



EUROPEAN
DISABILITY
FORUM



NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US
REPORT 2012-2013

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p 36 **Easy to read**

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WHO WE ARE

THE VOICE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE

AN INDEPENDENT NGO

The European Disability Forum is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

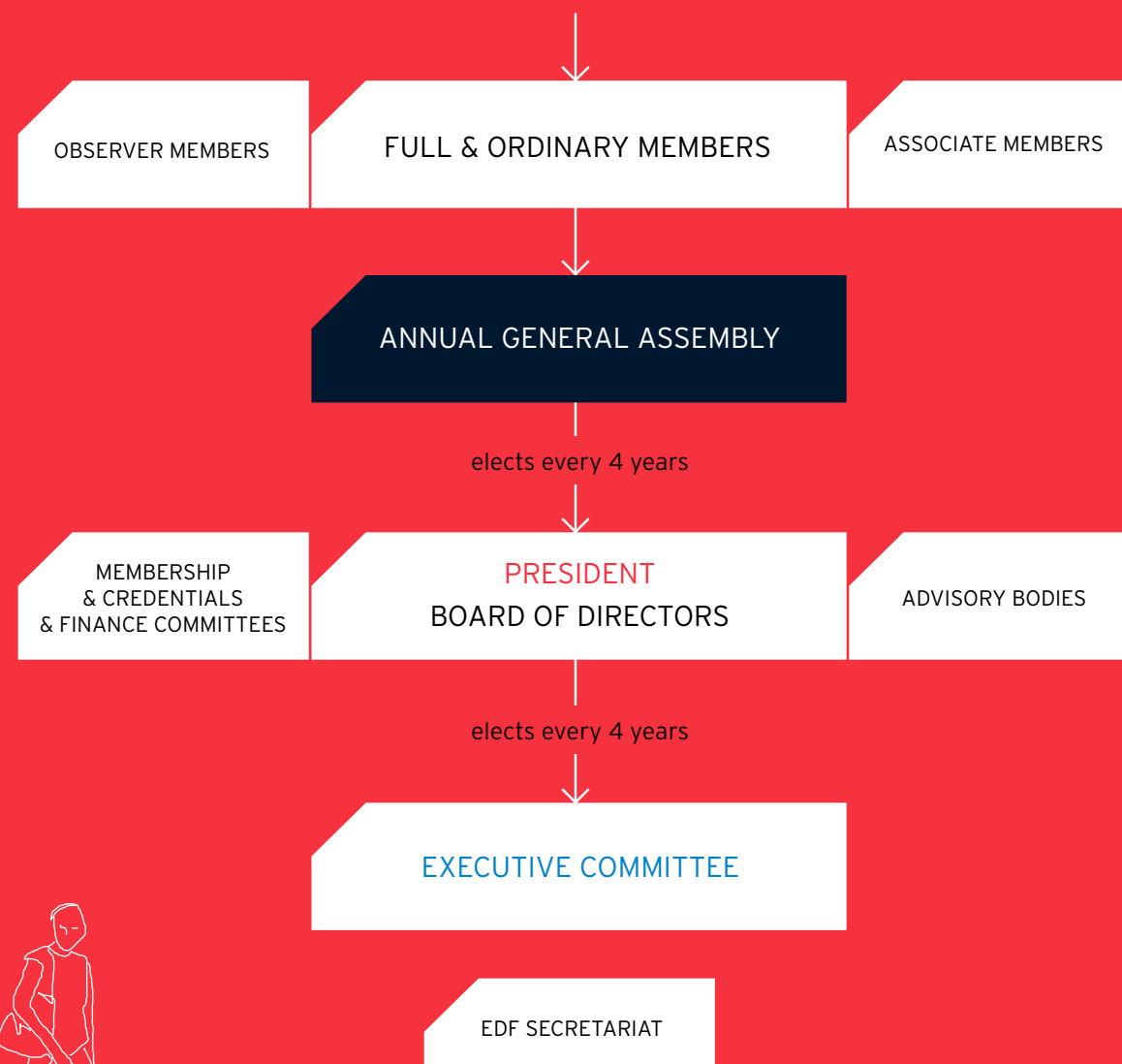
EDF is the only European platform run by persons with disabilities and their families

THE FRONT RUNNERS FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

EDF was created in 1996 by its member organisations to make sure decisions concerning persons with disabilities are taken with and by persons with disabilities

