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EDF activities report 2016

Document for information

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Introduction

The EDF workplan 2016 is divided into 3 objectives, within the EC workplan. This document summaries activities taken under these three objectives.

1. Improving the organisational capacity and the management of the network
2. Contributing to the development of EU law/policies and to their implementation
3. Building the capacity of the members of the network and/or training relevant practitioners and stakeholders and/or informing the general public

This report is the basis of the report EDF is preparing for the EC for 2016. (by the time of the Board it will be finalised.).

Question for the Board:

Do you have comments or feedback on the activities in 2016 or the report?



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Objective 1 Improving the organisational capacity and the management of the network

1	<p>Annual General Assembly jointly organised in Dublin with our members the Disability Federation of Ireland (theme to be selected in coming months with DFI)</p> <p>The Annual General Assembly of EDF took place in on May 21 and 22 2016 with the organisational support of DFI and cooperation and co financing from the Irish Ministry for Justice.</p> <p>The AGA was accompanied by a conference on Article 12 of the CRPD. This European conference discussed the right of persons with disabilities to make their own choices in all areas of their lives. More than 200 representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities across Europe, academics, self-advocates and other participants shared their experiences and discussed how persons with disabilities can be supported in enjoying freedom of choice and making their own decisions. A range of experiences on supported decision making systems from across Europe were presented. The conference was also importance as it involved self advocates sharing their experiences with supported decision making mechanisms.</p>
2	<p>Board meetings (2) with our National council members from Presidency countries (Netherlands first Semester/ Slovakia second semester)</p> <p>Our first Board meeting in 2016 took place in the Netherlands organised together with our Dutch members, Iederin, and co financed by the Dutch Ministry for Health.</p> <p>The Board was accompanied by an interactive conference on CRPD implementation at the local level, which included working groups, a market place to exchange best practice amongst members. The conference was attended by a range of EDF members, including local members of Iederin from across the Netherlands. Key speakers included the Dutch State Secretary for Health, the head of unit for Disability and Inclusion at the European Commission. The conference resulted in a Board resolution on local implementation of the CRPD which has been widely disseminated.</p> <p>A second Board meeting took place in Dublin right before the AGA in May, which focussed on planning of the AGA.</p> <p>The Third Board meeting is took place in Bratislava, Slovakia as part of the Slovak presidency, with a conference on 'CRPD Concluding Observations- turning recommendations into change'.</p>
3	<p>Executive Committee meetings (3)</p> <p>1/ Brussels/ January 2016</p>



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	<p>This executive took place in Brussels in January to undertake a thorough planning of EDFs work in 2016. The EDF secretariat were present for the planning and decisions were taken on all important priorities of the 2016 work, including CRPD follow-up, the web directive, the European accessibility act, the Social Pillar.</p> <p>The executive also had a joint meeting with the Bureau of the disability intergroup to discuss priorities and joint actions in 2016.</p> <p>2/ The Netherlands / March 2016</p> <p>This executive committee meeting took place before the Board in preparation of the Board meeting.</p> <p>3/ Dublin, Ireland May 2016</p> <p>4/ Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2016</p> <p>The EDF Executive in Slovenia was co hosted and co organised by the Slovenian National Council of Persons with Disabilities. In addition to the executive programme exchanges took place between EDF and DPOs in Slovenia for EDF to better understand local priorities and to enhance cooperation.</p> <p>5/ Bratislava, Slovakia , November 2016</p>
4	<p>Women's Committee advocacy meeting to oversee implementation of Gender Action Plan as well as EU and national policies</p> <p>The Women's Committee meeting took place on 2-3 July in Greece. It brought together women with disabilities from across Europe to discuss the implementation of the Concluding Observations to the EU on the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in particular our actions with regards to implementation of the EU concluding observations and the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention. The Committee also planned EDF's campaign against forced sterilisation (report, hearing and photo competition). Pirkko Mahlamäki from our Finnish member organisation was elected as EDF's representative at the European Women's Lobby Board and joined the EDF women's Committee. The EDF Disability Voice featured the stories of two women with disabilities, members of the EDF Women's Committee.</p> <p>EDFs Gender Equality Committee was established and meets by Skype Monthly to discuss the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan.</p>
5	<p>Implement and review newly developed tool for gender mainstreaming in EDFs policy work</p> <p>The tool was disseminated to EDF staff and used in the development and analysis of policy papers, such as the one on the EDF position paper on the Sustainable Development Goals, input to the European Commission's consultation on the Social Pillar of Rights, and our position paper</p>



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	<p>on the European Accessibility Act. However it is clear that a gender analysis on key policy areas requires further training and expertise so this is being planned for 2017.</p>
6	<p>Train EDF secretariat and Board on gender mainstreaming in EDFs work, with a focus on intersectionality of gender and disability.</p> <p>A presentation was given on women with disabilities at the Board meeting in Bratislava in November, and the recently adopted UN CRPD Committee's General Comment on Article 6 'women with disabilities' CRPD was presented. The presentation on the General Comment was presented by an expert on women with disabilities, and a discussion was held with the Board and the secretariat. The women's committee will take the lead on further implementation of our gender equality mainstreaming work. The training is a long term process and involves all different levels of governance of EDF. More activities are planned in 2017.</p>
7	<p>Develop a guideline on the use of non-sexist language in the EDFs communication.</p> <p>Guidelines were developed on non sexist language. An assessment was made of EDF policy and communication work. The result of the assessment shows that EDFs work in general does not contain sexist language. One recommendation can be made as to avoid the use of the expression "him or her" and use the plural nouns.</p>
8	<p>Carry out, and document an analysis of gender balance in EDFs external representation.</p> <p>We are collecting the information during the year on the gender balance in EDF's external representation activities. This will be added as soon as it is gathered.</p>
9	<p>Hold EDF youth committee meeting together with AGA so as to create possibility of synergies with EDF membership as well as to undertake a training event for the Board on 'youth with disabilities'</p> <p>The Youth Committee met at the same venue as the Board meeting in Slovakia in order to have more interaction with the EDF Board and also to carry out a short training for the Board on Youth with disabilities.</p> <p>The meeting of the committee took place on Friday 11 November. The meeting started with a presentation of the guests, some young people from our Slovak members and representatives of a youth organisation for people with disabilities from Montenegro.</p> <p>During the meeting the Chair reported to the committee. There was a report on the numerous activities to which the committee or some members of the committee have participated:</p> <p>One of the important points on the working plan of 2016 the development of a youth platform was not fulfilled due to the project application sent to the Romanian National Agency in the</p>



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	<p>framework of the Erasmus+ Programme being unsuccessful. It was decided to reapply in 2017. However, despite not formally establishing this platform EDF secretariat have an on-going communication with the major youth committees within its membership.</p> <p>The committee adopted also their working plan for 2017.</p> <p>On 13 the Youth Committee gave a training on youth issues to the board. The programme was appreciated by the board and both parties expressed their will to renew the experience.</p>
10	<p>Establish a wider 'virtual platform/network' for youth with disabilities (creating virtual connections between the EDF youth committee and youth groups of EDF members)</p> <p>In order to achieve this objective some steps have been undertaken.</p> <p>A project was submitted to the Romanian National Agency in charge of implementing the Erasmus+ Youth programme of the European Commission.</p> <p>The project has the form of a strategic partnership between three Romanian NGOs working in the field of disability, the Greek National Council of persons with disabilities as well as EDF. Unfortunately this project was not successful.</p> <p>The project is called "All youth in" and its main objective is to increase participation of youth with disabilities in the decision making process and as active citizens.</p> <p>There is an interest from EDF members to build a stronger voice of youth with disabilities. The youth group from IF has contacted EDF, the one from ENIL and the one of the CFHE. Other members have also the intention to strengthen their youth group so there is clearly a need to link the youth to act together.</p> <p>To make sure that EDF reaches to all youth movement within its members a call was launched to its members in order to gather all the existing youth groups existence as well as their contact details. Now the EDF secretariat keeps in touch with all the youth groups we are aware of to share information with them and be aware of their work. The intention to create a more formal wider youth network within EDF in the coming period.</p>
11	<p>UN CRPD Committee meeting (advocacy meeting) to focus on European cooperation on the CRPD implementation (mutual learning, exchange, good practice)</p> <p>The first UN CRPD Committee meeting took place in Amsterdam in March 2016. Participants discussed ways to follow up on the EU concluding observations of the UN CRPD Committee, the programme of the Work Forum that takes place on 10 June and were informed on the CRPD</p>



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	<p>ratification process in the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland and Finland.</p> <p>The second UN CRPD committee meeting took place in Bratislava in November 2016. Participants discussed the work of the UN CRPD Committee in Geneva, EDFs work on following up to the EU concluding observations, its preparation of the first issue of its annual human rights reports, and the ratification process in Ireland. The Netherlands, Iceland and Finland have ratified recently. The Committee discussed its work plan for 2017 and the proposal from the EDF executive to transform the CRPD committee into a human rights and non-discrimination committee.</p>
12	<p>Meeting of advisory group to the Board on independent living and Community based services</p> <p>The first meeting of the Advisory Group on independent living and community based services took place on the 11 March in The Netherlands. Participants agreed on a definition of independent living to be adopted by the board during the following days. They had a fruitful discussion on a methodology to collect good examples of independent living practices. They also decided to contribute to the Social Platform work on financing social services so to promote a rights based approach in the social services sector.</p> <p>The second meeting of the Advisory Group on independent living and community based services took place on the 11 November in Slovakia. Participants agreed to review the concept note of the EDF-ENIL project on the collection of good practices on independent living which will take place in 2017. Participants also agreed to use the data collected through the 2016 EDF questionnaire on independent living to feed into the EDF-ENIL project.</p>
13	<p>Following review in 2016, renew formal working structures management and develop new terms of reference and reporting mechanisms, new mechanisms for cooperation and communications (virtual meetings and new platforms for the working groups), (Email expert groups on persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support, built environment, transport, information and communication technologies, international cooperation and tourism)</p> <p>This year we are working on improving the tools used for internal communication, to facilitate more communication within the expert groups. EDF staff have had training in using Mailchimp and training in using the new website and members area. The members area will provide a better basis for storing and sharing information for the expert groups. Different virtual conferencing systems are being tested to find the most accessible one to enable more frequent virtual meetings.</p> <p>A new expert group on refugees with disabilities has been established to enable our members working on this topic to cooperate more closely.</p>



