

DOC-BOARD-19-11-02

Report on 2019 main achievements

Document for information and discussion

Purpose of this item

This document will give you a short overview of the main achievements of EDF so far in 2019. We will focus on the highlights of each strand of the 2019 Work Plan, which will also be part of our regular reporting exercise.

Actions and recommendations that feed EU policy making

- More than 200 organisations and individuals signed our common [statement on Rail Passengers' Rights](#) aimed at the Council on 16 September 2019
- We published a [position paper on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities](#), on International Women's Day
- We started our involvement in the [DARE project](#) (Disability Advocacy Research in Europe) and welcomed Aoife Price in our team
- We submitted a third-party intervention, together with our Romanian member (CNDR) in the case *M.C. and others v Romania* at the **European Court of Human Rights**
- Creation and publication (coming soon) of a comprehensive **Human Rights Report on poverty and social exclusion** of persons with disabilities in the EU.
- Successful activity around the **Hearings of the Commissioners-designate** in the Parliament: A number of questions proposed by EDF were asked by MEPs to the Commissioner for Equality during the Hearings.

- Continued advocacy around a number of MFF files, particularly on the **Structural Funds** (Regulations for CPR, ERDF and ESF+)
- EDF's President, Mr Vardakastanis, actively took part in the June edition of the [European Development Days](#) (EDD) which is Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development.
- In March 2019, EDF launched its first **international cooperation strategy** called "[EDF in the world: EDF' strategy for international cooperation 2019-2022](#)", and though mobilising extra resources can hire a second staff member.

Bridge building actions between the EU level and national actors

- EDF toolkit on Audio Visual Media Services Directive transposition
- Publication of EDF's final [analysis of the Accessibility Act](#), and webinar introducing the publication
- EDF guide on engagement of DPOs with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and [guide for the CRPD committee](#) on the five most important EU issues for the CRPD review process
- **Workshop on "Your rights in the EU"** at EDF Board meeting in Romania and the [Your Rights in the EU](#) brochure translated into 4 languages
- Support of 9 EDF members in **alternative reporting to the CRPD Committee** in written form and in person in Geneva (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Norway, Slovakia, Spain).
- Support of 2 EDF members in **alternative reporting to the CEDAW Committee** on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in their country (Austria, Belgium).
- Workshop on how to engage in the **European Semester** process for EDF Members during the General Assembly.

Awareness raising and dissemination

- Gatwick Airport won the [4th annual Accessible Airports Award](#)
- We brought a EU dimension to the UN work on disability through participation in CRPD Conference of States Parties ([COSP](#))
- Our **European Elections campaign** gathered over 30.000 signatures for our petition “Elections for All”; over 500 pledges of prospective MEPs”; for the first time the candidates’ debate was interpreted in international sign; creation of guidelines in accessible political campaign.
- We launched and sent 8 issues of [EDF Women’s Voice newsletter](#).
- We created [seven videos](#) as part of our 2019 awareness campaign on inclusive **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as well as [flyers](#) in all EU languages, [Easy-to-Read English](#) and [International Sign](#).

Network organisation and management

- Our conference on “Smart Travel” on 1 June 2019 at the AGA with almost 200 participants
- Meeting of **EDF Women’s Committee**, together with SUSTENTO, in Latvia, in September
- We welcomed 4 new team members in the EDF secretariat
- We had our first staff training on Safeguarding, adopted a revised recruitment policy and procedure
- We had an intensive programme of internal staff training including on issues such as accessibility, Deaf culture, autism, lobbying the Parliament, LGBTI issues.
- We developed an organisational Code of Conduct and Whistleblower Policy.