OUR STRUCTURE

EUROPEAN DISABILITY MOVEMENT



EDF MEMBERS: A WIDE NETWORK

54 Full members

29 NATIONAL COUNCILS

- **AUSTRIA** Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (ÖAR)
- **BELGIUM** Belgian Disability Forum (BDF)
- **BULGARIA** National Council of People with Disabilities in Bulgaria (NCDPB)
- **CROATIA** Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in Croatia (SOIH)
- **CYPRUS** Cyprus Confederation of Organizations of the Disabled (CCOD)
- **CZECH REPUBLIC** Czech National Disability Council (CNDC)
- **DENMARK** Disabled Peoples Organisation Denmark (DPOD)
- **ESTONIA** The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People (EPIK)
- **FINLAND** Finnish Disability Forum (FDF)
- **FRANCE** French Council of Disabled People for European Affairs (CFHE)
- **GERMANY** German Disability Council (DBR)
- **GREECE** National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP)
- **HUNGARY** National Council of Federations of People with Disabilities (FESZT)
- **ICELAND** The Organisation of Disabled in Iceland (ÖBI)
- **IRELAND** Disability Federation Ireland (DFI)
- **ITALY** Italian Disability Forum (FID)
- **LATVIA** The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations (SUSTENTO)
- **LITHUANIA** Lithuanian National Forum of the Disabled (LNF)
- **LUXEMBOURG** Luxembourg National Disability Council (Info Handicap)
- **MALTA** Malta Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability (MFOPD)
- **NORWAY** National Disability Council of Norway (FFO)
- **POLAND** Polish Disability Forum (PDF)
- **PORTUGAL** National Confederation of Organisations of Disabled People (CNOD)
- **ROMANIA** National Disability Council (CNDR)
- **SLOVAKIA** Slovak Disability Council (NROZP)
- **SLOVENIA** Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije (NSIOS)
- **SPAIN** Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad (CERMI)
- **SWEDEN** The Swedish Disability Federation (HSO)
- **UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND** United Kingdom Disabled People Council (UKDPC)

25 EUROPEAN NGOS

- **Action Européenne des Handicapés (AEH)**
- **Autism-Europe**
- **Brain Injured & Families - European Confederation (BIF-EC)**
- **Cerebral Palsy - European Communities Association (CP-ECA)**
- **Disabled Peoples' International Europe (DPI-Europe)**
- **DEBRA-International**
- **European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Association (EAMDA)**
- **European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU)**
- **European Blind Union (EBU/Union européenne des Aveugles (UEA))**
- **European Cooperation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy (ECCE)**
- **European Deafblind Network (EDbN)**
- **European Deafblind Union (EDBU)**

- **European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)**
- **European Dyslexia Association (EDA)**
- **European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH)**
- **European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA)**
- **European Kidney Patients' Association (CEAPIR)**
- **European League of Stuttering Associations (ELSA)**
- **European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)**
- **European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)**
- **European Union of the Deaf (EUD)**
- **Inclusion Europe**
- **International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability (FIMITIC)**
- **International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF)**
- **Retina Europe**

11 Ordinary member NGOs

- **Association Internationale Aphasie (AIA)**
- **Association de Recherche et de Formation sur l'Insertion en Europe (ARFIE)**
- **Confederation of European Firms Initiatives and Cooperatives for Psychically Disabled People (CEFEC)**
- **Design for All Europe (EIDD)**
- **Eucrea International (EUCREA)**
- **European Federation of Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA)**
- **European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)**
- **European Paralympic Committee (EPC)**
- **European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE)**
- **Mental Health Europe-Santé Mentale Europe (MHE-SME)**
- **Workability Europe (WE)**

4 Observer members

- **Albanian National Council of Disabled People (ANCDP)**
- **National Council of Disability Organisations of FYROM (NSIOM)**
- **National Organisation of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia (NOOIS)**
- **Confederation of the Disabled Turkey (CDT)**

30 Associate members

Albanian Disabled People Association (ADPA) • Associazione Nazionale Mutilati ed Invalidi Civili (ANMIC) • Associazione per il Tempo Libero dei Disabili (ATHLa ONLUS) • CBM EU Liaison Office • Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) • Dacherband der Steirischen Behindertenhilfe (DSBH) • Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi (ENS) • Equality and Human Rights Commission • European Academy of Yuste Foundation • European Dysmelia Information Reference Center (EDRIC) • European Polio Union (EPU) • European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY) • European Federation of Hereditary Ataxias (EURO-ATAXIA) • European Ostomy Association (EOA) • Euro Psy Rehabilitation • European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF) • Fundación ONCE • Gelijke Rechten voor iedere Persoon met een handicap (GRIP) • The Guide Dog for the Blind Association (GDBA) • Hilfspgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs (HBSO) • Housing Options Scotland (HOS) • Inclusion Scotland • International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) • Landmine Survivors Initiatives (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (LSNBIH) • Leonard Cheshire Disability • Le Ricochet • National Commission Persons with Disability (NCPD) • Nordic Federation for associations of Disabled/ Nordiska Handikapp Förbundet (NHF) • Plain-Pied asbl • Royal National Institute for the Deaf and hard of hearing people (RNID)

