

## Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

### Progress achieved on the European Commission’s actions in the Strategy

Actions	Timing	Status	Progress (May 2022)	Unit	NEW update (state-of-play 2023)
<b>1. ACCESSIBILITY: AN ENABLER OF RIGHTS, AUTONOMY AND EQUALITY</b>					
<p>1. <b>Flagship initiative 1:</b> In 2022 the Commission will launch a <b>European resource centre AccessibleEU</b> to increase coherence in accessibility policies and facilitate access to relevant knowledge. This cooperation framework will bring together national authorities responsible for implementing and enforcing accessibility rules with experts and professionals from all areas of accessibility, to share good practices across sectors, to inspire policy development at national and EU level, as well as to develop tools and standards aiming to facilitate implementation of EU law. The Commission will start preparations</p>	2022	Completed	<p>The European Commission has initiated discussions on AccessibleEU with Member States and civil society in the framework of the Disability Platform.</p> <p>The Commission is also consulting on a draft standardisation mandate to develop standards for products and services for the implementation of the European Accessibility Act.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Accessibility Standardisation</a>   <a href="#">Standardisation requests</a>  <a href="#">Standardisation request M/587 a standardisation request to the European standardisation organisations as regards the accessibility requirements of products and services in support of the European Accessibility Act</a></p>	EMPL	<p>A launch event of AccessibleEU was organised on 4 July 2023 and the resource centre is now operational. Over 80 events and training seminars are being organised at European and national levels in online, in-person and hybrid formats. By the end of 2023, the AccessibleEU website will be fully operational and will be the entry point for the activities of the centre. Other outputs will be a newsletter, an expanding community of practice of accessibility professionals, an online library of good practices, support for standardisation, support materials and a study.</p> <p>Discussions on AccessibleEU take place with Member States and civil society in the framework of the Disability Platform and a dedicated sub-group of the Disability Platform has also been set up.</p> <p>Following the Commission’s standardisation request (M/587), new harmonised standards for products and services are being developed and some existing standards are being revised in support of the European Accessibility Act.</p>

for AccessibleEU within the newly established Disability Platform.					<b>More info:</b> <a href="#">AccessibleEU Accessibility Standardisation Standardisation requests Standardisation request M/587 a standardisation request to the European standardisation organisations as regards the accessibility requirements of products and services in support of the European Accessibility Act</a>
2. <b>The Commission will also</b> provide, in 2021, practical guidance to Member States to support the implementation of the accessibility obligations under the <b>public procurement Directives</b> , and promote training for public procurers to buy accessible.	2021	Completed	The Commission published a new “Buying Social” guide on socially responsible public procurement on 26 May 2021.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Buying Social guide</a>	GROW/EMPL	The Commission published a new “Buying Social” guide on socially responsible public procurement on 26 May 2021.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Buying Social guide</a>
3. include, in 2021, accessibility and inclusiveness in the <b>reinforced EU governments interoperability strategy</b> , focusing on human-centric and user-friendly digital public services across Europe that respond to the	2021	Completed	The Interoperability expert group issued recommendations to the Commission on 5 October 2021, endorsed by all Member States. The adoption of a legal text is planned for Q2 2022.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities (europa.eu)</a>	DIGIT	The Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation – the Interoperable Europe Act - on 18 November 2022, drawing links with accessibility and inclusiveness, also of persons with disabilities.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Interoperable Europe Act Proposal (europa.eu)</a>

needs and preferences of European citizens, including the needs of persons with disabilities.					
4. evaluate, in 2022, the application of the <b>Web Accessibility Directive</b> and assess whether the Directive should be revised to address any gaps identified, such as scope, technological advances, and coherence with other relevant EU legislation.	2022	Completed	<p>The Commission held a public consultation on the Web Accessibility Directive, including easy-to-read survey (all EU languages), from 19 July to 25 October 2021. The Commission Decision of 11 August 2021 harmonised the latest European standard EN 301 549 V3.2.1 (2021-03) on ‘Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services’.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Public Consultation</a></p> <p><a href="#">European standard EN 301 549 V3.2.1 (2021-03)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Commission decision of 11 August 2021</a></p>	CNECT	<p>In December 2022, the Commission published the evaluation report of the Web Accessibility Directive (WAD).</p> <p>The evaluation includes the results of the 2021 public consultation on the application of the Directive in practice, Member States’ accessibility monitoring reports and a supporting study.</p> <p>The Commission Decision of 11 August 2021 harmonised the latest European standard EN 301 549 V3.2.1 (2021-03) on ‘Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services’.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p>Evaluation report:  <a href="#">Executive summary</a> SWD(2022)411 final  <a href="#">Evaluation report</a> SWD(2022)410 final  <a href="#">Press release</a>  <a href="#">Results of the 2021 public consultation</a>  Member States’ accessibility <a href="#">monitoring reports</a></p> <p>Supporting study:  <a href="#">Easy Read executive summary</a>  <a href="#">Easy Read synopsis report</a>  <a href="#">Final study report</a>  <a href="#">Executive summary</a></p>

					<p><u>European standard EN 301 549 V3.2.1 (2021-03)</u></p> <p><u>Commission decision of 11 August 2021</u></p>
<p>5. review, in 2021, and in line with the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, the <b>passenger rights regulatory framework</b> including rights for persons with disabilities and reduced mobility in transport by air, water, bus and coach.</p>	2021	Delayed	<p>In December 2021 the Commission completed the evaluation of 3 passenger rights regulations relevant for passengers with disabilities (Regulation on the rights of persons with disabilities and reduced mobility when travelling by air, the waterborne passenger rights Regulation and the bus and coach passenger rights Regulation). These evaluations will serve as the basis for the review of the passenger rights framework. Results on the regulatory framework revisions and measure to be adopted are expected in Q1 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future COM(2020) 789 final</p> <p><a href="#">Rights for travellers with disabilities or reduced mobility</a></p>	MOVE	<p>In December 2021 the Commission completed the evaluation of 3 passenger rights regulations relevant for passengers with disabilities (Regulation on the rights of persons with disabilities and reduced mobility when travelling by air, the waterborne passenger rights Regulation and the bus and coach passenger rights Regulation). These evaluations will serve as the basis for the review of the passenger rights framework.</p> <p>This initiative is expected to be adopted in Q3 2023.</p> <p>In the meantime information is being collected and preparatory work done for the Impact Assessment. A presentation of the state of play was organised in the Disability Platform.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future COM(2020) 789 final</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rights for travellers with disabilities or reduced mobility</a></p>

<p>6. launch, by 2022, an <b>Inventory of Assets on rail infrastructure.</b></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Delayed</p>	<p>To make this possible, the project will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify for each station an actor responsible for the collection, maintenance and transmission of this data,</li> <li>- Agree on an exchange format, i.e. on a data model. (The EU Agency for Railways (ERA) has recently published a list of necessary data, compatible with the NeTEx standard.)</li> </ul>	<p>MOVE</p>	<p>The project 'inventory of assets on rail infrastructure' aims at collecting and exchanging information on the accessibility of stations between the different actors of the railway sector at European level.</p> <p>The 'inventory of assets' is now a project for a database called ERSAD (European Railway Stations Accessibility Database).</p> <p>The ERA has integrated the technical requirements for the provision of data feeding this database into its recommendation about the regulation (EU) 454/2011 (TAP TSI) published in January 2022. The revision of the TAP TSI is ongoing and is likely to be adopted in the course of 2024.</p> <p>The database ERSAD is currently available in a test environment at ERA. ERA is working on making the tool fully operational, but there is as yet no date on when this work will be finalised.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)</a>   <a href="#">Recommendation ERA-REC-122 V2.0 (2022) of the European Union Agency for Railways on the technical specification for Interoperability relating to the subsystem 'telematics applications for passenger services' of the Union rail</a></p>
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					<a href="#">system   European Union Agency for Railways (europa.eu)</a> (chapter 4.2.6.2.)
7. review, in 2021, the Regulation on Union Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network to strengthen the provision on accessibility.	2021	Completed		MOVE	<p>The Commission adopted the proposal on 14 December 2021. Accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities, is one of the priorities in the proposal. In July 2022, the Commission adopted an amended proposal for the revised TEN-T Regulation, in view of the consequences of Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine. Those amendments however did not concern provisions on accessibility.</p> <p>A Council General Approach was reached on 5 December 2022 which kept the proposed provisions on accessibility almost unchanged.</p> <p>An adoption of the TEN-T Regulation is envisaged for end 2023, and an entry into force at the beginning of 2024.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> Amended proposal for the revised TEN-T Regulation (July 2022))</p> <p><a href="#">TEN-T Regulation</a></p>
8. revise, in 2021, its Urban Mobility Package to strengthen Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning which requires Member States to adopt local mobility plans taking	2021	Completed	It announced that the Commission will: - firmly put public transport (and active mobility) at the centre of sustainable urban mobility planning (SUMP), to ensure that public transport is available and attractive to all and offers barrier-free access; to this end, the Commission will publish in 2022 an updated SUMP	MOVE	<p>The Commission adopted the proposal on 14 December 2021.</p> <p>Following up on this proposal, The European Commission adopted <a href="#">Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/550 on National Support Programmes for Sustainable Urban</a></p>

<p>into consideration the needs of different groups, including persons with disabilities.</p>			<p>concept and recommendations to Member States on a national SUMP supportive framework.</p> <p>- propose a legislative initiative by 2022 on the provision and use of commercially sensitive data for multimodal digital mobility services, also improving accessibility for people with reduced mobility.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Whole package</a>  <a href="#">New Urban Mobility Framework Communication</a>  <a href="#">Accompanying SWD</a></p> <p><a href="#">Final report on Consultation on the EU new Urban Mobility Initiative</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supporting fact-finding study</a></p>		<p><a href="#">Mobility Planning</a> on 8 March 2023, a commitment from the EU Urban Mobility Framework. It includes an updated concept of SUMP (sustainable urban mobility planning) covering also the aspects of accessibility and inclusiveness: a SUMP should therefore include specific goals and objectives to support the development of an urban transport system including its accessibility aspects.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Whole package</a>  <a href="#">New Urban Mobility Framework Communication</a>  <a href="#">Accompanying SWD</a></p> <p><a href="#">Final report on Consultation on the EU new Urban Mobility Initiative</a></p> <p><a href="#">Supporting fact-finding study</a></p> <p><a href="#">Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/550 on National Support Programmes for Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning</a></p>
<p><b>2. ENJOYING EU RIGHTS</b></p>					
<p>9. <b>Flagship initiative 2:</b> The Commission will propose creating a European Disability Card by end of 2023</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>In 2021, the Commission published the assessment study of the EU Disability Card pilot project. The study confirms the EU added value of the card.</p>	<p>EMPL</p>	<p>In 2021, the Commission published the assessment study of the EU Disability Card pilot project. The study confirms the EU added value of the card.</p>

