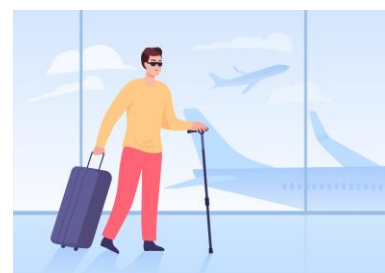
These are some of the areas we worked on in 2025.

Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement is the right that people in the **European Union** have to move, work, study and live in any other country of the European Union.

For example, a person from France can freely move to Italy.

They can live, study or work in Italy like Italian people.



Sadly, people with disabilities cannot enjoy this right like other people because many things and services are not **accessible** to them.

In 2025, we were happy to see the **European Accessibility Act** happen.



This is a law we have been fighting for for many years.

This law aims to make more things and services in Europe **accessible** for people with disabilities.



For example:

- Cash machines
- Computers
- Televisions
- Ticket machines



Finally, the **European Union** made this law.

Now, all countries in Europe must respect this law and make many things and services in Europe **accessible** for people with disabilities and all people.



With our work, we push the European Union and its countries to make this law happen.

In 2025, we also helped our members to prepare for:

- **The European Disability Card**

People with disabilities can use this card when they travel to any country of the **European Union** to show they have a disability.

This way, they can get the same advantages in culture, sports, and other activities as persons with disabilities of that country.



- **The European Parking Card**

This card can help people with disabilities who travel or move to any country of the **European Union** to use parking spaces for people with disabilities in that country.



Artificial Intelligence

‘**Artificial Intelligence**’ is technology that makes devices and programmes do tasks like humans.

For example, they may:

- Chat with us;
- Translate what we say in another language in real time;
- Make decisions based on the information we give them;
- Recognise our faces or voices.



Today, most of us use devices and programmes that work with Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence can be useful in many things. But it also has many risks if it is not used in the right way.



The **European Union** has a law to protect people from the wrong or unfair use of Artificial Intelligence.

This law is called the ‘**Artificial Intelligence Act**’.

The law sets rules that organisations that use Artificial Intelligence must follow.



Among others, in 2025:

- We checked how this law is used in different countries in Europe.
- We helped people with disabilities to learn how to use Artificial Intelligence safely.
- We pushed people who make decisions in Europe to protect people from the risks of Artificial Intelligence.
- We worked to make sure that people with disabilities have a say in the talks about Artificial Intelligence.



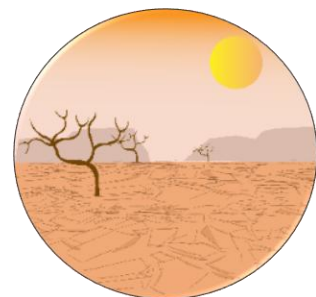
Climate change

Climate change means the temperature and the weather in the world change.

These changes happen too fast for the world to handle.

For example, due to climate change there may be extreme heat or lack of rain in some areas.

In other areas, there may be extreme rain and floods that put people's lives at risk.



Climate change affects everybody.
But it affects even more
people with disabilities.

For example, if there is a flood:

- People in wheelchairs
may not be able to leave fast enough.
- People with intellectual disabilities
may not know what to do to be safe
if information is not easy to read.



In 2025, we took part
in an important world meeting in Brazil
about climate change.

We wanted to make sure
that people with disabilities have a say
in the talks and plans about climate change.



Together with other organisations,
we also pushed for buildings
that are good for the planet
and easy and safe for people to live in.



The right to study

People with disabilities have the right
to study and learn new skills
like everyone else.

But in reality, people with disabilities
are often left out of schools and universities.



In 2025, we published a document that asks countries and universities in Europe to make studying open and easy for students with disabilities.



For example:

- By making universities **accessible** for people with disabilities.
- By giving students with disabilities the support they need to study like everyone else.

Many people and organisations agree with this and have signed our document.



We hope this will help countries and universities in Europe to make things better and easier for students with disabilities.

The right to health

People with disabilities should have access to good healthcare, like everyone else.



Healthcare is the help you get to stay healthy or get better when you are sick. For example, when you go to the hospital or see a doctor.

In 2025, we spoke to people who make laws in Europe.



We asked them to make healthcare **accessible** so that people with disabilities can get the care they need without problems.

We also published a document explaining our views about the support people with disabilities should get to have a good health and live well.



Being treated fairly

In 2025, we worked to make sure that people with disabilities are treated fairly and they are not left out because of their disability.

Among other things:

- We made sure people with disabilities are included in the **‘Victims’ Rights Directive’**.