EXECUTIVE & BOARD MEMBERS

Executive committee



Yannis Vardakastanis
President
NCDP GREECE



Gunta Anca
Vice President
SUSTENTO LATVIA



Donata Vivanti
Vice President
AUTISM EUROPE



John Patrick Clarke
Treasurer
EDSA



Rodolfo Cattani
Secretary
EBU



Alain Faure
CFHE FRANCE



Vera Bonvalot
BIF



Helene Holand
INCLUSION EUROPE



Stig Langvad
DPOD DENMARK



Ana Peláez
CERMI SPAIN



Yannis Yallouros
EUD

EDF thanks for their longstanding commitment to the disability movement: Pekka Tuominen | Karin Brünger | John Evans | Ingemar Färm | Miguel Angel Garcia Oca | Satü Jarviö | Pierre Mertens | Niels Anton Svendsen | Andrej Szalach | Josée Van Remoortel | Ingrid Körner | Constantinos Efrem

Board members



Marcel Bobeldijk
EFHOH



Cécile Dupas
EDSA



Knut Ellingsen
FFO



Erszébet Földesi
FESZT



Athena Frangouli
CEFEC



Giampiero Griffo
FID



Pierre Gyselincq
AEH



Malgorzata Koter-Mörgowska
PDF



Klaus Lachwitz
DBR



Peter Lambrechts
ENIL



Ricard Lopez
EDBN



David Magnusson †
HSO



Pirkko Mahlamäki
FDF



Branislav Mamojka
NROZP



Gisèle Marlière
BDF



Toomas Mihkelson
EPIK



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MHE



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Simona Giarratano
Social Policy Officer



An-Sofie Leenknecht
Human Rights Officer



Muriel Da Via
Finance Officer



Virginie Niyonzima
Assistant to the Director



Ann Vervaecke
Events Organiser
& Membership Officer



Nadège Riche
New Technologies and
Innovation Officer
*- on sabbatical leave
until April 2014 -*



Alejandro Moledo
New Technologies and
Innovation Officer
*- replaced Nadège Riche
during her sabbatical leave -*



Marie Denninghaus
Mobility and Transport
Officer

Goodbye and thank you: Guillaume Dufresne, *Mobility and Transport Officer until February 2013*

EDF'S WORK

* EDF's work was possible thanks to the support of the European Commission. We also thank Vodafone Foundation, Microsoft and the Spanish Cooperation Agency for their contribution to different projects, as well as the EU Presidencies and EDF's national councils for hosting and supporting our meetings throughout 2012 and 2013 in Denmark, Cyprus, Ireland, Greece and Lithuania.

A word from the president

With Europe being in the 6th year of the crisis, it is clear that the crisis is not only economic; it is also a social and **human rights crisis**, putting at risk rights that the disability movement has fought hard to obtain.

EDF joined the voices of millions of persons with disabilities demonstrating all over Europe for a **social way out of the crisis**, and expressing solidarity with those more vulnerable individuals in need of high levels of support, such as children, women and elderly persons.

During the **3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities**, the disability movement met with European Parliament leaders, MEPs and EU decision makers in order to discuss how Europe can ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in this time of crisis.

During the period following the ratification of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)** by the EU up to the present day, the real challenge for the EU is to implement the Convention making it a reality for its 80 million citizens with disabilities.

In order to highlight the necessity of mainstreaming disability in all EU policies, EDF organised a **meeting with the Commission's Director Generals**. EDF was also appointed Chair of the EU Framework on the monitoring of the implementation of the UN CRPD.

EDF also met all the **leaders of the main political groups in the European Parliament**; they signed a declaration and committed to implement the UN CRPD and to take up a series of important initiatives to ensure the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

In these difficult times, it is crucial that the EU spends its money wisely, in a manner which promotes equality and non-discrimination. To this end, EDF strongly advocated to mainstream accessibility and other disability-related provisions in the future **structural funds** regulations and supported, through its capacity building initiative, its national and European members.

Never before have Europeans enjoyed so many opportunities to travel, work or live in another EU country, as they do today.

However, Europeans with disabilities still experience many obstacles. Through our ongoing **Freedom of Movement** campaign, we call for the adoption of a broad and legally binding **European Accessibility Act**. In November 2013, EDF met with the Vice President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, and called for the delivery of a legislative proposal on the accessibility of goods and services.

In a society where information is communicated digitally to a greater extent than ever before, EDF also stressed the importance of the **accessibility of ICTs** in Europe, notably through campaigning for EU legislation on the accessibility of public websites, as well as the development of **EU standards** with regard to accessibility requirements.

Moreover, EDF has also actively worked to ensure the adoption of a human rights perspective in the EU legislative proposal on **research and innovation**.

At the **international level**, EDF is chairing the board of the **International Disability Alliance (IDA)** and has proactively contributed to its

legal incorporation. EDF has also engaged in a constructive dialogue with the Arab organisation of persons with disabilities through our **Musawa II** project.