<p>with a view to be recognised in all Member States. It will build on the experience of the ongoing EU Disability Card pilot project in eight Member States and upon the European parking card for persons with disabilities.</p>			<p>In February 2022 the Commission initiated discussions on a European Disability Card with the Member States and civil society organisations in the Disability Platform.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Disability Card webpage</a></p> <p><a href="#">Study assessing the implementation of the pilot action on the EU Disability Card</a></p>		<p>In February 2022 the Commission initiated discussions on a European Disability Card with the Member States and civil society organisations in the Disability Platform through a dedicated sub-group. A study was carried out to support the preparation of the impact assessment for this initiative. An online public consultation with accessible Word version and Easy to read version received around 3,300 replies. The Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive on 6<sup>th</sup> September with a new European Disability card and a revised parking card for persons with disabilities. <a href="#">Commission proposes European Disability and Parking Card valid in all Member States - Employment, Social Affairs &amp; Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)</a></p> <p>The Commission presented the proposal for a European Disability Card on 6 September 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Disability Card webpage</a></p> <p><a href="#">Study assessing the implementation of the pilot action on the EU Disability Card</a></p>
<p>10. work with Member States in the European Cooperation Network on Elections to support full electoral participation and</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>At the meeting of the European cooperation network on elections on 22 October 2021, the Commission invited EU Member States to volunteer to host workshops and seminars in 2022 on the</p>	<p>JUST</p>	<p>At the meeting of the European cooperation network on elections on 24 January 2022, Member States' representatives presented their efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to vote. This included</p>



<p><b>accessibility of the European elections</b> (both as voter and as candidate), addressing underrepresented citizens, including citizens with a disability in order to guarantee the exercise of political rights of persons with disabilities on equal basis with others.</p>			<p>accessibility of elections for citizens with disabilities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European cooperation network on elections</a></p>		<p>measures to increase the physical accessibility of polling stations, on-site support, electoral assistive tools, and alternative voting methods. In addition, Member States mentioned offering easy-to-read booklets and websites on elections, templates for visually impaired voters, election helplines and WhatsApp service for voters with hearing impairments.</p> <p>A further meeting of the European Cooperation Network on Elections on 14 September 2022 included a specific session on election accessibility, which benefited, among others, from participation of persons with disabilities, and the presentation of the 2022 European Disability Forum Report on political participation of persons with disabilities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Democracy and electoral rights webpage</a></p>
<p>11. discuss, in 2022, in the framework of the high-level event on elections announced in the Democracy Action Plan, practices on inclusive democracy with the aim that <b>candidate lists reflect the diversity</b> of our societies.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Delayed</p>	<p>High-level event planned for the second half of 2023.</p>	<p>JUST</p>	<p>A high-level event on elections is planned for 23-24 October 2023. The audience is composed of representatives of Member States authorities responsible for the organisation of elections.</p> <p>A session will be dedicated to “Best practices for ensuring electoral rights for people with disabilities”</p> <p>It will focus on the issues at stake, necessary measures and best practices to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy their right to vote and stand for elections,</p>

					including by providing accessible communication and facilities.
12. establish, in 2023, on this basis and in close cooperation with Member States in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections a <b>guide of good electoral practice</b> addressing participation of citizens with disabilities in the electoral process.	2023	On track	The guide is planned to be established in Q3 2023.	JUST	The guide is being prepared in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections, with input on Member States' practices; it will be established in Q4 2023.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Democracy and electoral rights webpage</a>
13. seek to address the needs of citizens with a disability in the <b>compendium on e-voting</b> envisaged under the European Democracy Action Plan.	tbd	Ongoing	At the meeting of the European cooperation network on elections on 22 October 2021, the Commission invited EU Member States to volunteer to host workshops and seminars in 2022 on e-voting for citizens with disabilities.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">European cooperation network on elections</a>	JUST	The compendium is being prepared in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections; it is planned for Q4 2023.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Democracy and electoral rights webpage</a>
14. support inclusive democratic participation, including for persons with a disability, through the new <b>Citizenship, Equalities, Rights and Values programme</b> (CERV).	Continuous	Ongoing	The Commission has set up 4-year framework partnership agreements (for 2022-2025) with EU-level networks of civil society organisations active in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the area of inclusive democratic participation. The selection of NGOs was completed in December 2021. Through annual calls for proposals, these partnership agreements open the door for	EMPL	The Commission has set up 4-year framework partnership agreements (for 2022-2025) with EU-level networks of civil society organisations active in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the area of inclusive democratic participation. The selection of NGOs was completed in December 2021. Through annual calls for proposals, these partnership agreements open the door for operating grants. This

			<p>operating grants. This funding supports these organisations to build their capacity, participate in EU-level processes and provide their views on the development of EU legislation and policies.</p> <p>The Commission maintains relations with representatives of civil society organisations via regular strategic dialogue meetings.</p> <p>These actions allow the Commission to benefit from the networks' expertise as regards the challenges that vulnerable groups of citizens face in the various Member States and to be supported in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <u>Call for proposals: Framework Partnership agreement with networks active in the area of disability</u></p>		<p>funding supports these organisations to build their capacity, participate in EU-level processes and provide their views on the development of EU legislation and policies.</p> <p>The Commission maintains relations with representatives of civil society organisations via regular strategic dialogue meetings. These actions allow the Commission to benefit from the networks' expertise as regards the challenges that vulnerable groups of citizens face in the Member States and to be supported in its outreach activities at EU, national and local level.</p> <p>Annual grant agreements are signed for 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <u>Call for proposals: Framework Partnership agreement with networks active in the area of disability</u></p>
<b>2. DECENT QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIVING INDEPENDENTLY</b>					
15. <b>Flagship initiative 3:</b> The Commission will, by 2023, issue guidance recommending to Member States improvements on independent living and inclusion in the community, in order to enable persons with disabilities to live in	2023	On track	The Commission is undertaking preparatory work: (1) analysing relevant EU support to national, regional and local authorities in their efforts for deinstitutionalisation and independent living, and (2) reviewing the positions of the Member States and relevant stakeholders at EU and national level, in light of synergies with other EU initiatives, (3) undertaking a preliminary	EMPL	The Commission is preparing the guidance, including the following steps: (1) taking on board information collected by experts on EU and Member States' support to national, regional and local authorities in their efforts for deinstitutionalisation and independent living; (2) has established a dedicated sub-group on independent living under the Disability Platform to assist the Commission in defining the areas of

<p>accessible, supported housing in the community, or to continue living at home (including personal assistance schemes).</p>			<p>consultation process, notably in the context of the Disability Platform.</p>		<p>relevance for future guidance; and (3) taking a practical approach, the Commission will further explore examples from Member States' experiences in developing the conditions for independent living and carrying out deinstitutionalisation processes, with a focus on how EU funds can be used to accelerate progress in these areas. The dedicated sub-group of the Disability Platform has met twice in 2023.</p>
<p>16. <b>Flagship initiative 4:</b> Building on the existing voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services, the Commission will present, by 2024, a specific framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities, to improve service delivery for persons with disabilities and to enhance the attractiveness of jobs in this area including through upskilling and reskilling of service providers.</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The Commission envisages consulting relevant stakeholders on the design of the framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities in the context of the Disability Platform. In addition, the Commission, together with the European Disability Expertise (EDE), is working on a report that will focus on the criteria and arrangements in place for quality assurance in selected areas of particular relevance to deinstitutionalisation and the development of community-based social support services.</p>	<p>EMPL</p>	<p>The Commission is: (1) undertaking analytical work to take stock of the quality of services for persons with disabilities in the Member States; (2) meeting with stakeholders at EU level to collect information on their past and ongoing work as well as their views regarding quality of services for persons with disabilities. (3) Additional work in relation to upskilling and reskilling of service providers is being promoted in conjunction with the flagship on independent living and inclusion in the community.</p> <p>In addition, the Commission, together with the European Disability Expertise (EDE), is working on gathering information focusing on quality assurance systems in social services of particular relevance to persons with disabilities, with a view to promote deinstitutionalisation and the development of community-based support services.</p> <p>The evidence emerged from the work expected to be available by end 2023. It</p>

					will contribute to shaping the Commission's initiative on a framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities.
17. <b>Flagship initiative 5:</b> In 2022, the Commission will present a <b>package to improve labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities</b> , seeking cooperation with the European Network of Public Employment Services, social partners and organisations of persons with disabilities. The package will support Member States in the implementation of the relevant Employment Guidelines through the European Semester. It will provide guidance and support mutual learning on strengthening capacities of employment and integration services, promoting hiring perspectives through affirmative action and combating stereotypes, ensuring reasonable	2022	On track	<p>The Package was launched at the Czech Presidency Conference, in September 2022. The deliverables of the Package, the guidance documents are being developed until 2024, including via cooperation with the European Network of Public Employment Services, EU agencies and social partners, guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (notably its Article 27 on work and employment). The Commission is also working with stakeholders in the Disability Platform.</p> <p>Horizon Europe will support projects on 'Overcoming discrimination for an inclusive labour market'. The deadline for applications is 20 April 2022. The budget is €9 million. 3 projects are expected to be funded.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#"><u>Horizon Europe call for proposals on overcoming discrimination for an inclusive labour market</u></a></p>	EMPL	<p>The Package was launched in September 2022. It includes practical deliverables and guidance documents that will be developed until 2024, including via cooperation with the European Network of Public Employment Services, EU agencies and social partners, guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (notably its Article 27 on work and employment). The Commission is also working with stakeholders in the Disability Platform and a dedicated sub-group has been set up. Current work focuses on the deliverables on innovative practices for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace and reasonable accommodation. A dedicated website of the Package has been set up . A practitioner toolkit on strengthening PES to improve the labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities and Lifelong learning guidance for persons with disabilities have been published. Remaining deliverables are under development. In parallel, DG EMPL has been working on a dissemination of the deliverables through Business Europe, ETUC, Diversity Charters, European</p>

