Pour moi, ok ; qu’en pense Pierre ?

Gisèle Marlière

Présidente ASPH

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Le 20 févr. 2019 à 18:13, Duchenne Véronique <[Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be](mailto:Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be)> a écrit :

2 points d’attention :

* HLG le 13 mai (réunion des administratifs)
* Work Forum le 14 mai (avec les conseils nationaux ; voir en BDF qui ira)

L’EDF explique dans ce Disability Voice quel est le retentissement des budgets européens.  L’EDF constate que certaines améliorations pourraient être apportées au prochain budget 2021-2027 (actuellement en négociation) pour renforcer l’inclusion dans les politiques du handicap et suggère aux différents CN de sensibiliser leur représentation permanente par le biais de [this letter](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=87629ae5da&e=9a41aa8e39)

* Je propose que le BDF envoie ce courrier. Avec copie au mécanisme de coordination, Cabinet Peeters et Premier
* Est-ce bon pour vous ? je mets le point en prochain CA mais si bon pour vous on n’attend pas le CA pour l’envoi

*Véronique*

**De :** André Félix - European Disability Forum <[andre.felix@edf-feph.org](mailto:andre.felix@edf-feph.org)>   
**Envoyé :** mercredi 20 février 2019 16:36  
**À :** Duchenne Véronique <[Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be](mailto:Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be)>  
**Objet :** Disability Voice #2 - An EU Budget that leaves noone behind

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While it seems far in the future, the discussions on how to spend 1.135 billion euros are going on at this very moment in the EU Institutions and Member States.  The institutions are deciding the main rules on how EU money is spent after 2021.  This set of rules, a 7-year plan, is called the Multiannual Financial Framework. It encompasses all EU areas of actions, including the famous ERASMUS+, the European Social Fund and many more.  EU Funding is essential to assure the inclusion of persons with disabilities. It funds many social projects and many disability organisations depend on it, either directly or through the EU funding that EU Member States add to their budgets to promote inclusion.   In this newsletter, we will focus on the regulations related to the Cohesion Policy, which is the main source of EU investment in social inclusion, services and accessible infrastructure. We will explain what we are advocating for, and show examples on how the funding is supporting persons with disabilities in Europe today.  As usual in Disability Voice, you will also find our latest news and events.  Enjoy!   * [How European Funds help persons with disabilities](#mctoc1) * [Why is EU funding important to us?](#mctoc2) * [How the EU budget works](#mctoc3) * [The main programmes in the Cohesion Policy](#mctoc4) * [Common Provisions Regulation](#mctoc5) * [ERASMUS +](#mctoc6) * [The European Social Fund +](#mctoc7) * [European Regional Development Fund](#mctoc8) * [MEP Marek Plura on the EU budget](#mctoc9) * [We are looking for an external evaluator](#mctoc10) * [Save-the-date](#mctoc11) * [News](#mctoc12) | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | How European Funds help persons with disabilities | | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Selina's training experience through "Youth Coaching" | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Selina Šisic | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | My name is Selina Šisic and I am 16 years old. I live in Wels, a city in Upper Austria. I’ve studied in a school in Wels (it was the “Neue Mittelschule Wels 6”) and then I was in an agricultural college for another year. At my school in Wels there was a counseling offer called “Youth Coaching” (“Jugendcoaching”). Already at school I knew that I would like to work in an office.  The “Youth Coaching”, which is co-financed by the EU (European Social Fund +), helped me to find out the next steps concerning my job. Because of the Youth Coaching, I found out that I’d like to do a vocational training as an office worker. Then my youth coach informed a coach from another project called “Working Assistance for Youth” (“Arbeitsassistenz für Jugendliche”) about my wish. There, my working assistant helped me to prepare application documents and to find companies which offer vocational training.  Since 1st of October 2018, I am attending a vocational training as an office worker at the “Volkshilfe Arbeitswelt”. The vocational training is adapated, because of my disability (Editor's note: Selina is a wheelchair user). Usually the vocational training lasts 3,5 year, but I can do it in 4,5 years and I get a special support for my schooling during this time (private tutoring). In my vocational training I have a coach from the “vocational training assistance” (“Berufsausbildungsassistenz”). In the office I get support from a personal assistant.  I like my job very much and I feel very well in my team.  I can rely on my colleagues. To attend this vocational training is very important for me and my life. I am happy, that I have got this opportunity. | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | French-Spanish cooperation on right to vote for persons with intellectual disabilities | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Adapei des Hautes Pyrénées](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=75cdbe213c&e=9a41aa8e39), an organisation for persons with disabilities in the south of France, near the border with Spain, cooperates with Spanish organisations on a project about participation and citizenship of persons with intellectual disabilities.The project is funded by the [EU programme INTERREG](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=cf960605d1&e=9a41aa8e39).   