

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US
Report 2014 - 2015



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WHO WE ARE

A STRONG UNITED VOICE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE

An independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 80 million people with disabilities in Europe.

Persons with disabilities

EDF is a unique European platform which brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe.

Promoting disability rights

EDF was created in 1996 by its member organisations to ensure that decisions at the EU level concerning persons with disabilities are taken with and by persons with disabilities.

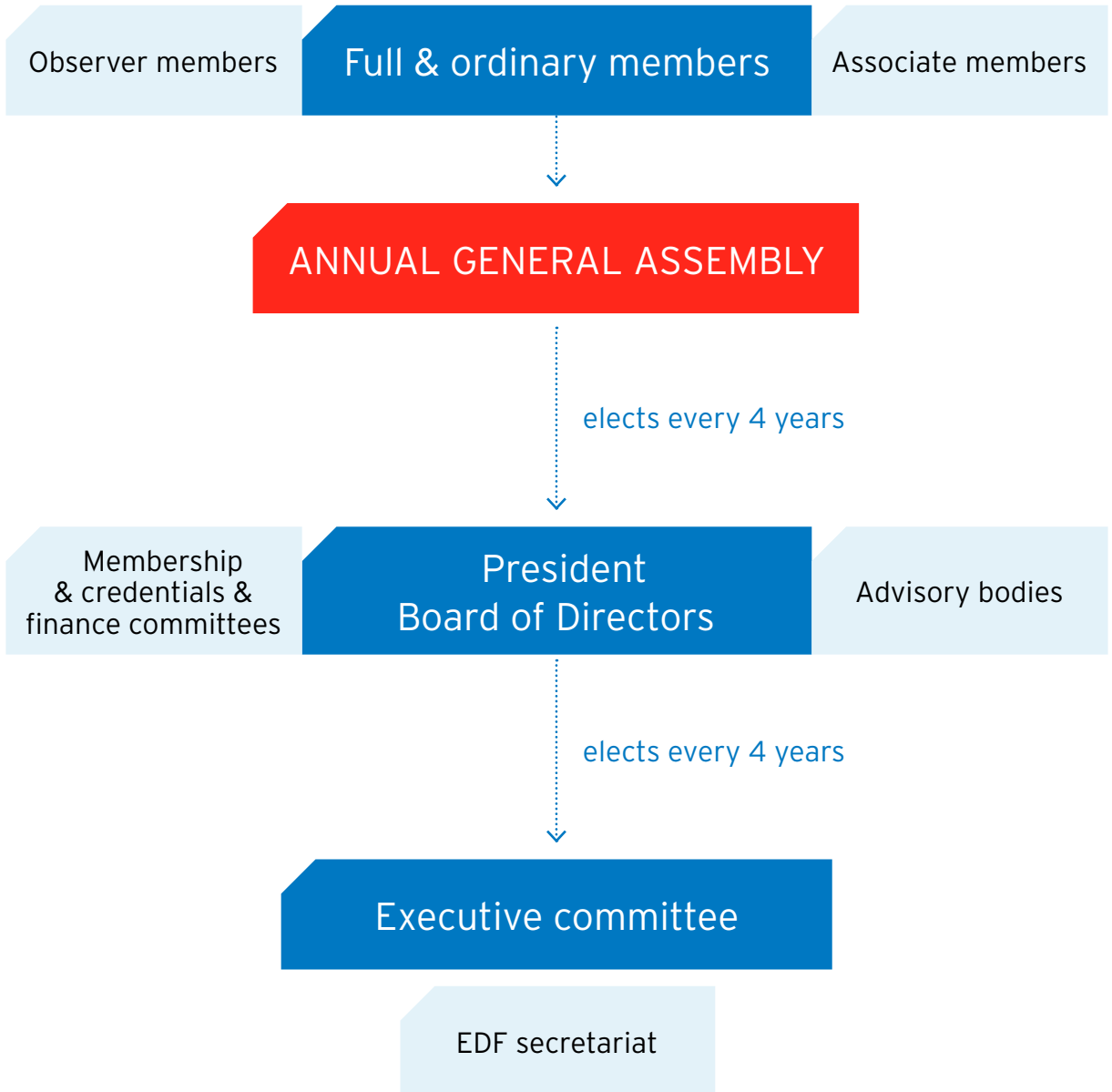
OUR VALUES

EDF's values are built on the principles of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD):

- Respect for inherent dignity;
- Individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility;
- Equality between men and women;
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

OUR STRUCTURE

EUROPEAN DISABILITY MOVEMENT



OUR MEMBERS

54 full members

The full members of EDF are National Councils of Persons with Disabilities and European organisations representing persons with disabilities.

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** Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (SOIH)
- CYPRUS** Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of the Disabled (KYSOA)
- CZECH REPUBLIC** Czech National Disability Council (CNDC)
- DENMARK** Disabled People's Organisation Denmark (DPOD)
- ESTONIA** 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** Greek National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP)
- HUNGARY** Hungarian Council of Federations of People with Disabilities (FESZT)
- ICELAND** Organisation of Disabled in Iceland (ÖBI)
- IRELAND** Disability Federation Ireland (DFI)
- ITALY** Italian Disability Forum (FID)
- LATVIA** Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations (SUSTENTO)
- LITHUANIA** Lithuanian Disability Forum (LNF)
- LUXEMBOURG** National Disability Council of Luxembourg (Info Handicap)
- MALTA** Malta Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability (MFOPD)
- NORWAY** Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People (FFO)
- POLAND** Polish Disability Forum (PDF)
- PORTUGAL** National Confederation of Organisations of Disabled People in Portugal (CNOD)
- ROMANIA** Romanian National Disability Council (CNDR)
- SLOVAKIA** Slovak Disability Council (NROZP)
- SLOVENIA** Slovenian National Disability Council (NSIOS)
- SPAIN** Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI)
- SWEDEN** Swedish Disability Federation (HSO)
- THE NETHERLANDS** Dutch Network for People with Disabilities or Chronic Illness (Ieder-in)

25 European NGOs

- Action Européenne des Handicapés (AEH)
- Autism-Europe
- Brain Injured & Families - European Confederation (BIF-EC)
- Cerebral Palsy - European Communities Association (CP-ECA)
- DEBRA-International
- Disabled People's International - Europe (DPI-Europe)
- European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Association (EAMDA)
- European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU)
- European Blind Union (EBU)
- 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

The ordinary members of EDF are organisations for persons with disabilities that are consistent with EDF's aims and objectives.

