

Public consultation on the preparation of a new EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The approximately 50 million EU citizens with disabilities are one of the largest groups of citizens at a disadvantage. To improve this situation, the European Commission is preparing a new EU Disability Strategy for 2010 to 2020.

This questionnaire asks for your opinion on the problems of persons with disabilities and ways of solving them. We appreciate all replies from citizens, organisations, businesses, academics and other stakeholders.

We will use the results of this public consultation to assess the possible impacts of various options for actions that can be included in the new Disability Strategy.

Completing the survey should take about 20 minutes. The questions are available for off-line viewing [here](#).

The data protection statement relating to this survey is available [here](#).

If you have difficulty in accessing this online consultation, please request an accessible document (Microsoft Word) from EMPL-G3-UNITE@ec.europa.eu. You can also complete the questionnaire in the alternative offline format and return it to the same address.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mark the options that apply to you

Are you replying: -

- As an individual citizen, on behalf of myself only
 - I am in the age group age group: -drop down menu-
 - What is your gender: Woman, Man, No Answer
 - Do you have a disability?
 - I have a disability
 - physical
 - sensory
 - intellectual
 - mental
 - I was born with a disability
 - I acquired a disability during my life
 - I have no disability
 - I take care of persons with disabilities as a family member or as a non-paid carer
 - I take care of persons with disabilities as a formal carer (it is my paid job)
 - I have no personal connection with disability issues
 - Other (*free text, optional*)
 - No answer

- In which country do you live: -drop down menu-
- Where do you work
 - I work in the private sector
 - I work in the public sector
 - I do paid work in a civil society organisation (*including disability organisations*)
 - I do unpaid work (such as volunteering)
 - I am unemployed
 - No answer
- On behalf of an organisation
 - What type of organisation do you represent:
 - Private sector
 - Public sector
 - NGO, including disability NGO
 - Other
 - What is the name of your organisation
 - What is your Interest Representative Register ID, if applicable (link to IRRID page)
 - Please give the contact e-mail address of your organisation

1. WHAT SHOULD THE NEW EU DISABILITY STRATEGY COVER?

1.1. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements

- Persons with disabilities can participate in everyday activities as fully as other citizens
- Persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other citizens
- Persons with disabilities face discrimination in their everyday activities because of their disabilities
- EU citizens with disabilities find it more difficult to move to another Member State than other EU citizens

(five-point scale, *strongly disagree to strongly agree + don't know*)

1.2. How important are the following problems for persons with disabilities:

- Lack of access to built environment
- Lack of access to transport
- Lack of access to Internet and communication technologies ...
- Lack of access to other customised goods and services
- Lack of equal opportunities in the labour market
- Lack of equal opportunities in education
- Lack of equal access to healthcare (doctors, hospitals etc.)
- Barriers to free movement within the EU
- Difficulty in living independently (*for instance institutionalisation, lack of services in the community*)
- Difficulty of participating in democratic and public life
- Difficulty of participating in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
- Poverty and low income
- Mistreatment (such as abuse or neglect of liberty and dignity)

(not important at all, not important, somewhat important, important, very important + don't know)

1.3 Have you personally experienced any of the problems mentioned in Question 1.2?

- Yes
- Only indirectly, through the experience of persons close to me, such as family or friends
- No answer

2. THEMATIC AREAS

2.1 Accessibility

2.1.1. How effective are the following measures in improving accessibility for persons with disabilities:

- Developing guidelines and standards to promote accessibility of
 - the built environment
 - transport
 - Internet and communication technologies
 - other goods and services
 - Developing legislation to ensure accessibility of
 - the built environment
 - transport
 - Internet and communication technologies
 - other goods and services
 - Funding for research on accessibility of
 - the built environment
 - transport
 - Internet and communication technologies
 - other goods and services
 - Measuring accessibility of
 - the built environment
 - transport
 - Internet and communication technologies
 - other goods and services
 - Providing know-how to support application of the "reasonable accommodation" principle *there is a clickable info bubble explaining "reasonable accommodation"*
 - Greater involvement of persons with disabilities in developing accessibility standards
 - Increasing use of "universal design" or "design for all" *there is a clickable info bubble explaining both concepts*
 - Regular checks of accessibility of goods and services
 - Increasing availability of assistive technologies
 - Supporting the development of the assistive devices industry
- (not effective at all, not effective, somewhat effective, effective, very effective+ don't know)