The project is currently preparing a video to raise awareness on the European Elections. Below, the testimonial of Nicolas, who works on the video.  "My name is Nicolas, I am 20 years old.  Every Thursday I am participating in the group with our friends, the IUT (University Technical Institute) students. Together we go and meet people to interview them on citizenship.  I have never voted for the president or for your Europe. Now I would like to do it.  We realise that people do not really know what it means to be a citizen, or what Europe is.  When we ask them about the date of the European elections, they don’t know the answer.  Next week we’ll start filming a fake voting session. We’ll do it with the help of the municipality.  I’m happy to be part of this group. I meet with my friends and I learn new things.  I’m glad that our videos will be shared, and to support persons who do not know how to vote." | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Why is EU funding important to us? | | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/c8d3e63f-e44c-4227-844d-b576cc7f83d0.jpg | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Imagine the overall Multiannual Financial Framework (EU Budget) proposal as a lump of clay. By making small changes, we can adaptiand mould it into something that will really support persons with disabilities.  The upcoming decisions affect countries and people in very real ways. It has a direct impact on programmes that make the difference in the lives of average citizens.  What the EU decides to include in the budget, (and how it allocates that money), reflects the priorities of the EU and its decision makers. If you want the EU to prioritise persons with disabilities, caring about the EU Budget is crucial. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | How the EU budget works As said above, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is a 7-year plan on how the EU will get and spend its money. Every EU country contributes to a general pool of money. For the next MFF the contribution will be around 1.1% of each country’s Gross Domestic Product.  The EU is now trying to decide on how EU money will be spent from 2021 to 2027. The priorities, and how much money is given to each priority, are proposed by the European Commission. It then has to be decided on by the European Parliament and by the Council of the European Union.  The Council of the European Union is made up of representatives from each EU Country, and they must agree unanimously on the rules for them to be adopted. The European Parliament only needs to approve by majority.  However, the Parliament and the Council don’t just say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to the proposal; they also get to suggest changes. These are called ‘amendments’.  **This is where EDF is trying to make its mark**.  We want to help the Parliament and the Council make changes to the rules so that the EU spends its money in a way that better serves the interests of persons with disabilities. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ****The main programmes in the Cohesion Policy**** | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We are taking several actions to ensure that the all the programmes of the EU Budget fully benefit persons with disabilities.  Below you can read more about the 4 of the programmes that we try to influence. We work in many others, including programmes that are aimed at EU's external action and humanitarian support to non-EU countries. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Common Provisions Regulation The Common Provisions Regulation is a piece of over-arching legislation that applies to various EU funding programmes, including the European Social Fund + and the European Regional Development Fund (more on those below).  It outlines rules that must be followed for the use of funds. It also outlines the criteria by which projects must adhere to be eligible for EU funding.   What is EDF doing on the Common Provisions Regulations? EDF's first aim concerns the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Since the EU and all of its members have now ratified the Convention, the regulation should reference that potential projects need to adhere to it.  Furthermore, we believe no funding should be invested in inaccessible infrastructure, products or services, and therefore the accessibility provisions should be strengthened in the Common Provisions Regulation.    Of key importance to EDF will be a particular provision on non-discrimination, and the explicit mention of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the regulation. Concrete actions  * EDF's advocacy toward the European Parliament resulted in the approval of [disability-friendly position towards the Common Provisions Regulation](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=08baa884c4&e=9a41aa8e39). * We adopted a [R](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=b5bea3e260&e=9a41aa8e39)[esolution on the European Cohesion Policy post-2020](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=54f10f3f52&e=9a41aa8e39)at EDF Annual General Assembly 2018 (PDF). * We defined our position and proposed amendments to the European Commission’s proposed text. * We met with key Members of the European Parliament  (such as MEP Andrey Novacov, MEP Constanze Krehl, MEP Ruža Tomašić, MEP Iskra Mihaïlova, MEP Monika Vana) to persuade them to table the amendments we proposed and to vote for them to be adopted. * We met, and continue to meet, representatives from different EU Member States to persuade them to take a position that will reduce the likelihood of persons with disabilities being excluded or discriminated against in the use of EU funds. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ERASMUS +   ERASMUS + is the most well-known EU Funding programme. It was established to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.  The most famous part of the programme supports more than 2 million university students when studying a semester or year abroad, in universities in other EU countries.  But the programme extends beyond that. It supports short term exchanges for education staff, high school students and young people in non-academic contexts. It funds associations, joint master degrees programmes, and helps establish learning networks with members in different countries.  What is EDF doing on the ERASMUS +? We want to make sure that persons with disabilities have equal accesss to ERASMUS +. This includes assuring that reasonable accomodation is provided to persons who participate in the programme (for example, by covering extra costs students have and ensuring accessible accomodation), that the online tools used in the programme are accessible for persons with disabilities.   We want to ensure that organisations and institutions do not deny places for persons with disabilities due to their disability (for example, by alleging that the installations are not step-free, or that it's too expensive to provide reasonable accommodation).      We are also working to encourage National Agencies (the organisations that allocate ERASMUS+ funds in each country) to support and select projects where the main actors are people with fewer opportunities. Concrete actions  * We launched a survey on [access to youth mobility by persons with disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=4867b63d65&e=9a41aa8e39). You are welcome to fill out. * We defined our position and proposed amendments to the European Commission’s proposed text. * We are part of the Inclusive Mobility Alliance, a group of organisations that launched [recommendations for a more inclusive ERASMUS+](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=71cdf69edb&e=9a41aa8e39). * We are part of the Erasmus Coalition, a group of organisations (such as the European Youth Forum, Long Life learning Platform, Erasmus Students Network) who advocate for a better ERASMUS+. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The European Social Fund +   The Social Fund Plus is essentially funding that will go toward different EU Member States to promote principles of social inclusion, provide a helping hand to youth, foster social inclusion and innovation, and will ultimately help further the integration of marginalised persons in the EU.  The Social Fund Plus will directly impact funding that goes toward programmes dedicated to supporting persons with disabilities in their respective member states! What is EDF doing on the European Social Fund +? We want to make sure that persons   programme adheres to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).  We advocate towards explicit inclusion of persons with disabilities in all actions in the Social Fund Plus. This means that we should be specifically mentioned in the text, not in a way that we are lumped together with other groups (such as "fully inclusive".)  We also advocate that funds should only be invested in accessible infrastructure, products or services. Concrete actions  * EDF's advocacy toward the European Parliament resulted in the approval of a [l](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=78a9350611&e=9a41aa8e39)[argely disability-friendly report on European Social Fund +](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=f50fec789c&e=9a41aa8e39) * In July 2018, we published our [first assessment and recommendations to the **European Social Fund Plus** proposal](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=7189bf664a&e=9a41aa8e39). * We contributed to [First reactions to the proposed regulations for the European Social Fund+](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=78dfc7f2aa&e=9a41aa8e39) by the the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care; * We defined our position and proposed amendments to the European Commission’s proposed text. * We met with key Members of the European Parliament (MEP Verónica Lope Fontagne,  MEP Jasenko Selimović, MEP Gabriele Zimmer) to persuade them to table the amendments we proposed and to vote for them to be adopted. * We met, and continue to meet, representatives from different EU Member States to persuade them to take a position that will reduce the likelihood of persons with disabilities being excluded or discriminated against in the use of EU funds. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | European Regional Development Fund   The European Regional Development Fund invests in infrastructure, innovation and research, the digital agenda, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the low-carbon economy. The aim is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.   What is EDF doing on the Regional Development Fund? We again advocate for compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in all funding through this programme.  