- Association Internationale Aphasie (AIA)
- Association for Research and Training on Integration in Europe (ARFIE)
- Design for All Europe (EIDD)
- Eucree International (EUCREA)
- European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- European Federation of Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA)
- European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF)
- European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)
- European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE)
- Mental Health Europe (MHE)
- Social Firms Europe (CEFEC)

4 observer members

Observer members of EDF are national organisations of persons with disabilities from countries outside the European Union.

- 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 in Turkey (CDT)

29 associate members

The associate members of EDF are non-profit organisations or companies that are committed to promoting EDF's aims.

Associazione Nazionale Mutilati e Invalidi Civili (ANMIC) • Associazione Tempo Libero Handicappati (ATHLA-Onlus) • Austrian Association in Support of the Blind and Visually Impaired • CBM EU Liaison Office • Coalition for Independent Living (CIL) • Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) • Dachverband 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 Reference Information Center (EDRIC) • European Federation of Hereditary Ataxia (EURO-ATAXIA) • European Ostomy Association (EOA) • European Polio Union (EPU) • European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF) • European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY) • EUROPSY Rehabilitation • Flemish civil rights organisation for persons with disabilities (GRIP) • Fundación ONCE • Housing Options Scotland (HOS) • Inclusion Scotland • International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) • Light for the World (joined EDF in 2016) • National Commission of Persons with Disability (KNPD) • Remploy (joined EDF in 2016) • Saint Lazarus Foundation (joined EDF in 2016) • San Marino Paralympic Committee • Union of Disabled People in Bulgaria (UDPB) • Vittime Italiane Talidomide (VITA)

OUR EXECUTIVE & BOARD COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Yannis Vardakastanis
President
Greek National
Confederation of
Disabled People



**Donata Vivanti
Pagetti**
Vice President
Autism Europe



Gunta Anca
Vice President
Latvian Umbrella Body for
Disability Organisations



John Patrick Clarke
Treasurer
Disability Federation
Ireland



Rodolfo Cattani
Secretary
European Blind Union



Vera Bonvalot
Brain Injured & Families -
European Confederation



Alain Faure
French Council of
Disabled People for
European Affairs



Helene Holand
Inclusion Europe



Klaus Lachwitz
German Disability Council



Ana Peláez
Spanish Committee
of Representatives of
Persons with Disabilities



Yannis Yallouros
European Union
of the Deaf

* EDF would like to thank Stig Langvad for his outstanding commitment to the disability movement during his time with us as member of EDF Executive Committee.

In 2014 and 2015, EDF mourned the passing of important leaders from the European disability movement: Frank Mulcahy (Ireland), Paul Boulinier (France) and Alberto Arbide Mendizábal (Spain). We thank them for their work and our thoughts are with their families and colleagues.

BOARD MEMBERS



Marcel Bobeldijk
European Federation
of Hard of Hearing



Cécile Dupas
European
Down Syndrome
Association



Knut Ellingsen
Norwegian Federation
of Organizations of
Disabled People



Erszébet Földesi
Hungarian Council of
Federations of People
with Disabilities



Athena Frangouli
Social Firms Europe



Giampiero Griffo
Italian
Disability Forum



Pierre Gyselinck
Action Européenne
des Handicapés



**Malgorzata
Koter-Mörgowska**
Polish Disability
Forum



Thorkild Olesen
Disabled People's
Organisation
Denmark



**Christina
Wurzinger**
Austrian National
Council of Disabled
Persons



**Peter
Lambreghts**
European Network on
Independent Living



Ricard Lopez
European
Deafblind Network



**Pirkko
Mahlamäki**
Finnish
Disability Forum



**Branislav
Mamojka**
Slovak
Disability Council



Gisèle Marlière
Belgian
Disability Forum



**Toomas
Mihkelson**
Estonian Chamber of
Disabled People



Erik Olsen
European Network
of (ex-) Users
and Survivors of
Psychiatry



Gabor Petri
Mental Health Europe



Jean-Luc Simon
Disabled People's
International - Europe



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Catherine Naughton
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Assistant to the
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Lila Sylviti
Communication Officer



Loredana Dicsi
Internal Communication
and Membership
Development Officer
Joined EDF in December 2015



Etienne Cuche
European Parliament
Officer



Simona Giarratano
Social Policy Officer



An-Sofie Leenknecht
Human Rights Officer



Muriel Da Via
Finance and Human
Resources Officer



Alejandro Moledo
New Technologies and
Innovation Officer



Marie Denninghaus
Mobility and Transport
Officer

Goodbye and thank you to: Carlotta Besozzi (former EDF Director), Javier Güemes (former EDF Acting Director), Ann Vervaecke (former Events Organiser & Membership Officer) and Nadège Riche (former New Technologies & Innovation Officer).

OUR WORK

EDF's objective is to achieve equal opportunities for all men, women and children with disabilities.

We work closely with:

- our active members around Europe;
- other non-profit organisations fighting for equality and non-discrimination;
- EU institutions and agencies;
- EU presidencies and permanent representatives of countries in the EU;
- the Council of Europe;
- the United Nations (UN) and its bodies;
- the International Disability Alliance (IDA);
- the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

* In 2014-2015, EDF's work was made possible thanks to the support of the European Commission, EDF members and the ONCE Foundation. We also thank the EU Presidencies and EDF members for hosting, co-organising and supporting our events and governing body meetings throughout 2014 and 2015.