2.1.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to improving accessibility for persons with disabilities

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs

- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.2 Employment

2.2.1. How useful are the following to persons with disabilities in seeking employment:

- Providing training to job-seekers with disabilities
- More and better labour market support services
- Raising awareness of the potential of persons with disabilities among employers
- Promoting opportunities for self-employment
- Increasing accessibility of workplaces
- Providing assistive technologies
- Better accessibility of standard technologies and digital content
- Fighting discrimination related to recruitment, employment and career advancement
- Enforcing the obligation to make reasonable accommodation for disabled persons at the workplace
- Reducing financial risks to persons with disabilities entering or leaving the labour market

(not useful at all, not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful + don't know)

2.2.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to increasing employment of persons with disabilities

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs
- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.2.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.3. Education

2.3.1. How much will the following improve equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in education and training:

- Increasing human and financial resources to bring students with disabilities into the general and higher education system
- Facilitating mechanisms for students with disabilities to move from special to general education
- Providing specific training for teachers to accommodate students with disabilities in their classrooms
- Providing scholarships and grants for persons with disabilities
- Increasing the availability of accessible learning material, including electronic material and assistive technologies
- Increasing the accessibility of educational buildings
- Awareness-raising activities in the general education system to increase social acceptance and understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities

- Adapting adult education and training programmes to the needs of persons with disabilities

(not at all, not, somewhat, clearly, very much + don't know)

2.3.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities in education enjoy equal opportunities

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs
- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.3.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.4 Healthcare

2.4.1 How much will the following improve equal access to healthcare for persons with disabilities

- Providing training for health professionals on health needs of persons with disabilities
- Developing more health services for special needs of persons with disabilities
- Preventive action to reduce the incidence of disabilities
- Prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance

(not at all, not, somewhat, clearly, very much + don't know)

2.4.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to healthcare

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs
- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.4.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.5 Free movement

2.5.1 To what degree will the following help to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy the right to free movement

- Portability of disability-related benefits and services when moving to another Member State
- Mutual recognition of disability status across the Member States

- Harmonisation of criteria used by the Member States to assess the degree of disability
 - Work towards similar disability related benefits across the Member States
- (not at all, not, somewhat, clearly, very much + don't know)*

2.5.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to free movement

- European Union
 - National government
 - Regional/local government
 - NGOs, including disability NGOs
 - Private sector
 - Other (free text, optional)
- (much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)*

2.5.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.6 Independent living, deinstitutionalisation and services in the community

2.6.1 How much will the following increase the ability of the disabled to live independently?

- Avoiding the placement of persons with disabilities in residential institutions by
 - supporting families and other informal carers
 - increasing provision of community-based services.
 - increasing access to assistive technologies that can support the disabled to live independently
 - Developing action plans to close down residential institutions
 - Retraining and requalification of staff working in institutions to provide them with skills for community-based care
 - Setting minimum quality standards for care services
 - Providing persons with disabilities with personal budgets .
 - Awareness-raising activities to make the right of people with disabilities to live in the community more socially acceptable
- (not at all, not, somewhat, clearly, very much + don't know)*

2.6.2. Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to live independently

- European Union
 - National government
 - Regional/local government
 - NGOs, including disability NGOs
 - Private sector
 - Other (free text, optional)
- (much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)*

2.6.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.7 Participation in democratic and public life

2.7.1 How useful are the following in enabling persons with disabilities to participate in democratic and public life

- Providing policy-related information in accessible formats

- Ensuring elections and voting, including related material, are fully accessible
- Media action to improve the image of persons with disabilities
- Providing support to disability NGOs

(not useful at all, not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful + don't know)

2.7.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to participate in democratic and public life

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs
- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.7.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.8. Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