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	EDF reviewed the Terms of References (TOR) of its committees and e-mail expert groups. This document proposing a re-organisation and restructuring will be proposed to the EDF Board in February 2017.
14	<p>Develop processes to ensure issues concerning women with disabilities, Youth, people requiring more intensive support, etc, are mainstreamed in EDFs work</p> <p>In all of these issues, a need for training and more interaction has been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The youth committee delivered a training to the Board in order to make youth issues more visible and present in EDF decision making . A decision was taken to permanently ensure that the EDF youth meeting takes place at the same time as the Board to continue this process. - The secretariat had a training on inclusion of people requiring more intensive support and have decided to include more systematically in DF policy and communication work the perspective and needs of persons requiring more intensive support, as they are amongst the most excluded of persons with disabilities. - Training is also being planned by the women's committee for the EDF secretariat, in close cooperation with the European Women's Lobby around March 8th 2017.
15	<p>Take actions to improve the inclusion of organisations persons with psychosocial disability and users and survivors of psychiatry within EDF membership (recommendations to membership from the Board)</p> <p>A resolution on the issue has been prepared and adopted by the executive committee. It will be presented and adopted by the EDF Board in February 2017 in Malta. This resolution was developed with full involvement of persons with psychosocial disabilities, (ex-)user and survivors of psychiatry and their representative organisation within EDF.</p>
16	<p>Survey our present members engagement and interests in order to best target our cooperation in EU advocacy and enhance engagement in all EDFs structures (expert, decision making, etc)</p> <p>In January and February all full and ordinary membership categories received emails to ensure they were full informed of EDFs work. We checked contact details and ensures that all members representatives were on the correct mailing lists. All members were encouraged to promote their work through EDF channels and there is an increase in members promoting their work and their events in EDFs members mailing.</p> <p>A survey on EDFs 20th anniversary campaign was developed and distributed to EDF members for</p>



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	<p>their input, and this led to EDFs 20th anniversary planning.</p> <p>A more extensive membership survey was developed by the External Evaluator- Direct Impact, and this was circulated to members in September and October. The results of this survey will form part of our external evaluation, but are also being used to plan our strategic framework. A summary of findings will be made by the evaluator to disseminate within EDF. .</p>
17	<p>Review our current membership, mapping where gaps are, and plan development/ expansion to address gaps in membership (geographical, expertise, representativeness)</p> <p>Geographical:</p> <p>At present EDF has a full member/ national council in every EU member states except the UK; this has been discussed by the EDF executive, and an initiative to form a coordination in the UK for the purpose of the UK presidency- this was discussed with ENGO EDF members and a mailing list was formed.</p> <p>Pre accession region: EDF is strengthening its cooperation with its members in the Western Balkans and Turkey through a new IPA project with UNICEF.</p>
18	<p>Develop a methodology to improve the involvement of persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support in EDFs work in cooperation with members with specific expertise in this area. We organized a training session by EDF members for EDF staff to include the perspective of persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support in our day-to-day work (e.g. position papers, events, etc.).</p>
19	<p>Implement results of internal communications members survey in 2015 (adopt content, format and frequency of internal communication tools to enhance communication between EDF and members, and members towards each other)</p> <p>The frequency of our internal newsletter to our members has increased from monthly to weekly. We have also included a table of contents that allows members a better overview of the articles contained in the newsletter.</p> <p>We asked an external specialist in communication to analyse our Newsletter and with her report and her support we implemented suggested changes to make our newsletter more useful to members. A training of all EDF secretariat staff was done, to improve the readability and relevance of our internal newsletter.</p> <p>A key change has been to write all internal news in the new members area and make our</p>



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	<p>newsletter link to this. Since issue 31 members have had the chance to explore the new members area as many news items from members mailing are linked there. We will continue to seek feedback from members and implement changes to maximise the usefulness of the members mailing.</p>
20	<p>Issue regular internal newsletters to EDFs members (members mailing) to keep them up to date about all the latest news, calls for action, other members' activities etc.</p> <p>Since January 2016 the internal newsletter Members Mailing (MM) is published every week. Members are contributing to it. In each issue there is at least 2 items coming from our members which means that it is an interactive tool of communicating and sharing information. It is also important to know that members who send requests feedback or information from members receive feedback which show again the efficiency of this too. In 2016 43 issues of the newsletter were sent to about 500 persons from EDF membership.</p>
21	<p>Develop a fully accessible and user friendly members area on EDF website (it was not very user friendly or wide in scope). This member's area will be developed into an effective system of document sharing and communication.</p> <p>EDF is worked with Illunion ex-Technosite on finalising the new members area. Staff training took place in April 15th. To have a useful and complete members area we will ask our member to give their contact details, address, logo and social media so that they become visible.</p> <p>The governing bodies and the committees have a section on this Members area. The secretariat will fill in this section with useful information and documents concerning the next meeting as well as reports from the previous ones. This should allow our members a smooth way of finding their needed documents and consult them at their convenience when they need them.</p> <p>The website and specifically members area contains a section with all ongoing consultations and upcoming events. It contains news from EDF (we use the same template as for public news) these items are easy to be find and can be searched at any time).</p> <p>When publishing a position on a certain topic our members can also send their own position that will be available for all those who are interested.</p> <p>The members areas has been used for communication, and documents for the executive in September, and the Board in Slovakia.</p>
22	<p>Implement the most accessible e-conferencing system which we can develop, together with expert partners, and train members and secretariat staff on how to use it effectively.</p>



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	<p>It is still a research point in the field of accessibility because yet there is not a system that works for all people with all types of disabilities. EDF is following the market and testing certain tools.</p> <p>EDF has tested a range of web conferencing systems and has yet to find the ideal choice. One research showed that googlehangouts was one of the most accessible system. We tested the programme at the same time with others and it seems indeed manageable though the quality of sound is not perfect and there is some delay in the transfer of sound. We will test this system with the youth committee and some of the EDF team to see the reaction of the product when using it with a larger group. The selection of a web conferencing system is on-going.</p>
23	<p>Develop and fine tune a new accessible and low cost registration system for event management, reducing time and improving the management of our events</p> <p>Currently EDF is using google documents, and we are now working on developing a system embedded within the members area.</p>
24	<p>Implement a new database of members and partners (constituent management system)</p> <p>EDF is testing also CRMs to find an accessible one. Management of our mailing lists for mass mailing has been streamlined by the use of mailchimp.</p>
25	<p>Adopt all internal templates, and guidelines for staff, members and publishers to ensure that all documents will be provided in a range of accessible formats</p>
26	<p>Implement new teleworking facilities through a new telecommunication system, which will also reduce costs.</p> <p>A new web based phone system has been introduced which reduces phone bills considerably. It also allows staff to make calls from their computers and phones everywhere.</p>
27	<p>Strengthening cooperation with European members: Three meetings with EU full members of EDF are planned, in 2016 for overall coordination and collaboration at the EU level. (January, June and September). Separate coordination meetings with EU members will take place focussing on communication, advocacy, accessibility, and other key topics arising. Joint initiatives on common topics are planned under objective 3.</p>



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	Three joint meetings with European NGOs took place in 2016 and 3 are scheduled for 2017. There is a space in members area now developed to communicate on this group.
28	<p>Survey needs of EDFs National members and together with them, develop strategy for stronger linkages between the National and EU work, specific capacity building initiatives, exchange of information and good practices etc</p> <p>EDF national members have been welcomed to propose joint events and initiatives with EDF.</p> <p>Results include:</p> <p>Planning of upcoming governing body meetings and other events with our members in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greece (Women's Committee July 2016) • Slovenia executive meeting in September 2017 • Slovakia board meeting and conference on follow-up to the CRPD, Youth Committee - November 2016 • Malta a board meeting and a conference topic in February 2017 • Annual General Assembly in May 2017 in Spain • Executive with the new elected members in Tallin Estonia in July 2017 • Hungary; an executive meeting in September 2017 <p>Advocacy initiatives with National councils included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letters on the web directive (Greece, Romania) • On refugees (Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria) <p>Training for members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A face to face meeting with EDF members on use of EU structural funds, hosted by NCDP in Greece (who also organised the programme, expert speakers, etc)
29	<p>Implement new performance management system (set of annual reviews, new annual planning process)</p> <p>This is ongoing. All staff have annual objectives and performance review. Tasks are arranged based.</p>
30	Develop EDF training plan (for secretariat and membership) and carry out teambuilding and skill-building meetings with experts from EDF membership focussing on key topics for 2016 (one session already planned is a training from Inclusion Europe in Easy to Read and a training from EFHOH on the perspective of hard of hearing people)



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	<p>EDF core staff training in 2016 focussed on the use of new tools for working with members- we have training on use of the members area and mailchimp and internal communications. Training by members European Federation of Hard of Hearing also took place.</p>
31	<p>Review EDFs equal opportunities policies and procedures for recruitment, to check their alignment with the EDF Gender Equality Action Plan and the UN CRPD.</p> <p>The EDF recruitment policy was checked and found aligned with the CRPD and the EDF Gender Equality Action Plan.</p>
32	<p>Based on fundraising strategy, make proposals to new donors and develop new income streams</p> <p>One new proposal for EDF work in advocacy on international cooperation was approved in October. EDF members were very active and successful in jointly organising and financing EDF conference and events.</p>
33	<p>Carry out external evaluation of 2016 work</p> <p>A call for proposals was issued and 4 applications received. 'Direct Impact ' was chosen, and they are now reviewing EDF documents and processes. Direct Impact are present at the Board for external evaluation of the event. They have also already circulated the members survey. We are awaiting the final evaluation report.</p>
34	<p>Develop accessible easy to use methodology for regular monitoring and feedback, to optimise engagement of EDF membership and governing bodies in continuous improvement (using regular meetings with members, key partners, including the EC, to provide on-going exchange on progress)</p> <p>So far the EDF external evaluation is being reviewed by the executive, translated into actions by the secretariat, and being presented to the EDF AGA; after governing body meetings, the secretariat review and make plans based on the evaluation forms.</p> <p>Online-surveys are being increasing used to review the success of events, and the points for improvement.</p>
35	<p>Development of a risk register, to be overseen by the executive twice yearly</p> <p>The first concept for a risk register is reviewed in the EDF executive on May 19th, and was reviewed again in September at the executive. The risk assessment will be carried out yearly by the executive from now on.</p>



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Objective 2 Contributing to the development of EU law/policies and to their implementation

