People with disabilities have equal rights

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

European added value

Around 80 million people in the EU, or a sixth of its population, have a disability. They are often prevented from full social and economic participation by barriers linked to attitudes and their environment. Moreover, poverty rates amongst people with disabilities are 70% higher than average. Over 30% of over 75s are restricted to a wheelchair.

The UN stance on disabilities

People with disabilities have the same entitlement as everyone else to dignity, independence and full social participation. Enabling them to benefit from this is at the centre of both EU action and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a signatory.

Involving citizens

Every 3 December, the European Commission, in conjunction with the European Disability Forum, holds a conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities. These conferences bring together policy-makers, people with and without disabilities, academics, experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy.

They also stimulate exchange of good practice in crucial areas for active inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as encouraging networking.

Each year has a different disability-related theme. Past themes have included independence, local action, the right to live in the community, employment, the role of independent living, the emphasis on the rights of disabled children, and the importance of independent living for all persons with disabilities. The EU’s Disability Strategy speaks to all these themes.

The aim of the strategy is to foster understanding of the needs of people with disabilities, which is at the centre of both EU action and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a signatory.

The purpose of the Convention, which, along with its Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008, is to promote and protect full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities. As a human rights treaty, the Convention reflects the core elements of the European Disability Strategy.

The Convention is a human rights treaty that is fully compatible with equality and non-discrimination and protection of people with disabilities. It forms part of the European Union’s efforts to promote disability rights and ensure their full implementation.

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Financial instruments

Structural Funds

The European Social Fund supports active inclusion of the disabled in the society and the job market. The Regional Development Fund finances development of key infrastructure in Europe. These funds have provisions prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability and ensuring compliance with accessibility requirements. Member States are responsible for priorities for funding and selecting projects. Accessibility for disabled people is an important criterion for choosing projects.

PROGRESS

Since 2007, several disability-related projects have been financed under the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS. These projects contribute to reaching EU goals for employment, social inclusion and protection, working conditions, gender equality, anti-discrimination and diversity. PROGRESS also has a facility to co-fund EU-level disability NGOs.

Research Framework Programmes

Research Programmes support research and development relevant to people with disabilities in such areas as information and communication technology, accessibility, transport, the built environment, assistive devices and societal issues.

More information

General information and links to the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 www.packings.europa.eu/eu/disability

Awards and other initiatives

Access City Award: to improve accessible cities.


The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 provides a framework for concerted EU and national-level action to improve the situation of people with disabilities. It aims to:

• make goods and services accessible and promote assistive devices; ensure that people with disabilities enjoy full benefits of EU citizenship; promote provision of high-quality community-based services; combat disability-based discrimination; enable many more people with disabilities to access the open labour market; promote inclusive education and lifelong learning for pupils and students with disabilities; combat poverty and social exclusion by ensuring decent living conditions; combating poverty and social exclusion by ensuring decent living conditions; promote provision of high-quality health and related services; combat disability-based discrimination; promote and ensure the full participation of people with disabilities in society.

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- ensure that people with disabilities enjoy full benefits of EU citizenship;
- promote provision of high-quality community-based services;
- combat disability-based discrimination;
- enable many more people with disabilities to access the open labour market.

The EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Financial instruments

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The European Social Fund supports active inclusion of the disabled in the society and the job market. The European Regional Development Fund finances development projects that contribute to EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy. These conferences bring together policymakers, people with and without disabilities, academic experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy. These conferences bring together policymakers, people with and without disabilities, academic experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy.

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Research Framework Programmes
Research Framework Programmes support research and development relevant to people with disabilities through EU enlargement and international development programmes, raise awareness of disability issues and make people with disabilities more aware of their rights and how to use them, improve people’s access to education and anti-discrimination funding instruments.

Involving citizens
Every 3 December, the European Commission, in conjunction with the European Disability Forum, holds a conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities. These events bring together policymakers, people with and without disabilities, academic experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy.

