

FOURTH DISABILITY HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(May 2011)

Disclaimer

* **This is an unedited version.** A large part of this document is based on contributions written in English by non native authors. The Commission did not have the time nor sufficient translating resources to correct linguistic imperfections.

The Report takes account of actions occurring from 2010 until the first quarter of 2011.

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INTRODUCTION

This Report gives an overview of progress made in ratifying and implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU and its Member States. It is prepared on the basis of replies to questionnaires and updates received from 27 Member States and various non governmental stakeholders. The Report can be particularly useful in helping to identify good practices.

It provides an update of developments in the national and EU implementation of the Convention, with detailed reference to the governance structures required by Article 33 of the UNCRPD. The report of this year also examines the interface between implementation of the UNCRPD and the headline targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy for education, employment and poverty.

The first chapter summarises the updated information on the process of signature and ratification of the Convention and its Optional Protocol by the Member States and the EU, as well as on reservations and declarations. The second chapter focuses on progress in the national implementation and monitoring of the UNCRPD. Section 2.1 concerns the national implementation of the UNCRPD (national strategies to implement the Convention and focal points and coordination mechanisms). Section 2.2 includes information on the monitoring of the UNCRPD (covering the framework, including independent mechanisms, the involvement of civil society in the monitoring process and the collection of data and statistics). Section 2.3 will provide an overview of how Member States are addressing the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to the Europe 2020 targets for education, employment and poverty reduction, and to what extent they are monitoring disability-specific progress towards these targets.

These two chapters are complemented by three annexes with practical information. Annex 1 presents, in a table, the state of signatures, reporting and ratifications/formal confirmation of the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol by the Member States and the Union. Annex 2 lists details of identified responsible authorities, focal points, coordination mechanisms and contact points. Annex 3 provides links to websites where more information on the UNCRPD can be found, including national translations of the text of the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol.

1. STATE OF PLAY ON SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION AND OPTIONAL PROTOCOL IN THE EU AND THE MEMBER STATES

On 30 March 2007, the day of opening for signature, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed by the European Community and twenty two Member States. Seventeen of those Member States also signed the Optional Protocol.

In March 2011 the UN CRPD had been signed by the European Community (now the European Union) and all its Member States. The Optional Protocol has been signed by 22 Member States.

The EU deposited the instruments of conclusion/formal confirmation at the UN the 23 December 2010 so the Convention has entered into force for the EU on 22 January 2011. Eighteen Member States have ratified the UN CRPD: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus,¹ Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. The Optional Protocol has been ratified by fifteen Member States; Austria, Belgium, France, Cyprus², Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK.

Ratifications

The ratification procedures are in most cases complicated and provide for various stages involving several institutions.

Austria signed the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol on 30 March 2007 in New York. Both instruments were ratified on 6 August 2008 in Vienna and entered into force in Austria 26 October 2008. (Art. 50 Absatz 2 Ziffer 2 B-VG, Art. 50 Absatz 2 Ziffer 3 B-VG)

In Belgium the statement of the reasons (Exposé des Motifs) was finalised on 21 March 2008. It was presented to the meeting of the Council of Ministers (Conseil des Ministres) by mid 2008. The Council of Ministers addressed it to the State Council (Conseil d'Etat) before presenting the file to the Parliament for a vote. The same procedure was followed at eight various levels of competent authority (federal state, the Communities and the Regions). Belgium ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol on 2 July 2009. They became executive on 1 August 2009. The first report from Belgium is due at the UN on 1 August 2011 at the latest.

Bulgaria is in the process of ratifying the Convention. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has been preparing documents which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. Under Bulgarian legislation the Parliament has the power to ratify the Convention. Bulgaria also signed Optional Protocol on 18.12.2008. The UN Convention will be translated and published in Bulgarian.

¹The internal procedure for ratification was finalised 4 March 2011 and the instruments have not yet been deposited with the UN.

² The internal procedure for ratification was finalised 4 March 2011 and the instruments have not yet been deposited with the UN.

In Cyprus, to the Bill for the ratification of the Convention was approved by the Council of Ministers on 2 December 2010 and was been submitted to the House of Representatives. The ratification law for both the Convention and the optional Protocol was approved 4 March 2011. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in the process to deposit the ratification instruments.

The Czech Republic ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2009. That important event influenced the preparation and form of a new National Plan in the field of disability, i.e. National Plan for Promoting Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2010–2014 approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No 253 of 29 March 2010.

Denmark launched a comprehensive consultation process in the autumn of 2008, encompassing all ministries, organisations and the general public and aimed at assessing any legal and financial preconditions for and implications of ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The comprehensive consultation process formed the basis of the government's continued work. As the coordinating ministry of disability aspects, the Ministry of Social Welfare (the ministry has changed name twice since then: first to the Ministry of the Interior and Social Affairs and later to the Ministry of Social Affairs), established an inter-ministerial working group in autumn 2008 tasked with identifying implications and preconditions for Denmark's ratification of the UN Disability Convention. The inter-ministerial working group held its first meeting on 4 September 2008. The meeting reviewed the obligations of the Convention and concluded that it needed, in particular, to study the scope of obligations inherent in the non-discrimination provisions under Article 5, obligations under the provisions of accessibility under Article 9 and obligations under the provision of education under Article 24. This conclusion lead to the set up of three subgroups each charged with performing a detailed analysis of one of the mentioned problem areas. The Ministry of Social Welfare headed up the subgroups on non-discrimination provisions and accessibility, while the Ministry of Education was in charge of the subgroup on education. The subgroups on the non-discriminatory and accessibility provisions held two meetings, supplemented by several written consultation rounds. Concurrently with the work in the inter-ministerial working group, Denmark adopted Act no. 1347 of 19 December 2008 amending the Parliamentary Election Act, the Danish European Parliament Elections Act and the Local and Regional Government Election Act. The amended Act ensures that Denmark met the provisions of Article 29 of the Convention, which require states to guarantee persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others. In addition to the amendments made to the elections legislation, the inter-ministerial working group concluded that no further legislation was needed before Denmark could ratify the Convention. The analyses carried out by the subgroups and the inter-ministerial working group were presented to the government on 11 March 2009 and constituted the basis for preparing a motion for resolution to ratify the Convention. The draft motion for resolution underwent an external consultation round and was uploaded to the public consultation portal, www.borger.dk, on 23 March 2009, the deadline for comments being 6 April 2009. Stakeholder organisations were able to monitor the ratification process constantly at the Ministry of Social Welfare website and later at the Ministry of the Interior and Social Affairs website and were also able throughout the process to contact the Ministry directly. The final resolution was presented in the Danish parliament on 22 April 2009 and adopted on 28 May 2009. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and Social Affairs subsequently launched the preparation of the ratification instruments for the formal ratification of the UN Disability Convention. The ratification instrument was

deposited on 23 July 2009. The Convention has formally been in force for Denmark since 23 August 2009. The ministry of Social Welfare and later the Ministry of the Interior and Social Affairs and now the Ministry of Social Affairs regularly briefed the Organisations for People with Disabilities in Denmark throughout the entire ratification process. Additionally, four meetings were held with these Organisations in Denmark, at which the Convention and the ratification process were discussed and reviewed.

Estonia: A detailed analysis of obligations provided for in the UNCRPD is done. For each obligation, this means that its compliance with the Estonian Constitutional order is examined; corresponding provisions in national legislation are identified together with any relevant actions/programmes/activities pursued in this regard, which are subsequently assessed for determining whether full implementation of a particular obligation is already ensured. The Ministry of Social Affairs issued a consultation paper to consult with people with disabilities in particular on the impact of the UN Convention in those areas where its articles are at variance with current and proposed law and on the impact of the proposals on individuals, businesses and others. The consultation process is ongoing. The UN Convention articles are formally discussed with other Ministries and the Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities and soon be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Estonia for approval and then submitted to the Parliament of Estonia. Both, the Government and the Parliament have to approve the proposal for ratification. If the Parliament gives its consent to the proposal, it will finally be submitted to the President, who has the discretion in deciding whether or not to sign the instrument of ratification. Additional issues requiring further clarification or legislative amendments may also emerge during the preparation for ratification. Ministry of Social Affairs is dealing with the preparatory work. The first official circulation for approval of the Draft Ratification Proposal has been done and further negotiations with the local governments and other ministries will follow. After the preparations of ratifying the UN Convention have taken place, Estonia will be ready to ratify the UN Convention in 2012. Additional issues requiring further clarification or legislative amendments may also emerge during the preparation for ratification. The preparation takes several years and Estonia would be prepared to ratify the UN Convention in 2010 at the earliest. Estonia will move towards ratification as soon as is practicable.

In Finland, the main part of the legislation already complies with the requirements of the Convention. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is preparing the legislative amendments needed for the ratification of the Convention. A new Act on the use of coercion on persons with intellectual disabilities and dementia will be required by Article 14 of the Convention (Liberty and security of person). A working group to prepare the legislation was set up in July 2010. In relation to the right of persons with disabilities in need of institutional or residential care to move from one municipality to another, Article 18 (Liberty of movement and nationality) and Article 19 (living independently and being included in the community) require that (1) the restriction on choosing one's municipality of residence laid down in Section 3 of the Municipality of Residence Act be eliminated by dividing the relevant costs between municipalities, (2) section 13 of the Social Welfare Act be amended so that social services may be provided not only to the residents of a municipality but also to persons moving there. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for consequently preparing the relevant Government bills. The legislative amendments necessitated by Articles 18 and 19 were completed during 2010 and the relevant Acts entered into force on 1 January 2011.

Additional issues requiring further clarification or specification of legislation may also emerge during the preparation for ratification. Finland has currently no mechanism that has been, or could as such be, designated to attend to the tasks referred to Article 33.2 of the UN Convention. Thus, the ratification of the Convention will necessitate either the establishment of a new mechanism or the transformation or some existing mechanism into such a mechanism. All in all, preparation of the legislative amendments will still take time and Finland would be prepared to ratify the Convention during the next Government's term of office.

France: The ratification of the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol were enabled by Law 2009-1791 of 31 December 2009. The instruments of ratification were deposited at the UN on 18 February 2010. Consequently, the Convention and the Optional Protocol entered into force in France on 20 March 2010.

Germany: The German Bundestag passed the law with the consent of the Bundesrat which was necessary for ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol. The law entered into force on 1 January 2009. Germany ratified both the Convention and the Optional Protocol. The instruments of ratification were deposited 24 February 2009 at the U. N. Headquarters. Germany has translated both the Convention and the Protocol into sign and easy-to-read versions.

Greece signed the UNCRPD on 30th March 2007 and the Optional Protocol on 27th September 2010. The ratification of the Convention and the Protocol will follow soon. Consultation will be required with all the involved institutions (also qualified ministries, organizations of people with disabilities etc.) to cover all subjects involved in the ratification. The ratification process is long so until completed, measures are taken to create suitable conditions for a smooth implementation as soon as the ratification process is completed.

Hungary has ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the 20th July 2007 by the Act No 92 of 2007.

Ireland signed, subject to ratification, the UNCRPD on its opening for signature on 30 March 2007. It is the Government of Ireland's intention to ratify the UNCRPD as quickly as possible, taking into account the need to ensure that all necessary requirements under the Convention are being met. There will be no undue delay in the State's ratification of it. The National Disability Strategy (NDS) of Ireland in many respects comprehends many of the provisions of the UNCRPD. A high-level Interdepartmental Committee advises on and monitors legislative, policy and administrative actions required to enable the State to ratify the UNCRPD. This Committee has developed a Work Programme to (i) address any elements of the National Disability Strategy that require alignment with the Convention and (ii) address any matters that fall outside the NDS which are required to enable Ireland to ratify. This programme is being progressed across the relevant Government Departments. The Committee will also closely examine the Optional Protocol to the Convention in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Attorney General (the Government's legal advisers). The Optional Protocol will be addressed by the Government at the time of ratification of the Convention.

Italy: On November 28th, 2008, the Italian Government approved the ratification proposal for the UN Convention and Optional Protocol, which was passed by the Parliament on February 24th, 2009. By law no. 18 of 3 March 2009, the Italian Parliament has ratified the UN

Convention and the Protocol. On 15 May 2009 Italy deposited its instruments of the ratification with the depositary of the Convention.

The ratification decision also established the new National Observatory on the condition of the persons with disabilities, which met for its first official meeting on 16 December 2010. The Observatory is responsible for the implementation of the UNCRPD in close co-operation with the inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights (CIDU) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will also assure the monitoring activities provided by Article 33.2 of the UN Convention.

Latvia: On 28 January 2010 the Parliament of Latvia finalised the ratification of the Convention at the national level. In accordance to the Depositary Notification communicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the ratification was completed on 1 March 2010. The Convention entered into force for Latvia on 31 March 2010 in accordance with its Article 45(2). Furthermore, on 3 June 2010 the Parliament of Latvia has ratified at the national level also the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The ratification of the Optional Protocol was completed on 31 August 2010 and it entered into force for Latvia on 30 September 2010.

Lithuania: On 30 March 2007, the Minister of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania signed the UNCRPD and its Optional Protocol in New York. On 27 June 2007, by the Order No. A1-176, the Minister of Social Security and Labour initiated an inter-institutional taskforce to deliver the analysis of relevance and feasibility for ratification of these international documents. The taskforce involved representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Environment, the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and representatives of NGOs.

The analysis of the relevance and feasibility of ratifying the UNCRPD encompassed the conformity of the Lithuanian legal framework with the provisions of the Convention as well as the possibility of ratifying all articles of the Convention and the Protocol. On 27 May 2010, seeking to become a full-fledged member of the international community pursuing the equal opportunities mainstreaming policy effectively, Lithuania ratified the UN Convention and its Optional Protocol (Republic of Lithuania Law on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Official Gazette, 2010, No.67-3350).

Luxembourg intends to ratify the Convention in 2011. After having analysed the compatibility of national legislation with the Convention - in order to identify potential conflicting laws or regulations - Luxembourg has started the official ratification procedure in May 2010. The Convention and the Optional Protocol will be approved through a law. The Government Council has approved the law proposal, and it has been passed on by the Minister of Family Affairs and Integration to the Chamber of Deputies (la Chambre des Députés) for further discussion. It is important to mention that the Chamber cannot take the final vote before the Council of State (Conseil d'Etat) has advised the bill. The following steps include the sanction of the law, the ministerial countersignature and the promulgation of the law by the Grand Duke. The law will become executive once it has been signed by the Grand Duke. Unfortunately, it is not possible to foresee when the legislative procedure will be completed.

In Malta, the Inter-Ministerial Committee, that was set up by Office of the Prime Minister, has finished its study on what steps need to be taken so as to ensure that Malta will be in a position to ratify the Convention and the Optional Protocol. The report was presented to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family is currently working on the necessary amendments to existing laws which are required for Malta to be able to ratify. Once the required amendments to legislation are enacted it is expected that the Government will proceed with ratification.

In The Netherlands four major procedural steps towards ratification have been identified. 1. Translation into Dutch; that has been finished in 2007; 2. Legal analysis of the content of the convention, based on the adopted text; this analysis has been finished in 2010. 3. Legal analysis of the Dutch legislation; this analysis is in the final phase, taking into account new legislation and the legislative programme of the new government. 4. Based on the results of the legal analyses a draft version of the Approval and Introductory Act are prepared. These Acts contain all changes necessary in Dutch laws to implement the Convention. Civil society is actively involved in these legal analyses and in the drafting of the Approval and Introductory Act. The Netherlands expect to start the consultation process with civil society of the drafts of the Approval and Introductory Act in spring 2011. The proposals for the Approval and Introductory Act will then be submitted to the Council of State. Upon receipt of the advisory opinion of the Council of State the proposals will be submitted to the Parliament. It is expected that this will take place at the end of 2011. The ratification process will be concluded when both Chambers of Parliament have consented to the proposals for legislation. Since 2009 a newsletter on the progress of equal treatment is published, which also deals with the ratification process. The dissemination of this newsletter will continue in 2011. It covers all relevant topics on promoting equal treatment of persons with a disability.

Poland: The Polish policy related to the ratification of international agreements maintains that before opening the final stage of the ratification process (preparing the ratification act and submitting it to the Council of Ministers and the Parliament) amendments to the legal acts must be adopted (or at least the adoption procedure should be well advanced), especially as concerns important ones or those with financial implications.

The decision on the ratification of the Convention will be taken on the basis of a detailed analysis of its provisions and of the Polish legislation, policy and practice in the areas covered by the Convention. This analysis was initiated in December 2008. A second stage of work (opened in February 2010) consists of preparing an extensive report based on the document "Guidelines on treaty-specific document to be submitted by states parties under Article 35, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and published in November 2009. The report will provide a basis for decision on the ratification. When establishing the report, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy will undertake extensive consultations within national administration, with social partners and NGOs. The outcome of the work will be presented at the Council of Ministers together with a proposal on future actions. It is expected that these documents will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for final decisions by the mid-2011.

For international agreements concerning human rights, the Polish Constitution requires "a major ratification process", which means that the Council of Ministers has to adopt a draft Act on the ratification and submit it to the Parliament for consideration and approval, before the

President can ratify it. Ratified agreements are promulgated in the Official Journal of Laws and only then constitute part of the domestic legal order. They are applied directly unless their application depends on the enactment of a statute. By virtue of the Constitution, an agreement ratified upon prior consent granted by statute (i.e. in the “major ratification process”) has precedence over statutes if the agreement cannot be reconciled with the provisions of the statutes.

Portugal: The UNCRPD was ratified in 2009 and since then it is part of the Portuguese legal system. Both the first Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2009) and the National Strategy for Disability (2010-2013) develop and implement the Principles and obligations defined in the Convention. The National Institute for Rehabilitation (INR, I.P.) is the national coordination mechanism within the government and it will elaborate the national report to submit to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011. According to the National Strategy for Disability the independent mechanism will be created in 2011.

In Romania, the Ratification Law of the UNCRPD was promulgated by the President of Romania in November 2010 (Law 221/2010 for the Ratification of the Convention regarding the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities) and the instruments of ratification were deposited 31 January 2011.

Slovak Republic: The National Council of the Slovak Republic expressed its agreement with the Convention and the Optional Protocol in its Resolution no. 2048 of 9 March 2010 and decided that it constitutes an international agreement which, pursuant to Article 7 (5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, has precedence over national laws. The President of the Slovak Republic ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol on 28 April 2010. On 26 May 2010 the Deed of Ratification was deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The Convention became binding for the Slovak Republic on 25 June 2010 in accordance with Article 45 (2) and also the Optional Protocol entered On 15 May 2009

Slovenia: The Act on Ratification of the Convention and the Protocol was adopted in the Parliament on April 2, 2008. The Convention and the Protocol were published in the Official Journal of the Republic in Slovenia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the documents to the UN Permanent Mission of Slovenia, which handed in the documents at the UN on 24 April 2008. The UN Convention and the Protocol were officially translated, submitted to the UN and published on the UN web page by 2007. In 2008, the Convention was printed in Slovenian in both, the usual and the accessible formats for persons with disabilities, namely the easy-to-read, Braille and sign language versions.

Spain signed the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol on 30 March 2007 in New York. The instruments of ratification were deposited at the UN on 3 December 2007 and they were published into the Spanish Official State Gazette (BOE) on 21 April 2008. Consequently, they entered into force in Spain on 3 May 2008.

Sweden: An investigator within the Government’s office examined Swedish legislation in order to see if it is in harmony with the UN Convention's requirements and those of the Optional Protocol. This work has been published in a report and referred to stakeholders for further consideration. This report formed the basis of a bill to the Parliament. The ratification of the Convention requires a parliamentary resolution. Sweden ratified the UN Convention

and its Optional Protocol 15 December 2008. According to the above mentioned examination the Swedish legislation is in harmony with the UN Convention's requirements. The translation into Swedish can be found at www.sweden.gov.se SÖ 2008:26.

United Kingdom ratified the Convention 8 June 2009 and the Optional Protocol 7 August 2009. The UK has now developed reporting and monitoring arrangements, including the establishment of an independent mechanism comprising the UK's four equality and human rights commissions.

The European Union signed the Convention the 30 March 2007. On the 26 November 2009 the Council Decision concerning the conclusion, by the European Community, of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted (Decision 2010/48/EC).³

As required by Articles 3 and 4 of this Decision, a Code of Conduct needed to be adopted before the deposit of the instrument of formal confirmation on behalf of the European Union could take place. On 2 December 2010, a Code of Conduct between the Council, the Member States and the Commission was agreed, setting out internal arrangement for the implementation and representation of the EU relating to the UNCRPD.⁴ Following this, the EU deposited the instruments of ratification on 23 December 2010. The UNCRPD entered into force with respect to the EU on 22 January 2011.

The proposal concerning the conclusion of the Optional Protocol, adopted by the Commission on 29 August 2008⁵ and transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council is still under discussion in the Council.

Declarations and Reservations

The majority of the Member States do not foresee any reservation as regards to the matter of application of the Convention or of the Optional Protocol. Even though the need for reservations after finalising the screening of the national legislation may arise, most countries express a strong political will to ratify the entire Convention and its Optional Protocol.

As exception, at the signing ceremony the Dutch Ambassador had a statement on several articles. It is not known now whether the need for new reservations or explanations will arise.

The Maltese Government has also already made an interpretative statement regarding the phrase "sexual and reproductive health" in Article 25(a) to the effect that Malta understands that this phrase does not constitute recognition of any new international law obligation, does not create any abortion rights and cannot be interpreted to constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion. Malta further understands that the use of this phrase is intended exclusively to underline the point where health services are provided, they are provided without discrimination on the basis of disability. Malta has also made a reservation pursuant to Article 29(a)(i) and (iii) of the Convention. While declaring its full commitment to ensure the effective and full participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including the right to vote by secret ballot in elections and referenda, and to stand for elections, with regard to Article 29(a)(i), Malta reserved the right to continue to apply its

³ Decision 2010/48/EC <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:023:0035:0061:EN:PDF>

⁴ Council of the European Union, 16243/10

⁵ COM (2008) 530 final. The proposal was endorsed by the European Parliament on 24 April 2009

current electoral legislation in so far as voting procedures, facilities and materials are concerned and with regard to (a)(iii) Malta reserved the right to continue to apply its current electoral legislation in so far as assistance to voting procedure is concerned. It is envisaged that both the above-mentioned interpretative statement and reservation will be confirmed on ratification.

France has not made any reservations; however, it made a declaration on the term 'consent' in Article 15. France will interpret this term in conformity with international instruments such as the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and its Additional Protocol on Biomedical Research, as well as on its national legislation which is already consistent with the latter instruments.

Poland submitted a reservation concerning article 23.1 (b) and 25 (a) (reproductive health). International law of treaties asks for the confirmation at the moment of submitting ratification documents. This point will be decided at the moment of ratifying the Convention.

When depositing the Deed of Ratification, the Slovak Republic expressed a reservation in respect of the provision of Article 27 (1), a) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with its Article 46, in the following wording: “The Slovak Republic shall apply the provisions of Article 27 (1) a) provided that implementation of prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability when determining the conditions of recruitment, hiring and continuance of employment shall not apply to hiring of members of armed forces, armed state security services, armed corps, National Security Authority, Slovak Information Service and Fire Brigade and Rescuers.”

The UK has entered reservations in respect of Work and Employment (Convention Article 27 mainly); Equal Recognition Before the Law (Convention Article 12.4); and Liberty of Movement; and an interpretative declaration and a reservation in respect of Education (Convention Article 24, Clause 2 (a) and 2 (b)).

Cyprus has submitted a reservation on Article 27 of the Convention regarding employment.

The EU in the Decision concerning the conclusion of the UNCRPD states that it concludes the Convention without prejudice to the right, conferred on its Member States by virtue of the Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, to exclude non-discrimination on the grounds of disability with respect to employment in the armed forces from the scope of the Directive. Therefore the Member States may, if appropriate, enter their own reservations to Article 27(1) of the Disabilities Convention to the extent that Article 3(4) of the said Council Directive.

2. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MEMBER STATES, EUROPEAN UNION AND STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR THE UNCRPD
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Austria

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

In Austria, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection is the focal point at federal level. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection will be also the coordinating body and thus mainly responsible for the National Action Plan 2011-2020 to implement the UNCRPD, containing the guidelines and strategies for the Austrian policy for persons with disabilities in the upcoming years.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

In accordance with Article 35 para. 1 of the UNCRPD, Austria drew up its **First State Report** for the United Nations in October 2010. On the basis of numerous contributions from governmental and non-governmental organisations, this comprehensive report reflects the measures taken to fulfil the obligations from the agreement.

The '**National Disability Action Plan' 2011 to 2020** is established with the purpose of implementing the UNCRPD. The Plan shall be built on the basis of the UN Guidelines referring to Art. 35, as well as to the Report of the Austrian Government on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities, published in 2008. It shall thus contain the guidelines and strategies for the Austrian policy for persons with disabilities in the upcoming years. The Federal Government will decide on the Plan. The plan is in the process of being established and should be adopted at the end of 2011.

The Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection will be the coordinating body and therefore the main responsible for the National Action Plan. The Federal Disability Advisory Board will be involved in the process. In order to involve all stakeholders, the compilation of the Plan shall be reached in close cooperation with civil society. The „Government Report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Austria 2008” has been translated into an “Easy to read” version.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The 2008 amendment to the Federal Disability Act established the Independent Monitoring Committee of the Federal Disability Advisory Board at the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection with representatives from the federal government, the Länder, the social insurance institutions, disability organisations, social partners and the Disability Ombudsman.

The Independent Monitoring Committee has started to work on implementing the UNCRPD. Since December 2008 the Committee has held 25 meetings (one per month). About every 6 months, a public meeting is organized. The last public meeting took place in October 2010. One meeting was held at the Austrian Parliament in November 2009. About 35 individual complaints were raised until now. The Independent Monitoring Committee deals with statements related to disability (e.g. inclusive education, occupational and work therapy, guardianship, violence and abuse). Although the Independent Monitoring Committee is only responsible for the federal level, it also deals with requests at the regional level if no other monitoring unit is in charge.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The Committee has taken steps to involve civil society in a high degree.

The Independent Monitoring Committee of the Federal Disability Advisory Board is solely composed of members from the civil society. In fact, the members of the Committee are representatives from disability related organizations, human rights organizations, development aid organizations and representatives of academic institutions.

Representatives of disability organisations are involved in many boards of the Federal government (for example protection against dismissal of people with disabilities, most second level authorities in matters of people with disabilities).

The Federal Disability Advisory Board has to be heard by the Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection in all important issues concerning people with disabilities.

Furthermore, there are various tools and methods used in Austria to foster the empowerment of people with disabilities:

- Experts' opinions on laws
- Support in all questions about equal rights
- Raising public awareness: events, campaigns, reports, brochures
- Brochures in 'Easy-to-read'-versions
- Empowerment-programmes financed by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Working groups with representatives from all stakeholders, including the disability NGOs
- 'Peer-Groups'

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Art. 31)

For the statistics that might be used for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention, refer as well to the aforementioned 'Government Report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Austria 2008' as well as the First State Report to the UN in 2010.

Belgium

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The federal entities are currently implementing the Convention in their respective competences in order to allow for an effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in the entire state of Belgium.

The working group 'Family, Sports and Well-Being', People with Disability section of the Interministerial Conference (CIM) has been created for this goal. On 9 mars 2010 the CIM unanimously agreed to:

- Put in place the relevant focal point and coordination mechanism as mentioned by article 33.1 of the UN Convention and the information note
- Put in place a interfederal coordination mechanism as mentioned in article 33.1 according to the general principles described in the information note ;

Thereby, focal points were established at the federal level as well as in the various regions and communities.

- At the *federal* level, the focal point is the Federal Public Service Social Security.
- In the *Flemish* region, the 'Equal Opportunities in Flanders' (*Gelijke Kansen in Vlaanderen*) body is the focal point.
- In the Walloon region, the Agency for Integration of Persons with Disabilities (*Agence Wallonne pour l'Intégration des Personnes handicapées*) is the focal point.
- In the *Brussels-Capital* region, the focal point is the External Relations Directorate (*Direction des Relations extérieures*)
- For the Commission of the *French-speaking* Community (*Commission communautaire française - COCOF*), the PHARE Service (*Personne Handicapée Autonomie Recherchée*) is the focal point
- For the *Joint Community Commission* (*Commission communautaire commune -COCOM*), the COCOM Administration is the focal point
- In the *French-speaking community*, the WBI Multilateral World Service (*Wallonie-Bruxelles International – Service multilatéral mondial*) is the focal point
- In the German-speaking community, the Authority for Persons with Disabilities (*Dienststelle für Personen mit Behinderung*) is the focal point.

The Federal Public Service Social Security will constitute the coordination mechanism..

Each Belgian authority is currently drafting its report in line with its respective competences. However a single report combining the information from all the authorities must be considered by the various competent authorities in Belgium when the UN convention has been ratified.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Belgium ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol on 2 July 2009. They became binding on 1 August 2009. The first report from Belgium is due at the UN on 1 August 2011 at the latest.

The political actors from different federal entities are currently working intensively on the procedures for the implementation of Article 33 in order to:

- develop it in various aspects: focal points, coordination mechanisms, independent mechanisms and civil society association
- respect the individual competences of the federal political entities
- respect the Paris principles
- allow the full integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of daily life

On a regional level, the action plans reveal a mainstreaming policy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

According to Article 33, a monitoring mechanism must be deployed by the various competent authorities in Belgium when the UNCRPD has been ratified.

At the interministerial conference on 9 March 2010 the following decisions have been made:

- To put in place a mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the UNCRPD within the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism.

The Belgian federal State and the various regions and communities are now negotiating with the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism to make an agreement of collaboration between each of these public authorities and the Centre so that the Centre can execute the missions of art. 33.2 of the Convention for each of these authorities. Civil society will be represented in the Centre.

Furthermore, the National Higher Council of Disabled Persons has given its opinion on the independent mechanism and on the involvement of civil society.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

Each Belgian authority is currently drafting its report in line with its respective competences. However a single report combining the information from all the authorities must be considered by the various competent authorities in Belgium when the UN convention has been ratified. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does organize so called COORMULTI-meetings where the public authorities and civil society do meet for discussion about the content of the report to the Committee. Doing so civil society participates in the process of the redaction of the report.

Afterwards civil society shall participate in the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism to comment the report of the Belgian authorities.

At national level

The Belgian Disability Forum (BDF) and the national higher Council of disabled persons monitored work on the development of the Convention. The BDF expresses opinions during the implementation of the ratification process and will follow the application of the Convention.

The BDF is an ASBL comprising 20 associations of disabled persons. The ASBL aims to inform its members regarding the repercussions of supranational regulation on the rights of disabled persons. The ASBL also endeavors to make the political, economic and social Belgian actors aware of the need to incorporate the disabled needs of persons into their discussion and decision process. The BDF is the official representative of Belgium within the European Disability Forum.