There is no doubt that this has been a period of major challenges that the disability movement confronted in a dynamic and proactive manner, because we have a united voice when it comes to decisions concerning our lives. The **'nothing about us without us'** is not just a motto. It is a way of thinking, living and acting. It is the only way to build the inclusive Europe that all citizens deserve.

Yannis Vardakastanis

UN CONVENTION

THE EU HAS TO LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENT TO THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

By concluding the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the EU has committed to ensuring and promoting the full realisation of all human rights for all persons with disabilities through the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes and the review of existing measures.

The EU will submit for the first time a report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will be questioned with regard to the steps it has taken to date in order to ensure the implementation of the human rights contained in the UN CRPD.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
SHOULD NOT BE LEFT OUT
OF ANY EU POLICY

Highlights in 2012-2013

We met the Director Generals of the European Commission during their weekly meeting to discuss the implementation of the UN CRPD by the Commission's departments and services.

EDF became a full member and Chair of the EU Monitoring Framework, together with the European Ombudsman, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Parliament's Petitions Committee and the European Commission. The Framework has the mandate to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the UN CRPD by the EU.

EDF met the leaders of the main political groups in the European Parliament; they signed a declaration to take up a series of important initiatives aiming at ensuring the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and the reinforcement of their rights, particularly in the context of the crisis. The Political Group leaders asked for a cross Committee Task force for the UN CRPD implementation, the presentation at the European Parliament of the EU draft report on the implementation of the UN CRPD by the European Commission and the adoption of a legally binding and ambitious European Accessibility Act. They also agreed on the need to ensure access and eligibility of persons with disabilities in the next European Parliament elections, notably through the dissemination of EDF manifesto.

In 2012, EDF contributed to an opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the UN CRPD implementation. This led to the establishment in the EESC of a steering committee.

EDF co-organised the 2012 and 2013 Work Forum with the European Commission, calling for the close involvement and active participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in the implementation and monitoring process of the UN CRPD. EDF members presented their experiences on this.

EDF and the European Commission co-organised the European Day of Persons with Disabilities with the active participation of EDF's member organisations. In 2012, the European Day focused on the participation of persons with disabilities in media, political life, sports and culture; in 2013 it focused on accessible tourism.

We started preparing our alternative report to the EU report on the implementation of the UN CRPD and we held a civil society consultation in that respect. We also organised the 1st Civil Society Meeting on the UN CRPD at the European Economic and Social Committee.

Through its Capacity Building Programme, EDF promoted the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities, as foreseen by the UN CRPD, in its implementation and monitoring process.



EUROPE IN CRISIS

IT'S NOT ONLY ECONOMIC IT'S ALSO A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

Europeans with disabilities are the first to pay for a situation for which they are not responsible. The austerity measures taken by EU Member States have hit citizens with disabilities disproportionately hard, putting at risk fundamental rights that the disability movement has achieved over the last few decades.

WE WANT A SOCIAL WAY
OUT OF THE CRISIS

Highlights in 2012-2013



EDF continued to monitor the impact of the economic crisis on the lives of European citizens with disabilities through its "Observatory of the Crisis".

We brought together over 500 representatives of member organisations of persons with disabilities and members of the European Parliament at the 3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities focusing on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in this time of crisis (see page 18).

EDF's Annual General Assembly, which took place in Athens in May 2013 and gathered together the leaders of its member organisations, focused on the crisis. During that meeting, the disability movement adopted a position on the Social Dimension of the European Monetary Union calling on EU leaders to put in place a strategic plan to help Member States to exit the crisis and restore growth and social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Similarly, the year before, EDF adopted a resolution on a human rights way out of the crisis at its Annual General Assembly in Copenhagen.

During its November 2012 Board meeting in Cyprus, EDF and its member organisations all around Europe adopted a statement on the crisis, calling for social investments to protect and respect the rights of persons with disabilities.

EDF supported the demonstrations of the disability movement all over Europe for a social way out of the crisis, like in Spain, Greece and the Netherlands.

3RD EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A HISTORIC MEETING AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 5 December 2012, more than 500 delegates from organisations representing persons with disabilities met with European Parliament leaders, MEPs and EU decision makers to discuss:

HOW CAN EUROPE ENSURE
THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS?



Yannis Vardakastanis
President of the European
Disability Forum

“The 3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities is a way to show to the EU leaders that there is just one response to face the crisis that is striking Europe: more democracy, more participation and a more unified voice.”



Martin Schulz
President of the European
Parliament

“There is evidence that austerity policies hit the most vulnerable groups in society the hardest. There is a real risk that the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities are taken decades back into the past. The situation today is simply unacceptable.”