They also stimulate exchange of good practice in crucial areas for active inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as encouraging networking.

Each year has a different disability-related theme. Past themes have included independent living, local action, the internal market, design for all, education, and people with disabilities.

The findings of these conferences feed into Commission disability policy and support the Disability Strategy.

More information
General information and links to the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

www.packings.europa.eu

Equal rights, equal opportunities

People with disabilities have equal rights

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

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The UN stance on disabilities

European added value

Around 80 million people in the EU, a sixth of its population, have a disability. They are often prevented from full social and economic participation by barriers linked to attitudes and their environment. Moreover, poverty rates amongst people with disabilities are 70% higher than average.

Over 50% of over 75s are restricted to some extent, and over 20% are severely restricted. The percentage of people with disabilities is set to rise as the EU population ages.

Although Member States are mainly responsible for disability measures, the EU complements their actions and creates conditions for further progress. EU action begins where national action falls short and goes beyond the perspective of the disabled.

The Convention reflects the core elements of the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which combines anti-discrimination, equal opportunities and active inclusion. The rights recognised by the Convention cover almost all policy fields, in conjunction with the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), it is a significant step forward: it establishes an enforceable legal framework for the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.

The Convention gives annual awards for accessible cities.

www.accesscityaward.eu

The purpose of the Convention, which, along with its Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008, is to promote and protect full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.

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Areas for action

Accessibility

Accessibility is essential for participation in society. Accordingly, the EU Disability Strategy aims to eliminate barriers to access facing people with disabilities. Key areas for action include the built environment, transport, information and communication, and services.

The EU uses instruments such as research, policy, and legislation, and standardization to ensure provision of accessible goods and services. The Commission is promoting a “Design for all” approach in the built environment, transport, information and education that ensures that people with disabilities can exercise their full rights as citizens.

Equal opportunities and discrimination

The EU ensures full implementation of the European directive on the coordination of Member States for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will continue to promote disability awareness and combat discrimination.

Employment

Quality jobs ensure economic independence, foster personal development and offer the best protection against poverty. The Commission seeks to improve the functioning of the accessibility technology market so as to ensure the effective functioning of the accessibility market.

Education

The EU Disability Strategy for 2010-2020 emphasises equality of access to quality education and lifelong learning for pupils with disabilities to return to the job market. The Commission also promotes health and safety at work as to reduce the risk of disabilities arising due to accidents in the workplace and help people with disabilities to return to the job market.

Social protection and inclusion

People with disabilities need equal access to high-quality, gender-sensitive health care, including preventative care, rehabilitation and other specific services.

People with disabilities need to be able to benefit from services such as social protection, poverty reduction programmes, disability-related assistance and public housing. Member States are mainly responsible for these matters but the EU Commission oversees progress by candidate countries to reform their social welfare systems. The Commission also helps EU candidate and applicant countries to reform their social welfare systems. Joint Inclusion Memoranda are drawn up to set priorities.

The EU supports national measures to ensure high quality, sustainable social protection for people with disabilities.

External action

The EU and its Member States promote the rights of people with disabilities in their external policies, including enlargement and international development. The EU highlights the status of disability as a human rights issue by raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of its humanitarian aid activity. It will continue to promote disability issues in international bodies such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Commission also oversees progress by candidate and potential candidate countries in promoting rights of people with disabilities and pre-accession financial assistance instruments to this end.

# Areas for action

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The EU uses instruments such as research, policy and legislation, and standardisation to ensure provision of accessible products and services across the Union. Furthermore, it takes steps to improve the functioning of the assistive technology market so as to ensure it works to the advantage of the consumer, including the right to free movement, to choose where and how they live, and to full access to cultural, leisure and sport activities.

The Commission plans to eliminate obstacles that people with disabilities face in everyday life as individuals, consumers, students, and economic and social actors. Examples of this work include: promoting the European disability strategy, such as through organisation of disability-awareness-raising at EU and national level, and supporting the work of NGOs in the area.