This is a law that says people in Europe who have been victims of crimes should get support to report it and be safe. At EDF, we made sure that this law respects the rights of people with disabilities who are victims of crimes.



- We became part of a group that works on the rights of **migrants** and spoke up for the rights of migrants with disabilities.



- Together with other organisations, we pushed to keep the **‘Equal Treatment Directive’**. This is a law that the **European Union** is discussing to make for many years without success. This law would help protect people from being treated unfairly in everyday life. We ask countries in Europe to agree on this law and to finally make it happen.



International Cooperation

International cooperation means that countries and organisations around the world work together to help each other.

They may share ideas, solve problems, and try to make the world a better and safer place for everyone.



Among other things, in 2025:

- We took part in a big world event called **‘COSP’**. In this meeting, people who make laws and decisions and organisations of people with disabilities come together. We talk about how to work better to protect the rights of people with disabilities in the world.



- We checked if the money that the **European Union** gives to poorer countries is used to help people with disabilities in these countries too. Sadly, we found out that most of this money is not used to help people with disabilities.



The right to make choices

To be able to make your own choices, you must have '**legal capacity**'.

'Legal capacity' means:

- To be recognised as a person with rights;
- To be able to use your rights;
- To make your own decisions about your life;
- To speak for yourself.



The **European Union** is discussing a new law that concerns people who:

- Live in a country of the European Union but have money, a house or other things in another country of the European Union;
- Are unable to speak for themselves.

Sadly, many people with disabilities in Europe are seen as unable to speak for themselves and make their own decisions. Other people often decide for them.



We do not agree with this.

We believe that people with disabilities should get the support they need to make their own decisions in life.

In 2025, we explained our concerns to the **European Union**.

We asked for this new law to protect the right of people with disabilities to speak for themselves and make their own decisions.



Fair use of European money

Every 7 years, the **European Union** makes a plan about how it will use its money.

The European Union is now discussing a plan of how to use its money in the period from 2028 until 2034.

At EDF, we have been pushing the European Union to take into account the rights of people with disabilities in this plan.

We want to make sure that the money of the European Union is used fairly and helps people with disabilities to be part of the community like everyone else.

For example, we would like this money to be used to make more things and services in Europe **accessible** for people with disabilities.



In 2025, we asked the European Union to make clear rules so that this money is used fairly for everyone.



Accessible houses

More and more, people in Europe have a hard time finding houses to live in at a fair price.

Things are even harder for people with disabilities because there are not enough **accessible** houses.

This way, many people with disabilities in Europe have to:

- Live in houses that are not good for them;
- Pay a lot more than other people for an **accessible** house.



The **European Union** has made a plan to help countries work together so that everyone in Europe can have a home at a fair price.



At EDF, we asked the European Union to take into account the needs of people with disabilities too.

We asked the European Union to help create safe and accessible homes at fair prices.



Support to people with disabilities in Ukraine

In 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine.
Since then, people in Ukraine
have been at war
and their lives are at risk.

The lives of people with disabilities in Ukraine
are at an even higher risk.



In 2025:

- We stood up for the rights of people with disabilities in Ukraine;
- We kept a programme going that gives money and other kind of support to people with disabilities and their families in Ukraine



Women and girls with disabilities

Women and girls with disabilities
are at higher risk
of being left out or treated badly
than other women.

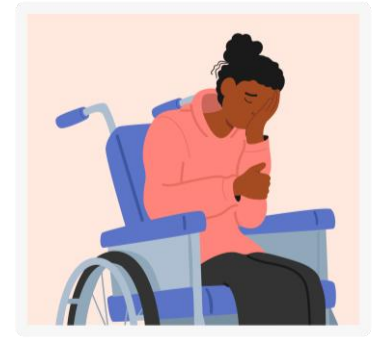
Sadly, too many women with disabilities
experience violence.



For example, they may have been:

- Threatened, attacked or hurt by someone;
- Forced to have sex against their will;
- Forced to go through a medical procedure that makes it impossible for them to have children.

This is called '**forced sterilisation**'.



The **European Union** has made a law to help stop violence against women.

Now, all countries in Europe must make this law happen in them.



In 2025:

- We gave training to our members in Europe on how they can help make this law happen in their countries.
- We continued to speak up against violence and push countries in Europe to stop it.
- We made booklets with useful information to help organisations treat women fairly and equally.



Young people with disabilities

In 2025, we became part of the **European Youth Forum**.

This is an organisation that stands for the rights of young people in Europe.

Being members of this organisation, we can help the voices of young people with disabilities to be heard better in talks that concern their lives.