<p>accommodation, securing health and safety at work and vocational rehabilitation schemes in case of chronic diseases or accidents, exploring quality jobs in sheltered employment, and pathways to the open labour market.</p>					<p>Enterprise Network and through participation in other events. other events.</p> <p>Horizon Europe will support projects on ‘Overcoming discrimination for an inclusive labour market’. The deadline for applications was 20 April 2022. The budget is €9 million. 3 projects are expected to be funded.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Disability Employment Package webpage</a></p> <p><a href="#">Practitioner toolkit on strengthening PES to improve the labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Briefing note - Lifelong guidance for persons with disabilities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Horizon Europe call for proposals on overcoming discrimination for an inclusive labour market</a></p>
<p>18. publish, in 2021, an implementation report on the <b>EU Employment Equality Directive</b> and, if appropriate, follow up with a legal proposal in particular to strengthen the role of equality bodies.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Commission published the implementation report in March 2021. As indicated in the Commission Work Programme 2022, the Commission will propose measures to strengthen the role and independence of equality bodies (Q3 2022).</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Directive</a></p>	<p>JUST and EMPL</p>	<p>The Commission published the implementation report in March 2021. As indicated in the Commission Work Programme 2022, the Commission adopted legislative proposals to strengthen the role and independence of equality bodies in December 2022. The proposals are currently under negotiation in the Council and respectively the European Parliament. The Commission proposals include provisions to ensure access by persons with disabilities to the services</p>

					<p>provided and information provided by equality bodies in the Member States.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Directive</a></p> <p><a href="#">Commission work programme 2022</a></p> <p><a href="#">Press release: Equality Package: Commission proposes to strengthen equality bodies to fight discrimination</a></p>
19. issue, in 2021, an <b>Action Plan on Social Economy</b> to improve the enabling environment for the social economy, including opportunities related to persons with disabilities, through social enterprises with a focus on integration, into the open labour market.	2021	Completed	<p>On 9 December 2021, the European Commission adopted an Action Plan on the Social Economy, which puts forward concrete measures to help mobilise the full potential of the social economy. Social entrepreneurship and the social economy help build bridges for persons with disabilities to employment in the open labour market and provide services that are essential to support their independent living.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Press release</a></p>	EMPL	<p>On 9 December 2021, the European Commission adopted an Action Plan on the Social Economy, which puts forward concrete measures to help mobilise the full potential of the social economy. Social entrepreneurship and the social economy help build bridges for persons with disabilities to employment in the open labour market and provide services that are essential to support their independent living.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Press release</a></p>
20. launch, in 2022, a <b>study on social protection and services</b> for persons with disabilities to examine good practices on disability benefits, old-age	2022	Completed	<p>The Commission has started work on the study. It will aim to identify good practices in the Member States concerning reforms that have (or may have) an impact on the access of persons with disabilities to social protection. It will also aim to provide</p>	EMPL	<p>The study has been completed and published in December 2022.</p> <p>The report was presented to the Disability Platform in February 2023.</p> <p><b>More info</b></p>

<p>income, health insurance, cash and non-cash benefits as well as on extra-costs due to disability.</p>			<p>recommendations on how to address the gaps and obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing adequate social protection benefits and services.</p>		<p><a href="#">News item with link to the Synthesis Report and to the 35 national reports</a></p>
<p>21. provide guidance to support Member States in further <b>reforms of social protection</b> focusing on persons with disabilities and disability assessment frameworks, including upon requests through the Technical Support Instrument.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission provides targeted guidance for the implementation of relevant reforms in the Member States through the European Semester process in line with the commitments made under the UNCRPD. Through the Technical Support Instrument, the Commission will continue to support Member States in improving their disability assessment methodologies and procedures. The Commission will also continue to promote mutual learning activities and the exchange of best practices. Finally, the EU supports the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States through the use of EU funding in compliance with the UNCRPD, notably through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and NextGenerationEU, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility.</p>	<p>EMPL REFORM</p>	<p>The Commission provides targeted guidance for the implementation of relevant reforms in the Member States through the European Semester process in line with the commitments made under the UNCRPD. Through the Technical Support Instrument, the Commission will continue to support Member States in improving their disability assessment methodologies and procedures. The Commission will also continue to promote mutual learning activities and the exchange of best practices. Finally, the EU supports the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States through the use of EU funding in compliance with the UNCRPD, notably through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and NextGenerationEU, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Continuous support is provided upon demand from Member States through the Technical Support Instrument. The availability of such guidance and support has been further publicised to Member States at a Disability Platform meeting focussing on social protection (February 2023).</p>



					This meeting also included a presentation on the functioning of the Technical Support Instrument as well as on the opportunities for mutual learning within the Social Protection Committee (e.g. thematic peer reviews).
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<b>4. EQUAL ACCESS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION</b>	
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<p>22. work with Member States to implement the 2000 Hague Convention on the international protection of vulnerable adults in line with the UNCRPD, including by way of a <b>study on the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations</b>, notably those with intellectual disabilities, to pave the way for its ratification by all Member States.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>A report of the legal study on the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults was submitted to the Commission on 26 November 2021.</p> <p>As indicated in the Commission Work Programme 2022, the Commission will propose measures to strengthen judicial cooperation on the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations (adoption scheduled in Q1 2023). A Call for Evidence and an open public consultation on the need of a future EU initiative were published on 21 December 2021. The consultation closed on 29 March 2022. The preparation of an impact assessment study on the civil aspects of the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults started on 22 February 2022 for a duration of 8 months.</p> <p>More info:  <a href="#">Commission work programme 2022</a></p> <p>Have you Say: <a href="#">Civil judicial cooperation – EU-wide protection for vulnerable adults</a></p> <p><a href="#">Study on the cross-border legal protection of vulnerable adults in the EU - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)</a></p>	<p>JUST</p>	<p>The Commission adopted a legislative package in May 2023 which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a proposal for a Council decision obliging Member States to become parties to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) 2000 Protection of Adults Convention (within the period of 2 years after the date of the adoption of that Council decision); and</li> <li>b. a proposal for a Regulation on the cross-border protection of adults which will apply among EU Member States and will further streamline the rules in the Convention for the EU context.</li> </ol> <p>The proposals will help to better protect rights of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations within and outside the EU. Since many vulnerable adults are also persons with disabilities, the proposals will contribute to the better protection of their rights in cross-border situations and thereby to the achievement of the UNCRPD objectives.</p> <p>The legislative package is accompanied by an impact assessment. The consultations preceding the preparation of both proposals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- call for evidence and open public consultation (early 2022);</li> <li>- stakeholder meeting (9/2022);</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- meeting with experts from Member States' authorities (10/2022);</li> <li>- consultation of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (11/2022);</li> <li>- fact-finding mission by the European Network of Justice Inspection Services; and</li> <li>- additional consultation conducted by an external contractor in the context of a study supporting the impact assessment (including, for instance, two focus groups or semi-structured interviews).</li> </ul> <p>The feedback received in those consultation activities informed the preparation of the legislative package.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p>Proposal for a Council decision authorising Member States to become parties to the <a href="#">Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) 2000 Protection of Adults Convention</a></p> <p><a href="#">Proposal for a Regulation on the cross-border protection of adults</a></p> <p><a href="#">Commission work programme 2022</a> Have your Say: <a href="#">Civil judicial cooperation – EU-wide protection for vulnerable adults</a></p>
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					<u>Study on the cross-border legal protection of vulnerable adults in the EU - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)</u>
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<p>23. launch a <b>study on procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults in criminal proceedings</b>, and assess the need for legislative proposals strengthening the support and protection of vulnerable adults who fall victims of crime, in line with the EU Victims' Rights Strategy (2020-2025).</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission is currently evaluating the Victims' Rights Directive. The results of this evaluation will be published in a final report in Q1 2022. In addition, a Call for Evidence for an impact assessment on the revision of the victims' rights acquis was published on 13 December 2021 to gather input from stakeholders for this impact assessment until 10 January 2022. Based on the results of the evaluation and the impact assessment, the Commission may propose legislative actions in Q4 2022.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Call for Evidence for an impact assessment on the revision of the victims' rights acquis</a> (13 December 2021 – 10 January 2022)</p>	<p>JUST</p>	<p>A study on procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults in criminal proceedings was launched at the beginning of 2021. The objective of this study was to analyse the legal situation in Member States, issues arising in cross-border judicial cooperation and the need for more stringent rules at the EU level. The final report, including four case studies on the legal situation of vulnerable persons in several EU MS, has been published.</p> <p>The study showed that the implementation of the 2013 Commission Recommendation on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons is largely unsatisfactory. While children benefit from Directive 2016/800, procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults remains inadequate in a majority of Member States. On the basis of the outcomes of this study, the Commission is currently assessing the best way forward to address the issues identified.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (exploratory study) - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)</a></p>
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<p>24. provide <b>guidance to Member States on access to justice</b> for persons with disabilities in the EU, building on international guidance provided by the United Nations.</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024 stipulates that the rights of persons with disabilities and the adaptation of justice systems to these groups require specialised training as well as coverage in other courses. Provision of such training is the strategic objective.</p> <p>The European Commission supports a seminar on access to justice for persons with disabilities, which will be provided by the European Judicial Training Network in October 2022.</p> <p>The European Training Platform (ETP) was launched in December 2020 on the European e-Justice Portal and comprises training material for justice professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European judicial training strategy 2021-2024</a>  <a href="#">European Training Platform</a></p>	<p>JUST</p>	<p>The European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024 stipulates that the rights of persons with disabilities and the adaptation of justice systems to these persons require specialised training as well as coverage in other courses. Provision of such training is the objective of the current strategy that will expire in 2024.</p> <p>The European Commission supports the European Judicial Training Network that will deliver :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, October 2023,</li> <li>- Seminar on Vulnerable and disabled people, November 2024.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission supports the CoE HELP Programme that offers online course “Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (2022 update).</p> <p>The European Training Platform (ETP) on the European e-Justice Portal comprises training material for justice professionals, also on the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The 2022 EU Justice Scoreboard presented, for the first time, a dedicated figure on specific arrangements in place and accessibility measures to support persons with disabilities in accessing justice on equal basis with others.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p>
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					<a href="#">European judicial training strategy 2021-2024</a> <a href="#">European Training Platform</a> <a href="#">EJTN Seminars and Webinars</a> <a href="#">THE 2022 EU JUSTICE SCOREBOARD (europa.eu)</a>
25. develop measures to support Member States in boosting the participation of persons with disabilities as <b>professionals</b> in the justice system and collect good practices on <b>supported decision-making</b> .	Q2/2024	To be started		JUST	The Commission will map practices in the Member States through the EU Justice Scoreboard and organise exchanges on good practices in the expert <a href="#">group of contact persons for national justice systems</a> (E03022). The data collection will start in Q4/2023.
26. issue in 2021 a <b>toolkit for inclusion in early childhood education and care</b> , which includes a specific chapter on children with disabilities.	2021	Completed	The Commission published the toolkit and held a webinar.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Toolkit for inclusive early childhood education and care</a>  <a href="#">Webinar recording</a>	EAC	The Commission published the toolkit and held a webinar.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Toolkit for inclusive early childhood education and care</a>  <a href="#">Webinar recording</a>
27. support Member States to further develop their <b>teacher education systems</b> to address shortages of teachers in Special Needs Education and competences of all	Continuous	Ongoing	The Working Group on Promoting Common Values and Inclusive education has produced a compendium of inspiring practices on inclusive and citizenship education, with relevant chapters on supporting disadvantaged learners (including learners with disabilities) and	EAC	The Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training (2021-2025) is contributing to the implementation of the <a href="#">Council Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching</a> , and is supporting reforms to promote equality in



