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Report on 2019 results and achievements

Document for adoption

Purpose

To inform the delegates about the results and achievements of EDF's work in 2019.

Key results of 2019

Highlights of our work in 2019 include the campaign on the European elections and meetings with important decision-makers including the "Spitzenkandidaten", and incoming Commissioners and Vice-Presidents. As a result, our stakeholders were aware of our on-going actions around the elections and we widened our audience by using an on-line petition which reached over 30 000 signatories. We also highlighted those citizens with disabilities that are deprived of their right to vote and are not able to exercise this fundamental EU citizen's right.

Contributing to a better knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Concluding Observations by EU decision-makers, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), and other stakeholders was also a big part of our work in 2019. The concrete results included the publication of the Human Rights Report on Non-Discrimination, numerous meetings of Executive Committee members and Board members with decision-makers and speaking opportunities at public events to raise awareness of the CRPD. We also informed DPOs on how to successfully engage with the CRPD Committee with the publication of a guide. We have therefore also improved the knowledge of the CRPD in mainstream topics.

We enhanced participation of persons with disabilities in EU policy making for example by using more webinars to involve persons with disabilities directly in policy making by providing them with the knowledge and tools to advocate on EU and

national level. Through our communication and publicity for the Commission's consultation on the European Disability Strategy, more than 2500 replies were submitted.

We also reached a total of 664 persons through our regular governing body meetings and events which implies that persons with disabilities are participating more actively in EU policy making and that EU decision-makers are thus receiving the necessary input and feedback from the disability movement. We also enhanced the participation of women and girls with disabilities and knowledge on the intersection between disability and gender with the launch of the "EDF Women's Voice" newsletter and reinforced contact with EU policy makers working on gender equality and women's rights.

Another key result is that we contributed to a greater understanding of the EU processes by persons with disabilities and their organisations. We launched for example our new series of articles published in our weekly newsletter and on the EDF website called "Did EU know...". We received a lot of positive feedback from our membership about this series, proving that it had an impact on persons with disabilities throughout the EU improving their understanding of the EU which also helps to create a European identity among persons with disabilities in the long term.

We also improved the understanding of persons with disabilities of their rights and how to access them by for example holding a workshop in Bucharest, Romania, and by having our brochure "Your Rights in the EU" translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek. As a result, persons with disabilities are better equipped to enforce their rights on national and EU level.

A toolkit on how to better include the rights of refugees and migrants with disabilities for our members and other DPOs contributed to building their skills and competences on this important issue.

Finally, on further policies and provisions including the rights of persons with disabilities at EU level we can report one of our main results of 2019 being the adoption of the European Accessibility Act. Following our advocacy work, we also

managed to include a direct reference to the CRPD in the mission letter of Commissioner Dalli and in the hearings of several Commissioners-designates.

Through our advocacy work we included references on persons with disabilities and the CRPD, amongst others, in reports of the European Parliament on the Multiannual Financial Framework Programs and in some cases in the Council's General Approach. The result for persons with disabilities are an improved legal framework and an extension of their rights on EU level – many products and services that were previously not accessible will now have to be accessible thanks to the European Accessibility Act. Decision-makers have also benefitted by understanding better the importance of accessibility for persons with disabilities.