Particularly important in the Regional Development Fund is ensuring that all infrastructure projects (transportation, housing, etc.) are accessible. We also campaign for the **transition away from institutionalisation into community-based care, which falls under this fund.** Concrete actions  * In July 2018, we published our [first assessment and recommendations to the **European Regional Development Fund** proposal](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=854b1a8fd3&e=9a41aa8e39). * We defined our position and proposed amendments to the European Commission’s proposed text. * We met with key Members of the European Parliament (MEP Andrea Cozzolino, MEP Iskra Mihaïlova) to persuade them to table the amendments we proposed and to vote for them to be adopted. * We met, and continue to meet, representatives from different EU Member States to persuade them to take a position that will reduce the likelihood of persons with disabilities being excluded or discriminated against in the use of EU funds. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | EDF Budget hub   Besides action on specific EU Funds, we also prepare overall recommendations and join forces with other organisations to present an even stronger voice. In the **Budget page,** you can find:   * [An in-depth explanation of the EU Budget](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=5d7bd700b2&e=9a41aa8e39) * [The principles that all EU Funding should follow](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=af274859e3&e=9a41aa8e39) (in our opinion) * [All our actions on the EU Budget](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ab7cc84969&e=9a41aa8e39)   Visit the [EU Budget Post-2020 - A budget that should leave noone behind](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=8179f6fb5f&e=9a41aa8e39) page. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | How can you help? We are now focusing our efforts in influencing the Council. The negotiations in the Council are done by the so-called Permanent Representations to the EU ("embassies" of EU Member States to the EU).  You can help by translating and adapting [this letter](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=87629ae5da&e=9a41aa8e39) and emailing it to the [Permanent Representation of your country.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ca79a8439a&e=9a41aa8e39)   [Download the letter here](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=537626ed84&e=9a41aa8e39)  [Find the contact of your permanent representation here](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=9c726d61af&e=9a41aa8e39)  If you require assistance in locating the contact details for the Permanent Representation of your country, please feel free to contact Haydn Hammersley at [haydn.hammersley@edf-feph.org](mailto:haydn.hammersley@edf-feph.org). | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Some good news | | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Euro notes |  |  | | --- | | [European Parliament approves a largely disability-friendly European Social Fund +](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=c7c7b15246&e=9a41aa8e39) The European Parliament  recently announced their position on on the European Social Fund Plus. It is not perfect: it still leaves the window open for Member States to potentially present small group homes, financed by the European Social Fund Plus, as a solution for deinstitutionalisation.  However many of our amendments were taken into consideration, and its a significant improvement from the initial proposal. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/5dc93968-1372-4f6b-b442-fc64810fd2dc.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [European Parliament approves disability-friendly Structural Funds spending](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=bd36cf4881&e=9a41aa8e39) On Wednesday 13 February, the European Parliament adopted its position on the Common Provision Regulation.  The Parliament’s position takes into account many of EDF’s suggested amendments, particularly with regards to the need for EU-funded actions to be accessible to persons with disabilities, non-discrimination against persons with disabilities and the transition from institutional care to community-based services. | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | MEP Marek Plura on the EU budget  "Direct support for persons with disabilities in Poland comes from the European Social Fund." Marek Plura  Polish citizens with disabilities (numbering almost 5 million, or 12% of the entire population) have been able to benefit from European structural funds for the last 15 years. The years 2007-13 alone saw the creation of 750 social cooperatives and numerous support and integration centres, while 360 thousand persons with disabilities received direct support through the Human Capital operational programme.  Poland is following the Guidelines on non-discrimination and equal opportunities, among others within the context of EU funds for the years 2014-2020. One of the objectives is to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in projects, and to benefit from the products and services created during their implementation.  Direct support for persons with disabilities in Poland comes from the European Social Fund. It focuses on skills development, trainings, as well as searching and maintaining employment. It is also possible for persons with disabilities to obtain subsidies for personal assistants within the framework of this fund.  