Nikiforos Diamandouros
European Ombudsman
(until September 2013)

“We need to be ambitious and proactive to ensure that the EU is at the forefront in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is important that the EU lives up to its promises on the rights of persons with disabilities.”

Right on time!

The 3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities took place in an important time for persons with disabilities, as the EU is preparing its 1st report to the UN on its progress concerning the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

All political groups of the European Parliament were represented at the 3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities. EDF called them for a meeting in order to address the challenges of the crisis in Europe. The meeting took place in June 2013. During this meeting, the leaders of EPP, S&D, ALDE, GREENS/EFA and GUE/NGL signed a declaration to take up important initiatives towards the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and the enforcement of their rights.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS

PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO ACCESSIBILITY SHOULD BE A CONDITION FOR MEMBER STATES TO RECEIVE EU MONEY

The EU structural funds are capable of ensuring the full participation of those at risk of discrimination, poverty and social exclusion. And this is exactly how they should be used!

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THE FUNDS ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Highlights in 2012-2013

EDF organised a workshop on the future of structural funds regulations in the European Parliament. As a result, several Members of the Parliament contacted us and took our proposals for amendments on board.

EDF actively contributed to the reports of the European Economic and Social Committee on the future regulations on structural funds 2014-2020.

EDF has advocated for the mainstreaming of accessibility and other disability-related provisions in the future structural funds regulations 2014-2020.

Together with other European NGOs we co-signed a letter calling upon the Council of the European Union to uphold the general ex-ante conditionalities of non-discrimination, gender equality and disability as conditions for accessing EU money.

EDF also raised awareness in the media on the importance of non-discrimination, gender equality and disability as conditions for the receipt by Member States of EU money.

EDF produced toolkits on the new funding regulations for the structural funds to promote accessibility, non-discrimination and independent living of persons with disabilities.

EDF also participated in the European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care, through the elaboration of guidelines and toolkits and the organisation of seminars for authorities in charge of managing structural funds. EDF is currently one of its co-chairs.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

EDF FIGHTS AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION CONSTITUTE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

As a human rights organisation with a mission to promote non-discrimination and equality for persons with disabilities, EDF:

- **co-signed** third party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights and national courts on issues such as accessibility, legal capacity and forced intervention;
- **wrote** a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to Article 9 of the UN CRPD on accessibility;
- **contributed** to legislative proposals on the rights of victims and on the rights of vulnerable persons accused or suspected of crime;
- **continued to campaign** for the adoption of a horizontal non-discrimination directive protecting people from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief outside employment.

EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SERVICES

WE WANT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Persons with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled persons. Especially in times of crisis, they have even less chances of getting a job.

DISABILITY CANNOT BE A BARRIER PREVENTING ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

EDF prepared amendments relating to accessibility and employment of persons with disabilities to the European Parliament's Report on the adoption of directives on Public Procurement of works, goods and services.

EDF responded to a public consultation on the General Block Exemption Regulation: state aids on employment and training of persons with disabilities.

EDF responded to a public consultation on VAT reduced rates.

EDF responded to a public consultation on the employment potential of personal households' services.

EDF contributed to the European Economic and Social Committee's event on employment opportunities of persons with intellectual disabilities.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS
FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS
FREE MOVEMENT OF SERVICES

ALL AROUND EUROPE!

All EU citizens should be able to move, work, study and live in another EU Member State and enjoy the same goods and services as the nationals of that Member State.

WE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ADOPTION
OF AN AMBITIOUS AND LEGALLY
BINDING EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Highlights in 2012-2013

We met with the Vice President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding and we called for the delivery of a legislative proposal on the accessibility of goods and services.

We issued a position paper on the European Accessibility Act calling for strong and binding legislation in that regard.

EDF prepared a mock legislative proposal for a directive on the accessibility of goods and services.

EDF raised awareness in the media on the barriers which prevent Europeans with disabilities from enjoying full access to goods and services.

In 2012 and 2013, EDF was involved as a member of the jury of the Access City Award.

We campaign for the adoption of a common European Mobility Card

- to facilitate travelling to another Member State for persons with disabilities;
- to allow them to benefit from the same discount on transport, leisure, culture and tourism as nationals of that Member State.

EDF established a working group on the European Mobility Card paving the way towards the introduction of such a card.

EDF issued several position papers and spoke at key events relating to accessible tourism and the possibilities for more independent travel.

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

NO MORE BARRIERS IN OUR JOURNEYS

EDF can count on the expertise and involvement of its members in technical committees to promote accessibility across a range of modes of transport.

WE CAMPAIGN FOR PASSENGERS
RIGHTS IN ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT



Highlights in 2012-2013

Plane

- We continued participating in the working group of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) on air passengers with disabilities;
- We raised awareness in the EU media of the obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities travelling by air;
- We worked on the revision of the Air Passengers Rights Regulation to improve conditions for persons with disabilities.

