



EDF Strategic framework -2017-2021

Draft for consultation with EDF membership and committees

December 12th 2016

For feedback- to catherine.naughton@edf-feph by January 9th
2017

Based on initial work done through a membership survey, discussions in the [European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#) Board and executive, this draft strategy serves as a basis for consultation with EDF members and key partners.

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EDF draft strategy

Description of EDF and the consultation process

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent NGO that represents the rights of 80 million people with disabilities in Europe. EDF is a unique platform which brings together over 100 representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is run by persons with disabilities and their families. It is a strong, united voice of people with disabilities in Europe.

The purpose of this strategic framework is to define the EDF agenda from 2017 and 2021.

The objectives which the strategy should achieve are to:

- Together with our members to define our priorities and how we will work together as a network
- To communicate to the general public, partners and potential supporters about the reason we exist, and what we do

This strategy has been developed with the full involvement of EDF membership, led by the EDF Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Initially, priorities and challenges were derived from an EDF membership survey conducted by an external evaluator in September and October. Key informant interviews are being conducted throughout the consultation period to draw on the expertise of our partners, including external evaluators and EDF donors.

A preliminary document was presented to the EDF Board in November, following which a full draft was circulated to the entire EDF membership and key committees for their input (this draft).

Feedback from memberships and committees was discussed by the EDF executive in January 2017, and a new document was discussed with the EDF Board in February. The Strategy was then proposed to the General Assembly for adoption in May 2017.

The Context of this Strategy

The world is in a period of rapid and unpredictable change. EDF was established 20 years ago, at a time of very positive movement towards a stronger and more integrated Europe. The European Union experienced expansion and ambitious integration projects during this time.

Ever since 2008, with the onset of the so called economic crisis, the European project has been under increasing pressure. From escalating austerity, driven by both the EU and national governments, to the Greek bailout and externally driven reforms, Europe has been shaken in terms of its economic and social integration.

A serious series of shocking terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016 changed the security context in Europe and put this issue on the top of the political agenda. The huge influx of refugees

Commentaire [A1]:

Peut-on parler de crise quand une situation dure depuis plus de 8 ans ??? Le problème n'est-il pas plutôt "structurel" ?
Can we talk about a crisis when it's last more then 8 years ??? Isn't it structural, now ?



mainly fleeing from an escalating war in Syria, but also including migrants from Asia and Africa, has challenged freedom of movement and led to closing of some EU internal Borders.

Finally the UK referendum on leaving the EU in 2015 demonstrated that ordinary people in the UK, no longer believed it was worthwhile to be part of the EU. Now protracted discussions on Brexit are set to distract European decision makers from building a strong social Europe and realizing human rights for all people in Europe.

During this last 10 years however, the CRPD has been almost universally ratified in over all the EU and the European region. This has created an impetus for improving the legal framework for the rights of persons with disabilities. Regardless of the increasing negative effects of austerity, every government and the EU itself have been forced to address the rights of persons with disabilities in some way.

DPOs in Europe have mobilized around the CRPD review by the UN expert committee process to maximize its impact. The CRPD is a strong tool with which the disability movement can continue to promote change for persons with disabilities.

However, unless it is translated into comprehensive inclusive disability laws, policies and programmes programs, with the CRPD compliant structures in place to implement and monitor application, and adequate financing, the CRPD will not reach its full potential. The CRPD is just 10 years old and while the level of ratifications in Europe and globally are high, there is yet to be a change for persons with disabilities - grave human rights violations continue to affect the everyday lives of men, women and children with disabilities.

Governments continue to adopt policies and sustain systems which are in conflict with the CRPD and there has been no increase in structural financial support to the disability movement in Europe - EDF members in many cases are under pressure just to exist. High rates of poverty and unemployment of persons with disabilities persist, with women with disabilities more affected than men.

At the policy level, a human rights based approach to disability is missing. The EU itself took a backward step in 2014 when it moved the CRPD focal point from DG Justice to DG Employment, and most governments in Europe also remain consigning the focal point to its departments on social affairs or employment. Actions required to implement the CRPD across all sectors are therefore impossible.