EVENTS

These are 3 examples
of the many events and meetings we had in in 2025:

- **The European Accessibility Summit**

This is an event that takes place every year.
In 2025, we talked about how countries
should work to make more things and services
accessible for people with disabilities.



- **The European Day
of Persons with Disabilities**

This is a big event
that takes place every year.
The event brings together
people with disabilities
and people who make laws and decisions
in Europe.



Together we discuss
how we can make things better
for people with disabilities in Europe.

- **‘The right to decide’ conference**

This is an event we organised
to talk about the right of people with disabilities
to make their own decisions.
The talks made it clear that laws in Europe
must change to recognise the right
of all people with disabilities
to make their own choices.
Nothing should be decided for us without us!



MAKING OUR VOICE HEARD

In 2025, we used every chance we could to spread the word about the rights of people with disabilities.



We tried to reach as many people as possible by:

- Writing articles on our website;
- Speaking to the media about our rights;
- Getting more people to follow us on social media like Facebook and Instagram;
- Sending out news and information to people by email.



OUR MEMBERS AND TEAM

In 2025, EDF had 119 members all over Europe.

Our members are organisations of people with disabilities or organisations that work to help people with disabilities.

Our members come together several times a year to discuss important things for the rights of people with disabilities.



You can find all the organisations that are members of EDF on our website at: www.edf-feph.org/our-members.

EDF members also choose the people who can make decisions for EDF.

You can find the people who make decisions for EDF on our website at:

www.edf-feph.org/executive.



Among our members, we also have smaller groups of people working on specific topics. For example, we have a group of people working on the rights of women with disabilities.

You can find more information about these groups on our website at:

www.edf-feph.org/committee-and-expert-groups.



Also, EDF has an office in Brussels. You can find the people who work at our office on our website at:

www.edf-feph.org/edf-secretariat.



HOW WE GET AND SPEND OUR MONEY

EDF needs money to make its work happen.

In 2025, we got most of our money from:

- The **European Union**;
- Our members;
- Other organisations and companies that wanted to support our work.



We spent this money:

- To pay the people who work for us;
- To travel for important meetings;
- On other things that are important for our work.



MORE INFORMATION

If you want to find more information about EDF and our work you can visit our website at:
www.edf-feeph.org.

If you have any questions, you can send us an email at:
info@edf-feeph.org.



EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

Accessible

Things are accessible
when they are easy to use
for people with disabilities.

For example,
when buildings have ramps
that people in wheelchairs can use to get in.
Or when information is easy to read
and people with intellectual disabilities
can understand it.

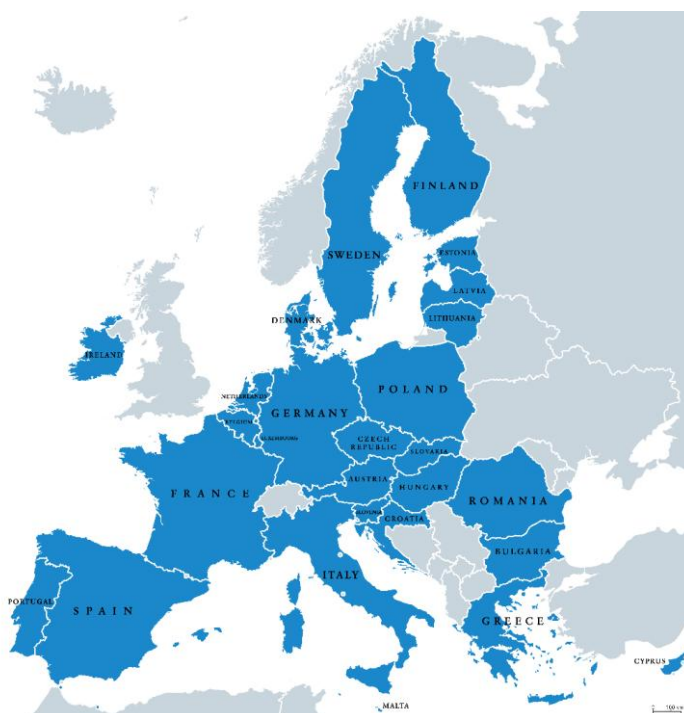


European Union

The European Union
is a group of 27 countries
in Europe.

These countries
came together
to make things better, easier
and safer for people.

They agreed
to work together
and help each other.



Migrants

Migrants are people who leave their country to go live in another country.

They may do that hoping to have a better life or to find a job.

They may also do that to escape from war or other dangers in their own country.



This easy-to-read text is written by 'Say it easy'
www.sayiteasy.eu