Employment
Quality jobs ensure economic independ- ence, foster personal development and offer the best protection against poverty. The Commission seeks to improve the functioning of the European labour market in order to ensure that it works to the advantage of the disabled.

The Commission ensures full imple- mentation of the EU Directive banning discrimination in the job market on the grounds of disability. It also promotes diversity and combats discrimination through awareness-raising at EU and national level, and supports the work of NGOs in the area.

The Commission also made a proposal for another Directive dealing with equal treatment but this time outside of the area of employment, covering access to goods and services.

Education
People with disabilities need to be able to benefit from services such as social protection, poverty reduction pro- grammes, disability-related assistance and public housing. Member States are mainly responsible for these matters but fix common objectives and indicators through a framework called the Open Method of Coordination.

National efforts are assessed by the Com- mission and Council in a joint report, which outlines achievements of EU-level initiatives in individual countries. The Commission also helps EU candidate and applicant countries to reform their social welfare systems. Joint Inclusion Mem- oranda are drawn up to set priorities.

The EU highlights the status of disabil- ity as a human rights issue by raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of its humanitarian aid activity. It will continue to promote disability issues in international bodies such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Commission also oversees progress by candidate and potential candidate countries in promoting rights of people with disabili- ties and access to quality educational services.

Social protection and inclusion
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Health
People with disabilities need equal access to high-quality, gender-sensitive health-care, including preventative care, rehabilitation and other specific services.

External action
The EU and its Member States promote the rights of people with disabilities in their external policies, including arrange- ment and international development.

The EU highlights the status of disabil- ity as a human rights issue by raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 im- phasises equal access to quality educa- tion and lifelong learning. These are key factors in enabling the disabled to par- ticipate fully in society and improve their quality of life. However, this has not yet been achieved and much segregation remains in European education.

The EU recognises that inclusion of people with disabilities into the open labour market for disabled people in sheltered employment.

The EU seeks to improve the functioning of the EU Directive banning discrimination in the job market on the grounds of disability. It also promotes diversity and combats discrimination through awareness-raising at EU and national level, and supports the work of NGOs in the area.

The Commission makes efforts to ensure that people with disabilities face in everyday life as individuals, con- sumers, students, and economic and social actors. Examples of this work include: promotion of the European dis- ability strategy, such as through organisation of disability-awareness-raising at EU and national level, and promoting participation in sport as through organisation of disability- specific sporting events.

Participation
Quality jobs ensure economic independ- ence, foster personal development and offer the best protection against poverty. The Commission seeks to improve the functioning of the European labour market in order to ensure that it works to the advantage of the disabled.

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Accessibility
Accessibility is essential for participation in society. Accordingly, the EU Disability Strategy aims to eliminate barriers to access facing people with disabilities. Key areas for action include the built environment, transport, information and communication, and services.

The EU uses instruments such as research, policy and legislation, and tendering to ensure provision of accessible products and services across the Union. Furthermore, it takes steps to improve the functioning of the assistive technology market so as to ensure widespread inclusion of people with disabilities.

The Commission ensures full implementation of the EU Directive banning discrimination in the job market on the grounds of disability. It also promotes diversity and combats discrimination through awareness-raising at EU and national level, and supports the work of NGOs in the area.

The Commission also made a proposal for another Directive dealing with equal treatment, but this time outside the area of employment, covering access to goods and services.

Participation
People with disabilities and their families should be able to participate on an equal basis with others in all aspects of social and economic life. They need to be able to exercise their rights as citizens, including the right to free movement, to choose where and how they live, and to full access to cultural, leisure and sport activities.