1	<p>Develop an action plan for EDF and membership on the long term follow-up of the EU CRPD concluding observations, including specific actions to support the implementation of the European Disability Strategy</p> <p>EDF has undertaken several actions to follow up on the EU Concluding Observations, in coordination with ENGOs and the national members. These actions took place at the European parliament, in meetings with the European Commission and in the organisations of hearings at the EESC, among others.</p>
2	<p>Follow up on the review of existing EU legislation and policy and together with legal experts and EU members develop policy recommendations to promote the update of the EU Declaration of competences (article 44 CRPD)</p> <p>EDF is preparing its answer to the CRPD Committee on the three urgent issues which the CRPD Committee requested the EU to answer one year after the review. One of the issues is on the declaration of competences and will be discussed in our answer to the CRPD Committee (to be finalised once the EU has sent its official reply to the CRPD Committee). Additionally, this item was also discussed during the EDF-EC side event on the EU review at the COSP and the Work Forum on the implementation of the CRPD in 2016. EDF also organised at the EDF-EESC on September 14th a Civil Society Hearing on the follow up to the three urgent recommendations to the EU.</p>
3	<p>Evaluate the implementation of the EU impact assessment tool and processes in light of the UN CRPD recommendations to the EU, and develop policy recommendations.</p>



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	This item was addressed in the presentation of EDF representative at the Work Forum on the implementation of the CRPD at 10 June in Brussels.
4	<p>Promote and support mechanisms for implementation of the CRPD within the EU institutions through advocacy meetings (within the implementation structures). Participate in the implementing structures where possible.</p> <p>EDF advocated for a role within the CRPD network of the EP and in 2016 a routine invitation of EDF to these meetings has been established. EDF participated in three meetings of the 'CRPD Network' to give updates from EDF and members and input to the work of this task force.</p>
5	<p>Together with EDF members, develop a 'model code of conduct', a proposed methodology, for structured dialogue with DPOs in light CRPD concluding observations (which called for structured dialogue)</p> <p>Social Platform prepared a position paper on 'civil dialogue'. EDF provided input to this paper and has developed an annex with disability specific guidelines for civil dialogue with representative organisations of persons with disabilities. EDF also provided its input to the consultation of the Council of Europe on guidelines for civil society participation. The item was also in the presentation of the EDF representative at the Work Forum on the implementation of the CRPD in June 2016.</p>
6	<p>Participate in the EU Independent Monitoring Framework for the CRPD (meetings, communication, joint actions in the light of the CRPD review process)</p> <p>EDF participated actively in the meetings of the Framework in 2016. EDF also presented its views together with other Framework members on the MEP Stevens' report on the implementation of the concluding observations by the EU during a hearing in the European Parliament, and presented its views also during the meeting between the Framework and the COHOM on 13 July 2016. EDF contributed to the development of the Framework's work programme for 2017 and 2018 and the writing of its first news letter.</p>
7	<p>Together with EU framework members hold a meeting of the EU framework with National frameworks (side by side with the Work Forum, in cooperation with the European Commission)</p> <p>The meeting between the EU Framework and the national frameworks took</p>



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	place on 9 June.
8	<p>Support our members to promote the ratification of the CRPD by remaining member states (Ireland, the Netherlands and Finland).</p> <p>Letters were sent to the responsible ministries in the different member states. EDF members from these countries were invited to the EDF CRPD committee meetings in Amsterdam and Bratislava. Follow up on these letters and the general ratification process was discussed in these EDF CRPD Committee meetings. In first half of 2016 the Netherlands, Iceland and Finland ratified CRPD, and EDF provided support as requested from members in these countries on ratification. EDF continues to support its Irish member for Ireland to ratify soon.</p> <p>To address this issue in a more visible and systematic way EDF published its first European Human Rights report in 2016. This report clearly identified which countries in Europe still need to ratify the CRPD and the optional protocol. In the EU, only Ireland still needs to ratify. EDF member, the disability federation of Ireland will disseminate it in Ireland.</p>
9	<p>Promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the CRPD by member states and the EU</p> <p>EDFs first European Human Rights report was published in 2016. It highlights gaps in ratification of the CRPD and the OP in Europe and calls on governments to ratify. In cooperation with our members, it will be disseminated widely with accompanying letters to the countries which have not ratified the OP. A letter was equally sent to the European Commission advocating for the ratification of the OP by the EU.</p>
10	<p>Work with Anti Discrimination networks, EDF members, especially in Germany, and the EU institutions, permanent representations to promote the adoption of the proposed Equal Treatment Directive.</p> <p>The Antidiscrimination networks have been less active in 2017 because of the very regressive measures taken by governments at national level as on LGBTBI and other issues. EDF aims at reinforcing its work on non discrimination and so we are looking internally on how to strengthen our work on this important matter. We have established a Committee on human rights and</p>



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	non discrimination in this regard. We have developed terms of references for this Committee which will have as important task to mainstream non discrimination in all EDF policy work, communication and public speeches.
11	<p>Monitoring of disability rights case law in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies: make a third party intervention in a relevant case at the national or European level.</p> <p>EDF, together with Inclusion Europe and our French member, CFHE and other French civil society organisations plan to submit a collective complaint to the European social committee of the Council of Europe on the lack of support services in France to live independently in the community. The complaint will be finalised in 2017.</p>
12	<p>Cooperate with Equinet on running a training course for equality bodies in Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation.</p> <p>EDF Austrian member delivered a training course in April 2016 to Equinet and its members. This training was prepared with support of EDF secretariat.</p>
13	<p>Contribute to the work of the CRPD Committee and the UN Special Rapporteur, in collaboration with the International Disability Alliance: days of general discussion on article 19 CRPD, draft general comments on articles 19 and 24, and other relevant UN work.</p> <p>EDF provided an input to the day of general discussion on Article 19 CRPD and to the draft general comment on Article 6 CRPD. EDF provided comments to the IDA submission draft General Comment on the rights of the child during adolescence.</p>
14	<p>Promote the Concluding Observations to the EU in relation to the rights of women with disabilities</p> <p>EDF promotes the Concluding Observations on the rights of women with disabilities at relevant meetings, including the one of the head of unit on gender equality of the European Commission and the High Level Group on Disability. EDF executive committee member and gender rights expert Ana Peleaz spoke at this event. EDF is working closely with the European Women's Lobby on this issue.</p>
15	Advocate for the EUs accession to the Istanbul Convention (position paper with



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	<p>policy recommendations, advocacy meetings)</p> <p>EDF met with the head of unit on Gender Equality of the European Commission and discussed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. EDF is advocating together with the EWL on the issue, as a member of the European coalition on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and also as member of the EWL Observatory on Violence.</p>
16	<p>Develop and contribute policy recommendations towards the development of the EUs Gender Equality strategy from a disability perspective (policy recommendations)</p> <p>EDF responded to the European commission consultation on the road map on balancing work and private life in February 2016.</p>
17	<p>Develop and contribute policy recommendations to the EU agenda on violence against women from a disability perspective, with a focus on forced sterilisation.</p> <p>EDF, together with CERMI Women's Foundation and EDF women's Committee organised a campaign against forced sterilisation. A photo competition was organised, to which EDF Human Rights Officer took part. A video and report on the situation of forced sterilisation in Europe is being prepared. A planned hearing in the European Parliament on forced sterilisation is being organised and will take place in 2017.</p>
18	<p>Mainstream multiple discrimination in all EDFs policy work through developing new systems to review and policy development, then analyse the results</p> <p>For major policy positions and strategies, all EDF positions are systemically sent to its Youth committee and Women's committee for their input. Special attention is given to issues of persons requiring high support needs, and to actively ensure the participation of the most excluded groups of persons with disabilities.</p>
19	<p>Carry out on-going data collection and dissemination on the impact of Europe 2020 on persons with disabilities in cooperation with EDF members</p>



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20	<p>Participate in advocacy meetings of the European semester alliance to promote social indicators and recommendations within the Semester process.</p> <p>EDF participated in the Semester Alliance meeting on 17 February 2016 were participants discussed about the preparation of the joint hearing in the Parliament, the organisation of a capacity building training and the joint reaction to the upcoming country reports by the European Commission. On the 1 March a hearing took place in the European Parliament hosted by MEP Harkin. The Alliance made its point about strengthening the social dimension of the European Semester and EDF took part in it highlighting the impact on persons with disabilities and the need to monitor the consequences of the Country Specific Recommendations over the time. More information on the hearing can be found here https://semesteralliance.net/2016/03/01/hearing-in-the-ep-with-sd-alde-and-the-eu-semester-alliance-the-ags-behind-the-semester-ahead/#more-573.</p> <p>EDF participated in the Semester Alliance meeting on 28 June. During the meeting it was decided to do a joint assessment through country profile reports with a geographic focus on five countries to feed with data in the European Semester process. Participants also agreed to hold a capacity-building session for Semester Alliance members to exchange knowledge and experiences on the European Semester process through peer-learning. The capacity building session took place on 20 September 2016.</p> <p>Another Semester Alliance meeting took place on 10 November. The meeting provided the opportunity from Semester Alliance members to exchange views on taxation and discuss possible future work. Participants also discussed the development of the country profile reports.</p>
21	<p>Support EDF members in monitoring the transposition of the disability provisions of the public procurement legislation, on a request basis</p> <p>During EDF Board meeting on the 12 March in the Netherlands, EDF secretariat</p>



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	<p>presented the disability provisions of the Public Procurement Directive as well as the Social Platform guide on public procurement. EDF members agreed to report to the secretariat about the status of the transposition in their countries. Members from France, Spain, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Belgium confirmed that they have been following and reacting to the transposition of the directive in their countries.</p> <p>EDF gave a presentation and joined a panel discussion titled “Making ICT Accessibility a Reality: Policies and Standards on the Public Procurement of Accessible ICTs” in the World Summit on Information Society, organised by the International Telecommunication Union. More information, including transcript of the panel can be found at: https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2016/Agenda/Session/181</p>
22	<p>Promote transition from institutional to community based services to be considered a priority in the Semester process in cooperation with the European Expert Group</p> <p>EDF is part of the European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based care task force on the European Semester. The task force issued a press release following the publication of the country-specific recommendations by the European Commission (http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-commission-safeguard-adequate-investment-community-based-services-country) and prepared some country-specific fiches to send to European Commission desk officers with data on the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>EDF also took part in various EEG internal and external meetings in June and October to provide the perspective of persons with disabilities in the work of the Expert Group. After the October meeting, EDF worked with other EEG members to prepare two training courses delivered at the beginning of January 2017.</p>
23	<p>Monitor and contribute to the activities of the Employment Committee of the European Parliament (to promote the European Disability Strategy and the CRPD CO)</p> <p>EDF contributed to the EMPL report on the CRPD Committee Concluding Observations to the EU. EDF participated in the EMPL Committee meetings on the topic, spoke at Hearings organised by EMPL MEPs and gave input to the</p>