<p>education professionals to manage diversity in the classroom and develop inclusive education.</p>		<p>fostering social, civic and intercultural competences.</p> <p>A European Toolkit for Schools provides resources for teachers. Continuous input will be provided to the Toolkit through working groups under the European Education Area.</p> <p>The Working Groups on Equality and Values and on Pathways to School Success will reflect in their work the dimension of ensuring equal access to quality education.</p> <p>Inclusion is one of the priorities of the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies. Selected projects in 2022 include a project looking into STEM education with pupils with special needs; a project enhancing teacher competences for diversity and a project focussing on teaching students with foreign language background.</p> <p>The upcoming Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success (Commission proposal to be published in Q2 2022) will also address the need for initial teacher education and continuous professional development to better prepare teachers and other staff to recognise and address different types of learning difficulties, including special educational needs.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Compendium of inspiring practices on inclusive and citizenship education</a></p>	<p>education and training. The Working Group focuses both on inclusive education for all and on specific population groups' equal access to quality education, including learners with special education needs and disabilities.</p> <p>An Issue Paper on 'Tackling all forms of discrimination in and through education and training' is a key output related to the Working Group meetings held on the topic and will be published after July 2023. The paper addresses 6 main themes among which tackling discrimination based on disability and tackling multiple discrimination through an intersectional approach.</p> <p>In addition, the Working Group on Equality and Values will join forces with the Working Group Schools (sub-group on Pathways to School Success) and will focus in the second half of 2023 on the topic of special needs education. A dedicated <a href="#">Expert Group on Supportive Learning Environments and Well-Being at School</a> is working in synergy with the above groups and addressing, amongst other things, vulnerable groups including children with disabilities.</p> <p>The Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success addresses the need for initial teacher education and continuous professional development to better prepare teachers and other staff to</p>
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			<a href="#">European Toolkit for Schools</a> <a href="#">Working Groups of the European Education Area</a>		<p>work effectively with learners at risk of exclusion, underachievement and early school leaving.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Toolkit for Schools</a></p> <p><a href="#">Working Groups of the European Education Area</a></p>
<p>28. as a member of the Board of Governors of the <b>European Schools</b>, support increased efforts to implement the <b>Action Plan Educational Support and Inclusive Education</b> focusing on accessibility and reasonable accommodation, adaptation of their curricula to the needs of learners with disabilities (e.g. alternative leaving certificates allowing for continuation of education at national level) and on providing training courses for teachers in the area of inclusive education.</p>	Continu ous	Ongoing	<p>The Board of Governors approved the Accessibility Policy (December 2021) and the Budgetary Committee approved the Training Policy on Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools (Nov 2021). The training on Inclusive education for Directors, Inspectors, Coordinators and teachers has already started.</p> <p>The provision of reasonable accommodation is established in the Accessibility Plan as well as in the Policy on the Provision of Educational Support in the European Schools (approved in April 2021 by the Board of Governors) and the related Procedural Document (approved in February 2022 by the Joint Teaching Committee). The Policy and Procedural Document establish the possibility for pupils with additional needs to follow a modified curriculum. A more general concept of the adaptation of the curricula is included in the Multi-Annual Plan of Pedagogical Priorities (MAPPP).</p>	HR	<p>The Board of Governors approved the Accessibility Policy (December 2021) and the Budgetary Committee approved the Training Policy on Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools (Nov 2021). The training on Inclusive education for Directors, Inspectors, Coordinators and teachers has already started.</p> <p>The provision of reasonable accommodation is established in the Accessibility Plan as well as in the Policy on the Provision of Educational Support in the European Schools (approved in April 2021 by the Board of Governors) and the related Procedural Document (approved in February 2022 by the Joint Teaching Committee). The Policy and Procedural Document establish the possibility for pupils with additional needs to follow a modified curriculum. A more general concept of the adaptation of the curricula is included in the Multi-Annual Plan of Pedagogical Priorities (MAPPP).</p> <p>The possibility to issue an alternative leaving certificate is also included in the</p>

			The possibility to issue an alternative leaving certificate is also included in the MAPPP. This action has already started and is expected to be implemented according to the timeline established in the Action Plan.		MAPPP. This action has already started and is expected to be implemented according to the timeline established in the Action Plan.
29. address issues related to health and disability through the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention (SGPP) for the sharing of <b>validated health-related good practices</b> to support Member States in their health reforms.	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention is currently working on best practices in areas identified by Member States in the last prioritisation exercise in 2019-2020. In the meeting on 15 December 2021, the Commission presented the new ‘Healthier Together’ - EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative’, which includes mental health as one of the five strands.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Steering group on Promotion and Prevention</a></p>	SANTE	<p>Since December 2022, the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention (SGPP) has been replaced by the Commission expert group on public health. Actions will depend on the priorities of the Member States and the rolling agenda of the expert group. In any event, the needs of the vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities are always highlighted across actions and policies, including on mental health, cancer, vaccination and health promotion and disease prevention policies in general.</p> <p>Special Olympics have received a grant agreement for a project on inclusive Healthy Lifestyle groups in Schools (iHLGiS), a three-year project funded under EU4Health programme). The project aims to reach over 100 schools, over 4000 students with and without intellectual disabilities, and to engage with community stakeholders and across sectors.</p> <p>The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sports event. Thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities compete together in 26 sports.</p>

					<p>From 17 to 25 June 2023, the Special Olympics World Games took place in Berlin.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Steering group on Promotion and Prevention inclusive Healthy Lifestyle groups in Schools” (iHLGiS)</a></p>
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<p>30. support stakeholders to address and alleviate the burden that the COVID-19 pandemic imposes on the <b>mental health</b> of European citizens.</p>	<p>Started in May 2020</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The dedicated network on mental health support related to COVID-19 has approximately 90 participants, representing around 50 organisations.</p> <p>A high-level conference “Mental health and the pandemic: living, caring, acting!” took place on 10 May 2021.</p> <p>The Commission is supporting best practice implementation in the area of mental health via the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention. The 2020 Annual Work Plan of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Programme included grants on mental health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ‘EAAD Best-Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe’ project aims to prevent depression in eight different countries; it started in April 2021 and will run for three years.</li> <li>- The Joint Action ImpleMENTAL, in which 21 countries participate, started on 1 October 2021 and will also run over three years.</li> </ul> <p>The 2021 Annual Work Programme of EU4Health includes a call for projects to support the implementation of best practices to tackle mental health challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>SANTE</p>	<p>Following the announcement by President von der Leyen in the State of the Union speech in September 2022, the Commission adopted a Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health in June 2023.</p> <p>The Commission undertook extensive consultations with Member States, stakeholders and citizens.</p> <p>The Member States have been consulted through the new Expert Group on Public Health, and in particular its new sub-group on mental health that met for the first time on 14 February and again on 28 March.</p> <p>Stakeholders have been consulted through targeted webinars and a call for evidence, which showed a strong support for EU action in the area of mental health.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="https://europa.eu/european-council/en/eu-have-your-say-a-comprehensive-approach-to-mental-health">EU Have Your Say: a comprehensive approach to mental health (europa.eu)</a></p> <p><a href="https://europa.eu/european-council/en/stakeholder-event-a-comprehensive-approach-to-mental-health">Stakeholder event - A comprehensive approach to mental health (europa.eu)</a></p>
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			<p><b>More info:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Dedicated network on mental health support related to COVID-19</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Website of the high-level conference with booklet with promising practices and conference report</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>EAAD-Best project</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Joint Action ImpleMENTAL</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>EU4Health 2021 call for projects on mental health challenges during COVID-19</u></a></p>		
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<p>31. address specific inequalities for persons with disabilities in <b>accessing cancer prevention, early detection and care</b> through specific actions identified through the inequalities registry in the Europe's beating cancer plan.</p>	<p>2023 (onwards)</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The Cancer Inequalities Registry was launched in February 2022. As from 2023, the Commission will publish biennial analysis reports where issues related to cancer inequalities affecting people with disabilities will be considered.</p> <p>In parallel, the Commission mainstreams disability for instance in the call for the 2021 EU Health Award on mental health (see above) and cancer prevention.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">2021 EU Health Award</a>   <a href="#">European Cancer Inequalities Registry</a></p>	<p>SANTE</p>	<p>A study is planned on guidance for access to healthcare for persons with disabilities, to provide direction to Member States to increase access and overcome barriers in access to healthcare, including a particular focus on access to cancer diagnosis and care. The study will include a specific survey, which will generate quantitative and qualitative data on persons with disabilities in view of improving cancer diagnosis and care for them in all Member States. The contract will be signed in summer 2023 and the final report will be produced after two years.</p> <p>As for access to early detection, the new 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening includes several references to persons with disabilities. It stresses, for example, that the individual needs of persons with disabilities, as regards support or special assistance in order to access cancer screening or adapted clinical facilities, should be duly taken into account. Member States will be supported with implementing the Council Recommendation by a direct grant to Member State authorities under the EU4Health Work Programme 2023.</p> <p>The Cancer Inequalities Registry was launched in February 2022. The Commission publishes biennial analysis reports where issues related to cancer inequalities affecting people with disabilities will be considered.</p>
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					<p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Cancer Inequalities Registry</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Health Union: new approach on cancer screening (europa.eu)</a></p>
<p>32. launch a study <b>evaluating the implementation of Article 30</b> of the UNCRPD to support Member States in policies to increase the participation of and support to persons with disabilities in sport, culture and leisure activities.</p>	2022	On track	<p>As part of the large-scale cooperation project Europe Beyond Access, supported by Creative Europe, a study was published in November 2021. It explores the (lack of) knowledge amongst mainstream cultural managers of a) the work of artists with disabilities, b) how to make their programmes accessible to them and c) how to make their programmes accessible to persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Mapping on access to sport of persons with disabilities aims to develop an insight on participation and barriers to participation.</p> <p>The Commission implementing decision on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027 mainstreams inclusion and diversity as a cross-cutting priority and guiding principle.</p> <p>The Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy</p>	EAC	<p>The Creative Europe Programme provides opportunities for support to artists with disabilities. The objectives of the programme are pursued in a way that encourages inclusion, equality, diversity and participation, including, where appropriate, specific incentives that encourage the active participation in the cultural and creative sectors of people with disabilities, people belonging to minorities and people belonging to socially marginalised groups, including both the creative process and audience development; and gender equality, in particular as a driver of economic growth, innovation and creativity. The Creative Europe programme explicitly refers to the UNCRPD in its legal base and supports actions that works towards the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, both in the participation in the creative process and as part of the</p>