Persons with disabilities are not central in other human rights field such as women's rights or children's and youth rights, and adequate attention to persons with disabilities is not given in some of the most pressing human rights issues, such as the migration crisis. The CRPD based paradigm shift which is expected based on the CRPD has not taketaken place. Inclusive, diverse, accessible environments, in politics, schools, workplaces and in culture are still the exception rather than the norm.

Increasingly persons with disabilities are included in the category of vulnerable groups and no specific actions are identified to remove barriers, provide support -or give specific

Commentaire [A2]:

Le problème clé : le BDF soutient fermement cette phrase
The key problem. BDF strongly supports this mention

Commentaire [A3]: Peut-on parler d' « universel » si l'on parle de l'Europe ?
Can we use « universally » for Europe ???

Commentaire [A4]:

Montre une mauvaise compréhension de l'UNCRPD
Shows a misunderstanding of the CRPD

Commentaire [A5]:

embêté par cette phrase : la personne handicapée doit-elle être centrale dans les autres champs des drts humains ? Lui accorder une place « centrale n'est-il pas contraire à l'esprit de l'UNCRPD ???
Does PwD have to be « central » in other HR fields ? Doesn't the CRPD require that PwD receives due attention ? Don't you think that "central is the opposite of the meaning of the CRPD ?



attention to the rights of persons with disabilities. Many approaches of government have not been radically changed with the CRPD. Most importantly social exclusion and discrimination of persons with disabilities persist across Europe.

In addition to this, the social and human rights context is poor in Europe. Can we expect persons with disabilities to enjoy all human rights and have improved quality of life when societal inequalities in general are growing?

Vision and mission of EDF

EDFs vision is that persons with disabilities in Europe are fully included in society on an equal basis with others and that their human rights, outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), are fully respected, protected and fulfilled. The principles of the CRPD are central to this vision, and they inform our advocacy objectives and our way of working.

The mission of EDF is to ensure persons with disabilities full **inclusion in society and access to their human rights** through their active involvement in policy development and implementation and monitoring of the CRPD in Europe.

EDF is committed to a strong and inclusive European Union, where the right to live, travel, work, study, vote or be elected is guaranteed to all citizens in the Union, and that women, men and children with disabilities enjoy these rights on an equal basis with others.

EDF believes that the EU is a means to promote rights and well being of all people in every member state, and refugees and migrants arriving on its shores. A diverse, equality driven European Union which enables the full social and political participation of all its people, actively removing the barriers faced by marginalised and discriminated people of all ages will be a thriving and stable society.

EDF is convinced that the EU can also play a key role in promoting human rights in the European region and globally.

EDF is also convinced that acting collectively, EDF, and its members and partners can fight together for a strong social and human rights based Europe, where democratic active civil participation is continuously practiced and improved. -The European Union institutions themselves, and the European Disability Forum should embody human rights principles of participation, non-discrimination and ownership in the way that we they work.

EDF is committed to practising diversity and ensuring, within its own work, no one is left behind. All persons with disabilities should be free to make their own choices and to have the same possibilities in their life as the rest of their society their fellow citizens.

In particular EDF is committed to ensure the voices of the most marginalised persons with disabilities are heard and are central to work-; women and children with disabilities, people with intellectual or psychosocial disability, people in need of high level support. The role of youth with disabilities in EDF will be promoted to ensure we influence EU youth policy, but also to nurture the future of the disability movement.

Commentaire [A6]:

Bonne définition
Good definition

Commentaire [A7]:

Sujet = institutions
EU et EDF
Subject = EU institutions & EDF

Mis en forme : Barré



Outlook 2017-2021

Before outlining the strategic objectives of EDFs work during the four year period it is important to look at the European context and events which will take place during this time. They will be adapted and developed into an annual work-plan on a year by year basis, based on the priorities of the disability movement, and the EU political and policy agenda.