A word from the president

2014 and 2015 have been historic years for EDF and 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe. Together with its members, EDF took part in the first ever review of the EU before a human rights treaty body, the United Nations (UN). For the first time since the EU ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in 2010, the EU had to report to the UN on its progress in promoting and protecting the rights of its citizens with disabilities. The UN's recommendations to the EU in 2015 gave the EU a clear obligation to put the rights of persons with disabilities uppermost on its agenda.

For over three years, EDF has been campaigning for freedom of movement of people, goods and services in the EU and for the adoption of a strong and

ambitious EU legislation in this context. Persons with disabilities should be able to access goods and services in the European internal market on an equal basis with other people. In 2015, the European Commission finally published their proposal for the European Accessibility Act. EDF will continue advocating for the adoption of a strong European Accessibility Act, which will increase the availability and reduce the costs of accessible products and services in the EU.

In 2014, the European elections brought new members to the European Parliament and a new and restructured European Commission. EDF campaigned for accessibility to the European elections and for the right of persons with disabilities to vote and stand for

election. After the elections, EDF fought for the re-establishment of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament. The Disability Intergroup didn't only survive but it is thriving with a bureau of 12 committed MEPs from various political groups and important UN CRPD related actions and initiatives.

2014 and 2015 were years which highlighted remarkable achievements in many areas of our work: UN CRPD, non-discrimination, employment and social services, EU funds, accessibility, standardisation, transport, research and many more. However, they were also difficult years. The impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on people's lives continues. Persons with disabilities have been facing these effects with disproportionate difficulty;

inequality in Europe is growing. Europe has also experienced an unprecedented migration crisis. EDF has repeatedly called on the EU to respect the human rights of refugees and migrants and to pay particular attention to children and adults with disabilities within this population.

Throughout these challenging years, the disability movement has remained strong and our voices united. 80 million persons with disabilities should not be excluded from decisions that concern their own lives.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

Yannis Vardakastanis
EDF President

UN CONVENTION

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE EU RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ON HOW TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2010, the EU ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). In June 2014, the EU submitted its first report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2015, the EU was reviewed by the UN Committee on the steps it had taken to date in order to ensure the implementation of the human rights contained in the UN CRPD.

In September 2015, the EU received recommendations from the UN Committee on how to better promote, protect and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU. These recommendations are called “Concluding Observations”. They require a new approach to the implementation of the UN CRPD and include a detailed list of actions and measures for the EU to take. By January 2019, a further report has to be submitted to the UN Committee on progress made.

THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MAKES HISTORY IN EUROPE

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF submitted its alternative report to the UN Committee in March 2015. The report is based on a large consultation with EDF members, civil society partners and other stakeholders.

EDF organised three civil society meetings at the European Economic and Social Committee during 2014

and 2015 to gather evidence and to hear people’s views on the UN CRPD.

EDF and its members were actively involved in the EU review process by the UN Committee. We organised three side events in Geneva to brief the UN CRPD Committee on our main priorities and recommendations. We also sent proposals to the UN Committee in

relation to questions to the EU for the so called “List of Issues” and our answers to this “List of Issues”.

In 2014 and 2015, EDF provided support for its members on ways to engage with the UN Committee in Geneva, the drafting of alternative reports and the organisation of briefing meetings with Committee members.

EDF advocated for the revision of the European Disability Strategy in order to be compliant with the UN CRPD. During the EU review process by the UN, EDF demonstrated to the UN CRPD Committee the need for the revision of the strategy. As a result, the UN CRPD Committee in its Concluding Observations to the EU asked for a review of the existing strategy. Consequently, the European Commission launched a public consultation in December 2015 to assess the impact of the existing strategy.

EDF met the Inter-Service Group on Disability of the European Commission to discuss the implementation of the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee by the Commission's departments and services.

During 2014 and 2015, EDF was the Chair of the EU Independent Monitoring Framework, together with the European Ombudsman, the European Parliament, the EU Agency

for Fundamental Rights and the European Commission. The Framework has the mandate to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the UN CRPD by the EU. The Framework also took part in the review process of the EU before the UN Committee.

In 2015, EDF established a network of countries – within its membership – which have not yet ratified the UN CRPD (Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Iceland), in order to share our knowledge and expertise to advocate together for the ratification of the UN CRPD in the countries of all of our members.

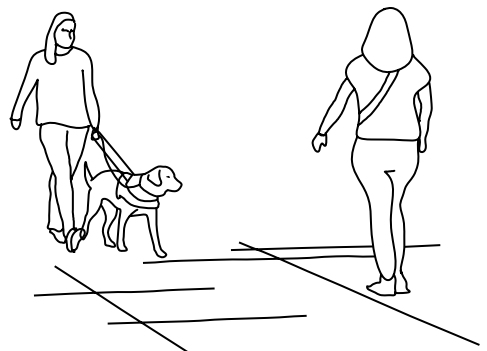
To raise awareness on the UN CRPD, EDF and the European Commission co-organised the European Day of Persons with Disabilities with the active participation of EDF's member organisations. In 2014, the European Day focused on the participation of people with disabilities in media, political life, sports and culture; in 2015 it focused on children and young people with disabilities and their access to education.

EDF co-organised the 2014 and 2015 Work Forum with the European Commission. In 2014, EDF members presented their experiences on the supported decision-making mechanism and access to justice. In 2015, the focus was on the EU's review by the UN CRPD Committee.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Equality and non-discrimination constitute fundamental principles of an inclusive society. EDF fights against all forms of discrimination.

A EUROPE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION
AND INEQUALITIES IS A BETTER PLACE
FOR EVERYONE



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF continued to campaign for the adoption of a horizontal equal treatment directive protecting people from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief outside employment. Advocacy and communication took place with other EU non-discrimination networks and with our German members.

EDF co-submitted third party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights on issues such as education.