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	<p>rapporteur and other Members.</p> <p>EDF also contributed to the Committee's report on the EU Pillar of Social Rights and contacted the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs to suggest amendments to improve the text.</p>
24	<p>Conduct a working seminar with the European Trade Union Confederation on inclusive training and development opportunities for persons with disabilities (focussing on specific situation of youth, women, and persons requiring higher level of support)</p> <p>On the 21 March, EDF took part in a side event organised with the European Trade Union Confederation in the framework of the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth. The event focused on in-work poverty. EDF together with ETUC -European Trade Union Confederation; FERPA - European Federation of Retired and Older People; EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network; ENAR - European Network Against Racism, SOLIDAR, EDF highlighted the impact of the multifaceted phenomenon of in-work poverty on different groups of workers. Possible solutions, and possible lessons to be learnt and transferred in the upcoming design of a European Social Pillar were gathered. EDF Director, Catherine Naughton highlighted how persons with disabilities are discriminated against in access to education, social security and employment despite existing legal obligations and therefore are at high risk of poverty.</p>
25	<p>Promote access and inclusiveness of EURES portal to promote mobility of persons with disabilities across the EU.</p> <p>EDF in close cooperation with its youth committee and in consultation with all its members replied to the public consultation launched by the European Commission.</p> <p>In the same framework Mathieu Chatelin, member of the youth committee has taken the floor on this topic during a panel session of the European Youth Event hosted by the European Parliament and the European Youth Forum at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.</p>
26	<p>Prepare a methodology/process for the collection and analysis of data on the use of the European Social Fund for employment and training of persons with disabilities in cooperation with EDF expert group on structural funds</p> <p>In consultation with its expert group on ESIFs EDF developed a survey that was submitted to EDF network. In this way EDF monitors access to the funds by</p>



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	<p>organisations of persons with disabilities, the implementation of the partnership principle and the respect of the disability provisions when using the Funds at national level. EDF informed the European Commission accordingly during the meetings of the Structured Dialogue with the group of experts on the ESIFs (see action 49).</p> <p>EDF also worked with the Social platform work on monitoring the implementation of the EU structural funds (http://www.socialplatform.org/blog/participate-in-our-survey-on-the-use-of-the-european-structural-and-investment-funds/) and provided input to the work on social standards and the European Pillar on Social Rights (http://www.socialplatform.org/documents/social-platform-response-to-the-public-consultation-on-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights/). EDF also attended a capacity building seminar provided by the Social Platform on EU financial instruments, including the European Social Fund. In this way EDF could raise awareness about the disability-related provisions in relation to the use of funding and gained knowledge other topics concerning the use of funding. More information on the work with the Social Platform can be found in action 29.</p> <p>EDF also worked with the Structural Funds Watch project to collect data in the implementation and monitoring of the use of European Structural and Investment Funds to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. More information on the survey can be found here: https://communitylivingforeurope.org/inputnow/.</p> <p>EDF was also invited as a speaker at a seminar to local authorities and stakeholders in Calabria, Italy. The aim of the seminar was to train authorities and stakeholders on the CRPD and the managing of EU funding in accordance with the rights of persons with disabilities.</p>
27	<p>Analyse current situation of young people with disabilities benefiting from or excluded from European training and exchange programmes, and develop policy recommendations to promote an inclusive and accessible system within these programme</p>



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	<p>Some first steps towards this project have been taken. A survey will be developed by the youth committee and sent to EDF members. In November the Belgium National Agency organises an evaluation of the Erasmus+ Programme where EDF took part and the results of the enquiry transposed in the policy recommendations will be sent to the commission.</p> <p>APF member of our French member CFHE have made such a study comparison between France and Germany for mobility programmes and they will contribute with their expertise.</p>
28	<p>Carry out an analysis of Article 27 (Employment) of the CRPD in the light of the EU concluding observations, and provide policy recommendations to European Institutions employment structures (in the European Commission and the Parliament)</p> <p>EDF took extensive consultation with members to reply to the public consultation of the Social Pillar to fully include the provisions in Article 27 of the CRPD and in the EU concluding observations. EDF discussed during the Annual General Assembly a first draft of recommendation on employment to include in the initial response to the Social Pillar. Based on these discussions and further consultations with members, EDF published an initial response to the public consultation on the Social Pillar (July 2016) and sent its final reply to the public consultation in December.</p> <p>EDF also worked with the Social Platform and Members of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in the European Parliament to advocate for the full inclusion of the CRPD and mainstreaming of disability rights in the Social Pillar. This work was reflected in the report adopted by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in December (here: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONGML%2bREPORT%2bA8-2016-0391%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN)</p>
29	<p>Through participation in the steering group and task forces of Social Platform try to ensure that their advocacy on social services includes a disability dimension- and explicit references to persons with disabilities in their policy statements</p>



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	<p>EDF actively participated in the Social Platform work and events.</p> <p>It contributed to the work on social services by consulting its Advisory group on independent living and submitting its comment to the questionnaire on financing social services.</p> <p>EDF contributed to the Social platform work on monitoring the implementation of the EU structural funds (http://www.socialplatform.org/blog/participate-in-our-survey-on-the-use-of-the-european-structural-and-investment-funds/) and provided input to the work on social standards and the European Pillar on Social Rights (http://www.socialplatform.org/documents/social-platform-response-to-the-public-consultation-on-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights/).</p> <p>EDF provided input to the Social Platform's myth buster on investing in services to ensure that the right of persons with disabilities were fully included. EDF also provided a case study on the positive impact on investing in services.</p>
30	<p>Through advocacy meetings with our National members, and the European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community based monitor the use of the European Funds for independent living.</p> <p>Duplication of actions 22, 26, 29, 31 and 49.</p>
31	<p>Promote peer learning in EDF on how to use ESF to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (through a new virtual working group, and peer learning sessions).</p> <p>In October EDF and its Greek member, NCDP, organised a peer learning seminar in Athens.</p> <p>The objectives of the seminar were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide EDF members with a deeper understanding on ESIF and how to get involved in their implementation and monitoring; - share experiences and good practices through peer-learning; - collect feedback on how EDF Secretariat can assist EDF members in the implementation and monitoring of ESIF. <p>Participants expressed their wish to have more training seminar on the use of ESF to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Information and material of the seminar can be found: http://www.edf-feph.org/pilot-seminar-</p>



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	european-structural-and-investment-funds
32	<p>Based on the CRPD CO, the European Disability Strategy, and data on poverty in Europe for persons with disability, develop policy recommendations towards the EC work on establishing a social protection floor, in the framework of the fight against poverty and social exclusion</p> <p>EDF contributed to the review of the European Disability Strategy (more information on EDF's work can be found here: http://www.edf-feph.org/disability-strategy-europe-2020) and called for adequate follow up by the European Commission to the EU concluding observations, including the one on creating a social protection floor.</p> <p>EDF discussed during the Annual General Assembly how the European Pillar of Social Rights should include the social protection floor to fight against poverty and social exclusion. Based on the discussion and consultation with members, EDF published an initial response to the public consultation on the Social Pillar (July 2016) and sent its final reply to the public consultation in December.</p> <p>EDF also worked with the Social Platform and Members of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in the European Parliament to advocate for the full inclusion of the CRPD and mainstreaming of disability rights in the Social Pillar. This work was reflected in the report adopted by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in December (here: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONGML%2bREPORT%2bA8-2016-0391%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN)</p>
33	<p>Promote the health aspect of the European Disability Strategy, and the CRPD CO on health, through joint advocacy meeting with EU health policy makers with EDF members</p> <p>EDF, in cooperation with its member IF and with EPF, is preparing an advocacy event at the European Parliament where it will present its views on the gaps of the cross-border healthcare directive (which was one of the recommendations of the CRPD Committee). In order to gather information for the meeting, a questionnaire was disseminated to measure the impact of the new EU cross-border healthcare directive on persons with disabilities and persons with chronic diseases in Europe, to influence the healthcare debate at the EU level, and make sure that full and non-discriminatory implementation of the EU rules takes place in all member states.</p> <p>The event was planned for 2016 but was moved to January 2017 in order to leave more</p>



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	time for the survey data collection.
34	<p>Promote the inclusion of the CRPD and support to DPOs in International cooperation, by developing and publishing guidance on the role of DPOs in international cooperation based on UN CRPD and post 2015</p> <p>This activity was replaced by higher priorities in International Cooperation and Sustainable Development Goals advocacy which emerged in 2017.</p> <p>The SDGs represent a coming together of existing EU priorities as set out on the European Disability Strategy and the UN CRPD, concluding observations to the EU in 2015.</p> <p>The SDGs are now a relevant global political framework which concerns all governments, who are expected to have plans for their implementation and monitoring. With 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities under sections on human rights, vulnerable groups, education, employment, reducing inequality, inclusive cities, means of implementation and data, the SDGs provide an inroad for EDF as this is now both an EU domestic issue, and an international cooperation issue. EDF has updated the Board and AGA on these matters and our AGA in May approved the following strategic direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the International monitoring process and inform our members of issues concerning their countries (aided by IDA and IDDC) • Support our members as needed in Estonia, Finland, France, Germany Norway and Turkey to raise issues of persons with disabilities in the HLPF in July 2016 • Advocacy towards the EU to review their policies and priorities on the SDGs to ensure they pay attention to inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities • Involvement in the DG DEVCO project Bridge the Gap • Close cooperation with IDA and IDDC on international cooperation issues • Find mechanisms to support other Regional DPO networks <p>The EU is in the process of reviewing its internal and external policies to be aligned to the SDGs. DG DEVCO undertook an online consultation to</p>



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	<p>the EU consensus for development. This was a complication and long questionnaire, so EDF gave input via a letter instead in August 2016. (See deliverable). EDF mobilised all the regional DPOs globally and IDDC to send a joint letter to the European Commission in advance of the Communication on the Consensus on Development. The Communication does include references to persons with disabilities, but not the CRPD and lacks strong mainstreaming mechanisms, so this will require further follow-up in 2017.</p> <p>EDF also gave input to the review of the EU Guidance Note on Disability and Development- the new draft has not be released yet.</p> <p>The International Day of Persons with disabilities (December 3rd) will focussed on the SDGs this year. IDDC is leading a 'disability and development week' which EDF participated as speaker in events on inclusive humanitarian response, and the ENIL event on independent living and the CRPD in EU development cooperation.</p>
35	<p>Promote a more inclusive accessible research agenda at the EU by developing policy recommendations for the mainstreaming of disability in the EUs research agenda</p> <p>Gunta Anca, Vice President of EDF was interviewed for the 10th issue of the Horizon 2020 Projects Portal: www.horizon2020projects.com, in which she highlighted the main barriers that persons with disabilities find when trying to get involved in research projects, and how the Human Rights approach to disability must replace the still predominant Medical approach, putting as an example the EU funded project DISCIT "Promoting active citizenship for persons with disabilities".</p> <p>Furthermore, EDF had a meeting with the Commission's unit in charge of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) programme under Horizon 2020 to explore the possibility to provide reasonable accommodation to researchers with disabilities willing to move to another university.</p>
36	<p>Disseminate policy recommendations to contribute to the revision of the European Statistical System</p> <p>EDF continued the work started in 2015 with the Open public consultation of users of European Social Surveys. Specifically, throughout the consultation process to respond to the public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights, EDF continued advocating for the revision of the European Statistical System and its compliance with the CRPD. Moreover, EDF also participated in the annual ANED meeting of 2016 to discuss priorities and issues in relation to data collection and disability rights.</p>