At federal level

The national higher Council of disabled persons is in charge of examining all the problems relating to disabled persons, falling within the federal competence. The Council is entitled, through its own initiative or at the request of the relevant Ministers, to deliver opinions or to make proposals on these subjects, inter alia for rationalization and of the coordination of the legal and regulatory provisions. The Council is composed of 20 members, specially qualified through their participation in activities of organizations of persons with disabilities or through social or scientific activities.

At regional and community level

People with disabilities and the organizations/associations representing them are represented on the management Board of the Office for Persons with Disabilities in the German-speaking Community. They are therefore directly involved in important decision-making processes during the formation of the policy for the disabled in the German-speaking Community.

There is also an annual plenary meeting attended by the disabled and all the organizations/associations representing them. The aim is to discuss common concerns and questions and work out joint responses to outstanding issues.

In Flanders, the umbrella organization "Toegankelijkheidsoverleg Vlaanderen" ('Accessibility consultation Flanders') represents the people with disabilities concerning the accessibility-topic. They are consulted with regards to the accessibility policy that the Flemish Equal Opportunities unit works on.

With regards to disability, there is no regional board or council representing people with disabilities. But the Flemish equal opportunities policy will actively consults civil society when setting their policy targets via the open method of coordination. Representative organizations are not only involved when elaborating the transversal equal opportunities policy. Even at the level of the different departments and policy fields structures are created to guarantee the participation of people with disabilities in the policy preparation and execution (for e.g. the working group 'Integrale Jeugdhulp', the advisory committee at the Flemish Agency for Disabled Persons (VAPH), Flemish Platform for organizations with disabilities, commission diversity at SERV, etc.). Furthermore, ad hoc consultation will be organized when deemed necessary (for e.g. in regard to the first report on the CRPD).

For the territory of the Walloon Region, a Walloon Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities was created. This council aims to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and of their associations to the development of the measures which concern them. To this end, the council:

- represents all the associations representative of persons and can ensure coordination of them;

- Gives to the Walloon regional Council and to the Government, upon their request or own initiative, opinions on the guidelines of the policy for persons with disabilities, and on the practical methods of its implementation;
- delivers its opinion on the operation of the Agency and the way in which it carries out the missions which are entrusted to it

Various tools and methods are used in Belgium to foster empowerment of people with disabilities, both at federal and local level.

The associative sector regularly organizes debates, dialogue and training. For example, training intended mainly for the professionals, including the professionals of the associative sector, is organized by the SPF Social Security. In the German speaking Community each disabled person who contacts the Office for Persons with Disabilities is given individual assistance in the form of an *Individuelle Dienstleistungsplan* (Individual Service Plan) (IDP) specifying the measures necessary for their social and occupational integration. Furthermore, awareness-raising measures are also being continually organised to increase the general public's awareness of the needs of the disabled, regular training courses are also available for disabled people. The people concerned and the organisations representing them are actively involved in a working group for monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan 2006 – 2015 of the Council of Europe.

In Flanders there have been several awareness raising campaign organised to share examples of good policy practice in the field of the built environment, such as the campaign ‘Accessible Flanders’. This campaign seeks to raise awareness of public building access. The database www.toevla.be contains information on the accessibility of buildings, premises and tourist facilities such as town and city halls, schools, hotels, museums, socio-cultural centres, sports centres, cycle paths, footpaths and other tourist facilities. A ‘search’ function makes short work of retrieving information related to one’s own limitations and needs. In this way, one can look up accessibility and specific facilities for the motor disabled, visually disabled, hearing impaired or people suffering from respiratory troubles and allergies. Another example is the week on Universal Design: 1-7/10/2007. During this week many activities were organized in light of acquainting people with the principles of Universal Design and on giving good examples. Over the week various activities were organized all over Flanders: a contest for architecture students, a conference on the accessibility of our cultural heritage; ‘blind’ dining (eating a three-course-meal in a completely darkened room); publication of an ‘accessibility newspaper’ (featuring good practices). During the closing meeting an inclusive concert in the spirit of full accessibility for people with disabilities (sign-language, feeling chairs, personal assistance...) was organised.

The website www.toegankelijkgebouw.be holds a manual explaining the Flemish accessibility regulation (Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering tot vaststelling van een gewestelijke stedenbouwkundige verordening inzake toegankelijkheid, 5 June 2009). The manual was created as a practical work tool with tips and illustrations on how to put the theory of Universal Design into practice.

In 2011 Equal Opportunities in Flanders co-finances a campaign by GRIP on the implementation of the UN CRPD (<http://gelijkerechten.be>)

In Wallonia, pursuant to Article 120 a) of the new communal law, it is permissible to the communes of to establish an Advisory Board of disabled persons.

These communal Advisory Boards of disabled persons aim to:

- Incorporate the needs of disabled persons into the urban and communal policies of the local authorities.
- Strengthen or establish regular co-operation and dialogue mechanisms enabling disabled persons, by the channel of their representative organizations, to contribute to planning, to the implementation, to the follow-up, to the evaluation of each action of the political and social field aiming at equality and inclusion.

- All the services of reception and of accommodation approved by the AWIPH are required to create a "Council of the users" representing those and, if necessary, their legal representatives, comprising at least three members including an elected President at its centre. Its members can under no circumstances form part of the organizing service power.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

Article 31 of the Convention of the United Nations stipulates that states have to collect statistics to monitor the implementation of the Convention. Each entity or body collecting statistics and/or the developing indicators which aims to ensure the effective application of the Convention, can collect and analyze relevant data. Since there is no single definition of 'disability' in Belgium, certain persons with disabilities may not be recorded by various data collection mechanisms, and due to the structure of the Belgian State and of legislation on the protection of privacy, it is not possible to globalize the various statistics. For example, at federal level, there are statistics on the benefits and on medical certificates allowing for granting benefits as well as various social and tax advantages. In the Walloon Region, the indicators currently used are those relating to the management Contract of the Walloon Agency for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. Indeed, certain main principles of this contract relate to a number of articles of the Convention.

Bulgaria

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The focal point is the Integration of People with Disabilities Department, in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Bulgaria is currently in the process of establishing a coordination mechanism foreseen in Article 33 (1) of the UN Convention. Representatives of the NGOs of and for people with disabilities which are members of the National Council for Integration of People with Disabilities are involved in that discussion and also in the same process of establishment of the coordination mechanism.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

At the beginning of 2011, an expert group was set up with the task to prepare a comprehensive plan for preparing Bulgaria for implementation of the UN CRPD. Representatives of the national representative NGOs of and for people with disabilities take part of the mentioned expert group.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

During the work of the expert group preparing the comprehensive plan for Bulgaria's implementation of the UN CRPD, the issues of a framework for promoting/protecting/ monitoring CRPD will be discussed.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The National Council of Integration of People with Disabilities has been set up with the Council of Minister. The National Council was established when the new "Integration of People with Disabilities Act" was adopted and came into force 1 January 2005. The National Council is functioning according to the "Regulation of Procedure of the National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities" and the criteria for representation of organizations of people with disabilities and organizations for people with disabilities, adopted by the Council of Ministers, in Ordinance No 346 from 17 December 2004. The mentioned Regulation lays down the criteria for representation of the organizations of and for people with disabilities which are members of the National Council. In accordance with the Integration of People with Disabilities Act, it is responsible for the cooperation in the policy development and conduct in the field of disability. It is an advisory body which includes representatives of the state, named by the Council of Ministers, representative organizations of and for people with disabilities, representative organizations of workers and employees, representative organizations of employers and the National Association of Municipalities.

Representatives of NGOs of and for people with disabilities are members of the National Council for Integration of People with Disabilities, which gives a preliminary stand before the statutory instruments for people with disabilities are adopted.

Currently 20 non-governmental organizations of and for people with disabilities in Bulgaria are members of that National Council. Members of the National Council which represent children and adults with disabilities are also involved in the drafting the national strategy, action plans, pieces of legislation and also expert group for preparing Bulgaria for the implementation of the UN CRPD.

There is a National strategy for ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities and a biannual Action plan for implementation of the strategy. The Bulgarian Government is confident of the great importance of implementation of UN CRPD and it always expresses its willingness to discuss with civil society the problems related to the ratification of the UNCRPD in the framework of the National Council for integration of people with disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

During the work of the expert group responsible for preparing the comprehensive plan for Bulgaria's implementation of the UN CRPD, the issue of developing indicators will be discussed.

Cyprus

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

In Cyprus, the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities has been defined as the focal point for the ratification and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

The coordination mechanism for the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention operates through the Pancyprian Council for Persons with Disabilities which is the highest consultative body for the issues of persons with disabilities. The role of the Council is to consult the government as to the formulation, monitoring and implementation of social policies for persons with disabilities. The Chairman of the Council is the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance and its members are independent persons and the representatives of co-responsible for disability issues Ministries, the Organisations of persons with disabilities and the social partners (trade unions and organisations of employers).

In order to strengthen the coordination procedures regarding the implementation of the UNCRPD there is a proposal under discussion by the Council to establish thematic sub-committees under the Council with the participation of a liaison officer to be nominated by each responsible Ministry dealing with disability issues. The whole coordination mechanism will be supported administratively by the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Strategy guidelines, aims, policies and measures promoted on disability issues are already included in the Governance Programme 2008-2013, the Strategic Development Plan 2007-2013, the National Strategy on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the National Employment Strategy and others. Taking into account the new European Disability Strategy the Council of Ministers by decision on 2 December 2010 to approve the Convention Ratification Bill to be submitted to the House of Representatives, has assigned to the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities the coordination of the formulation of a National Disability Action Plan.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

An independent mechanism pursuant to Article 33.2 of the UN Convention has not yet been nominated. The nature of such a mechanism is still under discussion at the Pancyprian Council for Persons with Disabilities.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The representatives of the disability movement are involved through the Pancyprian Council for Persons with Disabilities. Other social partners like the Employers Organisations and the Trade Union Organisations also participate in the Council.

Also the representative organisations of persons with disabilities participate in many technical and advisory committees for the implementation and operation by the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities of several schemes mainly for the provision of financial and other assistance to persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, consultation with the Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities is an obligation by Law for every state service before taking any decision affecting any disability issue. This Law “the Consultation Process for Disability Issues Law” applies since 2006.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

There is no central Disability Registry for the time being. Each state service collects its own statistical data according to the services provided to persons with disabilities. The Statistical Service also collects and issues data related to employment and social protection of persons with disabilities according to Eurostat requirements and standards.

Recognising the need for the establishment of National Records on persons with disabilities in Cyprus, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance has prepared a plan for the creation of a new System for the Assessment of Disability and Functionality based on the International Classification of Functionality, Disability and Health of the World Health Organisation. The new System will provide updated information to all public services related to persons with disabilities. They will thereby have access to information on the number, nature and degree of disability and the needs and capabilities of each person so that each person will be given adequate support. It will also enable the collection of statistics and the development of indicators related to the application of the Convention.

Czech Republic

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

In the Czech Republic, the Convention has entered into force on 12 February 2010, so the relevant bodies have started working. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was appointed as the national focal point for the issues relating to the implementation of the Convention.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

A new National Plan for Promoting Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2010–2014 was approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No 253 of 29 March 2010. The basic format of the new Plan, its content and structure, draw on the general principles on which the Convention is based. In the development of the document, only those articles of the Convention which are most important and relevant for the next five years in terms of promoting an equal and non-discriminatory environment for persons with disabilities were selected.

The National Plan is divided into separate chapters corresponding to the individual articles of the Convention. Each chapter contains a quotation of the relevant article of the Convention, brief explanation of the field in question, the desirable target situation to be achieved, and clearly formulated measures specifying the competent department and the proposed deadline for fulfilment.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

In the Czech Republic, the details of the subject are currently being discussed with all relevant stakeholders. We expect the proposal of the framework to be adopted by the end of June 2011 at the latest.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The involvement of the civil society is guaranteed by the Government Board for People with Disabilities and other formal and informal mechanisms of cooperation, e.g. with the Czech National Disability Council. The Government Board for People with Disabilities was established by the resolution of the Czech Government (1991) as its advisory body for the issues of disability. The Board cooperates with the public administration authorities as well as with the non - governmental sphere. It consists of Government representatives and ministries, as well as representatives of associations of persons with disabilities and their employers.

Organisations representing persons with disabilities play an important role, not to say the most important, in the policy planning and decision-making process concerning disability issues. One of them is for example the Czech National Disability Council, an umbrella

organisation which associates about 114 organisations of persons with disabilities. The Council has its representatives in the Government Board for People with Disabilities.

Also other representative organisations are invited to take active part in the policy planning, for example through participation in working groups established to deal with any disability-related issues (preparation of new legislation, proposals for amendments of the existing legislation, creation of disability policy plans and concepts etc.).

At local level, municipalities are supposed to take into account the views and opinions of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations when planning disability policy measures (in the field of social services, accessibility etc.). Most municipalities welcome the possibility of discussing the key issues with the organisations and individuals through public hearings, debates, surveys etc.

As far as awareness-raising activities are concerned, several conferences, debates, workshops, seminars etc. are organised in order to mainstream disability issues and to foster active participation of persons with disabilities in public life.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

There are several resources of statistical data, e.g. in 2007, the Czech Statistical Office was given a task to propose a system of statistical information collection related to persons with disabilities and their needs. The results of its work and first comprehensive report on the situation of persons with disabilities with statistical data were published in 2008.

Denmark

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The Ministry of Social Affairs is appointed as the national focal point for issues related to implementing the Convention. The reason for the appointment is that the Ministry of Social Affairs is the coordinating ministry for disability matters. The appointment was made by parliamentary decision B 194, which adopted the ratification of the convention. As the coordinating ministry for disability matters, the Ministry exercises its function as the national focal point in close contact and coordination with the other parts of the government and organisations in the disability area.

The Ministry of Social Affairs heads The Inter-ministerial Committee of Civil Servants on Disability Matters which is tasked with facilitating the coordination of government disability policy.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Since Denmark's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, the UNCRPD has set the framework for goals and specific initiatives in the disability field, including the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

No comprehensive national action plan encompassing all ministries has been developed at this time, but a wide range of initiatives has been carried out within the individual ministries in order to implement the UNCRPD progressively. The Ministry of Social Affairs reviewed and reported on the Government's disability policy initiatives to the Parliamentary Ombudsman in 2010. This report gives a good introduction to the comprehensive work put in the follow up on the ratification.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

Parliamentary decision B 15 of 2010 established "The Danish Institute for Human Rights" as the independent mechanism for the promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the UNCRPD. The Danish Institute for Human Rights carries out its mandate in accordance with the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles).

The Danish Disability Council is a Government-funded body made up of representatives of people with disabilities, nominated by the Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People, and from the labour market parties as well as representatives from relevant fields of research. The task of the council is to monitor the situation of people with disabilities in society and to act as an advisory body to the Government and Parliament on issues relating to disability policy.

The Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman “Folketingets Ombudsmand” is tasked with monitoring the equal treatment of persons with disability within his area of competence.

Together The Danish Institute for Human Rights, The Danish Disability Council and the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman constitute the framework for the promotion, protection and monitoring of the UNCRPD in accordance with article 33.2 of the UNCRPD.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

Civil society, specifically organisations of people with disability, will be involved in the monitoring process in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNCRPD.

The organisations of persons with disability will be closely consulted in the work of The Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The umbrella organisation Danish Council of Organisations of People with Disabilities (Danske Handicaporganisationer) is consulted on a regular basis on relevant matters and during all stages of the policy-making process. The Danish Council of Organisations of People with Disabilities is also strongly represented in The Danish Disability Council

Furthermore, dialogue through consultation with civil society/disability organisations at all stages of new initiatives, financial support to disability organisations, public funds (satspuljen) support of training schemes, awareness raising activities etc. is used to foster empowerment of people with disability.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The responsibility for disability matters in the individual sector areas rests with the sector ministry in accordance with the Danish sector accountability principle, the basic principle of disability mainstreaming in Denmark. The sector accountability principle also covers responsibility for data needed to highlight disability policies of the individual sector areas. Consequently, each sector ministry is responsible for data compilation in its area. However, accessible statistics are generally compiled by Statistics Denmark and the National Social Appeals Board, including local authority reports on social services, employment statistics, etc. In addition to the general monitoring of local key figures, specific studies and evaluations are also used for developing disability policy initiatives. Legislative implementation is subject to specific evaluations, and legislation is monitored where difficulties are expected in relation to implementation.

Denmark has no common standard for data compilation of specific statistics related to disability areas. Statistics Denmark compiles statistics for all sector areas, but no established standards are in place for highlighting disability aspects in all sector areas. Generally, disability-related statistics are available as statements of the scope of social benefits and services, categorised in accordance with relevant legislative provisions. Such statistics are compiled by Statistics Denmark and the National Social Appeals Board. Disabilities are not registered centrally on individuals. Instead, Denmark performs nationwide surveys, which can be merged with registered data for the purpose of highlighting general developments in, for instance, the employment situation for disabled people compared to the population in general. Such surveys are made by the Danish National Centre for Social Research, an independent, national research centre under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The centre

performs several surveys and analyses in the area of social welfare, including the area of disability. The results of the surveys are accessible to the public and constitute a key part of public discussions on the development of social welfare in general.

Estonia

2.1. National implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The responsible Ministry is the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia and Social Welfare Department; which in future shall become the focal point. The Ministry of Social Affairs cooperates with the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People⁶.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Estonia will draft a strategy to implement the UN Convention after the ratification. Generally speaking, disability policy of Estonia is based on two main documents: the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, which is the abridged and adjusted version of the UN general assembly resolution 48/96 and the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society (improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015).

Both mentioned documents, which are at the basis of Estonia's disability policy follow UN Convention principles. We will continue to work within an anti-discriminatory and human rights framework to enhance independence, freedom of choice and the quality of life of people with disabilities and to raise awareness of disability as a part of human diversity. The Estonian disability policy acknowledges the basic principle that society has the duty, towards all its citizens, to ensure that the difficulties related to disability are minimised through actively supporting a healthy lifestyle, adequate health care, rehabilitation, supportive services and supportive communities.

The following tools and methods are used in Estonia to foster the implementation of the UN Convention:

- Dialogue with other ministries (working groups, councils, written statements) to promote awareness about the UN Convention,
- Dialogue with Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities (projects, seminars),
- Financing and supporting the activities of non-governmental organisations,
- Training of target groups (organisations for people with disabilities).

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

A mechanism pursuant to Article 33.2 of the UN Convention has not yet been nominated.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

⁶ The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People is the national umbrella organization for people with disabilities in Estonia. The Chamber has 46 member organizations. These umbrella bodies was established in 1993 and have since then continuously gained new members. In 1998, 16 regional umbrella bodies of the Estonia counties became members of the Chamber.

Estonia is using different tools and methods to foster empowerment of people with disabilities, such as meetings, conferences, dialogue, awareness raising and training. The state moreover consults civil society when working on laws, strategies or other important documents related to disability.

In the context of nominating/establishing a mechanism referred to in Article 33.2 of the UN Convention, particular attention should be paid to the need to ensure that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their respective organisations are included in the monitoring work of the mechanism. A high-level, inter-ministerial group, non-governmental organizations, the Interdepartmental Committee to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, will be established after ratification, to monitor the implementation of convention in different sectors and different levels.

The Committee will remain in constant contact to consult people with disabilities through their representative organisations during the implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention.

Civil society is already involved in the ratification process and will be involved in the implementation and monitoring process as well after the ratification. The main partner is the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, which is the national umbrella organisation for people with disabilities in Estonia. The Chamber has 46 member organisations. This umbrella body was established in 1993 and also member of European Disability Forum. The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People is the national co-operation and co-ordination body for the work implemented by and for disabled people in Estonia. The goal of the Chamber is to facilitate to raising disabled people quality of life in Estonia. For this purpose, the Chamber co-operates with governmental bodies and social partners in order to secure that the Estonian legislation and enforcement of the legislation take the disability perspective seriously.

The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People will be member of high-level committee, which will be established. Discussions on involvement of civil society are currently being held.

The Ministry of Social Affairs will, as a focal point in accordance with Article 33(2), continue to involve civil society. The Ministry is planning a seminars and workshops on the implementation of UN Convention, which civil society is involved in preparing via the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People.

Through social benefits the governments compensate the extra costs for disabled people what is occurred because of the need for external help in the daily life. The severity of disability can be reviewed as a result of rehabilitation, use of technical aids, adaptation of housing or other improvement of the situation.

The tasks of The Chamber are:

- To participate in the elaboration of the national social policy, special initiation of the elaboration and implementation of laws and other drafts of legal acts, development plans, programs and projects related to disabled people;
- To support social and working activity of disabled people; to support the development and professional growth of member organizations;
- To promote awareness of the society about issues related to rehabilitation, treatment, general and vocational education, re-training, employment of disabled people, as well as their independent ability to cope in the society;
- To serve the state, municipalities, disabled people and institutions working with disabled people;

- To improve the collection and generalization of information and statistical data related to disabled people, supporting the activity and research of the respective branches of science;
- To form positive public opinion on issues related to disabled people;
- To co-operate with associations of disabled people from different countries to mediate information and experiences received from collaboration and participation in international collaboration projects;
- To engage with the activities of the European Disability Forum as the chamber organization of European disability organizations;
- To monitor the implementation of the United Nations standard regulations in Estonia; requesting the implementation of the corresponding national action plan, as well as to demand improved efficiency of observing the implementation;
- To represent its members in other interests connected with disabled people if required;

In order to better organize these tasks, the Chamber established the following commissions to ensure more effective policy work:

- Education commission
- Health care and rehabilitation commission
- Employment commission
- Organizational development commission

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Art. 31)

In accordance with Article 31 of the Convention of the United Nations, Estonia has to set up a statistical mechanism intended to follow the implementation of the Convention. But the Estonian government is already collecting statistics, which can be useful for monitoring the UN Convention.

Throughout the past years, many surveys were carried out. The aim is now to pay more attention to the needs and wishes of persons with disabilities in the context of the UN Convention. The aim of the surveys on people with disabilities is to identify the changes that have taken place in the situation of independent living and employment and thereby to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant policies and measures designed.

The surveys were carried out on the following topics: “Measures supporting the employment of the disabled”⁷, and “Survey on measures promoting the employability of people with disabilities”, “Survey on the provision and management of rehabilitation services”, “Survey on individuals with disabilities”, “Survey on children with disabilities and their families” “Survey on the care burden of people with disabilities” (Only available in Estonia).

⁷ http://www.sm.ee/fileadmin/meedia/Dokumendid/Sotsiaalvaldkond/kogumik/PITTM_final_EN__2_.pdf

Greece

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Until the governance structure is established, all ministries are called to take the provisions of the UNCRPD into consideration, when working on questions related to disability.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Until now, no concrete measures were taken for the implementation of the Convention. Greece is in the stage of examining relevant methods, processes and policies. One of the main priorities for all government-owned-mechanisms involved in the issue of disability is also adapting the existing legal framework to the requirements of the Convention. The review of the existing legal framework in relation to the UN CRPD provisions as well as the establishment of new or additional regulations, are considered necessary for the implementation of the Convention. The establishment of a central mechanism that will examine the subject of disability in all the dimensions will strengthen the effort for a united and completed approach of disability.

In terms of major developments, the deinstitutionalisation is a basic pylon in the area of health and social care. Within this aim, 35 structures (small houses with a limited number of patients and staff) have been established, where people with disability are under constant care from specialized personnel (nurses, psychologist etc.). The aim is to increase the number of these establishments in the next few years. (Report 2008, chapter: 4.Independent living).

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Art. 33.2)

As required by Article 33.2 of the UN CRPD, a monitoring body should be defined to facilitate and supervise the application of the Convention in different sectors and on different levels. In Greece, such a body has not yet been defined. All ministries are thus reminded to recall the provisions of the Convention until a new body is established.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

The national organizations of people with disabilities are much consulted by the governmental bodies. They offer essential advice and support the rights of people with disability. After the development of an independent mechanism, the participation of organizations of people with disabilities is considered as essential. They will fully participate in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

The role of the National Confederation of Disabled People (ESAMEA) and the National Confederation of Parents and Tutors of Disabled People (POSGAMEA), the most representative NGOs of people with disabilities, may participate in the dialogue with the

Ministries' services for the determination and implementation of the UN Convention and also for the nomination of the monitoring body.

People with disabilities and their representative organisations participate as full members in several committees and working groups at national, regional and local level contributing in the formulation of policies relating to people with disabilities. In addition, they are members of political parties on an equal basis with ordinary members and to several non-profit organisations.

According to Law 2430/1997, every year on the 3rd December – which is the official Day of people with disabilities - several events take place under the aegis of Greek Parliament, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and the National Confederation of Disabled People (ESAMEA) with the aim to raise awareness on the human and social rights of people with disabilities in Greece. On the same day, each year, ESAMEA submits a report on the situation of people with disabilities in Greece to the president of the Greek Parliament.

It is a priority for all authorities, ministries and unions of people with disabilities to raise awareness on issues related to disability and to participate in dialogues to implement related programmes and actions more effectively.

Seminars, lectures and conferences are organized on a regular basis, covering subjects that are related to disability. They are not only relevant for people with disabilities but for the society as a whole. For example, such a conference took place in Athens in June 2007 under the title of: “People with Disabilities and Media”. These meetings, seminars and conferences are organised each year by the Secretariat General of Communication/ Secretariat General of Information throughout the country aiming to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities. Advertising campaigns also are promoted by the government authorities or by non- governmental organisations, aiming at the sensitization of society in the subject of disability, showing ways of improving the lives of people with disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The central administration - mainly government bodies and the ministries – meet on a regular basis to exchange information and statistical data on people with disabilities so that they have a complete overview of the issue in the whole of Greece.

As an institution assembling individual statistical indicators, the national statistical service produces regularly centralized statistical bulletins with regard to disability. Thereby, it is possible to locate weaknesses and omissions concerning the obligations mentioned in the UNCRPD. Consequently, adequate policies can be developed in order to effectively implement the Convention.

Finland

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Finland has signed both the UN Convention and its Optional Protocol on 30 March 2007; however it has not yet ratified them. Therefore neither focal points nor a coordination mechanism have yet been specifically designated nor established. Information on the UN CRPD is spread by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and by disability organisations. The Threshold Association, a disability organisation founded by disabled people themselves, created an internet based contact point.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

In 2010, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health prepared a specific Disability Policy Programme in order to guarantee equal treatment of persons with disabilities. The programme outlines the concrete disability policy actions for the next few years (2010–2015). The social development to achieve sustainable and accountable disability policy is outlined in the same context. The objective of the programme is to create a strong foundation for human rights, non-discrimination, equality and inclusion. The programme was prepared in cooperation between the different administrative sectors, expert bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders.

The Disability Policy Programme contains concrete proposals on how to promote and implement the UN convention in different sectors. Areas that are covered include: independent living, social inclusion, building, transport, education, work, social protection, health and rehabilitation, safety, culture, international cooperation and statistics. The main content of the Disability Policy Programme is measures to ensure the following objectives:

1. Preparation and implementation of the legislative amendments necessitated by the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
2. Improving the socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities and combating poverty;
3. The availability and high quality of special services and support measures will be ensured across the country;
4. Accessibility in society will be strengthened and increased;
5. Disability research will be reinforced, the information base improved, and diversified high-quality methods developed in support of disability policy and monitoring.

The National Council on Disability (VANE) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Disability Policy Programme. More info in English is available at http://www.vane.to/vampo_eng.html

Furthermore, there have been major developments related to the priorities for action described in the previous reports in relation to Independent living (point 4 of the 2nd HLG report), namely, the legislative reform on personal assistance services and moving into community-based settings.

Background

There are 336 municipalities in Finland, which are in charge of providing *e.g.* social and health services, including services for persons with disabilities, to their inhabitants. Services are funded by a block grant subsidy from the state, municipal taxes and by the service user. The services for persons with disabilities are mostly free of cost.

In providing the services, the starting point is that services are provided to all citizens on an equal basis. In addition, special services tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities are provided in accordance with the Act on Services and Support for the Disabled and the Special Care Act for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. According to these Acts, severely disabled persons have a subjective right to the following services: transportation services, interpretation services, service housing, daily activities, personal assistance and alterations and assistive devices in housing. In this connection a subjective right means that the municipality is obliged to provide the service as soon as the criteria set out in the legislation are fulfilled irrespectively of the financial situation of the municipality.

Legislative reform concerning interpretation services for persons with disabilities

A revised Act on interpretation services for deaf-blind, hard of hearing people and persons with a speech disorder entered into force on 1 September 2010. In effect, the responsibility for organising and financing the interpretation services for deaf-blind, hard of hearing people and persons with a speech disorder was transferred from the municipalities to the Social Insurance Institution. It means that the state now takes full responsibility for financing the interpretation services.

The new Act did not change the existing rights to interpretation services, but only changed the administration and financing responsibility of those services. Deaf-blind persons have by law the right to obtain a minimum of 360 and persons with hearing and speech impairments a minimum of 180 hours of interpretation services a year. The amount of interpretation services may vary according to the person's individual needs of.

In 2009, the total number of people with disabilities receiving interpretation services was 4,088 (76.4 clients per 100,000 inhabitants).

A new housing programme for mentally disabled persons

In January 2010, the Finnish Government issued a Resolution on a programme to organise housing and related services for people with intellectual disabilities in 2010–2015.

The goal is to provide persons with intellectual disabilities individual housing solutions in regular housing environments and to reinforce their inclusion and equal treatment in the community and society.

The development objectives for disability legislation laid down in the Government Programme, the guidelines of the Finnish Disability Policy Programme, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities define good housing as one of the prerequisites for independent living and inclusion.

The programme aims at giving people with intellectual disabilities who are moving out of institutions or their childhood homes the opportunity to individual housing in an accessible and functioning home in a regular housing environment. At the same time, the number of

institutional care places for persons with intellectual disabilities is reduced systematically and in a controlled way.

The programme also aims at producing about 1,500 homes for persons with intellectual disabilities moving from institutions and about 2,000 homes for grown-up persons moving out of their childhood homes. Once implemented, the programme will reduce the number of places in institutions, from the present 2,000 long-term places to about 500 places.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The main part of the legislation already complies with the requirements of the Convention. A framework, including one or more independent mechanisms pursuant to Article 33.2 of the UN Convention has not yet been specifically nominated or established. However, in the context of nominating/establishing a mechanism referred to in Article 33.2 of the UN Convention, particular attention should be paid to the need to ensure that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their respective organisations are included in the monitoring work of the mechanism.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

In Finland, there is already a well-established practice to cooperate and involve organisations in all stages of reforming legislation. This practice covers planning, preparing the bill and decision-making in the Parliament, as well as follow-up.