Sea

- We produced a toolkit on the rights of passengers travelling by sea and inland waterways;
- We responded to the European Commission's public consultation on safety rules and standards for passenger ships.

Rail

- We contributed to the Customer Liaison Group of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), as well as to a working group of the European Railway Agency (ERA);
- We advocated for accessibility requirements in the Transeuropean transport Networks (TEN-T) and the relevant funding programme Connecting Europe Facility (CEF);
- We worked on the Fourth Railway Package to prepare the ground for more accessibility in rail travel.

Road

EDF cooperated with the International Road Union (IRU) and other transport operators and stakeholders on the SMART MOVE Campaign for a permanent stakeholder's platform on urban transport.

e ACCESSIBILITY

WE WANT ACCESS TO ICTs

Despite the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which foresees equal access to all information and communication technologies (ICTs), ICTs are still far from being accessible for persons with disabilities in Europe.

At the end of 2012, the European Commission released a legislative proposal on the accessibility of public websites. EDF called for a wider scope to this proposal together with a binding enforcement mechanism.

EDF prepared a toolkit for its members in order to enable them to campaign nationally with regard to ICT issues.

We had meetings at the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to make sure that the expectations of the disability movement are listened to and respected.

Also: Supported by its expert members on ICTs, EDF participated in the eAccess+ project.

- EDF has been a member of the consortium of ATIS4All project on assistive technologies and accessibility.
- EDF co-organised the EDF, AGE Platform Europe and Vodafone Foundation 2012 Smart Accessibility Awards and 2013 Mobile for Good Europe Awards.

THE NEED FOR STANDARDS

- We contributed to the development of EU standards on the accessibility requirements of ICTs, products and services;
- EDF raised awareness on the accessibility of ICTs in the main forums for standardisation;
- EDF is represented in the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation.



RESEARCH

EDF BRINGS DISABILITY TO THE HORIZON

Running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of 80 billion euro, the legislative proposal Horizon 2020 for research and innovation is expected to create new growth and jobs in Europe.

EDF WANTS A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE IN THE UPCOMING EU LEGISLATION ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

EDF has issued its position and proposals for amendments on Horizon 2020 and distributed it among EU decision makers.

EDF published an open letter co-signed by MEP Catherine Trautmann and Gerard Quinn, director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland in Galway, in order to raise awareness among EU decision makers and the media with regard to equal opportunities for researchers with disabilities.

EDF is a member of the consortium of the DISCIT research project on 'making persons with disabilities full citizens'.

EDF is a member of the DREAM (Disability Rights Expanding Accessible Markets) network, a training network to professionally develop and educate the next generation of disability policy researchers and entrepreneurs to assist the EU and its Member States in their efforts to implement the UN CRPD at EU and Member State levels.



PARTNERSHIPS

THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT IS BUILDING KEY PARTNERSHIPS

TOGETHER OUR VOICES ARE HEARD BETTER



EDF is a founding member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). IDA was legally incorporated in June 2013 and EDF President has been the first elected Chair of IDA.

As a network of global and regional organisations of persons with disabilities, IDA aims to promote the full and effective implementation of the UN CRPD worldwide, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities at national, regional and international level.

EDF is also a member of:

Social Platform • EDF Executive Member, Rodolfo Cattani, is Vice President of the Platform of European Social NGOs and responsible for its Fundamental Rights and Non Discrimination Working Group

European Women's Lobby (EWL)

European Economic and Social Committee's liaison group with the European civil society organisations

European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA) • EDF co-chaired a working group on inclusive citizenship and was part of the steering committee; • EDF contributed to ensuring that the rights and the voice of persons with disabilities would be included in the final report and main events co-organised with the European Commission in Croatia and Lithuania.

European Consortium of Human Rights and Disability of the European Foundation Centre (EFC)

European Policy Center (EPC)

EDF is working closely with:

The Council of Europe on the implementation of its Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of persons with disabilities in society

The European Lotteries through a cooperative agreement to develop and promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society

The Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED)

EQUASS • the European quality assurance system for social services

Maastricht University • EDF sponsors the Chair of European Disability Law at Maastricht University

EDF RUNS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DISABILITY INTERGROUP

socialplatform



EYCA
www.eyca-alliance.eu



eQuass
European Quality in Social Services



CAPACITY BUILDING

EDF STRENGTHENS THE CAPACITY OF ORGANISATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EDF organised capacity building events for organisations of persons with disabilities in several countries to promote the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the UN Convention.

EDF led a [Capacity Building Programme](#) aiming to reinforce EDF's member organisations and to ensure their constructive cooperation. In that regard, EDF organised conferences in Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia and Slovakia.

Together with its members and IDA, EDF sent joint submissions to the different UN Treaty Bodies on the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of the child, prevention against torture etc.