At the same time, the accessibility of public facilities, schools and cultural centres has improved thanks to infrastructural investments supported by European funding. This improves access to education and employment, and in broader terms allows persons of disabilities to make full use of their rights. It is worth noting that the cumulation and strategic targeting of European, national, regional and local funds is necessary in order to effectively leverage such support. | | | |      |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We are looking for an external evaluator Applications are welcome for consultants to carry out an external evaluation of the European Disability Forum’s work.  Deadline for applications: **11th March** [More information and terms of reference](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=138be394f2&e=9a41aa8e39) | | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ****Save-the-date**** | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **10 - 15 March, Tirana, Albania:** European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities  [‘Building an Inclusive School for all’ training course](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=97770d5c40&e=9a41aa8e39)  **18 March, Brussels:** Disability Intergroup event [EU Disability Parking Card](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=078b056d01&e=9a41aa8e39)  **21- 22 March, Brussels**: European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities [Ageing and Disability Conference](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=9e3c2e5c6f&e=9a41aa8e39)   **23 - 24 March, Bucharest:** European Disability Forum Board meeting, including Your Rights in the EU workshop for Romanian participants and European Conference on Employment of Youth with Disabilities   **25 March, Brussels:** European Network of Independent Living: ["The Present and the Future of Personal Assistance in Europe"](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=2e407854e5&e=9a41aa8e39)  **25 - 26 March, Trier, Germany:** Academy of European Law: Seminar for legal practitioners - [Employment and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=fe82c63628&e=9a41aa8e39)  **25 - 30 March, Tallin, Estonia:** [European Guide Dog Federation Conference](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=9b1feca99f&e=9a41aa8e39)  **May**  **6 - 7 May**, **Trier, Germany**: Academy of European Law: Seminar for national civil servants and staff of NGOs, DPOs and equality bodies - [Persons with Disabilities: Equal Participation in Society and Measures to Improve Access.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=36a2f537d8&e=9a41aa8e39) The seminar will be live-streamed  **13 May, Brussels:** Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU and its Member States  **14 May, Brussels:** European Union High Level Group on Disability  **16-17 May, Bucharest**, European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities: ‘[Investing in Social Services, Investing in People’](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=796e590c22&e=9a41aa8e39)  **23 - 25 May, Barcelona**: [European Association for Mental Health in Intellectual Disability](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=d066d1acd0&e=9a41aa8e39): [12th International Congress](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=514296f9b0&e=9a41aa8e39)    **1 - 2 June, Brussels**: European Disability Forum Annual General Assembly  **5 - 7 June, Vilnius, Lithuania**: Inclusion Europe event on [Europe in Action](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=3d1ca32a72&e=9a41aa8e39)- making decisions, living independently.  **5 - 7 June, Trier, Germany:** Academy of European Law: [seminar for members of the judiciary - Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ac961d28aa&e=9a41aa8e39)  **11 - 13 June, New York**: The 12th Session of the conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities    **13 - 15 September, Nice, France:** [Autism-Europe’s 12th International Congress 2019](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=d990a9838e&e=9a41aa8e39)   **19-  20 September, Trier, Germany**: Seminar for members of the judiciary- [Applying EU Anti-Discrimination Law](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=bd59f9de0e&e=9a41aa8e39)  **18 - 20 September, Graz, Austria:** Inclusion Europe event on [Hear our Voices](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=6cbb1ed048&e=9a41aa8e39)    **1 - 3 October, Brussels**: 9th European Network of Independent Living [Freedom Drive](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=1df7db47a8&e=9a41aa8e39)  **3 - 4 October, Helsinki**: European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities Conference: [‘Developing a Quality Workforce in Disability Services: emerging needs and opportunities’](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ee5c2735ec&e=9a41aa8e39)  **24 - 25 October, Trier, Germany**: Seminar for legal practitioners - [Applying EU Anti-Discrimination Law](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=98fd15fcda&e=9a41aa8e39)  **8 - 10 November:** European Disability Forum Board meeting  **13 - 15 November, Sofia, Bulgaria:** Seminar for members of the judiciary -[Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=b5246800f2&e=9a41aa8e39), Bulgarian/English    **28 - 29 November, Brussels:** The European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD) | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | News | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Map with colour code showing Denmark and Netherland in green, meaning their websites have good accessibility and all other countries in yellow, meaning they have poor accessibility, |  |  | | --- | | [European Parliament “worst in class” on digital accessibility](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=df20e165f5&e=9a41aa8e39) The low score of the European Parliament, a barely passing grade of 55.8 out of 100, was revealed in the new report “[Democracy, Digital Accessibility and the European Union](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=a6aed28d0a&e=9a41aa8e39)”, launched by the European Disability Forum and Siteimprove.  