Also, in its existing human rights reporting practice, the Finnish Government encourages civil society to actively participate in the reporting to the international organisations. When a periodic report is prepared, civil society is asked to provide views on the information to be included in the report. At the drafting stage of the report, the interested civil society representatives are invited to attend a discussion on the draft report before its finalisation. Civil society is also encouraged to participate in the so called "shadow reporting", i.e., to send parallel reports to the human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

The organisations and councils of persons with disabilities⁸ have actively participated in international processes related to the human rights of persons with disabilities, in particular in relation to the drafting of the UN Convention. Organisations of persons with disabilities and the National Council on Disability have also been consulted on the legislative amendments necessitated by the ratification of the UN Convention as well on the unofficial Finnish translation of the Convention.

⁸ The National Council on Disability (VANE) is a co-operative organ for authorities, disability organisations and organisations for relatives of disabled people. It has 18 members. More info in English at <http://www.vane.to/english.html>

Municipal Councils on Disability - There are about 170 Disability Councils at local level. They function as cooperative bodies for municipal decision makers, different municipal sectors and persons with disabilities and their organizations.

The Finnish Disability Forum. It comprises of 27 associations of and for disabled persons. More info in Finnish at <http://www.vammaisfoorumi.fi>. Disability organizations are always involved when legislation concerning persons with disabilities is being prepared. Organizations also take part in working groups preparing programs and measures at national, regional and local level.

The organisations of persons with disabilities and the National Council on Disability are also consulted in relation to the overall human rights policy of Finland, which includes a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the following tools and methods are used in Finland to foster empowerment of people with disabilities:

- Dialogue (working groups, councils, written statements),
- Financing the activities of non-governmental organisations through the Slot Machine Association. More info on: <http://www.ray.fi/inenglish/index.php>,
- Training of target groups (VANE, disability organisations),

In connection with awareness-raising, organisations of persons with disabilities have been notified in various contexts of the legislative amendments necessitated by the ratification of UNCRPD.

In addition, the preparation of the Government Disability Policy Programme was based on a process of active participation of people with disabilities and their organisations. This included - among other activities - a series of ten open seminars in different parts of the country, where both representatives of key ministries and people with disabilities have met and debated on the challenges of promoting “a society for all”.

The Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Kehitysvammaliitto), has been very active in the promotion of the content of the UNCRPD, even before its ratification. Other service providing organisations have been less active so far in the process of the implementation plan etc.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The collection of statistics has not yet been linked to the Convention. However, statistics are collected by mainly the following three different institutions, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Statistics Finland and the Social Insurance Institution.

In general, statistics have a basis in national legislation. However, as to Statistics Finland, it collects statistical data on disability according to EU legislation in connection with other subject areas (for instance Labour Force Survey’s ad hoc module 2011 on employment of people with disabilities). All the definitions and specifications are given by Eurostat. Statistics Finland does not conduct any analyses on the basis of data concerning disabled persons. Demographic factor of disability is not included in general population surveys.

Statistics on disability describe mostly services provided to persons with disabilities. Therefore, the number of persons with disabilities and their gender cannot in general be identified. For example in the SOTKANet Indicator Bank (www.sotkanet.fi), which is a National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) information service that offers key population welfare and health data from 1990 onwards on all Finnish municipalities. On disability there are five indicators on the following services: transport services, personal assistants, housing alterations, sheltered housing and interpreter services.

To introduce new statistics into our system takes several years since the information has to be collected from all the 336 municipalities.

France

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Since disability policy is of cross-cutting nature, it is expected that rather than nominating a single focal point, the government will designate all ministerial bodies directly involved in disability policy. Depending on the organization mechanisms of the different ministries, the focal point will either be an administration, a bureau or even a mission.

Since the dissemination of knowledge on the Convention onto the entire country is necessary for its effective implementation, focal points could perhaps be put in place at the level of decentralized services and regional authorities. The practical details of such a designation still require further analysis, so as to respect the constitutional principle of free administration of regional authorities.

Even though the coordination mechanism is deemed voluntary according to the Convention, France has decided to yet put in place such a mechanism. The Interministerial Committee of Disability (Comité interministériel du handicap (CIH)), established by the decree nr. 2009-1367 of 6 November 2009, will be responsible for setting up this mechanism. By appointing the interministerial CIH as the coordination mechanism, the French Government wishes to highlight that it regards disability policy as a political priority.

Moreover, the CIH's secretary general will be able to appoint and call together the focal points as deemed necessary. The secretary general has already set up meetings with responsible persons and administration on several occasions ever since its creation, even though they have not yet been officially appointed as focal points for the implementation of the UNCRPD.

The French Government also expresses its wish to establish close relations between the coordination mechanism and the representatives of persons with disabilities. Therefore, the government asked the CIH secretary general to also exercise the duties of the secretary of the national advisory council for persons with disabilities (conseil national consultatif des personnes handicapées), in order to establish an institutional link between both bodies.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The implementation of the obligations arising from the UN CRPD and its Optional Protocol has been foreseen through the law nr. 2005-102 of 11 February 2005. Through its adoption, the adaptation of the French national legislation to the UN Convention will be very limited. The law of 11 February 2005 moreover goes further than the UN Convention on certain points, and thereby it gives a functional nature to most general obligations in the UN CRPD.

As the Convention sets out the establishment of a national action plan, the law of 11 February 2005 requires the holding of a **national Conference on disability every three years**. These conferences will gather representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, social/medical institutions or services working with persons with disabilities, social insurance institutions, trade unions and employer organizations and other bodies relevant in disability policy.

In order to prepare the Conference, the law maintains that the Government has to deposit a report on the implementation and future developments of the national disability policy at the parliamentary assemblies' bureau, after a consultation with the National Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The first Conference was held on 10 June 2008. It gave the opportunity to the French President to present his action plan in relation to persons with disabilities. The Plan consisted of seven parts:

- To allow residential homes for persons with disabilities to fully fulfil their mission.
- To further develop benefits for persons with disabilities in the light of the establishment of a fifth risk of social welfare (un cinquième risque de protection sociale)
- Turn benefits for adults with disabilities (l'allocation aux adultes handicapés (AAH)) into a tool to increase resources and facilitate persons with disabilities' access to the labour market.
- Conclude a National Employment Pact for persons with disabilities
- To decide upon an annual plan to support employment of persons with severe disabilities
- To increase and improve the accessibility to all aspects of city life
- To allow all children with disabilities to have access to education adapted to their needs.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The establishment of a mechanism to protect, promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention, is currently being considered in the light of the recent reform that brings together several bodies of fundamental rights protection under the authority of a *Défenseur des Droits*, without prejudice to the powers of the National Advisory Council for Human Rights (*Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme* (CNCDH)).

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

Co-operation with disabled persons is ensured by the Advisory national Board of disabled persons (CNCPPH).

The law of 17 January 2002 had created the CNCPPH to ensure the participation of disabled persons in the development and in the implementation of the policies related to disability (article L. 146-1 of the CASF). The CNCPPH links the public authorities and civil society. Indeed, it assembles the following institutions: organizations for persons with disabilities and their relatives, administrative bodies, bodies financing social protection of disabled persons or relevant research projects, trade-unions, professional organizations, the representatives of territorial authorities.

The law of 11 February 2005 widened the scope of responsibility of the CNCPPH beyond its right of initiative or the optional rights granted by the Government, by giving it the responsibility to assess the situation of persons with disabilities. It is given the role to analyse whether the situation corresponds to the national principle of solidarity. According to Government's proposals it shall be granted this responsibility "by continuous multi-annual programming". Especially, the last article of the 2005 law envisages an obligatory

consultation of the CNCPH for all regulatory texts of application of the law of 11 February 2005.

The CNCPH plays therefore an essential role for both, in the implementation of the law and in the evaluation and development of policies dealing with disability.

The CNCPH organized the work of its Committees as to examine the most complex decrees and foster the co-operation with the administrations, which allowed for a smooth development of certain draft texts. Thus, the CNCPH was not an advisory body solely responsible for approving or disapproving. Rather, it could play an active role in the development of regulation. In 90 % of the cases, the application texts of the 11 February 2005 law were given favorable comments by the CNCPH.

The CNCPH discussed several topics which developed into a report on disabled persons in situation of dependence and on the granting of minimal incomes. The Minister of Labour, Solidarity and the Civil Service, and the secretary of State responsible for Solidarity also contributed to the report on the development of "trade plans".

The CNCPH is responsible for "coordinating" the Departmental Advisory Boards of Disabled Persons (CDCPH) provided for in article L. 146-2, evaluating the departmental implementation of disability policy and the situation of disabled persons. To facilitate their analyses, the CDCPH gather information on the activities of the Departmental Houses of Disabled Persons (MDPH) and of the contents and the application of the Departmental Programmes for the Inclusion of Disabled Workers (PDITH). They moreover have access to the data of the Committee of the Rights of Autonomy of Persons with Disabilities (CDAPH) and of the institutions working with persons with disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Art. 31)

In accordance with Article 31 of the UN Convention, France has to set up a statistical mechanism specifically for monitoring the implementation of the UNCRPD. Currently, France does not yet have this type of mechanism. However numerous tools used on a national level for collecting information on persons with disabilities could be used to this end. For instance, one may refer to the survey on disability and dependence (HID), which relates to all persons residing or being looked after in special facilities or living in ordinary homes. The HID survey is being updated since April 2008, carried out with 40,000 participants. Numerous statistics are also available in the field of employment.

Moreover, an interministerial Observatory for accessibility and universal conception has been established on 11 February 2010, with the mission to monitor the developments, identify the challenges to the implementation of accessibility, disseminate good practice and create monitoring indicators. The first progress report will be presented in 2011 during the national disability conference. The Observatory is composed of construction and transportation experts and representatives of organizations for persons with disabilities. The secretary general of the interministerial committee for disability issues is in charge of its secretariat.

At the same time, numerous studies carried out for Community coordination use indicators which are also relevant to disability-related issues (employment, fight against exclusion, social welfare...) and could therefore be used for collecting statistics of developing indicators.

Germany

2.1. National implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Art. 33.1)

Germany highlights the importance of national implementation and monitoring structures as a precondition for an effective implementation. Due to the federal structure of Germany, an important part of the implementation of the convention lies with the German Länder.

The Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (www.bmas.bund.de) is appointed focal point according to Article 33. Some of the Länder have appointed focal points on their level as well. Others work with a comparable structure.

The Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities (www.behindertenbeauftragter.de) is appointed Coordination Mechanism according to Article 33. In September 2010, the Commissioner has appointed in close cooperation with the German Disability Council (www.deutscher-behindertenrat.de) an advisory board called “inclusion committee”, in order to ensure a long-term and strategic consultation process with civil society, particularly with organisations of and for persons with disabilities in the implementation process of the Convention. For this reason, the committee consists mainly of people with different disabilities. In addition, the committee installs four thematic working groups to integrate the broader civil society in the process and enable the development of technical input to specific themes and topics.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The UN convention is the international equivalent to the change of paradigms, which was initiated in Germany especially by the Ninth Book of the Social Code and the Equality Act for Persons with Disabilities. The Federal Government will use the UN Convention to strengthen and promote new developments in disability policy in order to further advance a self-determined and discrimination-free participation in Germany.

In their coalition agreement for the 17th election period (2009-2013), the government parties agreed on the development of a National Action Plan as comprehensive strategy to implement the UNCRPD in Germany.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has set up the structure and the roadmap for this plan, the rough outline is as follows:

- The National Action Plan shall constitute a long-term comprehensive strategy of the federal government for the implementation of the convention. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is in charge of the developing process. Current disability-related projects and tasks will be incorporated into the National Action Plan. Another focus will be on awareness raising and public relations.
- The National Action Plan of the federal government should be supplemented by further action plans of the German Länder, local authorities, enterprises etc. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs advises, supports and cross-links these actors.

The voice of the civil society, esp. of organisations of and for persons with disabilities, has been and is streamlined in a special advisory board. The closest cooperation with persons with disabilities and their organisations is not only postulated by the UN convention. It is also of tremendous importance for the Federal Ministry and the Federal Commissioner.

Preparations for the National Action plan have started in the beginning of 2010 with discussions within the federal government, with the Länder, organisations of and for persons with disabilities as well as via several conferences and on-line polls. A Federal cabinet's decision on the action plan is planned for April 2011.

A first of the Länder, Rheinland-Pfalz developed an own action plan that was presented to the public in March 2010 (<http://www.un-konvention.rlp.de/>). Other Länder have started to work on comparable projects.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Federal Government's Cabinet decision of 1 October 2008 initiating the legislative procedure for ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol entrusted the Deutsche Institut für Menschenrechte e.V. (German Institute for Human Rights) with the monitoring task under Article 33(2) UNCRPD.

The Institute is an independent body operating on the basis of the United Nations Paris principles, to which Article 33(2) refers. It is currently financed by the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Foreign Ministry and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and its independence is guaranteed via its legal form and the articles of association. It started work in 2001 and was recognised internationally as the national human rights institution with an A-status in 2003. To comply with the monitoring task under UNCRPD, a separate department within the Institute for the tasks under Article 33(2) has been set up. The Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs provides some 430 000 EUR a year to support the independent body.

The Monitoring Body has six staff members – besides the head, the body is comprised of two research and policy professionals (one law, one social science), one assistant, one public relations and communications and one for administrative matters. The existing budget of the National Monitoring Body provides additional resources to organise conferences, to cover travel costs and conferences fees, and to commission research to some minor extend.

The German Institute started to set up the National Monitoring Body in May 2009, which is under full operation since November the same year. Since then, it has developed a great number of activities, e.g. it holds regular consultations with civil society organisations, has started a publication series with elements in easy to read, organised two public conferences on the concept of reasonable accommodation in December 2009 and on political participation of persons with disabilities in November 2010.

For up-to-date information on the work of and events organised by the Mechanism see its website www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/de/monitoring-stelle.html (German only).

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

All three pillars involve civil society in the implementation and/or monitoring process:

1) Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as focal point

Civil society was consulted during ratification process, for the implementation of the convention by means of a national action plan these consultations were continued with several workshops, bi- and multilateral meetings and via the online-portal www.einfach-teilhaben.de. and a special advisory board with civil society representatives.

As mentioned above, the closest cooperation with persons with disabilities and their organisations is not only postulated by the UN CRPD. It is also of tremendous importance for the Federal Ministry and the Federal Commissioner.

Furthermore and with a view to implementing the UN CRPD, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs takes –among others - the following measures to inform the public about the Convention:

- regular lectures for civil society and other institutions
- Translation of the convention into accessible formats (simple language and sign language) and distribution of all versions via brochures, dvd and/or internet.
- the Federal Government's report on persons with disabilities: Presentation of political activity on behalf of persons with disabilities, using the Convention as a reference document
- Handbook for persons with disabilities: The handbook is the Ministry's most important publication in the area of disability policy. The new version will print the text of the Convention and provide information on it.
- Online portal www.einfach-teilhaben.de, which gathers information for persons with disabilities, their families, enterprises and administration.

2) Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities as coordinating mechanism

In order to ensure a long-term and strategic consultation process with civil society, particularly with organisations of and for persons with disabilities, the Commissioner seeks to establish a council. One of the main tasks of the council shall be to advise the federal government in questions related to the national action plan to implement the UNCRPD. In addition, the Commissioner seeks to establish a consultative committee with members only from organisations of and for persons with disabilities. The Commissioner also plans to launch a website that includes participatory elements of web 2.0 in order to ensure the participation of individuals (URL t.b.a.). In addition, the coordinating mechanism will inform the public in expert meetings and campaigns on all relevant aspects of the implementation of the convention

3) Monitoring Body at the German Institute for Human Rights:

The National Monitoring Body has underlined in public statements that monitoring the implementation is a task involving a number of non-state actors besides the National Monitoring Body, such as the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the international level and civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their

representative organisations within Germany. Consequently, the collaboration of these actors is of great importance. Thus, the German civil society organisations have the standing invitation to participate in the regular consultations with the National Monitoring Body. These meetings take place two or three times a year. Although the National Monitoring Body does neither have the mandate nor the resources to handle complaints, it is open to receive individual communications and to learn from them, since individual cases might indicate deficits in structural terms.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

Statistics on the population, labour market and housing situation in Germany are collected by the Federal Statistics Office and the Regional Statistical Offices under the *Mikrozensusgesetz* (Micro-Census Act). The micro-census is a multiple random sample survey which provides detailed information on the economic and social situation of the population and answers questions about employment, the labour market and training.

On the basis of §131 *SGB IX* a statistical survey of persons with severe disabilities, which started as early as 1979, is carried out every two years.

In addition to the evaluation of existing data, part of the action plan will be the establishment of a better data basis on the situation of persons with disabilities in Germany. A pre-study with suggestions for a respective roadmap will be presented in February 2011.

Hungary

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCD) was established by the act on the rights of people with disabilities in 1998. The NCD is an advisory body to the Government with the following rights:

- To take initiatives, make proposals, and provide consultation and co-ordination in all decisions related to persons with disabilities;
- To carry out analysis and evaluation in the process of implementing such decisions,
- To comment on draft legislation concerning persons with disabilities;
- To make proposals for decisions, programs and legislation affecting persons with disabilities;
- To be involved in co-ordinating activities related to the affairs of persons with disabilities;
- To brief the Government regularly about the situation of persons with disabilities;
- To elaborate the National Disability Program and monitor the implementation thereof.

According to the Statutes of the Ministry of National Resources, the tasks related to the implementation of human rights conventions belong to the Ministry's responsibility, and the Constitution on Operation of the Ministry assigns the international issues connected to disability to the Department of Disability. This way the appointment of the central governmental actor is indirectly deducible, although no concrete, specified appointment has been done.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The Hungarian Parliament adopted the National Disability Action Plan in 2006 for 2007-2013. In order to implement the DAP the Government adopted the midterm Action Plan for 2007-2010. Although these legal and policy instruments were born before the ratification of the UNCRPD, in great part they comply with the principles and main targets of the Convention. The new Action Plan for 2011-2013 is elaborated in February of 2011. In the work process the UNCRPD is identified also formally as a main point of reference.

Furthermore, in Hungary, the following developments have taken place in relation to implementation:

- The Hungarian Parliament adopted the Act No 125 in 2009 on the Hungarian Sign Language and the use of Hungarian Sign Language. This Act implements Article 9 subsection 1.b), Article 21, Article 24 subsections 3.b), 3.c), 4.
- The Ministry of National Resources coordinates the interministerial discussions on the legislation concerning the strategy and the tasks of the Government regarding the implementation of the transition from institutional care of disabled people (deinstitutionalisation). That will implement Article 19 UNCRPD.
- On the assignment of the legal predecessor of the Ministry of National Resources a National Autism Strategy was adopted in July of 2008, under the professional guidance of the Hungarian Autistic Society. This five-year comprehensive plan for development of services for people living with autism sets out medium-term targets and tasks in the field

of diagnostics, professional staff training, education, development, employment, adult training and family support.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

Taking into account that the NCD has already had the right and duty to follow up and comment governmental activities related to persons with disabilities as well as monitor the implementation of the National Disability Program, the Government Decree No 1065 of 2008 (X.14.) assigned the NCD to promote, protect and monitor the UNCRPD.

Nevertheless this solution is not fully in line with the UNCRPD since the NCD is not considered as independent body because it is constituted by representatives of the relevant ministries and governmental organisations and representatives of the civil society.

It is also important to mention that in 2009 the Hungarian ombudsman for civil rights carried out an ex officio thematic review about the effectiveness of the rights of people with disabilities.

The first deadline for the compilation of the report required by Article 35 UNCRPD was 3 May 2010 for Hungary. Due to the governmental restructuring the contributions from the different ministries arrived with a great delay, so Hungary asked for the extension of deadline until 15 October 2010. The National Report has been prepared by that deadline and Hungary submitted it through the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the UN Commission on Human Rights.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The civil society takes part in the monitoring process mainly through the National Council on Disability Issues, since it was appointed officially by the Government Decree mentioned above for the task of monitoring. In the NCD, the elected civil members and the national civil organisations representing various branches of disability as permanent representatives take part, therefore civil society is fully involved in the process.

Every policy document, proposal, draft, etc. which deals with disability issues or may have an impact on people with disabilities, has to be submitted to the Council for further comments. Besides, during the elaboration of such documents, the relevant civil organisations are consulted about the draft proposals and provisions.

The National Council on Disability Issues has the right to discuss, comment all policy documents and draft legislation dealing with disability and/or having any impact on people with disabilities.

Apart from the above mentioned involvement, drafts of new legislation related to disability is discussed separately also with the professional and interest representation organisations mainly concerned.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

In the course of a national census there are always questions concerning the status of being disabled and the type of it. Regarding the fact that disability and information related to it are so called sensitive data, the declaration on it is voluntary that means, the validity of statistics compiled on this base is doubtful. For measuring the implementation of international conventions, including mainly the UNCRPD, the legal predecessor of the Ministry of National Resources developed a specific system of indicators. By using this set of tools we believe, we can get a more realistic view on the social process affecting people living with disabilities.

Ireland

2.1. National implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Focal point and coordination arrangements pursuant to Article 33.1 will be settled in due course following Ireland's ratification of the UNCRPD.

The Disability Policy Division (DPD) of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs co-ordinates both the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and the work of the Interdepartmental Committee on the UNCRPD, which are the primary elements at present in meeting the requirements of the UNCRPD.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The Irish Government launched its National Disability Strategy (NDS) in September 2004 to underpin the participation of people with disabilities in Irish society. The NDS builds on existing policy and legislation, including the policy of mainstreaming public services for people with disabilities, and comprehends many of the provisions of the UNCRPD. The NDS continues to be the focus of Government policy and its implementation, which is ongoing in spite of current economic circumstances, also provides the basis for implementation of the UNCRPD.

The NDS has been endorsed in Ireland's national social partnership agreement "*Towards 2016*" in which the Government and social partners agreed that the NDS represents a comprehensive strategy and that its implementation should be the focus of policy over the lifetime of the agreement. The [Towards 2016 Strategic Document on Disability \(PDF, 30.3KB\)](#) was published, following the approval of the Irish Government, in May 2009. This document brings together the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the NDS.

The key elements of the National Disability Strategy are:

- the [Disability Act 2005](#)
- Sectoral Plans for services prepared by six Government Departments
- the [Citizens Information Act 2007](#) which provides for a personal advocacy service for people with disabilities
- the [Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004](#)
- a multi-annual investment programme 2006-2009 targeted at high-priority disability support services.

The Disability Act 2005 is designed to support the provision of disability-specific services and improve access to mainstream public services for people with disabilities. In accordance with the Act, a review of its operation was carried out in 2010. Under the Act, six Government Departments published Sectoral Plans in December 2006 that set out the programme of measures to be taken in relation to the provision and mainstreaming of services for people with specified disabilities. The Departments are: Enterprise, Trade and Innovation⁹;

⁹ Sectoral Plan is at www.entemp.ie/labour/strategy/sectoralplan.pdf

Health and Children¹⁰; Transport¹¹; Social Protection¹²; Environment, Heritage and Local Government¹³; and Communications, Energy and Natural Resources¹⁴.

The Disability Act also requires the preparation of reports relating to the progress made in the implementation of the Sectoral Plans at intervals of not more than three years after their publication. These Reports were approved for publication by Government in February 2010. The general finding was one of significant and substantial progress by all six Departments.

In terms of the UNCRPD, the NDS is complemented by a high-level Interdepartmental Committee on the UNCRPD which advises on and monitors legislative, policy and administrative actions required to enable the State to first ratify the UNCRPD. The committee is chaired by Disability Policy Division (see 1.1. above) and contains officials from the six Sectoral Plan Departments as well as the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Education & Skills, Defence, Tourism, Culture & Sport and the Office of Public Works. It has developed a Work Programme to address (i) any elements of the NDS that require alignment with the Convention; and (ii) any matters outside the NDS required for ratification. This programme is being progressed across the relevant Government Departments.

An example of what is required for ratification of the UNCRPD is the enactment of mental capacity legislation which represents root and branch reform of the law with respect to persons who lack capacity and will include modernisation of the Wards of Court system. The Bill will provide greater protection for adults with intellectual disabilities, persons suffering from dementia or mental illness, and persons who have acquired brain injuries through trauma or accident.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The role of the Interdepartmental Committee on the UNCRPD was outlined at 1.2. It is likely that this committee will continue to monitor the process towards implementation following Ireland's ratification.

The National Disability Strategy (NDS), as also outlined at 1.2, comprehends many of the provisions of the UNCRPD. Progress on its implementation is driven by the Senior Officials Group on Disability (SOGD), which reports to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion. SOGD comprises officials representing Disability Policy Division (see 1.1.), the six Government Departments responsible for Sectoral Plans and the Departments of the Taoiseach (who is the head of Government); Finance and Education & Skills.

The National Disability Authority (NDA) is the lead state agency on disability issues and is under the aegis of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. It develops and monitors standards in services for people with disabilities and advises Government on disability policy and practice. The NDA is actively involved with the implementation of

¹⁰ www.dohc.ie/publications/fulltext/disability_sectoral_plan/

¹¹ www.transport.ie/upload/general/7760-0.htm

¹² www.welfare.ie/EN/Policy/CorporatePublications/HowWeWork/Disability%20Sectoral%20Plan/Pages/index.aspx

¹³ www.envron.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentAdministration/SectoralPlan/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownLoad,2011,en.pdf

¹⁴ www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/86EAF9C1-6F7C-45ED-9F30-60775F3EF42D/0/justicerevisedpublishableplan.pdf

important aspects of the National Disability Strategy and supports Government Departments and agencies in meeting relevant objectives.

Progress on the overall implementation of the NDS is monitored by the National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group (NDSSMG), which provides a means of facilitating dialogue between all parties involved. It comprises:

- the Senior Officials Group on Disability (SOGD)
- the Disability Stakeholder Group (see also 2.2 below)
- the National Disability Authority
- the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Irish Business and Employers Confederation

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

"Towards 2016" the national social partnership agreement for Ireland for 2006–2015 was negotiated and agreed between Government, trade unions, employers, farming organisations and the community and voluntary sector. It sets out a vision for Ireland which envisages an internationalised participating society and economy with a strong commitment to social justice, sustainable economic development and competitiveness. In respect of people with disabilities, the NDS provides for the lifecycle approach and its implementation is the focus of policy over the period of the Agreement.

The National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group (NDSSMG) was established under *"Towards 2016"* to maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders, provide them with a forum to raise issues and a means of facilitating dialogue between all parties involved in the NDS. Membership of the NDSSMG (see also 2.1. above) includes the Disability Stakeholder Group (DSG) which represents the sector and its organisations.

The Interdepartmental Committee on the UNCRPD consults with people with disabilities through their representative organisations and has prepared Irish language and Braille versions of the UNCRPD.

People with disabilities, their families, carers, advocates and service providers were consulted on the Sectoral Plans before they were completed. Each plan includes arrangements for complaints, monitoring and review procedures. The DSG, apart from being part of the NDSSMG, is in ongoing consultation with relevant Government Departments in relation to Sectoral Plans and all aspects of disability.

Disability organisations were also consulted in respect of the review of the operation of the Disability Act (see also 1.2.). A consultation event was held with the assistance of and in the headquarters of the National Disability Authority (NDA). Presentations were made and discussions held at the event on the context of the review; clarification of its purpose in examining the operation of the Act; and an overview of each Part of the Act under review and how it operates at present. Following the event, an official invitation was extended to all stakeholders to make submissions on the review.

2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Art. 31)

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is the national statutory body with responsibility for the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State¹⁵. CSO surveys with particular relevance in providing statistics on people with disabilities include:

- the Census of Population
- the National Disability Survey
- the Quarterly National Household Survey
- the annual Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

The National Disability Authority (see also 2.1.) has a statutory remit to undertake, commission or collaborate in disability research and to contribute to the development of statistical information relating to programmes and services for people with disabilities. The NDA fulfils this remit in a number of ways, including:

- the production and dissemination of disability research on a wide range of policy and service related issues;
- contributing expertise to national research and development initiatives - such as the Central Statistics Office's National Disability Survey, the Health Research Board's National Disability Databases (see below), and projects in partnership with agencies such as the National Women's Council, the Council for Ageing and Older People, the Equality Authority and many others;
- hosting the NDA Annual Disability Research Conference;
- the NDA Database of Disability Research in Ireland;
- funding research at grassroots level through the Research Promotion Scheme (RPS); and
- funding postgraduate research through the NDA Disability Research Scholarships

There are two national service-planning databases in Ireland for persons with disabilities managed by the Health Research Board: the National Intellectual Disability Database and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database. These databases inform decision-making in relation to the planning of specialised health and personal social services for people with intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities.

¹⁵ www.cso.ie

Italy

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Art. 33.1)

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies - Directorate-General for inclusion, and social policies serves as the focal point for Italy, in co-ordination with other relevant ministries and departments, as well as regional and local authorities.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The tasks assigned to the National Observatory aim at giving new and constant inputs regarding public policies in the field of disability and can be summarized as follows:

- a. implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also through a detailed report on the measures taken, as provided by Article 35 of the Convention, in close co-operation with the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights;
- b. to set up of a two-year plan of action for the promotion of the rights and integration of people with disabilities, as provided by national and international provisions;
- c. to collect statistical data on the situation of people with disabilities, with reference to the local peculiarities;
- d. to set up a national report on the implementation of policies in the field of disabilities (as provided in national Law n. 104/1992);
- e. to promote studies and researches that can contribute to the identification of priority areas of actions and programs for the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The ratification act of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities was adopted by the Italian Parliament by national Law n. 18/2009, also providing the establishment of a National Observatory in order to monitor the condition of people with disabilities. The National Observatory, which met for its official session on December 16th, 2010, for monitoring the condition of people with disabilities will also assure the implementation of the activities provided by the Article 33.2 of the UN Convention.

The Observatory is a collective body that will facilitate the constant link between government and people with disabilities and their families and supporting organizations; where the various needs of people with disabilities can be discussed in order to identify proper and joint solutions; based on an effective coordination of policies and programs.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

In the Observatory the following entities are represented: the administrative departments from the national level involved in the definition and implementation of policies in favour

of persons with disabilities; regions and autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano; the local autonomies, i.e. provinces and municipalities; the national Institutes of social provisions and protection; the national institute of statistics; trade unions representing persons with disabilities, workers, retired people and employers; national associations representing persons with disabilities; organizations from the non profit sector dealing with disabilities issues.

The national organisations and federations representing people with disabilities have been involved in the decisional processes on disability issues, at national, regional and local level. Since 1992 the law n. 104/1992 introduced a National Conference on the policies for disability (organised every three years, the last Conference was held in Turin on October 2009) with the active participation of people with disabilities and their representative organisations. The law provides a Communication to the Parliament on the conclusions of the National Conference.

Until the ratification of the UN Convention, Italy lacked an institutional body for the permanent consultation of persons with disabilities. However, thanks to the National Observatory for monitoring the condition of people with disabilities, established by the national law for the ratification of UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities (Law 18/2009), mainstreaming strategy on disability issues will be thoroughly discussed there. It has to be underlined that 14 members on 40 within the Observatory are representatives of organisations and federations of people with disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

A specific data collection related to the implementation of the Convention has not been launched yet. At www.disabilitaincifre.it, however, a website promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in co-operation with ISTAT, the national institute for statistics, various data on Persons with Disabilities are available. The website is currently under development on the basis of a Protocol among the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and ISTAT.