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37	<p>EDF expert participation in "Analysis and comparative review of equality data collection practices in the EU" tender leading to mapping report of EU level data on discrimination</p> <p>EDF contributed to the review of the report to ensure its compliance with the provisions in the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular article 31 on statistics and data collection.</p>
38	<p>Promote the adoption of the proposed Directive on Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' Websites through policy recommendations, advocacy meetings and networking</p> <p>EDF carried out many meetings with MEPs as well as permanent representation offices of Member States (e.g. deliverable 38.3), including a fluid and regular communication with the Dutch Presidency and the rapporteur of this proposal. EDF advocacy work also included an in camera meeting (see Deliverables 38.2) with technical experts for the Member States' delegations to clarify different aspects to be taken into account. EDF along with its members and other civil society organisation signed an open letter underlining the main points that needed to be address during the trilogues (deliverable 38.1).</p> <p>Our advocacy work was also supported by social media channels, in particular @EDFaccess. Finally, in May the last trilogue reached to an agreement. (EDF press release)</p> <p>On October 26th the EP voted to approve the Web directive, and entered into force on 22 December.</p>
38bis	<p>Assess the accessibility of the Online Dispute Resolution platform developed by the Commission and promote its use among EDF members.</p> <p>EDF communicated in the Members Mailing issue 1 the news about the launch of the ODR platform.</p> <p>This item has been replaced by</p> <p>EDF advocacy work on the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive</p> <p>On May 2016, the Commission presented the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), in which article 7 on accessibility was removed. EDF immediately released a position paper (deliverable 39.1) to stress the importance of making the AVMSD and the proposal for a European Accessibility Act complementary. During the summer, EDF prepared a set of proposed amendments for the revised AVMSD (deliverable 39.2) that were distributed</p>



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	<p>among MEPs and Member States permanent representation offices.</p> <p>In this regard, EDF was invited to take part in the public hearing organised by the Committee of Culture in the European Parliament on 26 September to present the views of the disability movement regarding media accessibility.</p>
39	<p>Promote the inclusion of accessibility requirements within relevant actions of the Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy through policy recommendations, networking and advocacy meetings</p> <p>On 28 January, EDF was invited to provide policy recommendations in the S&D Seminar “Digital Union” – Workshop III “What kind of inclusive and accessible services does Europe need?” (deliverable 40.1).</p> <p>Given that the DSM also covers other areas, EDF continued its collaboration with the Body of the European Regulators on Electronic Communications (BEREC), and participated in their annual Accessibility Workshop (deliverable 40.2), which this year also discussed the provision of accessible media through broadcasting services.</p> <p>Finally, another action included in the DSM strategy was the publication of the e-Government Action Plan 2016-2020. EDF answered the public consultation at the beginning of the year, which had an impact on the final e-Government Action Plan published by the Commission, which recognised the importance of making these public e-services accessible for all.</p>
40	<p>Promote the inclusion of accessibility measures within the review and implementation of passenger’s rights legislation through policy recommendations, networking and advocacy meetings.</p> <p>EDF replied to the public consultation on the revision of Regulation 1371/2006 on Rail Passengers’ Rights, underlining the importance of making rail transport more accessible and improving assistance to persons with disabilities at stations. EDF provided feedback in writing and by attending meetings on the implementation report for Regulation 181/2011 (Bus & coach passengers’ rights) as well as Regulation 1177/2010 (Maritime & inland waterway passengers’ rights). EDF also had a separate meeting with the Passengers’ Rights Unit to discuss why EDF’s comments on clarifying the rules on damaged, lost, and destroyed mobility equipment were not included in the Commission’s guidelines and how we can succeed in changing those rules.</p>
41	Promote the inclusion of accessibility measures in multimodal integrated



	<p>ticketing in all transport modes through policy recommendations, networking and advocacy meetings EDF participated in a conference on Accessibility in the Rail Sector, organized on 26 April 2016 by the European Commission. EDF also moderated a session at a workshop for national authorities on the implementation of the TSI-PRM on 25 April 2016. The expected legislative proposal on multimodal integrated ticketing was not published.</p>
42	<p>Promote the adoption of the European Accessibility Act through advocacy, networking, and publishing position paper, as required based on the political process:</p> <p>EDF published its initial position paper on the European Accessibility Act in February 2016 and followed up with more concrete proposals for amendments in July 2016, aimed at decision-makers. In December 2016, EDF disseminated proposed amendments specifically for the draft report of the Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL). EDF also met with numerous decision makers, other NGOs, and industry stakeholders to present and discuss the EAA proposal. Furthermore, EDF communicated actively about the EAA to promote adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 tweets by @edfaccess specifically about the Accessibility Act using the hashtags #AccessibilityAct, #EAA, #accessibility, #a11y • Several posts on EDF facebook page on the Accessibility Act • Creation of a section on the EDF website on the Accessibility Act • Several articles published on the EDF website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-accessibility-act-what-potential-bring-positive-change ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/accessibility-act-time-move-forward ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-parliament-committee-culture-weakens-accessibility-act ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-accessibility-act-edf-presented-its-position-parliament ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/civil-society-pushes-strong-accessibility-act ○ http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/accessibility-way-break-barriers-society • 2 media releases: sent to all EDF contacts including members, partners, journalists and external people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Media Release EP Threatens Access To TV & Digital Books For Persons With Disabilities ○ Media Release European Accessibility Act: What Is The Potential to bring a positive change? • Printed leaflet: "Accessibility? Act!" in all 24 EU languages



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	<p>EDF also organized and participated in several events to promote the EAA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event in the European Parliament with MEP Soraya Post (23 February 2016) • Event with Google in the European Parliament (1 March 2016) • Event by the Greens in the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Soltes (1 June) • Event organized by EDF with the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament (November 2016) <p>EDF also supported its members in the advocacy process by attending bilateral meetings with the national governments, information sessions at members' events, and at EDF governing body meetings.</p>
43	<p>Promote accessibility and inclusion of person with disabilities through European standardisation mandates (design for all and built environment, Mandate 473 and 420 respectively)</p> <p>EDF organized the selection procedure for a candidate to be nominated with the support of EDF, who was then selected for the Joint Working Group of the Mandate. EDF also attended the kick-off meeting for the Mandate 420 on 14 October 2016 at the CEN-CENELEC meeting centre.</p> <p>As for the development of Mandate 473 on accessibility following a Design for All approach, the work was delayed, partially, because of the unilateral decision of the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) CEN and CENELEC in February to deliver a Technical Specification document, instead of a European Standard. EDF joined forces with AGE Platform Europe and wrote a formal letter to the Commission and the two ESOs stating why the document resulting from this Mandate should be a European standard. Finally, in September the two ESOs reconsidered their decision and the experts continued with the development of a standard, which will be open for consultation on 2017.</p>
44	<p>Promotion of existing accessibility standards and documents (EN301549 and CEN-CENELEC Guide 6)</p> <p>EDF nominated the collaboration between the US and the European Commission in regards to the European Standard EN301549 on accessibility</p>



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	<p>requirements for ICT, as best policy practice for the Zero Project Awards. EDF nomination was selected among the winners. See pages 160 and 161: http://zeroproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ZeroProjectReport_2016_barrierfree.pdf</p> <p>EDF continued advocating for the revision of the EN301549 inside the Joint Working Group of the three main Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI), in particular the focus was put on a new Terms of Reference for this working group, and a new working item which could kick off the pending revision (deliverables 46.1 and 46.2).</p> <p>Finally, once the Web Accessibility Directive was adopted, the Commission call EDF for providing comments on the standardisation request in support of this Directive. The harmonised standard resulting from this request will be based on the current provisions of the EN 301549 as it includes the requirements for web and mobile apps accessibility (deliverable 46.3).</p>
45	<p>Participation in relevant standardisation expert groups and committees such as the CEN Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA) and the European Commission's Multi Stakeholders Platform on ICT and standardisation</p> <p>EDF attended the MSP meeting on 25 February.</p> <p>EDF participated in the meetings of these groups and provided relevant comments when needed. Particularly, we contributed with some ideas for the update of the SAGA strategy and terms of reference. As for the Multi Stakeholders Platform on ICT and standardisation, we submitted comments to the platform when the standardisation request in support of the Web Accessibility Directive was discussed.</p>
46	<p>Participation in the steering group and task forces in the Social Platform to promote mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities, the CRPD CO and the European Disability Strategy</p> <p>EDF director attends SG meetings at Social Platform to contribute to the work of the platform and try to mainstream CRPD issues within the work of the Platform.</p>
47	<p>Participation in the Semester Alliance to further our objectives for Europe 2020 and the Semester process</p>



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	Duplication of action 20
48	<p>Participation in the Equality for all alliance to further on the work and the adoption on the proposed Equal Treatment Directive</p> <p>So far the Equality for all alliance has not organised any meetings due to the regressive discussions on the issue taking place at national level.</p>
49	<p>Contribution to the European Structured Dialogue on European Structural and Investment Funds group of experts</p> <p>On the 26 April and 15 November, EDF attended the meeting of the European Structured Dialogue on European Structural and Investment Funds group of experts, representing organisations of persons with disabilities as partners in the implementation of the Funds.</p>
50	<p>Participation in Civil Society Europe to contribute to the development of space for civil dialogue with EU institutions</p> <p>EDF participated in plenary meetings of Civil Society Europe on 22 January and 29 April 2016.</p>
51	<p>Advocacy meetings with EU institutions by Executive Committee members, youth, women's and CRPD committee members and secretariat in key policy areas (UN CRPD, Digital Single Market, Europe 2020, Better Regulation, MFF, Gender Equality, employment, education and training, social inclusion, social protection, health, human rights and fight against discrimination, international cooperation and development)</p> <p>Position Paper on Social Inclusion; EDF has been part of the editorial committee of the Position Paper that the European Youth Forum has published to draw the attention of the European institution on the discrimination of young people and their social exclusion.</p> <p>The position paper has focused on 5 important aspect with which young people, those with disabilities too, are confronted. Education, Employment, minimum income, housing.</p> <p>On the 4 of July The European Youth Forum published a joint statement on the refunding of the Youth Guarantee. EDF joined this statement.</p> <p>The chair of the youth committee was invited to speak at the Council of Europe about</p>



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	discrimination of young people with disabilities from minority background.
52 (new)	<p>On health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EDF participated in the first phase of the VulnerAble project assessing Health needs of vulnerable groups. This is a Pilot project related to the development of evidence based strategies to improve the health of people living in isolated and vulnerable situations. Scoping interviews were conducted with EDF and with a number of its members - EDF sent input on access to healthcare for persons with disabilities to the EP Committee on the environment, health and food safety (ENVI), for its opinion to the EP CRPD report.