We wrote a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to UN CRPD article 6 on women with disabilities, article 9 on accessibility and article 12 on equal recognition before the law.



FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The EU treaties guarantee the fundamental rights of all EU citizens including the freedom of movement of persons, goods and services. This is important as it gives everybody the right to live, work or study in any other Member State of the EU. Goods can circulate freely and citizens have the right to provide and receive services in another Member State.

However, people with disabilities cannot fully enjoy this freedom of movement and have difficulties accessing mainstream goods and services on an equal basis with others. They face barriers when studying, looking for a job, travelling, purchasing goods and services or simply accessing information.

For over three years, EDF has been campaigning for freedom of movement calling on the EU to adopt a European Accessibility Act. In December 2015, the European Commission finally published its proposal for this long-awaited directive which aims to make goods and services more accessible for everyone.

**EDF ADVOCATES FOR THE ADOPTION
OF A COMPREHENSIVE EUROPEAN
ACCESSIBILITY ACT**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF continued its campaign on Freedom of Movement adopting an emergency resolution and an updated position paper on the European Accessibility Act.

EDF worked together with the European Commission to advance work on the European Disability Card. The Card will allow people with disabilities who travel to another Member State of the EU to access certain discounts for culture, leisure, sport, and transport under the same conditions as the nationals with disabilities of that country. In 2015, the Commission launched a call for proposals for the Card.

EDF advocated for accessible tourism and published a position on its vision for tourism in Europe.

We published a position paper and collaborated with the European Commission on the Access City Awards.

We defined the EDF position on consumers with disabilities.

EDF issued several other position papers on relevant topics and spoke at key events related to accessibility of goods and services, consumers' rights, culture, tourism and transport.

TRANSPORT

Despite several existing EU initiatives, people with disabilities still have difficulties in accessing the transport system because of physical, communication, informational or attitudinal barriers. EDF is intensively lobbying the EU for a barrier-free Europe for all.

WE NEED A MULTIMODAL, SEAMLESS AND ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL CHAIN THAT WILL ENABLE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO TRAVEL SPONTANEOUSLY AND INDEPENDENTLY ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHERS



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF gave input to the European Commission's review of the Transport White Paper.

EDF conducted a survey among its members on the experience of passengers with disabilities.

EDF published a report on the findings of the survey as well as a position paper on passengers' rights for all modes of transport.

We consulted with our members to define a position on multi-modal transport terminals.



Rail

EDF published a position paper on the state of play of rail accessibility.

EDF continued participating in the working group on the Technical Specifications on Rail Interoperability for Persons with Reduced Mobility (TSI-PRM) of the European Railway Agency (ERA) and, following adoption of the revised text, also in the Commission's Advisory Body on the TSI-PRM.

Regular communication with the industry was maintained via the Customer Liaison Group of the Community of European Railways (CER).



Air

EDF published a paper on the accessibility of e-Gates in air travel.

EDF responded to the consultation on Special Categories Passengers (SCPs) of the European Air Safety Agency on rules related to flying with an assistant.

EDF continued regular participation in the Facilitation Sub-Group on Persons with Reduced Mobility (FAL-PRM) of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).



Road

EDF published a position paper on the implementation of Regulation 181/2011 on the rights of passengers travelling long distance by bus and coach.

We continued our collaboration with the road transport industry on different events and initiatives, mainly the European Citizens' Mobility Forum (ECFMF).

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Persons with disabilities continue to bear the brunt of the economic crisis and the austerity measures that governments in Europe have implemented. In many countries, persons with disabilities have experienced severe cuts in the already limited support they receive.

**EDF CALLS ON THE EU TO PUT
PEOPLE FIRST AND TO FIND A HUMAN
RIGHTS WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS**



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF raised awareness about the negative impact of the economic crisis on the rights of persons with disabilities across Europe. We participated in events and highlighted this impact in our alternative report to the UN Committee during the EU review process.

EDF continued its online survey on the impact of austerity measures on people with disabilities.

In September 2015, we participated in the European Economic and Social Committee's hearing in Thessaloniki, Greece. EDF executive members presented the effects of austerity on the rights of persons with disabilities in Ireland, Latvia, France, Italy, Greece, Spain and Cyprus.

Together with the EU Alliance Against Disability Cuts and in close cooperation with the European Parliament, EDF continued advocating against the austerity measures across Europe.

EDF supported its Greek member organisation calling on the EU institutions and the Greek government to find a human rights way out of the crisis with respect to people and human dignity.

EU FUNDS

EU funds represent the most important source of public funding for many European countries. The money spent should contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities. No project co-funded with European money can promote discrimination against people with disabilities or other groups of citizens.

EU FUNDS SHOULD BE INVESTED TO PROMOTE EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL CITIZENS



EDF worked in the area of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) mainly to influence the ongoing negotiations on the operational programmes and monitor the implementation of disability related provisions and the partnership principle.

EDF took part in the meeting organised by the European Commission on the European Funds for the most deprived.

EDF participated in the meeting of the “European Structured Dialogue” between the European Commission and the ESIFs group of experts; we actively contributed to the exchange regarding the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the non-discrimination clauses.

EDF actively contributed to the work of the Social Platform Task Force on structural funds, raising awareness of disability related provisions.

EDF and its members worked on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) paying particular attention to the misuse of structural funds.

EDF supported its members’ work at a national level and facilitated exchange among its members establishing an email expert group on ESIFs.

EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL POLICIES

Employment is a key factor to being independent and active citizens. According to the latest EU data, there is still a 26% difference in rates of employment for people with and without disabilities across the EU.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION ON EQUAL TERMS WITH OTHER CITIZENS

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF established open dialogue with the cabinet of the new Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen.

EDF contributed to improving the quality of social services for people with disabilities by actively participating in the Social Platform Task Force on access to services - in particular on the impact of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on education and health services.