Latvia

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

According to the Law on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, accepted due to ratification, the **Ministry of Welfare is the focal point** for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention (responsible for coordination of implementation of the Convention).

The Ministry of Welfare of Latvia is directly responsible for disability policy in the area of social protection, at the same time the ministry has taken charge of monitoring of implementation and development of equal opportunities policy for disabled in Latvia at large. This is done by gathering information from other ministries and preparing respective annual reports, by keeping track of developments of other ministries' policy related to disability, and by taking into consideration complaints and ideas for improvement of legislation in different areas. These are proposed by NGOs. The ministry then tries to solve these problems in cooperation with other involved ministries. As the ministry is responsible for disability policy, it is also responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the UN Convention. All ministries involved are responsible for the implementation of their specific activities, according to sphere of competence.

The coordination mechanism (procedure of coordination and monitoring of the Convention) within the government formally is not established. It is carried out through the **National Council of Disability Affairs** (NCDA), established by the Ministry of Welfare. The NCDA is an advisory institution that takes part in development and implementation of integration policy of disabled people. NCDA involves line ministers, Chairperson of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, Ombudsman, Chairperson of Public Utilities Commission, Director of Society Integration Foundation, President of Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia and also representatives of key non-governmental organizations. Chairman of the NCDA is the minister of welfare. Starting from 2009 the progress and challenges of implementation of the Convention has been discussed in every NCDA meeting. This year separate items of the Convention, article by article, will be included in every NCDA meeting's agenda. At January meeting members of the NCDA decided to set up the working group tackling an accessibility matters. The task of this working group will be finding bottlenecks and generating solutions of problems related to all kinds of accessibility and presenting results at the NCDA meetings on regular basis.

Coordination of implementation of the Convention will be carried out also through several working groups formed by the Ministry of Welfare for implementation of the Convention Implementation Action Plan 2010.-2013 (accepted by the Cabinet in October, 2009), as well as indirectly through preparation by the Ministry of Welfare annual reports on implementation of the concept paper „Equal opportunities for all” (adopted by the Cabinet in 1998) and „Action Plan for Implementing the Basic Principles on Policy for Elimination of Disability and it's Consequences 2005-2015”, adopted in 2006.

Information about all NCDA meetings is available at the Ministry of Welfare home page www.lm.gov.lv (in Latvian). There will also be information available about meetings of all working groups related to the implementation of the Convention.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Several strategic documents or advanced plans for a strategy directly devoted to the disability policy matters are already in place:

- Different ministries carry out implementation of the concept paper „Equal opportunities for all” (adopted by the Cabinet in 1998). The concept paper covers actions until 2010 within the following fields: health, education, employment, proper environment, social security. Planned actions for the implementation of this conception have to be included in the annual action plans of ministries. The Ministry of Welfare prepares each year the report on progress and presents it at the NCDA meeting.
- The „Basic Principles on Policy for Elimination of Disability and its Consequences, 2005-2015” elaborated by the Ministry of Welfare has been adopted by the Cabinet in 2005. This strategic document contains guidelines for preventing disabilities and the basic principles, objectives and priorities of state social protection policy for persons with disabilities. The implementation of this strategy is supported by the „Action Plan for Implementing the Basic Principles on Policy for Elimination of Disability and its Consequences 2005-2015”, adopted by the Cabinet in 2006. An aim determined in the Action Plan is to eliminate or to reduce the risk of disability for the persons with threatened/prognosticated disability, to reduce the effect of disability on persons with disability and to reduce the risk of social exclusion for all those persons. The Ministry of Welfare prepares each year the report on progress and submits it to the Cabinet
- The UNCRPD Implementation Action Plan 2010-2013, adopted by the Cabinet in October, 2009, envisages initial steps for promoting implementation of the Convention. Due to the significant financial restrictions caused by the recession, this plan in general outline includes only short term activities where additional financing is not required, or reduced to a minimum, or supported by the EU financial instruments. One of the tasks of this Action plan is to elaborate the UNCRPD implementation programme for 2013-2019 which will be a comprehensive strategy to reach the UNCRPD objectives.

All above mentioned documents as well as annual reports on their implementation are available at the Ministry of Welfare home page www.lm.gov.lv (in Latvian).

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

According to the above mentioned Law on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **the Ombudsman office as the independent institution** ensures monitoring of implementation of the Convention. Representatives of the Ombudsman office participate in above mentioned NCDA and in all working groups of implementation of the Convention.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved through the NCDA and above mentioned working groups. Starting from 2007 each month Ministry of Welfare organises meetings with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to discuss and solve practical and political issues. Starting from 2010 the key NGOs will be invited to report to the Ministry of Welfare, or in above mentioned working groups and to the NCDA their activities in implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Information about all monthly meetings with NGOs is available at the Ministry of Welfare home page www.lm.gov.lv (in Latvian)

NGOs representing persons with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the process of policy planning as well as monitoring of implementation. During preparation of draft laws and regulations and developing amendments on existing legislation (for example, Policy Guidelines for Reduction of Disability and its Consequences, draft law On Disability and its sub laws, the conformity assessment of national legal acts to the United Nation Convention), the NGOs have played the significant role. Therefore such a fruitful cooperation will be continued and broadened also further in the future. The first task this year where the NGOs will be deeply involved will be elaboration of the above mentioned strategic document “Basic Principles of Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2019”. The Ministry of Welfare is open for more intensive cooperation with NGOs at the Convention implementation monitoring process and would wish the more support and the interest from the NGOs side, inviting NGOs to report to the Ministry of Welfare, or in above mentioned working groups and to the NCDA about their activities in implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

In Latvia the statistical data which cover also disability matters, are collected and available in several institutions, depending on respective policy area. It should be mentioned at this stage that the Ministry of Welfare has subordinate institutions (the State Social Insurance Agency, the State Employment Agency, the State Medical Expertise Commission of Health and Capacity for Work (SMECHCW)) whose regular statistics are applicable for the monitoring disability policy. Besides, relevant data related with disability statistics are collected also in other ministries (for instance the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health etc.) and, of course, at the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB). Some statistics are provided in the annual public reports of respective ministries, or institutions, in their home pages, and in the CSB publications. Data is mostly longitudinal.

The improvement of data collection for the total number of persons with disability is in progress: During the EU structural funds` planning period 2004-2006 under the National programme “Provision of information and communication technologies in administrative institutions of the social services system” the SMECHCW, involving the ERDF co-financing, created the disability information system, i.e. a **unified database of disabled people**. To continue the development of this database during the EU structural funds` planning period 2007-2013 under the operational programme’s “Infrastructure and services” activity "Information systems and electronic services development" the SMECHCW, involving ERDF co-financing, has started the new project “Digitalization of the archive data basis and implementation of e-services”. It is envisaged, that one of the outputs of this project will be an improved disability information system, which will allow to obtain comprehensive and

detailed statistical data distributed by gender, age, region, as well as by diagnosis, covering all persons with disability (and also persons with threatened/prognosticated disability), including also historical data, which currently in many cases are available only in paper form.

In general, the above mentioned data sources are successfully used for policy formulation and monitoring of implementation. However, it is not sufficient for monitoring the implementation of the Convention because the available data cover multidimensional and multidisciplinary area of the Convention only partially.

The monitoring mechanism of the implementation of the Convention, including Article 31, is not yet adjudicated. Therefore in a view of ensuring both the monitoring of implementation of the Convention and preparation of reports on progress (in accordance with the article 35, paragraph 1 of the Convention) the development of indicators will be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the working group for preparation of the strategic document “Basic Principles of Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2019”. The working group will start its activities in March 2010 and in parallel to the elaboration of the strategic document for 2013-2019, all relevant ministries will be asked to make proposals for specific indicators which could support the analysis of the implementation of the Convention. After reaching an agreement on the indicators, the involved relevant ministries will be obliged to ensure collecting and maintenance of these specific statistical data.

Lithuania

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

As the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified on 27 May 2010, the coordination mechanism and focal points for implementation of UN Convention were designated by the Resolution of Government No. 1739 on 8th of December, 2010.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour was designated as the focal point for implementing UN Convention. Other public authorities (the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Statistics, Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications) were designated as sub-focal points for implementation of UN Convention according to their competence.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The main aims and objectives of the UN Convention and its implementation are included in the National Social Integration Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2010-2012 (hereinafter referred as to Programme).

The main aim of the Programme is to achieve equal opportunities and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in line with international and national public policy objectives and commitments.

The main objectives of the Programme are: 1. to increase aid to the families of people with disabilities (children, adults); 2. To develop services for people with disabilities in the community and improve their quality of life; 3. To improve environment for people with disabilities, the legal framework, improve accessibility of the disabled; 4. To improve health care and medical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and improve the quality of these services; 5. To increase and raise the effectiveness and accessibility of the disabled to education and training services; 6. To increase access to employment and labour market; 7. To strengthen legal protection; 8. To increase participation in public and political life; 9. To increase participation in physical education and sports activities; 10. To improve the management of the social inclusion process and etc.

The Programme is coordinated and monitored by the Department for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

It is noteworthy that after ratification of the UN Convention, The Plan for Implementation of the National Social Integration Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2010-2012 was appended with other measures, which were proposed by public authorities and non-governmental organizations of disabled persons. The document was approved by the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

Also it is important to note, that disabled people together with other socially vulnerable groups will be included in the National Reform Program.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Council for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson perform the function of independent mechanism. The Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson performs the function of protection and ensures that all the rights of disabled would be guaranteed. The Ombudsperson also takes actions so that violation of rights of persons with disabilities would be stopped: accepts complaints, investigates them and solves problems, writes comments to the Courts, etc. The Council for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour monitors the implementation of the UN Convention:

- Assesses the human rights situation in respect of disabled persons;
- Brings attention of public authorities to the violation of disabled rights;
- Helps to foresee measures to protect from human rights violation;
- Gives proposals for improving legislation, seeking to properly implement Convention;
- Analyzes how provisions of UN Convention are implemented.

2.2.2 The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The rights of people with disabilities are defended and represented by the associations of disabled persons. Decisions are taken after including the opinions and experiences of persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour has several subordinated institutions: the Department for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Service for Establishing Disability and Capacity for Work under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Dispute Commission under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and the Centre for Technical Assistance for People with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. They organize regular meetings with relevant NGOs in order to ensure closer cooperation, distribution of information as well as resolution of existing problems. Relevant problems related to the establishment of ability-for-work and disability, determination of the need for professional rehabilitation services, ensuring equal opportunities etc. are issues discussed at these meetings.

As mentioned above, disabled persons are involved in the process of monitoring of implementation of the provisions of UN Convention through representatives of non-governmental organizations of disabled people who take part in the activities of the Council for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (hereinafter referred as to the Council).

The Council analyzes the most important issues in relation to social integration of people with disabilities and submits proposals to the Minister of Social Security and Labour regarding the

implementation of social integration policy relating to the needs of people with disabilities (after ratification of the UN Convention, the Council monitors its implementation also).

The Council is formed on voluntary basis on the grounds of equal partnership rights from state institutions and representatives delegated from the Lithuanian Union of Persons with Visual Impairment, the Lithuanian Society of Persons with Hearing Impairment, the Lithuanian Association of Disabled, the Lithuanian Union of Persons with Disabilities, “Viltis” Association for Care for People with Intellectual Disorders, the Lithuanian Association for Care for People with Mental Disorders and the Paralympic Committee of Lithuania. They each have one main representative, whether he is the president, the vice-president, or the chairman.

The members of the Council representing state institutions are chosen within the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of the Economy. They have one representative each - the vice-minister.

The purpose of the Council is to examine the key issues of social integration of persons with disabilities and to assist the Minister of Social Security and Labour and other Ministers in the implementation of the social integration policy. Decisions by the Council inform and advise the Minister of Social Security and Labour.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The Equal Opportunities Division of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL), acting within the scope of its competence, collects, systematises and analyses information about the implementation of the equal opportunities policy in Lithuania and abroad.

The Department for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour collects, on an annual basis, information and statistics related to the social integration of people with disabilities from the state, local authorities and organizations of people with disabilities. It also systematises and summarises them before notifying the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, state and local authorities and organizations of people with disabilities.

The Service for Establishing Disability and Ability-for-Work under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour draws up statistical reports on persons with disabilities and submits them to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and to the Department of Statistics. The Service for Establishing Disability and Ability-for-Work under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour exchanges information and collaborates with individual healthcare establishments, the National Labour Exchange under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, local authorities, state institutions and other organisations in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data.

Luxembourg

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration is the designated focal point within the Luxembourg Government for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention. It also fulfils a coordination role, cooperating closely, on matters relating to the Convention, with an ad hoc “Steering Group” representing different players within civil society.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The 2009-2014 state agenda plans the development of an outline law on disability proposing a global concept of integration and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration is developing, a national strategy to put in place the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol to allow persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of society.

The analysis of the national legislation in relation to the ratification of the Convention was meant to identify possible laws which may be at the source of discrimination against persons with disabilities. The main findings were related to the accessibility to public services, to higher education as well as adults' legal protection.

In order to raise public awareness about the situation of persons with disabilities and to provide information about the objectives of the Convention, the Family and Integration Ministry has developed an information and awareness campaign on the topic of the UNCRPD.

The principle objectives of the campaign are as follows:

- Informing persons with disabilities about the objectives of the Convention
- Raising awareness of the wider public on the rights of persons with disabilities, showing through various means (posters, adverts) that these rights equal general human rights.
- Providing information to the family members and officials from the social, education, health and care sectors on the UNCRPD.

This campaign was developed in close cooperation with Info-Handicap - Centre National d'Information et de Rencontre du Handicap and various NGOs and other institutions dealing with disability and persons with disabilities.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

Luxembourg has not yet nominated an independent mechanism nor has it determined any reporting format as the ratification process has not yet come to an end. A final decision will be taken after the law approving the UNCRPD is voted. In the revised law proposal, the task of promoting and monitoring the Convention is allocated to the Consultative Commission of

Human Rights (of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). It will carry out that task jointly with the Centre for Equal Treatment, while the task of protecting is being allocated to the National Ombudsman.

The mission of the Consultative Commission of Human Rights is to promote human rights throughout the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg “inter alia” for persons with disabilities, while the Ombudsman is mainly dealing with citizens’ individual complaints. As for the Centre for Equal Treatment, its purpose is to promote, analyse and monitor equal treatment between all persons without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, handicap or age.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The “Conseil supérieur des personnes handicapées” is a national council which has its legal basis in the law of September 12, 2003 about the income of disabled people. It is composed of 11 members, 5 disabled persons, 4 representatives of organisations for persons with disabilities, one representative of the “Centre national d’information et de rencontre du handicap” and one of the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration. It is allowed to take the initiative of giving advice on specific disability related issues and it is bound to express its view on every single law or other disability-specific legal instruments and to advise the Minister on other issues on her request.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration cooperates largely with Info-Handicap-Conseil National des Personnes Handicapées which represents Luxembourg in the European Disability Forum (EDF). It is a loose federation currently comprising more than 50 member organisations which are active in many different areas. Some members are major service providers, responsible for running large institutions, while others are very small self-help or support groups. One of Info-Handicap's main tasks is thus to identify shortcomings in these areas and seek solutions to them in cooperation with the authorities. It is also undertaking, on a regular basis, actions to raise awareness in the field of disability.

Consultations between the Ministry of Family and Integration and several organisations of and for disabled persons take place on a regular basis. This cooperation is of variable geometry depending on the questions and problems that need to be tackled.

The pillars of the policy for disabled persons are social inclusion and the participation at all levels as well as the maintenance and development of the personal autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities. An evaluation of the expectations and of the needs is necessarily carried out before the launch of a new project.

Another important tool used to foster empowerment of people with disabilities is the support of the Ministry of Family and Integration for " umbrella " organisations which coordinate the activities of a number of member organisations. For several years, two of those organisations, namely Info-Handicap a.s.b.l. and “Solidarité mit Hörgeschädigten”, have been benefiting from a convention with the Ministry of Family and Integration for their information, consultation and training services.

That same ministry is also cooperating closely, on matters relating to the UNCRPD, with an ad hoc “Steering Group” representing different players within civil society. Together with that “Steering Group” it is organizing, on a regular basis, “task groups” where persons with disabilities and all other persons interested in the subject can express their views freely and

where they are being directly involved in the decision making process related to the main subjects of the UNCPRD.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The department for persons with disabilities of the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration is reflecting upon and developing a common coherent strategy for a coordinated collection of statistical data. In the meantime, Luxembourg uses statistical data collected by different actors working with issues related to disability such as the *Service des Travailleurs Handicapés de l'Administration de l'Emploi*, the *Service de l'Education Différenciée*, *l'Assurance Dépendance et la Caisse Nationale des Prestations Familiales*. While collecting relevant data, the main problems encountered were the double citing of certain figures and the legal protection of specific data.

Malta

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Art. 33.1)

Malta has not yet nominated a focal point or a coordination mechanism, discussions on the implementation of Article 33.1 are ongoing. The Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family will include the implementation of Article 33.1 in the existing laws which are currently being amended to be able to ratify the Convention and the Optional Protocol. Once the required amendments to legislation are enacted, it is expected that the Government will proceed with ratification.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

No strategy is yet in place since Malta still has to ratify the Convention.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Art. 33.2)

Currently, no mechanisms are in place since Malta has not yet ratified the Convention. Discussions on this are ongoing, in conjunction with discussions on the implementation of Article 33.1.

2.2.2 The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

To date, several seminars and conferences have been held with representatives of disability organisations and other stakeholders in order to disseminate information about the Convention. The text of the Convention is being produced in accessible formats through EU funding. To date, it is available in audio, Maltese, easy-to-read Maltese versions, and in Maltese Sign Language.

The National Commission for Persons with Disability (KNPD) has the legal capacity to promote and raise awareness on issues of disability. The Commission is composed of not less than fourteen members. Seven of the members shall be appointed from amongst such persons appearing to the Prime Minister to best represent the Ministries responsible for Social Policy, Labour, Health, Education, Housing and Economic Planning. Another seven of the members shall be appointed from among such persons who, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, best represent voluntary organisations working in the field of disability issues. Furthermore, half the board members must themselves be persons with disabilities, or family members of persons with a mental disability. Either the chairperson, or the vice chairperson must be disabled himself or he must be related to a person with a mental disability. More than half of the employees of the KNPD's secretariat have disabilities.

The KNPD has a comprehensive programme¹⁶ of empowering persons with disability. KNPD organises regular awareness-raising campaigns with the direct participation of persons with disability and often with EU funding. These include an annual national conference and the Parliament of Persons with Disability. KNPD organises training for persons with disability to assume these roles and tasks, as well as disability studies and lectures, mainly for university students. These sessions always include the direct involvement of persons with disability, in both curriculum design as well as lecture-delivery. Disability Equality Training is also provided to public and private organisations and community groups. KNPD, on a regular basis, includes persons with disability when participating in activities organised at EU level (e.g. annual Conference organised to mark the European Day of Persons with Disability in December).

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Art. 31)

KNPD collects statistics but not with direct reference to the Convention. The information published in KNPD's Annual Equal Opportunities Act (Cap. 413) Report is relevant to this but may be limited in scope for this purpose.

In 2009, KNPD published statistics about the quality of life of disabled people in Malta, based on the 2005 National Census. This will be updated after the next Census due to take place in 2011.

¹⁶ This programme includes:

(a) SPEAK OUT!

Training of Persons with Disability to take part in Disability Equality Training session

This consists of an annual residential training course which is delivered to different groups of disabled persons. One session focuses specifically on persons with an intellectual impairment. The training programme includes talks and activities by well-established local and foreign, disabled activists, sessions on leadership and communication skills and also the preparation of material (for example, powerpoint presentations) to be used during disability equality training sessions

(b) DISABILITY EQUALITY TRAINING (DET)

DET is delivered to various entities such as front-office employees in public and private companies and NGOs. As always, the training programmes all involve the active participation of persons with disabled persons themselves in both course development as well as course delivery.

(c) DISABILITY STUDIES

These are lectures aimed at university undergraduates. They are intended to serve as a general introduction to Disability Issues and the differing effects which disabling barriers have upon individuals and society. Lectures aim to give students:

an introduction to key texts on disablement and the Social Model of Disability (the theoretical aspect),
a chance to exchange views with disabled activists (the experiential aspect) and
a final assessment which encourages them to critically examine their own and societies attitudes towards disablement and disabled people (the attitudinal aspect)

These lectures are designed and delivered chiefly by disabled persons themselves.

(d) CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT

KNPD has established a consultative group of persons with intellectual impairment to advise KNPD on all decisions taken at policy level.

(e) KNPD KEY DOCUMENTS IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

In order to ensure effective participation of persons with disability and to truly empower them, KNPD has endeavoured to produce all its publications, in some cases in summary form, in different formats. These include versions in Maltese, English, Easy-to-Read format in Maltese, audio and Maltese Sign Language. Furthermore, all publications are also posted on KNPD's website (which is also accessible to all according to international access standards).

Further information can be obtained from the KNPDP website, www.knpd.org.

The Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family will start discussions on the possibility of developing a strategy for a coordinated collection of statistical data on disability in Malta.

The Netherlands

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

It is proposed that after the ratification of the UNCRPD the focal point will be the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The coordination mechanism consists of an interministerial Steering Group in which all relevant government departments and other government levels (local and provincial) are represented.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Equal treatment and mainstreaming of issues relevant for persons with disabilities are the basic conditions for policies on a local and national level. The Government and the Parliament also assess policies on this aspect. Apart from this, no comprehensive implementation plan for the Convention has yet been put in place.

However, in the course of preparing the UNCRPD the government focal point (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) prepares and supports conferences and publications on the UNCRPD.

Moreover, some measures have already been taken for the implementation of the UNCRPD:

- The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has issued an obligation for municipalities to provide for at least 25 percent of the polling stations in an every region will be completely accessible.
- A detailed regulation will enter into force in 2011 providing for accessible public transport system. Most buses are already accessible and the bus stops and around 50% of the busstops will be accessible in 2015. This regulation sets out different time schemes for different aspects of transport system.
- On the labour market and domain of social affairs, the growing influx of young people into the scheme for young disabled is a worrying development. The cabinet therefore has proposed a new Act in order to increase the labour participation for young persons with disabilities. This new Act came into force on 1st January 2010. Under this Act, young persons must be given the chance to look for a regular job or ‘supported job’ before they apply for a benefit.
- In the domain of education the equal treatment act is broadened to all aspects of primary, secondary and higher education.
- The equal treatment act on the basis of handicap and chronically illness has been made applicable in the field of primary and secondary education and housing and will be applicable with regard to public transport in the near future (halfway 2011).. At the moment further extension of the applicability of this act with respect to accessibility of internet is being prepared.

At local level many municipalities have started different stimulating programs.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Netherlands have designated the new National Human Rights Institute as the independent mechanism for promoting, protecting and monitoring the UNCRPD. To set up the NHRI, a draft law has been put for Parliament. When the law has been accepted and implemented the NHRI will start its work. This is expected to take place by the end of 2011.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

After ratification the National Human Right Institute will involve civil society in the monitoring process.

Furthermore, civil society is monitoring the implementation of UNCRPD when asked for an opinion in the process of drafting new legislation and policies relevant to persons with disabilities. To this end, strong relations between several government departments and civil society have been formalized. Monitoring of UNCRPD also takes place within the ambit of several formal advisory bodies to the government in which civil society is represented. These bodies advise the government on major policy subjects. Civil society in the Netherlands is well organised and receives government funding for its work on empowering persons with disabilities, also with a view to monitoring governmental action.

On a local level, the municipalities are legally obliged to establish a formal advisory and monitoring structure for persons with disabilities in the area of labour and social support. Furthermore, municipalities create “platforms” for persons with disabilities to advice local authorities, shopkeepers’ associations service providers etc. on any issue relevant for persons with disabilities. These platforms are supported by a national program aiming at the empowerment of persons with a disability which is funded by the government.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

A “participation index” has been developed to measure the level of participation of persons with disabilities. This index includes indicators on education, labour, leisure, housing and the level of using mainstream provisions.

Poland

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Poland has not ratified the Convention yet, so no “relevant structures, namely focal point, coordination mechanism and a framework including independent mechanism to protect, promote and monitor the UNCRPD pursuant to its Article 33” have been put in place. Decisions concerning these issues will be taken at the moment of deciding on ratifying the Convention, taking due consideration of the legal system in force, existing human rights protection structures and the Convention provisions.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

As Poland has not ratified the Convention yet, there is no formal obligation to implement it. Preparation of the ratification is carried out within the framework of the procedure applicable to the ratification of international agreements, set out by the Act on international agreements. The adoption of any special strategy is not being envisaged.

The same will apply to the implementation of the Convention once Poland ratifies it. Relevant Ministries apply the principle of disability mainstreaming and include disability issues into legislation, programmes and action plans.

The Polish Government and the self-government authorities have been called upon by the Sejm to undertake activities aiming at implementing the rights mentioned in the Resolution - Charter of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities passed on 1 August 1997. The implementation of these rights aims to enable persons with disabilities to lead an independent, self-reliant and active life and to not be discriminated in any area of life. These goals reflect the goals of the Convention. In the Resolution, the Sejm called upon the Government to submit annual reports on these activities. The reports are prepared (in cooperation with various Ministries and central offices) and presented to the Sejm by the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled People, situated within the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Several developments have taken place in Poland, in relation to the last Report:

With regards to “Voting rights”, to improve enjoyment of the right to vote by persons with a severe or moderate degree of disability and persons aged 75 and over, a procedure of voting by an intermediary (a representative) was established through amendments to the Act on elections to the European Parliament (by virtue of *the Act of 12 February 2009 on amendments to the Act on election of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Act on national referendum and the Act on elections to the European Parliament*, signed by the President on 20 November 2009 and into force from 16 December 2009).

The institution of “an intermediary” has been also introduced to the act (of 27 September 1990) concerning presidential elections, the act (of 16 July 1998) concerning electoral law for elections to the bodies of self-government, and to the act (of 20 June 2002) concerning elections of persons acting as bodies of local executive power. These were enabled by virtue of *the Act of 19 November 2009 on the amendment to the Act on election of the President of*

the Republic of Poland, the Act – Electoral Law for elections to gmina councils, powiat councils and voivodships sejmiks and the Act on elections of wójt, major and president of the town, which came into force since 24 December 2009.

Amendments introduced at the same time by virtue of *the Act of 19 November 2009 on the amendment to the Act on the election of the President of the Republic of Poland and to some other acts* extended the obligation to provide adjustments to meet special needs of voters with disabilities in the polling stations used for presidential and the self-government elections.

2.2. Monitoring the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

In Poland an independent mechanism pursuant to Article 33.2 of the UN Convention will be nominated at the moment of ratifying the Convention. Poland has already well-established administrative procedures for reporting on the application of different UN conventions concerning human rights and it intends to maintain them. Should there be a need for any adaptations, they will be considered at a later stage.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

Means ensuring involvement of civil society in the process of implementation and monitoring of the UNCRPD has not yet been defined. Common legal regulations which are already in force will continue to be applied.

According to the Act on access to the public information, any person has the right to obtain information from public authorities and to request access to the official documents elaborated, inter alia, by the public authority bodies.

The representatives of people with disabilities are consulted within the framework of decision-making processes conducted with the participation of:

- the National Consultative Council for Disabled People (on the national level), which is an advisory body of the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled People and acts as a platform of cooperation to the benefit of persons with disabilities between bodies of national administration, bodies of territorial self-government and non-governmental organisations. The scope of activities of the Council includes the submission to the Plenipotentiary of proposals for actions aimed at meeting the needs of people with disabilities. It also includes the submission, upon Plenipotentiary's request, of opinions on the proposals for underlying principles of policy concerning employment and vocational and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and on legislative projects that can affect the situation of persons with disabilities, as well as informing of the need to establish or change the regulations in this respect;
- the voluntary voivodship councils for persons with disabilities (on the regional level), which are consultative and advisory bodies serving the marshals of voivodships; their task is to inspire actions aimed at vocational and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and exercising the rights by persons with disabilities, to issue opinions on the voivodship programmes of action for the benefit of persons with disabilities and to

evaluate their implementation as well as to consult draft resolutions and programmes prepared for adoption by the voivodship parliament from the perspective of their impact on persons with disabilities;

- the voluntary powiat councils for persons with disabilities (on the local level), which are consultative and advisory bodies serving the starostas; the scope of their activity is powiat-wide and their tasks are similar to those of the voivodship councils.

Moreover, the Foundation “Regional Development Institute” and the Polish Disability Forum (that is an umbrella organisation in the field of disability) were involved in the assessment of compliance of the Polish legislation and the Convention provisions, which was carried out in 2008 as a part of a project co-financed by the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Their recommendations included in the report “Polish way to the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities” are duly taken into consideration by governmental administration when considering necessity of and elaborating proposals for amendments to national legislation prior to a decision on the ratification of the Convention.

Furthermore, consultative and participatory techniques are used to raise the awareness in terms of equal treatment and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities. Moreover they aim at supporting the incorporation of their needs in legislative and practical matters. The application of such techniques results in the participation of people with disabilities in the various evaluation and advisory bodies. It also results in promoting the integration of persons with disabilities in the upbringing and education (starting from pre-school age); organizing of seminars and conferences, media campaigns, events and other actions in order to integrate persons with disabilities into the local communities. It shall also raise awareness of the local self-governments on the needs of people with disabilities.

It should be mentioned that, according to the Resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland - Charter of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government Plenipotentiary for People with Disabilities annually informs the Sejm on actions undertaken by the Polish Government and local authorities to implement the rights of persons with disabilities defined in the Resolution. This is followed by the Parliamentary debate on the developments in increasing the opportunities of persons with disabilities in the most important areas of daily life, and on questions of avoiding and eliminating any kinds of discrimination of people with disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

A more thorough examination of the Convention may reveal the need to collect statistical data which presently is not in place. At the moment, there is no particular need to collect additional statistical data or to develop indicators in view of monitoring the application of the Convention.

Portugal

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Portugal ratified the UNCRPCD in September 2009. The Government has appointed the National Institute for the Rehabilitation as the Focal Point. The Adjunct Secretary of State for Rehabilitation in the National Institute for Rehabilitation is a national contact point within the Portuguese Government for all disability issues. It is also expected that the Ombudsman for Disability will be involved at a regional and local level.

The National Institute for Rehabilitation was assigned national coordination mechanism within the public administration (Art. 33 UNCRPD).

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The Portuguese Government approved the National Strategy for the Disability (2011-2013) by the Resolution of Ministers n° 97/2010 of 14th December 2010. This strategy is based on the UNCRPD and succeeds the Action Plan for the Integration of People with Disabilities or Impairments (2006-2009).