		<p>and the Erasmus+ programme guide implement this principle with the overall goal to reach out to people with fewer opportunities, notably persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Commission will publish reports on a regular basis on the progress made in the implementation of the inclusion measures, in particular through the mid-term evaluation of the programmes and annual reporting activities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> Final report: <a href="#">Time to Act: How lack of knowledge in the cultural sector creates barriers for disabled artists and audiences</a> <a href="#">Mapping on access to sport of people with disabilities</a></p> <p><a "="" href="https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditor/frame.aspx?ui=en-us&amp;rs=en-us&amp;wopisrc=https://europe.eu.sharepoint.com/teams/GRP-StrategyMonitoringFramework-DASHBOARD/vti/bin/wopi.ashx/files/e0671e9c606a486ab3e312dd8219b243&amp;wdenableroaming=1&amp;mssc=1&amp;hid=4f79accb-efd5-a979-93a8-940c70946323-439&amp;uiembed=1&amp;uih=teams&amp;uihit=file&amp;hhdr=1&amp;dchat=1&amp;sc={" pmo":"https:="" teams.microsoft.com","pmshare":true,"surl":"","curl":"","vurl":"","eurl":"https:="">https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditor/frame.aspx?ui=en-us&amp;rs=en-us&amp;wopisrc=https://europe.eu.sharepoint.com/teams/GRP-StrategyMonitoringFramework-DASHBOARD/vti/bin/wopi.ashx/files/e0671e9c606a486ab3e312dd8219b243&amp;wdenableroaming=1&amp;mssc=1&amp;hid=4f79accb-efd5-a979-93a8-940c70946323-439&amp;uiembed=1&amp;uih=teams&amp;uihit=file&amp;hhdr=1&amp;dchat=1&amp;sc={"pmo":"https://teams.microsoft.com","pmshare":true,"surl":"","curl":"","vurl":"","eurl":"https://</a></p>	<p>audience. A good example of this is the large-scale cooperation project Europe Beyond Access or the scheme Perform Europe that offered possibilities for artists with disabilities to carry out a performance. The Culture Moves Europe mobility scheme under the Creative Europe Programme offers additional financial support for people with disabilities to enable them participation in the international mobility projects, both within individual mobility action and the residency action. In individual mobility action, the amount of this top-up will complement basic grant (travel and per diem) and will depend on the specific needs of the person, but will not exceed the amount of the basic grant. The budget should be agreed with the Culture Moves Europe team. In residencies, the calculation of the disability top up is also based on the needs but depends on the duration.</p> <p>Between 2019 and 2023, the Creative Europe Programme has supported Europe Beyond Access. It has become the largest transnational Arts &amp; Disability project in the world. Since September 2018 (and until June 2023) Europe Beyond Access has been supporting artists with disabilities to break the glass ceilings of the contemporary theatre &amp; dance sectors:</p>
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					<p>and Transforming the Cultural Ecosystem - Disability Arts International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At a European level the consortium launched the European Arts and Disability Cluster representing more than 40 grass-roots companies across more than 20 European countries.</li> <li>- Learning Journeys, digital series of toolkits and educational resources specifically for disabled artists, producers and promoters, and funders and policymakers. They include a series of new films, discussions, podcasts, creative tasks, reports and more to support professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The Perform Europe project was an 18 month-project that took place in the 40 countries participating in the Creative Europe programme and the UK. The scheme offered the possibilities for artists with disabilities to carry out performances, and included the topic of disability in the Performing arts sector in the framework of the research carried out by Perform Europe. The produced results highlighted several findings on the topic of disability in the performing arts, such as the extra challenges faced by disabled artists</p>
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					<p>(Extra challenges when touring linked to additional costs for assistance, mobility among other things, or barriers in the education systems for disabled artists.).</p> <p><a href="#">Implementation guidelines - Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy   Erasmus+ (europa.eu)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022 (version 2)   Erasmus+ (europa.eu)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+</a></p> <p><a href="#">Mid-term evaluation of the European Solidarity Corps</a></p>
33. partner with the <b>International Paralympic Committee</b> to foster inclusion in sport and combat stereotypes.	2022 and 2024	On track	<p>In the framework of the Commission HealthyLifestyle4All initiative, the International Paralympic Committee has delivered the pledge to support different National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in Europe with financial grants.</p> <p>European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, partners with the International Paralympic Committee to combat stereotypes and foster inclusion in sport in the framework of the WeThe15 movement by the International Paralympic Committee and the International Disability Alliance (IDA).</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">International Paralympic Committee pledge</a>  <a href="#">HealthyLifeStyel4All initiative</a></p>	EAC	<p>In the framework of the Commission HealthyLifestyle4All initiative, the International Paralympic Committee has delivered the pledge to support different National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in Europe with financial grants.</p> <p>An upcoming Mapping Healthy Lifestyle study of the European Commission will assess the progress of the pledges and showcase good practice examples.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">International Paralympic Committee pledge</a>  <a href="#">HealthyLifeStyel4All initiative</a>  <a href="#">WeThe15</a></p>

			<a href="#">WeThe15</a>		
34. further promote the development of accessible tourism notably by cities via the <b>European Capital of Smart Tourism</b> award.	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The European Capital of Smart Tourism competition is ongoing, with its third edition in 2022.</p> <p>The transition pathway for tourism (2022) also takes accessibility into account.</p> <p>A guide on EU funding for tourism was published (2021).</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Capitals of Smart Tourism</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guide on EU funding for tourism</a></p> <p><a href="#">Press release on the transition pathway for tourism</a></p>	GROW	<p>Pafos (Cyprus) and Seville (Spain) were selected as the winners of the 2023 European Capital of Smart Tourism, following a European Jury meeting in Brussels on 9 November 2022. <a href="#">Cities (europa.eu)</a></p> <p>The Guide on EU funding for tourism is consistently updated. A list of good practices is published and is updated to the latest cycle of applicants (2023): <a href="#">Leading examples of Smart Tourism Practices in Europe (europa.eu)</a></p> <p>Fourth episode of podcast which is on accessibility: <a href="#">EU Smart Tourism Podcast   a podcast by The European Capital of Smart Tourism (podbean.com)</a></p> <p>The transition pathway for tourism (2022) also takes accessibility into account.</p> <p>A guide on EU funding for tourism was published (2021).</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Capitals of Smart Tourism</a>  <a href="#">Guide on EU funding for tourism</a>  <a href="#">Press release on the transition pathway for tourism</a></p>
35. provide by 2024 <b>guidance to Member States and practitioners</b> , including police officers, on improving support for victims of	2024	On track	<p>The European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024 stipulates that the rights of persons with disabilities and the adaptation of justice systems to these groups require specialised training as well as coverage in other courses.</p>	JUST	<p>The European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024 stipulates that the rights of persons with disabilities and the adaptation of justice systems to these groups require specialised training as well as coverage in other courses. Provision of such training is the strategic objective.</p>

<p>violence who are persons with disabilities.</p>			<p>Provision of such training is the strategic objective.</p> <p>The European Training Platform (ETP) was launched in December 2020 on the European e-Justice Portal and comprises training material for justice professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European judicial training strategy 2021-2024</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Training Platform</a></p>		<p>The European Commission supports projects addressing priorities of the above mentioned strategy under the Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights (JUST-2023-JTRA, deadline date 19 April 2023).</p> <p>The European Training Platform (ETP) was launched in December 2020 on the European e-Justice Portal and comprises training material for justice professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Commission will present an initiative aimed at supporting the development and strengthening of integrated child protection systems, which will encourage all relevant authorities and services to better work together in a system that puts the child at the centre (including children with disabilities).</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European judicial training strategy 2021-2024</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Training Platform</a></p>
<p>36. invite the Fundamental Rights Agency to examine the <b>situation of persons with disabilities living in</b></p>	<p>tbd</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) 2021-2023 programming document indicates that upon demand FRA will continue to provide evidence-based advice to the Commission inter alia</p>	<p>JUST FRA</p>	<p>The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) 2023-2025 programming document contains projects on ‘Fundamental rights protection of persons with disabilities</p>



<p><b>institutions</b> in relation to violence, abuse and torture.</p>			<p>related to the development of the post-2020 EU Disability Strategy and contribute to capacity building activities on independent living of persons with disabilities, based on Agency’s multi-annual research on the transition from institutional to community-based care.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">FRA programming document</a></p>		<p>living in institutions’ and on FRA’s participation in the EU framework under Art. 33(2) CPRD. These projects are also included in the draft programming document 2024-2026 submitted to the Commission. In its opinion on the draft programming document delivered in line with <a href="#">FRA’s founding regulation</a> (Council Regulation (EC) 168/2007, as amended), the Commission welcomes these projects and invites FRA to streamline disability throughout the Agency’s work.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">FRA programming document</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007R0168">FRA Founding Regulationhttps://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007R0168</a></p>
<b>5. PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES GLOBALLY</b>					
<p>37. in 2021, update the <b>Toolbox on the “Rights Based Approach, encompassing all human rights for EU development cooperation”</b> to address all inequalities, including discrimination against persons with disabilities, in external actions.</p>	2021	Completed	<p>The EU has updated the toolbox and published it in the EU International Partnership Academy. Webinars have been organised to present the updated toolbox, which applies to all sectors of EU external action.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Updated toolbox on the rights based approach</a></p>	<p>INTPA, EEAS, NEAR, ECHO</p>	<p>The EU has updated the toolbox and published it in the EU International Partnership Academy. Webinars have been organised to present the updated toolbox, which applies to all sectors of EU external action.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Updated toolbox on the rights based approach</a></p>