2.8.1 How useful are the following in enabling persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

- Providing cultural material and programmes in accessible formats
- Ensuring that cultural venues and monuments and sites of cultural value are accessible
- Supporting the development of creative activities for persons with disabilities
- Providing funding to address disability issues in sports
- Ensuring that sports-related facilities are accessible
- Ensuring that sports staff concerned are trained in disability issues

(not useful at all, not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful+ don't know)

2.8.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

- European Union
- National government
- Regional/local government
- NGOs, including disability NGOs
- Private sector
- Other (free text, optional)

(much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know)

2.8.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.9 Adequate standards of living and social protection

2.9.1 How useful are the following to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy an adequate standard of living and social protection

- Expanding job opportunities
- Compensating for extra costs and burdens caused by disability in everyday life
- Providing adequate disability pensions
- Measuring the situation of persons with disabilities when gathering data on the groups most vulnerable to poverty

- Expanding public housing opportunities for persons with disabilities
(*not useful at all, not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful+ don't know*)

2.9.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring adequate standards of living and social protection

- European Union
 - National government
 - Regional/local government
 - NGOs, including disability NGOs
 - Private sector
 - Other (free text, optional)
- (*much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know*)

2.9.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

2.10 Freedom and dignity

2.10.1 How useful are the following in guaranteeing freedom and dignity for persons with disabilities

- Developing legislation to ensure persons with disabilities have full legal capacity
 - Supporting people with disabilities in decision-making (e.g. in financial transactions and medical treatment options) by:
 - Developing legislation
 - Developing practical tools
 - Preventing violence, ill-treatment and abuse of persons with disabilities by:
 - Developing legislation (e.g. criminal law)
 - Developing practical tools (e.g. supporting services, training for families and formal carers)
 - Monitoring relevant legal practice in the Member States
 - Raising awareness- of the situation of persons with disabilities
- (*not useful at all, not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful+ don't know*)

2.10.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to guaranteeing freedom and dignity for persons with disabilities

- European Union
 - National government
 - Regional/local government
 - NGOs, including disability NGOs
 - Private sector
 - Other (free text, optional)
- (*much less, less, same, more, much more + don't know*)

2.10.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

3. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

How important are the following to the coordination and management of disability policies?

- Assigning clear political responsibility for disability at all governance levels

- Identifying a lead office for disability issues
 - Developing communication and cooperation mechanisms between different actors (EU, national and local governments, civil society)
 - Establishing indicators and targets to measure improvements in the situation of persons with disabilities
 - Assessing the impact of new policies on persons with disabilities
 - Harmonising rules and standards for accessible goods and services
 - Increasing financial support for disability matters
 - Identifying resources dedicated to disability purposes within funding schemes more clearly
 - Developing strategies for communication and awareness-raising on disability issues
 - Harmonising definitions of disability in the EU
 - Improving the stability of disability objectives in agenda-setting
 - Improving possibilities of legal recourse for persons with disabilities
- (not important at all, not important, somewhat important, important, very important + don't know)*

4. THE ROLE OF THE EU

4.1 How suitable would the following be in meeting disability-related objectives at EU level

- Adopting European legislation, which harmonises disability-related objectives across the Member States
- Setting targets and indicators to compare Member State performance
- Monitoring and evaluating the situation of persons with disabilities (including collection of statistics and research projects)
- Helping the Member States to exchange information and best practice
- Providing financial support to disability NGOs
- Providing financial support to local projects on disability-related issues
- Supporting research and development programmes and studies
- Developing information and publicity and acceptance campaigns
- Ensuring that goods and services purchased by public authorities and infrastructure built for the public are more usable by and accessible to persons with disabilities *(not suitable at all, not suitable, somewhat suitable, suitable, very suitable+ don't know)*

4.2 Which of these three statements is closest to your view on how the EU should work on disability issues:

- Disability issues are best addressed by a single specific European policy
- Disability issues are best addressed by mainstreaming them into every relevant European policy
- Both approaches should be used in combination

(Single choice + don't know)

5. ANY OTHER REMARKS

If you have any remarks that you have not been able to make while answering the questions, please put them here.