EDF answered the European Commission's public consultation on services to the long-term

unemployed and took part in the Multi-stakeholders Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility. In addition, EDF actively contributed to the Social Platform's advocacy to the European Parliament on employment guidelines.

EDF contributed to the European Semester process by participating in several conferences organised by European institutions and European NGOs. EDF became a member of the Semester Alliance lobbying for social dimension of the European Semester.

EDF promoted social inclusion of people with disabilities and the right

to live in the community by actively participating in the work of the “European Expert Group on transition from institutions to community based care”.

EDF has an advisory group on independent living and community based services. The group supports EDF’s work on promoting transition from institutional to high quality community based services. In recent years, the group developed EDF’s position on article 19 of the UN CRPD “Living independently and being included in the community” and contributed to a common definition of independent living.

In this context, EDF contributed to the organisation of training of the European Commission’s officials responsible for the use of structural funds. We also contributed to the organisation of a seminar on deinstitutionalisation in Greece together with the Greek National Disability Confederation.

EDF took part in the ministerial conference on deinstitutionalisation organised by the Latvian Presidency. It contributed to the European Economic and Social Committee opinion on deinstitutionalisation and long-term care.

EDF is a member of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and participated in the stakeholders meetings organised

regarding the framework of the revision of the Europe 2020 strategy.

EDF contributed to EU legislation on public procurement with its members and in partnership with other European Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOS).

EDF contributed to the discussion on social protection organised by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. We disseminated our position on social security coordination by taking part in consultations arranged by the European Commission.

EDF monitored access to education for persons with disabilities in the EU by cooperating with the European agency on special needs and inclusive education. EDF contributed to the work of incluD-ed network on education; we took part in networking meetings with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UNESCO.

EDF contributed to the debate on statistics concerning children with disabilities in cooperation with UNICEF and the Washington Group. EDF members contributed to the Fundamental Rights Agency project on equality data collection. EDF is part of a project aimed to improve how European Member States gather information on equality.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EDF and its members have a long and rich history of close cooperation with the European Parliament. In 2014-2015, against the backdrop of the economic, social and human rights crisis, the role of the European Parliament was key to preserving disability rights in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

**THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS
A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE
RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF campaigned for the Parliament to create a strong UN CRPD implementation mechanism within its own structures. In 2015, the European Parliament confirmed the birth of a new permanent, political and cross-committee body with a mission to ensure optimal application of the UN CRPD: the CRPD Network.

EDF campaigned for the re-establishment in the new legislature of the Disability Intergroup, a key informal gathering of MEPs promoting disability rights. The intergroup was successfully re-established with 109 MEP members. In 2014-2015, more than 10 intergroup meetings were organised. EDF is the secretariat for the Disability Intergroup.

EDF also campaigned for the European Parliament's administration to comply with the UN CRPD. As a result, the European Parliament administration now has the explicit mandate to implement the UN CRPD. This decision needs to be followed by concrete measures; much remains to be done to ensure equal opportunities for employees with disabilities or accessibility of European Parliament's procedures.

EDF continued to work closely with MEPs to suggest amendments and contribute to and promote written declarations. Two written declarations, on accessible tourism and on autism, were signed by a majority of MEPs and thus adopted.

EDF continued to support its members' events in the European Parliament and their meetings with MEPs.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2014

People with disabilities still face major barriers preventing them from enjoying the fundamental right to vote and to stand as candidates because of inaccessible polling stations, inaccessible information and campaigning materials, and legal capacity laws depriving persons of the right to vote and make decisions about their lives.

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MUST
FULLY ENJOY THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE
AND STAND FOR ELECTION**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF prepared a manifesto on the EU elections 2014 and asked candidates and political parties to endorse it.

We engaged with the leading candidates for the European Commission's President.

We co-organised a seminar on political participation with other equality networks.

We supported campaign events of our national member organisations in EU Member States.

We cooperated with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights to give an overview of the various restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to political participation in EU Member States.

E-ACCESSIBILITY

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) recognises that access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a fundamental right. Accessible ICT can help people with disabilities to overcome some of the barriers they encounter in their everyday life and to actively participate in all aspects of life. However, the EU is still a long way from offering accessible basic ICT such as websites, telecommunications, e-books, audio-visual content and so on, to its citizens.

**EDF WANTS AN INCLUSIVE E-SOCIETY
IN WHICH ICT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF continued its advocacy work on the European Commission's proposal for a directive on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites. To push for the adoption of this crucial legislation, we had several meetings with the European Commission, the European Parliament and national delegations in the Council, as well as several events and position papers. Following the campaign by EDF and its members, both the Parliament and the Council have expressed their willingness to broaden the scope of this Directive.

EDF joined a study group funded by the Commission (SMART 2014-0061) to come up with recommendations for a future methodology for monitoring web accessibility in Europe.

EDF and AGE Platform Europe published recommendations for an inclusive Digital Single Market (DSM).

In the framework of the Digital Single Market strategy in 2015, EDF answered the public consultation on the Audio-visual Media Services Directive.

EDF participated in the Accessibility Workshops organised by the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications to ensure equal access and choice in telecommunications goods and services for persons with disabilities.

EDF gave feedback on the accessibility of the future Online Dispute Resolution platform, where consumers will be able to solve problems with online providers.

EDF and Oracle launched an 8.000 € scholarship for higher education students with disabilities in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and related fields. The scholarship was awarded to the best idea on how to enhance or include accessibility in ICT projects.

STANDARDS

In recent years, EDF has increasingly participated in the European standardisation system; we have actively contributed to the drafting and developing of European standards and standardisation deliverables that directly impact the everyday lives of people with disabilities. EDF pushed for a universal design approach in the development of standards and guidelines.

