



Making a study about the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

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Making a study about the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Easy to read version

Easy to read is information
that is written in a simple way
so that persons with intellectual disabilities
and all people can understand it.



Explanation of difficult words

On page 7 of this document, you will find an explanation of difficult words. You can always check this page to remember the explanation of these words.

What is the European Disability Strategy?

The European Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2010-2020 is a plan that said how the European Commission would work to protect the rights of persons with disabilities from 2010 to 2020. In short, we call it 'the European Disability Strategy'.



The European Commission made the European Disability Strategy to ensure that all persons with disabilities can enjoy their rights and have the same chances in life as everyone else.

The European Disability Strategy said that from 2010 to 2020, the European Commission would work hard to make things better for persons with disabilities. Among others, it said that they would work to ensure that persons with disabilities:



- Can use all things in life like other people.
For this to happen, things should be accessible for them.
For example:

- Streets and buildings should be accessible so that people in wheelchairs and blind people can go around easily.
- Documents and information should be easy to read so that persons with intellectual disabilities can understand them.



- Enjoy their rights and take part in the community like other people.



- Have the chance to get a job like everyone else. They should not be left out just because they have a disability.



- Have enough money and other things they need to live a good life.

- Have the chance to go to school and grow their knowledge and skills like everyone else.



- Have the chance to see a doctor and get good health care when they get sick.



Why we made this study

We wanted to check how the European Commission made use of the European Disability Strategy and find out if it made any difference in the lives of persons with disabilities in Europe.

So we made a study with a list of questions that was published on the website of the European Commission.



Persons with disabilities and all people who wanted to take part in the study, had the chance to respond to these questions and tell us what they thought of the European Disability Strategy. The list of questions was available in all languages of the European Union. There was also an easy to read version



for persons with intellectual disabilities and other people to understand them and respond to them.

We also asked the views of:

- European organisations that work to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, the European Disability Forum.
- Organisations and people from all 27 countries of the European Union, who work to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.



This happened either by talking to them in person or by phone.

In general, the study showed that the European Disability Strategy helped the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe.

Many of the people said that things have become better for persons with disabilities in Europe from 2010 to 2020, when the European Disability Strategy was in place.



Challenges of this study

There were some things that made it harder for people to take part in this study.

Among others:

- Some people said they had problems to respond to the list of questions on the website of the European Commission. To avoid this in the future, there should be more time to check with a smaller group of persons with disabilities if everything is accessible, and then publish it online.
- To answer the list of questions online, people first had to make an account with their name and other personal information. Some people did not feel comfortable to give this information and preferred to not take part in the study. To avoid this in the future, this process should become easier without people having to make an account.



- In some countries of the European Union, people were harder to reach so fewer people from these countries took part in the study. To avoid this in the future, more work should be done to spread the word about the study and reach people in all countries of the European Union.

More information

If you have questions about the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, you can send an email at: EMPL-C3-UNIT@ec.europa.eu.



This easy to read text is written by Lila Sylviti and checked by Soufiane El Amrani. You can find more information about easy to read at: easy-to-read.eu.



Explanation of difficult words

On this page, you will find an explanation of the difficult words in this booklet.

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.



European Commission

The European Commission is the body of the European Union

that runs its day-to-day work.
It takes actions and suggests laws
for the European Union.
The European Commission also takes actions
to help persons with disabilities
and protect their rights



Accessible

Things are accessible
when they can be used
by persons with disabilities
and all people.
If things are not accessible,
persons with disabilities can be left out.
For example:



- If buildings do not have ramps,
people in wheelchairs could not get in.
- If telephones are not accessible, blind people will not be able
to use them to communicate like everyone else.
- If information is not easy to read,
persons with intellectual disabilities will not be able
to understand it.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

In person

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https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

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