The National Institute for Rehabilitation (INR, I.P.) is responsible for the planning, execution and coordination of policies aimed to promote the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. This Institute will monitor the implementation of the National Strategy for the Disability. This strategy was a result of a public consultation and it is intended to promote a wide partnership between public and private entities, central, regional or local administration, social partners, NGOs and civil society, as well as people with disabilities. It establishes a set of measures, targets and indicators distributed by five strategic areas of action:

- Axis n°1: Disability and multiple discrimination;
- Axis n°2: Justice and exercise of rights;
- Axis n°3: Autonomy and quality of life;
- Axis n°4: Accessibility and design for all;
- Axis n°5: Modernization of Administrative and Information systems.

Regarding axis n°1 and 2, the National Strategy for the Disability intends to:

- Promote awareness and information about domestic violence against persons with disabilities
- develop a program about UNCRPD at national level;
- make an assessment of national legislation verifying if Portuguese laws are meeting the requirements of UNCRPD;
- make the first national report regarding the UNCRPD implementation;
- review national laws concerning the accessibilities in buildings;
- promote public dissemination of rights, dignity and better health conditions for persons with disability;

Regarding axis n°3 and 4 : The National Strategy for the Disability intends to:

- develop a national campaign on the employment of persons with disabilities,
- Implement a National System of Intervention in Precocious Childhood,

- Strengthen teachers skills in special education;
- Develop initiatives addressed to persons with disability in order to increase their skills.
- Increase the number of beaches with accessibility,
- Increase the number of public buildings with accessibility
- Create a guide on good practices in accessible tourism
- Improve public transports with accessibility
- Reinforce the school manuals and books in accessible formats

Regarding axis nº5: Administrative modernization and information systems intends to:

- develop a project that will allow public services answer questions and doubts of persons with hearing-impaired disability;
- Consolidate the accessibility of public services internet sites.

The National Strategy for the Disability is intended to strength the disability public policy and to consolidate the previous Action Plan for the Integration of People with Disabilities. It develops a mainstreaming approach of disability and defines the measures that will be adopted and implemented in the different areas of public policy. In the first semester of 2011 the Government is going to launch a consultation to civil society to define the participation of NGOPD in the strategy for disability.

Annually the National Institute for Rehabilitation I.P. elaborates a report concerning the complaints based on disability discrimination act. The complaint procedure is also available on the website of the Institute.

The Portuguese Government approved the Decree-Law 163/2006, 08th August that establishes the technical norms of accessibility to public and collective equipments, public buildings and housing. This new law reinforces the accessibility rules as well as the sanctions that apply to public or private entities.

Portugal has also approved the National Plan for the Promotion of Accessibility (2006-2015) to provide to persons with disabilities, autonomy, equal opportunities and full participation. This plan incorporates a set of measures of accessibility in the built of environment, transportation and information and communication technologies (ICT) and supportive technologies (TA) to all citizens without exception.

In October 2010, the Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) project was launched in Portugal. This project involves the National Institute for Rehabilitation I.P., the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the High Institute for Social and Political Sciences/Lisbon Technical University. The DRPI project will create an independent instrument to monitor the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and it is intended to promote the human rights of persons with disability and their empowerment. The DRPI project is an innovative approach that involves three institutions with knowledge in disability, human rights and social research areas. It is also intended to be freely used by the independent mechanism that monitors the Convention.

The National Strategy for the Disability set up some measures, namely, the creation of an Independent Mechanism responsible for the promotion and screening of UNCRPD.

The National Institute for Rehabilitation also invested in research and manuals in specific areas such as the multiple discrimination of women with disabilities, the deinstitutionalization

of children with disability, accessible tourism, the available information on disability produced in public administration data and the implementation of ICF in health and social security inquiries.

These studies were financed by the ESF and are available in the website of the Institute (www.inr.pt). From 2010 to 2012 it was approved more research studies on the mental health of persons with intellectual disability, the violence against persons with disabilities and personal assistance services. Most of the studies were made by research centres of Portuguese Universities and created manuals and/or recommendations to implement good practices in different public and private services.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

Portugal has not yet nominated an independent mechanism as mentioned in Article 33.2 of the UN Convention. Portugal also did not establish any special formats for the reporting to the UN. However, Portugal is currently cooperating on political issues with NGOs.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The 38/2004 law ensures full participation of people with disabilities or their representative organisations in the drafting of legislation on disability, execution and evaluation of all policies mentioned in this law, so as to ensure their involvement in all situations of everyday life and society in general.

The technical and financing program of the National Institute for Rehabilitation, I.P. for NGOPD has been developed in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2009. This Financial Program has contributed to develop civil society activities in different areas as cultural and leisure activities, empowerment and awareness, accessible and easy to read information on human rights and technical seminars. The National Institute for Rehabilitation I.P. undertook some initiatives (i.e. conferences/seminars/presentations) in order to disseminate the UNCRPD and has a training program for specific groups: persons with disabilities, local communities' architects and social workers, journalists and public servants. It even published a children's version of the UN Convention and a manual for parliamentarians about the implementation of the Convention. All documentation is available and can be freely consult in the website of the institute (www.inr.pt).

The involvement of the NGOs is also guaranteed through the National Council for the Rehabilitation and Integration of the People with Disabilities (“Conselho Nacional de Reabilitação e Integração das Pessoas com Deficiência” – CNRIPD), which is a consultative body of the Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity providing the Government with information used in deciding on matters related to the definition of the National Rehabilitation Policies. This body supports and includes representatives of all kinds of organizations of people with disabilities as well as social partners and public authorities. It issues opinions and presents proposals for measures related to the problems of rehabilitation and disability.

The State encourages and supports people with disabilities, their families and the Association Movement throughout all measures taken for the prevention of disabilities, the rehabilitation and the social integration of people with disabilities.

In recent years, the Association Movement has grown significantly and consolidated its form of acting. In some cases it has taken on an active role of claiming rights for the people with disabilities. The dialogue between the State and the NGOs, and the logistical and financial support that the latter have received, has contributed to encouraging the social role played by the Associations.

In doing so, the Portuguese Government is adhering to both, the principles contained in the Basic Law and to the international recommendations for the participation of people with disabilities in the definition and concretisation of effective related policies.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The Portuguese Census 2011 will update the last Census 2001. It will include the Washington Group questions about Disability as well as questions about accessibility in the environment and private houses.

In 2010 the National Institute for Rehabilitation made two studies about the available information on disability produced in public administration data and the implementation of ICF in health and social security inquiries. The National Statistic Institute also adopted a Recommendation about the use of ICF in national collecting data systems.

Romania

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The focal point is the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, within the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection.

The coordination mechanism is the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

Romania has not yet developed any comprehensive strategy to implement the UNCRPD.

However, the promotion and observance of the rights of disabled persons shall be, mainly, the duty of the local public administration authorities where the disabled person has his/her domicile or residence and, in subsidiary, and complementarily, of the central public administration authorities, civil society and the family or of the legal representative of the person.

Based on the equal chances principle, the competent public authorities shall ensure the necessary financial resources, and take specific measures as to ensure the direct and unlimited access to services. The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection through the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the other local and central public authorities shall ensure the necessary conditions for the social integration and inclusion of disabled persons.

2.2. Monitoring the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

Within the Law 221/2010 for Ratification of the Convention regarding the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities the monitoring mechanism was established. The Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection through the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities is designated the central authority for the implementation of the UNCRPD, but it is not established as the independent monitoring mechanism.

2.2.2 The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

The civil society will be involved through the independent mechanism to protect, promote and monitor the UNCRPD.

The NGOs of Persons with disabilities are consulted in regard to all legislative measures for persons with disabilities in the following areas:

- For activities related to the protection and promotion of the rights of disabled persons, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection and the local and central public

administration authorities maintain dialogue, collaboration and partnership relationships with the non-governmental organizations of persons with disabilities or which represent their interests, and with the cult institutions recognized by law with activity in this field.

- The Council for the analysis of the problems of disabled persons is an advisory body attached to the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, formed by representatives of central public administration authorities as well as the representatives of the civil society.
- The task of the Council is to analyze the problem of the protection of disabled persons, to propose measures regarding the improvement of their living conditions and to notify the competent bodies of the breach of the rights of disabled persons.

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection through the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities may conclude partnerships with non-governmental organizations of disabled persons, which represent their interests or perform activities in the field of promotion and defense of human rights.

People with disabilities and their representative organisations are very active and constantly push the legislative reform forward; however there is no regular consultation or collaboration between authorities and people with disabilities. It actually seems that the situation is rather deteriorating than improving, despite that the fact that a framework for collaboration exists. Many people with disabilities themselves are not aware of the rights and possibilities promoted by the Convention. Social service providers have not been involved either in a formal way.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection through the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities is collecting statistics on the number of the persons with disabilities, the kinds of disabilities, the number of residential institutions and the living conditions they offer, the number and the type of the alternative services, data regarding the implementation of the specific quality standards in residential institutions and data regarding the costs.

Slovakia

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

Currently, no contact point has been established in the Slovak Republic to deal with implementation of the Convention.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

No strategy on the Convention implementation has been developed so far. However, a new National Programme of developing the living conditions of persons with disabilities has been under preparation, based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and could serve as a national strategy. By Resolution no. 158 of 2 March 2011, the Government approved the Statute of the Government Council for Human Rights, Minorities and Gender Equality and also abrogated the Council of the Government for people with disabilities. The newly established Government Council for Human Rights, Minorities and Gender Equality Committee set up the Committee for people with disabilities. The Committee will be constituted in mid-June, after approval by the Committee on the status of persons with disabilities at the Government Council for Human Rights, Minorities and Gender Equality. Finalization of the updated National Programme for the Development of living conditions of persons with disabilities will deal with the newly constituted Committee for Persons with Disabilities and its expert working groups. The deadline for completion of the National Programme for the Development of living conditions of persons with disabilities will depend on the Committee's work plan, approved after its constitution.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Slovak Republic has currently not established an unambiguous, independent mechanism for promoting, protecting and monitoring the Convention.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organisation (in accordance with Article 33 (3) of the Convention) have been preparing for the monitoring process through the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The Slovak Republic would like to draw the attention to the following information and databases: <http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=19195>

Slovenia

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Art. 33.1)

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs was designated as the focal point within government for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention in accordance with the Act on ratification of UNCRPD and the Protocol, in accordance with Slovenian system of disability policy.

Within the National Assembly there is a special Committee on Labour, the Family, Social Policy and Disability and within the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia there is a special independent Commission for Social Care, Labour, Health and the Disabled (the actual president of this commission is a person with disabilities).

The framework of organisations which are also dealing with disability issues in Slovenia is composed of National Council of Disabled People's Organisation of Slovenia (NSIOS) with its representative and other disabled people's organisation working on a national level and of several expert and governmental institutions.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

In 2006, the Slovenian Government accepted the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2013. The program is based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as on other UN documents, Action Programme of the EU for persons with disabilities and on the Action Programme of the Council of Europe. Slovenian Government approves a yearly report on implementation and control of the objectives and measures of APPD ([report for 2008 – in Slovenian only](#)).

The purpose of Slovenia's Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. The program comprises twelve fundamental objectives together with 124 measures, comprehensively governing all spheres of persons with disabilities life, and referring to the period 2007 – 2013.

In the last section of Action [Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2013 \(APPD\)](#) are listed several actions for implementation and control of the objectives and measures laid down in APPD. Participation of the civil society is ensured in the 2nd article: “ensuring that disabled people's organizations are fully involved in control procedures”. Further to that a Disabled Organisations Act (article 4) prescribes that all the state institutions should consult with Disabled People's Organisations in all matters concerning the planning of national policy and actions to ensure equal opportunities and equal treatment of disabled people.

A special Governmental committee, to control implementation of actions laid down in APPD, was established and has a task to prepare an annual report to be send to the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Members of this committee are representatives of all relevant ministries, institutions and of the NSIOS, as representatives of persons with disabilities.

Goals in Action Programme for persons with disabilities 2007-2013:

1. Expand awareness throughout society regarding persons with disabilities, their contribution to the development of society, rights, dignity and needs;
2. All persons with disabilities have the right to decide, on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, where they wish to live and have the right to fully participate in community life;
3. Ensure persons with disabilities access to physical environment, transport, information and communications;
4. Ensure, on an equal basis with others and without discrimination, an inclusive educational system at all levels and lifelong learning;
5. Ensure persons with disabilities access to work and employment without discrimination in a work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible;
6. Ensure persons with disabilities adequate standard of living, financial assistance and social security;
7. Ensure to persons with disabilities effective health care;
8. Enable persons with disabilities full inclusion in cultural activities and collaboration in the area of accessibility of cultural materials on an equal basis with others;
9. Ensure persons with disabilities participation in sports and cultural activities;
10. Ensure that persons with disabilities may participate in the religious and spiritual activities of their communities on an equal basis with others;
11. Strengthen the position of organizations of persons with disabilities;
12. Detecting and preventing violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Besides the governmental regulations there is a big effort to organize press conferences whenever possible to promote UN Convention and in a past year 2009 there were several press conferences. Also, cooperation is planned with Slovenian National Council of People with disabilities, to take targeted actions in the framework of Progress. Several activities are also planned to celebrate the 3 of December, International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Training seminars and meetings on UN Convention were provided on the level of Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Articles on UNCPRD were published in the publications and media. The targeted audiences were people with disabilities and their organization, service providers, professionals.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCPRD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

During the ratification process, Slovenia decided that the most appropriate body for monitoring the implementation of the Convention is the Government Council for Persons with Disabilities. It is a professional and consultative body to the Government or Republic of Slovenia and it was established in 1996 to:

- give opinions to legislative and other regulations,
- participate in development and gives recommendations to national programs' implementation,

- analyse co-operation among ministries, professional institutions and organisations of persons with disabilities and
 - Yearly reports to the government on disability policy.
- The council consists of equal number of representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities, government and professional institutions.

Big efforts to protect, promote and monitor the UNCRPD are provided by NSIOS whose mission is systemic implementation of human rights of disabled people and their legal representatives as well as full inclusion and equality of disabled people in all social areas. In this sense NSIOS is also constantly pursuing to examine Slovenian legislation and provide initiatives for its amendments in accordance with the interests of the disabled; to participate in the preparation of new legislation and to verify whether the interests of disabled people and their organisations are adequately taken into account in the proposed laws. NSIOS also encourages the provision of equal opportunities for disabled persons in the society and is always asserting the principle “nothing about disability without disabled”.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

Civil society and in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are involved and they fully participate in the monitoring process through consulting professional body – Government Council for persons with disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia. They may also submit proposals directly to the drafts of Acts, to the Programmes and are participating at working groups.

The Government Council for Persons with Disabilities ensures that persons with disabilities are given due consideration in all national programme documents and gives expert opinions on proposed acts and implementing regulations.

Besides, the Council discusses all legal acts concerning the status of persons with disabilities in different stages of drawing up and adoption. It monitors the implementation of adopted legal acts and draws attention to problems and deficiencies that arise in the process. Within international cooperation the Council keeps itself informed of new developments in EU concerning persons with disabilities (reports of ministries, National Council of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and representative organisations of persons with disabilities). The Council considers expert reports of institutions operating in the field of protection of persons with disabilities. It draws up opinions and positions on documents the relevant ministries prepare for the Government and on initiatives and proposals submitted to it by disability organisations, social economy organisations, professional institutions and individuals.

The Council is tripartite – it consists of representatives of representative disability organisations, Government representatives and experts. Of fifteen members, five are representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities.

Due to the fact, that the responsible body for reporting guidelines is the treaty body under CRPD, Slovenia will wait till the guidelines for reporting will be prepared by the body, which are to be prepared during 2009.

It has to be underlined that Slovenia adopted the Action Program for persons with disabilities 2007 – 2013. Every year the government discusses the report on its realisation. The report for 2008 is prepared in a way that it includes also the reporting elements on Convention

implementation, even that so far, Slovenia didn't collect any statistic regarding implementation of CRPD.

Under the Slovenian Act on disability organizations adopted in 2002, Article 4 on Engagement to consult disability organisations provides that "Disability organizations participate in shaping the national policies and measures for providing equal opportunities and equal treatment of persons with disabilities. National authorities consult disability organizations on all matters from previous paragraph" Furthermore Article 10 states that, disability organizations among other define interests and defend the needs of persons with disabilities on all levels concerning the life of disabled persons and contribute to the awareness of general public and have an impact on changes in favour of disabled persons, plan, organize and perform program

Representative and other disability organizations functioning on national level can join into a national council of disability organizations - National Council of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. The goal of the Council is to coordinate interests of all persons with disabilities in the country, concerning the autonomy of each disability organization and to represent them in the dialogue between professional associations, national authorities, public institutions and other public. The National Council gives suggestions according the regulations on the joint representatives in the authorities of national institutions and authorities of international organizations and cooperation and performs other commonly agreed activities.

The government and line ministries consistently respect this provision and consult the representatives of representative disability organizations on all important issues. Also public discussions on preparatory acts are being held at the same time.

2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

Slovenia points out to the following information and data bases:

<http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/publikacije/>

<http://www.irssv.si/publikacije/leto-2008/index.html>

Dostopnost grajenega in komunikacijskega okolja kot predpogoj za socialno vključevanje invalidov (477.04 kB)

http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=2805

Spain

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The focal point for the UNCRPD is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality, through the Directorate General for the Coordination of Sectorial Policies on Disability, which it's the responsible for the coordination of both.

The government coordination mechanism to protect, promote and monitor compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is the National Disabilities Council.

This is a consulting body made up equally of representatives of all of the ministries and representatives of persons with disabilities. It was created in 2004 by Royal Decree 1865/2004¹⁷, which regulates the National Disabilities Council. It is assigned to the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport and the participation of the associative movement of people with disabilities is institutionalized together with their families and the General State Administration, for defining and coordinating a coherent policy of integral attention. In particular, promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination of people with disabilities corresponds to this Council. To do so, the original responsibilities have been extended through Royal Decree 1468/2007¹⁸, of 2 November, by which the Royal Decree that regulates the National Council on Disability has been modified, by adding to the functions of the National Council on Disability that of constituting the organ of reference for promoting and monitoring legal international instruments regarding human rights for people with disabilities, on account of the recent adoption by the United Nations Organization of an International Convention in this sphere. The last modifications of the National Council on Disability were introduced by the Royal Decree 1855/2009¹⁹, of 4 December. Furthermore, the Commission on Integral Policies on Disabilities was created in the Congress of Deputies

Spain is made up of Autonomous Communities. Taking the distribution of jurisdiction between the central government and the autonomous regions into account, the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality holds periodic meetings with the general directors responsible for disabilities in each autonomous region, through the Directorate General for the Coordination of Sectorial Policies on Disability. The Ministry thereby ensures coordination between both administrations. The approval and operation of a mechanism such as that of the joint work methodology between the national government and the general directorates of the autonomous regions in matters of disability foment the putting into practice of the focal points and obligations set forth in the UN Convention at the Spanish regional government level.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

¹⁷ www.mtas.es/sgas/Discapacidad/ConsejoDisca/RD1865-04.htm

¹⁸ http://www.mtas.es/sgas/Discapacidad/ConsejoDisca/RD1865_04modif.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2009/12/26/pdfs/BOE-A-2009-20890.pdf>

Spain ratified the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol, and it has been incorporated into national law²⁰.

In Spanish Law, the evolution in the treatment of disability towards a social model had already occurred before the passing and the coming into effect on 3 May 2008 of the International Convention on Human Rights of People with Disabilities. This evolution starts with the passing of the important Law 13/1982 of 7 April, of Social Integration of Disabled Persons (LISMI) and culminates with the passing of the Law 51/2003, 2 December, of equal opportunities, no discrimination and universal accessibility of people with disability (LIONDAU) and its implementing rules.

The project of law adaptation to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities approved by the Spanish government in December 2010 has been admitted to procedure in the National Parliament.

The first step taken, within the global strategy of implementing the UNCRPD, was the creation of an inter-ministerial work group to draw up an integral study of Spanish law, with the objective of adapting it to the Convention's provisions. This group was approved by the Council of Ministers on July 10, 2009. It was presided over by the Ministry of Health and Social Policies (currently the Ministry of Health, Social Policies and Equality) and included all the ministries. It was advised by the CERMI (Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities). The work group conclusions contained basic information for the first Spanish Report sent to the UN Committee of the CRPD on 3 May 2010.

A permanent inter-ministry work group continue working in different areas such as education, justice, culture, etc. Specific forums were created in these areas like the Inclusive Education Forum which is working in the modification of the university law and the Justice and Disabilities Forum which is analysing matters of the article 12 of the UNCRPD. The focal point is also working in coordination with the Ministry of Culture in order to implement the issues of their competences. An innovative project called *Toys for All* has incorporated the culture of the design for all in the toy industry.

Furthermore, new Decree on accessible voting will enter into force for next electoral process (May 2011). It includes measures like, for example, obligation of accessibility in electoral collages environments, protection of the right of deaf citizen to be call up to serve as a member of an electoral table in a polling station, also as a president, assisted by sign interpreter if necessary, and access to accessible transport, also if necessary, to citizens with disabilities in order to exercise their right to vote.

On the other hand, the government has approved the III Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities, which sets the government's strategy for this legislature (2009-2012) in matters of disabilities, and which falls within the framework of the fundamentals laid down by the UNCRPD.

The Spanish Strategy of Action for the Employment of People with Disabilities 2008-2012 is another governmental initiative in order to promote quality employment for persons with disabilities avoiding any kind of discrimination in the labour conditions.

²⁰ boe.es/aeboe/consultas/bases_datos/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2008-6996

The periodic meetings with the general directors of the autonomous regions' governments allow the measures for compliance with the obligations that, within their areas of authority, they must carry out in the application of the UNCRPD, to be promoted as part of their action plans for persons with disabilities.

All of the mechanisms began early in their work of promoting, protecting and monitoring the UNCRPD. One reflection of this was the joint Declaration²¹ supporting the UNCRPD, signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (currently the Ministry of Health, Social Policies and Equality), CERMI and the ONCE Foundation.

At the same time, the dissemination of the UNCRPD has been a priority in the actions undertaken. Thus, the Convention has been published and distributed in different accessible formats: Easy reading (Real Patronato de Discapacidad and the CNSE Foundation), audio format (ONCE Bibliographic Service), Spanish and Catalan sign language (Real Patronato de Discapacidad and the CNSE Foundation) and in Braille. Likewise, it has been translated into all of the official languages: Spanish, Basque, Galician and Catalan. All of these formats are available at: <http://www.convenciondiscapacidad.es/convencionESPANA.html>

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Royal Decree 1855/2009²², which modified the regulation of the National Disabilities Council mentioned above, designate it as the body of reference for the promotion and monitoring of international legal instruments in matters of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and in particular the implementation of the UNCRPD. The National Disabilities Council created the CERMI (Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities), applying the provisions of article 33.2, as the first independent civil society organization. This also fulfills the provisions of article 33.3, concerning the monitoring and follow-up in Spain of the Convention's application.

2.2.2 The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality works very closely with civil society and promotes its involvement. Different mechanisms have been created, both on the Ministry's initiative and by the principal organizations of representatives of persons with disabilities. Among them are:

- The participation of the academic sector, through Madrid's Carlos III University, in the elaboration of reports relative to Spanish legislation that needs to be adapted to the provisions of the UNCRPD.
- The permanent link with the European Disability Forum (EDF) through the Social and International Relations Area of the ONCE Foundation, headquartered in Brussels.

²¹ <http://sid.usal.es/idocs/F3/LYN10297/3-10297.pdf>

²² <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2009/12/26/pdfs/BOE-A-2009-20890.pdf>

- The web page²³ created by the CERMI to offer specialized information on the UNCRPD, which represents a fundamental instrument for promoting, disseminating and raising the consciousness of society in general about the principles of this agreement.

All projects on regulations and general plans concerning people with disabilities are consulted through the National Disability Council, at which organizations of people with disabilities and their families are represented.

People with disabilities have access to all public means of training that are of interest and; likewise, they have programmes financed by Public Administrations and other collaborators that are undertaken by their Organizations in order to favour their competence and skills.

On the other hand, awareness promotion must be made about the capabilities of these persons who are foreseen throughout this year by Public Administrations and Organizations of people with disabilities. Dialogue is open permanently by these Organizations and those who represent them.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

In Spain, the National Statistics Institute (INE in its Spanish initials) has been carrying out a macro survey on disabilities since 1986. The updated edition of this survey was published in 2008, under the title: Encuesta sobre Discapacidades, Autonomía personal y Situaciones de Dependencia²⁴ (Survey on Disabilities, Personal Autonomy and Dependent Situations).

As a consequence of Spain's ratification of the UNCRPD, and as relates to Article 31, the government initiated a project to include the disabilities indicator in all of the active population statistics produced by the INE.

A new yearly statistical operation called Employment of Persons with Disabilities (EPD 2008: Empleo de las Personas con Discapacidad²⁵) has been published on 20 December 2010. This new data Collection, elaborated by the Statistics National Institute of Spain (INE), is specifically for the employment of people with disabilities but also includes information about educational level of people with disabilities with ages between 14 and 64 years old.

EPD 2008 has been prepared through the exploitation of data from the Economically active population survey (EPA) and the National Database of people with disabilities (BEPD) with the collaboration of Spanish Committee of People with Disabilities and ONCE Foundation (Spanish National Organization of Blind).

The results became from the crossing statistics data of the two sources mentioned above (EPA and BEPD) so that it was possible to combine the socio-demographic and labour force information with the people who has recognized a legal disability situation equal or up to 33% in the Spanish legislation. The use of survey and administrative data have the advantage of less budget cost and also make less burden in the answers of the informers.

²³ <http://www.convenciondiscapacidad.es>

²⁴ <http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=/t15/p418&file=inebase&L=0>

²⁵ <http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=%2Ft22%2Fp320%2Fa2008%2F&file=pcaxis&N=&L=0>

INE also receives information about persons with disabilities and their situation through bodies like Observatorio Estatal de la Discapacidad²⁶, Real Patronato de la Discapacidad²⁷ and the information system named SID²⁸.

²⁶ <http://www.observatoriodeladiscapacidad.es/>

²⁷ <http://www.rpd.es/>

²⁸ <http://sid.usal.es/>

Sweden

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The Division for Family and Social Services of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible for the co-ordination of disability policy within the Government and has been appointed as the national focal point for matters related to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Social Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is also leading a working group within the Government consisting of civil servants representing the following ministries: Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Enterprise Energy and Communication. The purpose of this group is to mainstream disability policy within the Government. The UN Convention is significant in this work.

Furthermore, The Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination (Handisam) plays an important role in co-ordinating, monitor and accelerating disability policy by supporting the sectoral authorities tasked with implementing the national plan for disability policy.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The current disability policy was established already in the year of 2000 when the Swedish Parliament passed the Government Bill “From patient to citizen: a national action plan for disability policy” This decision by the parliament represented a step of fundamental importance for Swedish disability policy. Since then the objective of disability policy has been a society that makes it possible for disabled people to participate to the full in the life of the community. The aim is to mainstream a disability perspective in all sectors of society by identifying and removing obstacles to full participation for people with disabilities. Another goal is to prevent and fight discrimination against people with disabilities and to make it possible for boys and girls, men and women to lead independent lives and to make their own decisions about their own lives.

The current action plan runs until the end of 2010 and during this year the Government will outline the future disability policy succeeding the present action plan. The implementation of the UNCRPD will form the basis of the future disability policy.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The Government requested the Delegation for Human Rights of Sweden to prepare a report with recommendations on whether the Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination, the Ombudsman against Discrimination or another State agency should be entrusted with promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention. This issue of involving civil society in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention will be included in the report. In the report presented in April 2009 the Delegation proposes

allocating the tasks of promoting, protecting and monitoring the Convention to the Equality Ombudsman, on the basis of the conclusions of the research made by the Delegation. The proposals are being processed within the government's office. In the meantime this responsibility lies within existing state agencies in accordance with their respective mandates. In that context, the Social Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination (Handisam) play an important role in monitoring.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Art. 33.3)

The Government has established a delegation as a forum for mutual information and discussions (according to standard rules 17 and 18) The Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, who is responsible for disability policies, is chairing the delegation which is composed of members of the Swedish disability organisations together with State Secretaries from seven Ministries. Members of the delegation meet four times a year and the agenda for the meetings are prepared jointly between the government and the disability movement.

The co-operation with people with disabilities and their representative organisations is of great importance. In an agreement between the Government, non-profit organisations in the social area and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and regions, it is stated that the relationship between the Government and the non-profit organisations is to be characterised by responsibility and mutuality and be based on the circumstances of both an utilise the perspectives and expertise of both. The agreement also contains a description of the principles which should apply to cooperation between the disability movement and the Equality Ombudsman. At the moment the interacting between the Government and people with disabilities and their representative organisation are being under discussion in order to develop the dialogue in accordance with the Convention.

In almost all local municipalities there are local councils dealing with disability policies. The Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination (Handisam) has the task to raise awareness about the UN Convention amongst people with disabilities, authorities, politicians and stakeholders throughout the municipalities and county councils. In 2010 Handisam has been granted slightly more than 190 000 EUR for this purpose.

The leading principle is dialogue and before any major step is taken in the policymaking process the dialogue intensifies with different kinds of public debates. The Swedish Disability Federation has been granted 5,3 millions SEK from The Swedish Inheritance Fund to run a project with the purpose of raising awareness about the UN Convention amongst people with disabilities, authorities, politicians and stakeholders. The disability organisations are also frequently used as bodies to which a proposed measure is referred to for consideration. Civil society usually produces shadow reports in connection to the Governments reports, which are given high priority. In almost all local municipalities there are local councils dealing with disability policies.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

Statistics Sweden (SCB) is a governmental administrative agency under the Ministry of Finance. The agency supplies statistics for decision making, debate and research to ministries and other customers. Besides producing and communicating statistical data, it is tasked with

supporting and coordinating the Swedish system for official statistics. The agency also produces national population studies. Another state agency that produces reports related to people with disabilities is the Swedish National Institute of Public Health. The Institute works to promote health and prevent ill health and injury, especially for population groups most vulnerable to health risks. The institute produces reports on public health on a regular basis.

The definition of disability in Sweden is related to the environment and not to the diagnoses or level of impairment of the individual. The statistics that are provided in the field of disability can therefore be seen as somewhat scattered or fragmented. You would find rather precise statistics in connection to different support systems or special support measures directed to a well defined group of persons. However, people with disabilities that are not entitled to, or chose not to receive support within the social service system or in the labour market, would be difficult to find within the existing statistics. Some groups within the disability sector, such as persons with minor cognitive disabilities or group of persons with psychiatric disabilities would therefore be very hard to define.

There are continuously a lot of individual studies made in the field of disability. This is of course an opportunity to extract trends or indications of problems also for a broader group of people. Still, there is a need to strengthen the provision of longitudinal statistics in the field of disability. One way of doing this is to use general population studies combined with a well defined screening process to distinguish if a person might be classified as a person with disability or not. Screening questions would probably also be able to roughly distinguish what kind of impairment that is causing the disability.