We organised several trainings and mutual learning sessions for and with our member organisations during our Board Meetings and Annual General Assemblies in 2012-2013.

With our Lithuanian members, we organised a seminar at the Presidential Palace relating to disability and sustainable development.

INTERNATIONAL

EDF PROMOTES THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WORLDWIDE

EDF participated in the UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development in New York, calling on decision makers to mainstream the UN CRPD in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; EDF President, in his capacity as Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), spoke at the opening of the meeting. EDF also contributed to the organisation of the regional consultation meeting. This was the first time in the history of the UN that the rights of persons with disabilities were discussed within the framework of the UN political agenda.

We participated in the Conference of State Parties to the UN CRPD in September 2012 and in July 2013 at the UN Headquarters in New York. In the frame of the 2012 conference, EDF and the European Commission organised a side event on the experience of the EU in the implementation of the UN CRPD.

In October 2013, EDF together with People 2 People Programme and UNICEF organised an international conference in Istanbul on the human rights of persons with disabilities in the Balkans and Turkey. The conference brought together representatives of the European and international disability movement, the European Commission and the UN CRPD Committee.

EDF, together with the Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), led the project [Musawa II](#): capacity building of organisations of persons with disabilities in the Mediterranean. Its aim was to open a dialogue between European and Arab organisations of persons with disabilities. In the frame of the Musawa II project, several conferences were organised in Brussels, Cairo, Tunis and Madrid.

OUR TARGET GROUPS

THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT IS STRONG BECAUSE IT IS INCLUSIVE

Women with disabilities

With the leadership of our Women's committee:

- EDF promoted the 2nd Manifesto on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities in the European Union;
- EDF participated in the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women;
- EDF organised hearings at the European Parliament on women with disabilities and gender equality, as well as on violence against women with disabilities;
- The Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament had a meeting focused on women with disabilities;
- EDF contributed to the European Parliament's report on women and girls with disabilities;
- EDF has been re-elected to the Board of the European Women's Lobby;
- During its November 2012 Board meeting in Cyprus, EDF adopted a resolution, together with its members, calling for an end to violence against older women with disabilities and for appropriate measures to eliminate such violence;
- In the frame of the Musawa II project, EDF co-organised with the Arab Organisation of People with Disabilities a conference in Cairo in April 2013, focusing on the rights of Arab women with disabilities.

Youth

Thanks to its active Youth Committee:

- EDF contributed to a report of the European Economic and Social Committee on young persons with disabilities: employment, inclusion and participation in society;
- EDF contributed to the preparation of the recommendation of the Council of Europe on the rights of young people with disabilities;
- EDF created a youth-friendly section on its website to give young people better access to information about EDF activities.

Children with disabilities

We contributed to the European Parliament's report on Member States' Policies on Children with Disabilities;

EDF contributed to UNICEF's and Eurochild's publication on children's rights.

Persons who require more intensive support

EDF organised with its expert members a training for its national and European member organisations on the issue of persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support.

EASY TO READ

Easy-to-read is one of the accessible information formats along with large print, Braille and audio recordings. It is mostly used by people with intellectual disabilities, as well as other groups like older people and speakers of other languages. Sentences are short and simple using words which are easy to understand. The design is clear and avoids complicated page settings.

p. 4

The European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. It works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

In short, we call it EDF.

EDF was created by people with disabilities in 1996.

EDF is the link between people with disabilities and people who make laws.

EDF believes that a fair society includes people with disabilities.

p. 6 -10

EDF Members

EDF has many members.

There are also organisations of people with disabilities.

Some of them are big and some others are smaller.

Some of these organisations represent people with a certain type of disability, for example intellectual disability.

On page 6 and 7 of this booklet, there is a list of all EDF members.

On page 8 and 9 you will see pictures of people who take decisions for EDF.

On page 10, you will see pictures of people who work at the office of EDF in Brussels.

You will also find information on how to contact these people.

p. 11

EDF's work

In 2012 and 2013, EDF focused on different topics.

In the next pages, you will read about these topics.

p. 14-15

The United Nations Convention

The United Nations is a big world organisation.

The United Nations made a document which says what rights people with disabilities have.

We call this document Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In brief, we will call it the 'Convention'.

The European Union is a group of countries in Europe.

These countries came together to make things better for their people.

The European Union agreed to do what the Convention says.

This was an important step.

It means that the European Union has to make things better for people with disabilities.

Soon the European Union has to tell the United Nations

what it did to make the things in the Convention happen in Europe.

We had many meetings with people who take decisions in Europe.

We want to make sure that they respect the Convention when they make decisions.

We want them to respect the rights of people with disabilities.

p. 16-17

Economic crisis

It is a hard period for Europe.

Governments have problems with money.

This is called economic crisis.

Because of the economic crisis, governments have less money to spend for people.