Objective 3 Building the capacity of the members of the network and/or training relevant practitioners and stakeholders and/or informing the general public

1	<p>Direct support to EDF members in developing their alternative reports and responses to lists of issues (focussing on Serbia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Italy, Cyprus and Bosnia Herzegovina who are under review in 2016).</p> <p>EDF, together with IDA supported its Serbian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Slovak and Italian members with their answers to the list of issues in first half of 2016 and preparing the side events with the CRPD Committee in Geneva. In the second half of 2016, EDF supported its Italian, Cypriot and Bosnia Herzegovina members in the preparation of its alternative report and answers to the list of issues.</p> <p>EDF gave a training in July 2016 in Luxembourg to its member for the preparation of its alternative report.</p> <p>In second semester, EDF continued to support Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina in preparation of their answers to the list of issues, and Luxembourg in finalising its alternative report. EDF also started supporting Latvia, UK and Montenegro in the preparation of the alternative reports and answers to the list of issues. In December 2016 a workshop was organised in Podgorica, Montenegro bringing together the national disability movement in preparing their alternative report and being informed about the review process before the CRPD Committee.</p>
2	<p>Training seminars in Geneva to prepare for the review process and constructive dialogue, with DPOs from amongst the following countries: Serbia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Italy, Cyprus and Bosnia Herzegovina countries who are under review by the UN CRPD Committee.</p> <p>EDF, together with IDA provided a training seminar to its Lithuanian, Portuguese, Slovak,</p>



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	<p>Italian, Cypriot and Bosnia Herzegovina members in view of their side event on the presentation of their main concerns to the CRPD Committee. These side events were followed by debriefing meetings. In December 2016 a workshop was organised in Podgorica, Montenegro bringing together the national disability movement in preparing their alternative report and being informed about the review process before the CRPD Committee</p>
3	<p>Development of training tools for DPOs on the UN CRPD review with linkages to other Human Rights Monitoring processes.</p> <p>Several training tools have been developed to train the members on the CRPD, the review process before the CRPD Committee in Geneva, the jurisprudence of the CRPD Committee, a matrix on how to draft and structure an alternative report on the implementation of the CRPD and a tool on how to ensure a disability inclusive representation in the review process.</p>
4	<p>Support members on request (capacity building, information and good practices exchange) on the implementation of CRPD at national level.</p> <p>Good practices and ways to implement the CRPD with regards to different articles of the CRPD were shared with the members upon request, during the EDF CRPD Committee and EDF conference on the implementation of concluding observations by the CRPD committee in Bratislava.</p>
5	<p>Development of an information network for the implementation of the UN CRPD at EU level.</p> <p>A conference was organised in Bratislava on ways to implement the CRPD and how to follow up on the concluding observations from the CRPD Committee. Good practices, information and learnings were shared between the EDF national and European members. The development of this information network will continue in 2017 with the new Committee being established on human rights and non-discrimination.</p>
6	<p>Host an event at the Conference of States Parties in New York gathering DPOs from industrialised and emerging countries for a peer learning session to share knowledge and explore cooperation on accessibility and universal design (in cooperation with CBM and European Commission).</p> <p>EDF was present with a small Delegation at the COSP 9 in New York. EDF President spoke at the plenary, and also on the CRPD committee elections which had a very poor result from a gender equality perspective.</p> <p>EDF co organised or participated in a number of events at the COSP9 in new York in June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessibility- together with the EU and France - Reporting obligations under the UN CRPD: Sharing best practices on follow-up



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	<p>to the recommendations of the CRPD Committee’ organised by the European Union and the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN in cooperation with EDF and the Permanent Missions of Qatar and Mexico.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right to Participation: Accessible online meetings’ Remote accessible participation- together with the EU and our Swedish member and the Swedish government <p>EDF was invited to give the European DPO perspective in speaking roles in a number of other European and International events including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘ICT supporting Education for All’ was organised by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN in cooperation with Essl Foundation, the International Disability Alliance and G3ICT, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs. • ‘The promotion of supported decision making mechanisms: how to implement article 12 of the UN CRPD’ organised by the European Union in cooperation with the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities. EDF Executive Committee member, Klaus Lachwitz, spoke at this event. EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, was also a speaker at this event representing the European Economic and Social Committee, whose he is a member.
7	<p>Provide a one week training in Brussels for regional DPOs networks (ASEAN, Pacific and African disability forums) on working with regional integration organisation to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (together with IDA and financing from the Australian Government).</p> <p>This training was undertaken, in cooperation with IDA and IDDC members in February. See report: http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34417</p> <p>The training included advocacy meetings with EU decision makers, learning session with the EC, and EDF. Richard Howitt hosted the whole group at the European Parliament for reception, attended by the Australian Ambassador.</p> <p>At the Social Forum in October in Geneva, EDF organised another event with IDA these regional DPOs on technical cooperation. We are looking for further opportunities to cooperation with other regional DPOs.</p>
8	<p>Analyse the web accessibility directive and develop guidance to DPOs on the implementation (if adopted).</p> <p>Given that the Directive entry into forced on December, EDF mainly reported to its members and other civil society organisations on the main points of this piece of legislation through the internal communication channels, social media and relevant publications (deliverable 4). A thorough toolkit in view of the transposition of this Directive will be prepared and delivered on 2017.</p>



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9	<p>Analyse newly adopted accessibility standards and develop Guidance to DPOs</p> <p>There was not any new accessibility standard adopted in 2016. Nevertheless in view of the development of Mandates 420 on accessibility for the built environment and 473 on Design for All, EDF created a new email expert group on standardisation (deliverable 7.1) to facilitate the exchange of views from EDF members involved in different standardisation activities at national and international level, and join forces to influence the outcomes of the European undertakings in this domain.</p> <p>In addition to this, and with the same aim, EDF Secretariat joined the ANEC Working Group on Accessibility. ANEC, the representative organisation of consumers in standardisation, has been a long-time ally of the disability movement. With this decision, EDF aims at strengthening its collaboration with ANEC and other consumers organisations present in standardisation.</p>
10	<p>Update resource centre on EDF website on e-accessibility (rules, standards, good practices).</p> <p>This resource can be found at http://www.edf-feph.org/edfs-electronic-resource-web-accessibility . It includes references to W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, the European Standard on accessibility requirements for ICT, the guidelines for accessible information posted by EDF member the European Blind Union, etc.</p>
11	<p>Publication of guidelines for bus/tram drivers in public transport on passengers with disabilities (in cooperation with transport industry stakeholders).</p>
12	<p>Keep the campaign area of EDF website on freedom of movement active and up to date, while making it a place also for EDF's members to share their activities on freedom of movement. (the following activities 13 to 27 are under the umbrella of the freedom of movement campaign)</p> <p>Specific section of the website on the Accessibility Act has been created where all the official documents and position papers are shared, including EDF's members' positions.</p>
13	<p>Promote the adoption of a European Accessibility Act through awareness raising and communication, policy dialogue and events.</p> <p>EDF participated in a hearing in the European Parliament on 23 March organized by MEP Post</p>



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and a hearing in the Economic and Social Committee on 13 April.

EDF organized an [event in the European Parliament with MEP Olga Sehnalová](#) on 8 November 2016. EDF has been presenting the Act and the EDF position at numerous events of EDF members and other stakeholders (see also the 2016 [Campaign Report](#)).

- More than 30 tweets by [@edfaccess](#) specifically about the Accessibility Act (hashtags: #AccessibilityAct, #EAA, #accessibility, #a11y)
- Several posts on [EDF facebook page](#) on the Accessibility Act
- [Creation of a section on the EDF website on the Accessibility Act](#)
- Several articles published on the EDF website:
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-accessibility-act-what-potential-bring-positive-change>
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/accessibility-act-time-move-forward>
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-parliament-committee-culture-weakens-accessibility-act>
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-accessibility-act-edf-presented-its-position-parliament>
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/civil-society-pushes-strong-accessibility-act>
 - <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/accessibility-way-break-barriers-society>
- 2 media releases: sent to all EDF contacts including members, partners, journalists and external people:
 - [Media Release | EP Threatens Access To TV & Digital Books For Persons With Disabilities](#)
 - [Media Release | European Accessibility Act: What Is The Potential to bring a positive change?](#)
- Printed leaflet: "[Accessibility? Act!](#)" in all 24 EU languages



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	<p>Supporting EDF members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an EDF Task Force on the Accessibility Act • Meeting with the Latvian Ministry of Transport (5 July 2016) • General lobbying tools and material to all EDF members including a model letter, background briefing, and EDF position paper • Tailor-made campaign and lobbying material for EDF National Councils in France, Latvia, Denmark, Spain, Poland, Netherlands, Estonia, and Finland • Individual briefings and meetings (on request) for EDF National Councils in Denmark, Romania, Estonia, Austria; as well as some European NGOs <p>The Accessibility Act in the media</p> <p>Article on 'Euractiv' on the European Accessibility Act</p> <p>Article on 'Politico' on the Accessibility Act</p>
14	<p>Update Freedom Guide publication based on new developments, and make two page summaries for EDF members in European languages to maximise dissemination.</p> <p>The publication has been drafted and its design is currently being finalised. Hearing the needs of its members, EDF decided to translated its leaflet on the European Accessibility Act instead, as it will be a useful tool for its members to campaign at national level. The publication will be used both together with the previous "Freedom Guide" publication and as a stand-alone leaflet to illustrate what progress has been made in the field of EU accessibility policy since 2011.</p>
15	<p>Develop @edfaccess on twitter as major channel for accessibility information in Europe.</p> <p>The account is very active and gains on average 1 follower per day. As of 24/10/2016 we have 554 followers, and by the beginning of 2017 over 600 follwers. EDF, its members, and others interested in accessibility share news and update here.</p>
16	<p>Promote launch of the EU Disability Card through all communication channels.</p>