To promote this work the government is planning to deal with related issues of methodology. The government is also considering ways to find indicators that will enable monitoring of this group and their performance/situation in those fields where statistics are underdeveloped. The general strategy for Swedish disability policy is to include disability into all relevant political areas. Therefore there is also a need to measure the development of the society from the perspective of accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities. To promote this the governmental authority Handisam is developing a system of indicators that will measure the progress of accessibility for persons with disability in a broad range of areas.

There will always be a need for special studies as a complement to statistics based on the population. There have been initiatives to create a more holistic system for provision of statistics and data in the field of disability. A number of legal restrictions is however preventing interconnection of such a coherent statistical system. This is a difficult balance between protection of personal integrity and needs of data. A question the government continuously are considering and investigating.

Furthermore, the Delegation for Human Rights and the Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination have recently finished a project on indicators for the implementation of certain selected human rights. The project also includes indicators relating to the rights of persons with disabilities.

United Kingdom

2.1. National Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI)²⁹ is the designated focal point within the United Kingdom Government for matters relating to implementation of the Convention. It also fulfils a coordination role, liaising closely with other Government Departments and the UK's Devolved Administrations, (in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales), on matters relating to the Convention. For example, the ODI will coordinate the UK report on implementation and is working with other Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations on coordination issues with a view to avoiding duplication, and using existing co-ordination structures where appropriate.

The responsibility for actively implementing the Convention in respect of areas that fall within their policy remits rests with individual Devolved Administrations and Government Departments.

ODI is actively working across government and co-ordinating action on, for example, defining the reporting process. Ministers, ODI and officials in other Government Departments, regularly meet disabled people and their organisations to discuss a wide variety of issues including the Convention. Similar arrangements operate in the Devolved Administrations.

2.1.2. National strategies to implement the UNCRPD

The UK Government is developing an overarching Disability Strategy to coordinate work towards disability equality. The Strategy defines a vision of equality for disabled people which is based on priority areas that disabled people themselves have said will make the biggest difference to their lives. Disabled people's rights as set out in the Convention rights are an integral part of the Strategy.

2.2. Monitoring the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Art. 33.2)

The UK's four equality and human rights commissions *ie.* the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI)³⁰ have been designated as the independent element of the UK's framework to promote, protect and monitor implementation.

²⁹ <http://www.odi.gov.uk/>

³⁰ www.equalityhumanrights.com/

<http://www.nihrc.org/>

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

<http://www.equalityni.org/site/default.asp?secid=home>

The four Commissions, as the independent element of the UK “framework”, are developing their plans in respect of promoting, protecting and monitoring implementation of the Convention in the UK. The four Commissions meet regularly and where they consider it appropriate to do so, co-ordinate their activities. For example, in January 2010 the SCHR ran an event on the Convention in conjunction with the EHRC’s Scotland Office and the Scottish Government.

The EHRC has information on its website about the Convention, and how its work relates to the Convention and its role within the framework to promote, protect and monitor implementation. The EHRC is working to promote the Convention, for example by: hosting conferences to raise awareness of the Convention; an announcement (3 December 2009) that it intends to conduct a Formal Inquiry into disability-related harassment in England, Scotland and Wales and how public authorities are protecting disabled people’s human rights to live free from violence and abuse (EHRC is currently consulting on draft terms of reference); producing guidance for disabled people and disabled people’s organisations about what the Convention can mean to them which it anticipates publishing in Spring 2010; and working with legal professionals and legal advisors to increase awareness and use of the Convention.

2.2.2. The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

The UK government recognises that the involvement and participation, of disabled people and their organisations is crucial for the success of the Convention. Departments and Devolved Administrations are actively encouraged to involve disabled people in policy development and do so in a variety of ways as reported in the UK’s contribution to the 2nd HLG report, which referred in particular to the Disability Equality Duty, Equality 2025, and the development of the Independent Living Strategy in England and Wales. Examples from 2009 include consultation on a Right to Control and the development of an Independent Living Strategy in Scotland.

As the UK develops its thinking with regard to monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Convention, the Government and the Commissions continue to explore with disabled people and their organisations how they wish to be involved in these processes. This was the theme of a major conference for disabled stakeholders in London on 30 March 2010.

The Office for Disability Issues³¹ (ODI) has the role of championing disabled people within government. The ODI was set up to help government deliver on the commitments made in ‘Life Chances’ report, (para 1.2 above refers). ODI works with all departments to help them better understand and meet the needs and aspirations of disabled people.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

The UK has recently published the first year’s results from the Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) which aims to collect information on disabled and non-disabled people’s life opportunities, covering areas such as work, education, social participation and the use of public services. It also aims to identify the reasons why people do not take part in work or leisure activities that they would like to, or why people experience difficulties with using public services. The information provided will be used to help target policies and resources

³¹ <http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/about/aboutodi.asp>

where they are needed.
<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/disability-statistics-and-research/life-opportunities-survey.php#how>

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/disability-statistics-and-research/life-opportunities-survey.php#how>

European Union

2.1. Implementation of the UNCRPD

2.1.1. Focal points and coordination mechanisms for implementing (Article 33.1)

On 26 November 2009, the Council of the European Union adopted the Decision³² concerning the conclusion, by the European Union, of the UNCRPD. It designates the European Commission as a focal point, both vis-à-vis Member States to the extent of its competence as well as to the institutions of the Union. On the 2 December 2010, the Council adopted the Code of Conduct, which further specifies internal arrangements for the implementation and the representation of the EU.³³ Point 11 in the Code of Conduct further elaborates the role of the EU focal point. The adoption of the Code of Conduct enabled the EU completing the procedure of conclusion of the Convention by depositing its instruments of formal confirmation with the UN Secretary General in New York on 23 December 2010. As a party to the Convention, it is currently working on implementing the UNCRPD to the extent of the EU's competences. It also works to promote a stronger and better coordination within its services, with the other EU institutions and with the Member States. Coordination for the implementation of the UN CRPD within the EU institutions takes place within the ad-hoc committee of CPAS. The Council within its relevant working group allows for coordination with the Member States, also with the possible involvement of the Disability High Level Group.

The Code of Conduct sets out certain aspects of the coordination between the EU and the Member States, especially with regard to the coordination in establishing positions relating to the UNCRPD (point 6), coordination of speaking and voting arrangements, and with respect to monitoring and reporting.

2.1.2. Strategies to implement the UNCRPD

On the 15 November 2010 the European Disability Strategy for the years 2010-2020 was adopted. It aims at ensuring effective implementation of the UN CRPD. It also marks a renewal of the EU's commitment to improve the situation of citizens with disabilities, sets the work plan and priorities for the coming years. The overall aim of the Strategy is to empower people with disabilities so that they can enjoy their full rights, and benefit fully from participating in society and in the European economy, notably through the Single market. It sets clear objectives to remove the barriers persons with disabilities meet in their everyday life.

The specific measures over the next decade are clustered around eight priority areas dealing with (1) Accessibility, (2) Participation, (3) Equality, (4) Employment, (5) Education and training, (6) Social protection, (7) Health, and (8) External Action.

³² Council Decision 2010/48/EC, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:023:0035:0061:EN:PDF>

³³ Code of Conduct between the Council, the member States and the Commission setting out internal arrangements for the implementation by and representation of the EU relating to the UNCRPD

The Strategy is accompanied by a Commission Staff Working Document that sets out a list of actions, with respect to each of the eight priority areas, for the first five years of the Strategy's period (2010-2015).³⁴ Each action is also given an indicative timing.

2.2. Monitoring of the UNCRPD

2.2.1. Framework, including independent mechanisms, for promoting/ protecting/ monitoring (Article 33.2)

The EU has not yet nominated a framework, including one or several independent mechanisms, for promoting, protecting and monitoring of the UNCRPD. The preparatory work is on-going.

Point 12 in the Code of Conduct sets out certain aspects of the monitoring and reporting, especially with regard to the respective competence of the EU and the Member States. It highlights the complementarity of EU and Member State reports and the need to work in the spirit of sincere cooperation. This means for instance providing each other with the reports for information, on a confidential basis, before submitting them to the Committee on the Right of Persons with Disabilities, and, on request, assisting each other with experts to the Delegations for the examination of the Reports by the Committee.

2.2.2 The involvement of civil society in the monitoring process (Article 33.3)

In line with the principle of the EU Disability Strategy: "nothing about people with disabilities without people with disabilities" as well as with the Convention's obligation³⁵ to consult and involve representative organisations of disabled people when implementing the UN Convention and the Commission ensures participation of persons with disabilities, their families, their European representatives and relevant stakeholders in developments of disability policies.

People with disabilities are consulted through different tools, such as, communications, consultation documents or participation in expert groups. Representatives of civil society are full members of the High Level Group on Disability where they have possibility to raise their concerns, contribute to discussions, and co-draft policy documents.

In the development of the new European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 there was extensive consultation with civil society, in particular representative organisations of persons with disabilities at European level. Besides the consultation with civil society in the DHLG, all NGOs active in the field of disability that are co-financed through the EU PROGRESS programme were invited to put forward their views as well as to dedicate part of their annual work programmes to activities related to the preparation of the new strategy, there was a consultative workshop with the main stakeholders, with participants representing civil society, sectoral business representatives and the social partners and public online consultation, where 101 replies on behalf of a wide variety of civil society organisations were received.

The yearly conference, the European Day of Persons with Disabilities, presents interested individuals and organisations advocating the rights of people with disabilities the opportunity to address their views to the European decision makers. In addition to the thematic discussion

³⁴ SEC(2010) 1324 final

³⁵ Article 4.3

the conference expresses political commitment and offers networking possibilities. As the conference is organised by the Commission in partnership with EDF the positions of people with disabilities are considered at all stages. In 2010 the Access City Award was launched and it was endorsed by the EDF from the early phase of its preparation. Participation of civil society is an essential part of the Access City Award. First, the element of participation and involvement is reflected in the award criteria. One of the criteria looks at evidence of active involvement of people with disabilities, their representative organisations in the planning, implementation and maintenance of a city's accessibility policies and initiatives. In the selection procedure both at national level and also at the EU level, EDF representatives were actively involved.

In November 2010, the Commission organised the first Work Forum on the Implementation of the Convention of Persons with Disabilities, together with the Belgian Presidency. Civil society, DPO's in particular, was involved in the conception of the conference. The conference's focus was on the governance structures in Article 33, and the major topic of the conference was the question of how to involve persons with disabilities in the work of the focal points, the coordination mechanisms and in the framework for monitoring the Convention's implementation. The conference brought together persons representing the governance structures in the Member States and DPO's and provided a platform for mutual learning, exchange of experience and provided an opportunity for constructive reflection and a dialogue on how to best involve persons with disabilities and their organisation.

The European Union also recognises that the empowerment of persons with disabilities needs sufficient financial support. The European Social Fund supports, among other things, projects to promote independent living, through staff training and modernising care systems. Furthermore, the Commission supports to running costs of various European organisations which have as their primary objectives to represent the interests of disabled people at Community level as well as organisations active in promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

The European Union recognises the strength of European networks that lies in their capacity to gather and mobilise relevant members from different Member States into an open forum of discussion or exchange of expertise and experience able to inform and influence policy-making, as well as relaying EU action vis-à-vis network members.

Civil society has an important contribution to make towards effective implementation of the UN Convention. Making a difference requires a sustained, cohesive coalition capable of mobilising and analysing information, making that information available to key actors and mobilising many sources of influence. Representative organisations are in a central position to influence policy in the European Union and in the Member states through their national members. Influence is gained through the increased expertise and information which are important to policy formulation and implementation.

2.2.3. Collecting statistics and/or developing indicators (Article 31)

Based on data provided by Eurostat, the Commission estimates that there are up to 80 million EU citizens with disabilities. They constitute one of the largest categories of vulnerable citizens in the EU.

Presently the proportion of persons with disabilities tends to be in the order of 10%³⁶ of the working age population across the Member States, with current demographic trends likely to lead to a further increase.

Available evidence suggests that persons with disabilities suffer explicit or concealed discrimination or are at risk of discrimination.

1) They are socially and economically disadvantaged:

- Employment rates for persons with very severe and severe degrees of disability are respectively 19,5% and 44,1%
- Incidence of poverty for persons with disabilities is 70% higher than average³⁷

2) The limitations to the ability of persons with disabilities to work carry a significant risk of isolation and exclusion

- The "benefit trap" appears to be a significant obstacle for labour market participation of the persons with disabilities.

3) The limitations of opportunities of persons with disabilities to participate fully in education carry a significant disadvantage for personal development

- Measures to facilitate full inclusion of persons with disabilities at all levels of education would considerably improve their standing in the labour market and their social inclusion

As the likelihood of having an impairment or a long-standing health problem increases with age, the current demographic trend is likely to lead to a further increase of the prevalence of disability. Many areas mentioned above, such as content and structure of education, the norms for built environment and public spaces, leisure issues as well as social assistance are almost exclusively in the competence of the Member States. Often local authorities have a decisive role in monitoring these norms and delivering these services. The Member States are tackling these issues, but in different manners and to different degrees with very little coordination.

In order to ensure proper monitoring the collection of data is crucial. In this context and within Eurostat's annual work programme, activities in the European Statistical System (ESS)³⁸ will continue on further developing – through Partnership Health and in cooperation with international organisations – **Community statistics on disability and social integration** in order to provide the relevant and comparable statistical data needed to monitor the situation of people with disabilities.

More detailed statistical data on disability are also needed as part of health information in order to respond to the specific requirements inter alia those that result from the **Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health (2003-2008)**³⁹. Health information at

³⁶ According to the 2002 Labour Force Survey special module, Europe-wide average share of persons who see themselves as restricted in their functioning is 10.4% of the labour force. Further 5.2% have a long-standing health problem but do not see themselves as restricted. As incidence of disability increases with age, these proportions are higher among elderly persons.

³⁷ According to the 2004 EU-SILC data, over 17% of those aged 16-64 who were strongly limited in what they could do had income below the risk of poverty line compared to just over 10% of those not limited at all.

³⁸ European Statistical System, see:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1153.47169267.1153_47183518&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

³⁹ Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 adopting a programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008), OJEC L 271/10

Community level covers data ranging from health status - including disability – to health determinants, including demography, geography and socio-economic situations, personal and biological factors, and living, working and environmental conditions, paying special attention to inequalities in health. The development of the statistical element of health information is also integral part of Eurostat’s annual work programme, with activities carried out in the context of Partnership Health and in cooperation with international organisations.

In general, the aim of producing comparable data on disability and on integration of people with disabilities into society can be achieved only by means of surveys that make use of common instruments. Health Interview Surveys (HIS) and Disability Interview Surveys (DIS) are widely accepted instruments that could provide comparable data for topics related to health, disability and social integration.

However, the main work related to disability statistics in 2007-2008 has been focused on development of the following initiatives:

European health and social integration survey (EHSIS)

The Council in its Resolution of 17 March 2008 on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union underlines that disability statistics are needed to establish a picture of the overall situation of persons with disabilities in Europe. Such statistical and research data allow informed disability policies to be formulated and implemented at the different levels of governance.

The Commission in its communication on a European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe, {SEC(2010) 1323} {SEC(2010) 1324} emphasised that EU action will support and supplement Member States’ efforts to collect statistics with a view to monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities. This action will be implemented through a call for tender (with 29/30 lots, one lot for each Member State, Norway and Iceland, plus a lot for coordination) to be launched in the second quarter of 2011.

2011 LFS ad-hoc module on employment of disabled people

The proposal was prepared by a Task Force. The aim of the module thus is to measure the extent of disabled people’s participation in the labour market (and not to measure the prevalence of disabilities in general) following the current understanding of disability, in particular: 1) Limitation in work participation (in amount, type of work and transport to and from work) (3 variables), 2) Limitation in work participation related to health conditions or diseases (1 variables), 3) Limitation in work participation related to carrying out basic activities, 4) Use of or need for special assistance at work.

The common feature of these two actions is that the effort was made to incorporate/transfer the new concept of disability into questions and variables proposed. During the last three decades the conceptual approaches to the measurement of disability has changed. Three milestones in that evolution have to be mentioned 1) the medical model⁴⁰ ; 2) the social model⁴¹ and 3) the biosocial model⁴². The biosocial model incorporated into the International

⁴⁰ Disability regarded as ‘a restriction or lack of ability to perform normal activities, which has resulted from the impairment of a structure or function of the body or mind (concepts and definitions based on the medical model resulted in the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) in 1980

⁴¹ Disability results from interaction between individuals and non-inclusive society

⁴² The ICF (WHO 2001) states that disability is a complex phenomenon that is both a problem at the level of a person's body and a complex and primarily social phenomenon i.e. it is a disadvantage experienced by an

Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF, WHO 2001) attempts to bridge the gap between the medical and social models. The biosocial concept was followed also by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

ANED, Academic Network of Disability expert

The Commission supported in 2007 the establishment of an European Academic network of disability experts. The Network provides data collection, provides comments on policy papers and develops national and EU reports on the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe in a number of areas like employment, social inclusion and social protection, education, independent living, statistics and data collection. The network is also active on the development of indicators.

individual resulting from barriers to independent living or educational, employment or other opportunities that impact on people with impairments, ill health or activity limitations (difficulty seeing, hearing, walking ..)

Civil society actions and strategies

2.1. Actions and strategies by civil society to implement the UNCRPD

The Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) in 2010 dedicated several meetings of its working group *Inclusive policies for disabled and other dependent persons and their families* (COFACE-Handicap) to the analysis of the UNCRPD. It undertook a systematic analysis of the family dimension of the Convention in view of the elaboration of a Policy Position, illustrating the main implications of the CRPD for the improvement of the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities and their families, recalling Member States' and EU's role in this regard. Moreover, the position intends to raise awareness on the scope and relevance of the Convention among family organisations, policy makers and other representatives of civil society, in order to promote advocacy activities and facilitate the dissemination of the CRPD at national and European levels. The document will be finalised in the first half of 2011 and disseminated in the form of a brochure together with the text of the Convention.

Some of COFACE member organisations (Unapei, UNAFTC) also develop activities concerning the UNCRPD.

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) and its member organizations across Europe have carried out several activities during 2010 with the purpose of promoting the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Through conferences, seminars, events and stakeholder meetings it has been possible to disseminate and share information and best practices as well as developing tools in order to facilitate a correct implementation of the Convention. This report will point out *some* of these activities carried out by EASPD and the member organizations we represent. Yet, as EASPD is an umbrella organization which amongst its members also has umbrella organizations, this report will only contain a smaller part of all the work that was carried out during 2010 by us and our members across Europe in order to contribute to the implementation of the UNCRPD.

EASPD events and activities

EASPD has organized a number of events and activities during 2010 with the objective of disseminating information on key articles of the UN Convention and facilitating the implementation at grassroots level. Among these are the following:

- On the 26th of January 2010, EASPD and the Federal Association of Workshops for Adapted Work (BAG:WfbM) invited Members of the European Parliament for an event on “*Employment for Persons with Disabilities – Key for Social Inclusion and Personal Development*”. The event aimed at exchanging information on the participation of persons with disabilities in working life.
- On the 2-5th of June 2010, EASPD organized a conference in Helsinki, Finland under the title “*What about me? - Including the most excluded, Improving the lives of persons with profound disabilities*”. This conference aimed at the further development of policy recommendations on the specific needs of persons with profound disabilities for action on European and national level, the exchange of good practice and networking building.

- On the 7-9th of October EASPD organized a conference in Skopje – “*Towards community living: current realities – future challenges*” – which aimed at building bridges in knowledge and practices to improve social conditions as well as facilitating social inclusion for persons with disabilities in the society. The conference therefore targeted Article 19 of the Convention and involved discussions on the specific situation of stakeholders in the Disability sector in the different regions of Europe and the challenges they are facing.
- During 2010 EASPD organized Provider Fora in Slovenia, Croatia and Poland. In all these, the UNCRPD was presented to stakeholders and service providers. Specific Articles of the Convention, particularly within the fields of employment, education and independent living, were explored further.

EASPD has been involved in a number of *projects* during 2010. Amongst them are PASS IT ON which finished the 31st of December 2010, and Pathway to Inclusion:

- PASS IT ON was a two year project on raising awareness on the employment of people with disabilities. The overarching aim was to explore the participation of persons with disabilities on the open labour market as well as disseminate information on supported employment.
- EASPD is the promoter of the Pathway to Inclusion project which aims to develop a sustainable network of all those committed to inclusive education; a regularly updated web based knowledge centre on ‘Inclusive education for all’ and a network activity in “new” Member States in order to actively involve them in the evolution towards equal opportunities to inclusive and high-quality education.

Member organizations' events and activities for the implementation of the UNCRPD

EASPD is the representative European network of services for persons with disabilities with a great number of members across Europe. These have during 2010 supported the implementation of the UNCRPD through numerous activities. Common for the service provider organizations is that the UNCRPD is used as a guideline in their daily work providing services for persons with disabilities. For example, a Finnish organization is working with the political aim to minimize the need of separate physical care-homes for persons with disabilities and instead facilitate solutions making it possible for the individual to live independently and participate in society.

The above summary gives examples of activities carried out by the EASPD across Europe. The main work for organizations in countries where the UNCRPD has not yet been ratified has been focused to lobbying activities towards governments for ratification. In countries where the Convention has been ratified the organizations have worked on promoting a correct implementation as well as internal and external awareness raising activities. Unfortunately, only a few organizations have been asked for involvement in the NRP’s and few know the procedure of these.

The European Disability Forum (EDF) in January participated in the training seminar on alternative monitoring of the UN human rights instruments, organised by International Disability Alliance (IDA) for its members. This has rendered EDF better aware of the possibilities to communicate with the UN through the existing mechanisms established by the OHCHR and HR Council. Throughout the year, a number of meetings of the International Disability Alliance were held in Geneva with active participation from EDF.

In **February**, EDF participated in a public hearing on CRPD organised by the EP Subcommittee on Human Rights that was held in the presence of the Commission, Council and the MEPs. Contacts with EU Presidencies were established.

In **April**, EDF addressed a meeting of COHOM on conclusion of the CRPD by the EU.

In **May**, EDF sent comments to the Draft Council resolution on a future Disability Framework and engaged in dialogue with the Spanish Presidency, and the European Commission. EDF and CERMI President made concrete statements at the Ministerial Meeting in Zaragoza, which were followed by two successive policy positions on the future disability strategy in June and July.

In **June**, a meeting with Vice President Reding to discuss the implementation the UN Convention in the EU was held.

In **summer**, EDF consulted its Board on a first draft for position paper on the implementation of the UN CRPD at EU level. This document was used as a basis for the first meeting with the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Ombudsman on the possible options for a European independent monitoring framework under Article 33.2 CRPD and a follow-up meeting was held in **October 2010** involving a larger audience.

In **July**, EDF spoke at the roundtable with NGOs during the meeting of UN Treaty bodies organized by the Office of the High Commissioner Regional Office for Europe.

During the **summer** months, EDF contributed to the “Study of Disability in EC Development Cooperation” commissioned by DG AIDCO. The study was presented at a Commission workshop in Brussels on 15 October.

In **September**, the implementation of the Convention in the EU was discussed at the Disability Intergroup meeting in Brussels. The implementation of the CRPD was one of the main pillars of the work of the Intergroup in 2010.

EDF participated at the meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the UN CRPD, three representatives of the EDF organisations were elected to the CRPD Committee. EDF President also chaired one of the panels on people with disabilities in emergencies.

In late September, EDF made a written submission to the UN CRPD Committee on accessibility and presented it at the Committee Day of General Discussion on accessibility in October.

In **October**, EDF submitted amendments to the draft resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on achieving the MDGs: innovative responses to meet the social and economic challenges. The amendments aimed to make the CRPD more visible in the MDGs.

In **November**, EDF, joining forces with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), met Commissioner Andris Piebalgs to discuss a strategy implementation of CRPD in development cooperation. EDF co-organised, together with the Law Faculty of Maastricht University a conference on the “UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – a European Perspective”. On 17 November, EDF also met Jerzy Buzek,

President of the European Parliament, to discuss the implementation of the CRPD and the role of the European Parliament in it. EDF participated in the Belgian Presidency Work Forum on article 33 of the UN CRPD that it had helped organise.

Following the principle approval by the EDF Board, the drafting of the project on Legal Remedies to adjudicate the rights protected in the CRPD continued at the Secretariat.

The European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) has undertaken a number of actions throughout 2010 that contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD). EPR and its members have proactively engaged into the process of internalising the requirements and implications of the UN Convention in the delivery of services to persons with disabilities. EPR organised a training seminar for professionals from the disability sector specifically dedicated to the impact of the UN Convention on Member States and service providers. A light was shed on responsibilities and opportunities for service providers related to the Convention and the ways to ensure its effective implementation.

Moreover, EPR drafted in 2010 an analysis paper on the implications of the UNCRDP and its Optional Protocol for service providers, in the domains of health, education, long term care, independent living, employment and rehabilitation.

The structure of this report follows the articles of the UN Convention to which implementation EPR activities contribute: article 19 (independent living and community living), article 24 (education), article 26 (habilitation and rehabilitation); article 27 (work and employment). EPR yet hereby restricts its report on the activities organised at the level of the network, without including the numerous actions undertaken by each member separately at national or at centre level.

In the field of *Living independently and being included in the community* (Article 19), EPR promoted the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a way to enhance a person's functioning and maximize participation in society in general and in community in particular. EPR organized a benchmarking group on the implementation of ICF within organizations from Germany, Portugal, Greece and Ireland providing services to persons with disabilities. Moreover, EPR organised an in-house seminar for a German organisation which ambition is the implementation of ICF as basis for rehabilitation in 20 organisations nationwide. This activity allowed reviewing work in progress and defining an action plan to further support the development of the ICF.

EPR facilitated a learning partnership between member organisations on *community-based day-care activities*. The learning partnership provided better understanding on how to establish the dialogue with the clients to draft an individual plan aiming at integration into society and community and on various concepts of community-based day-care activities.

EPR awarded the innovation Prize 2010 to a project run by a Dutch service provider: a nursing home for elderly citizens with psychological and geriatric needs.

With regard to education (Article 24) EPR shed a light on the use of *Information and Communication Technologies* ICT by providers of services to persons with disabilities as a mean to ensure full access to rehabilitation and in particular to vocational education services for people with severe disabilities or living in remote areas. EPR and its members are

convinced of the potentials of alternative formats of communication to support learn life, equal participation in society and in education, and to provide effective individualized support measures. The workshop organised by EPR on this topic in 2010 offered top managers from about 15 countries the opportunity to analyse case studies on creative use of ICT in service delivery and to work out custom-made strategies for their respective organisations.

EPR members have proved their interest in ICT since a few members have engaged in ICT-related projects. IRRS in Slovenia for example is now involved in a project for ICT-supported education and training skills transfer. Other members have started to elaborate project initiatives on ICT, such as Pluryn which intends to develop a digital helpdesk for service users. Moreover, several EPR members have engaged in a learning group on the use of ICT in customer relationships which will be planned in 2012.

The EPR International Conference on *Society needs all hands: vocational education and training (VET) as a bridge to participation in society* was held in Helsinki and Tallinn. The attendance was composed of Directors, managers and VET professionals from 24 EPR member organisations and external stakeholders. The programme spotlighted the leading idea that disability-related VET services actively contribute to enhancing the life long learning, the physical, mental, cultural and social ability of individuals to participate fully in society.

With regard to *rehabilitation* (Article 26) EPR supports person-centred approaches and case management in service delivery to maximise the independence and full physical, mental, social and vocational ability of persons with disabilities. Person-centredness and case management foster comprehensive rehabilitation programmes particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services. A training seminar was organised for case managers, counsellors and vocational trainers. Through benchmarking and training sessions, participants understood the principles of person-centred planning and service delivery for service-users. They were also able to identify specific planning and case management strategies and were trained on how to apply these in their daily work practices.

The views of EPR on *empowerment* were presented in a paper which highlighted the need to bridge the gap between empowerment mechanisms in policy and empowerment practices in VET services. The commitment of EPR to empowerment has obviously strengthened the cooperation and benchmarking at international level. A bilateral cooperation between ReaCollege (Netherlands) and CRPG (Portugal) on empowerment was initiated.

In the realm of *Work and Employment* (Article 27) several trainings were organized: on Vocational Counselling, on Disability management and on Vocational Integration of persons with disabilities in Romania.

The Europe 2020 Headline Targets and the implementation of the UNCRPD

Introduction

This part of the Report addresses the link between the implementation of the UNCRPD and the Europe 2020 Strategy. It accounts for how Member States deal with the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to the Europe 2020 targets for education, employment and poverty reduction, especially in the preparation of the NRP and how the Member States monitor disability-specific progress towards these targets. It thus concerns the implementation of Articles 24 (Education); 27 (Employment); 28 (Adequate standard of living and social protection) and 31 (Statistics and data collection) of the UN Convention.⁴³ For each country it contains two sections. Section 2.3.1 deals with the involvement of the disability focal point in preparation of the National Reform Programme (NRP) with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction, and addresses the issue whether the NRP addresses the situation of people with disabilities in these areas? Section 2.3.2 addresses the data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction). Section 2.3.3 contains civil societies' reports on their involvement in the process.

Austria

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection is involved in preparation of the National Reform Programme. The NRP does not directly address the situation of persons with disabilities with regard to the targets for education, employment and poverty.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

In the 2008 Government Report on the situation of people with disabilities, Austria collected statistics on the specific situation of people with disabilities. The data does not specifically relate to the three targets of tertiary education, employment and poverty reduction.

Belgium

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

⁴³ - aiming to raise to 75% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, including through the greater participation of young people, older workers and low-skilled workers and the better integration of legal migrants;
- improving education levels, in particular by aiming to reduce school drop-out rates to less than 10% and by increasing the share of 30-34 years old having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40%;
- promoting social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty, by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion;

On April 15, the Council of Ministers approved the 2011 National Reform Programme (NRP) that Belgium will submit to the European Commission by the end of April.

This National Reform Programme includes priority actions undertaken by Belgium to meet the socio-economic issues identified within the framework of Europe 2020 strategy. These actions aim at achieving the five objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and fall under the logic of European priorities that were highlighted at the European Council of 24 and 25 March and the "Euro-Plus Pact".

Specific needs of target groups (women, disabled people ...) were taken into account in the field of training and employment and poverty reduction.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

The yearly « baromètre interfédéral de la pauvreté » aims at measuring, at federal level, the development of poverty in Belgium:

http://enquete.mi-is.be/armoedebrometer/pages_fr/startMenu.html

A study is going on called “Handilab” that is organised by the Federal Public Service “social Security” with the University of Leuven in collaboration with the Regions and Communities and aims at having a better view of the socio-economic background of disabled people. The data which result of this study could form the base of a new set of indicators to be used in the light of article 31 UNCRPD. The result should be examined in the Belgian Interministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for Disability to see in what way these indicators could be used in common by all the public entities in Belgium respecting the privacy of the persons.