However, it is important to note matters which are important during this four year period:

- EDF 20th anniversary (2017)
- The European Parliament elections will take place in 2019, and this will also be followed by a new Commission
- The next report of the EU to the CRPD committee in 2021 (and many European country reviews in the meantime), and the implementation of the 2015 recommendations
- The first steps of implementation of the Sustainable Development agenda, both internally and externally to the EU with its stated focus on 'leaving no-one behind'
- Next EU programming period (budget) 2021-2027
- The end of the current European Disability Strategy (2020) and the CRPD Committee's recommendation calling for a new CRPD Strategy across all EU institutions
- The EU will mark 10 years of the CRPD coming into force in 2021 (, and is proposing a 2nd European Year of Persons with Disabilities)
- Adoption and subsequent implementation of important legislative proposals such as the European Accessibility Act
- Implementation of important existing EU legislation: the Web Directive, Passengers' rights legislation, the Regulation on rail accessibility (TSI-PRM), the Structural Funds regulation, the public procurement directive, the Employment Equality Directive
- [Le concept de Pilier social européen : quel en sera la teneur juridique et la portée politique ? The European Social Pillar : what will be it's legal value and it's political significance](#)

This gives us an indication of issues we must incorporate in all our work. Our overarching goal -during this four year period is to create a new framework for the rights of persons with disabilities at the EU.

We aim for a comprehensive disability rights strategy 2017-2021, which will be implemented via an inter-institutional agreement at the EU level. 2021 should be named as the Second European Year for the rights of persons with disabilities, and the EU should launch the new comprehensive disability rights strategy 2020 -2030 which is aligned to the endpoint of the Global Sustainable Development Agenda.

Policy priorities



EDF policy work will focus on the following key topics in this period:

- ❖ Human rights- CRPD, with a special attention to gender equality and women's rights, rights of youth, intersectional discrimination and refugees and migrants with disabilities
- ❖ Social and employment policy: European social policies, European structural funds, de-institutionalisation/ independent living
- ❖ Accessibility and freedom of movement: adoption of the EAA, and its implementation, implementation and monitoring of the Web Directive, adoption and implementation of relevant pieces of transport and passengers' rights legislation, adoption and implementation of relevant pieces of ICT legislation, the European Disability Card
- ❖ International cooperation- ensuring inclusive follow-up on international commitments- the Sustainable Development Agenda, the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Charter for Inclusive Humanitarian Action
- ❖ Political participation; promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the European parliament elections and new Commission
- ❖ The EU budget 2021-2027

Commentaire [A8]: OK, c'est bien présent

Due to the Commissions refit process, which involves revising existing legislation it is important that this is monitored so reviews do not reduce the strength of already existing legislation. There will be an increased focus on joint actions with EDFs partners and members, and specific capacity building for and between members on all key topics.

There are a range of regular events and dialogues at the EU level, which EDF cooperates in- these will continue to be central to our engagement and include the Access City Awards, the CRPD work Forum, the CRPD high level group, the European Days of Persons with disabilities. EDF's long standing commitment to provide a secretariat to the Disability Intergroup of the Parliament, and EDF's participation in EP structures where we have observer status, such as the CRPD Network, will also remain as a core engagement for EDF during this period.

Objectives

- **Influencing the EU and member states et peut-être aussi des acteurs privés à définir**

The European Union, including its key institutions, establishes a comprehensive process for ensuring the CRPD is fully promoted, implemented and monitored. Accessibility and social inclusion are promoted through all relevant existing and upcoming EU legislation.

- ❖ There is annual progress demonstrated on the recommendations from the CRPD committee in all EU institutions

Commentaire [A9]:

Ne pourrait-on ajouter « influencer les acteurs privés »
Le volet droits de l'Homme pour lui-même n'est pas porteur dans le monde économique qui est le nôtre ; nous n'avons rien à gagner d'opposer DH et économie mais tout à gagner de tenter d'en faire des partenaires
L'exemple de l'AAward remis à Chester est parlant : rendre l'environnement accessible à tous est une condition de relance économique.
Le développement des nouvelles technologies est aussi une opportunité pour répondre à de nouveaux besoins, en ce compris pour les PH
Consider adding « influencing actors from the private sector »

Mis en forme : Français (Belgique)