<p>38. ensure that the <b>EU delegations</b> play a more active role in supporting the implementation of the UNCRPD and fostering global ratification.</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission (Directorate-General for International Partnership - DG INTPA) organised an online training on disability inclusion in international partnership on 8-22 June 2021 for the Commission and EEAS staff working in the EU delegations and in the HQ services of DG INTPA and DG NEAR (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations). Several training seminars on the human rights-based approach are regularly organised in different EU delegations. Support was also given to EU delegations for integrating inclusion aspects in their (multi) annual programmes. A Disability Guidance note is being updated. Disability inclusion is mainstreamed in all humanitarian support managed by the Commission's department for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). In 2021, DG NEAR adopted an equality mainstreaming work plan 2021-2024, which also applies to their staff working in delegations.</p>	<p>INTPA, EEAS, NEAR, ECHO</p>	<p>In June 2022, the Commission (DG NEAR) organised an internal training on UNCRPD implementation, in the framework of the annual edition of the Fundamental Rights Network Seminar (FRi-Net), bringing together all colleagues working on human rights related matters in EU Delegations and HQ in the three NEAR regions. This included an exchange with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Mr Gerard Quinn. The Commission organised in March 2023 a gender responsive HRBA training and, together with the European Disability Forum (EDF), a webinar on disability in emergencies. New training on Disability inclusion took place in April and further training will be organised regularly.</p> <p>EU Delegations continue to review on a regular basis the situation and progress made on the rights of persons with disabilities in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions and formulated recommendations to partner countries. This dialogue on reforms is underpinned by significant financial assistance to both civil society and public authorities, managed by Delegations.</p> <p>The Commission (Directorate-General for International Partnership and Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) have published a Guidance note on Disability.</p>
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					<p>EEAS and DG ECHO, together with the European Disability Forum, organised an online training on Disability Inclusion in the Context of Emergency Situations on 28 March 2023 for EU Delegations and Staff in headquarters.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p><a href="#">EU Guidance note -Leaving no one behind -disability inclusion in EU external action   Capacity4dev (europa.eu)</a></p>
<p>39. systematically use the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) disability marker to track disability inclusive investments for a targeted <b>monitoring of EU funding.</b></p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission (DG ECHO) reports yearly on the DAC marker as far as humanitarian support is concerned. DG NEAR uses the DAC disability marker when adopting Action Programmes for enlargement and neighbourhood partner countries. According to the Disability marker data, 25% of new interventions funded from the development cooperation instrument NDICI in 2022 were disability inclusive. .</p>	<p>INTPA ECHO NEAR (assoc)</p>	<p>The systematic use of the OECD-DAC disability policy marker has continued to allow for progress on EU investments and mainstreaming in favour of the rights of persons with disabilities. For instance, the Commission (DG International Partnerships) reports an increase in the share of new disability inclusive programmes funded in a calendar year. According to the DAC marker data, 38% of the DG's new programmes were disability inclusive in 2022. Collectively for the Commission services, 27% of new funded actions were disability inclusive in 2022.</p> <p>DG NEAR reports having funded 35 new disability inclusive projects as per the OECD marker in 2022. Continuous progress is also being seen in the mainstreaming of disability in EU-funded projects, thanks to the use of the OECD-DAC disability policy marker when</p>

					adopting Action Documents. As for DG ECHO, in 2022, the Commission has funded 259 assistance projects that took into consideration and mainstreamed the needs of persons with disabilities among other beneficiaries, and 35 humanitarian aid projects specifically targeted at persons with disabilities.
40. provide <b>technical assistance</b> together with Member States to partner countries' administrations through their programmes and facilities.	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The governments of Armenia and Mauritius were supported via the programme SOCIEUX (EU Expertise on Social Protection, Labour and Employment). Mauritius was supported to assess the disability sector, finalise the draft disability bill, elaborate an action plan and set up a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Armenia was supported to revise its disability assessment policy.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">SOCIEUX+. EU expertise on social protection, labour and employment</a></p>	INTPA NEAR	<p>Support through the SOCIEUX (EU Expertise on Social Protection) programme continued. New support is provided to Ecuador Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, for inclusive labour policies. In 2022 support was provided to Mongolia, Nigeria and Kazakhstan for the social protection, labour and employment sector. Support on disability to Armenia and Mauritius was completed in 2022.</p> <p>Support through TAIEX (technical assistance from EU Member States administration) continued. 2 TAIEX events related to this topic were organised in 2022 (for Montenegro). TAIEX supports public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">SOCIEUX+. EU expertise on social protection, labour and employment</a>   <a href="#">TAIEX (europa.eu)</a></p>

<p>41. organise <b>regular structured dialogues</b> during the annual UNCRPD Conference of State Parties, and in the context of other existing multilateral fora, and enhance <b>cooperation with a focus on accessibility and employment.</b></p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As UNCRPD focal point for the EU, the Commission participates every year in the Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, the Commission engages in a dialogue with other State Parties and civil society in the thematic sessions of the Conference and in side events. The Commission also organises side events to raise awareness, share good practice and illustrate the work done in the EU to implement the UNCRPD. The Commission will continue to organise regular structured dialogues during the annual Conference of State Parties and in the context of other existing multilateral fora.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">14th session of the Conference of State Parties</a></p> <p><a href="#">Side events at the 14th session of the Conference of State Parties</a></p>	<p>EMPL</p>	<p>At the June 2023 Conference of State Parties to the UNCRPD, the EU statement was delivered by the Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli.</p> <p>The Commission as focal point for the EU for the implementation of the UNCRPD, organised a side event on ‘Developing Skills for Employment’. The side event addressed the advantages that society and economy can gain by investing in the skills of persons with disabilities, thus opening up their employment opportunities while simultaneously supporting employers in finding the workers they require. The Commission also sponsored and spoke in a side event on ‘Ending forced sterilisation for persons with disabilities and promoting sexual and reproductive rights’, and another one on ‘Maximising understanding and monitoring the impact of disability strategies’ organised by the Swedish Presidency. In addition, the EU cosponsored 3 other side events, two on digital accessibility organized by ITU and the Zero project and one on independent living. Representatives of persons with disabilities participated in all side events. The Commission will continue to organise regular structured dialogues during the annual Conference of State Parties and in the context of other existing multilateral fora.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p>
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					<a href="#">15th session of the Conference of State Parties</a>  <a href="#">Side events at the 15th session of the Conference of State Parties</a>
<b>6. EFFICIENTLY DELIVERING THE STRATEGY</b>					
42. reinforce the <b>Better Regulation toolbox</b> to enhance disability-inclusiveness for ensuring UNCRPD consistency.	2021	Completed	<p>The Commission published the updated Better Regulation toolbox on 25 November 2021. It enhances disability-inclusiveness for ensuring UNCRPD consistency.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Better regulation toolbox</a></p>	SG	<p>The Commission published the updated Better Regulation toolbox on 25 November 2021. It enhances disability-inclusiveness to ensure consistency with the UNCRPD.</p> <p>It was presented to the Better Regulation Network on 16 December 2021 and to the Equality Coordinators in each Directorate-General of the European Commission on 15 February 2022.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Better regulation toolbox</a></p>
43. ensure the coherent <b>inclusion and assessment of disability matters</b> in impact assessments and evaluations where relevant, including through training of staff preparing initiatives on the UNCRPD.	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The updated Better Regulation toolbox strengthens the disability dimension of impact assessments and evaluations. Training of Commission staff on disability mainstreaming was organised in December 2021 by the Task Force Equality Secretariat in cooperation with DG EMPL.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Better regulation toolbox</a></p>	SG	<p>The updated Better Regulation toolbox strengthens the disability dimension of impact assessments and evaluations. Training of Commission staff on disability mainstreaming took place in December 2021 and in May 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Better regulation toolbox</a></p>

<p>44. call on all EU institutions and bodies, agencies and delegations to <b>designate disability coordinators</b> for their institutions and for their disability strategies.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Council Conclusions on the Strategy, adopted on 14 June 2021, invite Member States to further promote the coordination of the UNCRPD National Focal Point with other ministries including by establishing contact points for disability matters in ministries and public bodies and cooperate with relevant European Commission services in accordance with the Strategy.</p> <p>The European Parliament Resolution of 7 October 2021 on the protection of persons with disabilities through petitions acknowledges the Commission’s call for all EU institutions, bodies, agencies and delegations to designate ‘disability coordinators’ and reiterates its call for focal points to be established in all EU institutions and agencies, including Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>In the Commission, disability coordinators have been nominated in all Commission DGs and an inter-service group has been established to coordinate the implementation of the Disability Rights Strategy within the Commission. Some EU agencies (CPVO, EASA, ECDC, EFSA, EIGE, EMA, EMSA, ERA, FRA) have also designated their disability coordinators.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> Council Conclusions on the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (14 June 2021)</p>	<p>All DGs</p>	<p>The Council Conclusions on the Strategy, adopted on 14 June 2021, invite Member States to further promote the coordination of the UNCRPD National Focal Point with other ministries including by establishing contact points for disability matters in ministries and public bodies and to cooperate with relevant European Commission services in accordance with the Strategy.</p> <p>The European Parliament Resolution of 7 October 2021 on the protection of persons with disabilities through petitions acknowledges the Commission’s call for all EU institutions, bodies, agencies and delegations to designate ‘disability coordinators’ and reiterates its call for focal points to be established in all EU institutions and agencies, including Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>In the Commission, disability coordinators have been nominated in all Directorate-Generals of the Commission and an inter-service group continues to coordinate the implementation of the Disability Rights Strategy within the Commission. 33 EU agencies (out of 48) have also designated their disability coordinators.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> Council Conclusions on the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (14 June 2021): <a href="https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300042/1/1619202100010_en.pdf">pdf (europa.eu)</a> <a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/press-room/en/infobox-item-attachment-item/infobox-item-attachment-item/19202100010_en">European Parliament Resolution TA-9-2021-0414 (7 October 2021)</a></p>
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			European Parliament Resolution TA-9-2021-0414 (7 October 2021)		
45. organise <b>regular high-level meetings</b> between the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the EEAS, involving representative organisations of persons with disabilities.	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The European Day for Persons with Disabilities conference in December 2021 gathered organisations of persons with disabilities and high-level EU institution representatives.</p> <p>On 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, the French Presidency organised a conference bringing together EU Ministers, organisations of persons with disabilities and EU representatives. Issues related to disability policy are also regularly on the agenda of high-level meetings of EU institutions, notably European Parliament’s plenary and committee meetings and Council meetings. Meetings take place with the European Parliament, the Council and the EEAS and involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities</p> <p>More info:</p> <p><a href="#">Council Conclusions on the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (14 June 2021)</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Conference of EU Ministers for Disability: “Improving accessibility and</a></p>	SG/EMPL	<p>The annual European Day for Persons with Disabilities conference was held in December 2021 and in November 2022. It gathered organisations of persons with disabilities and high-level EU institution representatives.</p> <p>Issues related to disability policy are also regularly on the agenda of high-level meetings of EU institutions.</p> <p>A trilateral meeting between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the Implementation of the Union of Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and advancing together on EU implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities took place on 31 May 2023. Participants included the Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, Minister Waltersson Grönvall representing the Swedish Presidency and MEP Pislaru representing the European Parliament. The purpose of the meeting was to share information between the three EU institutions on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and to discuss strengthened coordination for improved implementation and coherence. It was</p>