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD
BE INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF STANDARDS THAT INFLUENCE
THEIR LIVES**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF participated in three standardisation mandates:

- Mandate 376 which produced the first European standard on accessibility requirements of ICT products and services. This is a crucial standard for public procurement or any other legislation regarding ICT such as the Web Accessibility Directive.
- Mandate 420 aiming at producing a European standard on accessibility in the built environment.
- Mandate 473 on Design for All which is expected to generate a European standard for organisations on how to include accessibility following a Design for All approach.

EDF participated to the update of the ISO/IEC **Guide 71** "Guide for addressing accessibility in standards" released in 2014 and published a document with final recommendations.

EDF is a full member of the advisory group to the European Commission called the "Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT and standardisation".

EDF is a member of the Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA), an advisory group to CEN, one of the European Standards Organisations.

RESEARCH

Horizon 2020, the EU framework for research and innovation, began in 2014 without sufficient alignment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). Every two years the European Commission presents the Work Programmes, setting the priorities and the award criteria for the different calls for projects. Despite the EU having funded research projects in the field of disability with an increasing number of projects focusing on equality, non-discrimination and accessibility, there is still predominantly a medical, therapeutic and rehabilitation-oriented approach in the EU research priorities.

HORIZON 2020 PROJECTS SHOULD ADDRESS DISABILITY FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE AND MAINSTREAM ACCESSIBILITY WITH A UNIVERSAL DESIGN APPROACH

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

In 2014, EDF published and disseminated an **assessment** of several of the Work Programmes 2014-2015 from a disability perspective carried out by a Professor of Maastricht University, Lisa Waddington.

EDF co-signed a **letter to the new Commissioner on Research, Science and Innovation**, Carlos Moedas, to ensure that EU research policies take into consideration people with disabilities, not only as users but also as researchers.

EDF joined the **DISCIT research project (2013-2016)** to gain new knowledge for the EU and Member States on how to enable active citizenship for people with disabilities.

EDF is part of the **Advisory Board of the Hbb4all project** aiming to provide accessibility features in connected TVs.

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

With the leadership of its Women's Committee:

EDF promoted the 2nd Manifesto on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities in the European Union.

EDF adopted a Gender Equality Action Plan 2015-2017 containing actions and measures to ensure gender equality in EDF's policy, communication, human resources and finance policies.

EDF provided input to the draft general comment of the UN Committee on Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) on women and girls with disabilities.

EDF responded to the European Commission's consultation on the new gender equality strategy.

EDF met with the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius in June 2015 and discussed ways of mainstreaming the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in their work.

EDF contributed to the European Parliament's report on the post 2015 Gender Equality Strategy of the European Commission.

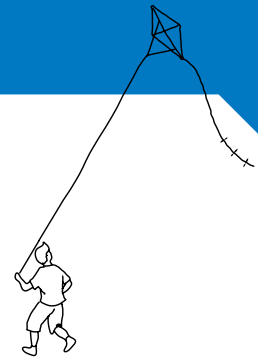
EDF participated in the European Women's Lobby Board meetings in 2014 and 2015.

EDF Women's Committee met in Riga in September 2015 to discuss its actions and activities for 2016, and participated in a conference organised by EDF's Latvian members on the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

PERSONS REQUIRING MORE INTENSIVE SUPPORT

EDF is committed to ensuring that all its work is inclusive of persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support. Our email expert group contribute to policy formulation and give input to EDF strategies to ensure they are inclusive. EDF discussed Article 12 "Equal recognition before the law" of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) within its email expert group and renewed its membership during the 2015 Annual General Assembly in Warsaw.

YOUTH & CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



EDF's Youth Committee held two meetings in 2014 and 2015. A new Youth Committee Chair was elected. In order to increase the participation of young persons with disabilities in EDF's decisions and activities, it was decided that the Chair of the Youth Committee would be co-opted to the EDF Board. The new Chair participated in the subsequent Board and Annual General Assembly meetings.

Members of our Youth Committee, representatives from youth groups of EDF members and other EDF member representatives took part in a round table discussion on young persons with disabilities during the EDF Annual General Assembly 2015.

Members of the Youth Committee, as well as several other youth groups of EDF member organisations, participated as speakers in the annual European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference 2015, focusing on children and young people with disabilities.

EDF's Youth Committee contributed to EDF's alternative report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

Dynamics within the disability movement are highlighting an increasing role for young people: several EDF members, both European NGOs and national councils, are in the process of creating dedicated youth groups.

The EDF Youth Committee members decided in 2015 to take important steps towards the establishment of stronger work relations with other youth groups in EDF membership, notably by creating an online platform for young people with disabilities.

In 2014, the EDF Youth Committee cooperated with the Erasmus Student Network to promote the accessibility and inclusiveness of EU student exchange programmes.

We contributed to the MapAbility project: Mapping the Higher Education Institutions' accessibility for students with disabilities and special needs.

Regarding children with disabilities, EDF participated in an advisory panel of a project of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on violence against children with disabilities, as well as in the discussion on "the Rights of Children with Disabilities and the Internet" at the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe.

CAPACITY BUILDING

EDF closely cooperates with its members and partners to strengthen the capacity of organisations of persons with disabilities at European and International level.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF organised capacity building workshops in Geneva for its members on how to engage with the UN Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities. This was essential in view of the EU review by the UN Committee on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

EDF worked with its members in Croatia, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Serbia and Sweden to support them in the review of their country at the UN Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities. In some cases, such as with Croatia, EDF provided training workshops to its members on how to draft their alternative reports.

EDF provided training in two workshops organised by the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH) on how to get involved in the UN CRPD review process.

Together with the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Brussels, EDF ran a training session for organisations of persons with disabilities on the UN CRPD review process, attended by organisations from all countries which will be reviewed by the UN CRPD Committee in 2016.

EDF supported its members on an ad hoc basis, on deinstitutionalisation, European Structural Funds, EU Fundamental Rights Agenda, State Aids and Employment.

Throughout 2014 and 2015, EDF collected feedback from its members on the experiences of passengers with disabilities in Europe. EDF also provided support to its members concerning their involvement in the advocacy for, and the launch of the European Disability Card.