- ❖ There is a structured meaningful dialogue with the disability movement and all key European Institutions and at all levels
- ❖ EU institutions have dynamic structures for the implementation of the CRPD (including internally) and actively involve EDF in these structures in respect of CRPD article 4.3
- ❖ There is effective monitoring and enforcement of existing EU policies and legislation at national level, with meaningful involvement of DPOs
- ❖ When developing new or revised EU legislation, the rights of persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed and reference to the CRPD should be made in all key policy areas
- ❖ New legislative and policy initiatives are undertaken to fully implement the CRPD and to address the most pressing concerns of persons with disabilities in the EU.
- ❖ All EU institutions have well resourced CRPD focal points and an inter-institutional coordination mechanism supports their mutual efforts to implement the CRPD, with the meaningful involvement of the Disability movement
- ❖ EDF members are fully supported in their promotion and monitoring of the CRPD
- ❖ EDF publishes a series of European Human rights reports which focusses on our priority policy areas

➤ Strengthening the disability movement

There is a strong, sustainable and diverse disability movement in the EU/ Europe with the capacity to effectively influence the EU and member states.

During this period, EDF will energetically engage with its members in all work at the EU level, and improve our efforts to build capacity of EDF and its members. This will be done in part by revising our committees and working group structures to maximise the involvement of a diverse range of members, and by ~~investment~~ investing more time and resources in capacity building activities, to create a sense of shared vision, belonging, cooperation, mutual learning and ownership within the network. Each annual work-plan will include action to:

- ❖ Build capacity of governing body members, committees, and EDF members on selected priority topics
- ❖ Connect members with each other using existing and new accessible communication channels
- ❖ Build the capacity and effectiveness of EDFs youth committee and women's committee
- ❖ Create committees for Social Policy and Inclusion, and Human Rights and Non-Discrimination within the EDF Board
- ❖ Find mechanisms to promote greater diversity within EDF and build capacity of members to address intersectional and multiple discrimination

Commentaire [A10]: OK = demande du BDF
OK, it was one of the expectations of the BDF



- ❖ Enhance transnational cooperation amongst DPOs, and between DPOs and other key partners

➤ External Communication

During the strategy period EDF will strengthen its external communication in a number of dimensions. EDF will:

- ❖ Present a clear vision for an inclusive diverse social Europe in its external communication.
- ❖ Develop a communication strategy, which includes new approaches to reach the media
- ❖ Provide information to persons with disabilities about their rights derived from the CRPD and from European laws and Policies.
- ❖ Use innovative external communication to influence policy makers and partners on our policy and political priorities
- ❖ Increase the awareness of the general public on disability and human rights
- ❖ Attempt to convince the public of the obligations and the benefits of an inclusive diverse accessible society
- ❖ Provide communication tools to its members to enable their engagement in key strategies

➤ Promoting inclusive rights based international cooperation

EDF has played a strong role historically in the adoption of the CRPD, and through our engagement with IDA in the adoption of the disability inclusive aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In our globally connected world, where new international frameworks are disability-inclusive on paper, there are more opportunities for EDF to promote the CRPD through international cooperation, strengthening the implementation of the CRPD in Europe, and around the world. There are also opportunities to share the learning of the disability movement in Europe with sister DPO networks around the world.

In this four year period EDF will focus on

- ❖ Ensuring the European Union and its member states incorporate rights of persons with disabilities in its approach to the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#))

Commentaire [A11]: Il faut absolument et rapidement mettre du contenu dans cette idée : sensibiliser les médias est une priorité, il faut identifier d'autres acteurs économiques

Commentaire [A12]:
C'est effectivement une formulation très vague. Donc, demander à l'EDF de définir qui sont ces partenaires clé. Au minimum, demander une liste non exhaustive (« tels que... »)
« such as... »



- ❖ Cooperating with the regional DPO networks of Africa, ASEAN, Pacific, Latin American and Arab regions to strengthen their work and promote the CRPD and SDGs at the regional and international level
- ❖ Contributing to the work of the International Disability Alliance to promote the CRPD within the UN system

There are opportunities to promote disability inclusive disaster risk reduction through the Sendai Framework for action, and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Humanitarian action. EDF will remain alert for opportunities for EDF to engage further in both of these areas.