They often decide to cut the support for people in their country.

This has a big impact on the lives of people who need support for example persons with disabilities.

With less support it is even more difficult for them to live in the community.

We met with our organisations of people with disabilities

and with people who take decisions in Europe.

We talked about how things are like for people with disabilities in different countries.

At EDF, we also check how the economic crisis has changed things for people with disabilities.

We ask people with disabilities and their organisations

about the changes they have in their lives because of the crisis.

p. 18-19

The European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

In December 2012, we had a very important meeting at the European Parliament.

The European Parliament is a place where people decide about European laws.

We called this meeting the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities.

More than 500 people from organisations of people with disabilities came to this meeting.

Together, we met with people who take decisions in Europe.

We talked about how to protect the rights of people with disabilities

now that the economic crisis makes things more difficult for them.

p. 20-21

Using European money

The European Union gives money to its countries.

This money is called 'Structural Funds'.

The countries have to spend this money on things that make the lives of their citizens better.

They should help all citizens take part in society.

The European Union should only give this money to countries

which work hard to make sure that all people can take part in society.

For example people with disabilities and other people.

We had a meeting at the European Parliament to talk about

how countries should use money from the European Union.

We also wrote papers to show how countries should spend the money from the European Union for the good of the citizens.

p. 22

Equal rights

People with disabilities are sometimes treated badly or unfairly because of their disability.

This is called discrimination.

At EDF, we work to stop discrimination of people with disabilities.

People have different abilities.

But all people are equal and they should be treated with respect.

p. 23

Work

Some people find it hard to get a job because they have a disability.
We went to meetings and wrote several papers to say that this is wrong.
People with disabilities should have the same chances to work as all the other people.

p. 24-25

Freedom of movement

People have the right to move, live and work in any other country of the European Union.
We call this right freedom of movement.
In the last two years, we continued to work for the freedom of movement of people with disabilities.
That means that people with disabilities should also be able to move, live and work in any country of the European Union.
We want the European Union to have a strong law about this.
This law will be called European Accessibility Act.
This law will help people with disabilities have more rights.
We think this law is necessary and we work hard to make it happen.
We had meetings with many people who take decisions in Europe.
We talked to them about how important this law will be for people with disabilities.

p. 26-27

Transport

Today people can travel easily from one country to another.
People with disabilities should also be able to do that.
To make this happen, transport like planes, boats and trains must be accessible in all countries.
This way people with disabilities will be able to use them without problems.
But people with disabilities often have problems to use planes, boats, trains and other ways of transport.
In the last two years, we talked about these problems.
We talked about how to make it easier for people with disabilities to travel in Europe.

p. 28

Technology

Today, people use more and more technology to find out information or talk to other people.
For example, they use computers, mobiles, the internet and other tools.
People with disabilities should have access to these tools.
They should be able to use them like all other people.
If they cannot use them, they will be left out from society.
At EDF, we talk to people who take decisions about how to make sure that people with disabilities can use technology like other people.

p. 29

Research

Research is when experts look into different things.
They try to find out what causes a problem and how the problem can be solved.
A person who is doing a research is called a researcher.
The European Union gives money to researchers to do research on things which are important for the European Union.
Persons with disabilities can be researchers too.
But sometimes they cannot continue their research because of their disability.
For example, if researchers with disabilities do research for a university they may need help from the university.
The universities usually do not have the money to give them help.
Because of this, researchers with disabilities cannot continue their research.
We wrote several papers, had meetings with people who take decisions and talked to the media about that.
We explained to people that all researchers should have the same chances.
Researchers with disabilities should not be left out because of their disability.

p. 30-31

Working together with other organisations

At EDF, we work together with other organisations.

This is called partnership.

EDF has partnerships with different organisations.

Some of them are European organisations.

Some others are world organisations like the International Disability Alliance.

In short, we call it IDA.

EDF works with IDA to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

p. 32

Work with our members

Many organisations in Europe are part of EDF.

We work with them to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

Together, we organise meetings in different countries.

In these meetings, we talk about our experiences.

This way we learn from each other.

p. 33

Work outside Europe

We also work on the rights of persons with disabilities outside of Europe.

We go to important meetings in different parts of the world

to talk about the rights of people with disabilities.

For example, in the last two years we went to important meetings in New York.

We also organised meetings in Istanbul, Cairo, Tunis and other places.

p. 34-35

Women and young people with disabilities

Women are often left out or treated differently just because they are women.

Women with disabilities are more likely to be treated unfairly than other women because of their disability.

At EDF, we wrote a text about how to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Europe.

We participated in important meetings to talk about the rights of women with disabilities.

We also wrote a text about violence against older women with disabilities.

We also worked to promote the rights of young people and children with disabilities.

And we organised a meeting for our members about persons with disabilities who need more support.



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