The report analysed the accessibility of the official website of the parliaments of the 28 Member States and included the European Parliament website. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/9e41bead-6007-4414-9591-ae839c523548.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [Applications are open for Early Stage Researcher for the Disability Advocacy Research in Europe (DARE)](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=047c2b6c36&e=9a41aa8e39) Applications are now invited for Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in a new Marie Curie Network focused on the rights of persons with disabilities. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/1435def9-4355-4609-b11f-ea057167c337.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [EU Disability Card should be expanded to all Member States](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=4e9cff0484&e=9a41aa8e39) These are the main conclusions of the EDF report on the European Disability Card.The report also analysed the main benefits and drawbacks of the Card and summarised its usage in each participating Member State. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/ad4e1886-ed86-47b9-b67e-dc773177ff9c.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [European Disability movement demands the right to vote in 2019](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=64b65d7c6b&e=9a41aa8e39) Petition launched today by the European Disability Forum calls for action from EU Governments. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/ea4f19ad-b1e6-4f90-9e45-d52a1930b612.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [Disability Intergroup: EU Elections key to advance voting rights of persons with disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=924c8d127f&e=9a41aa8e39) On the 30 January, disability advocates, politicians, and policymakers from several institutions discussed the challenges to political participation of persons with disabilities, during a seminar in the European Parliament. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Mindaugas Krauladis, a wheelchair user, in a sightseeing platform overlooking forest |  |  | | --- | | [Voters of Europe: Mindaugas Krauladis from Lithuania](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=53780c60ec&e=9a41aa8e39)  Mindaugas Krauladis shares how steps in public schools force him to vote in advance. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Loredana Dicsi |  |  | | --- | | [Voter of Europe - Loredana Dicsi: "I was never able to vote alone"](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=8a098eb525&e=9a41aa8e39) Loredana shares how blind and partially sighted persons are not able to vote alone in many EU countries. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d/images/f882212d-44c3-40f8-842b-0d8d64d9b5a3.jpg |  |  | | --- | | [OPEN CALL: Good practices on access to justice for persons with disabilities](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=93277d1315&e=9a41aa8e39)  The partners of the Just4All project are searching for good practices in the access aims to improve access to justice for persons with disabilities. Deadline 23 February. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Family Picture |  |  | | --- | | [Inclusive Mobility: Only 0.17% ERASMUS students have a disability](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=d6ca2f952d&e=9a41aa8e39) ERASMUS+, the flagship EU programme that promotes education mobility, needs to vastly improve its engagement of persons with disabilities. | | | | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/outline-dark-facebook-48.png](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=7c967e6c25&e=9a41aa8e39) | [Facebook](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=baffca6e7b&e=9a41aa8e39) | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/outline-dark-twitter-48.png](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=3ffa5ca2d6&e=9a41aa8e39) | [Twitter](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=f3df275a8a&e=9a41aa8e39) | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/outline-dark-link-48.png](www.edf-feph.org) | [Website](www.edf-feph.org) | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/outline-dark-forwardtofriend-48.png](mailto:lila.sylviti@edf-feph.org) | [Email](mailto:lila.sylviti@edf-feph.org) | | | | | | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **EDITORIAL NOTE**    Author: **André Félix** Editor: **Catherine Naughton**  Contributors: Haydn Hammersley| MEP Marek Plura| Alejandro Moledo | Marie Denninghaus | Loredana Dicsi | Mher Hakobyan | Lucia D'Arino | Marion Steff | Marine Uldry |  EU logo    Want to change how you receive these emails? 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