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	<p>The Disability Card pilot project was followed closely by the EDF secretariat, but the planned launching did not take place in 2016. This therefore is delayed to 2017 till Card is launched.</p>
17	<p>Monitor developments of the EU Disability Card, facilitate dialogue between DPOs and government and EU on progress.</p> <p>EDF has advised several members (CY, HU, RO) on their collaboration with their national authorities on the Disability Card to facilitate the launch. EDF has also published an interim report to indicate where the participating Member States are with the implementation of the Card and sent it to the European Commission.</p>
18	<p>Disseminate and promote Access City Awards in collaboration with the EC.</p> <p>EDF has had numerous meetings with the European Commission to plan the 2017 edition of the Access City Awards and we developed the idea to involve celebrities as “ambassadors” for the awards. EDF members have contributed actively to collect ideas for this list of celebrities. EDF also informed its members that have constituted a national jury in 2015 early on that they can renew their engagement once the call will be launched. We paid particular attention to send the information as early as possible since this has been a point of criticism in the past. All EDF national councils participated except for Belgium so that EDF temporarily took over the roll as national juror for the Awards. EDF also selected a new candidate for the EU jury 2016, Ms Frédérique Laumont, and participated in the EU jury meeting on 17 October 2016.</p>
19	<p>Promote accessibility curricula in different fields of high level education through an accessibility award run jointly with Oracle.</p> <p>An update of the terms and conditions have been agreed with Oracle, and the scholarship will be launched in late May. Deadline for applications was postponed to October, and the winner was contacted in the beginning of 2017.</p>
20	<p>EDF Youth committee will campaign on accessible inclusive European training opportunities.</p> <p>During events organised on Youth like the one on European Education Training and Youth, EDF youth committee members were tweeting about access in training and education. The same happened during a hearing on the Erasmus+ Programme.</p>



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	<p>A questionnaire is prepared to be sent to members, and a call for concrete situations and examples will be launched. Young people will be asked to share good and bad practices on such programmes with pictures, videos etc.</p>
21	<p>Hold events (conferences, seminars etc) with key stakeholders in the area of accessibility for persons with disabilities to raise awareness and build support and commitment for the upcoming EAA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event in the European Parliament with MEP Soraya Post (23 February 2016) • Event with Google in the European Parliament (1 March 2016) • Event by the Greens in the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Soltes (1 June) • Event organized by EDF with the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament (8 November 2016) <p>Speaking opportunities</p> <p>EDF was invited by many organisations and other stakeholders to give information about the Accessibility Act and to present EDF's position. Here are some of the most important speaking opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at the Permanent Study Group on Disability on the EESC on 4 February 2016 • Meeting with the Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired on 22 February 2016 • Presentation at the AGA of the Belgian Disability Forum (25 February) • Presentation at the Social Platform Task Force on access to services (2 March) • Presentation at AGA of EFHOH (1 April) • Presentation (video message and skype) at AGA of the European Guide Dog Federation (15 April) • Presentation at the meeting of the European Platform on Rehabilitation (20 April)



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and debate at event of the European Foundation Forum for Inclusion at the EESC (22 June) • Presentation at the Customer Liaison Group of the Community of European Railways (12 October) • Presentation at EASPD ENTELIS conference (19 October) • Presentation at the IMCO exchange of views on the European Accessibility Act (9 November) <p>Other important meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Commissioner Bulc on 26 January 2016 • Presentation at Council's SQWP in June 2016 • Meeting with the Dutch and Estonian PermReps
23	<p>Promote accessible tourism through awareness raising on accessibility and the European Disability Card.</p> <p>EDF has followed the implementation process of the Disability Card in the participating Member States closely and supported its members that are participating in the process. However, since the Card has not been launched yet there was not much opportunity of promoting its use in 2016. This will remain a relevant item for 2017.</p>
24	<p>Promote accessible tourism through collecting and sharing good practice.</p> <p>EDF attended the ETIS conference and awards on accessible tourism on 22 April 2016.</p>
25	<p>Analysis of accessibility needs in future technologies and awareness raising on future accessibility agenda.</p>



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	<p>This was replaced by</p> <p>ERA, the Academy of European Law conference on “EU disability law and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, in which EDF gave an introduction to the UN CRPD article 9 on accessibility, as well as the UN CRPD Committee General Comment 2, and the main EU accessibility legislation. The lecture was provided for policy practioners.</p>
26	<p>Promote e-accessibility through collaboration with ICT industry.</p> <p>One of the most remarkable collaborations with the ICT industry took place on 1 March, Google and EDF organised an event in the European Parliament on “Accessible technology for independent living”. A summary of the meeting can be found at Google’s blog: https://blog.google/topics/google-europe/accessible-technology-helping-people-to/ and on EDF website at http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/how-can-accessible-technology-support-independent-living</p> <p>Apart from this, EDF maintained its regular contacts with Microsoft, Apple, Samsung, and the umbrella organisations Digital Europe and the Mobile Manufacturers Forum.</p>
27	<p>Collection and promotion of good practices of assistance at airports/train stations.</p> <p>EDF collaborated with Airports Council International (ACI) and the European Commission to launch the first Accessible Airport Awards. EDF also organized a succesful event together with its Irish members and Dublin Airport to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Regulation 1107/2006 and to raise awareness of the assistance provided at airports.</p>
28	<p>Develop thematic area on EDF website on freedom of choice highlighting the importance of freedom of choice for persons with disabilities, with all levels of support needs. (The following activities 29 and 30 are part of the freedom of choice thematic)</p>
29	<p>Collaboration with the European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based services to raise awareness on the right to independent living / freedom of choice about where and with whom to live.</p> <p>ASL: EDF is an active member of the European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based services. It takes part in different task forces of the group. In 2016, in close cooperation with its national members EDF contributed to the organisation of a follow up seminar on independent living and deinstitutionalisation in Greece on the 18 May.</p>



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	<p>LM: EDF is part of the European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based care task force on the European Semester. The task force issued a press release following the publication of the country-specific recommendations by the European Commission (http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-commission-safeguard-adequate-investment-community-based-services-country) and prepared some country-specific fiches to sent to European Commission desk officers with data on the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>EDF also took part in various EEG internal and external meetings in June and October to provide the perspective of persons with disabilities in the work of the Expert Group. After the October meeting, EDF worked with other EEG members to prepare two training courses delivered at the beginning of January 2017.</p>
30	<p>Expert seminar on Article 12 of the CRPD and the EU together with Inclusion Europe, Autism Europe, European Network of users and survivors of psychiatry, Mental Health Europe and key external experts.</p> <p>EDF organised together with its European members a conference on article 12 CRPD before its General Assembly on 21 May in Dublin on legal capacity. More than 200 representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities across Europe, academics, self-advocates and other participants shared their experiences and discussed how persons with disabilities can be supported in enjoying freedom of choice and making their own decisions. A wide range of good practices and learnings were shared and discussed with EDF members.</p>
31	<p>Develop thematic area on EDF website on diversity. (the following activities 32 and 33 are part of diversity thematic)</p>
32	<p>Seminar with DPOs, women's organisations and gender institutes to discuss and plan actions in relation to women with disabilities in Europe.</p> <p>A seminar is planned in 2017 on the rights of women and girls with disabilities, which will involve organisations of women with disabilities, women's rights organisations and gender institute.</p>
33	<p>Issue external newsletters which highlight diversity and disability featuring one newsletter editorial on women's rights, LGBTI, youth, people with requiring more intensive support , older people with disabilities (At least 4 diversity focussed editorials).</p> <p>Up to this moment, EDF has issued 6 external newsletters 'Disability Voice' focusing on disability and diversity. Issue 3 – March 2016 featured stories on women with disabilities and refugees with disabilities. Issue 4 - April – May 2016 featured a story on people with disabilities who live deprived from their legal capacity. To give more visibility to Youth and to EDF's Youth Committee, EDF made a separate article on the International Youth Day by interviewing two</p>



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	<p>young people with disabilities. The next issue of Disability Voice Issue 7 – November 2016 will focus on women with disabilities to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November. The last issue of this year Issue 8 – December 2016 will possibly feature an editorial on migrants with disabilities to mark the International Migrants Day on 18 December 2016.</p>
34	<p>Develop campaign area on EDF website on a fair social europe. (the following activities 35 to 43 come under the umbrella of the ‘fair social Europe’ campaign)</p>
35	<p>Update EDFs ‘observatory of the crisis’ which will provide on going data collection and dissemination on the affects of austerity measures resulting from the crisis.</p> <p>In 2016, EDF continued monitoring the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the rights of persons with disabilities. It did so in close consultation with its members and being part of the Alliance against Disability Cuts.</p> <p>The observatory of the crisis remains one of EDF top campaigns and a specific section is dedicated to it on EDF website ;</p> <p>The first page of the section focuses on what is the Observatory. It includes general information and key documents adopted by EDF members during the last years on the crisis.</p> <p>In 2016, the page has been updated to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EDF presentation on talking poverty and social exclusion in Europe towards better social cohesion and tolerance in times of austerity - EDF presentation on austerity measures and their impact on persons with disabilities <p>The second page of the Observatory includes an online survey for organisations and individuals to directly report on specific relevant national examples and to monitor austerity measures taken by EU member states, European Union institutions and International financial institutions.</p> <p>The third page includes news from members. In 2016 has been updated with news about the Alliance against Disability Cuts</p>
36	<p>Collect and best practices in supported employment for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>As member of the Social Platform, EDF shared good practices on employment of persons with disabilities with various civil society organisations to provide the views of persons with disabilities (see activity 41).</p> <p>EDF also started to prepare the conference on employment in February 2017 with the collaboration of its members and other organisation, including the European Union of Supported Employment and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.</p>



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	<p>Employment and social inclusion were also topics of one of the panels of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities (see activity 54).</p> <p>In collaboration with various civil society organisations, EDF signed the joint declaration on co-production and also organised an event of co-production in collaboration with the European Platform for Rehabilitation.</p> <p>Finally, through the preparation of EDF's response to the public consultation of the Social Pillar, EDF collected good practices on employment from its members (see activity 40).</p>
37	<p>Collect and promote good practice of community based services and participation of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>In close cooperation with its advisory group on independent living and community based services, EDF developed a survey to collect independent living practices. The survey was disseminated among EDF membership with the aim of gathering examples of national legislations, EU funded projects, individual stories, EDF aimed at providing public authorities, both local, national and European as well civil society organisations with concrete ideas on what it mean living independently in the community, and what type of support is needed.</p>
38	<p>Promote transition from institutional to community based care as a priority in the European Semester and in the use of the European Structural and Investment Fund, in cooperation with the European Expert Group.</p> <p>EDF is part of the European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based care task force on the European Semester. The task force issued a press release following the publication of the country-specific recommendations by the European Commission and prepared some country-specific fiches to sent to European Commission desk officers with data on the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>EDF also took part in various EEG internal and external meetings in June and October to provide the perspective of persons with disabilities in the work of the Expert Group. After the October meeting, EDF worked with other EEG members to prepare two training courses delivered at the beginning of January 2017 (see activity 29).</p>
39	<p>Participate in the EU Structured Dialogue on structural and investment funds to raise awareness on issue for persons with disabilities.</p>