Bulgaria

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Bulgarian focal point is involved in preparation of the Draft of National Reform Programme. The draft National Reform Program addresses targets for education, employment and risk of poverty for people with disabilities, but without specifying a particular percentage of people with disabilities. There are some indicators for vulnerable groups which include people with disabilities.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Executive agencies collect data with respect to taken measures and programmes. Currently, the agency for people with disabilities is implementing a project to set up a data base tool especially for people with disabilities.

Cyprus

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (DSID), under the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, being the focal point for the implementation of the UNCRPD is involved in the preparation of the NRP by contributing parts of it as far as responsibilities of the Department are concerned. It does not though coordinate the preparation of the NRP in relation to disability issues. The coordination is thematic, ie the Department of Labour coordinates the preparation of the thematic area of Employment and the Social Welfare Services coordinate the preparation of the thematic area of Fighting Poverty. In both thematic areas DSID has already contributed its part. In relation to responsibilities outside the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance e.g. Education for persons with disabilities DSID is not involved in the preparation of the NRP.

DSID cannot report on this issue as the Ministry of Education and Culture did not send a contribution.

No specific reference on persons with disabilities is made in the thematic area of employment. Employment measures have been included in the thematic area of poverty (see below).

Under the thematic area of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion a number of measures for persons with disabilities have been included. These are active labour market measures and concern : (a) the provision of incentives for hiring persons with disabilities in the private sector and Local Authorities, (b) the introduction of a new System for the Assessment of Disability and Functioning, (c) the design of new training and employment programmes for persons with disabilities through a new Organisation in the sphere of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, and (d) the recruitment of persons with disabilities in the wider public sector on a quota system through the application of a new law adopted in December 2009.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Recognising a general insufficiency of systematic data and statistics on persons with disabilities - among other reasons – the government approved the introduction of a new System for the Assessment of Disability and Functioning. The project is in progress under the responsibility of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

The System will serve - among other purposes - as a tool for the collection of real data documented through disability assessment by multidisciplinary committees of professionals using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health by the World Health Organisation in order to support policies, measures and actions needed to implement the UNCRPD.

Czech Republic

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Czech focal point for the implementation in the UNCRPD is involved in preparing the NRP.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Under the preceding National Plan, the Czech Statistical Office was required to coordinate the production of statistics on people with disabilities with the aim of progressively establishing a consistent system of statistical information in this area.

To this end, in 2007 a sample survey was conducted and the results were published in 2008. It was decided that a sample survey would be carried out periodically at set intervals. Further data collection in this area is planned for 2011 when the Czech Statistical Office, in cooperation with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics will carry out further sample surveys.

Denmark

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

Denmark is still in the preparatory stage of the NRP, but to the extent that people with disabilities are included in the definition of risk of poverty, the focal point will most certainly be included in the preparations, but it is too early to say something concretely.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

As a part of the preparation for reporting to the UN CRPD, Denmark is currently in the preparatory stage of establishing an overview on relevant statistics on disability etc. The responsibility for disability matters in the individual sector areas rests with the sector ministry in accordance with the Danish sector accountability principle, the basic principle of disability mainstreaming in Denmark. The sector accountability principle also covers responsibility for data needed to highlight disability policies of the individual sector areas. Consequently, each sector ministry is responsible for data compilation in its area. However, accessible statistics are generally compiled by Statistics Denmark and the National Social Appeals Board, including local authority reports on social services, employment statistics, etc.

Denmark has no common standard for data compilation of specific statistics related to disability areas. Statistics Denmark (www.statbank.dk) compiles statistics for all sector areas, but no established standards are in place for highlighting disability aspects in all sector areas. Generally, disability-related statistics are available as statements of the scope of social benefits and services, categorised in accordance with relevant legislative provisions. Such statistics are compiled by Statistics Denmark and the National Social Appeals Board. Disabilities are not registered centrally on individuals. Instead, Denmark performs nationwide

surveys, which can be merged with registered data for the purpose of highlighting general developments in, for instance, the employment situation for disabled people compared to the population in general. Such surveys are made by the Danish National Centre for Social Research, an independent, national research centre under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The centre performs several surveys and analyses in the area of social welfare, including the area of disability. The results of the surveys are accessible to the public.

Estonia

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Ministry of Social Affairs is involved in the consultation process of NRP. The NRP is drafted by the State Chancellery.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

In 2009 the process of elaborating indicators for integration of people with disabilities started on the initiative of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The indicators are based on national studies run by the Statistics Estonia: we compare the results of people with disabilities to the results of whole population. First official data will be published by Statistics Estonia in the summer 2011. Statistics Estonia is using EU-SILC, Household Budget Survey (HBS), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Estonian Time Use Survey and the Laeken indicators.

During the process of the project mentioned above we have planned to elaborate indicators for education field as well. Statistical data concerning education is received from special register named EHIS. The results of people with disabilities are compared to the results of whole population.

During the process of the project mentioned above we have planned to elaborate indicators for employment field as well. Indicators are elaborated considering the information in Labour Force Survey. The results of people with disabilities are compared to the results of whole population.

Statistics Estonia carried out the labour force surveys in 2002, 2006, 2008 and 2009. In each survey there was a module about health and ability to work.

Regarding the risk of poverty, Statistics Estonia carried out Household Budget Survey in 2010 and will do the same survey on 2011 as well. For example there is a indicator about the average expenditures of the household member with disability in the month by COICOP II level and living conditions in households with the member with disability. In 2007 Household Budget Survey showed that the rate of absolute poverty is significantly higher in households with the member with disability.

Finland

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

Finland has not yet appointed a focal point because we have not yet ratified the Convention. However, The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is involved in preparation of the National Reform Programme which is coordinated and led by the Ministry of Finance. At present the NRP does not directly address the situation of persons with disabilities with regard to the targets for education, employment and poverty.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Statistics in Finland do not record disabilities, therefore it is impossible to give exact figures on the matter. There is no relevant statistics on tertiary education, and no statistics on the share of persons with disabilities employed at the open labour market. A study carried out by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in 2010 estimated that there are around 70,000 persons with disabilities who are fully able to work. However, only 60 per cent of them have a job. The study also estimated that there are 200,000 persons with disabilities or a long-term illness that could work.

205 persons with physical, visual or hearing impairment or communication difficulties took part in the 2010 study. Persons with physical or visual impairment or communication difficulties were often employed at the public sector, while person with hearing impairment were employed at the private sector. Most of the persons partaking in the study (81 per cent) had a permanent employment contract, and a half of them worked part-time.

Persons with disabilities or an illness can receive the so-called national pension. In 2009, the maximum amount of national pension was EUR 584.13. In effect, the national pension is well below the relative poverty line for single-person households, which in 2007 was around EUR 1,100 per month. Persons with disabilities receive also care and disability allowances: in effect, their level of income may rise above the relative poverty line. In reality, however, the care and disability allowance does not necessarily cover all the expenses for the disability and the person may have to use his or her wages or pension to cover some of the costs.

France

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The NRP is subject to a vast consultation and participation by all concerned ministries, and specifically those services that are focal points for the implementation of the UNCRPD. The document is currently being prepared. At this stage, it is planned to specifically treat the question of persons with disabilities with respect to the target of employment and poverty reduction and social exclusion.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

France collects data that allow comparing the situation of persons with disabilities and the rest of the population with regard to education, employment and the risk of poverty. The data are mainly collected through surveys and used by the public statistical offices; Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE), Direction de la Recherche, des études, de

l'évaluation et des statistiques (DREES), Direction de l'animation de la recherche, des études et des statistiques du Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Santé (DARES), services statistiques des Ministère de l'Education nationale et Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche. More information on the outcome of the latest national survey "handicap santé 2008", where the results are currently being processed, can be found at <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/handicap-sante.html>

Germany

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The German federal focal point is involved in the preparation of the NRP. The NRP addresses the situation of and policy for persons with disabilities, especially with regard to the integration/inclusion of persons with disabilities into the labour market. There are, however, no direct targets set in regard to persons with disabilities.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Statistics on the three headline targets, statistics on the population, labour market and housing situation in Germany are collected by the Federal Statistics Office and the Regional Statistical Offices under the *Mikrozensusgesetz*. The micro-census carried out by the by the Federal Statistical Office is a multiple random sample survey which provides detailed information on the economic and social situation of the population - including persons with disabilities.

Another important source is the annual Sozio-ökonomische Panel (Soep - socio-economic panel study). Soep is a wide ranging representative longitudinal study of private households. Every year, there are nearly 11,000 households, and mor than 20,000 persons sampled by a fieldwork organisation. Soep thus provides information on income, well-being, social participation, housing situation and education of persons with disabilities. Soep is funded by the federal government and the German Laender. On the basis of the Ninth Book of the Social Code a statistical survey of persons with severe disabilities, which started as early as 1979, is carried out every two years by the Federal Statistical Office.

Data on *tertiary education* of persons with disabilities/the situation of students with disabilities at universities etc. is regularly collected by the Deutsche Studentenwerk (German National Association of Student Affairs). The next major collection will be in 2011 on the situation of students with disabilities within the bachelor/master study system (which is rather new to Germany). The collection is funded by the federal government.

The German Rector's Conference will evaluate its recommendation "A University for All" in 2012. The focus of this evaluation will be on how the universities have so far implemented the recommendation (and reduced barriers for students with disabilities).

Data on *employment* is collected within the above mentioned micro-census, the soep and the statistical survey of persons with severe disabilities. The monthly statistics on unemployed persons of the Federal Employment Agency include information on persons with severe disabilities. The Agency also issues data of the employment situation of persons with disabilities.

The current data situation in Germany does not allow conclusions on the risk of poverty of persons with disabilities in Germany. In the context of the reform of the reporting system on persons with disabilities, the federal government works on improving the data bases.

Greece

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

As there is not yet any focal point established in Greece, the responsible ministries (work, health, infrastructures, education, interior) are responsible for disability issues. The topics of education, employment and poverty reduction for the people with disabilities constitute central points in ministries policies. Although the NRP has not been defined yet, the above key issues are characterized as essential elements and it is considered that these specific topics will be addressed well.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

With regard to statistics the central administration - mainly government bodies and the ministries - exchange information and statistical data on people with disabilities so that they have an overview of the issue in Greece. Furthermore, the Directorates of Ministries are responsible for the concentration and process of statistical data that are submitted by government owned or private institutions aiming at recording of disability. This is forecasted by the organisms of ministries that manage disability issues.

For the past few years Greece has no up-to-date and concrete statistical data for the indicators of employment and tertiary education of persons with disabilities. The programs of financial aid that carried out by the ministry of health and social solidarity in concrete categories of people with disabilities, aim in the reduction of percentage of those that living in poverty. Essential tool for the achievement of objective is the existence of informed up-to-date statistical data-base containing information and figures for people with disabilities.

Hungary

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The National Action Plan that will serve as a basis for the National Reform Programme is currently being elaborated in Hungary. As it is planned, the NRP will be completed in April, and it will also highlight disability issues for the implementation of targets of Europe 2020. It is only after the NRP has been prepared that it will be possible to see how the situation of people with disabilities is addressed in relation to the three targets.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

In the course of a national census in Hungary, there are always questions concerning the status of disability and the type of disability. Regarding the fact that disability and information related to it are so called sensitive data, the declaration on it is voluntary. That means that the reliability of the statistics compiled on this base is doubtful. For measuring the implementation of international conventions, including mainly the UNCRPD, the legal predecessor of the Ministry of National Resources developed a specific system of indicators. By using this set of tools Hungary aims at obtaining a more realistic view on the social process affecting people living with disabilities. The operation of it can be started in the future.

Ireland

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The focal point will be confirmed following ratification. However, the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, which currently has responsibility for co-ordination of the implementation of the UNCRPD and the National Disability Strategy, is represented on the interdepartmental group overseeing the development of Ireland's NRP. The Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs also has primary responsibility for the setting of Ireland's poverty reduction target as part of the Europe 2020 process.

Widening access to *tertiary education* for persons with disabilities is specifically noted as a key measure necessary to meet the tertiary education target in the draft NRP.

Increasing labour market participation rates for persons with disabilities in the face of tight fiscal conditions is specifically noted as a key challenge in the draft NRP.

In 2006 a target was set to increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in holding a job in the open labour market. The target was to have an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. At the end of December 2009 a total of 6,700 had been placed in employment (the 2010 outcome is being prepared). The longer term target is to raise the employment rate of people with a disability from 37% to 45% by 2016 as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey. Consideration will also be

given, in finalising the NRP, to taking account of linkages between the National Disability Strategy employment targets for people with disabilities and the Europe 2020 targets.

Providing supports to long-term welfare recipients, including those with disabilities, for education, training and employment is noted as a key *poverty reduction* measure in the draft NRP. There is not a specific poverty target for people with disabilities. Rather, the national poverty target applies to all lifecycle groups, including people with disabilities, as set out in the [National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016](#). The national poverty target is to reduce consistent poverty to between 2-4 per cent by 2012 and to eliminate it by 2016. The consistent poverty indicator refers to the overlap of two separate poverty indicators: at-risk-of-poverty and material deprivation.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD)

Key data on education, employment and poverty reduction with regard to people with disabilities is produced by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), which is the national statutory body with responsibility for the *collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State. CSO surveys with particular relevance in providing statistics on people with disabilities include:*

- the Census of Population
- the National Disability Survey
- the Quarterly National Household Survey
- the annual Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

The most recent available information on education levels of people with disabilities is **Census 2006**. The table below compares total persons aged 15-29, and total population and **total people with disabilities** for ages 15 and over and their level of qualifications. A significantly higher number (36.6%) of people with disabilities ceased education at primary level compared to 15.2% for total population aged 15 and over.

In addition the data shows that around half (8.3%) the number of people with disabilities has a third-level degree or higher compared to the total population aged 15 and over (15,6%).

Census 2006 - Persons aged 15 years and over, classified by highest level of education completed			
Totals	Persons aged 15-29	Persons aged 15 and over	Persons with a disability aged 15 and over
Population	1,005,810	3,375,399	360,529
Percentage	29.8 %	100.0 %	10.7 %
Full-time education ceased	58.4 %	84.4 %	91.3 %
Full-time education not ceased	41.6 %	15.6 %	8.7 %
Highest level of education completed			
Primary ⁴⁴	2.3 %	15.2 %	36.6 %
Secondary (Lower)	9.3 %	17.0 %	17.9 %
Secondary (Upper)	22.0 %	23.8 %	16.8 %
Third level: Non-degree	7.5 %	8.9 %	5.7 %
Third level: Degree or higher	14.9 %	15.6 %	8.3 %
Other	8.3 %	5.2 %	4.0 %
Not stated	2.5 %	3.9 %	6.0 %
Total still at school, university, etc.	33.3 %	10.4 %	4.7 %

Apart from the SILC data which is collected annually, there is no other comparative information available. An update on the table above would be anticipated from Census 2011.

The Higher Education Authority has implemented an Equal Access data collection process for new entrants to higher education. This includes collecting data on the disability status of new entrants. The 2009-10 data showed that 6% of new entrants to higher education had a disability. This compared to 4.7% in 2008-9.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Including those with no formal education

⁴⁵ The 2009-10 Equal Access data report can be viewed at – <http://www.hei.ie/files/files/file/statistics/2010/49841%20HEA%20Key%20Facts%20Figures%200910.pdf> (see section 7)

With regard to employment, the 2002 and 2006 Censuses included questions on disability status, as will the 2011 Census. There have been some changes in the wording of the disability question used, so that the data for the years concerned are not directly comparable. The Census also has questions on employment status and tables on employment of persons with disabilities were published in the Disability and Caring volumes of Census [2002](#) and Census [2006](#). The National Disability Survey conducted in 2006 was a post-Censal survey of a sample of some 14,500 people who had been recorded in the census in April that year as having a disability. It collected detailed information on employment status and perceived barriers to employment. [Volume 2 of the National Disability Survey](#) publishes this data.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) collects and regularly publishes data on people's labour force status (which includes a category of "unable to work due to illness or disability"). It also collects data on disability status (as per the definition used in the Census, which covers people with disabilities whether at work or not). This data has not, to date, been published in the regular QNHS statistical release. The QNHS also can include special add-on modules on particular sectors. Modules of this nature on disability and labour market participation were included in the QNHS in 2002 and 2004, and a further disability/employment module is scheduled for 2011.

The Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs has prepared a report on the social and economic circumstances of people with disabilities in Ireland, which will be published by mid 2011 (called *A social portrait of people with disabilities in Ireland*). The report draws on a number of sources, primarily the Census of Population and the National Disability Survey.

Italy

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The focal point is not involved in the preparation of the NRP.

In terms of interventions in the field of social inclusion (376 million euros), the draft National Reform Programme (November 2010) involves a commitment to the realization of social-welfare infrastructure that contribute to the achievement of service objectives and also include e-inclusion actions to facilitate access to services for people at risk of marginalization and actions to support the economy and social enterprises. Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria regions have also promoted measures to upgrade the supply of health services.

In addition, about 300 million euros have been allocated to the implementation of health services on-line (e-health, telemedicine and tele-assistance) and the diffusion of new automation technologies for the benefit of disadvantaged groups (elderly people, people with disabilities), while additional resources have been assigned to qualification activities of operators of the social economy and non profit sector through specific initiatives for the promotion of innovative models of organization and management of social services (home

care to people with disabilities, the management of kindergartens, canteen services, transportation for people with disabilities, etc...)

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

A specific data collection related to the implementation of the Convention has not been launched yet, even if Law 18/2009 (letter c), art. 5.3) has given the new National Observatory on the condition of people with disabilities the task of “promoting the collection of data on the condition of people with disabilities, also related to the different local and territorial situations” At www.disabilitaincifre.it, however, a website promoted by the Ministry of Labour in co-operation with ISTAT, the national institute for statistics, various data on persons with disabilities are available.

More specifically, in the website thematic areas dedicated to **education and school integration** provides data on: levels of education, the consistency of the presence of students with disabilities in schools to any level (with regional detail); the situation of public schools with regard to accessibility and the provision of transportation services for students with disabilities; the number and geographical distribution of teachers and support teachers, the consistency of undergraduate students for different type of disability, for regional distribution, for University (and faculty). The thematic area concerning **labour and employment** provides useful data to understand the level of job placement for people with disabilities; use of the tools available by national legislation (Law n.68/99) and their effective implementation on the territory; the social activities that cooperatives play in the field of job placement. Another section of the web site is dedicated to income issues and the economic hardship of persons with disabilities, and contains data on the income reported by families with at least one person with disability, data on the distribution of wealth available, and some indicators to provide an overview of the living conditions of families in terms of economic activity and spending power.

The website is currently under development on the basis of a Protocol among the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and ISTAT.

Latvia

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Ministry of Welfare, which is directly responsible for coordinating the implementation of the UN Convention, is involved in the preparation of the NRP.

As regards education, due to protection of the sensitive personal data Latvia has no statistics about the total number of persons with disability having completed any type of education or attending educational establishments. The situation of people with disabilities is not specifically addressed in the NRP.

Although the NRP of Latvia gives major information about the further policy developments and national reforms in the area of employment, there are several measures aimed particularly at persons with disabilities, for example: - Further developing ALMPs for the most vulnerable groups of unemployed (people with disabilities, long term unemployed and other); - Ensuring

flexible and responsive ALMPs and lifelong learning policy measures in line with the prevailing labour market situation, by further developing the existing and launching new ones, and gradually shifting from short-term/ crisis- related measures to longer term ALMPs and paying particular attention to the most vulnerable groups of unemployed; - Ensuring further development of social infrastructure and care services and improvements in accessibility and affordability of such services. Due to protection of sensitive personal data, setting the share of persons with disabilities in the open labour market as an indicator is very problematic.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Due to protection of sensitive personal data, Latvia has no general statistics about persons with disabilities at risk of poverty. Therefore, setting the share of persons with disabilities at risk of poverty as an indicator is very problematic. This group of persons is not specifically addressed in the NRP.

Concerning tertiary education, The Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia can provide data only about persons attending special educational establishments. Many pupils/students with disability attend general tertiary educational establishments and their precise number is not known.

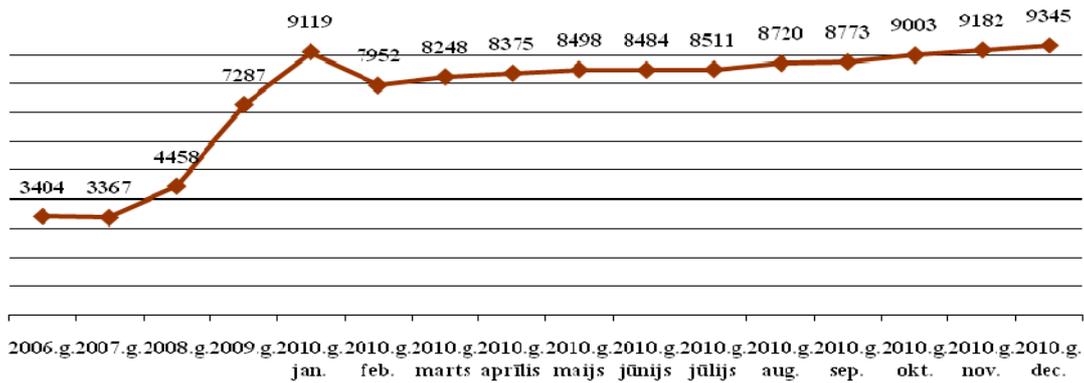
The State Agency of Social Integration (the agency which provides tertiary education for persons who needs professional rehabilitation) has their own database on persons with disability attending tertiary education, provided by this Agency. In average about 400 persons with disability every year obtain tertiary education in this Agency.

It should be mentioned that Latvia participates at the regular comparative study EUROSTUDENT which is basis for the comparative study “Social and Economic Conditions of Student Life in Europe”. One chapter of this study concerns students with different health disorders, including disability.

Currently, the only source of information about employed persons with disability is the State Medical Commission for the Assessment of Health Condition and Working Ability of Latvia (State Medical Commission), which collects on a regular basis data about the number of persons firstly and repeatedly recognized as persons with disabilities. As these data cover only persons who in a respective year come for an expertise to the State Medical Commission, statistics is not sufficient to be attributed to all working age persons with disability, however. Statistical data about persons to whom disability has been determined (or repeatedly prolonged) in respective year are published in the annual report of the State Medical Commission.

The State Employment Agency (SEA) gathers monthly information about registered unemployed with disabilities. For example, there were 4,3% persons with disabilities among registered unemployed persons in October 2009. In December 2010 the share of unemployed persons with disabilities has increased up to 5,7%. 51% of them were women, 49% - men.

Number of unemployed with disabilities registered in the SEA:



In 2010 1 806 persons with disabilities returned to the labour market.

In December 2010, the greater number of registered unemployed with disabilities was participating in subsidized employment measures (841 persons), work practices with stipend (736 persons) and training measures (624 persons).

Latvia does not collect any other statistics reflecting the risk of poverty in the Country (apart from the data collected for EU-SILC).

Lithuania

2.3.1. Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Lithuanian focal point for implementation of the UN Convention, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, is involved with other institutions in the process of preparation of the National Reform Programme and proposes issues which are considered as priorities.

Lithuania is interested to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in the eight areas for action which Commission has identified as most important: *Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and training, Social protection, Health, and External Action*. The process of preparation of the NRP is not over and we expect all mentioned areas will be involved. The National Reform Programme does not contain any specific numbers or targets in percentage in the specified areas.

2.3.2. Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Statistics in Lithuania regarding specified areas (tertiary education, employment and risk of poverty) is collected by different institutions, according to the competence. The Department of Statistics of Lithuania collects data on persons with disabilities who study in tertiary education. The Department for the Affairs of Disabled also collects information on disabled students who get financial support according “The Description of the Procedure for the Provision of Financial Support to the Disabled Studying in Higher Education Establishments” (hereinafter referred to as the Procedure for financial Support). We would like to note that according to the Procedure for financial Support, data are collected, but it does not include all students with disabilities, but only those with severe or medium disability or with a work capacity of 45 percent or less and who study for the first time.

Information regarding employment of persons with disabilities is collected and analysed by Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

There is no statistics on the risk of poverty of persons with disabilities.

Luxembourg

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Ministry of Family and Integration, in its role as focal point for the implementation of the UN Convention, is involved in the preparation of the NRP. As the preparation of the NRP and the consultations between the different ministries is still under preparation, the work on how to take the situation of persons with disabilities into account in regard to (tertiary) education and employment (in the open labour market) is still ongoing.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

The University of Luxembourg is collecting data showing i.a. the percentage of students with disabilities of the total student population of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and their choice of studies as well as their different types of disabilities. The Employment Administration (Administration de l'Emploi-ADEM) is collecting data and statistics showing the number of disabled workers that are employed by the State, by one of the 116 communes in Luxembourg or working in sheltered employment, as well as (in close cooperation with the CEPS / INSTEAD and on a monthly basis) the number of disabled workers registered as unemployed or seeking work. (For further information and other (partial) statistics: http://www.adem.public.lu/actualites/2011/01/news_12_10/index.html)

With regard to the protection of personal data and privacy, collecting precise data on people with disabilities is usually very problematic, especially in a small country. Luxembourg does not collect statistics which monitor and explain the specific situation of people with disabilities compared to the rest of the population in relation to the risk of poverty.

Malta

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

Although there has not yet been a focal point appointed for the UNCRPD, the KNPD has been involved in the preparation of the NRP.

The NRP includes key measures that specifically refer to persons with disability. These are: the Strengthening Employability Prospects (Measure 4.1.2.1), the implementation of Malta's Flexicurity Roadmap (Measure 4.1.2.2), Incentives and Support to Persons with a Disability to actively participate in the labour market (Measure 4.5.2.3).

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

The University of Malta collects data with regard to persons with disabilities in tertiary education. The Employment and Training Corporation collects such information with regard to the employment of persons with disabilities. The data pertaining to the risk of poverty for persons with disabilities is collected by the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family.

Poland

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

Poland has not ratified the Convention yet, so no focal point has been put in place. For that reason the “national focal point” can not be involved in the activities mentioned in the question. However the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy can be contacted in the matter of the preparations and implementation of the UN Convention.

Active labour market policies are including implementation of the system of incentives encouraging people at risk of unemployment and social exclusion to be more active in the labour market, in particular extending the duration of professional activity and return of people aged 50+ to the labour market. One of the big challenges of this subject assumes implementation of solutions as regards increasing the level of young people, women and disabled people’s employment.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Apart from the data collected for EU-SILC, in Poland information on the situation of persons with disabilities is available on the basis of statistical surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Office, such as *National Census*, *cyclical Labour Force Surveys (LFS)*, *Household Interview Surveys* (information available in Polish and English).

Poland also collect statistics which monitor and explain the specific situation of people with disabilities compared to the rest of the population on the website of Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled Persons (information available only in Polish).

According to the Labour force survey in Poland - III Quarter 2010 there was 7 % of persons with disabilities having completed tertiary education and 10% of person with disabilities in age of 30-34 years having completed tertiary education. More information on tertiary education can be found at these websites:

<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawnosc-w-liczbach/>
<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawnosc-w-liczbach/tablice/>
http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_2189_ENG_HTML.htm

According to the Labour force survey in Poland - III Quarter 2010 there was 24,5 % of persons with disabilities economically active (aged 20-64); 21,3 % of persons with disabilities employed (aged 20-64).

According to data from State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, currently there are about 50% of employed persons with disabilities in the open labour market.

<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawosc-w-liczbach/>
<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawosc-w-liczbach/tablice/>
http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_2189_ENG_HTML.htm

According to the Household budget surveys in 2009 in Poland 22,5 % of people at risk of poverty⁴⁶ lived in the private household⁴⁷ with at least one person with disabilities

<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawosc-w-liczbach/>
<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/niepelnosprawosc-w-liczbach/tablice/>
http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_3467_ENG_HTML.htm

Portugal

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

At the time of preparation of the DHLG Report there was not yet any information available on the inclusion of disability issues in the preparation of the National Reform Programme (NRP) with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD).

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Due to restrictive Portuguese legislation regarding statistics and data collection, Portugal cannot provide any precise answer on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD), other than the data from the last Census in 2001.

The Portuguese body responsible by data protection, the National Commission for Data Protection, and the Law of Data Protection forbids the collection of data and statistics regarding persons with disabilities.

Nevertheless, the Portuguese national body responsible for the issues concerning employment/unemployment (Employment Institute and Professional Formation) has several centres of unemployment all around the country, and has the ability to states the number of persons with disabilities with inscription in each centre of unemployment or even, the number of persons with disabilities that had left the inscription due to have found a job.

Romania

⁴⁶ Persons with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) below the At-risk-of-poverty threshold set at 50% of the median of equivalised disposable.

⁴⁷ Household is a group of persons related to each other by kinship or not, living together and sparing their income and expenditure (multi-person household) or single person, not sharing his/her income or expenditure with any other person, whether living alone or with other persons (one-person household).

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Romanian Focal Point for the implementation of the UN Convention, the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection (through the General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities), participates in the elaboration of the Project of the National Reform Programme (NRP) 2011 - 2013. At the time of the writing of the DHLG Report, the Action Plan for the NRP 2011 - 2013 is being developed.

The Project of National Reform Program 2011 - 2013 aims as national target to increase the share of population aged 30-34 years with tertiary education level. One of the main lines of action to achieve the target is increasing the participation of young people from disadvantaged groups in university-level training programs. According to Europe 2020 flagship initiative "An agenda for new skills and new jobs" the project of NRP 2011 - 2013 provides to undertake the necessary steps to implement at national level the measures that lead to increase the opportunities of integration of the persons belonging to disadvantaged groups on the open labor market. Also, through the European Structural Funds we are paying special attention to improve the situation of socially vulnerable groups, the Sectorial Operational Programme - Human Resources Development - "Promoting social inclusion" being focused on specific areas of intervention: social economy development, improving and promoting access and participation of vulnerable groups in the labor market, promoting equal employment opportunities. Statistics at the end of December 2010 show a total of 28 420 persons, representing 12.5% of the total adults with disabilities between 18-60 years with the right to work, being in family care. The Project of National Reform Program 2011 - 2013 aims to reform the welfare system by developing social services to increase the quality of life of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Statistics at the end of December 2010 show a number of 237 711 persons with disabilities without income that receive disability benefits (being in family care). They are representing 1.42% of the total adult population of Romania.

At this time, the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection - General Directorate for Protection of Persons with Disabilities (GDPPD) collects statistics from the local level through a form in Excel format.

Statistical data providers are the 47 General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (41 counties and 6 districts of Bucharest). Data received by GDPPD are corrected, correlated and integrated at national level, followed by the interpretation and elaboration of the quarterly and annual statistical reports by the statistical reporting officers.

In the next future the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection envisages the development and implementation of an IT application for collecting and consolidating data regarding the protection system of the persons with disabilities from the central level. This objective will be achieved by making the central electronic register of persons with disabilities that will integrate all the processes of collecting, building, testing, analysis and reporting from the field of disability.

