

Public consultation on the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

There are approximately 80 million citizens with disabilities in the EU, who often face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others. In its commitment to eliminate these barriers and improve the life of people with disabilities, the EU became a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Convention). Implementing the Convention is an ongoing process and it is a shared responsibility of the EU institutions and the Member States. The EU can only act within the powers conferred to it by the EU treaties. A first review of the EU's implementation of the UN Convention, done by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognised the progress achieved until now, but also provided some recommendations for the future.

At EU level, the UN Convention is implemented through the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. This Strategy has identified eight main areas for action at EU level: Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and Training, Social Protection, Health and External Action. Having reached the halfway point in its implementation, the European Commission launches this public consultation in order to assess its impact and to ensure EU policy remains tailored to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

This questionnaire asks for your opinion on what has been achieved so far at EU level, your views on the challenges faced by all persons with disabilities and how the European Union should address them. We appreciate all replies from citizens, organisations, public authorities, businesses, academics and other stakeholders.

We will use the findings of this public consultation to assess the progress made under the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and to identify gaps to be addressed at EU level to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

Completing the survey should take about 20 minutes. Please return this document by 18.03.2016 to the following email address:

EMPL-C3-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu

*Fields marked with * are mandatory.*

Please note that the questionnaire will only use your full contribution if your name or that of your organisation (if you answer on behalf of an organisation or institution) is provided. If you choose not to provide the name, you have the option of submitting a general comment only.

*If you do choose to provide us with your name or your organisation's name, you can still opt for your answers to remain anonymous when the results are published.**

- Yes, I will provide the name*

○ No, I prefer to provide a general comment only (go to Q 4.5)
The [data protection statement](#) relating to this survey is available online.

1. Publication consent

Contributions received from this survey may be published on the European Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Do you agree to your contribution being published under your name?*

- My contribution may be published under the name indicated
- My contribution may be published but the name should be kept anonymous
- I do not wish any of my contributions to be published

2. Profile of the respondent

Please mark the options that apply to you.

2.1 Are you replying:*

- As an individual citizen, on behalf of myself only
- On behalf of an organisation (go to Q 2.11)

2.2 What is your name?*

[free text]

2.3 I am in the age group:*

- Under 18 years
- 19-30 years
- 31-49 years
- 50-65 years
- Over 66 years

2.4 What is your gender?*

- Female
- Male
- Other
- No Answer

2.5 Do you have a disability, that is, a long-term impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder your full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others?*

- Yes (skip Q 2.7)
- No (go to Q 2.7)
- No answer

2.6 Has your disability been formally recognised?*

- Yes
- No

2.7 No,*

- I take care of (a) person(s) with disabilities as a family member or as a non-paid carer
- I take care of persons with disabilities as a formal carer (it is my paid job)
- I work with or employ a person with disabilities
- I have no personal connection with disability issues
- Other *[free text up to 200 characters]*

2.8 What is the country of your nationality?*

[free text]

2.9 In which country do you live?*

[free text]

2.10 Are you currently in employment, education or training?*

- I work in the private sector
- I work in the public sector
- I do paid work in a civil society organisation (including disability organisations)
- I do unpaid work (such as volunteering)
- I am in education or training
- I am retired
- I am unemployed
- No answer

(Questions 2.11 to 2.16 are for organisations only, skip if you are an individual)

2.11 What is the name of your organisation?*

[free text]

2.12 What type of organisation do you represent?*

- Private sector
- Public sector
- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) - reserved for organisations in which persons with disabilities are in leadership positions or are members of the board
- Other *[free text up to 200 characters]*

2.13 At what level does the organisation work?*

- International level
- EU level
- National level
- Regional or local level

2.14 Is your organisation in the EU's Transparency Register?*

- Yes
- No (go to Q 2.16)

2.15 What is the Identification Number?*

[free text]

(See [Transparency Register](#)):