We organised several training and mutual learning sessions for and with our member organisations during our Board meetings and Annual General Assemblies in 2014-2015 on topics such as the European Structural Funds, Europe 2020 and the European Semester, refugees with disabilities, ICT and rail accessibility.

Together with its members and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), EDF sent joint submissions to different UN Treaty Bodies on the rights of people with disabilities, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, etc.

INTERNATIONAL



EDF is an active member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and works in partnership with them to promote international cooperation policies which embrace the rights of persons with disabilities. In the first semester of 2014, EDF President was the Chair of IDA and subsequently became, and is currently, its Treasurer.

**EDF PROMOTES THE RIGHTS OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES GLOBALLY**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014-2015

EDF participated in regional conferences on the topic of international cooperation organised by IDA: in March 2014 in Africa and in October 2015 in Sao Paulo, Latin America.

Alongside IDA, we worked tirelessly in 2014 and 2015 on two critical issues: the new International Cooperation framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals and the new international agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction. The results are positive as both the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction include the rights of persons with disabilities.

To mark these important developments and plan for actions

to ensure their implementation, EDF organised a conference on international cooperation with key partners (the European Commission, the International Disability and Development Consortium and CONCORD) in Brussels on 3 December 2015.

EDF participated in the annual Conference of States Parties (COSP) at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the COSP, EDF organised events on international cooperation and Disaster Risk Reduction, together with the European Commission.

EDF published a paper on the disability inclusive post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



EDF continues its engagement with the Council of Europe as a member of its Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2014, EDF contributed to the "Report on promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities and their participation in political and public life" to the

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

In 2015, the Council of Europe came to the end of its Disability Action Plan. EDF gave written input, participated in a conference on the rights of persons with disabilities evaluating the action plan and in meetings of the Council of Europe Task Force preparing the future Council of European Disability Strategy (2016-2021).

OUR PARTNERS & CLOSE COLLABORATORS

- International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- [International Disability and Development Consortium \(IDDC\)](#)
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- [Social Platform](#)
- European Women's Lobby (EWL)
- [European Network of National Human Rights Institutions](#)
- Equinet, the European network of Equality Bodies
- [Academy of European Law](#)
- European Trade Union Confederation
- [European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability \(CSR-D Network\)](#)
- incluD-ed network
- [Semester Alliance](#)
- Alliance Against Disability Cuts
- [European expert group on transition from institution to community based services](#)
- The European Agency for Fundamental Rights
- [Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies \(CER\)](#)
- International Road Transport Union (IRU)
- [European Transport Workers' Federation \(ETF\)](#)
- Digital Europe
- [Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative by the Mobile Manufacturers Forum \(GARI\)](#)
- Oracle
- [Google](#)
- Microsoft
- [Samsung](#)
- Apple

EASY-TO-READ



Easy-to-read is one accessible information format along with large print, Braille and audio recordings. It is mostly used by people with intellectual disabilities, as well as other groups such as 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.

The European Disability Forum

Pages 4 - 5

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. In short, we call it EDF.

EDF was created by people with disabilities in 1996.

EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

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

EDF believes that a fair society includes people with disabilities and that people with disabilities should decide about their lives.

EDF members

Pages 6 - 7

EDF has many members.

These members are also organisations of people with disabilities or organisations that want to help people with disabilities.

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

In the first pages of this booklet, there is a list of all these organisations.

You can also see pictures of people who take decisions for EDF and pictures of people who work at the office of EDF in Brussels.

You will also find information on how to contact the office of EDF in Brussels.

EDF's work

Page 11

In 2014 and 2015, EDF worked on many different topics.

The Convention of the United Nations

Pages 14 - 15

The United Nations is a big world organisation that works for peace and a better world.

The United Nations made a document which says what rights people with disabilities have and how countries can protect their rights.

This document is called Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In short, 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.

Last year the European Union told the United Nations
what it did to protect the rights of people with disabilities.
The European Union wrote a report saying everything it did for people with disabilities.
EDF thinks that the European Union can do more for people with disabilities.
So EDF wrote a report to say what the EU can do better for people with disabilities.

EDF sent this report to the United Nations.
The United Nations looked at the report of the European Union and the report of EDF.
They asked the European Union to do more things for people with disabilities.
The United Nations sent a list of these things to the European Union.
The European Union has to make things better for people with disabilities.

EDF wants this to happen.
That is why EDF has 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.

We are all equal

Pages 16 - 17

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.
All people have different abilities but we are all equal and we should be treated with respect.

Freedom of movement

Pages 18 - 19

People have the right to move, live and work in any other country of the European Union.
We call this '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. When they go to another country they should be able to use the products and services of that country the same as other citizens.

For more than three years EDF was asking the European Union to have a strong law about this. Finally in December 2015 the European Union published a text for this law to happen. This law is called European Accessibility Act. This law will help people with disabilities use more products and services than before.

If this law happens, all countries in the EU will work to make certain products and services accessible. That means that people with disabilities will be able to use them. For example, people with disabilities will be able to use many websites that they cannot use now. They will also be able to use machines to buy tickets for trains or buses without problems.

EDF thinks that law is very important. We want the European Union to make this law happen because it can make the lives of people with disabilities easier.

Transport

Pages 20 - 21

Today people can travel easily from one place to another. People with disabilities should be able to do that too. 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 using planes, boats, trains and other modes of transport.

EDF asked people with disabilities to talk about their experiences when they travel. For example, if they had any problems to get help from people working at airports or on trains. Or if their wheelchair arrived safely and other things like that.

EDF made a report of the problems that people with disabilities have when they travel. EDF asks the European Union to make it easier for people with disabilities to travel in the same way as all other citizens.

Economic crisis

Pages 22 - 23

In recent years, countries in Europe have big problems with money.

They have less money than before to spend.

This is called economic crisis.

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

They often decide to cut support for people.