The Commission works to eliminate obstacles that people with disabilities face in every day life as individuals, consumers, students, and economic and social actors. Examples of this work include promotion of the European disability card so as to ensure equal access to goods and services. The Commission promotes a “Design for All” approach as a practical way to meet the needs of as wide a scope of the population as possible. It is also working towards a European Accessibility Act setting out a general framework for goods and services.

Equality
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Education
The EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 aims to provide equal access to quality education and lifelong learning.

The European Commission promotes the European Disability Card, which offers the best protection against poverty. The Commission seeks to improve the functioning of the assistive technology market so as to ensure widespread inclusion of people with disabilities.

Employment
Quality jobs ensure economic independence, foster personal development and offer the best protection against poverty.

The Commission works to increase the employment rate of people with disabilities. It pays special attention to difficulties of young disabled. Working conditions and career advancement are taken into account, in consultation with social partners. Other measures include making workplaces more accessible, supporting job training, increasing access to the open labour market for disabled people and increasing access to on-the-job training and increasing access to the open labour market for disabled people.

As people with disabilities need assistance, there is a growing need for carers and service providers.

Member States set their own employment policies in line with European guidelines. The EU 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has set a target of a 75% employment rate in Europe. To reach this, labour mar-
ket inclusion of people with disabilities must be increased and this will also help to achieve the aim of lifting 20 million Europeans out of poverty by 2020.

Health
People with disabilities need equal access to high-quality, gender-sensitive health care, including preventive care, rehabilitation and other specific services.

Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring access to health care. The EU supports national measures to improve access to mainstream care and specific services for people with disabilities. It also promotes health and safety at work so as to reduce the risk of disabilities arising due to accidents in the workplace and to help people with disabilities to return to the job market.

External action
The EU and its Member States promote the rights of people with disabilities in their external policies, including enlargement and international development. The EU highlights the status of disability as a human rights issue by raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of its humanitarian aid activity. It will continue to promote disability issues in international bodies such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Commission also oversees progress by candidate and potential candidate countries in promoting rights of people with disabili-
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Areas for action

Participation
Accessibility
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Accessibility

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The EU uses instruments such as research, policy and legislation, and standardisation to ensure provision of accessible products and services across the Union. Furthermore, it takes steps to improve the functioning of the assistance instruments to this end.

Participation

People with disabilities and their families should be able to participate on an equal basis with others in all aspects of social and economic life. They need to be able to exercise their rights as citizens, including the right to free movement, to choose where and how they live, and to full access to culture, leisure and sport activities.

The Commission works to eliminate obstacles that people with disabilities face in their everyday life as individuals, consumers, students, and economic and social actors. Examples of this work include: promotion of the European disability passport card, ensuring the transition in Member States from institutional to community-based care, and promoting participation in sport and culture as through organisation of disability-specific sporting events.

Employment

Quality jobs ensure economic independence, foster personal development and offer the best protection against poverty.

The Commission seeks to improve the living and working conditions of people with disabilities through a two-pronged approach comprising anti-discrimination legislation and social policies. It pays special attention to difficulties that people with disabilities face in the job market for disabled workers.

As many people with disabilities need assistance, there is a growing need for care and service providers. Member States set their own employment policies in line with European guidelines. The EU 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has set a target of a 75% employment rate in Europe. To reach this, labour market inclusion of people with disabilities must be increased and this will also help to achieve the aim of Ellen 20, 20 million Europeans out of poverty by 2020.

Education

The EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 emphasises equal access to quality education and lifelong learning. These are key factors in enabling the disabled to participate fully in society and improve their quality of life. However, this has not yet been achieved and much segregation remains in European education.

The EU respects national responsibility for content and organisation of education. At the same time, it supports national efforts to promote inclusive education and lifelong learning for pupils and students with disabilities. It also promotes their mobility across the EU via the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Social protection and inclusion

People with disabilities need to be able to benefit from services such as social protection, poverty reduction programmes, disability-related assistance and public housing. Member States are mainly responsible for these matters but fix common objectives and indicators through a framework called the Open Method of Coordination.