There is no data available on the persons with disabilities in tertiary education, but such data is available with relation to persons with disabilities in employment and risk of poverty.

Slovakia

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Slovak Republic, in its National Reform Programme (NRP) under preparation within the Europe 2020 strategy, will not include a special measure regarding access of persons with disabilities to the labour market.

In relation to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy concerning elimination of poverty, the Slovak Republic defined a specific goal within its **National Strategy of Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion**: “To get at least 170 thousand people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion by 2020”. The target group at the national level includes citizens living at risk of poverty and exclusion, i.e. people with low income, or those who cannot afford some of the necessary needs for their life..

The proposed key measures within the National Reform Programme under preparation, aiming at achieving the national goal to “get at least 170 thousand people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion”, do not focus exclusively on citizens with disabilities. However, as a disability is a significant factor conditioning a high rate of the risk of poverty and social exclusion, their application will directly affect also citizens with disabilities to a high extent.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

The Slovak Republic does not keep statistical data related to education of persons with disabilities having completed tertiary education. Most children with special educational needs currently attend special schools. In mainstream schools the child with special educational needs may be integrated with its peer into a mainstream class (individual integration) or into a special class at mainstream school among children with the same kind of handicap (social integration). In the school year 2009/10 the ratio of pupils with special educational needs to the total number of pupils in compulsory schooling (562 579) was 8.6 %; pupils educated separately (in a special schools and in a special classes of mainstream schools) was 5.4 % and individually integrated were 3.2 %.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and its employment services have data on development of unemployment of citizens with disabilities who are registered as job applicants. At the end of December 2010, 11,218 citizens with disabilities were registered, which accounts for 2.9 % of the total number of job applicants (compared to November 2010 – 11,051 job applicants and 3.0% share). Their number has increased month-to-month by 167 persons. The percentage share reduced by -0.1 percentage point. At the end of December 2009, 10,159 citizens with disabilities were registered (2.7 % of all job applicants). This group of disadvantaged job applicants increased inter-annually by 1,059 persons. In 2010, 10,970 citizens with disabilities were unemployed on average, which, compared to 2009 when there were 9,357 citizens with disabilities registered on average, constitutes an increase by 1,613 (or by +17.2%). (Source: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family).

In general, as regards adoption of strategies and measures focusing on elimination of poverty and social exclusion, the information and data provided by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic are the main basis data for any statistical assessments. Another source of information and data includes analyses and research carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, and analyses and evaluations of social impacts when preparing specific legislative measures by other ministries as regards effects of the legislation to be adopted on various groups of citizens. Further data have their source in administrative data on beneficiaries of contributions to compensate severe disabilities.

Slovenia

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (Directorate for Persons with Disabilities) was designated as the focal point within government for matters relating to the implementation of the National Reform Programme (NRP) with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD).

Civil society and in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are involved and they fully participate in the monitoring process through consulting professional body – Government Council for persons with disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia. The Council ensures that persons with disabilities are given due consideration in all national programme documents and gives expert opinions on proposed acts and implementing regulations.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Recently, there has been an increase in the number and the share of disabled students who decide to study at university. University of Maribor has among 23, 426 students 26 special needs students (0,11%), University of Primorska has among 6785 students 21 special needs students (0,3%).

The proportion of persons with disabilities among the unemployed at the end of December 2010 was 13.5%. The number of unemployed persons with disabilities: 14,920. The number of unemployed: 110,021.

Estimation that the number of the poverty among persons with disabilities is in proportion to the number of poverty among people per capita in Slovenia. We don't have the exact percentage of the poverty among persons with disabilities. Below the poverty line in the year 2009 was 11.3% of the Slovenian population.

Spain

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The focal point for the implementation of the UN Convention in Spain is indirectly involved in the preparation of the National Reform Programme through the participation in the design

of the social policy. The Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality, through the Directorate-General for Disability Sectorial Policies Coordination, is the political organization in charge of implementation of laws regard to disability issues and the coordination of the disability policies for the seventeen Regional Authorities.

As regards the targets set in the NRP's, no information is available.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

Concerning data on Education, EDAD 2008 (Encuesta de Discapacidad, Autonomía personal y situaciones de Dependencia) is a Macro-Survey elaborated by the Statistics National Institute of Spain in 2008 that collected data about persons with disabilities, personal autonomy, health conditions and ageing population from different statistical sources. The survey includes questions about educational level of people with disabilities.

<http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=/t15/p418/a2008/hogares/p01/modulo3&file=pcaxis>.

Information about the educational level of people with disabilities with ages between 14 and 64 years old can also be found in the EPD 2008 (see more below).

<http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=%2Ft22%2Fp320%2Fa2008%2F&file=pcaxis&N=&L=0>

Data on employment of persons with disabilities can also be found in the EDAD 2008. Moreover, the EPD 2008 (Empleo de las Personas con Discapacidad) is a new yearly statistical operation about Employment of Persons with Disabilities elaborated by the Statistics National Institute of Spain (INE). The first edition published on 20 December 2010 has been afforded by the Statistics National Institute of Spain, cofinanced by the Spanish National Organization of Blind in the framework of the operational programme <<Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013>> financed by European Social Fund.

EPD 2008 has been prepared through the exploitation of data from the Economically active population survey (EPA) and the National Database of people with disabilities (BEPD) with the collaboration of Spanish Committee of People with Disabilities and ONCE Foundation (Spanish National Organization of Blind).

The results became from the crossing statistics data of the two sources mentioned above (EPA and BEPD) so that it was possible to combine the socio-demographic and labour force information with the people who has recognized a legal disability situation equal or up to 33% in the Spanish legislation. The use of survey and administrative data have the advantage of less budget cost and also make less burden in the answers of the informers.

<http://www.ine.es/ioe/ioeFicha.jsp?cod=30320>

<http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=%2Ft22%2Fp320%2Fa2008%2F&file=pcaxis&N=&L=0>

There is no specific data available for the risk of poverty for persons with disabilities.

Sweden

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

There is no information with regard to the focal point's involvement in the NRP or with regard to specific targets set for persons with disabilities.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

As regards statistics and data collection, Sweden does not keep any *statistics* regarding the number of people with disabilities in the higher education system. However, there are statistics regarding students with disabilities who receive special educational support within university education. The statistics do not provide a complete picture of all university students who have a disability.

For information on data and statistics on persons with disabilities in employment, please see the initial report to the CRPD Committee.

In the work that is being conducted to create a better picture of the living conditions of persons with disabilities, Statistics Sweden (SCB)⁴⁸, at the request of the Government in autumn 2010, has supplied information specific to the target group based on an established investigation into the living conditions of the Swedish people. The material is currently being processed, and the results will be presented in a report including conclusions regarding both living conditions for persons with disabilities as well as what improvements to the investigation methodology should be implemented in order to achieve a good statistical description in future.

There are some opportunities to collect statistics on poverty risks among persons with disabilities. There are different ways, though, to define the group of persons with disabilities. However, income data are derived from the same source (same as the data in the EU-SILC).

In Sweden you can define the group of people with disabilities using the register of the population. The selection will then be based on information from various statistical surveys on various support and benefit systems a person with disabilities can obtain. For each person then income data can be retrieved from administrative registers.

In the Swedish study, Hushållens ekonomi (HEK), there are further opportunities to measure poverty risks among persons with disabilities. HEK measures the income distribution among the population. The survey is conducted as a sample survey and consist of people who have reported self-perceived disabilities. For each person, data on income is taken from administrative registers. Income data from HEK also measures the rest of the population therefore there are opportunities to compare different measure of income between groups.

There are currently no ongoing statistic collections on poverty risks for this group.

The Netherlands

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

⁴⁸ Statistics Sweden is an administrative authority whose primary task is to supply customers with statistics for decision-making, debate and research, often at the request of the Government.

The Netherlands has not yet established a focal point. As the NRP in the domain of education will be ready around April 2011; there is not yet any final decisions are made on the content.

Also in the domain of employment the NRP is under preparation and will be ready in April 2011. It will be a short programme focused on labour market and social inclusion. The Coalition Agreement states the obligation for persons with a disability to work to the best of their abilities. This agreement will be part of the NRP. Article 27 of the CRPD states –in short- that State Parties should recognize the right of persons with a disability to work and take all appropriate measures to realize this right, A scala of measures is mentioned. The Approval Act of the CRPD will rule the implementation of this Article. In general the Netherlands promotes the implementation of article 27 in a broad scala of instruments in the field of reintegration and participation. Due to this it is hardly possible to determine which measures are based on existing long term policy and which measures are part of the strict implementation of CRPD. This is in line with the EU-policy on the implementation of CRPD that excludes measures in the labour market.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

No data is available on employment and education of persons with disabilities. With regard to persons with a disability at risk of poverty: it can be noted that the number of senior persons or persons with a disability and a minimum income is lowered from 93.000 in 2000 to 67.000 in 2005 (6% resp 4% of the total number of persons > 65 and persons with a disability). 1,4% of the persons age 65+ and persons with a disability has a long-term minimum income.

The UK

2.3.1 Involvement of the focal point in preparing NRPs and disability specific targets in employment, tertiary education and poverty reduction (Articles 24, 27, 28 UNCRPD)

The Office for Disability Issues, the UK's focal point for implementation of the UN Convention, is involved in the preparation of the NRP. The UK recognises the need to consider disability issues when developing its NRP, including those covered by Articles 24, 27 and 28 of the Convention.

No information is available on specific targets in the NRP for persons with disabilities.

2.3.2 Data and statistics on the situation of people with disabilities with regard to education, employment and poverty reduction (Article 31 UNCRPD).

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is responsible for gathering and monitoring evidence of the government's progress towards disability equality. The areas covered reflect the experiences of disabled people. ODI's statistics are based on the latest official research available. They are sourced and dated, and regularly maintained.

The statistics collected include a range of Disability Equality Indicators which include information on education, employment and living standards.

The indicators and more information can be found on the ODI website at: <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/roadmap-to-disability-equality/indicators.php>

2.3.3 Involvement of civil society in the preparation of National Reform Programmes (in the fields of employment, education and poverty reduction)

The Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) reported that none of its national members was consulted or involved in the preparation of the NRPs. The French member, Unapei, specified however that disability policies have been integrated into the French report in two fields: Employment: integration of workers with disabilities and Poverty reduction: increase of the amount of the allowance for adult with disabilities.

In both cases, Unapei was part of the process of policy-making, as one of the main stakeholder organizations. There is no reference to the situation of children of disabilities in the section of the NRP dedicated to education.

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) reported that one of EASPD's member organizations in Hungary is involved in the NRPs on the field of employment. An organization in Estonia is involved in the preparation of the NRP's in the fields of employment, education and poverty reduction. They are, together with other groups of representatives of people with disability, taking part in training for the participation of a working group. After the training two persons will be picked to participate in national working groups in order to monitor the implementation of UNCRPD in Estonia. Other persons in the group will become governmental representatives.

The European Disability Forum (EDF) noted that National Reform Programmes will be one of the main policy frameworks in the EU Member States, in order to produce modernising policies in the areas of poverty, education, employment, innovation and climate. It is of utmost importance for persons with disabilities to be part of these agendas in order to ensure that specific actions are taken to improve their levels of employment and education and reducing their poverty levels. The first "Annual Growth Survey" AGS has highlighted, at the beginning of this year that national targets have a low level of ambition and no information has been provided about the consultation process that should have been followed by EU member states with all stakeholders in the preparation of the National Reform Programmes.

The European Disability Forum has consulted its members at national level with regards to their involvement in the development of the NRPs in their respective countries. The result is a worrying picture that shows that on average almost a third of the national organisations representing persons with disabilities have been consulted to a certain extent in the process or will be involved, while the rest is ignored. Among the few that contributed, some examples showed that in Spain the C.E.R.M.I. has appointed a person that is participating directly to the development of the NRP. In Sweden, the Swedish Disability Federation has been invited to consultation meetings that are to take place in March with the Ministry of Education (the ministry of Employment only organises consultation meetings with social partners).

The organisations of persons with disabilities in most of the countries were not consulted, and some of them solicited meetings and consultations with the public authorities, e.g. in Lithuania, and we call upon the competent authorities to positively answer this requests. Some of the consulted organisations pointed out the weak reference to people with disabilities, for instance, in the Italian NRP presented in November 2010, people with disabilities are only

mentioned under point 3.4.3 Regional policy, employment and social inclusion, with regard to domotic technologies and transport. This is clearly not enough: nor to reach the objectives and targets of the EU 2020, and clearly nor to guarantee that persons with disabilities are included in the modernisation process as all the European citizens.

The final NRPs have to be submitted in April 2011 and Member States shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, as enshrined in the UN CRPD (Art. 4 (3)).

ANNEX 1: STATE OF PLAY

Dates of signatures and ratification					
Country	Signature		Ratification*/Formal confirmation		Reporting
	UN Convention	Optional Protocol	UN Convention	Optional Protocol	
AT	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	25 September 2008	25 September 2008	Report submitted to UN October 2010
BE	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	2 July 2009	2 July 2009	
BG	27 September 2007	18 December 2008			
CY	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	4 March 2011**	4 March 2011**	
CZ	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	28 September 2009		
DE	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	24 February 2009	24 February 2009	
DK	30 March 2007		23 July 2009		
EE	25 September 2007				
EL	30 March 2007	27 September 2010			
ES	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	3 December 2007	3 December 2007	
FI	30 March 2007	30 March 2007			
FR	30 March 2007	23 September 2008	18 February 2010	18 February 2010	Report submitted to UN October 2010
HU	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	20 July 2007	20 July 2007	
IE	30 March 2007				
IT	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	3 March 2009	3 March 2009	
LT	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	18 August 2010	18 August 2010	
LU	30 March 2007	30 March 2007			
LV	18 July 2008	22 January 2010	1 March 2010	31 August 2010	
MT	30 March 2007	30 March 2007			
NL	30 March 2007				
PL	30 March 2007				
PT	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	23 September 2009	23 September 2009	Report submitted to UN February 2011
RO	26 September 2007	25 September 2008	31 January 2011		
SE	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	15 December 2008	15 December 2008	
SI	30 March 2007	30 March 2007	24 April 2008	24 April 2008	
SK	26 September 2007	26 September 2007	26 May 2010	26 May 2010	
UK	30 March 2007	26 February 2009	8 June 2009	7 August 2009	
EU	30 March 2007		23 December 2010		

§ Dates in **bold** show developments under 2010-first quarter 2011

* Ratification means the deposit of the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

** The Internal procedure achieved, but the instruments of ratification not yet deposited with the Secretariat General of the UN.

ANNEX 2: RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES AND CONTACT PERSONS

This annex contains an overview of responsible authorities, focal points, coordination mechanisms and contact points. The data were provided by the Member States in reply to the following questions:

* Who is responsible for the implementation (putting into practice) of the UN Convention, *i.e.* the focal point foreseen in article 33(1) of the Convention?

* Have you established a coordination mechanism foreseen in article 33(1) of the Convention?

Austria

Focal Point: Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
(implementation)
Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs (ratification)

Coordination mechanism: Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Independent mechanism: Independent Monitoring Committee of the Federal Disability Advisory Board at the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection with representatives from the Federal Government, the Länder, the Social Insurance Institutions, Stakeholders, Social Partners and the Disability Ombudsman.

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Belgium

Focal Points:

- Federal level : SPF Sécurité sociale – DG Personnes Handicapées
- Flemish Region: Cel Gelijke Kansen (Ministry for Equal Opportunities)
- Walloon region: Agence Wallonne pour l'Intégration des Personnes handicapées
- Brussels-Capital region: Direction des Relations extérieures
- COCOF : Service Personne Handicapée Autonomie Recherchée
- COCOM : Administration
- French-Speaking community : WBI Service multilatéral mondial
- German-speaking community: [Dienststelle für Personen mit Behinderung](#)

Coordination mechanism: SPF Sécurité sociale – DG Personnes handicapées

Independent mechanisms: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism

Contacts:

- DEBACKER Philippe – Service PHARE – COCOF – Tél. +32.2.800.81.53 – Mail : pdebacker@cocof.irisnet.be
- EICHSTAEDT Astrid – DPB - Dienststelle für Personen mit Behinderung – German-speaking community – Tél. : +32.80.22.91.11 – Mail : astrid.eichstaedt@dpb.be
- KENNES Rudi - Cel Gelijke Kansen – Flemish region – Tél. : +32.2.225.84.68 – Mail : rudi.kennes@vaph.be
- HURDEBISE Jean-Marc – AWIPH - Agence wallonne pour l'intégration des Personnes handicapées - Walloon region – Tél.: +32.71.20.58.27 – Mail : jm.hurdebise@awiph.be
- TRESEGNIE Daniel – Service Public Fédéral Sécurité sociale – DG Personnes Handicapées – Tél. : +32.2.509.82.94 – Mail : Daniel.Tresegnie@minsoc.fed.be
- RODRIGUEZ Olivia – Direction des Relations extérieures – Brussels-Capital region – Tél. : +32 2.800.37.61 - Mail : orodriguez@mrbc.irisnet.be
- FAURE Marien – WBI Service multilatéral mondial – French-speaking community – Tél. : + 32 2 421.85.70 - Mail : m.faure@wbi.be
- JORIS Alain – Administration - COCOM – Tél. : +32 2 502.60.01 - Mail : ajoris@ccc.irisnet.be

Bulgaria

Focal Point: Integration of People with Disabilities Department at Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Coordination mechanism: None established

Independent mechanism: Council for Integration of People with Disabilities

Contact:

Joanna Germanova
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Directorate “Social protection”
2 Triaditza street, 1051 Sofia, Bulgaria
Email: jpetrova@mlsp.government.bg, Tel.: + 359 2 8119 658

Nadezhda Harizanova
Integration of People with Disabilities' Department
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
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Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
National Council on Integration of People with Disabilities.
Council of Ministers, regional governors, regional government in cooperation with civil society.

Ministry of Youth, Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Regional Development and Republic Works, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for People with Disabilities, Social Assistance Agency, National Statistical Institute and regional government.

Cyprus

Focal Point: Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities at Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

Coordination mechanism: The Pancyprian Council for the Persons with Disabilities.

Independent mechanism: is yet to be determined

Contact:

Christina Flourentzou-Kakouri
Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
1430 Nicosía, Cyprus
Tel: 00357 22 406450, Fax: 00357 22 406 480
e-mail: cflourentzou@dsid.mlsi.gov.cy

Czech Republic

Focal Point: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Coordinating mechanism: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government Board for People with Disabilities
Czech National Disability Council

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

Stefan Culik
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Na Poricnim pravu 1
128 01 Prague 2
Czech Republic
Tel: +42 22192 2693
E-mail: Stefan.Culik@mpsv.cz

Denmark

Focal Point: The Ministry of Social Affairs

Coordination: The Inter-ministerial Committee of Civil Servants on Disability Matters

Independent mechanism: The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Contact:

Anne Bækgaard/ Kaare Vind Jensen; aba@sm.dk ; kvj@sm.dk
The Ministry of Social Affairs
Holmens Kanal 22, DK-1060 København K
+45 33 92 93 00

The Danish Disability Council

Civil society: involvement through representative organizations (“Danske Handicaporganisationer”/Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People, Each sector Ministry is responsible of implementing necessary changes etc. in their area (the principle of sector responsibility)

Estonia

Focal Point: Ministry of Social Affairs and in future the Social Welfare Department.
Cooperates with the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

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Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Gonsiori 29, 15027 TALLINN,
Estonia.
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministries (Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance) and non-governmental organizations (Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, Estonian Union of People with Visual Impairment, Estonian Association of Hard Hearing, Estonian Union of Persons with Mobility Impairment, Association of Estonian Cities, Association of Municipalities of Estonia
Estonian National Council of People with Disabilities

Finland

Focal Point: none established

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

Marjatta Hiekka
Legislative counsellor,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unit for human right courts and conventions
Email: Marjatta.Hiekka@formin.fi

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

France

Focal point: All administrations, services and bureaus working on the implementation of disability policy (not formally appointed yet as focal points)

Coordination mechanism: Interministerial committee of disability, chaired by the Prime Minister

Independent mechanism: Not appointed yet (see Chapter 2)

Contact:

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European and International Affairs Unit
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR SOCIAL COHESION
Ministry for Solidarity and Social Cohesion
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Germany

Focal Point: Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Coordination Mechanism: Commissioner of the Federal Government for the Interests of Persons with Disabilities

Monitoring Mechanism: German Institute for Human Rights
CRPD National Monitoring Mechanism
Zimmerstrasse 26/27, 10969 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: 0049-30-259359-450
E-Mail: monitoring-stelle@institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de
Fax: 0049-30-259359-459
www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/en/monitoring-mechanism.html

Contact:

Moira Kettner
Desk officer, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,
email: moira.kettner@bmas.bund.de
Tel. +49-30-527-4318

Greece

Focal point: None established

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

1. Stelakatos Michael,
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Zalokosta 3, Athènes
e-mail: m.stelak@mfa.gr
Tel. : +30 210 368 33 19

2. Nikolsky Dimitrios
Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity
Aristotelous 17, Athens
e-mail: d.nikolsky@yyka.gov.gr
Tel: +30 210 5227700

Hungary

Focal Point: Ministry of National Resources

Coordination mechanism: not established

Independent mechanism: National Council on Disability Issues

Contact:

Ms Ildikó Bernáth, Ministerial Commissioner
ildiko.bernath@nefmi.gov.hu

Ministry of National Resources

Ireland

Focal Point: will be confirmed following ratification

Coordination mechanism: will be confirmed following ratification

Independent mechanism: will be confirmed following ratification

Contact:

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Disability Policy Division
Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs
Email: dspratt@pobail.ie
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Italy

Focal Point: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies - Directorate general for inclusion and social policies,

Coordination mechanism: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies- Directorate general for inclusion and social policies

Independent mechanism: National Observatory for monitoring the condition of people with disabilities (Law 18/2009)

Contact:

Alfredo Ferrante, aferrante@lavoro.gov.it, disabili@lavoro.gov.it

Head of Unit for persons with disabilities

Directorate general for inclusion and social policies

Ministry of Labour and Social Policies

Via Fornovo, 8

00192 Roma - IT

Tel +39 06.4683.4659-4457

Latvia

Focal Point: The Ministry of Welfare

Coordination mechanism: The National Council of Disability Affairs (NCDA)

Independent mechanism: The Ombudsman office (also the NCDA and working groups)

Contact:

Liene Kaulina-Bandere, Tel:+37167021608, Liene.Bandere@lm.gov.lv

Elina Celmina, Tel: +371 67021612, Elina.Celmina@lm.gov.lv

Equal Opportunities Policy Division

Ministry of Welfare

28 Skolas Str.Riga, LV-1331

Latvia

fax +371 67021607

Lithuania

Focal Point: Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Coordinating mechanism: Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Independent mechanism: The Council for the Affairs of Disabled at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.

Contact:

Donatas Jankauskas, DJankauskas@socmin.lt

Minister of Social Security and Labour,

Tel: +370 5 266 42 01

For ratification:

Egle Caplikiene, Egle.Caplikiene@socmin.lt

Head of Equal Opportunities Division,

Tel: +370 5 266 42 61,

For implementation: Rūta Jakubauskienė, Ruta.Jakubauskiene@socmin.lt

Chief Specialist of Equal Opportunities Division

Tel: +370 5 266 42 74

The Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Statistics, Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Lithuanian Disability Forum.

Associations of people with disabilities: Association for the Physically Disabled of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Blind and Visually Impaired People, Lithuanian Association of the Deaf, the Lithuanian Association of Intellectually Challenged People “Viltis”, the Lithuanian Association of Persons with Disability, Association for Application of Environment to Needs of Persons with Disability, the Lithuanian Special Creativity Association “Guboja”, the Lithuanian Association for Mentally Challenged Persons, the Lithuanian Association of Persons with Hearing Difficulties, and other.

Luxembourg

Focal point: Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration

Coordination mechanism: Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

Pierre Biver

Conseiller de Direction

Ministry of Family Affairs & Integration

12-14 avenue Emile Reuter

L-2919 Luxembourg

pierre.biver@fm.etat.lu

Malta

Focal Point: The National Commission Persons with Disability (KNPD)

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

For implementation: Anne-Marie Callus, Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilità, Bugeia Institute, Braille Street, St Venera

The National Commission Persons with Disability (KNPD) established by the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (includes representatives of the main Government Ministries and also the voluntary sector working in the field).

The Netherlands

Focal Point: The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS)

Coordination mechanism: Proposed network of representatives from all layers of government.

Independent mechanism: National Human Rights Institute

Contact:

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Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
Department of Social Support
PO Box 20350
NL 2500 EJ The Hague
Tel: + 31 70 340 7166
E: wj.d.ouden@minvws.nl

Poland

Focal Point: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

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Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
Department of Economic Analyses and Forecasts,
Nowogrodzka 1/3/5, 00-513 Warsaw, Poland
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Małgorzata Kielducka, malgorzata.kielducka@mpips.gov.pl
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled Persons,
Nowogrodzka 1/3/5, 00-513 Warsaw, Poland

Tel: +48 22 55 10 120, fax. +48 22 82 65 146

Portugal

Focal point: National Institute for the Rehabilitation

Coordination mechanism: National Institute for the Rehabilitation

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

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National Institute for the Rehabilitation
Av. Conde de Valbom 63
1069-178 Lisbon
Portugal
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Fax: 00351 21 792 95 95
E-mail: ruiribeiro@inr.mtss.pt

Romania

Focal Point: Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection / General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Handicap

Coordination mechanism: Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection / General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Handicap

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

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General Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Handicap
Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection
194, Calea Victoriei, 1st District, Bucharest, Romania
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Fax: +4 021 212 54 43
gabriela.dobre@anph.ro

Slovak Republic

Focal Point: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact: (will be confirmed after the establishment of coordination mechanism)
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
Spitalska 4-6
816 43 Bratislava
Slovakia
Tel.: +421 2 2046 1055
Fax.: +421 2 2046 1075
dana.podobna@employment.gov.sk

Slovenia

Focal Point: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Directorate for persons with disability

Coordination mechanism: None established

Independent mechanisms: Government Council for Persons with Disabilities;
[National Council of Disabled People's Organisation of Slovenia \(NSIOS\)](#)

Contact:
Cveto Uršič,
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, general director, Directorate for disabled
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cveto.ursic@gov.si

Governmental Council for Persons with Disabilities
Relevant ministries
Slovenian National Council of disabled people's organizations

Spain

Focal Point : Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality⁴⁹, through Directorate General for the Coordination of Sectorial Policies on Disability, which it's the responsible for the coordination of both.

Coordination: National Disability Council (General State Administration, Associations of common public interest, experts advisors).

Independent Mechanism: CERMI (Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities) created by the National Disability Council

⁴⁹ The recent ministerial reorganization undertaken by the Spanish government, under which social policies, and therefore the UNCRPD, have been assigned to the new Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality. At the time that the 3rd HLG Report on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was drawn up, the UNCRPD was assigned to the Ministry of Health and Social Policy.

Contact:

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Director Humans Rights Office - Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC)

Jaime Alejandro

dgdiscapacidad@mspsi.es

General Director of Coordination of Sectorial Policies on Disability. Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality - Secretariat-General for Social Policy and Consumer

Paseo de la Castellana 67-6ª planta

tel: + 34 918226502/03

Sweden

Focal Point: Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Coordinating mechanisms: Social Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

Malin Ekman Aldén, malin.ekman-alden@social.ministry.se

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Social Services Division

Tel: +46 8 405 11 15

UK

Focal Point: Office for Disability Issues (ODI)

Coordinating mechanism: Office for Disability Issues (ODI)

Independent mechanisms: UK's four equality and human rights Commissions i.e. the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI)

Contact:

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UN Convention and International Team,

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Tothill Street

London SW1H 9NA

Tel: +44 20 7449 5072,

fax +44 20 7449 5087

Department for Work and Pensions; Office for Disability Issues

European Union

Focal point: European Commission

Coordination mechanism: none established

Independent mechanism: none established

Contact:

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D3 Rights of Persons with Disabilities
European Commission
DG Justice
Rue Luxembourg 46 - 1000 Brussels

ANNEX 3: WEBSITES

Cyprus

Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance: www.mlsi.gov.cy

Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: www.mlsi.gov.cy/dsid

Czech Republic

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: www.mpsv.cz

Czech National Disability Council: www.nrzp.cz

Denmark

Ministry of the Interior and Social Affairs: www.ism.dk

Estonia

Ministry of Social Affairs www.sm.ee

Estonian Chamber of People with disabilities www.epikoda.ee

Finland

Electronic Treaty Data Base www.finlex.fi

Ministry of Foreign Affairs formin.finland.fi

France

Ministry for Solidarity and Social Cohesion: <http://www.solidarite.gouv.fr/>

Germany

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

www.bmas.de

Portal for persons with disabilities, their family, administrations and enterprises

www.einfach-teilhabe.de

Federal Commissioner:

www.behindertenbeauftragter.de

Monitoring Mechanism:

www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/en/monitoring-mechanism.html

Greece

Ministry of Health and Social Security: www.mohaw.gr,

National Confederation of People with Disabilities: www.esaea.gr

Hungary

<http://www.szmm.gov.hu>

Ireland

<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Disability>

Italy

Ministry for Social Solidarity

www.solidarietasociale.gov.it

Latvia

Ministry of Welfare
www.lm.gov.lv

Lithuania

Ministry of Social Security and Labour and Department of Disabled People
http://www.ndt.lt/id-teises_aktai.html; <http://www.socmin.lt/>

Luxembourg

Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration
<http://www.mfi.public.lu/>

Malta

National Commission Persons with Disability (NCPD) website <http://www.knpd.org/>.

The Netherlands

www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/gehandicaptengelijke-behandeling (Dutch)
www.rijksoverheid.nl

Poland

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy websites: www.mpips.gov.pl,
<http://www.niepelnosprawni.gov.pl/dokumenty-organizacji-narodow-zj/konwencja-o-prawach/>

Portugal

www.inr.pt

Romania

National Authority for Persons with Handicap: www.anph.ro

Slovenia

<http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/legislation/>
<http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/publications/>

Spain

Ministry of Health and Social Policy: www.msps.es
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: www.maec.es
Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con discapacidad (CERMI): www.cermi.es

Sweden

Government's home page: www.sweden.gov.se
Contains an Easy Read version of the Convention, Braille and sign language.

UK

www.officefordisability.gov.uk
Contains English language Easy Read version of the Convention.

European Union

Until April: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=429&langId=en>
After May 2011 http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/intro/policies_intro_en.htm

Other relevant websites

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

www.easpd.eu

www.handicap.dk

www.nrozp.sk

www.cnditalia.it

www.superando.it

www.edf-feph.org/

www.epr.eu

www.enil.eu

www.coface-eu.org

<http://www.un-convention.info/index.html>

Independent (part funded by the UK Government) UK website dedicated to promoting disabled persons human rights.