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

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

EDF checked how the economic crisis changed the lives of people with disabilities.

We asked people with disabilities and their organisations

about the changes that happen in their lives because of the economic crisis.

We also met with organisations of people with disabilities

and with people who take decisions in Europe.

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

and problems they have because of the economic crisis.

We asked the European Union to protect people with disabilities

and give them the support they need to have a good life.

Using European money

Pages 24 - 25

The European Union gives money to its countries.

This money is called 'Funds'.

The countries have to spend this money on making schools, streets and other things that make the lives of people better.

They should help all people take part in society.

The European Union should only give this money to countries

who work hard to ensure that all people can take part in society.

For example, people with disabilities.

EDF had many meetings with other organisations and with the European Union to look at how countries should use money from the European Union for the good of all their people.

EDF believes that the European Union should give money to countries who promise to spend part of this money to help people with disabilities and other people who need support.

EDF doesn't want countries to spend the money they receive from the European Union to institutions where people with disabilities live away from society.

Instead, countries should spend the money they receive from the European Union to help people with disabilities be active in society together with other people.

For example, they can spend money to make schools, streets and other things better so that people with disabilities can move around easily and take part in activities.

Work

Pages 26 - 27

Some people find it hard to get a job because they have a disability. There are too many people with disabilities in Europe who do not have a job. EDF wants people with disabilities to have the same chances to get a job as everyone else. Having a job and making your own money helps to be independent and allows people to make their own choices.

EDF went to meetings and wrote several papers to talk about this. EDF believes that the European Union should work to make it easier for people with disabilities to get a job.

The European Parliament

Pages 28 - 29

The European Parliament is a place where people make laws and take decisions about important things in Europe. Some of these decisions are about people with disabilities.

EDF had many meetings with people of the European Parliament. EDF explained what people with disabilities need to be active in society. EDF also explained to the people from the European Parliament how to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

The right to vote

Pages 30 - 31

Every five years people in Europe choose the people who will make decisions in the European Parliament and laws in Europe. This means that they vote.

In some countries, people have to go to a place to vote. In other countries, people can also vote on the computer or in other ways.

People with disabilities in Europe often have problems when trying to vote. Sometimes it is difficult for them to go to the place in which they can vote. For example, if the building has stairs people in wheelchairs will not be able to get there to vote.

Often, people with disabilities do not get enough information to be able to make a decision about who to vote for or they do not get information in a way that is useful to them. For example, some people with disabilities need to get simpler information to be able to understand it. In some other cases, people with disabilities are not allowed to vote because they have a disability.

EDF thinks that all people have the right to vote and choose which people will make decisions and laws in Europe. People with disabilities have the right to vote too and their disability should not be a problem for doing so. People with disabilities also have the right to be chosen to make decisions in Europe.

In 2014, EDF met many people from the European Parliament. EDF explained to them how important it is for people with disabilities to vote and how unfair it is to not vote only because they have a disability.

EDF asked the people from the European Parliament to help people with disabilities to vote by making it easier for them to get to the place to vote and to get the information in the way they need.

Technology

Pages 32 - 33

Today, people use more and more technology to find information or talk to other people. For example, they use computers, mobiles, the internet and other things.

People with disabilities should have access to these things. 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 wrote papers and we had meetings with people who take decisions to explain why this is so important and how they can make it happen.

Standards

Pages 34 - 35

A standard is a document with rules that explain how something should be made. Standards are useful to explain to companies how they should do certain things.

If there were no standards, each company would do things differently and that would create problems.

For example, the bank cards we often use to pay or to take money out of our bank account would have different sizes and forms in every country. This way, it would be impossible to use them when we travel to another country.

Also, in train stations and metros, there are some signs on the floor that blind people can feel with their feet. This way they know where they have to stop at the platform to wait for the train to come and they do not fall down the gap.

There are standards that explain how these signs should be used. If there were no standards, each train station would use different signs and blind people would be confused or in danger.

EDF often helps to make standards that have an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. We help companies understand what people with disabilities need. We make sure companies respect these needs when they make standards.

Research

Pages 36 - 37

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 to the European Union.

EDF believes that more research is needed
on the situation of people with disabilities in Europe
and how the European Union can protect their rights.

People 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 to use certain things.
For example, they may need help to move around the university or to use a computer.
Universities usually do not have the money to give them help.
Because of this, researchers with disabilities cannot continue their research.

EDF believes that researchers with disabilities should have the same chances
as all other researchers to do their work.

Women and girls with disabilities

Page 38

Women are often left out or treated in an unfair way just because they are women.
Women with disabilities are more likely to be treated unfairly than other women
because of their disability.

EDF wrote papers and participated in important meetings
to talk about the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Women with disabilities should have equal chances like everyone else
to take part and be active in society.

People who need more support

Page 38

Among people with disabilities there are some people who need more support than others. For example, people who need help every day to move around, eat, go shopping or do other things.

At EDF, we think of the needs of these people too in the work we do.

EDF often discusses the needs of people with disabilities who need more support. We discuss how to support the rights of these people.

Children and young people with disabilities

Page 39

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

EDF has a group of young people with disabilities.

This group meets and discusses important issues about young people with disabilities in Europe.

Together we explain what problems young people with disabilities have and what young people with disabilities need to be active in society.

Work with our members

Pages 40 - 41

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.

Work outside Europe

Pages 42 - 43

EDF also works to support people with disabilities outside Europe.

EDF is part of a world organisation

that works for people with disabilities all around the world.

This world organisation is the International Disability Alliance.

In short, we call it IDA.

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

EDF goes 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.

Work with other organisations

Page 44

EDF often works with other organisations that also want to make the lives of people better. These organisations can be world organisations or European organisations. For example, EDF works closely with a European organisation that wants to help women to be active in all things in society. This organisation is the European Women Lobby.

We sometimes work with companies who want to support the rights of people with disabilities. We organise meetings and other activities together to support the rights of people with disabilities.



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