National efforts are assessed by the Commission and Council in a joint report, which outlines achievements of EU-level initiatives in individual countries. The Commission also helps EU candidate and potential candidate countries to reform their social welfare systems. Joint Inclusion Memoranda are drawn up to set priorities.

The EU supports national measures to ensure high quality, sustainable social protection for people with disabilities. Notably by facilitating policy exchange. Furthermore, it promotes design and implementation of social innovation programmes.

External action

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Financial instruments

Structural Funds
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PROGRESS
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Research Framework Programmes
Research Framework Programmes support research and development relevant to people with disabilities such as studies on accessibility and anti-discrimination funding instruments.

Involving citizens

Every 3 December, the European Commission, in conjunction with the European Disability Forum, holds a conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities. These conferences bring together policy-makers, people with and without disabilities, academic experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy.

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The findings of these conferences feed into Commission disability policy and support the Disability Strategy.

More information
General information and links to the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020
www.pandgs.coe.int

www.coe.int/tc/ddg/html

European Social Fund
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_ social/index_en.htm

Access City Awards

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
http://www.un.org/disabilities

European Social Fund
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=70&langId=en

European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=916

Equal rights, equal opportunities

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
provides a framework for concerted EU and national-level action to improve the situation of people with disabilities. It aims to:

- make goods and services accessible and promote assistive devices;
- ensure that people with disabilities enjoy full benefits of EU citizenship;
- promote provision of high-quality community-based services;
- combat disability-based discrimination;
- enable many more people with disabilities to access the open labour market.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a signatory, is to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities. In terms of the needs of people with disabilities, which are taken into account when developing policies and legislation. The EU thus aims to ensure that all disabled people can use their basic human right to active inclusion and full participation in society.
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- enable many more people with disabilities to access the open labour market;
- promote inclusive education and life-long learning for pupils and students with disabilities;
- combat poverty and social exclusion by promoting equal access to health and livelihood - PROGRESS. These projects contribute to EU efforts to promote disability issues, as well as to co-fund EU-level disability NGOs.

Since 2007, several disability-related projects have been financed under the Framework Programme for Research and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS. These projects contribute to reaching EU goals for employment, social inclusion and protection, working conditions, gender equality, anti-discrimination and diversity. PROGRESS also has a facility to co-fund EU-level disability NGOs.

Issue 4: December 2010

Involving citizens

Every 3 December, the European Commission, in conjunction with the European Disability Forum, holds a conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities. These conferences bring together policy-makers, people with and without disabilities, academic experts, the media and other stakeholders. They form part of the EU’s efforts to promote disability issues, as set out in its Disability Strategy.

They also stimulate exchange of good practice in crucial areas for active inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as encouraging networking. Each year has a different disability-related theme. Past themes have included independent living, local action, the internal market, design for all, education, and employment. The findings of these conferences feed into Commission disability policy and support the Disability Strategy.

Financial instruments

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Research Framework Programmes support research and development relevant to people with disabilities in areas such as information and communication technology, accessibility, transport, the built environment, assistive devices and societal issues.

More information

General information and links to the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 www.parkings.europa.eu


European Social Fund for Employment, social and vocational training http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/main.jsp?lang=en&catId=916

Other links

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www.un.org/disabilities

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The UN stance on disabilities

People with disabilities have the same entitlement as everyone else to dignity, independence and full social participation. Enabling them to benefit from this is at the centre of both EU action and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a signatory.

The purpose of the Convention, which along with its Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008, is to promote and protect full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities. In this sense, it is a significant step forward: it not only acknowledges the social welfare issue but also as a human rights and legal matter.

The Convention reflects the core elements of the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which combines anti-discrimination, equal opportunities and social inclusion. The rights recognised by the Convention cover almost all policy fields and content, it is a significant step forward: it not only acknowledges the social welfare issue but also as a human rights and legal matter.

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