			<a href="#">access to rights and implementing the 2021-2030 EU Strategy” - French Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2022 (europa.eu)</a>		<p>agreed to continue dialogue under forthcoming presidencies and to work together through regular coordination meetings between focal points.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Council Conclusions on the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (14 June 2021)</a></p> <p><a href="#">European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 - Employment, Social Affairs &amp; Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)</a></p>
46. arrange an annual exchange of views with the <b>European Economic and Social Committee</b> and the <b>Committee of Regions</b> .	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The Commission participated in several of the meetings organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR), for instance on their opinions on the implementation of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030. These exchanges contribute to informing the work on EU disability policies. The opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the Strategy provided the opportunity to engage in a dialogue to raise awareness on specific disability policy matters in the various regions in the EU.</p> <p>Recent work of the EESC relates to the political rights of persons with disabilities and in particular, the right to vote in European Parliament elections.</p>	EMPL	<p>The Commission continues to participate in meetings organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on matters related to disability actions including those on the UNCRPD and the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The Commission adopted follow-up responses that included disability matters such as that responding to the CoR opinion on “Enhancing cohesion policy support for regions with geographic and demographic handicaps”, CoR Opinion on Hate crimes”, EESC opinion on the “European Disability Card”, and EESC opinion on the “Care strategy”.</p> <p>European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka</p>

			<p><b>More info:</b> EESC public hearing: <a href="#">EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030</a></p> <p>Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions</p>		<p>Šuica, participated in the event organised on the occasion of the EESC Civil Society Days 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Opinions of the European Committee of the Regions</a></p> <p>European Commission follow-up to CoR <a href="#">Opinions – Plenary Session of November-December 2022</a></p> <p><a href="#">Follow-up on EESC Opinions</a></p>
<p>47. <b>Flagship initiative 6:</b> The Commission will in 2021 establish the <b>Disability Platform</b>. It will replace the existing High Level Group on Disability and support the implementation of this Strategy as well as national disability strategies. It will bring together national UNCRPD focal points, organisations of persons with disabilities and the Commission. The Platform could be used as a forum to exchange on the UN's assessments of Member</p>	2021	Completed	<p>The Commission Expert Group 'Disability Platform' was created in October 2021. The first two meetings of the Disability Platform took place on 15 December 2021 and 18 February 2022.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Commission Expert Group 'Disability Platform'</a></p>	EMPL	<p>The Commission Expert Group 'Disability Platform' was created in October 2021. The Platform meets three times per year. 4 sub-groups specifically dedicated to flagship initiatives of the Disability strategy were created in 2022 and 2023 (AccessibleEU, Disability Card, Employment package and Independent living). The agendas and minutes of the meetings are published on the Commission website.</p> <p><b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Commission Expert Group 'Disability Platform'</a></p>

States' implementation of the UNCRPD. The online presence of the Disability Platform will contain information on its meetings, activities, analysis, and country information, including promotion of accessible and inclusive good practices.					
48. establish a dialogue on disability with <b>existing networks</b> of local and regional authorities (e.g. Eurocities, Council of European municipalities and regions).	Continuous	Ongoing	<p>The Commission provides financial support to <a href="#">Eurocities</a> and regularly participates in events to advance on the implementation of disability policy in cities.</p> <p>The Commission also exchanged with POLIS (the network of cities and regions for transport innovation) on the accessibility of electrical charging points.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Eurocities</a>  <a href="#">POLIS</a></p>	EMPL	<p>The Commission, continues to provide financial support to Eurocities and participate in their meetings and events. The Commission continues to work with POLIS, including within the Commission expert group set up to develop guidance on the accessibility of electrical charging points.</p> <p>There are contacts with networks of local and regional authorities (e.g. Eurocities and the Council of European municipalities and regions) in the context of the Access City Award.</p> <p>The Access City Award winners were invited to the conference on the occasion of the 2022 European Day of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Eurocities</a>  <a href="#">POLIS</a>  <a href="#">Sustainable Transport Forum (STF)</a></p>
49. explore funding opportunities through	Continuous	Ongoing	In line with the CERV work programme, actions to support, advance and	EMPL	In line with the CERV work programme, actions to support, advance and implement

<p>the new Citizenship, Rights, Equalities and Values Programme (CERV) to foster <b>engagement of citizens with disabilities on equal basis with others.</b></p>			<p>implement policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities are ongoing. The work programme for 2022 includes establishing a contract to monitor the transposition of the European Accessibility Act. Supported actions also include the annual conference to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the organisation of the Access City Award and an awareness-raising campaign on the Disability Rights Strategy to be launched in 2022.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021</a></p>		<p>policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities are ongoing. The work programme for 2023 includes a contract with the European Disability Expertise that will provide independent &amp; scientific data, information and analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities in all Member States. This work supports the European Commission in the implementation of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030. The work programme 2023 also includes a contract to monitor the transposition of the European Accessibility Act. Supported actions also cover the annual conference to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Access City Award, and an awareness-raising campaign on the Strategy launched in 2022 and running until summer 2023.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 - Employment, Social Affairs &amp; Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Together for Rights: the Strategy for persons with disabilities - Employment, Social Affairs &amp; Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)</a></p>
<p>50. support <b>Member States to use EU Funds</b> in compliance with the</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission is supporting Member States to make use of the ERDF and ESF+ for investments in the inclusion of</p>	<p>All DGs</p>	<p>The horizontal enabling conditions for cohesion policy and other EU funds, covered by the Common Provisions</p>

<p>UNCRPD and respecting accessibility ensuring that EU funds do not support actions that contribute to segregation or exclusion.</p>		<p>persons with disabilities and independent living in compliance with the UNCRPD, ensuring that actions prevent and combat segregation and exclusion. The Commission is reviewing the operational programmes submitted by Member States for the structural funds 2021-2027. The horizontal enabling conditions for cohesion policy and other EU funds, covered by the Common Provisions Regulation, require a national framework to be in place in each Member State to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU in line with specific criteria. In addition, there are thematic enabling conditions relevant for the shift from institutional to community-based care. When the Commission is of the view that an enabling condition is not fulfilled, it will start a contradictory procedure, which may lead to the conclusion that relevant expenditure can not be reimbursed until the Commission considers that the enabling condition is fulfilled.</p> <p>Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Commission so far endorsed 23 national plans, including a number of reforms and investments to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Moreover, Member States were required to explain how their plans contribute to equal opportunities for all.</p> <p>In the management of the rural development programmes under the</p>	<p>Regulation, require a national framework to be in place in each Member State to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU in line with specific criteria. In addition, there are thematic enabling conditions relevant for the shift from institutional to community-based care.</p> <p>In the scope of Cohesion policy programmes, the Commission assesses the fulfilment of the horizontal enabling condition on implementation and application of the UNCRPD, as well as the relevant thematic enabling conditions. The Commission has concluded negotiations of 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programmes. The majority of the relevant programmes include safeguards related to ensuring accessibility, deinstitutionalisation and that measures should not lead to segregation. In a few Member States, there are specific safeguards on no support for residential care facilities. Several other Member States' programmes include safeguards on ensuring compliance of investments with the UNCRPD, General comment 5 and CRPD Committee's concluding observations. Supported measures include - in a few Member States - infrastructure and equipment supporting community and family care (e.g. social housing, individual apartments).</p> <p>Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the 27 national plans approved by</p>
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			<p>Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027, Member States will be required to effectively involve civil society and other partners in the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plans and consult with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">REGULATION (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy</a></p>		<p>the Commission and adopted by the Council include a number of reforms and investments to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Moreover, Member States were required to explain how their plans contribute to equal opportunities for all.</p> <p>Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 and in view of the preparation of CAP Strategic Plans, Member States were required to involve civil society, stakeholders and, where relevant, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination. Meanwhile the Commission has approved all CAP Strategic Plans. Under those Plans, Member States commit to design and implement the interventions aiming at enhancing the social inclusion in rural areas particularly under specific objective 8.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Common Provisions Regulation (2021/1060)</a></p>
<b>7. LEADING BY EXAMPLE</b>					
51. <b>Flagship initiative 7:</b> The Commission will adopt a <b>renewed HR strategy</b> that will include actions to promote diversity and inclusion of persons with disabilities, and	2022	completed	<p>The renewed HR strategy was adopted in April 2022. It contains specific actions to promote diversity and inclusion of staff with disabilities in the Commission and links to a more detailed diversity and inclusion action plan.</p> <p><b>More info:</b></p>	HR/EPSO	<p>In December 2022, the Director General of DG HR adopted the updated Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, in the form of a Communication to the Commission, which includes a section (with 7 sub-actions) dedicated to staff with disabilities and carers for family members with</p>