Mis en forme : Police : Calibri

Measuring results

In our changing environment it is critical that there is a continuous review of our priorities and working methods to ensure that our work is as targeted and as effective as possible. EDF will incorporate monitoring and evaluation as a continuous part of ~~our~~its work.

- Each governing body meeting, and each conference will contain an element of evaluation which will then be turned into actions for improvements for next time
- An external evaluator will be recruited to evaluate the effectiveness of EDFs strategy and work-plan on a biannual basis. Results will be shared with EDF Board and membership.
- EDF will engage in new methods of feedback and evaluation aiming to continuously improve our work and increase our public accountability and our accountability towards and members and persons with disabilities

Resources

The EDF mission, its objectives and implementation require specific resources: human resources, financial resources, the engagement of our members including their technical expertise and their political influence.

a. Human Resources

The Secretariat of the EDF currently operates with 10 full time staff members (1 Director, 5 policy officers sharing the various policy areas, 2 officers dealing respectively with Internal and external communication, 1 office and admin officer and 1 finance and Human resources Officer. The Secretariat also includes non permanent staff generally recruited for the duration of a project; in these cases, the work is totally dedicated to the implementation of the project.

There are some shortcomings in the present HR structure and resources which should be addressed during this period. We will streamline the line management in the secretariat, and build the skills of the secretariat in tasks related to building capacity of members and strategic communication.



b. Financial resources for core operations

This is a crucial element needed to achieve all the EDF's goals. Since its creation, EDF benefitted from ongoing support to its core activities by the EC- with 20% co financing from EDF other sources. This has provided a strong financial basis for our work for 20 years. It also involves strict institutional rules and procedures, regular competitive calls for proposals and 20% co financing. The 20% co-financing has been achieved through our membership- both in the diligent payment of membership fees, and also in the co-organisation of events including EDF governing body meetings. EDF also benefits from support from ONCE annually and from other donors on a project basis.

Given the unpredictable European environment, EDF needs to be prepared to be able to seek other sources of funding. During this period EDF will seek cooperation with a range of funding partners to expand ~~our~~ its income in the priorities outlined in this strategy. EDF will ensure that in all cases where new donors are being approached this is done with the full approval of the EDF executive committee and in accordance with a "code of conduct". This code of conduct has to be approved beforehand in AGA.

Commentaire [A13]: Pour autant que cela se fait dans la philosophie développée dans commentaires 1

Commentaire [A14]:
Proposition : ajouter la notion de « code de conduite à définir préalablement en AGA

Furthermore, EDF will work to share knowledge amongst EDF members to enhance all member skills and knowledge on how to mobilise resources.

c. Project based funding

Due to the difficulties in co financing EC projects, additional EC funded project have been avoided in 2015 and 2016. However, in the coming four years EDF will target involvement in projects which allow us to expand our work in line with the direction of this strategy.

Commentaire [A15]:
Première fois que j'apprends cela...

Priority will be given to projects which enable us to work on women and youth with disabilities, with partners in the European region, and other regional DPOs, as well as specific projects which allow us to work on capacity building and transnational exchange in Europe.

New times, and new ways of working

During the last 20 years EDF has campaigned very successfully for EU laws and regulations ~~to~~ inclusive to persons with disabilities. Successes of the past are not guaranteed for the future. It is clear that the political will within the EU for truly joint EU initiatives is presently low, and not due to increase in this period.

EDF needs to therefore work, not only to promote the CRPD at the EU level, but to work with all like minded, and new partners to promote a diverse human rights based social Europe.

EDF needs to be a strong partner on human rights and social rights in Europe and need to build bridges with strong actors at the EU level to achieve this.

It will also be important to work simultaneously at the EU and with our members at the National level on European issues. New ways of working at the EU will be developed to enhance our cooperation with our partners in all that we do- this will be done in our events, our communication, our capacity building and our policy work. The voice of the disability

Commentaire [A16]: ??? À clarifier

Commentaire [A17]: A clarifier
Consider clarifying ???



movement will be strong if it is truly diverse, and interconnected, and if our main partners and strong EU stakeholders are also promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.