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	<p>On the 26 April and 15 November, EDF attended the meeting of the European Structured Dialogue on European Structural and Investment Funds group of experts, representing organisations of persons with disabilities as partners in the implementation of the Funds.</p>
40	<p>Participation in European Commission work on poverty and social exclusion to mainstream disability.</p> <p>EDF actively participated in the Annual Convention on Inclusive growth. On the 21 March, EDF took part in a side event organised with the European Trade Union Confederation in the framework of the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth. The event focused on in-work poverty. EDF together with ETUC -European Trade Union Confederation; FERPA - European Federation of Retired and Older People; EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network; ENAR - European Network Against Racism, SOLIDAR, EDF highlighted the impact of the multifaceted phenomenon of in-work poverty on different groups of workers. Possible solutions, and possible lessons to be learnt and transferred in the upcoming design of a European Social Pillar were gathered. EDF Director, Catherine Naughton highlighted how persons with disabilities are discriminated against in access to education, social security and employment despite existing legal obligations and therefore are at high risk of poverty.</p> <p>EDF took extensive consultation with members to reply to the public consultation of the Social Pillar to fully mainstream disability in relation to poverty and social exclusion issues. EDF discussed during the Annual General Assembly a first draft of recommendation on poverty and social exclusion to include in the initial response to the Social Pillar. Based on these discussions and further consultations with members, EDF published an initial response to the public consultation on the Social Pillar (July 2016) and sent its final reply to the public consultation in December.</p> <p>EDF also worked with the Social Platform and Members of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in the European Parliament to advocate for the full inclusion of the CRPD and mainstreaming of disability rights in the Social Pillar. This work was reflected in the report adopted by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in December.</p>
41	<p>Contribution to the Social Platform work on social standards and social services to raise awareness on persons with disabilities.</p>



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	<p>EDF takes part in the Social Platform task forces on Social Standards and Social Services where it brings the perspective of persons with disabilities. In particular EDF contributed to collect good practices of social services and the positive impact of investing in them. It did so by sending suggestions on the questionnaire, in consultation with its advisory group on independent living. Moreover EDF contributed to the position paper on social standards, case study on investing in services, revision of the Social Platform's myth buster and input in the Social Platform's response to the public consultation on the Social Pillar.</p>
42	<p>Share good practice on employment with other European civil society organisations and stakeholders including the European Anti Poverty Network</p> <p>As member of the Social Platform, EDF shared good practices on employment of persons with disabilities with various civil society organisations, including the European Anti Poverty Network. EDF provided the views of persons with disabilities in the different task force of the Social Platform. EDF also started to prepare the conference on employment in February 2017 with the collaboration of its members and other organisation, including the European Union of Supported Employment and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities. See activities 41 and 36.</p> <p>In collaboration with various civil society organisations, EDF signed the joint declaration on co-production and also organised an event of co-production in collaboration with the European Platform for Rehabilitation. See activity 36.</p>
43	<p>Raise awareness about employment of persons with disabilities among European civil society organisations and EU institutions.</p> <p>EDF Austrian member raise awareness on the employment, the need for accessibility and reasonable accommodation at the work place during a EQUINET seminar in April 2016.</p> <p>See also activity 42.</p>
44	<p>Revise and update Human rights campaign area on EDF website. (the following activities 45 to 51 come under the umbrella of the human rights campaign)</p>
45	<p>Develop and launch the concept for a series of yearly reports on the rights of persons with</p>



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	<p>disabilities in Europe.</p> <p>The concept note was developed, approved and used as a basis for the report.</p>
46	<p>Publish first report on the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe, featuring a comparative review of the CRPD status in each EU member state.</p> <p>The series of EDF European Human rights reports was launched around December 3rd 2016. Our first issue in this new series was published in December 2016 to mark the 10 years of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The report gives an overview of the state of play on the CRPD in Europe.</p>
47	<p>Raise awareness on women with disabilities through web articles in light of the European Year Fighting violence against women</p> <p>EDF wrote an web article in the frame of the international day of women on 8 March. EDF also dedicated a special issue of Disability Voice on Violence against women with disabilities with interviews of women with disabilities around Europe. You can find the special issue here. The special issue was also sent by email to all our contacts and shared on EDF social media.</p>
48	<p>Create opportunities for dialogue with policy makers, CSO networks and social partners on the CRPD concluding observations.</p> <p>EDF has organised a hearing on the CRPD with the EESC in September 14th to bring together a diverse of CSO stakeholders for an update on the CRPD.</p>
49	<p>Promote General Comments from the CRPD committee when they are adopted (Art 6 may be adopted in 2016). Highlight these publications, and promote their use at the National level.</p> <p>The progress of the general comment on Article 6 CRPD was presented during the General Assembly of EDF in May 2016, and the final general comment was presented during the board meeting in November 2016.</p>
50	<p>Raise awareness on refugees with disabilities through web articles in light of the current refugee crisis</p> <p>Web articles have been written on the refugee crisis and shared on our website. A mission to Greece was undertaken together with the EESC. An EDF email expert group is being established to join work from our national members on the issue.</p>
51	<p>Hearing at the European Parliament on forced sterilisation of women with disabilities including women with disabilities and self-advocates from across Europe (November 25th)</p> <p>During the next women's committee meeting the planning of the hearing was discussed in detail. It has been decided to postpone the hearing to 2017 as to benefit from the organisation of the EDF European Parliament of persons with disabilities.</p>
52	<p>Develop campaign plan for EDF 20th anniversary</p> <p>The campaign plan has been prepared and a page on EDF website (members area) has been created based on it: http://www.edf-feph.org/edf-20th-anniversary</p>



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53	<p>Plan for the 4th European Parliament of persons with disabilities in 2017</p> <p>This has been discussed with the Disability Intergroup, who is supportive of a 4th EYPD in 2017. Letters with EDF's detailed proposals for the 4th EPPD have been sent to the EP President, Vice-President and to EP Committee Chairmen.</p>
54	<p>Cooperation with European Commission for organisation of the European Day of Persons with disabilities (facilitate invitations, contribute to agenda, develop policy recommendations on key topics)</p> <p>Early in 2016 EDF met with representative of the Disability and Inclusion Unit of DG Employment to discuss lessons learnt from the previous year event and to discuss the theme for 2016. EDF secretariat prepared a concept note including suggestions of main topics, and potential speakers. Over the summer, EDF and the Commission finalised the programme of the event, selected and invited speakers and moderators, as well as invitees. The European Day of Persons with Disabilities took place on 29 and 30 December 2016. It was attended by a large amount of persons with disabilities and their representatives and provided a forum for various stakeholders to share views and practices on how to better implement the CRPD. More information on the event can be found in the European Commission's website and EDF's website.</p>
56	<p>Cooperation with European Commission for organisation of the annual Work Forum (contribute to programme, speaker suggestions, speeches / policy recommendation's from EDF speakers)</p> <p>The work forum took place on June 10th. EDF secretariat provided input on the programme with the EC and liased with the Board for feedback and suggestions.</p>
57	<p>Collective communication/campaign actions with EDF members for December 3rd and other key events</p> <p>EDF will continue promoting its members' activities around the 3rd of December through all its communication channels (website, social media, newsletters). EDF was also asked to support IDDC's initiative to create a 'Disability and Development Week' around this date. A first meeting took place on 12 May. EDF will support the initiative but won't have a leading role in it.</p>
58	<p>Contacts with media to increase awareness on disability and human rights.</p> <p>EDF has been in frequent contact with media and gained publicity in several European media like Politico, Euractiv, Eurotransport magazine, Europolitics, European Parliament radio to the UK etc.</p>



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59	<p>Increase of EDF's visual and interactive communication to bring our main messages closer to our audience</p> <p>In terms of visual communication, EDF uses all opportunities to spread its key messages through visual communication trying to increase the use of pictures and videos on its social media, website and newsletters. In the same concept, we will soon start working on a video to launch next year's 20th anniversary and other similar tools to spread our key messages.</p> <p>When it comes to interactive communication, EDF is mostly using its social media to have an open dialogue and immediately interact with its members, partners and other audience. For example, EDF organised a successful twitter debate during the EDF-EESC hearing on 24 October encouraging its members and anyone interested to send their questions and comments using the hashtag #EESCEDFhearing</p>
60	<p>Updating website regularly reporting on key development at the EU on the rights of persons with disabilities (weekly updates)</p> <p>Apart from regular updates of the current pages of EDF's website, there have also been more than 57 new web articles on the website. You can find them in NEWS section of our website as well as in KEEP IN MIND.</p>
61	<p>Develop monthly external newsletter (Disability Voice) with news, upcoming events and campaign messages</p> <p>Until now, 8 external newsletters 'Disability Voice' have been created and disseminated to all EDF contacts. You can access them here</p>
62	<p>Issuing regular media releases, facebook and twitter alerts to raise awareness of human rights of persons with disabilities and communicate about activities and results of EDF and members work.</p> <p>In 2016, there were 19 media releases and regular facebook and twitter alerts.</p>
63	<p>Disseminating EDF biennial report 2014-2015 with our main activities and campaigns of the past two years as a tool to raise awareness about the situation of people with disabilities in Europe.</p> <p>EDF's biennial report has been created and accessible formats have been prepared: Accessible PDF, accessible word, Easy-To-Read version, sign language video and audio/voice over. You can find all of them on EDF's website.</p> <p>The report was widely disseminated at the EDF Annual General Assembly 2016, the European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2016 and in any other meeting opportunity we have had with members, partners, EU institutions and other stakeholders.</p>
64	<p>Creation, design, printing and dissemination of the annual report 2016</p> <p>EDF will publish a biennial report in 2017 covering 2016 and 2017. In replacement of this activity</p>



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	in 2016, EDF developed a photograph exhibition of our ley work in the last 20 years.
65	<p>Specific press actions (meetings/emails/phonecalls) to increase EU media awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>EDF has been in regular contact with media mainly through emails and in some cases phone calls and meetings for interviews. We also invited media in events. These actions resulted in the publication of articles on the Accessibility Act on EU media such as Politico and Euractiv.</p>