<p>invites EPSO to complement these efforts in collaboration with other recruiting EU institutions.</p>			<p><a href="#">Communication to the Commission - A new Human Resources Strategy for the Commission</a></p>		<p>disabilities. The implementation period of the new action plan spans 2023 and 2024. The Commission’s HR strategy contains specific actions to promote diversity and inclusion of staff with disabilities in the Commission and links to a more detailed diversity and inclusion action plan. EPSO adopted its new Equality and Diversity Action Plan in May 2022, which covers dedicated outreach activities to increase the diversity of EPSO’s candidate pool, including candidates with disabilities and special needs. Inter-institutional information in this regard is shared on the Equal Opportunities web page on EPSO’s web site.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Communication to the Commission - A new Human Resources Strategy for the Commission</a>  <a href="#">Equal opportunities, Diversity and Inclusion   EU Careers (europa.eu)</a>  <a href="#">Homepage   EU Careers (europa.eu)</a>  <a href="#">People first - Diversity and inclusion (europa.eu)</a></p>
<p>52. ensure the <b>continuous removal and prevention of barriers</b> by all services for staff and public with disabilities (e.g. accessible ICT</p>	<p>Continu ous</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Commission is taking measures to remove barriers for staff and public with disabilities, including when it comes to the accessibility of buildings, information and events. More details have been provided below.</p>	<p>HR/DIGIT/ COMM</p>	<p>The Commission is taking measures to remove barriers for staff and public with disabilities, including when it comes to the accessibility of buildings, information and events. More details have been provided below.</p>

equipment and tools for online meetings).					
53. strengthen <b>reporting</b> by the management of all Commission services on diversity, including reasonable accommodation for staff with disabilities.	Continuous	Ongoing	An ad-hoc multi-service group (OIB, DIGIT, HR) meets regularly to discuss reasonable accommodation for specific cases of staff members with disabilities or providing care to persons with disabilities. This group is working to find solutions that can apply to many other colleagues in similar situations. Some Commission services have started reporting on diversity and reasonable accommodation.	All DGs	An ad-hoc multi-service group (OIB, DIGIT, HR) meets regularly to discuss reasonable accommodation for specific cases of staff members with disabilities or providing care to persons with disabilities. This group is working to find solutions that can apply to many other colleagues in similar situations. Some Commission services have started reporting on diversity and reasonable accommodation.
54. adopt, in 2021, an <b>Action Plan on web accessibility</b> , to be shared and promoted in all EU institutions, bodies and agencies in view of ensuring compliance of EU websites, documents published on these websites and online platforms, with European accessibility standards.	2021	Completed	A Task Force on Web Accessibility was established mid-2021 to pool expertise and inform and guide the implementation of the plan. The Action Plan will be published in 2022.	COMM	A Task Force on Web Accessibility established mid-2021 to pool expertise and inform and guide the implementation of the Action Plan on Web Accessibility which was adopted in September 2022 is published under the accessibility section on the Europa Web Guide. The purpose of this multiannual action plan is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensure that the European Commission's web presence (including websites, mobile apps and social media content, both external and internal) is accessible to persons with disabilities;</li> <li>- support all Commission services in achieving that goal; and</li> <li>- encourage the exchange and harmonisation of practices across all EU institutions and bodies to aim at compliance of the whole</li> </ul>



					<p>Europa domain with the applicable standards.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Web accessibility action plan - WEBGUIDE - EC Public Wiki (europa.eu)</a></p>
<p>55. improve by 2023 accessibility across its <b>audiovisual communications and graphic design services</b> as well as of its publications and events, including where relevant sign language interpretation and documents in ‘easy-to-read’ format.</p>	2023	On track	<p>International Sign language interpretation has been offered at all press conferences and COVID-related announcements of the President of the Commission. Work is ongoing to broaden this offer to all high-profile events with the participation of Commissioners.</p> <p>The EU's Publication Office provides support, training and expertise to all EU institutions, agencies and bodies in the production of accessible publications and websites. The pilot Project ‘Reading disability and document access’ mandated by the European Parliament resulted in a study, published in December 2020, and the forthcoming creation of a chatbot facilitating speech-to-text supported search of EU publications.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Website on accessible publications</a></p> <p>Study: <a href="#">Reading disability and document access, a possible approach</a></p>	COMM/OP/SCIC	<p>International Sign Language interpretation is added on more and more corporate videos and recordings. In 2022, for the first time, the ‘State of the Union’ speech at the European Parliament was provided with live ISL interpretation arranged by the Commission.</p> <p>In audiovisual communication and social media the Commission uses ALT-text features offered by the various social media platforms.</p> <p>The EU's Publication Office provides support, training and expertise to all EU institutions, agencies and bodies in the production of accessible publications and websites. The pilot Project ‘Reading disability and document access’ mandated by the European Parliament resulted in a study, published in December 2020, and the forthcoming creation of a chatbot facilitating speech-to-text supported search of EU publications.</p> <p>Key publications for citizens are now systematically available in several formats, with font types, sizes, and colours carefully chosen to improve readability for users with visual impairments. Digital publications include alternative texts and</p>

					<p>long descriptions for the visual elements and are accessible for screen readers. New pilot-projects (2002-2024) include audiobook, easy-to-read and/or Braille versions of some the most relevant publications.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Website on accessible publications</a></p> <p><b>Study:</b> <a href="#">Reading disability and document access, a possible approach</a></p>
56. ensure accessibility for all <b>newly occupied buildings</b> of the Commission, subject to possible urban planning requirements of the host countries.	Continuous	Ongoing	The Commission has continuously been improving the accessibility of its buildings. The most recent building occupied by the Commission is the L107 in Brussels. It was designed and built by a private owner and complies with local legislation including rules on accessibility.	OIB/All DGs	The Commission has continuously been improving the accessibility of its buildings. The most recent building occupied by the Commission is the L-51 in Brussels. It was designed and built by a private owner and complies with local legislation including rules on accessibility.
57. ensure the accessibility of <b>venues</b> where Commission events are organised.	Continuous	Ongoing	The Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB) verifies the accessibility of venues for events that take place inside Commission premises in Brussels. Venues that are under the responsibility of the Commission's Office for Infrastructure and Logistics comply with Belgian rules on accessibility. The accessibility standard EN17210 is being analysed to identify any need for complementary accessibility measures.  For events taking place outside Commission premises, DG SCIC provides advice and guidance for all	SCIC/OIB	The Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB) verifies the accessibility of venues for events that take place inside Commission premises in Brussels. Venues that are under the responsibility of the Commission's Office for Infrastructure and Logistics comply with Belgian rules on accessibility. The accessibility standard EN17210 is being analysed to identify any need for complementary accessibility measures.  For events organised in EU Member States, accessibility is guaranteed at Representations. Outside of EU Representations, DGT takes accessibility

			queries related to conference management – including a venue’s accessibility.		into account when organising Commission events at other premises, eg. for Translating Europe workshops, European Day of Languages, European Master’s in Translation, and others.
58. ensure that by 2030 all Commission buildings follow <b>European accessibility standards</b> , subject to urban planning requirements of the host countries.	Continuous	Ongoing	The Commission’s new Real Estate policy considers the European accessibility standards when determining which buildings to renovate, divest, occupy or search in the period until 2030.	OIB/All DGs	The Commission’s new Real Estate policy considers the European accessibility standards when determining which buildings to renovate, divest, occupy or search in the period until 2030.
<b>8. AWARENESS, GOVERNANCE AND MEASURING PROGRESS</b>					
59. examine in 2022, the <b>functioning of the EU framework</b> and propose actions on this basis.	2022	Delayed	The Commission will give due consideration to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (notably its Article 33) and the 2015 UNCRPD Committee’s Concluding observations for the EU.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the initial report of the European Union</a>	EMPL	The Commission is preparing a study on the functioning of the EU Framework set up to comply with article 33 of the UNCRPD. The study is expected to be launched before end 2023 and completed by Q1 2025. On the basis of the study the Commission might propose actions.  More info: <a href="#">Register of Commission Documents - SWD(2023)95 (europa.eu)</a>
60. organise an <b>annual dialogue</b> between the EU Focal Point at the Commission and the EU Framework.	Continuous	Ongoing	In 2021, the Commission met with the members of the EU Framework to exchange information and find synergies.	EMPL	The Commission met with the EU Framework on 4 October 2022. Discussions included updates on relevant activities of the Commission as well as of Framework Members, namely the European Disability Forum, The Ombudsman, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the related Committees of the

					European Parliament. A new meeting is planned for October 2023.  <b>More info</b> <a href="#">EU Framework (including minutes of the meetings)</a>
61. develop and publish, in 2021, a <b>monitoring framework</b> for the objectives and actions of this strategy.	2021	Completed	A webpage including a monitoring table of the actions of the Strategy was published in May 2022.	EMPL	A webpage including this monitoring table of the actions of the Strategy was published in May 2022 and is to be updated on an annual basis. The 2023 update was published in September 2023.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Monitoring framework</a>
62. develop, at the latest by 2023, new <b>disability indicators</b> with a clear roadmap for implementation. These should include indicators for children and the situation of persons with disabilities in employment, education, social protection, poverty and social exclusion, living conditions, health, use of new communication technologies, supporting the indicators for the EU Social Scoreboard, the European Semester	2023	On track	In 2021, the disability employment gap was added as a new headline indicator of the Social Scoreboard tracking progress on social issues in the Member States.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Social Scoreboard indicators</a>	ESTAT	In 2021, the disability employment gap was added as a new headline indicator of the Social Scoreboard, used in the European Semester to track progress on social issues in the Member States.  Indicators about the situation of persons with disabilities as regards the use of new communication technologies were published at the end of 2023. Indicators for the other domains are expected to be available by the end of 2023.  <b>More info:</b> <a href="#">Social Scoreboard indicators Database - Digital economy and society - Eurostat (europa.eu)</a>

Sustainable Development Goals.					
63. prepare a <b>report</b> in 2024 of this Strategy assessing the progress of its implementation and, if deemed necessary, update its objectives and actions.	2024	On track	Information on progress on the implementation of the Strategy reported in this monitoring framework will feed into the preparation of the forthcoming report.	EMPL	<p>The Commission will prepare the report on progress on the implementation of the Strategy for 2024.</p> <p>Information on progress on the implementation of the Strategy reported in this monitoring framework will feed into the preparation of the report.</p> <p>In April 2023, the Commission has submitted a report to the UN on implementation by the EU of the UNCRPD. The report contains replies of the European Union to the list of issues from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 20 April 2022 (CRPD/C/EU/QPR/2-3). The European Commission, as focal point for EU implementation of the UNCRPD, prepared the replies in liaison with other EU institutions, bodies, and agencies.</p> <p>The UN Special rapporteur on disabilities visited the EU in 2022 looking into implementation of EU disability policies including the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and published the report in February 2023.</p> <p>More info  <a href="#">Report to the UN on the implementation of the UNCRPD by the EU</a></p> <p><a href="#">Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on his visit to the European Union</a></p>

<p>64. develop a <b>strategy for data collection</b>, steer Member States accordingly and provide an analysis of existing data sources and indicators including administrative data.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Work is ongoing on preparing a paper presenting the existing data sources (survey-based and administrative) as well as the data collection strategy.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Eurostat database</a></p>	<p>ESTAT/EMPL</p>	<p>Work is ongoing on preparing a paper presenting the existing data sources (survey-based and administrative) as well as the data collection strategy.</p> <p><b>More info:</b>  <a href="#">Eurostat database</a></p>
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