2.16 Does your organisation employ persons with disabilities?*

- Yes
- No

3. Your views on the current situation of persons with disabilities

3.1 Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Persons with disabilities can fully participate in everyday activities as other citizens						
Persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other citizens						
Persons with disabilities face discrimination in their everyday activities because of their disabilities						
EU citizens with disabilities find it more difficult to move to another Member State than other EU citizens						

3.2 Out of the following problems, which ones do you find more important for persons with disabilities?* *[between 1 and 5 choices]*

- Lack of access to the built environment
- Lack of access to transport
- Lack of access to Internet and communication technologies
- Lack of access to other goods and services
- Lack of equal opportunities in the labour market
- Lack of equal opportunities in education
- Lack of support for parents of children with disabilities (such as appropriate education provision or therapeutic services)
- Lack of equal access to healthcare (doctors, hospitals, etc.), including age-appropriate support for children
- Barriers to free movement within the EU
- Discrimination (including double discrimination, such as towards women with disabilities and children with disabilities)
- Difficulty living independently (for instance predominance of care in large residential institutions and/or lack of services in the community)
- Difficulty participating in political and public life
- Difficulty participating in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
- Difficulties stemming from the design of employment legislation or social protection schemes (such as the loss of disability allowance when entering the labour market, independently of the wage)
- Difficulty being heard in matters that affect them
- Lack of disability-related training for service professionals who might deal with persons with disabilities throughout their professional lives (such as teachers, doctors and lawyers)
- Poverty and low income
- Barriers to the recognition and exercise of legal capacity
- Mistreatment (such as violence, abuse or neglect of liberty and dignity)

3.3 Are there particular challenges that you can identify for children with disabilities that are different from the challenges faced by adults with disabilities? *[free text up to 300 characters]*

3.4 Have you personally experienced any of the problems mentioned in the previous question (3.2)?*

- Yes
- Only indirectly, through the experience of family members
- Only indirectly, through the experience of friends
- Only indirectly, through the experience of co-workers
- No
- No answer

3.5 Are there any other areas where you think the lives of persons with disabilities could be improved?

- Yes *[free text up to 200 characters]*
- No
- No answer

3.6 Are you aware of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020?*

- Yes
- No
- No answer

4. The impact of implementing the European Disability Strategy for the period 2010-2015

4.1 Five years after the adoption of the Strategy, how has the situation of persons with disabilities improved in the following priority areas defined in the Strategy?*

	Very much	To a good extent	To a certain extent	Slightly	Not at all
Accessibility of goods and services including public services and assistive devices.					
Participation in society by: - enjoying the benefits of EU citizenship; - removing administrative and attitudinal barriers to full and equal participation; - providing quality community-based services, including access to personal assistance.					
Equality: Fighting discrimination on grounds of disability.					
Employment: Earning a living on the open labour market.					
Education and training: Inclusive education and lifelong learning for pupils and students with disabilities.					
Social protection: Decent living conditions.					
Health: Equal access to health services and related facilities.					
External action: Promote the rights of persons with disabilities within the EU external action.					

- No answer

4.2 Which factors were more determining in achieving progress, even if limited?*
(Multiple choice possible)

- EU policy action
- The use of EU funding
- Developments at national level
- Private initiatives
- Public opinion/ changes of mentality
- Economic conditions
- New scientific discoveries and/or technological change
- Interest groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) advocacy
- Business lobbying
- Other political activity which impacted disability policy
- Don't know

If you would like to add something or give examples:

[free text up to 300 characters]

4.3 Please rate your overall satisfaction with what has been achieved in the last five years (2010-2015) to improve the situation of persons with disabilities: *

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Don't know

4.4 Which do you think are the main obstacles for a quicker progress?*
(Multiple choice possible)

- Lack of human and financial resources
- Lack of political will
- Lack of adequate legislation
- Limits to EU competence for action
- Lack of involvement of persons with disabilities
- Lack of awareness among the non-disabled
- The economic situation
- Lack of social pressure
- Stigma associated with disability
- Lack of policy makers' understanding for the specificity of disability-related needs
- Other [free text up to 100 characters]

4.5 General comment:

[free text up to 1500 characters]