



Report on the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

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Report on 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 8 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.



What is this report about?

This report checks how the European Commission made use of the European Disability Strategy. It shows:

- How the European Disability Strategy made a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities in Europe.
- What could be better.



To make this report, we made a study with a list of questions. 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.



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 report presents the conclusions of this study.

How the European Disability Strategy made a difference

In general, the study showed that the European Disability Strategy:

- Helped the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe.
- Helped the European Union to better organise its work to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Was a useful tool for the work of the European Union to make the UN Convention happen.



For example, thanks to the European Disability Strategy, the European Union worked in a very organised way to:

- Make more things and services accessible for persons with disabilities and all people.
- Spread the word about the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Help persons with disabilities to take part in the community like everyone else.



What could be better

Despite the good work to make the European Disability Strategy happen, there are some areas in which the European Union did not meet its goals.

For example, there is still much work to be done when it comes to the right of persons with disabilities to education.



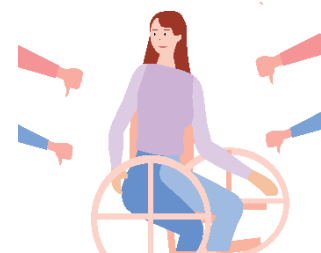
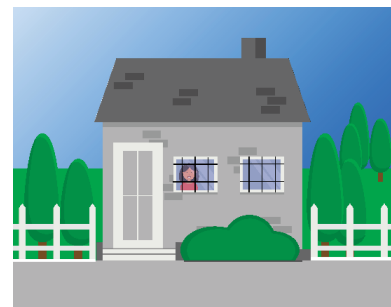
It is still hard or impossible for students with disabilities to go to school or university together with other students. There was not enough progress in this area.

In the future, the European Union should continue the hard work to ensure persons with disabilities can take part in all things in life. For this to happen:

- People who plan the work of the European Union should fully understand the needs of persons with disabilities.
- People who make laws and decisions in the European Union should put the rights of persons with disabilities higher in their priorities.



- The European Union should collect important information about persons with disabilities. For example, they should know:
 - How many persons with disabilities live in institutions.
 - How the situation is for women with disabilities.Having this information will make it possible to check the progress that is made throughout the years.



- The European Union should work together with its countries to make things better for all persons with disabilities who live in them.



- The European Union should always ask persons with disabilities and their organisations about their views. Nothing should be decided about them without them.



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.

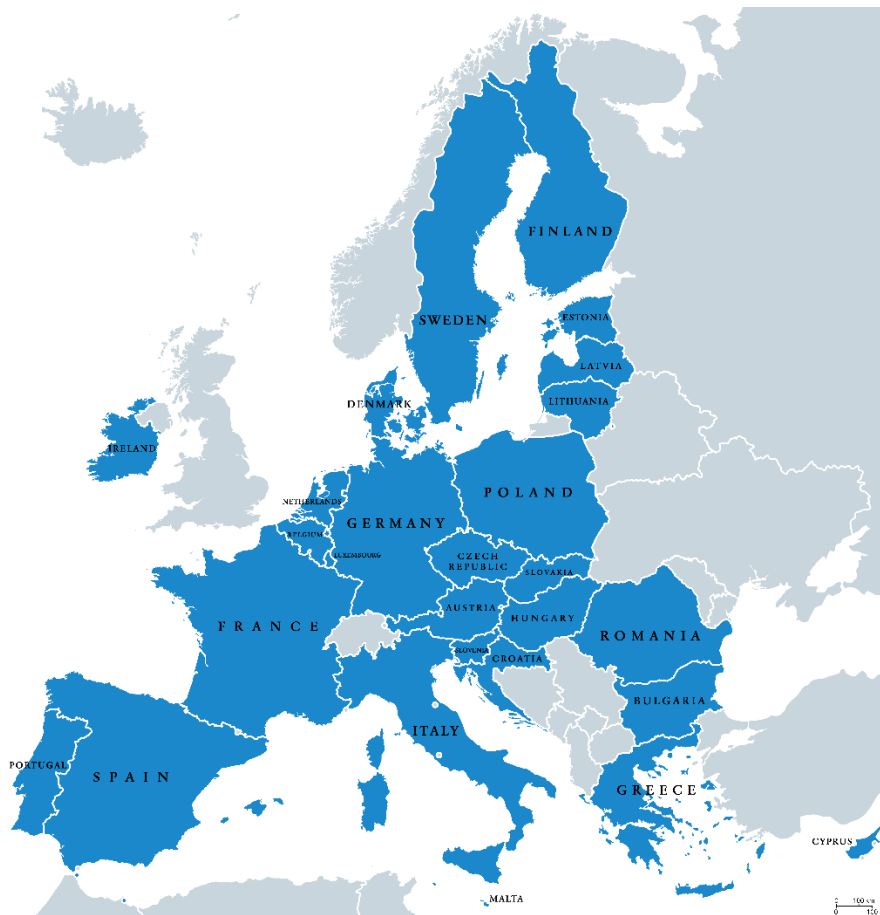


Explanation of difficult words

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

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



UN Convention

‘The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ is an agreement that many countries in the world have signed. It says persons with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. It also says how countries can protect these rights. In short, we call it ‘the UN Convention’ or ‘the CRPD’.

The European Union and all its countries are part of the UN Convention. That means that they have agreed to work to make it happen and to protect the rights of all persons with disabilities.



Accessible

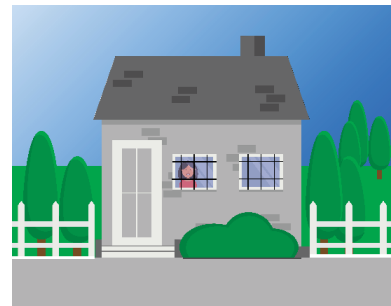
Things are accessible when they can be used by persons with disabilities and all people. If things are not accessible, persons with disabilities can be left out. For example:



- 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.

Institutions

Institutions are places where some persons with disabilities live away from other people. People who live in institutions are left out of the community. They may not be able to make their own choices in life. Persons with disabilities have the right to make choices about their lives and be part of the community.



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